



Fulbright FOCUS

The AMIDEAST Alumni Newsletter of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program

US Department of State & AMIDEAST Award \$10,000 in Alumni Grants

In an effort to support the professional development of Fulbright Foreign Student Program alumni from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, AMIDEAST and the United States Department of State are pleased to announce four new recipients of the Alumni Development Grant.

Abdelaziz Boudlal (1997-1999) of Morocco will embark on a research project in the Linguistics Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The focus of his research will be on the phonology and morphology of Moroccan Arabic within a theoretical framework known as Optimality Theory (OT). This project will establish a database that will serve as a basis for future research on Moroccan Arabic.

Beligh Ghedira (2000-2001) of Tunisia will attend the 18th Annual International Society of Franchising (ISOF) Conference on March 5-7, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Beligh will present a paper that describes the obstacles franchisers and franchisees are facing in countries without franchise regulation. Her paper proposes solutions for how the franchise business may overcome these obstacles using comparison between France and Tunisia.

Rochdi Zouakia (1997-1998) of Morocco will conduct two weeks of independent professional development training and research in Washington, DC in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission. Rochdi will examine cost modeling strategies dealing with interconnect tariffs, as applied to a relatively small telecom network in Morocco. The overall objective is to better understand how to regulate telecom competition efficiently.

Arafat Al-Dweik (1997-1998) of the West Bank will attend the International Association of Science and Technology for Development conference on Modeling

and Simulation in Marina del Rey, California on March 1-3, 2004. Arafat will present his research results in the field of multiple access techniques, an area in which he has developed a new technique for the analysis of Frequency Hopping Networks.

Apply Now!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004 Alumni Grant Competition.

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

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be alumni of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program from one of the following areas: Egypt, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, the West Bank, Yemen, Oman, or Bahrain. Applicants must have fulfilled their J-1 visa, two-year home residence requirement. Proposed grant activity must occur between **April 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004.**

Application Process

Deadline: January 30, 2004

For a list of grant guidelines, eligibility requirements and to apply, please visit:

http://www.amideast.org/programs_services/exchange_programs/fulbright/grants/guidelines.htm

You are encouraged to submit your application electronically via our on-line application. If you have any questions, or would like to request a paper application, please contact Evan Juska at: ejuska@amideast.org

AMIDEAST Welcomes New President

AMIDEAST is pleased to announce that Theodore Kattouf, a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service and former ambassador to both the United Arab Emirates and Syria, began his work as president of the organization in September 2003. He succeeds Ambassador William Rugh who, after eight years of distinguished service, retired from AMIDEAST at the end of the summer.



"It is a great honor and privilege to head this fine organization," said Ambassador Kattouf. "Having spent many years working in the Arab world, I have come to truly appreciate the vital role that AMIDEAST plays. I look forward to furthering AMIDEAST's mission of strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between Americans and the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa at such a crucial time."

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Fulbright Alumni Convene in Washington, DC

Approximately 300 Fulbright Alumni from the United States and sixteen other countries participated in the Fulbright Association's 26th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference took place from October 29 to November 2, 2003, and featured a host of events, speakers and discussions.

Highlights included the awarding of the 2003 J. William Fulbright Prize to former Brazilian President, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, at a special Ceremony at the U.S. Department of State. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the historic U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms. Keynote speakers, both of whom are Fulbright alumni, included Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma and Ms. Mireya Mayor, a primatologist and correspondent for the National Geographic's Ultimate Explorer TV series.

Other events included a special exhibition titled, "Fabric of Moroccan Life." This was hosted by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Fulbright Association, and held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art. In attendance were two current AMIDEAST Fulbright students, Mr. Adnane Hessissen and Ms. Imane Mrini, as well as Mr. Wail Benjelloun, President of the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE).



Left to right: Adnane Hessissen; Dr. Fenton-May, President of the Fulbright Association; Mr. Benjelloun, President of MACECE

During the conference there was some discussion on how the Fulbright Association, based in Washington DC, can better support alumni association development outside the United States. For more information about the Fulbright Association, as well as photos and stories about the conference go to:

http://www.fulbrightalumni.org/olc/pub/FBA/programs/annual_conference.html

Fulbright Listserv Welcomes All

FULBRIGHT-L is listserv founded in 1993 that is meant to be a discussion forum for issues, problems or questions related to the Fulbright program. For example, questions about financial support or immigration, challenges faced by new grantees, announcements of upcoming Fulbright events and meetings and discussions of these meetings are all welcomed topics.

However, FULBRIGHT-L is also appropriate for discussions that can take advantage of the unique multicultural background of the 5,000 subscribers of this list. Cultural, social and other issues can take on a new light when discussed by a group of people coming from so many different nations and having such diverse experiences and backgrounds. In this sense, FULBRIGHT-L offers the possibility of having a standing, virtual round-table discussion.

Newcomers may subscribe by sending an email to: FULBRIGHT-L-request@LISTS.UFL.EDU or send an email to: LISTSERV@lists.ufl.edu with the following line in the mail body: SUBSCRIBE FULBRIGHT-L

America Reaches Out to Say: hi



A new magazine funded by the US Department of State is now being published in more than a dozen Arab nations. The magazine called *hi* is published in Arabic and is designed for 18 to 35 year old Arabs. Christopher W.S. Ross, special coordinator for public diplomacy at the State Department noted in a *Washington Post* interview on August 9, 2003, 'This is a long-term way to build relationships with people who will be the future leaders of Arab world.' (Carlson, 8/9/03, p. A12).

