The Gabr Fellowship

East-West: The Art of Dialogue

An Initiative of the Shafik Gabr Foundation

2015 Program
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The Shafik Gabr Foundations, both in Egypt and the US, are dedicated to creating opportunities for citizens to enhance their own futures by providing them with the tools to maximize their potential.

Although technology has revolutionized the way we all are able to interact with one another, placing a wealth of information at our fingertips and connecting us to one another more rapidly than ever before, the notion that this increases our knowledge of each other could not be further from the truth. Mass media and social media all too often serve as a filter that inevitably shapes our perceptions, with the most sensational, polarizing and disruptive voices garnering the most headlines. The medium truly has become the message.

The “East-West: The Art of Dialogue” initiative sprung from the conviction that non-governmental institutions can affect real change and that each citizen must play a role in building bridges towards sustainable peace and cross-cultural understanding. The initiative’s flagship program, the Gabr Fellowship, focuses on providing opportunities for tomorrow’s leaders to create a meaningful impact on the lives of others within our increasingly globalized community. We are not only creating space for young professionals to break through the digital shackles and engage directly with one another face to face, we are also creating a platform for them to identify issues, brainstorm ideas and come up with real-world solutions.

This year’s Fellows (20 young professionals from Egypt, US and UK) have “lived together” for 2 weeks in Egypt and 2 weeks in the United States and experienced first-hand the unique, and sometimes most challenging, aspects of both eastern and western cultures. They identify issues, brainstorm ideas, assess needs and potential, and implement innovative, real-world solutions. These Fellows are accomplishing what national governments and international corporations have repeatedly failed to do—they are closing the divide between regions, creating workable, sustainable model programs, improving their societies and mitigating the erosion of public understanding.

The Gabr Fellowship has engaged some of the most accomplished and creative minds of this generation. As politicians on both sides of the Atlantic struggle to deal with conflict, terror, new realities at home and on the global stage, these Fellows are able to explore options unrestrained by political protocols or partisan priorities. They are melding their skills and experience with new visions and pioneering solutions that utilize the most innovative technologies, as well as the most basic element of success - human interaction. Through their participation and their projects, these Fellows are sowing the seeds of community and cooperation that promise to change our worldview, and our economic, social and political trajectory toward a positive future.

Shafik Gabr
Founder, The Shafik Gabr Foundation
The mission of the Shafik Gabr Foundation’s initiative, “East-West: The Art of Dialogue” is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the people of the Arab world and the West, particularly with the U.S., by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between these two cultures. Established in 2012, in response to the increasing tensions building between the East and West, the Foundation sponsors and fosters exchanges between emerging leaders from both cultures in the fields of arts, science, law, media and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

The “East-West: The Art of Dialogue” initiative is a dynamic exchange program designed to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders from the Arab world and the West. Its flagship program, which has come to be known as ‘The Gabr Fellowship’, works towards the vital goal of building on the aforementioned ties between nations through cross-cultural dialogue and the development and execution of collaborative projects, which are the result of the combined creative visions of the Fellowship’s carefully selected participants.

Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, approximately 10 Americans and 10 Egyptians, with an equal distribution of men and women. The Fellowship featured its first participant from the UK in 2015 and will continue to expand to include additional nationalities in the future. Program participants spend two weeks in Egypt, followed by a further two weeks in the U.S., building enduring connections through hands-on activities, rigorous discussions, web-based interaction and most importantly, their own collaborative action projects.

Over the past years, American and Egyptian Fellows have developed collaborative projects where they can leverage their experience and develop impactful initiatives. They share their experiences of the exchange with their peers, colleagues and societies.

The exchanges do more than introduce the Fellows to new societies. They alter the very perceptions that have been fabricated by decades, even centuries, of misinformation. They provide the opportunity for frank discussions about the issues impacting both regions and create alliances between leaders of the next generation.

The Gabr Fellows have acquired a greater understanding of both Egypt and the United States and the challenges faced by both communities. Having served as cultural and linguistic ambassadors to one another, they return home to play the role of diplomat, introducing Egyptians and Americans to a people, a culture and a future never before explored in this way. Together, through their cooperation and their projects, they are creating the legacy of ‘The Gabr Fellowship’: an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions’ most pressing issues.
The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development (Egypt)
The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation in Egypt focuses on education (with over 17 primary schools sponsored by the Foundation and several initiatives involving support to the American University in Cairo, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and other educational programs), health (over 80,000 patients treated), anti-human trafficking, emergency aid, food, sports, culture and women's issues. The Foundation is also launching the first free health and dental clinic in Mokattam this year.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation (U.S.)
The Foundation's mission is to promote greater mutual understanding between the people of the Middle East, Europe and the Americas by fostering dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Established in 2012 in response to the erosion of sympathy and understanding between the Arab world and the West, the Foundation sponsors exchanges between emerging and entrepreneurial leaders in the arts and sciences, law, entrepreneurship and media. The Fellows work jointly together to leverage their experience and launch projects that impact their peers and communities. The Foundation works in partnership with other charitable organizations, corporations and individuals to renew and strengthen ties that have bound together Eastern and Western nations over many centuries. In the United States, the Foundation also supports epilepsy research, children with cerebral palsy, educational sponsorships and other special projects.
2015 Gabr Fellows Biographies
Afnan E. Khalil
Senior Lawyer, Bank Audi S.A.E
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 28

Afnan E. Khalil works as a Senior Banking and Finance Lawyer at Bank Audi, Egypt. Prior to that, she worked for the National Bank of Egypt and as a part-time teaching assistant of business law at The British University in Egypt (BUE). During her work in Egypt, Afnan was able to receive her LL.M Degree by correspondence from Robert H. McKinney School of Law in International and Comparative Law, Indiana University. She received her LL.B Degree from Faculty of Law, Cairo University class of 2009. She is a very active team player who is dedicated to her work, has a vivid spirit and loves to be introduced to new people.

Ahmed Mohammed
Teaching and Research Assistant, The British University in Egypt
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 24

Ahmed Mohammed has been working as a Teaching and Research Assistant at The British University in Egypt since his graduation from the Business Administration School, major Finance, in 2012. Ahmed has been active within various youth platforms including AIESEC Exchange and EASE NGO, in addition to participating in different schools’ programs and conferences on foreign policies and economic development. He is currently pursuing his Master’s Degree in European-Mediterranean studies from Cairo University with a focus on International Relations.

Ahmed Radwan
Actor
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 26

Ahmed Radwan is an Egyptian actor and voice-over talent who started his acting career in 2007, participating in a series of theatre plays. He is currently working as an HR Recruiter and a certified trainer. Over the years, he has enriched his skills in improvisation, story narration, pantomime, modern dancing and voice-over through participating in multiple workshops. In addition to that, he was part of a number of radio series as on “Nogoum FM”- one of the most famous radio channels in Egypt. In recent years, he has taken part in a number of short movies and online episodes that focus on hope, positivity, as well as key issues related to Egyptian society. He is also teaching young artists the basics of acting.
2015 Gabr Fellows Biographies
Egyptian Fellows

Bassma Fahim
CFO Executive Assistant & Office Manager at Binsuwaidan Advocates and Legal Consultants
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 27

Bassma Fahim is the CFO Executive Assistant & Office Manager at Binsuwaidan Advocates and Legal Consultants. Bassma has more than 5 years of professional and volunteer experience in civil society and social organizations, working mainly on issues related to marketing, public relations, health, education and entrepreneurship. She earned her Master’s Degree of Business Administration (Mini MBA) in Human Resources Management from the Web Science Academy in 2012 and her Bachelor’s Degree of Commerce and Foreign Trade from the Faculty of Business Administration, Helwan University in 2010.

Basma El Baz
Writer
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 30

Basma El Baz joined Yahoo Egypt in 2011, before she was chosen to relocate to the company’s office in Dubai to assume the role of Projects and Front Page Editor. She is presently a freelance writer with Yahoo. Basma is one of the co-founders of Shorouk News portal with 7 years of experience in media. She holds her Bachelor’s Degree of Art in English Literature from Mansoura University. Basma is passionate about travelling, discovering new cultures, reading and learning new languages because she believes it is her way of building bridges with people of different cultures.

Hadir Helal
Partner at Open Chance Law Firm
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 31

For over 10 years, Hadir has been practicing corporate law, specializing in drafting contracts, negotiating and concluding commercial transactions. In addition, she is an instructor at the American Bar Association and has held other teaching assistant posts at different universities. Hadir’s education includes a Bachelor’s Degree of Law from Cairo University and an LLM Degree of International Comparative Law from the American University in Cairo. She completed a Banking Law course at Zurich University. She is a member of the Board of an NGO for orphans, engages in pro-bono work with her office and is a Rotarian.
2015 Gabr Fellows Biographies

Egyptian Fellows

Mohamed Ismail
Cultural Worker at Culture Resource Foundation
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 25

Mohamed Ismail is currently working as Regional Programs Coordinator in the Culture Resource Foundation. In his current job, he is working on developing the organizational structures of various cultural initiatives in Egypt and the MENA region. He is also a social activist in the field of intercultural dialogue and promoting peace. Mohamed is Co-Founder of the “Hawerni” initiative for intercultural dialogue and is currently preparing for his Master’s Degree in peace and development studies. He earned his BA in Egyptology and Tourism Guidance.

Muhammad Nagi
Founder & Managing Director, Al Maqarr
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 24

Muhammad Nagi is the Founder and Managing Director of Egypt’s leading co-working space, Al Maqarr. He started his second business “ElRe7la -The Journey” where he delivers an entrepreneurial platform for inducing change across Egypt. Muhammad’s awareness about social responsibility was shaped when he joined college, where he co-founded the first student organization in his faculty, REACT, that aims atreviving students’ potential and helping them determine their future paths. He then continued his volunteering activities at Gneh Fel Youm and AIESEC. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Linguistic Studies from Ain Shams University. Nagi was a karate athlete for 13 years and is a fitness coach until today. Muhammad is passionate about entrepreneurship, collaboration and connecting people.

Ola Ali
Architect, Dar el Handasah Corporation
Hometown: Cairo; Age: 29

Ola Ali is an architect at Dar Al-Handasah Multinational Engineering Consultancy Group, with 8 years of experience, who has taken part in various mega projects in the Middle East & Gulf regions. Ola completed a 2 month development internship with AIESEC AAST in Malaysia and her role included teaching English & Math to Chinese orphans in “The House of Joy” orphanage. Since then, she has been interested in traveling around the world, exploring other cultures, along with pursuing her professional career as an architect, with the dream of eventually starting her own business. Ola graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University in 2008 and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree in Green/Sustainable Architecture.
Casey Smith
Founder & Executive Director of Cooking Up Cultures
Hometown: Austin, Texas; Age: 36

Casey Smith is the Founder & Executive Director of Cooking Up Cultures, with more than 12 years of professional work experience. She has served as a manager for over 7 years, with an impressive resume in human services organizations. As a graduate of Texas A&M University, veteran entrepreneur and experienced leader in corporate and non-profit sectors, her life goal is to take an active role in the positive evolution of humanity. Through her work in creating and developing Cooking Up Cultures, an organization whose ultimate purpose is to close cultural barriers that exist between communities, she is in part fulfilling that goal. Casey resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and two children where dinnertime discussions often reference the world map fixed above the dinner table.

Elizabeth Dent
Strategic Planner at the Department of State’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC)
Hometown: Washington, D.C.; Age: 26

Elizabeth Dent serves as Strategic Planner at the Department of State’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC). Prior to her work on counter-ISIL messaging, Elizabeth served as Special Assistant in the office of Diplomatic Security with the Department of State where she provided policy guidance, logistical support and programmatic support to bureau leadership regarding security, strategic and operational best practices. She received her M.A. in International Affairs from the American University in Washington. She also holds dual Bachelor’s Degrees in Islamic History and Political Science with a focus on Middle Eastern Studies from Miami University.

Ezemudi Redwood
Partner at Wings Café, Kansas City, KS
Hometown: Kansas City, Missouri; Age: 29

Eze Redwood is passionate about innovation and community building. At 14, his first company, a high school candy business, made $30,000 in four months before being shut down. At 19, Eze graduated from Williams College, and rose to leadership in a boutique marketing firm. Now 29, Eze has sat on 7 non-profit boards of directors and has experiences ranging from chair of an investment bank internal think tank, to youth leadership development mentor in Central Europe and partner in a gourmet wings restaurant. Eze also founded and currently leads Twenty30CEO, an entrepreneurs’ and innovators’ group, the Young Black Professional’s Council, and is a 2015-2016 Google & NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellow.
Judson Moore  
**Operations Manager at Mutual Mobile**  
**Hometown: Austin, Texas; Age: 32**

Judson is the Operations Manager at Mutual Mobile in Austin, Texas. After a career in music and live events, Judson decided to get back to his roots and dedicate himself to impacting communities. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic, he spent two years working with media outlets and journalists. His greatest contribution came in the development of a project which provided mobile technology to journalists living in rural areas so that they could have a wider voice and better access to information. Now residing in Austin, Texas, Judson contributes to the growth of the Austin business community as the Co-Founder of the Brazos Technology District and as part of the operations team at Mutual Mobile. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Austin and a leader of the Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association.

