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Fulbrighter

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

REENTRY WORKSHOP 2009

In March 2009, over seventy Fulbright and Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program (IASP) grantees gathered together in Washington, DC to explore the experience of returning home, including its challenges and benefits. Everyone is enthusiastic about seeing their families and friends, having a warm home-cooked meal, and implementing what they have learned in a professional setting. However, reentry can be a very stressful period. Two guest speakers addressed the potential stresses of reentry and offered their expertise and assistance.

The first speaker, Deborah Hefferon, International Education Consultant, stated that some grantees returning home become restless and find personal relationships have changed. She discussed ways to cope with the stress, such as encouraging grantees to have an open dialogue with family and friends and to be empathic towards their loved ones.

Camille Franklin, Director of Career Services, College of Professional Studies at the George Washington University, discussed how to organize a resume, write an effective cover letter, and interview successfully. She emphasized learning to market oneself for a job and focused on networking.

The weekend ended with a tour of Washington, DC. The grantees visited the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building.

Fulbrighters' reflections on their experiences:

"Being a Fulbrighter is not only a wonderful living experience but is also a lifelong commitment. Our role as Fulbrighters is to be active in impacting our societies and making positive changes in our world."

- Safia Trabelsi, Tunisia, Brandeis 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...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



STUDENT UPDATES

Mira Mukarker, West Bank, was nominated by Marylhurst University to receive the “Who’s Who Among Students” award, presented to outstanding campus leaders for their academic and community accomplishments. Mira also has been interning at a local business firm in Portland, Oregon, where she provides consulting services for small business owners, conducts financial reporting, and provides accounting solutions for clients. She also volunteered as a fundraiser at the Alumni Relations Office for the annual alumni fundraising event in April 2009.

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 south Cameroon, malaria and shoe aid projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, and aid in Morocco. She has been designing and updating their promotional material and providing them with fundraising consulting assistance. Shatha recently received an offer to intern with vSpring Capital, one of the largest venture capital firms in the Intermountain West region of the US.

Mustapha 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 and was delighted and surprised to meet other Fulbrighters. None of the participants at his roundtable had ever met an Algerian before and were all interested to hear his points of view.

Hanna Chalhoub, Lebanon, was awarded the Munger Prize for Scholars in 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, California. Amer also won the Keith Block Entrepreneurship Award and is collaborating with his peers to start his own business under the supervision of Carnegie Mellon staff. He was elected for Public Affairs Chair of the Muslim Students Association and attended the Fulbright Lab to Market Seminar in Boston, Massachusetts, at the end of May 2009.

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. He also represented Florida International University in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at a conference for the National Association of Graduate Professionals, Southern Chapter.

Sherif Elnegahy, Egypt, was selected to attend the 2009 Chicago Fulbright Foreign Student Enrichment Seminar in Chicago, Illinois in March 2009. He participated as a panel speaker, presenting his experience with the Egyptian Anti-Cyber Crimes Association to over 160 fellow Fulbright students from all over the world.

Ahmed Safi, Gaza, won the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Water Resource Specialty Group Ph.D. Student Paper Award. His winning paper is entitled, “Water Technology Transfer to Poor Communities: Concerns, Limitations and Opportunities.” The award was part of the annual AAG meeting conducted in March 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aladdin Mahmoud, Egypt, presented a paper entitled “Was it Fin de Siècle Trickstery? Masks and Masques in Paul Laurence Dunbar and Abdallah Al-Nadim” at The Avatars: 3rd Annual Graduate Students Conference, Comparative Literature Department, Stanford University in April 2009.

Radia Benzehra, Algeria, helped French nuns to serve almost 200 meals for people in New York City, at “Fraternite Notre Dame,” which was originally a soup kitchen. Layla Hakim from the Department of State and Radia were chefs for five hours together. Despite the fact that all the volunteers had different beliefs and were from different backgrounds, they embraced their differences and served the community together. (Photo below)

Yousif Al-Ghawas, Bahrain, participated in the Sustainable Venture Capital Investment Competition and made it to the regional rounds. He also co-authored a case study on Dubai’s real estate market, which was a mandatory read for all Real Estate students who participated in spring break GIE Dubai track. On a fun note, he is also currently modeling for a Harambee Fashion Show.