The premier issue of the full color, 72-page monthly included a cover story on the experiences of Arab students in American universities, and shorter stories on yoga, sandboarding, singer Norah Jones, Arab American actor Tony Shalhoub and marriage counseling. It also included interviews with two AMIDEAST Fulbright Alumni who completed their studies this past spring: Khaled Ishaq of Yemen and Pauline Aad of Lebanon.

Pauline reflected in her *hi* interview that she expected her colleagues in the US to be cautious of anyone coming from Lebanon. She says, 'I had real fears of how receptive people would be toward me. Americans do not have a good impression of Lebanon.' But she was happy to discover that people are eager to know about her homeland and learn as much as possible about it. For example, she says, 'Oklahomans assume that Lebanon is a

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Fulbright Alumni Profile

Firas Kayal... Going Places

The sandstone steps of the law school of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri provide a stark contrast to the realities of living and working in southern Iraq and Kuwait. Firas Kayal chose to



make such a transition with the same drive and purpose that he used to successfully complete his Fulbright grant. Firas earned a master in international law in May 2003 and juggled competing interests in pursuing a career in academia, the private sector or working with the United Nations. Ultimately, he declined an opportunity to pursue his PhD for a chance to work with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Firas now works as an Associate Protection Officer for UNHCR in Southern Iraq. However, following two separate bombings of UN headquarters in Iraq, Firas and many other international UN staff were relocated to Kuwait and Jordan. He works as part of a team that facilitates the repatriation of Iraqi refugees to Iraq. In collaboration with international non-governmental organizations, the team also undertakes service/development projects with the aim of helping refugees upon their return to Iraq. The crossover of job responsibilities and what he studied in law school are significant, as refugee law is an essential part of international law. Firas notes, "It is crucial for us as UNHCR Protection

Officers to be well informed about the universally recognized principles of refugee law and standards. Similarly important is the knowledge of the legal norms that govern our contemporary international legal system. This legal knowledge was in fact the very core of my masters program at Washington University School of Law."

When asked what he enjoys most about his position, Firas emphasized the humanitarian aspect of the job. "Refugees are very vulnerable and needy people, therefore providing them with the help they badly need is an extremely gratifying experience. I now realize how noble the goal is that UNHCR seeks to achieve, and I am happy to be able to deploy the legal knowledge I gained during my Fulbright program in the process of achieving this goal." Nevertheless, Firas still maintains a long-term interest in perhaps bridging his current professional experience with that of an academic career and maybe becoming a scholar in the area of international law.

AMIDEAST wishes safe travels and the best of luck to Firas Kayal during what is certainly a very interesting and challenging period of his life.



Contribute Now!

Please continue to send us your news. We will include your items of interest in our next newsletter. We are also open to new story ideas or themes. The newsletter is a great opportunity to get involved with the Fulbright/AMIDEAST Alumni Network.

There are many ways to get involved. You can help organize a national or local chapter of the Network where you live. You can put together a workshop or seminar concerning interests that you share with other alumni. You can plan a time to get together and socialize with your alumni peers. Remember:

What you get out of the Alumni Network depends on what you put into it.

Contact AMIDEAST

If you would like to get in touch with other Fulbright/AMIDEAST alumni, please email Evan Juska at ejuska@amideast.org or send a fax to (202) 776-7045 requesting information.

AMIDEAST Field Office Updates

Jordan

This summer the Binational Fulbright Commission in Jordan celebrated its 10th anniversary and the extension of its cultural agreement between the US and Jordan. Many Fulbright alumni attended as well as American and Jordanian VIPs. In addition, the Commission was granted a \$ 7 million endowment from the Ministry of Planning (USAID money) to support future participation of Jordanians in the Fulbright program.

Kathy Sullivan, the Country Director (CD) in Amman held a Pre-Departure Orientation session in June for ten Fulbright grantees. Two Fulbright alumni also attended. A second special session on media and public speaking skills was also provided to the Fulbright attendees. This was funded by an Olayan Foundation grant and was given by guest trainer Rami G. Khouri.

The 2003 Job ConneXion took place at Zara Expo in August with 800 visitors, including a number of Fulbright alumni. Four sponsors and six other companies, plus organizers INJAZ and AMIDEAST, had booths providing information to graduates about current job openings and collected resumes. Human resource experts from sponsoring companies also led workshops on CV writing, interviewing and presentation skills and job-hunting strategies.



Left to right: Fulbright alumna Anud Abbassi; AMIDEAST CD Kathy Sullivan; alumna Rasha Bader.

Lebanon

This year brings new developments in the Lebanon program with an expansion of scholarships for students seeking degrees. Previously only nine month, non-degree grants were awarded. Thirty-five applications were received and six individuals have been nominated for Fulbright awards for the 2004 academic year. Their scholarships will provide funding for two year master's degree programs across a variety of disciplines.



Bassel El Masri (2002 -2003) from Ball State University accepts his Fulbright Certificate from Ambassador Battle.

In September the US Embassy hosted a reception for Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey Alumni. The US ambassador, Vincent Battle, distributed Completion Certificates to the Fulbright alumni. The event was attended by a variety of staff from the American Embassy and the AMIDEAST office in Beirut.

Yemen

In August the Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY) held its annual membership meeting to elect a new Executive Board. At that meeting, the Fulbright membership decided to amend the FAAY bylaws to include all Yemeni Alumni who have completed at least one academic year at an American institution of higher learning. In order to reflect the inclusion of all American scholars, the

Association changed its name to the Fulbright and American Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAAY).

FAAAY launched its inauguration of the newly expanded Association with a reception at the Sheraton Hotel. Among the U.S. scholars represented at the reception were individuals working in education, government, non-profit organizations and journalism. Prior to the reception, the Board held a press conference to discuss planned future activities of the Association. The Board also emphasized that the Association is a great resource for Yemen because of the experience and expertise of its members.

