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SPRING 2006

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## "Global Campuses Through International Exchange"

*Government and University Leaders Strengthen Focus on International Education at DC Summit*  
By Manuel Mendoza

The presidents of over 120 American universities gathered in Washington, D.C. from January 5-6 to participate in the U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education hosted by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. The Summit, attended by university presidents from each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, and organized by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, aimed to engage leaders of U.S. higher education in a renewed partnership to strengthen international education.

Secretaries Rice and Spellings convened the Summit to initiate a dialogue on the need for the U.S. government to work collaboratively with the non-governmental sector on the future of U.S. higher education in a global arena. The Summit also presented U.S. President George W. Bush with the opportunity to announce his National Security Language Initiative – a collaborative effort between government and education to further strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st century through education, especially in developing foreign language skills.



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
Photo Credit: U.S. Department of State Website

Secretary Rice compared the present context and imperative to strengthen international education to the scientific ini-

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## Graduating Soon?

We had a wonderful time getting to know many of you who attended the Departing Student Workshop in March. We hope that the workshop has prepared you for your journey home. **Academic Training** Please remember that if you want to request permission for Academic Training, you must submit a request to your AMIDEAST advisor at least six weeks before you complete your degree. Academic Training re-

quests will only be considered for exceptional students who have been offered employment directly related to their field of study for a period of up to twelve months. You must submit a letter from your prospective employer, one from your academic advisor, and one written by you. **Requesting Transfer** If you need to request a transfer of your DS-2019 sponsorship to your university to complete the

original academic program for which you were given your Fulbright grant, or to begin a second, higher degree program, you must also submit a request to your AMIDEAST advisor at least six weeks in advance. You should submit a letter written by you, a letter from your academic advisor, and a letter from the university office responsible for issuing DS-2019 documents. Remember that you will still have to fulfill your two-year home

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## Happenings at Headquarters



*Departing Student Workshop Fulbright Grantees with Ambassador Kattouf, President of AMIDEAST*

Program Officer Mara Kronenfeld held a post-nomination orientation in November for 12 Lebanese nominees (7 principal and 5 alternate) at the AMIDEAST/Beirut office with the help of AMIDEAST/Beirut Coordinator of Education and Scholarship Programs Hala Kaadi. She also visited the U.S. Embassy in Manama to conduct a post-nomination orientation for 15 principal and 4 alternate Bahraini Fulbright nominees with the help of Educational Advisor Samar F. Hasan. While in the Gulf region, Mara also had the opportunity to conduct a post-nomination orientation for 22 Omani Fulbright nominees at the U.S. Embassy in Mus-

cat with the help of Educational Advisor Batool Baqer.

Back in DC, AMIDEAST/HQ Fulbright staff worked diligently throughout the fall and winter researching universities and applying over 120 new nominees to academic programs around the country.

AMIDEAST/HQ also added several new faces to the Fulbright department.

Aseel Elborno joined AMIDEAST in October 2005 as the Program Assistant for the countries of Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, and Jordan. Prior to working for AMIDEAST, she was the President and Founder of the Middle East and North Africa Students Association at North Carolina State University, and interned with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Ms. Elborno is fluent in English and Arabic and holds a B.A. in Political Science.

Manuel Mendoza also joined AMIDEAST in October 2005 as Program Assistant. He assists in the program supervision and administration of grantees from Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. He is also involved in alumni development activities. Manuel has a B.A. in

International Affairs from The George Washington University with a minor in religion.

Caroline Valentino joined AMIDEAST in January 2006 as the Program Assistant for countries of Egypt, Gaza, West Bank, and Tunisia, as well as Conflict Resolution Program grantees. She graduated with recognition from George Mason University with a B.A. in Government and International Politics. She has a strong interest in Middle Eastern and North African cultural and religious affairs and hopes one day to continue her studies in this concentration.



## Graduating Soon? (Continued From Page 1)

residency requirement at the end of your studies. Please refer to your navy blue Fulbright handbook or ask your

AMIDEAST advisor for more information on these requests.

Best of luck on all you do!