Kemp Gouldin  
**Sales and Marketing Director at Sakhr Software USA**  
**Hometown: Arlington, Virginia; Age: 35**

Kemp Gouldin is the Sales and Marketing Director at Sakhr Software USA, a technology startup that focuses on removing language barriers between the English and Arabic-speaking worlds. In his current position, he regularly meets with key officials from the U.S. and other countries working on international policy and has been a representative on several official U.S. trade missions. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a BSc in Biology. Previously, he was the Media Account Director at Sakhr Software, and a Communications Fellow at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Leah Moschella  
**Founder and President of Boston Girls’ Leadership**  
**Hometown: Dorchester, Massachusetts; Age: 32**

Leah Moschella is the Founder and President of Boston Girls’ Leadership Organized Women (Boston GLOW), a non-profit that fosters opportunities for women of all ages to become empowered community leaders and active world citizens. Additionally, she serves as a Manager of Workforce Development in Boston, supporting immigrant and adult learners on their paths to sustainable employment and economic self-sufficiency. She holds a Master's Degree in Human Services from Northeastern University and a B.A. in Sociology and Gender Studies from Fordham University.
Magdalena Kura

Business Change Management Lead, Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, Hometown: New Rochelle, New York; Age: 27

Magdalena Kura’s current mission in New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Office is to streamline government services for small business owners. As a Business Change Management Lead, she runs several efficiency projects including implementation of the New York Business Express portal - a comprehensive e-licensing system for all business-related government transactions. Prior to this position, she worked for the Fulbright Commission in Spain and the Center for International Development in Sarajevo, Bosnia. She earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Policy. Having been born in Poland and lived across Europe and Latin America, Magdalena is a natural bridge for people and cultures. Her passions include community gardening, sailing, women’s rights and international relations.

Michelle Matus

Multimedia Journalist
Hometown: Reno, Nevada; Age: 29

Michelle Matus is a multimedia journalist focusing on global humanitarian and environmental issues. In addition to her teaching assistantship, Michelle researches regional and global water scarcity in her work at News Deeply, a media and technology firm focused on improving understanding around complex, global issues. She is a graduate student in the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada-Reno. Her graduate work focuses on food security, agriculture and building community through their intersection. In 2008, Michelle received dual undergraduate degrees from the University of Nevada-Reno in French Language and Culture and International Affairs. She grew up in rural Nevada but has spent time living in several places across the United States and the world, including Belgium, France, Australia, and South Korea.

Nicholas Stephen Dreselly Thomas

Entrepreneur
Hometown: Boulder, Colorado; Age: 32

Nicholas recently completed his International M.B.A. at the Hult Business School and earned an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from Denver University’s Josef Korbel School in 2010. Nicholas has travelled to over 65 countries and lived and worked for extended periods of time in India, South Africa, Argentina, Fiji, at Sea, and multiple times in China. More recently, he has enjoyed working in the entrepreneurial space, assisting friends at the Unreasonable Institute accelerator, his cousin on startups such as Dash Tickets and STQRY and even winning in the first round from the Hult Prize 2015 with his team, Arkha, out of Shanghai. He is an Eagle Scout, a motivational speaker, and last worked in sports marketing on an aerobatic flight team sponsored by Oracle.
Murray E. Abeles  
**Senior Associate at Franco Financial Group**  
**Hometown: Astoria, New York; Age: 36**

Murray Abeles is a senior associate at Franco Financial Group, a boutique management consulting and financial advisory firm. In this role, he is responsible for the overall financial and operational management of the firm’s clients which include public, private and non-profit companies in North America, Europe and Asia. In addition, Murray serves as Chief Compliance Officer and Portfolio Manager overseeing the investment management division of the firm. Prior to that, Murray founded a technology consulting firm to provide application development and network infrastructure solutions to enterprise clients. He was recognized as Bank of America’s Youth Entrepreneur of the Year and awarded New York University’s Madame C.J. Walker Award for Entrepreneurial Activity. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology with minors in Computer Science and Political Science from the College of Arts and Science at New York University. Murray serves on the Parish Finance Council of The Diocese of Brooklyn and the Partnerships Committee of The Coalition for Queens. He also volunteers as a teen mentor and boxing coach at Hour Children.

Mike Burgess  
**Chief of Staff, House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom**  
**Hometown: London; Age: 33**

Mike Burgess is the Chief of Staff for a Member of Parliament in the Palace of Westminster, London, which houses the national legislature of the United Kingdom. Prior to entering the world of politics, he served for over a decade in the military, with both the Royal Marines and British Army, fulfilling various roles and completing numerous operational tours of duty. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the Open University. He is a Local Deputy Chairman of the UK Conservative Party and an associate of the Chartered Management Institute.
2015 Gabr Fellowship Projects
Because Baseball: Diamond Diplomacy
Team: Kemp Gouldin, Muhammad Nagi

The Challenge
The field (or court) of play is an arena where life’s greater lessons are taught - a place where young girls and boys learn teamwork, respect, sportsmanship; a place to thrill in success, a place to pick oneself up from failure. And while each sport has particular merits, baseball’s unique framework celebrates the individual (the batter, the base stealer, the fielder’s diving catch) while extolling actions for the benefit of the collective team (the sacrifice bunt, the double play). The challenge will be to create a new league (indeed introduce a new sport) in Egypt that will give young people an opportunity to compete, explore life lessons and grow as people. And, a sport is a universal language, it will serve a bridge across cultures between Egypt and the United States.

Project Overview
We will bring baseball to Egypt, founding the first Little League in Cairo with a handful of teams. Such a league should encourage Egyptian and expat children of all backgrounds to play together, finding a common purpose and learning to recognize common humanity in the midst of a current geopolitical climate that thrives on demarcation (i.e. creation of the other).

To build buzz and demand in Egypt, we will begin with baseball clubs at the university level. Ideally, participants in these student clubs will then become coaches in the Cairo Little League. But their role will be so much greater than merely “coaches” – they will be mentors and role models to their young players, able to teach valuable life lessons in the context of sport.

To kick off the Cairo League’s inaugural season, select American coaches and umpires will travel to Egypt to teach the game to their Egyptian counterparts; and clinics will be conducted to train the local adult and children participants.

In subsequent seasons, as the league matures and grows (participation increases), additional groundbreaking exchange opportunities will result:

1. Egyptian coaches will visit the US as coaching fellows
2. US Little League teams will travel to Egypt to play their Egyptian counterparts
3. Egyptian teams will journey to the US to play against American teams

In each of the above exchange scenarios international diplomacy will be learned and enacted on the baseball diamond. Diamond diplomacy indeed!

The Goal
The goals are both simple and powerful:

1. Create a new activity for kids to engage in
2. Build mentorship opportunities for Cairo-area university students to connect with Cairo youth
3. Allow for cross-cultural understanding through the vehicle of sport
Population Served

- Baseball Clubs: Students at university education
- Youth League: Boys and girls aged 8-12 years living in Cairo

Project Milestones

**Phase 1:** Founding of university baseball “clubs” (student organizations) at select Cairo universities

**Phase 2:** Founding of Cairo youth baseball league

**Phase 3:** Travel of US Coaches and umpires to Cairo for weeklong clinic with youth league coaches, university students and youth participants

**Phase 4:** First pitch of the inaugural season

**Phase 5:** During the second season, there will be a number of additional exchange opportunities between Egyptian and US youth baseball teams

Expected Outcome

While the league will be small during the inaugural season, the plan is to rapidly expand with each season to meet a growing demand among Egyptian youth to take part in this groundbreaking venture…with each passing year, the league footprint will grow, so will its overall impact on youth culture.

How the Project Contributes to the Foundation Mission

Because Baseball ultimately seeks to use the sport of baseball as a vehicle for diplomacy, setting up opportunities for youth players (as well as their adult coaches) from Egypt and the US to learn about each other’s culture through various team exchanges.
The Challenge

Western mainstream media outlets have a bias for telling sensational stories that focus on negative events and often fail to cover success stories coming out of Egypt. The 24-hour news cycle has gained wide criticism from American leaders for their Twitter-fed approach for making everything appear to be a crisis while neglecting the stories of entrepreneurial innovative, cultural, and burgeoning businesses.

Simultaneously, many American news agencies fail to cover events that can be characterized as generally positive, instead preferring to create a sense of dread and fear among their viewers. The voices of journalists in Egypt rarely penetrate the Western mainstream media with success stories. Additionally, these fear-inducing media outlets disproportionately cover negative experiences of women, or leave women out of the discourse altogether. With vast majorities of males in leadership positions and acting as decision makers in professional media outlets, the experiences of women are left to be defined by the males writing, editing, and producing the stories. While women are actively and positively participating in civic life, starting businesses, and leading cultural innovations both in Egypt and the United States, these stories are seldom told to the average consumer of media.

In summary, consumers of the media, both in the United States and Egypt, are relegated to an incomplete, sensationalist, and male-dominated perspective. These same consumers, however, rely on the media to formulate their global opinions and actions as civically-engaged citizens.

Project Overview

Inspired by powerful Egyptian and American female leaders, Cleopatra to Coretta is an international exchange program supporting the dialogue of female global journalists to build relationships and promote hero narratives of women making an impact in their community.

Cleopatra valued knowledge and female intellect above all else. Fascinated with literature and languages, she rose to power as the last of the great pharaohs in Egypt. Coretta Scott King, an American activist, writer, and champion of the civil rights movement, is best known as the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. Cleopatra and Coretta, who were influential and powerful women, are rarely credited. These two leaders are a mere sampling of the inspiring women that are blazing trails and challenging social norms each day.

Cleopatra to Coretta aims to bridge the gap between the East and the West, to identify and mentor emerging women leaders in the field of journalism, and to create new networks of engagement for aspiring female professionals. The project seeks to fund three female Egyptian journalists and three female American journalists who will participate in a person to person exchange program.

The participants will live and work together in both the United States and Egypt, participating in job shadowing, classes with university students, and guided discussions with industry professionals. Participants in Cleopatra to Coretta will develop media projects to profile strong female leaders in a variety of professional fields.

Project Goal

Three specific and measurable goals have been identified through this project:

- Women’s Empowerment: We seek to foster women’s professional development that creates a community of peer support and promote underrepresented voices.
- Positive Narratives in the Media: We seek to create shareable and accessible information online utilizing existing journalist networks and social media while highlighting success narratives of women.
- East-West Dialogue through peer-to-peer relationships: We seek to build lasting relationships and understanding through international exchange and develop opportunities for mentorship for emerging leaders.
Population Served

Female journalists in both Egypt and the United States will be the main population served in this project. By leveraging each participant’s network, Cleopatra to Coretta will potentially reach and impact millions of viewers in the United States and Egypt as well as the greater Western and MENA region.

Project Milestones

**Phase 1:** Three journalists from Egypt and three journalists from the United States will be selected to participate in the program.

**Phase 2:** Participants will be engaged in a facilitated online (email, chat, forum, Skype) conversation with each other about their communities and their work.

**Phase 3:** Participants will meet for a 3-day team building retreat in Egypt.

**Phase 4:** Participants will travel to Egypt and the United States to meet with counterparts in their home communities to collaborate on stories for publication.

**Phase 5:** Participants will create 18 special interest stories about the United States and Egypt that will be published across 3 news outlets in each country. One project report will be published in website format on CleopatratoCoretta.org, which will contain all 18 stories.

Expected Outcome

Each journalist will be responsible for creating content in their specific field of media about their experience. Participating journalists will use the platform of their professional expertise and their own media networks to develop and promote success stories and highlight cultural activities, particularly those involving and led by women.

Three journalists from two countries will immerse themselves in each others’ communities to engage in job shadowing, professional development and East-West dialogue.

By the end of the 6-month project, Egyptian and American journalists will have formed new relationships, and will have collaborated on stories which focus on generally positive events in each others’ communities. The American journalists will publish stories about activities in the Egyptian communities, while the Egyptian journalists will publish stories about activities in the American communities.

How the Project Contributes to the Foundation Mission

The Shafik Gabr Foundation believes that each citizen must play a role in building bridges to peace and improvement of people’s lives. Cleopatra to Coretta facilitates an opportunity for citizens from both the United States and Egypt to directly build bridges by working together, forming personal and professional relationships, and proactively sharing their intercultural experiences through the media. Tantamount to the Shafik Gabr Foundation’s mission, Cleopatra to Coretta is committed to fostering a voice for women to share their experiences with a global platform, based primarily in first-hand cross-cultural experiences. Furthermore, the outcomes of this action project can reach a broader global audience through sharable, digital media and the hero-narratives that are developed.

Learn more at CleopatratoCoretta.org
Cooking Up Cultures
Team: Casey Smith, Mohamed Ismail, Ola Ali

The Challenge
Cooking Up Arabic is a vital but missing piece of Cooking Up Cultures programming. Egypt is the leading Arabic speaking country with the strongest positive economic ties to the United States. Egypt needs to be represented in the Cooking Up Arabic programming to help demystify and personify one of the most important Arabic speaking cultures. Likewise, the English language and American culture needs to be showcased in Egypt as a positive relationship to foster U.S. - Egypt relations.