Morocco

A one-day pre-departure orientation for the departing Fulbright grantees was held the end of June at the AMIDEAST office in Rabat. MACECE staff and the Cultural Affairs Officer were invited to talk to the grantees, and Chris Shinn, the AMIDEAST Program Officer for Morocco, also provided information. Two Fulbright alumni who recently completed their grants in the US also provided insights and talked about the highlights of their experience.

Eleven new Fulbright nominees were selected in July 2003. Business programs still come first in the nominees' choice: six of the eleven will study for an MBA. As new immigration legislation has come into effect current Fulbright grantees have become increasingly concerned about renewing visas during short-term return visits. In spite of the new rules, none of the grantees encountered major problems this year.



Tunisia

This year, the AMIDEAST office celebrated its 30th Anniversary. This event was marked by celebrations in both the Tunis and Sousse centers, with Fulbright alumni attending both occasions. Pictured are Mrs. Naima El Arbi, an alumna from 1991-1994 at the University of Texas, Austin. Also pictured are AMIDEAST Country Director Lee Jennings (back) and Assistant CD, Ann Mhenni (right).



The Tunis office has continued with new Fulbright recruitment. This year marks further development in the Tunisian program with an expansion of scholarships for students seeking degrees as well as those pursuing non-degree research. There are currently eight nominees, each pursuing a variety of fields of study.

Syria

Six Fulbright candidates of 2003/2004 met with American Ambassador Kattouf in July at his residence. Ambassador Kattouf expressed the importance of the Fulbright Program to both the peoples of the United States and Syria in light of September 11th, and noted that Fulbright recipients are not only ambassadors for Syria, but also for Arabs and the Middle East region. The Fulbright finalists of 2003-04 also had dinner with the 2002/03 Fulbright alumni in Damascus. It was a successful evening that resulted in an exchange of email addresses, as well as sharing advice about testing and university applications. Included in the dinner were the Cultural Affairs Officer, AMIDEAST Country Director and Educational Advisor/Program Officer.

Fulbright alumni have also been active in other areas. Talal Ramzi spoke with eleven young Syrians at the Syrian Young Entrepreneurs Association

(SYEA). SYEA is the only officially registered non-governmental organization in Syria. In addition, Mohammad Naffakh gave a lecture entitled "E-Business, A Management Approach" at the American Cultural center in June. During the first Higher Education & Training Exhibition (ETEX) in Syria, Dr. Waddah Al Khatib of Damascus University and Shoen Foley, a visiting American Fulbright scholar from Georgetown University, participated in a panel discussion.

AMIDEAST Fulbright Staff Expands

The Fulbright staff at AMIDEAST Headquarters continues to grow. While Program Officers Reagan Roth and Jennifer Amrhein, and Program Assistant Michael Kugelman, each began graduate school in the Fall 2003, there have been four new additions to the staff since June 2003. New staff members include Program Officer Sarah Belanger, and Program Assistants Katherine Pratt, Hadi Annous, and Evan Juska.

Sarah joined the Fulbright staff in June 2003 transferring from the Private Projects Department at AMIDEAST. She does placement and advising for grantees from Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain and Oman.

Katherine Pratt and Hadi Annous joined the Fulbright staff in June of 2003. Katherine assists with placement and advising for grantees from Egypt, Syria, West Bank and Gaza. Hadi assists with placement and advising for students from Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, and Oman.

Evan Juska, the most recent addition to the staff, joined AMIDEAST in October of 2003. Evan assists with placement and advising for grantees from Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, and Oman.

AMIDEAST is happy to have Sarah, Katherine, Hadi, and Evan join Program Officers Julie Gelsinger and Chris Shinn, and Coordinator Kate DeBoer in administering the Fulbright Program for students from the Middle East and North Africa.

AMIDEAST Launches New Programs

YES

AMIDEAST is helping to administer a new \$2.85-million U.S. Department of State-funded Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program as part of a consortium headed by AYUSA International. Other partners include ASSE International, iEARN, and Sister Cities International.

The new Youth Exchange Scholarship Program (YES) began in August with the arrival of 41 Arab teenagers and 27 Pakistanis, each of whom will spend a full year attending high school in the United States and living with an American host family.

The YES students include both girls and boys from Yemen (12), Syria (7), West Bank/Gaza (5), Lebanon (8), Tunisia (3), Kuwait (6), and Jordan (1). The students have been placed throughout the country in regional clusters of two to four students. Host high schools are located in such cities as Los Angeles, Albuquerque, San Antonio, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC.

PLUS

AMIDEAST has been awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of State to promote and recruit applicants for a new exchange program called the Partnership for Learning Undergraduate Studies Program (PLUS). This scholarship program will bring approximately 75 academically talented students from the Middle East and North Africa to the United States for their final two years of undergraduate study.

AMIDEAST, the Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies, and/or regional Fulbright Commissions are currently recruiting, screening, and nominating candidates for this program. The first PLUS grantees are expected to begin intensive English language study in the United States as early as January 2004, in preparation for Fall 2004 enrollment in academic programs. During this first year of the program, AMIDEAST is recruiting PLUS participants from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, United Arab Emirates, West Bank/Gaza.

ALUMNI

news & notes...

Bahrain

Hoda Al-Mutawah (1998-2000) completed her PhD in mass communication from Bowling Green State University in December 2003. She has recently given lectures in the Mass Communication Department at Zayed University on the subject of “Arab Women in the Media.” Currently, she is preparing to defend her dissertation entitled, “Rhetorical Criticism of Mahouz’s representation of gender issues in the Arab World.”

