

Welcoming Our New Scholars!

This year, the Hope Fund helped 16 new scholars gain admissions and scholarships for undergraduate studies beginning this fall:

- Abdallah Aboalkheir, Gaza, Whitworth University, Computer Science
- Roulan Abunahla, Gaza, Stillman College, Political Science
- Ismail Aijawi, Lebanon, Harvard University, Computer Science
- Rashed Alfarra, Gaza, Bridgewater College, Physics
- Ruslan Al-Jibari, Gaza, Stanford University, Computer Science
- Amir Amer, West Bank, Lehigh University, Business/Economics
- Noor Assi, West Bank, Brigham Young University, Computer Science
- Nader Elhelu, Gaza, Whitman College, Computer Science/Physics
- Yousef Hanafi, Gaza, College of Idaho, Computer Science
- Huda Hashash, West Bank, Roanoke College, Neuroscience & Physics
- Nour Kanaan, Lebanon, Duke University, Neuroscience & Physics
- Nader Maddbouh, West Bank, Swarthmore College, Gender/Sexuality Studies
- Lana Sabbah, Gaza, Smith College, Psychology
- Belal Shaheen, Gaza, Hamilton College, Computer Science
- Farah Soboh, Jordan, Coe College, Biology
- Saleem Solayman, Lebanon, Bridgewater College, Mechanical Engineering

Thanking Our Donors

We thank the following individuals and foundations who gave more than \$5,000 in support of the Hope Fund since October 2018.

<p>\$50,000+ Anonymous</p>	<p>Khalil Sholy</p>	<p>Omar Shawwa Basem Shihabi Abbas and Samar Zuaiteer</p>
<p>\$30,000-49,999 The Amjad and Suha Bseisu Foundation (partners of AMIDEAST's Hope Fund) Ramez Hakim</p>	<p>\$10,000-19,999 Gamal Abouali Jawad Ali and Zahira Dahdul Nahda Alsalah Balaa Herve Ballantyne Bank of Palestine Said Baransi</p>	<p>\$5,000-9,999 Odeh Aburdene The Andoni Family Fund Center for Arab American Philanthropy</p>
<p>\$20,000-29,999 Armond Habiby Family Trust Fund Paltel C. Pardee Erdman</p>	<p>Omar Fahoum Samer Jaghoub Zahi Khoury Talal Nassereddine Pam Pelletreau</p>	<p>Joe El Fadl Paul and Tina Falkenbury Mustafa Miqdadi Raytheon Tamari Foundation</p>

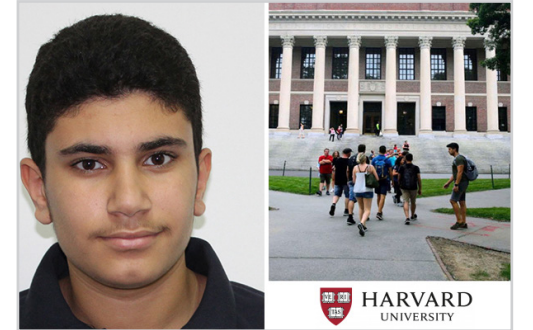


HOPE FUND NEWSLETTER

AMIDEAST
أمد إيست
September 2019

Dear Friends,

No doubt, most of you are aware that the travails of Hope Fund student Ismail Ajjawi have a happy ending. He made it to Harvard's campus just in time to enroll in classes. Ismail, a stellar student at UNRWA schools in Al Buss refugee camp in South Lebanon, worked with AMIDEAST education counselors in Beirut for over a year in order to compete with some of the best and brightest high school seniors in the world for admission to Harvard or another elite U.S. college or university. Ismail was a member of our Competitive College Club, and it is ironic that he benefited from Opportunity Grants that we administer on behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Those grants paid for such things as college application fees, test fees, travel back and forth to Beirut, and even his initial airfare to Boston Logan International Airport, where, despite having a valid visa and proof of admission to Harvard, he was refused entry after his social media accounts were examined. Ismail was fortunate, however, in that he had the leadership of Harvard looking out for him, as well as all of us here at AMIDEAST.