Project Overview
Cooking Up Cultures (CUC) is a non-profit organization established in 2010 which provides dynamic cooking experiences that explore languages and cultures for those with an international curiosity. The copyrighted method of CUC blends language + cooking + culture all in one experience, ensuring participants are better neighbors than before. The goal of CUC is to reduce the cultural barriers that exist between communities and we believe using food as the universal expression of a culture is the way to accomplish this goal. Languages currently offered by CUC include: English, Spanish, French and Chinese (Mandarin). It is with high priority that Cooking Up Arabic launch out of the CUC programming. The implementation of this mission will occur in Egypt and the U.S. through these programs:

1) **In-Person classes.** Arabic & English classes are taught at contracted facilities like school cafeterias, churches and Ramadam tents. The latter are facilitated as cooking dinner parties for up to 10 friends.

2) **Curricula licenses.** Cooking Up Arabic (CUA) and Cooking Up English (CUE) curricula will be available to schools, nonprofits and faith groups looking to add hands-on activities for language programs already operating in their facilities. This curricula is offered to accommodate all language proficiency levels in one class.

3) **Online lessons.** Our curricula is adapted for in home use on iOS, Windows and Android devices. Self-pace features include: proficiency level options (beginner, intermediate and advanced), audio and video content. Ideal for families, travelers, date nights, book clubs and foodies.

Project Goals
By September 2016, conservatively:

**In-Person Classes**
Reach 120 people through Cookovers in the U.S. and Egypt and 46 people through the contracted classes.

**Curricula Licenses**
Provide Cooking Up English licenses to 2 Egyptian schools, nonprofits or faith groups and Cooking Up Arabic licenses to 2 schools, nonprofits and faith groups in the U.S.

**Online Lessons**
Reach 500 users of Cooking Up Arabic online lessons.
Population Served

**In-Person Classes.** Contracted classes are paid for by schools who recruit participants such as families, parents, and youth aged 9-16 years old to participate. Cookover participants are provided to individuals with a curiosity in international matters, often self-described as “global citizens”. Cookover hosts pay for these experiences.

**Curricula Licenses.** Cooking Up English and Cooking Up Arabic curricula licenses are provided to schools, faith groups and non-profits at a low cost that already deliver language acquisition programming in some capacity and are looking to incorporate hands-on activities to strengthen the language retention of their students.

**Online Lessons.** The users of the online lessons are: foodies, home cooks, home-school families, travelers, aspiring travelers, language students, and social groups. Online lessons will be accessible as subscription or pay-as-you-go fee structures.

Project Milestones

- Launch first Online Cooking Up Arabic lesson: Fattah & Baladi
- Deliver first Cooking Up Arabic Cookover
- Beta test of all CUC Online Lessons
- Conduct Cooking Up Arabic and Cooking Up English contracted classes with Austin Independent School District
- Document and film the Cookover Tour for the official launch of CUC Online Lessons
- Official launch of all CUC Online Lessons
- Provide Cooking Up English [American] license to Al Azhar, in Egypt, and train instructors
- Offer Cooking Up English [American] curricula license to other Egyptian schools, nonprofits and faith groups

Expected Outcome

Historical data of CUC suggests participants in all programming will experience an improved understanding of the Egyptian and American cultures and increased confidence speaking the respective languages. We believe by cooking culturally significant recipes together and explaining why a particular recipe is important, we can create a personal connection for individuals who may previously have felt fear or anxiety related to that culture.

How the Project Contributes to the Foundation Mission

CUC programming supports this mission of creating dialogue between the east and the west both directly and indirectly. Launching Cooking Up Arabic in the U.S. and expanding Cooking Up English to Egypt directly impacts the potential for future dialogue through teaching tangible language skills and cultural context to Americans and Egyptians. We also facilitate indirect dialogue by reaching participants who perhaps are more interested in learning about the food than they are learning about the culture or language. This indirect impact is long term and manifests over a period of time, so that at the next encounter of someone who speaks English or Arabic, participants have a basic framework to begin a conversation.
The Challenge

In a strained interval between Egypt and the West, the respective societies are inclined to be in favor of information and analysis that support their present view. Unfortunately, these views piled up over decades of mistrust and skepticism. Further, they lack significant realities and input on how differently politics are run, decisions made, and societal givens are at one point of history. Hence, in today’s globalized world, these flawed perceptions must not take a front seat in shaping relations at a time when youth are in fact jumping to lead. Rather, societies around the globe are being afforded a remarkable chance of access to information to help shape more resilient understandings of how complicated realities are. In this context comes the project HADARA, which aims to help in part with building understanding among the rising youth of the 21st century.

Project Overview

The Egyptian population is projected to double over the next 30 years, while the millennial generation in the US is scheduled to compose 75% of the workforce by 2025. This means that the future leaders and decision-makers are growing up and being educated today. The problem is that even though information is all around us, there are very few reliable, credible and truly objective news sources available. Even more concerning, there are few-to-none that give a complete view of topics from all sides. As a result, youth either a) believe whatever source and materials they happen to find—usually to the detriment of their views of those outside their culture, or b) they become disenchanted with all of the sources and end up being influenced by hearsay because they are not doing their own reading.

We seek to build trust in our brand by providing every significant perspective on the international issues they care about through sourcing articles from various young and established thought leaders. We would then take the articles from graduate students, professors and seasoned experts, and stitch the best of those together in a way that allows a complete picture of an issue to be displayed.

Project Goals

The primary focus of HADARA is to provide 360 degree perspectives of global issues impacting the MENA region, in an easy to consume engaging format. By establishing a non-biased perspective, and presenting issues in a way that is comfortable and relatable for millennials+, we hope to better inform the future influencers—and in doing so, improve the perceptions Americans and Egyptians have of one another.

Population Served

Educated youth from 18 to 35 with access to technology and social media and reasonable level of English proficiency.
Project Milestones

Phase 1:  Relationship-building with college coalition
         Internal planning completed

Phase 2:  Have graphic design and layout specialist selected and on board
         Have selected student editors
         Finalize relationships with college coalition
         Finalize relationships with think tanks and schools for articles
         Have an agreed upon marketing strategy in place

Phase 3:  Articles for 1st issue completed
         2nd article rough draft completed
         Identify 3rd issue authors
         Launch college marketing & PR groups’ co-campaigns

Expected Outcome

Through this project we hope to create a more informed generation that understands the complexities of the global issues around them. It is much harder to be biased against nations and people when you know what and why they make the choices they make. In providing a trusted source of information, we hope to increase positive feelings and decrease mistrust between cultures by targeting the rising leaders. By informing the future influencers, we believe we can affect policies and the views of a massive segment of both populations before they rise to power and begin taking action.

How the Project Contributes to the Foundation Mission

The Shafik Gabr Foundation aims at building bridges of understanding between the East and the West. In this department, comes the project HADARA to transcend the Fellows’ shifted conceptions concerning the level of information and biases being presented to the public. This level of information presented has contributed in building huge misperceptions and misunderstandings within both societies. As a result, the Fellows are willing to pass on their experience to their community, within the political context, to ensure the full delivery of information on political decision-making processes and how influenced they are by societal givens. In ensuring this, the project will be inclined to present mere information rather than adopting standpoints to enhance its credibility and to allow a room for unbiased understandings. Thus, the project contributes to building understanding based on information rather than opinions.
VoteApp Civic Engagement Platform
Team: Murray Abeles, Mike Burgess, Basma El Baz, Magdalena Kura

The Challenge
Since 2011 and the rise of the so-called ‘Arab Spring’ Egypt has undergone unprecedented changes. Two revolutions and two constitutions later, Egypt has emerged from this tumultuous period as a young democracy. Access to social media and citizen-generated web content has become central to Egypt’s young technologically-oriented population. Additionally, the emerging tech-based start-up scene in Egypt is burgeoning. With an estimated 75% of the population under 25 years old, a huge opportunity has arisen for Egypt to become a leading democratic state in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In October 2015, Egypt held its first fully democratic national parliamentary elections since the second revolution of June 30, 2013.

Egypt has moved quickly towards a fully democratic system of governance. However, there is a paucity of civil engagement and a lack of accompanying institutions to support this transition. Navigating politics in a young democracy with over 100 political parties can be an overwhelming process. As a result, electoral turnout, especially amongst the young, was rather low in the 2015 Parliamentary elections. The low turnout can, in part, be attributed to the lack of available information about candidates, elected officials and political parties. Furthermore, entrepreneurs in Egypt often suffer from the lack of access to experienced mentors and capital, both of which are crucial when it comes to turning a great idea into a great business. If Egypt is to continue to develop, it will need a healthy democracy and thriving small and medium-sized enterprises in the private sector.

Project Overview
The VoteApp is a civic engagement platform designed to educate voters about their political representatives. It will take the form of a web-based application that will help voters become more engaged in the democratic process in Egypt. By making information simple, accessible and informative, the platform will help users make more educated voting decisions.

A technology conference will be organized aiming to link the startup ecosystems of both Egypt and the United States. The conference is to be held in New York City, at which the VoteApp mobile application will be featured as tangible proof of the collaborative development effort between the East and the West, alongside startup demonstrations, industry speakers and investment seminars.

Project Goals
The vote application aims to allow users to:
- Discover candidates and elected officials, learn about their accomplishments, voting record and positions on issues
- Save favourite candidates onto their ‘online ballot’
- Express public support by using support/trust buttons and share candidates’ profiles on social media
- Explore political parties based on your views
- Compile campaigning material
- Allow politicians and candidates to more easily connect with their electorate

The East-West start-up conference aims to:
- Bring together start-ups and entrepreneurs from the East and West
- Provide an opportunity to discuss respective ecosystems
- Help start-ups from the East and West collaborate to overcome challenges
- Launch the VoteApp application
- Explore the investment climate in the West
Population Served
VoteApp’s target population includes technologically-oriented citizens with access to a smartphone. Today, 30% of mobile phone users in Egypt are smartphone users.

Project Milestones:

Phase 1: Research and gather business requirements
Phase 2: Development
Phase 3: Quality Assurance
Phase 4: Release and Conference

Expected Outcome
Egypt has a unique opportunity to develop into the economic and democratic powerhouse of the Middle East and North Africa region. The VoteApp project aims to play a part in this journey by compiling and organizing information and by bringing talented people from the East and West. Through civic engagement, use of technology and support for small business, the East and West can both share a better future. We aim to improve civic engagement, keep electorates informed and foster entrepreneurial relationships between the East and West.
The Bridge: Building Bridges through Art
Team: Ahmed Radwan, Bassma Fahim, Nick Dreselly

The Challenge
After the increase of terrorism around the world, the relationship between East and West has become critical. People-to-people communication is lacking, and is desperately needed for younger generations to really understand each others’ challenges, fears and ideas in a way to promote peace and dialogue without intermediates.

Project Overview
Art is a great means to deliver a certain message, value, and affect people’s lives. It’s not politics that connect people, there are many other factors that can bring them together to share and exchange their thoughts, cultures and experiences.

The project consists of a short film that focuses on building the bridge between East and West. The goal of the project is to utilize art as a way to spread peace, encourage people-to-people communication and highlight common fears between cultures. The film will feature two families (one from the West and one from the East), who live in the future during the year 2050 trying to rebuild a damaged bridge between them after the vanishment of all resources in the aftermath of war.

The aim of the film is to create visual content that communicates with both cultures, in a way that relates with younger generations, to go viral on social media, which is the number one channel for information and education for these millennials. The film will include Egyptian and American actors performing in both languages, in a way that gives a diverse feeling and can relate to both cultures.

Project Goal

• Encourage multi-lingual dialogue between people.
• Find ways to bring East and West together regardless of political interests.
• Highlight similarities between both Eastern and Western cultures.
• Deliver a strong message through people-to-people interaction.
• Utilize entertainment as means of education and bridge building.
• Reach out to as many young people as possible around the globe through social media.
Population Served

- Internet users and youth who watch movies online

Project Milestones

**Phase 1:** Script-writing and Fundraising

**Phase 2:** Recruitment of Film Director and Actors

**Phase 3:** Table Reading & Rehearsals

**Phase 4:** Music, Costumes, Décor & Final Rehearsals

**Phase 5:** Shooting

**Phase 6:** Editing for final product

Expected Outcome

- Go viral on social media for optimum impact.
- Inform perceptions about both Eastern and Western cultures.
- Support greater communications across cultures.

How the Project Contributes to the Foundation Mission

Through the project, we promote peace and dialogue between East and West, as well as encourage communication between people to exchange cultural experiences and ideas. Through art, we utilize simple means to create the greatest impact within a younger generation that considers visual media as their primary channel for information and education. By implementing this project, we aim to share our experience and promote peace with as many people as possible, not only in Egypt and the US, but worldwide in a fun and simple way.
2015 Gabr Fellowship Participants
Mr. Abdel Ghaffar Shukr

Mr. Abdel Ghaffar Shukr is the Vice President of the National Council for Human Rights. Mr. Shukr has been a political activist since 1969 when he joined the Socialist Youth Education Organization. Since then, he assumed several leading positions with the mission of preserving human rights in Egypt, including: Undersecretary of the Founders of the Socialist Popular Alliance Party, Chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience and Founding Member of the Coordination Commission of the People to support the Palestinian people - Kefaya (Enough) - National Association for Change. Mr. Shukr has published numerous research papers on democratic development, civil society and human rights in Egypt and the Arab world.