Egypt

Jihan Al-Alaily (2001-2002) recently returned to her home country of Egypt after working in Iraq as the editor of a BBC managed educational radio program that targets the Iraqi population. After completing one year of non-degree research at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia with her Fulbright grant, she continued at EMU to earn a MS degree in conflict transformation.

Hany Abdelfattah (2002-2003) has recently completed his studies in the English Department at Duke University where his dissertation focused on the “Vietnam War Theater.” He collaborated with many researchers, interviewed three Vietnam veterans, organized workshops, and above all, succeeded in making new friends.

Gaza

Taghreed El-Khodary (2000) has been working as a member of the news media in Gaza. Her positions include: local reporter/stringer for the New York Times; radio reporter for Voice of America; television reporter for Al Jazeera; and TV news correspondent for Al Hayat/LBC. She is also working on several documentaries for National Geographic, PBS (US), ITV (UK), and CBC (Canada). As a Fulbright recipient, she completed her MS in mass communication from Murray State University.

Rifat Rustom (1987-1989) currently serves as Dean of Planning and Development at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). He has also worked for the Municipality of Gaza as an advisor to the Mayor, as a director at the Ministry of Housing, and as Coordinator of the Technical Consulting Unit (TCU) at the Municipality of Khan Younis. He completed his MS and PhD in civil engineering at Drexel University.

Azza Abu Dagga (1998-2000) is working as a graduate assistant at Penn State where she is pursuing her PhD in health policy and administration with an emphasis in health services research. During her Fulbright grant she earned a master’s in health services management and policy from Ohio State University.

Jehad Adwan (1998-2000) completed his masters in nursing education at the University of Minnesota. Currently, Jehad is pursuing a PhD in nursing at the same university, focusing on adolescents with type I diabetes. Jehad hopes to finish his degree and return to Palestine to teach and conduct research.

Mohammed Habash (1997-1999) is currently a member of the teaching staff in the IT Department in the Higher Colleges of Technology in Dubai. He is simultaneously pursuing his PhD at Leeds University (UK). As a Fulbright recipient, Mohammed earned his master’s degree in education from Arizona State University.

Jordan

Mahmoud Khelifat (2001-2003) has recently joined Citigroup’s Global Corporate and Investment Bank as a relationship manager in Jordan. He completed his MBA in Finance and International Business at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during his Fulbright grant.

Anud Abbassi (2001-2003) is currently working on a poverty alleviation project that aims to empower rural women and improve their living standards, as well as a project that educates women working in free trade zones on their labor rights. As a Fulbright grantee, she earned a MA in women’s studies at San Diego State University.

Nabil Abu-Dayyeh (1988-1990) is currently engaged in a research project regarding urban physical analysis on a neighborhood scale using GIS technology at the University of Jordan, where he is a full-time professor of theory and architecture. His recent professional architectural designs include a large office and retail complex in Libya, and a 3rd place award for the design of Jordan’s National Children’s Museum. As a Fulbright recipient, he earned a MSc and later went on to earn a PhD in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

Maysoon Al-Nahar (1995-1997) has recently been selected as the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Jordan, where she is also an Assistant Professor. As a Fulbright recipient, she earned a PhD in anthropology from Arizona State University.

Nader T. Al Jallad (1997-2000) is presently working as an Assistant Professor of linguistics at the University of Jordan where he is researching various issues relating to semantics and lexicography. As a Fulbright recipient, he completed his PhD in linguistics at the University of Delaware.

Shada Wadi-Ramahi (1998-2000) recently completed her PhD in medical physics from Rush University and plans to begin a position at the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan in February 2004. As a PhD candidate, she published two peer-reviewed journal articles and received awards for her research.

Karim Abdel-Malek (1988-1990) has recently founded a company called VizTek, Inc. which develops and markets PC based Virtual Reality systems. VizTek manages a US Army funded project in Iowa that utilizes large-scale, immersive virtual reality displays for training purposes. As a Fulbright grantee, he completed his MS (1990) and PhD (1993) in mechanical engineering/robotics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Louna (Luna) Khirfan (2001- 2003) is currently in her third year of study towards a PhD in urban, technological and environmental planning at the University of Michigan. She is also pursuing a certificate in Museum Studies.

Ayyam Safady (1999-2001) is working at the Malaysia Embassy in Amman as a translator. As a Fulbright recipient, she earned a master's degree in hospitality management from the Conrad N. Hilton College for Hotel & Restaurant Management in Houston, Texas.

Samer K. Zawaideh (1993-1994) recently had his biography listed in the 57th Edition of Marquis "Who's Who in America." In addition, his paper titled, "The Effect of Axial Midline Angulation on Dental Esthetics," was published in *The Angle Orthodontist*. As a Fulbright grantee, he earned his DMSc in orthodontics from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Said Damhoureyeh (1994-1996) is presently teaching various courses in the fields of general biology and ecology/plant ecology. As a Fulbright recipient, he earned a MS at Kansas State University, and continued there to earn a PhD in the field of plant ecology.

Rashad Sinokrot (2000-2002) is working in Kuwait at the Public Warehousing Company, a Kuwaiti supply chain and logistics company where he specializes in Third Party Logistics Operation in countries such as: Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Jordan. As a Fulbright grantee, he earned a MBA degree in entrepreneurial management and finance from University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business.

Issa Sasa (1992-1994) became a Diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry this year. During his years as a Fulbright grantee, he earned a master's degree in pediatric dentistry from the University of Iowa.

Lebanon

Bassil El-Masri (2002-2003) completed his non-degree research in geographic information systems and remote sensing at Ball State University in Indiana. He has recently begun a new research project in this field.