## Summit Continued from page 1

tiative have thus far not matched those in science from forty years ago. Goals of international education include attracting foreign students to the U.S.; encouraging more Americans to receive education abroad; developing coherent international strategies at U.S. colleges and universities; strengthening non-traditional language acquisition; and better facilitating for exchange visa and regulatory processes. “We need universities to open their doors to people from around the world. We need universities to send their students around the world. So through that exchange and contact, we can learn more about each other...if we’re engaged only in a monologue, we will not get very far. If we get to know each other better, it will be a dialogue,” commented Secretary Rice in the opening session of the Summit.

Part of the commitment to meeting that challenge is the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) put forth by President Bush.

Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Dina Powell, and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights,

and Labor, Barry Lowenkron, outlined this initiative over the course of the Summit. Realizing that deficits in foreign language learning and teaching negatively affect U.S. national security, diplomacy, law enforcement, intelligence communities and cultural understanding, the NSLI has three broad goals:

- 1) Expand the number of Americans mastering critical need languages and start at a younger age;
- 2) Increase the number of advanced-level speakers of foreign languages, with an emphasis on critical need languages; and
- 3) Increase the number of foreign language teachers and the resources for them.

Summit participant, Gordon Gee, Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, called international education, “both our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity.” Part of the challenge for the United States to expand its role in international education is keeping up with the exchange opportunities in other countries that have arisen in recent decades. “Today, hundreds of thousands of international students have many more opportunities to study at home, at centers of academic

achievement in their own countries, than they did just a generation ago and other countries are aggressively competing to attract international students to their shores,” assessed Under Secretary Hughes. The international exchange industry has much more parity than several decades ago when the U.S. was among the best of a few select countries to pursue competitive university studies.

The wide representation of participants, hosts, sponsors, and partners at the Summit proved to be a microcosm of the diversity that many agreed is necessary in international education. It also suggested the multi-dimensional facet of international education. Effective communication and greater cultural awareness affect countless industries in an increasingly globalizing world. “You can’t live in the world today, and you can’t do business in the world today, unless you are a global citizen,” said President Margaret Lee of Oakton Community College in Illinois. “We do live in a world that is so small now that the ‘community’ is the people on the planet.”

<http://www.exchanges.state.gov/universitysummit/>

## Fulbright-Related Resources on the Web

Check these out!

### [The Fulbright Association](#)

As the membership organization of Fulbright alumni and supporters, the Fulbright Association is committed to fostering international awareness and understanding. Visit [www.fulbrightalumni.org](http://www.fulbrightalumni.org).

### [The Fulbright listserv](#)

The unofficial e-mail list serves two purposes for Fulbrighters from all over the world: to link new grantees and their peers already in the United States and to serve as a

social and cultural discussion forum for Fulbrighters new and old. Subscribe by sending an email to: [FULBRIGHTREQUEST@LISTS.UFL.EDU](mailto:FULBRIGHTREQUEST@LISTS.UFL.EDU).



Miami Seminar 06

## Seminars for the Soul

By Aseel Elborno

Since I started at AMIDEAST as Program Assistant to the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, I have had the opportunity to attend three exciting seminars in only five months. Having just moved from North Carolina to begin my career in international affairs, I was delighted to become included in a non-profit organization such as AMIDEAST, which promotes educational international exchange on many levels. The seminars that I attended have enriched my cultural perspective and educated me about civic engagement and reverse culture shock. The first seminar I attended was the Washington DC Enrichment Seminar. Students from all over

the world, including the Middle East and North Africa, were invited. Jeremy Mayor, an assistant Professor for the school of Public Policy at George Mason University spoke extensively about voting in the United States. He explained the reasons for the current voter turnout, voter participation, and the health of the United States society in reflection of voter turnout. I joined a group of Fulbrighters in visiting one of many non-profit organizations in Washington D.C. In particular, we visited the Interfaith Alliance, which promotes understanding and tolerance between all religions in the spectrum of politics and government. I found it interesting that international students were given the opportunity to be exposed to examples of civic engagement on two levels, both government and non-governmental.