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

Ezeddin Bargathi, Libya, authored and published a paper for the National Association of Colleges and Employers Corrosion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in March 2009. The paper was related to corrosion control.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 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 Aminou, 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 Ghoulidi, 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, MA in Economics, Clemson University
Hend Irhiam, 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 Alolaimy, 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 Almurtadha, Yemen, MA in Health Education, Idaho State University
Fatoum 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

MY FIRST THANKSGIVING IN THE U.S.

Thanksgiving is one of the most important and celebrated holidays in both the United States and Canada. On this holiday, American families and close friends gather together to share a big Thanksgiving feast. Originally, Thanksgiving is a time when the American people give thanks for the harvest and express their gratitude for God's blessings. I had the opportunity to take part in the Thanksgiving celebration this year. Had you been in the United States on such an occasion, you would have come to know how generous and hospitable the American people are! You would have been surprised by the number of Thanksgiving invitations offered to you by different American families. I gave priority to the first invitation I received, that of one of my great professors, Dr. Lynn Grantz.

Professor Grantz knew that I did not yet have a car, so she arranged for her husband to come over to my apartment and pick me up at 1:30 in the afternoon on November 28th. I was thrilled to see my professor and her family receiving me with hospitality and reverence at their apartment door. I shook hands with them all and wished them "Happy Thanksgiving" as I was introduced. I met her elderly mother, her gray-bearded uncle-in-law, and her cousin-in-law and his wife. She also introduced me to her beautiful little daughter, Kristine, who I later decided must be addicted to watching cartoons on her laptop! They have a small son named David, who was brought out from hiding by his father so that he could greet me but then quickly disappeared back into his room.

The dinner was served on the table by Professor Grantz and her cousin-in-law's wife. The popular food cooked on Thanksgiving is turkey. This was to be my first experience eating turkey, for I had never tried it in my whole life, and as a result I was unprepared for how delicious it was. Everyone on the table had his/her own plate, which was filled with different kinds of food. Having some drinks in front of each one of us, the dishes were now passed round from one to the other. I didn't hesitate to try every dish that I could find space for on my plate. Our mouths were busy with both food and talk. They asked me about my country, and I, in return, asked them about specific traditions and habits in the United States. Our conversation moved from the Russian-Georgian war, through Barack Obama's victory in the recent presidential election, the U.S. financial crisis, onto the recent issue of the Somali piracy in the Gulf of Aden, and finally the terrorist attack in Mumbai. All those topics made for a lively and spirited conversation and increased the flavor of our gathering. Having finished the meal, dessert was served.



I truly felt at home from the very beginning of my encounter with Professor Grantz and her family. Their open talk expressed a warm welcome, and their natural smiles reflected their generous hospitality. I never felt like a stranger in their company. I was happy to listen attentively to their conversations and exchange views on certain contemporary issues with them. No misunderstanding, no miscommunication. The feeling of oneness inspired by Thanksgiving seemed to connect my Yemenism with their Americanism under a roof of understanding and interaction. I could smell the fragrance of my country in the different corners of the house – mainly in the professor's photographs taken during her two visits to the country in 1987 and 1993, but also in her daughter's blue Yemeni dress, and in the traditional Yemeni Jambia kept in the house. Therefore, there really were good reasons for me to be thankful on Thanksgiving.

- Amar Al-Hawi, Yemen

TWO CONFERENCES ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

I attended an important conference for the International Criminal Court, held at the United Nations. The purpose of the conference was to create a definition for the crime of aggression, which is related to my thesis, "Investigation Before the International Criminal Court." At this conference I met many diplomats and delegations' representatives and spoke with them about my studies. Also, I was invited to a party held by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), which is the largest organization that supports the international criminal court. Through this party, I had the honor to meet the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon; the President of the International Criminal Court, Phillipe Kirsh; and Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations and Coordinator of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, Christian Wenaweser.



