

Fulbrighter

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

A newsletter for alumni and current grantees from the Middle East and North Africa.

FULBRIGHT



AMIDEAST
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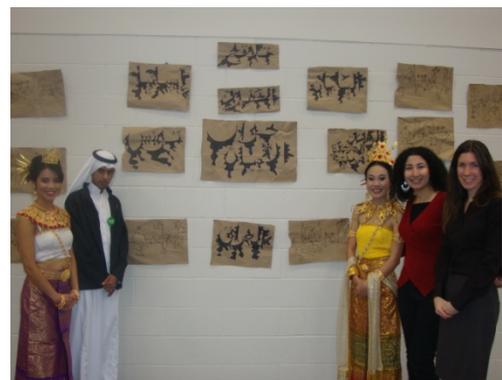
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The International Fair

By Jyhene Keksi, Tunisia, 2010-2012

On November 20th, 2010, an international fair was held at the University of St. Thomas. Many international students took part in this event. Each group of students belonging to the same country had a table on which the members presented postcards, food, pictures and traditional costumes representing their home country. As I was the first and only student from Tunisia, I decided to do a more generic presentation that united all of the countries together under the noble slogan of harmonious coexistence. Indeed, being a champion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, I was determined to transmit these messages to all those attending...



Please check out the rest of Jyhene's article and other current student updates on [State Alumni!](#)

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Fulbright, More than Study

By: Amir Alakaam, Iraq, 2010-2012

When we began working toward winning a Fulbright grant, it took a very long time. From the application, to the interview, to the tests, to the visa, it made us wonder whether we would ever make it to the U.S. I had a very hard time when I first arrived in the States, but I soon overcame my difficulties and engaged in the culture. One of the main reasons I overcame these social difficulties was the presence of many people around me who were always more than happy to give assistance and support. They really made me feel as if I had known them for years.

After I began my studies a few days later, I took notice of the university environment, and I found that school provides more than a degree. It helps you get to know many people from overseas, people who you never imagined you would know someday...

Please check out the rest of Amir's article and other current student updates on [State Alumni!](#)

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Fulbright Alumni Development Grant Recipient

By Haneen Malallah, West Bank, 2004-2007

Haneen Malallah received a Fulbright Alumni Grant last year to attend the BSR Conference 2010: Innovate, Inspire, Integrate, which took place in New York, NY, from November 2-5 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The conference brought together over 1,100 global participants from various sectors and industries. The participants included practitioners as well as scholars and academics, who engaged in constructive conversations together to provide participants with tools and ideas to apply to their businesses to make them more sustainable.

I chose to participate in this conference because I believe that the issues explored at the gathering are very timely. We need to change the current business model to increase innovation and integrate it into each business's core strategy in order to achieve long-term, sustainable success that transcends the boundaries of the traditional sectors. The three traditional sectors (public, for-profit, not-for-profit/NGO) need to pull together, break through the divisions that separate them and work together to deal with the current economic and social problems...

Please check out the rest of Haneen's article on [State Alumni!](#)

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Departing Student Workshop

By Julianne Tootell and Kelly Flanagan, AMIDEAST staff

The 2011 Fulbright Departing Student Workshop took place March 10-13, 2011, in Washington, DC. One hundred ten students gathered to meet with U.S. Department of State representatives, local professionals and AMIDEAST staff to explore the challenges and opportunities they will face upon returning to their home countries. Topics included reverse culture shock, alumni opportunities and professional development. The professional development presentation provided an in-depth look at job searching and how to take advantage of available resources, like the social networking website LinkedIn. For many attendees, reverse culture shock was a new term. Students learned about this phenomenon and talked in small groups about what it will be like re-adjusting to life back home. Many students explored DC during their free time. A bus tour of the White House, Capitol and national monuments concluded the workshop and gave everyone a good taste of the city. The U.S. Department of State and AMIDEAST wish everyone returning home the very best as they embark on this next chapter of their lives, and we thank them for the wonderful contributions they've made to their universities and local communities! Keep in touch, and be sure to send us your updates via our Facebook page!

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Announcements

Follow Assistant Secretary Ann Stock on Twitter!

Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock recently started a Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/AnnatState>. Please follow her to stay informed on developments in international exchange programs and public diplomacy!

If you are on Twitter, be sure to use the #Fulbright hashtag when mentioning Fulbright in your Tweets!



STATE ALUMNI is the official website for more than 1,000,000 alumni of exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Interactive, dynamic and password-protected, alumni.state.gov offers alumni from U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs a

place to:

- Network with alumni from Fulbright, IVLP and other programs
- Participate in the exclusive Fulbright Community
- Register for a FulbrightMail.org email account
- Find grant and funding opportunities worth more than \$33 billion
- Access more than 20,000 free journals, periodicals and more
- Participate in *Q&A Live* discussions with experts
- Share your work in the Fulbright Library, organized by academic discipline
- Stay involved through a local alumni association

All alumni are invited to register for the site by clicking "Join Now" at <https://alumni.state.gov>

State Alumni operates over a secure connection to prevent cyber theft. State Alumni asks that you register and provide a password in order to log onto the website, so we can keep you and your fellow alumni in better contact. Registrants have the option to hide their personal information.

Please look for us on Facebook!

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