Not every one of our sponsored students is fortunate enough to be admitted to Harvard, but no matter which colleges our students attend, it will be a life-changing event for them and their families. Moreover, they will always have the full backing of AMIDEAST to overcome whatever serious problems they may confront. This year we are supporting and supplementing the scholarships of 54 undergraduate students—a record number. It is no small feat that refugees from camps and other difficult circumstances, including in Gaza, are going to Stanford, Smith, Hamilton, Stillman, Swarthmore, Lehigh, Roanoke, and several other institutions of higher learning. A young woman from Bedawwi Camp in North Lebanon will be a freshman studying physics at Duke University, another young man from a camp in Lebanon will be at Bridgewater College.

The institutional scholarships provided these Hope Fund students are quite generous, but funding gaps remain that these students and their families cannot fill, even when on-campus work-study opportunities are made available. At a time when so many cruel blows are raining down on the Palestinian people—from U.S. government de-funding of UNRWA and USAID development projects to closing the Consulate-General in Jerusalem and removing the designation of “Occupied” from the territories that Israel captured in the 1967 War—the incredible achievements of these resilient young people provide a beacon of hope in the current dark night. AMIDEAST cannot sustain the Hope Fund without the generosity and multi-year commitments of you, our donors. Education has seen many refugee and displaced populations through to better days. Palestinians understand and value this ethos. It must not be lost!

Theodore H. Kattouf
President and CEO

HELP KEEP THE HOPE FUND MISSION ALIVE!

Donate by mail to AMIDEAST Contributions, 2025 M St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036-4505

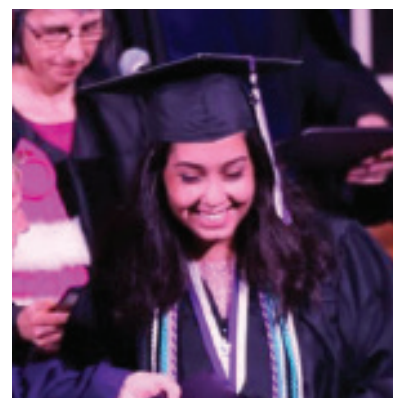
Online at www.amideast.org/SupportTheHopeFund

Congratulations to Our 2019 Graduates!

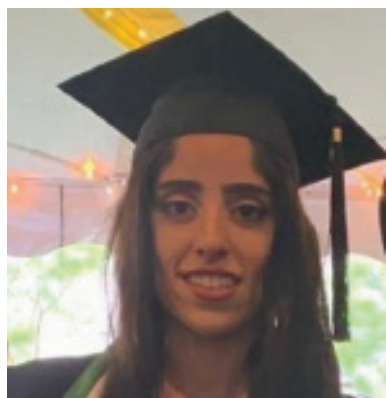
Heartfelt congratulations to six Hope Fund scholars who graduated this past academic year. Saifeddin, Fayzeh, Suhaila, Loyal, Angham, and Ahmed took advantage of the opportunities afforded by the Hope Fund, excelling in their studies and in diverse extracurricular activities as they prepared themselves for future challenges. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them success.



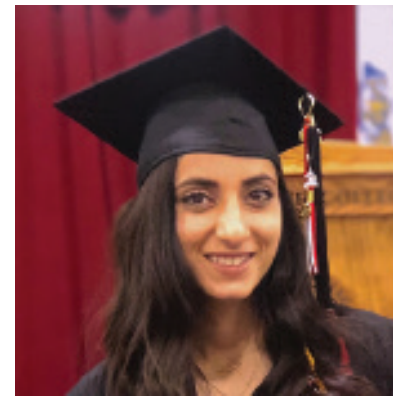
Saifeddin Abdalrahman graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. in chemical engineering and a B.A. in physics. The self-described “Entrepreneur Coach & soon-to-be Chemical Engineer” comes from Gaza, where he participated in two competitive U.S. Department of State-funded programs managed by AMIDEAST: the English Access Microscholarship Program and the Abraham Lincoln Incentive Grants program. At UoR, he added more honors, including an Olayan Foundation Fellowship award, Rochester National Grant, and Genesee Scholarship. Saif, who says he is “curious, about everything,” took advantage of opportunities for research and completed humanities and social sciences clusters in Spanish studies and psychology. In the coming year, he plans to perform independent research related to the technology industry, online education, and business administration and teach physics, all with an eye towards beginning an MBA program in fall 2020. Saif is grateful to AMIDEAST, and especially the Hope Fund, for providing him with “privileges” that enabled him to access new opportunities.