Ambassador Abdelrahman Moussa

Ambassador Abdelrahman Moussa is the Advisor for International Affairs to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. He is the former Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and served as an Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Poland and Czech Republic. Ambassador Moussa served as Director of Security and Strategic Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Aboul Fadl Esnawy

Mr. Aboul Fadl Esnawy is the Head of the Egyptian Studies Program at the Regional Center for Strategic Studies. Mr. Esnawy worked as Assistant Editor at the International Political Journal "Al Siyassa Al Dawliya", which is published by Al Ahram. He is a specialist in Egyptian affairs, especially in the role of tribes in the political process in Egypt, and has done extensive work on the political role of Sufis in Egypt.

Mr. Adel El-Adawy

Mr. Adel El-Adawy is a PhD Candidate in the War Studies Department, Kings' College London, and a political researcher focusing on transnational security issues, civil-military relations, and Egyptian foreign policy. He received his Bachelor's Degree from The College of Wooster in Ohio and a Master's Degree in Political Science from The American University in Washington, DC. Prior to that, Mr. El-Adawy held several research positions in prominent U.S. think tanks, such as the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, American Security Project, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Middle East Institute.

Mr. Ahmed El Alfi

Mr. Ahmed El Alfi is Founder and Chairman of Sawari Ventures, and a veteran investor and venture capitalist from California with over 25 years of experience in senior executive and management positions. His investment track record over the last 17 years includes the execution of numerous successful transactions in technology, Internet, healthcare and financial services at various stages of development. He has executed many rewarding exits, including several IPOs on the NASDAQ. In 2006, he served as CEO of EFG-Hermes Private Equity; before going onto to found Sawari Ventures.

Dr. Ahmed M. Darwish

Dr. Ahmed Darwish is a consultant to a number of international organizations, government organizations and companies in the United States, Middle East, Africa and Egypt. He served as the Minister of State for Administrative Development from 2004-2011. His academic career started in 1988 as a lecturer and post-doctoral researcher with the Department of Electrical and Engineering and Computer Science at the University of California, Davis.
Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb

Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb is the current Grand Imam of al-Azhar and former President of al-Azhar University. He is considered to be one of the most moderate Sunni clerics in Egypt. Dr. El Tayeb holds a PhD in Islamic Philosophy from the Paris-Sorbonne University. Between 2002 and 2003, Dr. El Tayeb served as Grand Mufti of Egypt. Dr. El Tayeb is a hereditary Sufi Sheikh from Upper Egypt and has expressed support for a global Sufi league.

Dr. Ahmed Hassanein

Dr. Ahmed Hassanein is an Assistant Professor at The American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt, where he serves a joint appointment between the Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering at the School of Sciences and Engineering and the Department of Management at the School of Business. Prior to joining AUC, Dr. Hassanein worked as Project Controls Manager of a major real estate development firm operating in Africa, Central and South Asia as well as Western Europe. Dr. Hassanein has over 25 years of experience in both academia and industry, both in Egypt and North America.

Mr. Ahmed Kamel

Mr. Ahmed Kamel is a Researcher in Political Science at the Regional Center for Strategic Studies. He also works as a Researcher in the Gulf and Iran Studies Unit at Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. Prior to that, Mr. Kamel was Associate Researcher at the Regional Security Studies Unit at the Regional Center for Strategic Studies. He participated in a number of research projects including: “Non-traditional security in the Arab region”, “The future of the Egyptian political parties”, “New youth movements after the 25th of January Revolution”, “Preventing conflict in the Middle East” and “Cairo Index: Measuring Stability in the Middle East”.

Mr. Alaa Hashim

Mr. Alaa Hashim is currently an independent advisor working with large companies in the field of business transformation. He also serves as a Member of the Board of one of Egypt's largest export manufacturing firms, MAC Carpet, and has been with the company in various capacities throughout his professional career, including as its Co-Chief Executive Officer. He is a member of the advisory board of the Energya Group of Companies. He is a Board Member and Treasurer of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES). He is a founding member of the Egypt Vision 2030 initiative and is the Deputy Head of the Board of Trustees of the Egypt Vision Foundation (EVF).

Mr. Ali Bakr

Mr. Ali Bakr is the Head of the Islamist movements Program at the Regional Center for Strategic Studies. He is a renowned Islamist movements expert, contributing to the “International Politics” journals at Al Ahram Newspaper. Mr. Bakr has published numerous studies and articles about Islamist Movements in newspapers and scholarly journals.

Mrs. Al Zahraa Adel

Mrs. Al Zahraa Adel has a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Guidance from the Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Alexandria University. She has diverse experience in different fields including public relations, media coordination, marketing and customer service. She currently works as Tour Manager and Guide for English groups in Alexandria. She is an enthusiastic lecturer on Alexandria modern history, specialising in preserving the heritage of cosmopolitan Alexandria. She is also the Founder of Alexandria Belle Époque Heritage Society.
Dr. Amal Esawi

Dr. Amal Esawi is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the American University in Cairo. After completing her BSc in Mechanical Engineering (1989) and an MSc in Materials Engineering (1990), both from The American University in Cairo, Professor Esawi joined the University of Cambridge in the UK where she obtained her PhD in the field of materials and manufacturing process selection (1995). In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Esawi has served on the University Senate and is currently serving on several university, department and school committees.

H.E. Amre Moussa

H.E. Amre Moussa is an Egyptian politician and diplomat who served as Egypt’s Foreign Minister from 1991 to 2001 and was Secretary General of the Arab League from 2001 to 2011. In September 2013, he was elected President of the Committee of 50, a diverse group of Egyptians who convened to amend Egypt's 2012 constitution. Prior to that, he was a candidate in the 2012 presidential election and founder of Egypt’s Congress Party. H.E. Amre Moussa joined Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduating from Cairo University in 1957 and held many important posts over the decades, including serving as Egypt’s Ambassador to the United Nations.

Dr. Ayman Ismail

Dr. Ayman Ismail is the Assistant Professor and Abdul Latif Jameel Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship at the American University in Cairo School of Business. Dr. Ismail is a former Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He received his PhD in International Economic Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is also a co-founder and Managing Partner in Enovio, a management and strategy consulting firm operating in the US and the Middle East.

Mrs. Dina El-Mofty

Mrs. Dina El-Mofty is the Executive Director of Injaz in Egypt, an educational organization with a strong focus on entrepreneurship and a member of the Junior Achievement Network World Wide. Prior to Injaz, Mrs. El-Mofty worked with ‘Save the Children’ helping to expand their operations in Egypt in the field of health, education and economic empowerment. In 1999, she was part of a team that helped establish the Future Generation Foundation in Egypt, encouraging young men and women to develop their skills for the job market.

Ambassador Dr. Fadel Jawad

Ambassador Dr. Fadel Jawad has served as Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States for Political Affairs since September 1, 2013. Prior to that, he served in the Iraqi Government and was the PM of Iraq’s Advisor for Legal Affairs for nearly a decade. He held several prestigious positions, including Head of the Iraqi Legal Consultation Bureau, Member of the Board of the Iraqi Center for the International Law Studies, Professor of International Law, and Director General of Legal Department, Ministry of Industry and Military Manufacturing.
Dr. Gerry Scott III

Dr. Gerry D. Scott, III has been the ARCE Director since 2003 and is an Egyptologist, art historian, former museum curator, and recent Director of the San Antonio Museum of Art. Dr. Scott oversees the Cairo staff and its work with Egyptian authorities, institutions and the United States business/membership office in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. George Ishak

Mr. George Ishak is an Egyptian politician and activist. He was a founding member, leader and coordinator of the Kefaya opposition group, the unofficial moniker of the National Association for Change, a grassroots coalition which prior to the 2011 revolution drew its support across Egypt's political spectrum. Following the 2011 Egyptian revolution, Mr. Ishak became a member of the Constitution Party. Mr. Ishak graduated from Cairo University with a BA in History and began his career as a teacher and later became a consultant.

Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi

Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi is the Director of the Adham Center for Television and Digital Journalism at the American University in Cairo (AUC) and Professor of Practice in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. Prior to returning to his native Egypt, Mr. Al Mirazi spent 24 years living and working in Washington, DC. He served as Al Jazeera's U.S. bureau chief (2000-2007). While in Washington, Mr. Al Mirazi also held positions as correspondent and broadcaster at the Voice of America's Arabic service, the BBC Arabic/World Service and the Arab Network of America (ANA).

Ambassador Hamdi Sanad Loza


Mr. Hanny El-Messiry

Mr. Hanny El-Messiry is CEO of the International Foodstuffs Company (IFFCO) in Egypt. Mr. El-Messiry holds an Executive Masters of Business Administration from the University of Alexandria, in collaboration with Georgia State University, and a Bachelor's of Business Administration from California State University (CSU-LA). Throughout his career, Mr. Hanny El-Messiry has held several senior posts, including Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Golden State Foods (GFS); Business Development Manager of ABB Global; Exports General Manager of Al-Ezz Group; and Credit Manager of Bank of America. Mr. Hanny El-Messiry was appointed Governor of Alexandria between February and October 2015.

Mr. Hossam Ibrahim

Mr. Hossam Ibrahim is currently the Head of the American Studies Program, RCSS. Having lived in the U.S. for many years, Mr. Ibrahim gained great knowledge and expertise in American foreign policy, culture and trends. Prior to that, he worked as a researcher at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Mr. Ibrahim was a former Press Attaché at the Embassy of Egypt, Press Office, in Washington, DC. He also worked as a media analyst at the State Information Service, Cairo, Egypt.
Mr. Hussein Fahmy

Mr. Hussein Fahmy is a premier Egyptian actor who has received several awards during his career. He is a leading movie star and the first UNDP Regional Goodwill Ambassador for the Arab States in 1998. He has worked hard to convey to his audience in the Middle East important human development issues. He was also appointed the President of the Cairo International Film Festival (1998–2001). He now serves as an Ambassador for the Special Olympics.

Dr. Ibrahim Awad

Dr. Ibrahim Awad is the Director of the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He is also Professor of Practice in Public Policy at the American University in Cairo, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Dr. Awad was member of the board of directors and scientific councils of several institutions, programs and projects researching on development, migration and human rights. He held several prestigious positions at regional and United Nations organizations in Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, Lebanon and Egypt.

Dr. Ismail Serageldin

Dr. Ismail Serageldin is the Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), inaugurated in 2002. Dr. Serageldin serves as chair or member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts, including the Advisory Committee of the World Social Science Report for 2013, as well as the UNESCO-supported World Water Scenarios (2013). He has held many important international positions, including Vice President of the World Bank (1992-2000), and Chairman Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, 1994-2000).

Mr. Karim Haggag

Mr. Karim Haggag is an Egyptian career diplomat currently serving as Deputy Director of Policy Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Throughout his 20 year diplomatic career, he has focused on Middle East regional security, arms control and nonproliferation, Arab-Israeli diplomacy, US-Egyptian relations and counter-terrorism. He has served in the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, DC, the Cabinet of the Foreign Minister, the Office of the Presidency, the Policy Planning Division, and as Director of the Counter-terrorism Unit in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Ms. Lina Alorabi

Ms. Lina Alorabi studied industrial design at the University for Creative Arts in Kent, UK. After graduating in 2005, she became a designer at Staubach + Kuckertz, working to create urban furniture for clients such as Wall AG and Metalco s.Pa. Ms. Alorabi has had the opportunity to work with Egypt’s top designers and manufacturers as part of Rhimal design. At the German University in Cairo, she worked with young designers at the Applied Arts and Sciences department. She is now a design consultant for numerous Egyptian companies and private clients.
Mrs. Lisa Anderson
Mrs. Lisa Anderson was appointed President of The American University in Cairo in January 2011. A specialist in politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Mrs. Anderson served as the University’s Provost from 2008 to 2010. Prior to joining AUC, Mrs. Anderson served as the James T. Shotwell Professor of International Relations and Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia. She served as past President of the Middle East Studies Association and past Chair of the Board of the Social Science Research Council. Mrs. Anderson is also a former member of the Council of the American Political Science Association and served on the Board of the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs.

Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish
Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish is the Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority. He was the Commander of the Egyptian Navy from 27 September 2007 until August 2012. He was also a member of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, after the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. He has received many medals, including the medal of Long and Meritorious Service, of Longevity, of Duty, of the 6th of October, of the Egyptian Navy, of the 20th Anniversary of the July Revolution, of the 25th of April, of October Warriors, of Superior Service, 23 July 50th Anniversary, and the Silver Jubilee of Sinai Liberation.

Mr. Mohamed Abass
Mr. Mohamed Abass is the Head of the Regional Relations Unit at the Regional Center for Strategic Studies in Cairo (RCSS). He is an expert in Iranian affairs and regional politics. Prior to his current post, Mr. Abass was the Regional Strategic Assessments Coordinator at RCSS. He is pursuing his PhD in Regional Politics from Cairo University.