Salwa Alekiaby with Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Mr. Cherif Bassiouni

I also travelled to Chicago to attend an event at the International Human Rights Law Institute, at DePaul University: "Possible Torture Prosecution Under The Obama Administration," which was presented by Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni, an Egyptian professor of law, President Emeritus of the International Human Rights Law Institute, President of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy, the Honorary President of the International Association of Penal Law (President 1989-2004), Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (1995), and Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the 1998 Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. Professor Bassiouni was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the field of International Criminal Justice and for his contribution to the creation of the International Criminal Court. He invited me to lunch, and he was so humble and gentle; we had a wonderful talk about my thesis and the Darfur Crises, and I took a photo with him behind his numerous certificates and honors he has received. (Photo above)

- Salwa Alekiaby, Egypt

2009 NASHVILLE FULBRIGHT ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

I was in Nashville, Tennessee, for five days, participating in the Fulbright Foreign Student Nashville Enrichment Seminar 2009. The seminar is concerned with social entrepreneurship and its importance in motivating individuals, NGOs, and governments to establish creative social projects that may help targeted groups to pursue higher level of living, education, careers, and futures.

All the Fulbrighters there were full of energy and ready to communicate and interact with each other in a very friendly and nice way. The conference activities and the free time in the afternoon helped us to exchange our ideas, present ourselves, and have great and fantastic times together.

On Friday, we had a student panel session; some of the Fulbrighters presented examples of their initiatives and experiences in their local environments to work to solve some of society's problems. For example, Ahmad Fatahi, my Afghan friend, talked about an initiative in his city in Afghanistan to help the poor children to study and to get enough of a level of education and about children's rights.

Ahmad, with many colleagues, worked together with the aid of influential local people, international NGOs, institutions, and media to establish a successful program that encourages people to send their children to schools and to participate and support this program.

We did community service after lunch: we went to a local school in Nashville and spent almost three hours with the students there. We played sports with them and talked about our countries and interests, and we encouraged them to work harder to achieve their dreams and goals in life.

On Saturday, we had workshop presentations; we were divided into groups, and each group had to come up with an initiative that would create a positive social change in the society. In my group, we decided to promote the importance of reading in the education system, in general, and how we can apply such an initiative in the U.S.

It was snowing that night, and I liked the weather so much. We went to two different clubs and then we met in the hotel lobby around 2:00 am. We sang traditional songs from our countries in different languages, and some guys sang and danced traditional music. It was a nice cultural activity, and we kept singing and dancing till 5:00 am!

It was an amazing experience, full of excitement and fun, and I obtained a new knowledge regarding Social Entrepreneurship and how to apply it in society. The wonderful people I met there were a very distinguished group, and I wish to meet them all again soon.

-Ahmed Derar Islim, Syria



FULBRIGHTERS DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ARABS

In March 2009, an event was held at Ohio University about the representation of Arabs in the Western media. The panel consisted of seven Arab students from different Arab countries. Three out of the seven students were Fulbrighters: Ramzi Asali from the Palestinian Territories, Hend Irahim from Libya, and Romy Ghanem from Lebanon. Students, professors, and others packed into the conference room to hear and discuss the way Arabs are portrayed in the West.

The discussion centered on three questions: 1) How Arabs are depicted in Western Media; 2) What are the causes behind the emergence of negative stereotypes about Arabs?; 3) What Arabs should do in order to dispel the negative images about them in Western Media? The majority of questions were directed to us (Fulbrighters), as we are coming from hot spots that are always making the headlines. The event was a huge success. The audience was very supportive and eager to know about Arabs. We plan to hold similar events in the future, including an Arabian night, which will show bright aspects of Arab culture.