Pauline Aad (2002-2003) is presently working as a research assistant and studying towards a master's degree in the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University. She recently completed her non-degree Fulbright grant within the same department. Her current research involves the hormonal expression of PAPP-A gene expression in granulosa and theca cells in bovine.

Daisy Daniel Attieh (2001 – 2002) is working at the "Lady of the Cedars" school in Sourat, Lebanon as a Play Therapist, as well as teaching art therapy classes at the "Institut Universitaire de la Sainte Famille" in Batroun, Lebanon. As a Fulbright recipient, she studied Play Therapy (Psychology) at the University of North Texas. She expects to finish her doctoral studies in Lebanon in 2007.

David Nasser El Charif (2002-2003) is working as a lawyer in Canada and studying towards a PhD at McGill University in Canada. He is also working on a project to inaugurate a center for Commercial Dispute Resolution. As a Fulbright grantee, he conducted non-degree research in dispute resolution at the University of Missouri School of Law.

Sevag Kechichian (2002 -2003) completed non-degree Fulbright research in political science at Purdue University in May. He has a MA degree from the American University of Beirut and began his PhD program in political science at the University of Chicago this fall.

Morocco

Sanaa Abouzaid (2001-2003) is currently working at the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank Group member institution, as a Corporate Governance Analyst in the Global Financial Markets Department. She is receiving training in corporate governance and participating in several consulting projects in different parts of the world. As a Fulbright recipient she earned a MBA in finance and investments at George Washington University.

Maria Hanzazi (1993- 1995) is working as an EFL teacher in the Language Center at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. She also works as a volunteer teacher at the Azrou Center for Community Development in Azrou. As a Fulbright grantee, she obtained her MA in English literature from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Asmaa Quorrich (2001-2003) recently began a new position at Proctor & Gamble as manager of the "Ariel" account. She has also been chosen by the School of Management at Suffolk University, where she earned a MBA in Marketing with her Fulbright grant, to represent MBA candidates in their upcoming *MBA Prospectus*.

Thanae Bennani (1996-1997) presently works as commercial specialist with the US Foreign Commercial Service at the US Consulate in Casablanca. As a Fulbright recipient, she earned a MS in finance from George Washington University.

Meriem El Harouchi (2001-2003) earned an MA in international relations and international economics at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies in May. Upon completion of her Fulbright grant, she was selected to participate in six months of academic training as a United Nation's Fulbright Fellow. She was stationed at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand; where she helped research and draft a report on regional development cooperation.

Lina Laraki (2002-2003) obtained an LLM in international legal studies at New York University. After passing the New York Bar Exam in the summer of 2003, she returned to Morocco to work at the Casablanca office of an international law firm.

Mohamed Jouay (1990-1994) is presently a Professor of English at Qadi Ayyad University, Marrakech. As a Fulbright recipient, he completed his PhD in literature at Duke University.

Hassan Ez-zaim (1999-2001) is currently pursuing a PhD in higher education administration at Boston College where he also earned his MS as Fulbright grantee. He also works as the Director of Alumni Relations for the University of the Middle East and North Africa Project in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mehdi Cherkaoui (2001-2002) recently joined the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group) office in Rabat, Morocco, where he is involved in banking advisory and expanding the capacity in financial institutions. As a Fulbright grantee, he earned a MS in finance from Boston College.

Younes Mourchid (1994-1996) currently works as an editor for the Arabic language version of Newsweek, and as the Director of Tutoring Services at Diablo Valley College. He received a MA in linguistics from Southern Illinois University during his tenure as Fulbright grantee and went on to obtain a PhD in international education development at the University of Southern California.

Jihane Kabbaj (2000-2001) lives in France and works as a market research consultant for a market research agency in Paris called NFO Infratest. As a Fulbright recipient, she earned a MBA in finance from Suffolk University.

Houria El-Figuigui (1996-1998) completed her MS in information resource management at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies. After traveling back to Morocco, she returned to Syracuse where she is currently pursuing a PhD in information transfer and working as a Graduate Assistant. Her research areas include: social informatics, social presence, virtual collaboration, and users' information needs.

Hassan Makhad (2000-2004) completed his non-degree Fulbright research this year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he studied linguistics and generative syntax. He currently works at L'Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Rabat, Morocco, and has been part of the Ministère de la Modernisation des Secteurs Publics since 1998.

Syria

Michel Zayat (1997-1999) completed his MS in architecture at Pennsylvania State University with his Fulbright grant and is now a freelance architect working in Damascus, Syria. In 2001 he started ENDZ; design-built studio. He is a member of the Syrian Order of Architects and Engineers and is writing a book on the uses of design within local contemporary culture.

Moustafa Sayem El-Daher (1995 -1997) currently holds an Assistant Professor position in the Physics Department at Damascus University, Syria. As a Fulbright grantee, he completed his MS in physics at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, and has since returned to UMKC to earn his PhD.

Nawal Nasser (2001-2003) is currently working towards completing her PhD in syntax at the University of Texas at Austin. As a Fulbright recipient, she earned a MA in general linguistics from California State University.

Iyad Hatem (1996-1998) is presently working in the Department of Biological Engineering at the University of Missouri, Columbia. As a Fulbright grantee, he obtained his MS in agricultural engineering at the University of Missouri, and has since returned to complete his PhD. In January 2004 he will return to Syria to become a faculty member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Aleppo.