Loyal Issa was born and raised in Tripoli, Libya, and now lives in Saida, Lebanon. She graduated from Columbia College in South Carolina with a double major in computer information science and public affairs. In addition to serving as a student mentor and completing internships at two local banks, Loyal received first and second place for her poetry in Columbia College’s annual literary and art magazine *The Criterion*, the longest running women’s college literary and art magazine in the United States. Loyal valued the cultural diversity and many educational opportunities that she found at Columbia, as well as the lengths to which professors go to help students succeed. Today, as she thinks of how she could help girls back home, she envisions establishing a summer camp in Saida that would empower them in technology. “[AMIDEAST and the Hope Fund] have become a second home to me, and I know I will give back in any way that I can,” she asserts.



Fayzeh El Banna graduated from Carleton College with a bachelor’s degree in biology and biochemistry. A Palestinian refugee who grew up in Lebanon, she appreciated the school’s rigorous academic program as well as opportunities it afforded her to play rugby, take music lessons, volunteer at a local hospital, and participate in research and internships—activities that enabled her to explore new interests, discover skills, and gain insight into two areas of special interest, medical practice and technology. Next year, she will conduct research at the University of Minnesota’s medical school while preparing to start a Ph.D. program in pharmacology. With that knowledge, she hopes to be able to contribute to the mental health awareness movement in the Middle East. A grateful Fayzeh adds, “From providing guidance and supervision during the application process four years ago to the ongoing support and assistantship throughout my college journey, AMIDEAST played a great part in making this experience possible and wholesome.”



Angham Jaradat graduated from Monmouth College with a major in international business and minors in economics and political science. The West Bank native was an active member of the White and Crimson Leadership Society and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. She was also a student athlete, excelling at both soccer and lacrosse. Angham is an alumna of the Access and Abraham Lincoln Incentive Grants programs, as well as the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program. Because of the difference these programs made in her life, she is keen to give others the same support she had through scholarships or English courses. “I will always be thankful for the opportunities and support I received that made me the graduate I am today,” she says. “None of this would have been possible without AMIDEAST and the Hope Fund Program; they truly changed my life.”



Suhaila El Banna, Fayzeh’s sister, graduated from St. Olaf College with a double major in environmental studies and political science. While at St. Olaf, Suhaila valued the opportunities she had to meet people from diverse backgrounds and to work on campus and in internships in different cities—experiences that she feels prepared her to be “more flexible in the way that I see my path in life.” She plans to take a gap year or two to work as a water management specialist while preparing to pursue a master’s degree in water engineering. Longer term, she wishes to return home to use her degree to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and how people can protect their natural resources. Suhaila thanks AMIDEAST and the Hope Fund for helping her realize her potential; “they prepared me well to succeed in my educational career as well as gave me the chance to go to a good university and practice my right of having the chance to succeed in life and make a change.”



Ahmed Zaqout, from Gaza, graduated from Roanoke College, where he majored in international relations and economics with a concentration in peace and justice studies. Ahmed thoroughly enjoyed the variety of courses available at his college and the willingness of students and professors to discuss complex, controversial topics. He enriched his academic experience by joining the Model United Nations and Model Arab League and by playing varsity sports. Ahmed plans to work for a year before attending graduate school to pursue a degree in international and environmental development. Deeply appreciative of the support he has received, he writes: “AMIDEAST and the Hope Fund have given me the opportunity to obtain an education that pushed my boundaries and made me a more grateful and understanding person. Further, the psychological and monetary assistance have allowed me to perform and succeed in obtaining a degree against the odds annotating my nationality.”