- Ramzi Asali, West Bank

FULBRIGHTER HOLDS EGYPTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

I thought of organizing an Egyptian film festival for the OSU students and the general public in Columbus, Ohio, when I attended a Latino Film Series at the Ohio State University campus last November. I decided that American students are much more exposed to Latino culture and cinema than Egyptian/Middle Eastern cinema or art. Cinema, rather than any other art, is particularly useful in letting the students/viewers get a sense of what life is like in Egypt or the Middle East. I also thought that showing Egyptian films for the students here would help address some stereotypical images constructed in the U.S. and the world, in general, about Egyptians, Arabs, and/or Middle Easterners.

The festival took place in both Hagarty Auditorium and the Landmark Gateway Theater on March 13th and 14th, 2009. The two Umm Kulthum films were shown in Hagarty (free admission), and we served refreshments (popcorn and soda drinks, which was my idea – typical of Egyptian cinema-goers). On March 14th, we played the comedies, *Al Zouga Talattasher (Wife Number 13)* and *Embratoriet Meem (M Empire)*, then had a dinner break and discussion. The Happy Greek restaurant (owned by an Egyptian!) offered catering of Egyptian food. We then played *Al-Horoub (The Escape)* and *Al-Massir (Destiny)*.

Many Americans, Arab-Americans and Egyptians came to the event. The feedback was all favorable, and some OSU professors requested that this festival become an annual OSU tradition, given the fact that OSU libraries have the largest collection of Egyptian films nationwide. Consequently, Professor Webber teamed up with Dr. Ali Hassan, an Egyptian in charge of the Arabic collection in the library, to purchase copies of the most important 100 films in Egyptian cinema for future similar events.

- Aladdin Mahmoud, Egypt

PANEL DISCUSSION

“ARABS: Myth & Reality”

العرب بين الواقع و الأسطورة

Arabs in Western Media



FULBRIGHTER APPOINTED SUN CAMPUS AMBASSADOR

Anasse Bari, a graduate Fulbright student at George Washington University majoring in software engineering, has been recently appointed as Sun Microsystems, Inc. Campus Ambassador.

Sun Microsystems is the leading company in open source software. It specializes in developing technologies that power the global market place. Sun provides a diversity of software, systems, services, microelectronics that power everything from consumer electronics, to developer tools (e.g., Java, Solaris, MySQL, and UltraSPA).



As a Sun Campus Ambassador, Anasse has been leading the Open Source University Meet-up (OSUM), which is a global community of students at the George Washington University who are passionate about Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and how it is changing our world.



OSUM activities are not limited to technical talks. Other benefits to the members include: learning about open-source free technologies through participating in OSUM activities; access to free online courses, webinars, tutorials, and discounts on certifications; connecting and making friends with student coders from around the world to receive and give technical support and to share ideas.

This is an invitation for Fulbright scholars, not only the ones majoring in computer science or a related field, but also to all Fulbright students, to connect with thousands of students and software specialists and get access to free training in new technologies. You can register at <http://osum.sun.com/> and join the George Washington University Group. For more information, contact student Anasse Bari at bari@gwu.edu.

"I believe that this is both a practical advantage for today's students and an investment in the future. Learning about Java and Sun technologies directly from the source that invented the technology will boost the students' capabilities as they get ready to enter the workforce"

- Anasse Bari, Morocco, Leader of OSUM GWU



FULBRIGHTER PHOTOS & QUOTES



Panama City Beach, Spring Break, Ahmed Derar (2nd from left) and Nawwar Kabbani (center)



Washington, DC - from left: Hamad, Hanane, Fadi, Jumanah, Ould Teguidi, Mustapha, Hamed, Ayad, Roni, and Ahmed



Fulbright Re-Entry Workshop conducted by AMIDEAST in March 2009

Anan Habeeb – Israeli-Arab

"The program is awesome – great experience. I am very thankful. I love my campus; it is big and has beautiful nature."

Mokhles El-Sysy - Egypt

"I like the Fulbright Program because it gives me the opportunity to observe American culture and values, and become more familiar with Americans. Americans have good ideas – I have interacted with children and adults and now have a better understanding of them."