The second seminar I attended was the Miami Florida Enrichment Seminar. Continuing with the theme of civic engagement, the Miami Seminar aimed at educating the international exchange students on how immigrant communities in the United States have also become involved in U.S. government. As an Arab-American, I was exposed to a region of the United States I had never been to before, and found delight in the fact that minorities can have powerful influence in the happenings of our government through civic engagement. Finally, the seminar that had the most sentimental value for me was the Departing Student Workshop. Each year, the Fulbright Foreign Student Exchange Program at AMIDEAST hosts a seminar for its graduating students. After months of corresponding with students through

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## Current Student Updates

### Yemen

**Ibrahim ABBAS, MS/ Pharmacy, University of Houston:** In the Fall semester, Ibrahim volunteered with "Compassion Operation," a team that helped the victims of Hurricane Katrina who came to Houston for refuge. He volunteered during Christmas Eve at an event called "Feed the Hungry," which aims to help the homeless and poor people in the Houston area. Ibrahim also taught an Arabic class last semester.

**Tawfiq AL-DHOLI, MBA, University of Toledo:** In the Fall semester, Tawfiq was selected as a member of the team that represented the university at the Key Bank/ Fisher Business College Competition, which took place in Cleveland. More about the event is posted on the University's website:

<http://www.business.utoledo.edu/document.asp?KeyBankFisherCaseCompetition>

### Mohammed AL-WADEAI, MS/Accountancy, University of South Florida:

Mohammed was interviewed by his university as a Fulbright Scholar under the topic "USF attracts top students." The article talked about his journey with the Fulbright scholarship, the mission of Fulbrighters, and the Fulbright scholarships in promoting understanding among people, cultures, and nations. He also received a "Student Excellence Award." He earned a 4.0 GPA in the Fall semester.

**Jordan Shadi KHADDER, MBA, Drexel University:** During the Fall semester, Shadi re-



**Mohammed AL-WADEAI, University of South Florida**

ceived a Dean's fellowship from the university for academic excellence. Shadi earned a 4.0 GPA in the Fall semester. Shadi is enjoying the various opportunities and events made possible by the university to meet distinguished people from the business community in the region and nationwide. During Thanksgiving, Shadi had the opportunity to visit Dearborn and Detroit cities in Michigan. He found Michigan very fascinating with many



*Tawfiq Al-Dholi, University of Toledo Key Bank Ceremony*

## Updates (Continued From Page 4)

attractive landscapes, specifically the Great Lakes.

**Fadi BOURI, MBA, Willamette University:** Fadi received sponsorship from the Dubai International Financial Center in Dubai to co-sponsor an exploratory business trip for 3 MBA students and professors to Dubai during Jan 2-13 2006. The objective of the trip was to enhance cultural understanding and to provide an overview of the recent developments in private equity and investment banking in the Middle East. They networked with top companies in investment banking and private equity. They also went sight-seeing to Burj Al Arab, visited water parks, and resorts, and went skiing in Dubai.

In the Fall semester, Fadi was also inducted as a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, which is the national honor society in Business and Management. Fadi attended a conference last September in Kansas City, Missouri about raising funds for community developments. Also, as the president of the International Graduate Student Association, Fadi arranged an international dinner at his university to give the opportunity for his peers to explore the cultures and food of international students.

### **Morocco**

**Fatiha JILLALI, MBA, Cornell University:** Fatiha had the opportunity to meet Daniel Cohn Bendit during his

recent visit to Cornell. He is the leader of the 1968 student revolution in France, a high profile leader of the green (ecologic) movement in France and Germany, and a very vocal member of the European Parliament.

### **Oman**

**Manal AL ZADJALI, MS/ Nursing, Arizona State University:** Manal did a presentation on Oman at East Carolina University last Fall.

### **Syria**

**Omar ALGHAZZI, MA/ International Communication, American University:** Omar earned the Dean's Award Scholarship. He also completed an internship at Al-Hayat Arabic Daily in New York, assisting in the coverage of the United Nations 2005 World Summit, which was described to be the biggest gathering of world leaders in history.