Ambassador Mohamed Anis Salem
Ambassador Mohamed Anis Salem heads Development Works, a Cairo-based non-profit consultancy office, with more than 35 years of experience in international affairs, social development, humanitarian relief operations, and communication. Ambassador Anis currently serves as the Coordinator of the UN Working Groups at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, contributing with occasional articles to a leading Egyptian newspaper (Al Masry Al Youm).

Major General Mohamed Elkeshky
Major General Mohamed Elkeshky is the Assistant Minister of Defense for Foreign Affairs. He also served as the Egyptian Defense Attaché to the United States and to Canada from 2009-2013. Prior to that, he served as Egypt’s Assistant Defense Attaché in London. General Elkeshky has undertaken military studies both in Egypt and the United States, including Egypt's War College, The United States National War College and the U.S. Advanced Artillery Course.

Dr. Mohamed Salmawy
Dr. Mohamed Salmawy is the President of the Writers’ Union of Egypt and Secretary General of the General Union of the Arab Writers. Prior to that, he served as Managing Editor of Al Ahram Newspaper, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Cultural Relations at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and Deputy Editor of Foreign Affairs of Al Ahram.
Eng. Mohamed Shamel Abdel Raouf Hamdy

Eng. Mohamed Shamel Abdel Raouf Hamdy was appointed Chairman & Managing Director of “SUMED” between February, 2010 and his retirement in August, 2011. He completed his primary & high school education at College Saint Marc (Alexandria) in 1968 and graduated from Faculty of Engineering (Mechanical Department) in 1973, Alexandria University. In 1988, Eng. Hamdy received a Diploma in Management of Oil Companies at Montreal University Business School. He started his career in 1974 as Project Field Engineer in Gulf of Suez Petroleum Co. “GUPCO”.

The Honorable Mona Makram-Ebeid

The Honorable Mona Makram-Ebeid is a former Parliamentarian and Senator. She has been a lecturer of Political Science and Sociology at The American University in Cairo since 1983. She has established herself in the Egyptian political and intellectual community. Between 1990-1995, she had been a vocal and dynamic Member of Parliament, where she served as Senator on the committees of Foreign Affairs, Education and Budget.

Dr. Mostafa El Feki

Dr. Mostafa El Feki is a prominent Egyptian figure. He wears more than one hat: a politician, a diplomat, an academic and a political thinker and writer. He served in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, mainly in London, where he received his PhD. He also served in India as an Ambassador. He was the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the IAEA and also the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the Arab League; was the Secretary to the President of Egypt and the former First Assistant to the Foreign Minister.

H.G. Bishop Moussa

His Grace Bishop Moussa is a visionary youth leader who has emphasized a holistic approach to ministry. On 25th May 1980, His Holiness Pope Shenouda III ordained the first Bishop for Youth, His Grace Bishop Moussa. Bishop Moussa established the St. Timothy Centre for Biblical Studies which has produced numerous booklets and pamphlets on various books of the Bible, particularly for youth. With the expansion in publications, the Bishopric established an impressive bookshop adjacent to its office at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Abbasia, Cairo.

Dr. Noha Bakr

Dr. Noha Bakr is a Professor at the Political Science Department at the American University in Cairo, where she focuses on international organizations and human rights. Prior to that, Dr. Bakr was Assistant to the Minister of International Cooperation, in charge of international economic cooperation with Canada and the Americas. Dr. Bakr worked as a consultant to UNDP on a project addressing democracy in the last 50 years in Africa, providing recommendations to enhance the democratic process in Egypt. She is also a member at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations, The Arab Network for Tolerance and the Egyptian International Economic Forum.
Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler

Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler is an author, a U.S. Episcopal Priest, interfaith advocate, arts activist and social entrepreneur who has lived and worked in North Africa and the Middle East for many years. Based out of Chicago, he is the Founder and President of CARAVAN, a peace-building interfaith and intercultural arts non-profit that builds bridges through the arts between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and West.

Dr. W. Raymond Johnson

Dr. W. Raymond Johnson received his Doctorate in Egyptian Archaeology from the University of Chicago in 1992. Whilst at college he participated in excavations at the site of Fort William Henry in Colonial Pemaquid, Maine, and as a graduate student, he worked on excavations in Iran, the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and Tunisia (Carthage). Dr. Johnson joined the team of the Epigraphic Survey, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago based at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, in 1979 as epigraphic draftsman, where he helped to document the Opet reliefs of Tutankhamun in the great Colonnade Hall of Luxor Temple. Dr. Johnson served as Senior Artist from 1982, became Assistant Director in 1995, and was appointed Epigraphic Survey Director in 1997, a position he continues to hold until today.

Prof. Rob Riemen

Prof. Rob Riemen is a renowned public intellectual and writer, and the Founder and President of the Nexus Institute. During his studies in Theology, he launched the journal Nexus in 1991, with thematically connected essays written by both famous and upcoming international authors. Alongside Nexus as a platform for the written word, Mr. Riemen widened the possibilities when he established the Nexus Institute to make way for the spoken word.

General Sameh Seif Elyazal

Gen. Sameh Seif Elyazal is the current Majority Leader of the Egyptian Parliament and the Chairman of Al Gomhouria Center for Political and Security Studies. He is a former Army General, joining the Egyptian Military in 1965 and has participated in two wars with Israel. Gen. Elyazal worked in Egypt’s Embassies in the United Kingdom, and North Korea. Since retiring he has been working as a security expert, having joined Parliamentary tract by forming and leading “In the Love of Egypt” political party.

H.E. Minister Sameh Hassan Shoukry

H.E. Minister Sameh Hassan Shoukry is an Egyptian career diplomat who was named Foreign Minister of Egypt on 17 June 2014. Previously, Minister Shoukry served as the Ambassador of Egypt to the United States from 2008 to 2012, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva from 2005-2008, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the International Organizations in Vienna, Governor of Egypt on the Board of Governors of the IAEA, Chairman of the Group of 77 & China, to the International Organizations in Vienna and Head of Delegation for the Negotiations on the International Treaty to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, Vienna.
**Dr. Sherine Al-Shawarby**

Dr. Sherine Al-Shawarby is a Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in Cairo University. She is currently the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science for Community Affairs and Environment Development. Prior to that, Dr. Al-Shawarby was a Senior Economist at the World Bank office in Cairo between June 2001 and July 2013. She also worked as advisor to a number of international, regional and national organizations, including the World Food Program, the World Bank, and the US Agency for International Development.

**Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft**

Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft was confirmed by the Senate as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt on June 26, 2014. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Ambassador Beecroft served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq from 2012 to 2014. Prior to his service in Iraq, Ambassador Beecroft served as Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Ambassador Beecroft’s previous assignments include service in Washington, DC as Executive Assistant to two Secretaries of State and Special Assistant to a Deputy Secretary of State. He holds a B.A. from Brigham Young University and a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Mr. Tarek Ragheb**

Mr. Tarek Ragheb is an Egyptian American. He is a Senior Advisor to US Aerospace and Defense Corporations (and Former VP), and is the Founding Chair of the African Business Aviation Association. Mr. Ragheb has served as an Officer in the US Air Force and as a US Diplomat. He has also served as a Communications Director for the US Republican Party Abroad. Mr. Ragheb is a Temple University graduate and he is fluent in both Arabic (native speaker) and in English.

**Dr. Yasmine Farouk**

Dr. Yasmine Farouk is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. She holds an M.A. and PhD in Political Science and International Relations from Sciences Po, France. She served as Visiting Assistant Professor at Yale University from June to July 2015. She was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Council on Middle East Studies at Yale University from September 2014 to May 2015. Dr. Farouk is also an AUC Forum fellow at the American University in Cairo.

**Mr. Ziad Aly**

Mr. Ziad Aly is the CEO & Founder of ALZWAD for Economic Development. Prior to that, Mr. Aly was an Executive Board Member at Vodafone. He is an evangelist on the role of mobile Internet and entrepreneurship in changing the MENA region. He founded several businesses, including ALZWAD for Mobile Services, Handmade Solutions, Soutak.com, Kareerak.com, Reach 2.0 and Integrated Payment Services.
Mr. M. Shafik Gabr, Chairman and Managing Director of the ARTOC Group for Investment & Development, is a renowned leader in international business, one of the world’s premier collectors of Orientalist art, and an accomplished philanthropist.

ARTOC Group for Investment & Development celebrated 44 years of successful investment activities in November 2015 and is a multi-disciplined investment holding company with subsidiaries operating in the fields of industry, automotive, airport terminals, consumer products, energy, publishing, real estate and construction.

Mr. Gabr is the Chairman and a founding member of Egypt’s International Economic Forum, member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum and serves on Yale University President’s Council on International Activities. Mr. Gabr is a member of the Jackson Institute Council and also serves on the Advisory Boards of The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Zurich Financial Services, one of the world’s leading insurance companies, Stanhope Capital, LLP, Brandeis University’s Crown Center for Middle East studies and the Global Advisory Council of the Mayo Clinic. Mr. Gabr is also a member of the Friends of Fletcher, Tufts University.

Mr. Gabr was previously the Chairman of Common Market for East and South Africa (COMESA) Business Council and a member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris). Mr. Gabr was also a founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in 1982, serving as its first Egyptian President from 1995 until 1997.

Mr. Gabr ranks among Arabian Business and The Middle East magazines 2012 “Most Influential Arabs” and “Our Top 50 Arabs”. In 2009, Mr. Gabr was presented with the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) Award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, Mr. Gabr was awarded the Meridian Global Citizen Award and in November 2014 the Middle East Institute’s Visionary Award. In March 2015, Mr. Gabr received the American University in Cairo’s Global Impact Award.

Through the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development, Mr. Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education throughout his native Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture and promoting sports and physical fitness for youth. In the area of higher education, Mr. Gabr is a major Egyptian supporter of the American University in Cairo. The Foundation also developed a free medical-care system by providing “Medical Caravans”, for residents of underprivileged areas of Greater Cairo. The Foundation is constructing and launching its first medical and social development center in Mokattam, Cairo in 2015 offering free medical and health services. In 2012, Mr. Gabr established the Shafik Gabr Foundation in the US, which supports educational and medical initiatives, and launched the East-West: The Art of Dialogue initiative (www.eastwestdialogue.org) to promote exchanges between the US and Egypt with the objective of enhancing cultural dialogue and bridge building.

Mr. Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.
Mr. Masood Ahmed

Mr. Masood Ahmed has been Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department of the International Monetary Fund since November 1, 2008. He obtained his graduate and post-graduate degrees in Economics from the London School of Economics, where he also served on the Economics Faculty.

Dr. Jon B. Alterman

Dr. Jon B. Alterman is a senior vice president, holds the Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and is director of the Middle East Program at CSIS. Prior to joining CSIS in 2002, he served as a member of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State and as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Dr. Gawdat Bahgat

Dr. Gawdat Bahgat is a professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University’s Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study. He is an Egyptian-born specialist in Middle Eastern policy, particularly Egypt, Iran, and the Gulf region. His areas of expertise include energy security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, counter-terrorism, Arab-Israeli conflict, North Africa, and American foreign policy in the Middle East.

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart is currently fulfilling his 7th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Florida’s 25th congressional district. He is a Senior Member of the House Committee on Appropriations and is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, in addition to serving on the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs and the Defense Subcommittees. He also serves on the House Committee on the Budget.

Mr. Scott Carpenter

Mr. Scott Carpenter is the Deputy Director of Google Ideas, where he drives implementation of the team’s overall strategy and manages the portfolio addressing illicit networks. Previously, Mr. Carpenter served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Near East Affairs.

Mr. Gregory Copley

Mr. Gregory Copley, President of the International Strategic Studies Association, is an Australian author, philosopher, and industrialist who has, for more than four decades, worked as an advisor to governments in the areas of strategic policy, intelligence, and security. He is based mainly in the Washington, DC area, but spends much of his time in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.
Brigadier General Guy “Tom” Cosentino

Brigadier General (Retired) Guy “Tom” Cosentino is Vice President for Policy at Business Executives for National Security (BENS), a American nationwide member-based non-profit organization of Business Executives, dedicated to improving the relationship between business and the broader national security enterprise and to helping the government become more efficient in its business practices.

Mr. Richard Davis

Mr. Richard Davis is the Executive Vice President of News Standards & Practices at CNN. Previously, he served for eight years as CNN’s Vice President and Senior Executive Producer for Washington Public Affairs Programs.

Ms. Christi Fallon

Ms. Christi Fallon is a contractor supporting the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. Focused on the Levant region, Ms. Fallon works on security cooperation and political-military matters concerning Egypt.

Brig. Gen. Michael A. Fantini

Brig. Gen. Michael A. Fantini is the Principal Director for Middle East Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, at the Pentagon. He formulates and provides oversight of defense policy and national security strategy for 14 Middle East nations.

Ambassador Ahmed Farouk

Ambassador Ahmed Farouk is the Consul General for Egypt posted in New York City. The Ambassador’s previous work saw him serve as the Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Inspection, 2012-2013; and he has served in various positions of increasing responsibility within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Alexander Gallo

Mr. Alexander Gallo is a Professional Staff Member with the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), full committee policy staff. In this capacity, he conducts oversight of U.S. policy in the Middle East and will be conducting oversight of U.S. policy in the Asia-Pacific. Mr. Gallo advises the Chairman of the Committee on these policy issues.