Muhamed Alkhalil (1996-1998) is currently teaching in the Arabic Studies Department at Zayed University in the UAE, as well as pursuing his PhD in Middle Eastern studies. His paper entitled " 'A funky language for teenzz to use': Representing Gulf Arabic in instant messaging," will appear in the fall issue of the *Journal of Computer Mediated*. As a Fulbright recipient, he received a MA in applied linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Fadi Al-Issa (2001-2003) was recently offered an adjunct teaching position at Florida State University where he earned a Masters degree in English literature during his tenure as a Fulbright grantee. Fadi was nominated two years in a row (2002-2003) for an award for excellence in teaching at the English Department. He plans to begin a PhD next year.

Sami Hanna (2000-2002) is pursuing doctoral studies in the field of second and foreign language education at the State University of New York at Buffalo where he also earned a MED in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) during his Fulbright grant.

Tunisia

Lamia Ben Youssef (1995-1997) completed her PhD in literature in May 2002 from Michigan State University. She passed the National Concours d'Assistanat in June 2003 and now works as Maitre Assistant in the Department of English at the University of Sousse, Tunisia.

Hajer ben Hadj Salem (2002-2003) just completed six months of academic training as a United Nation's Fulbright Fellow in New York City. Her Fulbright grant involved non-degree research at the University of California, Santa Barbara. This research relates to her PhD dissertation which examined responses to 9/11 in the US. She will join her former Tunisian university as a lecturer in the Department of English in early 2004.

Chokri Dridi (1997-1998) is finishing a PhD in environmental and resource economics at the University of Illinois and is working as a research assistant in the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory. Chokri originally completed a non-degree Fulbright grant at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and then went on to earn a MS degree. Since 1997 he has co-authored various research papers.

Manel Belarbi (2002-2003) has moved to Montreal, Canada where she has begun a PhD in quantitative methods at Hec Montreal. She completed a Fulbright non-degree research grant at Boston University in computer science.

Khaled Barkaoui (2002-2003) began his PhD in fall 2003 in second language education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada. His Fulbright grant involved non-degree research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

West Bank

Artemis Arditoglou (1991-1993) currently lives in Athens, Greece and provides technical services to local engineering firms. He received his MS degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Munther Barakat Alimari (2000-2002) recently completed his PhD in finance at Oklahoma State University. He has accepted an offer by the Arab American University in Jenin to be an Assistant Professor of finance and the chairman of the department.

Arafat J. Al-Dweik (1997-1998) began a new position as Assistant Professor in the Communications Engineering Department of Etisalat College of Engineering, Sharjah, UAE. He has published more than fourteen articles in the past two years. As a Fulbright recipient he earned his master's in electrical engineering from Cleveland State University, Ohio and went on to complete his PhD from the same institution.

Rasem Kamal (1999-2000) recently joined the US Agency for International Development's West Bank and Gaza Mission. As a project management specialist, he manages democracy and governance programs relating to the rule of law in Palestine. Specifically he is working with the Palestinian judiciary, Palestinian universities, as well as civil society organizations on issues related to legal and judicial development. Rasem earned his LLM in international transactions from the University of San Francisco.

Jihad M. Abdallah (1996-1998) is currently conducting post-doctoral research at INRA-SAGA in Toulouse, France. He is developing statistical methods for gene mapping. During his Fulbright grant Jihad completed a MS degree in animal science at North Carolina State University. He also completed his PhD there in August 2001.

Muna I Salem (2001-2003) lives in Doha, Qatar where she works for Consolidated Contractors Company as an architect. She works on a team responsible for designing the Khalifa Sport City, a facility to be used for the Asian Olympics in 2006. She completed a master's degree in architecture design from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Nadia Abdulhaq (2000-2002) has been a project coordinator at the International Center which strives to bring cultural awareness to middle school classrooms. She has also attended regional and national NAFSA conventions. Nadia is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida in speech pathology. Her research focus is on speech and language of hearing impaired children.

Yemen

Khaled Ismail Al-Akwaá (1984-1986) has been a career diplomat since 1982 and currently serves as the Yemeni Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. As a Fulbright grantee, he earned a master's degree in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Mohammed Sharafuddin (1981-1983) is teaching Arabic literature and culture at George Washington University. He was a Fulbright recipient at the same university in 2001. Much of his time is spent researching and lecturing on issues of Orientalism and the relationship between Islam and the West. Mohammed first earned a MA in English and American literature at the University of Kansas as a Fulbright recipient.

Abdullah Al-faqih (1995-1997) received a PhD in public policy and international affairs from Northeastern University in Boston this May. His dissertation is titled "The Struggle for Liberalization and Democratization in Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen." As a PhD candidate, Abdullah taught a variety of undergraduate classes on Middle East politics, international organizations and world politics. He was also inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies.

Aziz Thabit Saeed (1990-1992) teaches at the University of Sharjah, UAE. His research interests include second language learning, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, language and culture. He received his master's, and later his PhD in 1997, in applied linguistics and TEFL from Ball State University, Indiana.

In Memoriam...

It is with great sadness that AMIDEAST must report that Louis Karam lost his life this past July. Louis was 27 years old and had completed a master's degree in accounting from Bowling Green State University in 2001, as a Fulbright grantee from the West Bank. The staff at AMIDEAST extends its sincerest condolences to all those affected by this tragedy.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FULBRIGHTER 2004 WORLDWIDE PHOTO CONTEST

“Fostering these- leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures- was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program... It is a modest program with an immodest aim- the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational, and humane than the empty system of the past.”

-Senator J. William Fulbright

Fulbrighters are changing the world and they have been since the Fulbright Program began more than a half-century ago.

Senator Fulbright’s vision of a world brought together by knowledge, a world where mistrust can be replaced by understanding, and where peace is a continuing process and a daily task, flourishes today because of the leadership and commitment of Fulbrighters worldwide.