Lebanese and Palestinian Fulbrighters in DC



The Bahraini group:
From left to right: Shatha Alwardi, Leena Al Olaimy, Hameeda Alshabib, and Zainab Allaith



DC Bus tour - Re-Entry Workshop

Lamis Sleiman – Lebanon

"This has been an exceptional experience! I've had the opportunity to fit into a large, diverse culture. The Fulbright Program will advance my chances of getting a job because it is highly recognized."

Rajaa Al Talli - Syria

"Before I came, I felt there was a difference between the East and West – integration with people has helped."

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI UPDATES AND WEBSITE

Anud Abbassi, Jordan, 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. In March 2007, she presented a paper in a women's studies conference at the Complutense University in Madrid.

Dr. Hoda Al-Mutawah, Bahrain, was featured in the April 2009 issue of *Women*. After finishing her studies in the US, Dr. Hoda returned to Bahrain to work as a producer and director at *Bahrain TV*. In 1996, she established the Department of Mass Communications at Bahrain University, where she currently teaches and advises students.



Dr. Hoda Al-Mutawah, Bahrain

Abdallah Malki, Morocco, was appointed by King Mohamed VI as Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Moulay Ismail in Meknes in March 2008.

Samia Elfekih, Tunisia, 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 Basic Applied Entomology (DGaE) in Gottingen, Germany.

Fatiha Jillali Monette, Morocco, 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 U.S.

(www.wafin.com). She is the founder and director of www.muslimrolemodels.com and has been published in the *International Herald Tribune* and on the *Business Week Economics* blog.

Check out the State Alumni website at <https://alumni.state.gov> where you can register to: post photos, events, articles, and join in discussion forums; find alumni in your home town or around the world to meet and engage; join top officials and experts to discuss a variety of topics in *Q&A Live* discussions; post news stories about your alumni activities and personal achievements; publish your scholarly articles and papers; post your résumé and bio; access over 20,000 periodicals, journals, and newspapers - including abstracts, full-text articles, and multimedia for free; find new job and grant opportunities around the world. Register now!

SUBMITTING PHOTOS, ARTICLES AND BLOGS TO STATE ALUMNI—FOR CURRENT STUDENTS, TOO!

Share your photos with the Fulbright Community!

Once your account has been verified, login to State Alumni and navigate to the Fulbright Community from your community menu on the home page, or go directly to <https://alumni.state.gov/fulbright>. Click on "Multimedia Gallery" to view existing photo albums, podcasts and videos. To add your own photo album, click on 'Create a New Album' on the right hand side of the multimedia gallery page. Create your album by adding a title and description. Please be specific. Adding your name, home country, Fulbright country, field of study and year will help others to easily identify you and your photos. Click "Save." Click "Add Photos" to begin adding photos to your album. Photos may be added one at a time (Single File) or as a group (Zip Archive allows uploads of .zip, .gzip, and tar files). For each photo or group of photos, enter appropriate titles, captions, keyword tags and a location. Edit your album or the individual photos in your album if necessary. The Fulbright Community Manager will be alerted of your new album and will approve materials before they appear live on the site. Until they are approved, photos will display a "pending" status.

Tell the Fulbright Community about what you're writing!

Once your account has been verified, login to State Alumni and navigate to the Fulbright Community from your community menu on the home page, or go directly to <https://alumni.state.gov/fulbright>. Navigate to "Resources" and select "Fulbright Library" from the menu. Choose the appropriate section, such as blogs, research papers or multimedia. Click "New Topic" to add a new item, or reply to an existing post. Write the name of your blog (or other writing), add a descriptive message, and upload any relevant files. Click "Save." Subscribe to any or all of the Fulbright Library sections to receive an email when new items are posted.

AMIDEAST UPDATE

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, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, accompanied by special Middle East Envoy George Mitchell, paid a visit to 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.

The Secretary of State 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 U.S. Department of State to administer it through U.S. missions 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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