The Honorable Christopher Gibson

Congressman Christopher Gibson was elected to represent the 20th Congressional District of the State of New York in 2010 and re-elected in 2012 and 2014 to represent the 19th Congressional District. He serves on the House Armed Services, Agriculture, and Small Business Committees.
2015 Gabr Fellowship
American Program Participants

Dr. Jonathan Golden
Dr. Jonathan Golden is Director of the Center on Religion, Culture and Conflict at Drew University, an interdisciplinary institution focused on global peacebuilding and interfaith leadership. He is Convener of the Certificate in Conflict Resolution and Leadership offered by Drew’s Caspersen School of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Steve Grand
Dr. Steve Grand leads the Middle East Strategy Task Force at the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Dr. Grand is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World (housed within the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings), where he served as director from 2006 to 2013.

Dr. Richard Haass
Dr. Richard Haass is in his thirteenth year as president of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource to help people better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.

Mr. David Hamod
Mr. David Hamod is President and CEO of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC), a position he accepted in 2004. Since its inception almost 50 years ago, NUSACC has been the preeminent organization for fostering trade and investment between the United States and the 22 countries of the Arab world.

Mrs. Arianna Huffington
Mrs. Arianna Huffington is the president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group, and author of fourteen books. In May 2005, she launched The Huffington Post, a news and blog site that quickly became one of the most widely-read, linked to, and frequently-cited media brands on the Internet.

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Congressman Darrell Issa currently represents the 49th District of the State of California and is a member of the House Judiciary Committee where he serves as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, and the House of Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Chris Jarvis
Mr. Chris Jarvis is the mission chief for Egypt and an Advisor at the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Middle East and Central Asia Department. He was previously in the IMF’s European Department where he led missions to Belarus and then Ukraine.

Dr. Jennifer Jefferis
Dr. Jennifer Jefferis is an associate professor at the Near East and South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. She most recently worked as the Associate Dean of Academics at the College of International Security Affairs.
Dr. Colin Kahl

Dr. Colin Kahl is the National Security Advisor to the Vice President of the United States and came to the job from Georgetown University, where he was an associate professor in the Security Studies Program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. In addition to teaching at Georgetown, Dr. Kahl served until recently as Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security.

The Honorable Mark T. Kimmitt

The Honorable Mark T. Kimmitt advises firms on security and defense matters in the Middle East. Until 2009, BG Kimmitt served as Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs. From 2006 to 2008, BG Kimmitt served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy.

Mr. Tim Langmaid

Mr. Tim Langmaid joined the Row as an Executive Editor in September of 2013. Prior to that, he worked for CNN's Medical Unit for seven years, most recently as Senior Managing Editor. Mr. Langmaid also served as Executive Producer with CNN's Investigative Unit, worked with the Anderson Cooper 360 program and has been Supervising Producer for Futures and for the Atlanta newsroom. Mr. Langmaid is on his second tour of duty with the Row. He initially joined CNN and the Row in 1999 after 10 years in a variety of editorial positions with Headline News.

Dr. Herbert I. London

Dr. Herbert I. London is President of the London Center for Policy Research and Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and is the former President of the Hudson Institute. Dr. London is Professor Emeritus and the former John M. Olin Professor of Humanities at New York University.

Senator Edward J. Markey

Senator Edward J. Markey is a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and oversees telecommunications policy, technology and privacy. In the U.S. House of Representatives, he served for 20 years as Chair or Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, where he was the principal author of many of the laws now governing the U.S. telephone, broadcasting, cable television, wireless, and broadband communications systems.

Dr. Osama Abi-Mershed

Dr. Osama Abi-Mershed is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. His research interests include colonial Algeria, colonial education, modern France, and Franco-Maghribi relations. He teaches courses on the history of North Africa and the Western Mediterranean (medieval and modern); Muslim Spain; the Muslim and Arab worlds; and the modern Middle East at Georgetown University.

Dr. Alexander Mirtchev

Dr. Alexander Mirtchev is an economist, academic, macroeconomic advisor and author. He is currently a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Executive Chairman of Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) International and President and founder of Krull Corp. USA.
2015 Gabr Fellowship
American Program Participants

Major General Khaled Mogawer

Major General Khaled Mogawer serves as the Defense Attaché of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States of America. He was appointed to this position on January 15, 2015. In his prior assignment, Major General Mogawer served as Chief of Operations and then Assistant to the Commander of Egypt’s Field Army from 2012 to 2015.

Mrs. Georgette Mosbacher

Mrs. Georgette Mosbacher is the Chairman and CEO of Borghese, Inc. She also serves on the Boards of the Atlantic Council, The Fallen Heroes Fund, and the Business Executives for National Security (BENS). Mrs. Mosbacher is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Green Beret Foundation.

Mr. Carlos A. Pagoaga

Mr. Carlos A. Pagoaga is Group Director, Partnerships for The Coca-Cola Company where he is responsible for managing the company’s community engagement efforts, including strategic partnerships, grant making and matching gifts.

Dr. Diana C. Patch

Dr. Diana C. Patch, Lila Acheson Wallace Curator in Charge in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is an Egyptologist specializing in archaeology, who received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson is a career diplomat, who currently serves as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Prior to returning to Washington DC for this assignment, Ambassador Patterson served as United States Ambassador to Egypt (2011-2013) and as Ambassador to Pakistan (2007-2010).

General David H. Petraeus

General (Retired) David H. Petraeus joined KKR in June 2013 as Chairman of the KKR Global Institute. He was made a Partner in December 2014. The Global Institute supports the KKR investment and thought leadership processes, focusing on geopolitical and macro-economic trends, as well as environmental, social, and governance issues that shape the investment climate.

Mrs. Dina H. Powell

Mrs. Dina H. Powell is an American business executive, philanthropist and former U.S. policymaker. She is currently the Head of Goldman Sachs’ Impact Investing Business, Global Head of Corporate Engagement and President of Goldman Sachs Foundation.
Ms. Jennifer Ragland
Ms. Jennifer Ragland is the Director of International Government Relations and Public Affairs at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta. Ms. Ragland joined the company in 2011, where she is responsible for stakeholder engagement, government relations, partnerships, and communications on a range of public policy issues facing the company.

Ambassador Yasser Reda
Ambassador Yasser Reda is Egypt's newly-appointed Ambassador to the United States of America. He is a senior career diplomat who has served, twice, as the Assistant minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of the Minister’s Cabinet, from October 2013 to August 2015, and from June 2006 to August 2008.

Mrs. Elizabeth Richard
Mrs. Elizabeth Richard is a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of State’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Coordinator for Foreign Assistance to the Near East. She oversees a foreign assistance budget of over seven billion dollars, ensuring that programs effectively advance U.S. policy.

The Honorable Dutch Ruppersburger
Congressman Dutch Ruppersburger is serving his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives for the citizens of Maryland’s 2nd District. Congressman Ruppersburger currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee, including the Defense and State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs subcommittees.

Dr. Paul Salem
Dr. Paul Salem is vice president for policy and research at The Middle East Institute (MEI). He focuses on issues of political change, democratic transition, and conflict, with a regional emphasis on the countries of the Levant and Egypt.

Mr. Thomas M. Sanderson
Mr. Thomas M. Sanderson is a Professor, Senior Fellow and Director, CSIS Transnational Threats Project and works on terrorism, transnational crime, global trends, and intelligence. He currently investigates violent extremist activity across Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. George Selim
Mr. George Selim is the Director for Community Partnerships at the White House. Mr. Selim was previously a Senior Policy Adviser in the Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. His primary duties involved advising department leadership on policy issues at the intersection of civil rights and homeland security. In 2009, he helped create the National Security Internship to train Arabic-speaking college students for careers in public service.
2015 Gabr Fellowship
American Program Participants

Dr. Paul M. Severance
Dr. Paul M. Severance teaches at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces as a Professor of Military Science teaching core courses in military strategy and warfare, war studies, and military strategy and logistics. From 2002 to 2004, Dr. Severance served as the Chairman of the Department of Military Strategy and Logistics.

Mr. Michael A. Sheehan
Mr. Michael A. Sheehan was the former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (ASD SO/LIC). In this capacity, he served as the Secretary of Defense’s principal civilian adviser on programs, policies, and resources for special operations. From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Sheehan served as the New York Police Department (NYPD) Deputy Commissioner for Counter-Terrorism.

Mrs. Dana Stroul
Mrs. Dana Stroul currently serves as the Senior Professional Staff Member for the Middle East and North Africa on the Senate Foreign Relations Committees (SFRC), Democratic staff. Her portfolio includes North Africa, the Levant, the Gulf States, Iran, and Turkey.

Mr. Brian Sullivan
Mr. Brian Sullivan is co-anchor of CNBC’s “Power Lunch” and the host of “Talking Numbers.” He also writes for CNBC.com and the recently re-launched CNBC PRO. He joined CNBC in May 2011 and is based at the network’s global headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Dr. Eric Trager
Dr. Eric Trager, the Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute, is an expert on Egyptian politics and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

Dr. Gönül Tol
Dr. Gönül Tol is the founding director of The Middle East Institute’s Center for Turkish Studies. She is also an adjunct professor at George Washington University’s Institute for Middle East Studies and writes a weekly column for the liberal Turkish daily Radikal. She received her PhD in Political Science from Florida International University, where she was a graduate fellow at the Middle East Studies Center.

Mr. Alex Vatanka
Mr. Alex Vatanka specializes in Middle Eastern affairs with a particular focus on Iran. From 2006 to 2010, he was the managing editor of Jane’s Islamic Affairs Analyst, based in Washington DC. From 2001 to 2006, he was a senior political analyst at Jane’s in London, where he mainly covered political developments in the Middle East.
2015 Gabr Fellowship Schedule
THE GABR FELLOWSHIP
EGYPTIAN PROGRAM
October 15th – 29th, 2015
Cairo|Ismailia|Alexandria|Luxor
The Gabr Fellowship Program has created a unique space for Western and Eastern emerging leaders to bridge the East-West divide. As envisioned by its founder Shafik Gabr, The Gabr Fellowship seeks to promote collaborative dialogue between Egyptians, Americans and Britons. Its mission states: “In an increasingly interconnected world, cross-cultural understanding and professional networks are essential for peace and progress.” The Egyptian program will advance “peace and progress” by connecting the Fellows through a multidisciplinary, entrepreneurial approach to human endeavors in the fields of art, science, media and the law. The program provided the 20 Egyptian, American and British Fellows with the opportunity to meet with leading figures in Egypt in policymaking, civic engagement, governance, communications, youth activists and business visionaries from the arts and academia.

The young men and women participating in the program are shaping their countries’ futures, forging their alliances, creating their businesses, and setting their roles on the global stage. The program in Egypt this year provided the Gabr Fellows with a hands-on, in-depth exploration of Egyptian history, culture, politics, and enterprise. It allowed them to envisage exchanges and programs that enhance cooperation and understanding, while moving forward common business, diplomatic, and cultural goals between Egypt, the U.S. and the U.K.

In the Egyptian program, the Fellows discover—through direct engagement—the present challenges Egypt faces and the future vision and ambitions of the Egyptian people. This encompasses candid and direct discussions focused on many subjects pertaining to Egypt, the region and Egyptian – “Western” bilateral relations.
Friday, October 16
Cairo

4:00pm – 6:00pm  Egypt Program Overview presented by Salma Salem

6:00pm – 7:00pm  Culture and Civilization: The Return of Political Extremism in the 21st Century
Prof. Rob Riemen, Founder, President & CEO of the Nexus Institute
Ramses Hilton Hotel, Nile Corniche, Boulaq, Cairo.