The Department of State invites Fulbrighters, past and present, to tell their story of what it means to be a Fulbrighter. We’re challenging you to aim your cameras (or look into your photo collection) and come up with shots that evoke the spirit of the Fulbright

program- the leadership, commitment, learning, teaching, and understanding. If you think you have the photo we are looking for, send it to us. Please include a short statement (up to 100 words) telling us why you think your photo best shows “what it means to be a Fulbrighter.” The best photos will be featured on a new Fulbright website and in the upcoming publication “What It Means to Be a Fulbrighter.”

Contest Guidelines (Please read thoroughly before submitting your photo)

Who May Enter? All Fulbrighters, past and present.

How many photos can I submit? No more than three.

What is the prize? All winners will receive a Fulbright t-shirt or clock, in addition to the honor of being published in print and on the web.

Format: You may submit non-returnable prints (no negatives, please) or a digital image. For digital images submitted electronically (as an attachment to an e-mail or on disk through the mail), the preferred format is a high-resolution image of at least 1200 x 1500 pixels (1.8 megapixels) in JPEG format. This will allow for a 4 x 5 “ image of 300 dpi. Cameras used to take pictures for publishing should typically have resolutions greater than two megapixels. Even on a minimal 2 + megapixel camera, you will likely need to change the default setting to the highest quality, or minimum compression. Please do not compress the image with a ZipFile or StuffIt. Also, please do not download photos from a website. Web photos are usually only 72 dpi, which is not enough for publication.

How do I submit? You can send digital photos to rgreenan@pd.state.gov. Prints and discs can be sent to Robert Greenan, U.S. Department of State, 301 4th Street SW, Room 234, Washington, DC 20547. (IMPORTANT NOTE: In light of the heightened security measures, photo submissions by mail must be forwarded via a nationally recognized overnight delivery service (i.e., DHL, Federal Express, UPS, Airborne Express, the U.S. Postal Service Express Overnight Mail)).

Closing Date: Entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2004.

Judging: Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity and photographic quality. *Please do not call or e-mail us about the status of your entries.* We will contact the winners by the end of February 2004.

General Agreement

Photographs and images contributed to the Fulbright Program through this contest become publicly available for viewing. Please understand that anyone viewing an image will be able to download that image to their own computer.

By contributing an image or images to the Fulbright Program, you are granting public use of the image for noncommercial purposes.

By contributing images to the Fulbright Program, you are granting the Department of State and its partners permission to use the image or images in any official technical reports, documents, or informational materials. Your contribution will be acknowledged in any use of your image. Granting this publication permission does not transfer image copyright to the Department of State. Copyright remains with the original holder.

Please do NOT contribute images copyrighted by someone other than you without the express consent of the copyright holder. The Department of State cannot be held liable for any copyright violations.

If you do not agree to the conditions stated above, please DO NOT contribute any images.

By contributing photographs and accompanying text, you grant (or warrant that the owner of such rights has expressly granted) to the Department of State an irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive (this means the Department of State has the right to use your image, but you do not give up the right to use your image as you please), and universal right and license to use and display the photograph and accompanying text in conjunction with Department of State web sites and publications without compensation to you.

Submission of an entry to the contest automatically constitutes the contestant’s acceptance of all conditions set forth in the above rules.

Entries not complying with the above rules will be disqualified.

Finding a Job: Tips From a Fulbright Alumnus

Mr. Anis El Youssoufi graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May 2003 with an MBA. Anis was able to secure interesting employment in Morocco, his home country, within twelve weeks of his return. During an email interview from Rabat he shared his story and provides some tips for Fulbright job seekers.

What did you do upon completing your Fulbright grant?

I returned home where I had already started my job search.

What is your current occupation and how does it relate to your MBA?

I'm currently a Business Development Analyst for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group. My MBA's focus was corporate finance. So, my job relates to the program I was registered in.

As a Business Development Analyst for the IFC what do you actually do?

I essentially work on two projects. IFC selects projects that it considers important for the private sector of the country. One project is working with foreign donors in Morocco to coordinate our action, avoid duplication of efforts, find possible synergies between programs, and also come up with new ways for our work to have more of an impact. IFC's objective is to create self-sustaining, durable, non-subsidized local entities (consultants, business associations, etc.) The second project, takes 70% of my time. IFC signed an agreement with the Moroccan government that puts us in charge of creating a national observatory for the financing of Small and Medium Enterprises. SMEs are the main component of most developing economies. They are the main source for job creation.

How did you learn about this job opening, and how did you prepare for the interview?

Actually, there wasn't a job opening or any job posting. I decided to contact IFC as part of my strategy to get in touch with all the organizations that were of interest to me. So, I went to their office and gave them my application file. After that, I made a couple of phone calls to make sure

they were getting familiar with my name/application and mostly to make sure that it has been correctly filed. When I received an invitation to interview with them, I thoroughly prepared for the meeting. I gathered all available information on the IFC and the World Bank (annual reports, internet, newspaper articles, various stakeholders, partners, etc.), as well as on the projects they were working on in Morocco. If you are really interested in an opportunity the person in front of you has to feel that. So you have to do as much research as possible. You have to demonstrate a good knowledge of the organization.

What was critical for you in obtaining this position?

In my experience, academic credentials are the first thing employers look at. After that comes the job fit (past professional experience, your career plans, etc.) and/or your personality (if you can fit within the culture, if you manage to communicate well, etc.) Me getting this job with the IFC was a combination of academic credentials (MBA, Fulbright,) job fit (age, career plans, interest in finance) and timing to some extent (IFC had a latent need). Moreover, personal connections also are very important to get your foot in the door. I met someone at the World Bank during the Fulbright Pre-Departure Seminar in April 2003 in Washington, DC. I used this person's name in my cover letter for the IFC and it probably did help provide more attention/visibility.