In October, Omar gave a lecture to an audience of media students at the Washington Center about Arabic language media and at American University news sources.

Omar is currently interning at the United Nations Information Centre in Washington DC

### **Lebanon**

**Fadia JRADI, MA, International Economic Development :** Fadia presented relevant information to her university regarding the Millennium Development Goals for the Transparency III series and received excellent feedback from her colleagues.



*Fadi Bouri in UAE in front of Burj el Arab*

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**AMIDEAST also has a toll-free number: 1-800-368-5720**

## A Return to Peace

By Fatiha Jillali Ithaca

*Fathia is a Moroccan Fulbright Grantee pursuing her MBA in Finance at Cornell University. The article below was featured in the International Herald Tribune on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 and is reprinted with permission from the author.*

The recent terrorist attacks in Jordan looked like a sinister copycat of those that shook my

hometown, Casablanca, two years ago. Broadly speaking, Jordan and Morocco are similar in many respects.

Both have a young head of state with a clean record - so far - and decent credibility with the outside world. Both are engaged in a series of ambitious economic and sociopolitical reforms. Jordan and Morocco are among the few Middle Eastern countries to have a free trade agreement with the United States.

While Jordanian officials claimed in the wake of the attacks that it was an unexpected, horrifying surprise, there were warnings of the terrorist storm to come:

radicalism has been on the rise.

In the case of Morocco, which I know best, the brutality of the attacks served as a wake up call for the government.

For centuries, Morocco was an oasis of calm, as Jews and Muslims lived together peacefully. Children of different faiths played in the same playgrounds, went to the same schools and did their homework together.

I hope I live to see the return of this harmony, and not just in Morocco, but also across the Middle East.

## Updates (Continued From Page 5)

### **Egypt** **Ahmed EL DEMERY, LLM, Human Rights Laws, St. Thomas University:**

Ahmed El Demery has been awarded the third prize of the *Siegfried Wiessner Intercultural Human Rights Essay Award*. This award was established in honor and recognition of the distinguished lifetime work of Professor Siegfried Wiessner, a renowned scholar, founder and director of the LLM Program in Intercultural Human Rights, and his unmatched devotion to the program, to human rights, and to a world order of human dignity, seeking to promote understanding and continuing advancement in the field of human rights. Mr. El Demery's work was a research piece on the situation of the rights of women in Egypt and cases handled by the Family Egyptian Court.

**Rawya RAGEH, MA/ Journalism, Columbia University:** Rawya was offered a scholarship by the New York-based Overseas Press Club Foun-

ation, which was founded in 1939 as a grouping for international correspondents with the aim of promoting excellence in journalism. Every year the Foundation offers 12 graduate and undergraduate students (in American colleges and institutions) who want to become foreign correspondents a \$2,000 scholarship, and this year Rawya was one of them. Applicants had to write a cover letter and essay and submit their resume. The 12 scholarships are named after different individuals or institutions who offer them and, conveniently, hers was the Dan Eldon Scholarship. Eldon, a Reuters photojournalist, died in Somalia in 1993 when he was stoned to death by an angry mob -- he was only 22. He had always been an inspiration to Rawya. Rawya explains, "I say 'conveniently' because the essay that I wrote and the cover letter were about Africa and Darfur and its falling into -- as one former AP colleague described it -- 'a pattern of reporting neglect.' I have become very passionate about Africa after a stint to Sudan for the AP. I was bewildered by

the conditions there and the underexposure it has received by the media which has been totally fixated on the conflict in Iraq. It was such a short stint in between shuttling back and forth from Baghdad -- but it was one assignment that has changed my perception on life and has made me so eager to return and report from sub-Saharan Africa." Rawya Rageh recently won another scholarship. The Foreign Press Association (FPA) gave her the scholarship and she won first place! The New York based FPA offers five scholarships to international students studying journalism in the U.S. \*Please see feature article on page 7.