7:00pm – 9:00pm  Welcome Dinner with M. Shafik Gabr

Fellows meet with Professor Rob Riemen, Founder, President & CEO of the Nexus Institute

Mr. M. Shafik Gabr with Professor Rob Riemen, Founder, President & CEO of the Nexus Institute
### Saturday, October 17

**Cairo**

**ARTOC Headquarters 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street Mokkatam, Cairo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30am – 10:30am</td>
<td>Shifting Middle East Landscape&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Mr. Karim Haggag&lt;/b&gt;, Deputy Director of Policy Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am – 11:30am</td>
<td>Overview on Egypt’s Foreign Policy&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Mr. Adel El Adawy&lt;/b&gt;, PhD Candidate in War Studies Department, King’s College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am – 12:30pm</td>
<td>Understanding Egypt’s Constitution&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Dr. Mohamed Salmawy&lt;/b&gt;, President of Writers’ Union in Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm – 2:30pm</td>
<td>Six Pillars Builds a Bridge: Creative Peace Building between the Creeds of the Middle East and West&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler&lt;/b&gt;, Founder and President of Caravan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>A Journey through Design in Egypt&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Ms. Lina Alorabi&lt;/b&gt;, Designer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm – 4:30pm</td>
<td>Restarting the US-Egypt Relationship: a future-based approach&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Ambassador Mohamed Anis Salem&lt;/b&gt;, Head of Development Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm – 5:30pm</td>
<td>Egypt from Revolution to Reform&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Dr. Mostafa El Feki&lt;/b&gt;, Political Expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>Cocktail Reception hosted by &lt;b&gt;M. Shafik Gabr&lt;/b&gt;</td>
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**Fellows with Dr. Mohamed Salmawy, President of Writers’ Union in Egypt and Mr. Shafik Gabr**

**Fellows with Dr. Mostafa El Fiki, Political Expert and Former Parliamentarian**
Sunday, October 18
Cairo

10:00am - 1:00pm
Visit to the Regional Center for Strategic Studies
Egypt's Foreign Relations
Mr. Hossam Hassan, Head of the American Studies Program
Egypt's Parliamentary Elections
Mr. Aboul Fadl Esnawy, Head of the Egyptian Studies Program
US-Iran Agreement and its Repercussions
Mr. Mohamed Abass, Head of the Regional Relations Unit
Egypt: The War against Terrorism
Mr. Ahmed Kamel, Deputy Head of the Security Studies Unit
The Muslim Brotherhood: A Historical Perspective
Mr. Ali Bakr, Head of Islamist Movement Studies Program
Regional Center for Strategic Studies, 6 Ibn Arhab Street, Korniche el Nile, Giza

2:30pm – 3:30pm
Entrepreneurship and Economic Development in Egypt
Mrs. Dina El Mofty, Executive Director of Injaz Egypt
Injaz Egypt Premise, 52 9th Floor, Nile Corniche, Al Maadi

5:00pm – 6:00pm
Egypt-US Bilateral Relations: Challenges and Opportunities
H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa, Former Secretary General of the Arab League and Chairman of the Constitutional Committee
ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

6:00pm – 7:00pm
The Secrets of Egypt's Energy Map
Eng. Mohamed Shamel Hamdy, Chairman of Trioccean Petroleum Company
ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

8:00pm
Felucca Dinner
Dock in front of Four Seasons at Nile Plaza Hotel
Monday, October 19
Cairo

9:00am – 9:30am  Private vs. Public Education in Egypt
Meeting with Mrs. Lisa Anderson, President of the American University in Cairo
AUC New Campus, New Cairo

9:30am - 10:15am  The Key Role of the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Shaping the Future of Egypt and the Arab Region
Roundtable Discussion with: Dr. Ahmed Hassanein, Associate Dean for Undergraduate studies and Administration, and Dr. Ayman Ismail, Director of the AUC V-Lab and Mr. Alaa Hashim, Chairman of Transcendium Limited Advisory Fir
Independent Corporate Transformation Advisor AUC New Campus, New Cairo

10:20am – 11:00am  Current Euro-Mediterranean refugee and migration crisis
Meeting with Dr. Ibrahim Awad, Director of the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies at AUC, AUC New Campus, New Cairo

11:10am – 11:45am  Visit to the Cleanroom and gain insight on the Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center AUC New Campus, New Cairo
Meeting with Dr. Amal Esawi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the School of Sciences and Engineering

12:00pm – 1:00pm  The State of Media in Egypt in comparison to the United States
Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi, Professor of Practice, Director of The Adham Center & Former Al-Jazeera’s U.S. bureau Chief
The Adham Center, AUC New Campus, New Cairo

1:15pm – 3:00pm  AUC Campus Tour

4:30pm – 5:30pm  Open Discussion
H.G. Bishop Moussa, Bishop of Youth Affairs
St. Mark Orthodox Cathedral, Abbassia, Cairo

Fellows’ discussions with Mr. Hafez El Mirazi, Professor of Practice and Director of The Adham Center at the American University in Cairo
Fellows with H.G. Bishop Moussa, Bishop of Youth Affairs at St. Mark Orthodox Cathedral
Tuesday, October 20
Cairo

9:00am - 10:30am  Overview on Political-Economic Landscape
Dr. Sherine Al-Shawarby, Professor of Economics and
Vice Dean for Community Affairs and Environment Development, Faculty of Economics
and Political Science and Dr. Yasmine Farouk, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Cairo University, Giza

11:30pm – 12:30pm  Open Discussion
Mr. Abdel Ghaffar Shukr, Vice President at NCHR, Mr. George Ishak, and
Mr. Kamal Abbas Members at NCHR
The National Council for Human Rights, 69 Giza Street, Giza

2:00pm – 3:30pm  The Effect of the Arab Spring on the ME Political Scene
Dr. Fadel Jawad, Assistant Secretary General of the
Arab League for Political Affairs
The Arab League, Tahrir Square, Cairo

5:00pm – 6:00pm  Discussion on Current Issues
Honorable Mona Makram Ebeid, Former Parliamentarian and Senator
ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

6:00pm – 7:00pm  Entrepreneurship for a New Egypt
Mr. Ziad Aly, CEO and Founder of Alzwad for Economic Development
ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

7:00pm – 8:00pm  Egypt-US Bilateral Economic Cooperation
Dr. Noha Bakr, Political Science Professor at the American University in Cairo
ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

Fellows at the National Council for Human Rights
Fellows with Honorable Mona Makram Ebeid, Former Parliamentarian and Senator
## 2015 Gabr Fellowship
### Egyptian Program Schedule

**Wednesday, October 21**

**Cairo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Guided Tour of the Giza Pyramids</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm – 1:30pm</td>
<td>US-Egyptian Relations from the perspective of an American Egyptian – What the Future Holds</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Tarek Ragheb</strong>, Founding Chairman African Business Aviation Association</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ARTOC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>An Overview of ARCE work in Egypt</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Gerry Scott</strong>, Director of American Research Center in Egypt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ARCE Premise, Downtown, Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 8:00pm</td>
<td>Derwish’s Dance in Ghouri</td>
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<td></td>
<td>El Moez Street, Old Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>Dinner at Naguib Mahfouz</td>
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<td>El Moez Street, Old Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00pm – 10:00pm</td>
<td>Khan el Khalili Bazaar</td>
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<td>El Hussein Area, Old Cairo</td>
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*Fellows with Mr. Tarek Ragheb, Founding Chairman of African Business Aviation Association*
Thursday, October 22
Cairo

9:00am – 10:00am  Visit to the Cairo Tower - Al Gezira, Zamalek, Cairo

10:30am – 11:30am Guided Tour of the Egyptian Museum - Al Tahrir Square, Cairo

12:00pm – 1:00pm  Overview on Middle Eastern Issues
Ambassador Hamdi Sanad Loza, Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs followed by a welcome by H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maspero Corniche, Cairo

2:00pm – 3:00pm  Egypt – US Bilateral Relations
Meeting with Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft, US Ambassador in Egypt
US Embassy, 5 Tawfik Diab Street, Garden City, Cairo

3:30pm – 5:30pm  The Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Egypt
Mr. Ahmed El Alfi, Founder & Chairman of Sawari Ventures
The Greek Campus, Mohamed Mahmoud Street, Downtown, Cairo

5:30pm – 6:30pm  Smart Governments in the Era of Smart Phones
Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Chairman, IEEE Egypt Section & Former
Minister of State for Administrative Development
The Greek Campus, Mohamed Mahmoud Street, Downtown, Cairo

7:30pm – 8:30pm  Security & Terrorism
General (Ret.) Sameh Seif Elyazal, Director of Al Gomhuria Center for Political and Security Studies
AROC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

8:30pm – 9:30pm  Bridge Building through Art
Mr. Hussein Fahmy, Regional Ambassador of Goodwill to the
Special Olympics, Former President of the Cairo International Film Festival and Leading Movie Star
AROC Headquarters, 7 Hassan Al Akbar Street, Mokattam, Cairo

Fellows with H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Hamdi Sanad Loza, Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Fellows with Mr. Hussein Fahmy, Regional Ambassador of Goodwill to the Special Olympics and Leading Movie Star
Friday, October 23
Ismailia

10:00am – 12:00pm  The New Suez Canal: The Opportunities to Revive Egyptian Economy
Meeting with Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish, Chairman & Managing Director
of the Suez Canal Authority

12:00pm - 2:00pm  Boat Trip through the New Suez Canal

7:00pm  Action Project Discussions
Ramses Hilton Hotel, Nile Corniche, Boulaq, Cairo

Fellows with Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish, Chairman and Managing Director of the Suez Canal Authority
2015 Gabr Fellowship
Egyptian Program Schedule

Saturday, October 24
Cairo - Alexandria

9:00am – 10:00am The Role of Egyptian Armed Forces in Peace Keeping Missions & in the Fight against Terrorism
Maj. Gen. Mohamed Elkeshky, Assistant Minister of Defense for Foreign Affairs,
General Mohsen Abdel Naby, Director of Moral Affairs Department at the Ministry of Defense and General (Retired) Hussein Abdel Razek, Consultant of Media Affairs at the Moral Affairs Department, Ministry of Defense
Ministry of Defense, Salah Salem Street, Cairo

2:00pm Fellows check in at Alexandria Plaza Hotel
394 El-Gaish Road, Zizinya, Alexandria

3:00pm – 4:00pm Visit to the Roman Amphitheatre
Alexandria Governorate

6:00pm – 7:00pm Open Discussion
Meeting with Mr. Hanny El-Messiry, Governor of Alexandria
Alexandria Governorate, 60 El Horeya Way

Fellows with Mr. Hanny El-Messiry, Former Governor of Alexandria
Sunday, October 25
Alexandria

10:30am – 3:30pm  Visit to Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Overview of the History of Bibliotheca Alexandrina
**Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina
VIP Tour of Bibliotheca Alexandrina by Dr. Sherif Riad,
Head of External Relations Sector
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, El Shatby, Shop No. 4, Alexandria

5:00pm – 6:00pm  Alexandria: a Cosmopolitan City
**Ms. Al Zahraa Adel**, Egyptologist
Alex Plaza Hotel, 394 El-Gaish Road, Zizinya, Alexandria
Monday, October 26
Cairo

1:30pm – 3:00pm  Open Discussion about Moderate Islam
Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar
Al Azhar, Salah Salem Street, Cairo

Fellows during their meeting with Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb and Ambassador Abdel Rahman Moussa at Al Azhar

Fellows with Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar
Tuesday, October 27
Luxor

7:00am
Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Hatshepsut Temple

4:00pm – 6:00pm
Showcasing the Work of Chicago House
**Dr. W. Raymond Johnson**, Director of the Oriental Institute
Chicago House, Corniche El Nile, Luxor

6:30pm – 7:30pm
Sound and Light performance
Karnak Temple

*Fellows with Dr. W. Raymond Johnson at Chicago House, Luxor*
Wednesday, October 28
Luxor

7:30am – 9:00am  Guided Tour at Luxor Temple
9:30am – 11:30am Guided Tour at Luxor Museum
1:30pm – 3:00pm  Shopping at Old Bazaar
4:00pm – 6:00pm  Action Project Discussion
                  Sonesta St. George Hotel
                  Nile Corniche Street, Luxor

Fellows at Luxor Temple
The Gabr Fellowship Program’s mission is to support future leaders in bridging the East-West divide. As envisioned by founder Shafik Gabr, The Gabr Fellowship seeks to promote collaborative dialogue between Egyptians, Americans and Britons. Its mission states: “In an increasingly interconnected world, cross-cultural understanding and professional networks are essential for peace and progress.” The US program will advance “peace and progress” by connecting the Fellows through a multidisciplinary, entrepreneurial approach to human endeavors in the fields of art, science, media, law and entrepreneurship. The program provided the 20 Egyptian, American and Britons the opportunity to meet with leading American figures in policymaking, civic engagement, communications, business and visionaries from the academia.

The young leaders participating in the program are shaping their countries’ futures, forging their alliances, creating their businesses, and setting their roles on the global stage. The program in Egypt provided the Gabr Fellows with a hands-on and in-depth exploration of Egyptian history, culture, politics and enterprise in a framework of candid challenges and opportunities.

The American program complemented this initiative, enhancing the Fellows’ understanding of America’s diverse cultures. It highlighted what has shaped the American experience and the institutions that America, as a nation and people, have created to represent—artistically, politically, economically and socially—its citizens.

American leaders in the world of politics, government, art, science, law, entrepreneurship, media and much more have engaged with the Fellows to explore America’s, past, present and future.
Saturday, November 7
New York City, NY, USA

8:30pm - 9:00pm  U.S. Program Overview presented by Tera Dahl
**2015 Gabr Fellowship**
US Program, Schedule

**Sunday, November 8**
New York City, NY, USA

- **9:00am - 12:00pm**: Visit Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island via Staten Island Ferry
- **12:30pm - 2:30pm**: Visit to 9/11 Memorial
  
  180 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10007
- **6:00pm - 8:00pm**: Cocktail Reception Hosted by Ms. Georgette Mosbacher at her home.