Can you provide any recommendations for other Fulbright Alumni on how to secure rewarding employment after completing their Fulbright grant?

1) Use all possible networks (school, Fulbright, parents and friends, etc.). But use these networks with a long-term perspective. If it gives no results today, there are strong chances that it will in the future, if these networks are properly managed. 2) Look for areas/fields that really attract you. 3) Don't wait for the recruiter to come & look for you. Go meet the companies that interest you. Call people, introduce yourself, send your resume. 4) Very importantly, be courageous enough to decline the job does not genuinely interest you.

("hi" continued from Page 2)

conservative Muslim state. They are shocked when I tell them that I'm Catholic and that there are Christian Lebanese.'

Hi is part of a series of initiatives by the Bush administration to create a more positive impression of the United States in the Arab world. The magazine is apolitical with the intent of focusing on life-styles. It is produced and edited in Washington, D.C., printed in the Philippines and distributed in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Israel, Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, among others. Current circulation is at about 50,000, although the State Department hopes that will expand to 250,000. Fulbright alumni should be able to find it in book stores and on magazine racks for about \$2 a copy.

More information on *hi* magazine can be found at: <http://www.himag.com/>.

Parting Comments...

Shada J. Ramahi, a Jordanian alumna (1998-2000) who completed a PhD in medical physics from Rush University, had this response to the question asking: "How does the Fulbright Foreign Student Program fulfill its mission of cross-cultural understanding?"

"I have a better understanding for American politics and the decision-making process, as well as the type of media and news the American public is exposed to. As a result, some of my previous beliefs have been strongly affirmed, and others have been totally abandoned. The Americans that I have befriended, also have a better understanding of the Arabic culture, Islam, and the political and social challenges in the Middle East. We often spend time comparing and contrasting the challenges and pros and cons of each society. With the help of my brother, we gave presentations in high schools and at Southern Indiana University on Jordan and Islam. In this regard, I am glad that I was given this chance to talk about my culture and clear some of the misconceptions about Islam and Arabs."

AMIDEAST
 المعهد
 الشرق
 الأوسط



1730 M Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036-4505

AMIDEAST FIELD OFFICE CONTACTS:

EGYPT

James Grabowski, Country Director
No. 23 Musadak Street, Dokki, Cairo
Office Hours: Sun-Wed 8:00-3:00; Thurs 8:00-12:00
Mail: PO Box 96, Magles El Shaab
Phone: 20-2-337-8265
Fax: 20-2-795-2946, U.S. (202) 776-7117
Internet: egypt@amideast.org

GAZA

Michael Clark, Country Director
Ahmad Abd El-Aziz St. (behind Al-Karmel High School) Remal, Gaza City
Mail: PO Box 1247, Gaza City, Gaza Strip Palestinian National Authority
Office Hours: Sun-Thurs 8:00-4:00
Phone: 972 (or 970)-8-282-4635, 286-9338
Fax: 972 (or 970)-8-282-4635, 286-9338
Internet: westbank-gaza@amideast.org

JORDAN

Kathy Sullivan, Country Director
I Akram Rashid, Um As-Summaq, Amman 11118
Mail: PO Box 1249, Amman 11118
Office Hours: Sun-Wed 9:00-5:00; Thurs 9:00-2:00
Phone: 962-6-581-0930 **Fax:** 962-6-581-4020
Internet: jordan@amideast.org

LEBANON

Barbara Shahin Balouni, Country Director
Beirut Central District, Bazerkan Building, First Floor, Nijmeh Square, Next to the Parliament, Beirut, Lebanon
Mail: PO Box 11-2190, Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107 2100
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
Phone: 961-1-989901 **Fax:** 961-1-989901 ext. 100 U.S.
Internet: Lebanon@amideast.org

YEMEN

Sabrina Faber, Country Director
Algiers Street, #66 (near the Sana'a Trade Center), Sana'a
Mail: PO Box 15508 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Office Hours: Sat-Wed 8:00-4:00
Phone: 967-1-206-222, 400-279, 400-280 **Fax:** 967-1-206-942
Internet: yemen@amideast.org

WESTBANK

Maha Hassan, Acting Country Director
Slak Building, 3rd Floor, Next to Palestinian Counseling Center
Mail: As-Sakakini St., Belt Hanina, Jerusalem
Mail: PO Box 19665, Jerusalem 91193
Phone: 972-2-583-5647 **Fax:** 972-2-583-5912
Internet: westbank-gaza@amideast.org

TUNISIA

H.L. "Lee" Jennings, Country Director
22, Rue Al Amine Al Abbassi, Cite Jardins, 1002 Tunis-Belvedere
Mail: B.P. 351, Tunis-Belvedere 1002, Tunisia
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-3:30
Phone: (216-71) 790-559; 790-563; 841-488 **Fax:** 216-71-791-913
Internet: tunisia@amideast.org

SYRIA

Barbara Al Nouri, Country Director
Ahmed Mrewed Street, Next to Nadi Al Sharq, Nahas Building No. 3
Mail: PO Box 2313
Office Hours: Sun-Thurs: 8:30-2:30
Phone: (963) 11-331-4420 and 331-5316 **Fax:** (963) 11-245-2407
Internet: syria@amideast.org

MOROCCO

Mark Parkison, Country Director
35, Zanguat Oukaimeden, Agdal, Rabat
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-9:30, Sat 8:00-8:00, Sun 9:00-5:00
Phone: 212-03-767-5081, 767-5082, 767-5075 **Fax:** 212-03-767-5074
Internet: morocco@amideast.org