# Asma Al-Wadidi's Art Gallery

Asma Al-Wadidi graduated from the University of Louisville with a Masters in Art this past December, 2005. She accomplished many things in her tenure as a Fulbright grantee. One of her greatest accomplishments is having hosted an art gallery of her own work at U of L. She subsequently won the M. Celeste Nichols Professional Development Award. Named in honor of Margaret Celeste Jackson Nichols (1951-1999), the first African-American woman to earn a doctoral degree from

the University of Louisville's English Department, the Nichols Award supports academic and professional enrichment for graduate students attending UofL. Asma won in the category of fine arts for her Middle Eastern Women Art Show. Upon graduation, Asma also won the Dean's Citation Award. Selections of Asma's work are featured below:



Asma Al-Wadidi



Asma the Painter



Indian Asma



Moroccan Asma



Iranian Asma

## Dateline Darfur

By Rawya Rageh

*Rawya is an Egyptian Fulbright Grantee pursuing her MA in Journalism at Columbia University. The Overseas Press Club Foundation awarded Rawya a much deserved scholarship based on the assessment of the featured article below.*

Childhood can die young.

That's what an aid worker in a Darfur camp for displaced people told me as he pointed to a group of children sitting idle outside a tattered shack made from plastic bags and sticks.

For these children who had to endure nightly raids by the feared Arab militia called Janjaweed, it did not matter that they were sitting right next to graves marked by random piles of stones and littered with animal and human waste. They have had to flee their villages on foot, walking for up to 60 miles; they have been living here with no running water and scarce food; they have no more energy to even brush away swarming flies – they are one more statistic in one of Darfur's nearly 130 camps for the displaced.

Dead or asleep – that's where the world must have been when the conflict started more than

30 months ago, leading to the humanitarian disaster in Darfur, a region roughly the size of France and home to some 6 million people. Today, world apathy toward the crisis in Darfur continues despite disrupted cycles of faint attention in world media, usually prompted by the visit of some senior U.N. official or politician.

It's perhaps one of the most hackneyed statements that, well, no body really cares about the world's poorest continent, Africa. It's also a cliché to say that history repeats itself and that the world has not learned from the Rwandan debacle. And no doubt media critics have overused the report co-issued by the Washington-based advocacy group, Genocide Intervention Fund, which noted that television stations devoted 50 times more coverage to the Michael Jackson trial this summer than to the crisis in Darfur, where 180,000 people have died from hunger and disease and more than 2 million have been displaced.

But, for the record, let it be stated yet another time.

Let it be stated and restated – because life in those camps, which range in size from several thousand up to 80,000 people is not easy, and if anything, conditions are worsening. Camp inhabitants, predominantly women and chil-

dren, remain underfed, ill and threatened by yet more raids. Even the dead cannot be put to rest properly, with the living hard pressed to find space for graves, or enough water for Muslims' ritual washing of the body.

The Sudanese government continues to back the Janjaweed with warplanes. Sudanese troops still turn a blind eye to incessant attacks on the camps, and African Union peacekeepers have been killed, aid workers kidnapped. Peace talks have yielded no results and recent clashes are leaving more people displaced or dead.

If it's the scent of money and personal interest that ticks people's attention and not the stench of the prevalent death in Darfur, then let it be stated in these terms: the unrest in any African state have frequently tended to spill over to neighboring states, sowing seeds of terrorism and, here it comes, disrupting oil supplies to the rest of the world.

Put in humanitarian or materialistic terms it's hard to justify ignoring this humanitarian crisis any further. The world needs to take action, and it needs to take it now: pressure the Sudanese government into holding the Janjaweed accountable, help fund African Union peacekeepers, ensure that the displaced women and children are properly fed and taken care of. When the artwork produced by Darfur's

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Crater Lakes, Oregon



Yellow Stone

Mohamed Bamarhool took two summer road trips across the United States, covering over 17,000 miles. He drove with a friend from the East Coast (Connecticut) to the West Coast (Oregon). He went to some of the most famous tourist places in the United States, starting from Hershey, Pennsylvania to the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Redwood in California, Crater Lake and waterfall in Oregon, Colombia River, Coer D'allaine Lake Idaho, Yellow Stone National Park, Mount Rushmore, and Mount Hood.

## Seminars for the Soul (Continued from Page 4)

e-mails and phone calls on issues related to insurance, tuition, family, travel, etc. we at Amideast-Fulbright finally had the opportunity to meet these students face-to-face before the final farewell. The seminar focused on preparing students for reverse culture shock upon their arrival to their home countries. Students shared their expectations, hopes, and fears about what returning home would be like. The seminar then provided students with a means of how to mentally prepare themselves in face of these fears. Although many, including myself, were hesitant to believe that there is such a thing as reverse

culture shock, the seminar not only convinced, but also prepared the students for what may be one of the



hardest times of their lives. I thoroughly enjoyed each of the seminars that I have attended so far and look forward to upcoming seminars. Each opportunity to learn more about the world we live in is a chance for growth, maturity, and reali-

zation. It is also enriching to see other perspectives on issues relevant to global societies and to predict how these perspectives may become relevant to how countries will interact with one another in the future. I hope that all of our Fulbright students gained the same positive experience from attending such events.

In March, Program Office Stephanie Lisella and Program Assistant Caroline Valentino also attended seminars in San Francisco and in Philadelphia. In April, Program Assistant Manuel Mendoza will be attending an enrichment seminar in New York.

Departing Student Workshop Washington D.C.





# The Reflections of One Fulbright Grantee...

It does not seem like it has been more than two years since arriving at Quinnipiac University as the first Fulbright candidate accepted into the Physical Therapy Masters program. I wish there was time and space to describe everything I have experienced. It would be an understatement to say that the Quinnipiac experience is different from the ones I have experienced in my home country, Yemen.

The requirements of universities in the United States are vastly different from those I was exposed to in Tunisia where I pursued my undergraduate degree. In the United States, critical thinking is emphasized in the learning process, more so than memorization.

I was very fortunate to have fantastic instructors in my program. One instructor who mentored me in particular was Dr. Russell Woodman. He became more than just my teacher. He used to involve me with his activities in class or in seminars held in other hospitals and clinics. He has a great teaching style in which difficult material becomes easier to understand because he incorporated real life clinical experiences. I never ever get enough of his class. Russell is an honest, loveable, and sensitive person when it comes to personal issues. He is a good friend to share thoughts, ideas and laughs with. He includes humor in his teaching style that

makes his classes enjoyable and beneficial. The best opportunity that Russell allowed me to share with him is the practical experience of assisting him with his teaching. He allowed me to assist him in many different occasions, each time resulting in a very enjoyable exposure to my field.

On a personal level, Russell is also a



*Mohamed with Dr. Russell Woodman*

good friend. He is dedicated to playing his favorite sport activities in the same way he is to teaching. He was my tennis partner and we shared many enjoyable games.

I was very lucky to get admission to Quinnipiac University and become a student of its prestigious programs. The or-

thopedic physical therapy major is one of the most interesting topics that Quinnipiac has to offer. Manual therapy and hands-on techniques are the rules of the program. I really appreciated and valued the skills and the knowledge I acquired and gained through the MSPT program. I was extremely grateful for the exposure I gained by the clinical settings, including

out-patient rehabilitation clinics. The knowledge and skills that I gained gave me the skills and control of dealing with patients and with other physical therapists. Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, is great place to acquire knowledge in the field of physical therapy and I consider myself lucky to be a graduate of its prestigious program. Maybe

someday I will return to Quinnipiac as member of its teaching staff.

Thanks to all Teachers and members of the MSPT at Quinnipiac University. Thank you to the Fulbright scholarship program, my advisors at Quinnipiac University and AMIDEAST. You were fantastic.

## Continued from page 7

children feature gun-wielding and sword-totting men on horses, slashing throats or raping women, one can very well understand that, in fact, childhood can die young.

\* Rawya Rageh recently won another scholarship from The Foreign Press Association (FPA). The New York based FPA offers five scholarships to international students studying journalism in the U.S.



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