*Fellows at the Statue of Liberty*
Monday, November 9
New York City, NY, USA

9:00am - 11:30am  Metropolitan Museum of Art Tour
Tour of the ancient Egyptian Art Galleries followed by a walk through the newly installed exhibition “Ancient Egypt: The Middle Kingdom”
1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028

12:00pm - 1:00pm  U.S.-Egypt Bilateral Relations
Office call with Ambassador Ahmed Farouk
Consulate General of Egypt; 1110 2nd Avenue, Suite 201, New York, NY 10022

2:30pm - 3:30pm  Is the Middle East and North Africa at Dead or an Emerging Market?
Meeting with Dina Powell, President, Goldman, Sachs Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co Impact Investing Business
200 West Street, 29th Floor, New York, NY 10282

4:00pm - 5:00pm  News media: Is there a need for new professional standards and ethos?
Meeting and Interview with Huffington Post
770 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10003

7:00pm - 9:00pm  Buffet Dinner Hosted by Ambassador Ahmed Farouk
Ambassador’s Residence
2015 Gabr Fellowship
US Program, Schedule

Tuesday, November 10
New York City, NY, USA

9:45am - 10:30am  Strategic Considerations for International Investment
Discussion with General (Ret) David H. Petraeus
Member and Chairman of KKR Global Institute
9 West 57th Street, Suite 4200, New York, NY 10019

10:45am - 12:00pm  Discussion on Iran, 2016 U.S. Elections, U.S.
MENA Policy and U.S. Economy
Roundtable Discussion with Mr London Herb, President of London Center for Policy
Research Meeting and Lunch with Mr. Scott Carpenter
Location: Conference Room at King’s College
56 Broadway, New York, NY 10006

12:30pm - 2:00pm  The non-linear business environment: How does Google posture itself in a chaotic world?
Google Ideas
Meeting and Lunch with Scott Carpenter, Deputy Director of Google Ideas,
and Workshop with Google Engineers and Managers
111 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10011

3:00pm - 3:45pm  Can we re-build a global strategic consensus in U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy?
Dr. Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations
58 E. 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

6:00pm - 7:00pm  Peacebuilding and Interfaith Engagement in Conflict Zones
Dr. Jonathan Golden, Drew University
36 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07940

7:00pm - 8:30pm  Dinner at Drew University
Wednesday, November 11
New York City, NY, USA

9:30am - 10:30am  Given the sagging economic growth rates nationally and globally, how can a business executive posture his work team and business operations to drive positive growth in a company despite the current market challenges?  
**Mr. Ron LoRusso**, President/NY Tri-State Region  
Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.  
1290 Avenue of the Americas, 7th Floor (Between 51st and 52nd Street)  
New York, NY 10104

11:30am - 1:00pm  The Role of Business Media in America  
Tour CNBC, Lunch and Q&A with **Brian Sullivan**, Co-Anchor at CNBC  
900 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

2:15pm - 3:15pm  Visit with Egyptian Delegation at United Nations Headquarters Building

3:30pm - 4:30pm  Faith and Social Justice  
Tour of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral and talk with Catholic Clergy  
460 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

5:00pm - 6:00pm  How to live and operate in an era of persistent threat?  
**Mr. Michael A. Sheehan**, Former Deputy Commissioner of Counter Terrorism, New York City Police Department (NYPD), Counter-Terrorism; Intelligence Analysis; Community Affairs  
Location: Hotel Conference Room

8:00pm - 10:30pm  Phantom of the Opera  
Majestic Theatre, 247 West 44d Street, New York, NY 10036
Thursday, November 12
Atlanta, GA, USA

4:00pm - 4:30pm  Pursuing Freedom in America
Meeting with Rev. Bernice King
CEO of the King Center
450 Auburn Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30312

4:45pm - 5:15pm  Pursuit of Civil Rights in America
Meeting with Dr. Lawrence E. Carter Sr.
Dean of the Chapel, Professor of Religion
College Archivist & Curator Founder, Gandhi, King, Ikeda Institute for
Global Ethics & Reconciliation
Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. College of Pastoral Leadership
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
830 Westview Drive, Southwest, Atlanta, GA 30314
Friday, November 13
Atlanta, GA, USA

8:00am - 9:30am  How should companies consider risk in international investment in an era of persistent conflict?
Breakfast Discussion with John Jassman, Resident Managing Director, and Nolan Wilson, Cyber Security
Aon Risk Solutions
One Piedmont Center, Suite 700
3565 Piedmont Road, Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30305

10:00am - 12:00pm  The Responsibility of Truth in Reporting
CNN meeting with Mr. Tim Langmaid, Executive Editor at CNN
190 Marietta Street, Northwest
Atlanta, GA 30303

1:00pm - 2:30pm  Perspectives for United States Multinational Corporate Investment in Egypt and the broader Middle East
Jennifer Ragland, Director of International Government Relations & Public Affairs & Carlos A. Pagoaga, Group Director of Partnerships of the Coca-Cola Foundation
One Coca Cola Plaza NW
Atlanta, GA 30313

3:00pm - 5:00pm  VIP Tour of the AOC of Coca-Cola
121 Baker Street, Northwest
Atlanta, GA 30313
Saturday, November 14
Atlanta, GA, USA

9:00am - 11:00am  Visit to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum
                   441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

11:30am - 1:30pm  Atlanta History Center
                   130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

2:00pm - 5:00pm  The Struggle for Freedom in America
                  Visit Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site
                  450 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30312-1525

                  Visitor Center, The King Center, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Birth Home,
                  World Peace Rose Garden, Behold Monument, Historic Fire Station No. 6, and other sites.

7:00pm - 9:00pm  Dinner at the Home of Mr. & Mrs. Dent
                  Parents of Fellow Elizabeth Dent
Sunday, November 15
Washington, DC, USA

1:15pm - 4:00pm  Visit to Smithsonian Museums and National Mall (Washington Monument)

7:00pm - 10:00pm  D.C. Monuments Moonlight Trolley Tour
Start Point – Union Station
50 Massachusetts Ave, Northeast, Washington, DC 20002
Monday, November 16
Washington, DC, USA

7:30am - 9:00am  U.S. Strategic Interests in the Middle East and the U.S. Ways and Means of achieving and supporting its Strategic Objectives
Breakfast Speaker: Mr. Mark T. Kimmitt, a former Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East, both serving under the George W. Bush Administration. Retired Brigadier General, U.S. Army 1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20036

10:00am - 11:00am  The Health of the Military to Military Relationship
Meeting with MG Khaled Mogawer, Egyptian Defense Attaché
2590 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

11:30am - 12:30pm  A View on Conflict and Instability Analysis
Mr. Glen E. Howard, President
The Jamestown Foundation
1111 16th Street, Northwest, Suite 320, Washington, DC 20036

Fellows with MG Khaled Mogawer, Egyptian Defense Attaché
Monday, November 16
Washington, DC, USA

1:00pm - 2:30pm  The Nexus of Security Challenges to the U.S. and its Partners in the Middle East Near-East South Asia (NESA) Roundtable
Dr. Jennifer Jefferis, Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, and visiting Mr. Thomas M. Sanderson, Director and Senior Fellow, CSIS Transnational Threats Project National Defense University, Lincoln Hall, Room 3107, Fort McNair, DC 20024

2:30pm - 3:30pm  Tour of key historical sites on Fort McNair by Dr. Paul M. Severance
Starts in South Atrium of Lincoln Hall
Fort McNair, DC 20024

4:00pm - 5:30pm  U.S./Egyptian Bilateral Relations, U.S. Middle East Policy and the Iranian Nuclear Deal Meeting with Mr. David Hamod, President & CEO, and Ambassador Gordon Gray National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC)
1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20036

6:30pm - 7:30pm  Arab Spring or Winter?
Discussion Session with Dr. Osama Abi-Mershed
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Intercultural Center Building, Suite 241
Georgetown University, Campus Gate Entrance:
37th and O Street, NW, Washington, DC 20067
2015 Gabr Fellowship
US Program, Schedule

Tuesday, November 17
Washington, DC, USA

8:00am - 9:30am  Conflicting Agendas in U.S. Military Cooperation Efforts in the Middle East between the Defense and Foreign Relations Committees
Breakfast with Mr. Alexander Gallo (HASC) and Mrs. Dana Stroul (SFRC)
1101 17th Street, NW; Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20036

11:30am - 1:30pm  The U.S./Egypt Military Relationship in the aftermath of the Strategic Dialogue
The Pentagon
Briefing and Q&A by Brigadier General Michael Fantini, Principal Deputy Director for the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Affairs
Tour of Pentagon

2:00pm - 2:30pm  U.S./Egypt – Combating Terrorism Together
Meeting with Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL/25/R)
440 Cannon House Office Building
Tuesday, November 17
Washington, DC, USA

3:00pm - 3:30pm  U.S./Egypt Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism
Meeting with Mr. Justin Brower, Military Legislative Assistant
to Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (MD/02/D)
2416 Rayburn House Office Building

3:30pm - 4:00pm  The Syrian Civil War – And the Threat of Spillover Effects in the Region
Meeting with Congressman Chris Gibson (NY/19/R)
1629 Longworth House Office Building

4:00pm - 4:30pm  Can the U.S. Cover its Security “Bets” in the Middle East and Asia?
Meeting with Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (CA/48/R)
2300 Rayburn House Office Building

4:35pm - 4:55pm  Opportunities with International Trade for Egypt and the U.S.
Meeting with Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (AL/07/D)
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Wednesday, November 18
Washington, DC, USA

8:30am - 9:30am  How the West can help its Arab Partners Secure the Region
Breakfast Speakers Dr. Steve Grand & Mr. Faysal Itani, Resident Fellow
Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor Boardroom, Washington, DC

10:00am - 11:00am  “The Egyptian Economy – A View from the IMF”
Mr. Christopher J. Jarvis, Advisor at the Middle East and Central Asia Department
at the International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC

12pm - 12:30pm  Perspective on the 2016 Presidential Elections and U.S. Foreign Policy
towards the Middle East
Meeting with Congressman Darrell Issa
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Wednesday, November 18
Washington, DC, USA

1:00pm - 1:30pm  How can US/Egypt Trade Relations Improve?  
Meeting with **Senator Edward J. Markey** (MA - D)  
255 Dirksen Senate Building

2:00pm - 3:00pm  Role of USAID in Education/USAID and Institutional Building  
Briefing by **Mrs. Paige Alexander**, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for the Middle East USAID  
National Press Building Leasing, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20045

3:30pm - 5:00pm  The Impact of fostering U.S./Egypt Relations on the Region, **Mr. Ilan Goldenberg**,  
Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program  
Center for a New American Security  
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 950, Washington, DC 20005

6:00pm - 9:30pm  Reception in Honor of 2015 Fellows  
The McDermott Building  
500 North Capital Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
2015 Gabr Fellowship
US Program, Schedule

Thursday, November 19
Washington, DC, USA

8:00am - 8:45am  Enabling U.S. Partners in the Middle East
Breakfast Speaker: **Brigadier General (Retired) Tom Cosentino**,
Vice President for Policy, Business Executives for National Security
1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1220 Washington, DC 20036

9:00am - 10:30am  Muslim Brotherhood: Facts and Fiction – the view from DC
Dr. Eric Trager, Fellow
The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
1111 19th Street, Northwest, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036

11:00am - 12:00pm  Challenges to Peace and Security in the Middle East
Middle East Institute
**Dr. Paul Salem**, Vice President for Policy & Research; **Dr. Gonul Tol**, Founding Director,
at the Center for Turkish Studies and **Mr. Alex Vatanka**, Senior Fellow
1761 North Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20036-2882

1:00pm - 2:00pm  Evolving Political U.S./Egypt Relationship: Can Egypt be the key United States partner
for engagement in the Middle East and North Africa?
Meeting at Department of State with **Assistant Secretary Patterson**,
**Deputy Assistant Secretary Richards**, **Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Gerald Feierstein**, and **Egypt Director Candace Putnam**, Bureau Near Eastern Affairs
2201 C Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20037
Thursday, November 19
Washington, DC, USA

Meeting at Department of State with Assistant Secretary Patterson, Deputy Assistant Secretary Richards; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Gerald Feierstein, and Egypt Director Candace Putnam, Bureau Near Eastern Affairs

3:00pm - 5:00pm
Countering Violent Extremism, Mr. George Selim,
Why is the U.S./Egypt bilateral relationship now Tactical in nature rather than Strategic?
Mr. Rob Malley
Can the U.S./Egypt reset the relationship on stronger footing?
What it will take, Mr. Andrew Miller
Meeting at White House with Presidential Advisors
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 274
1650 Pennsylvania Ave, Northwest, Washington, DC 20504

7:30pm - 9:00pm
Dinner Hosted by Egyptian Ambassador Yasser Reda
Ambassadorial Residence
2301 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC 20008

Fellows visit to the Middle East Institute
Friday, November 20
Washington, DC, USA

8:00am - 9:00am  How my Fellow Experience informed my Professional Work
Coffee with Ms. Christi Fallon, Egypt Desk, Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA)
1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20036

9:00am - 10:15am  What are the Strategic Imperatives for a more Secure and Prosperous Middle East?
Has Egypt moved on from its bilateral relationship with the United States?
Breakfast Remarks from Mr. Greg Copley, President
International Strategic Studies Association
1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20036

11:00am - 12:00pm  Innovation and the Start-Up Culture
Visit the 1776 Start-Up Incubator and meeting with Mr. Shahier Rhaman,
Campus Manager
1133 15th St, NW (12th Floor), Washington, DC 20005

12:30pm - 1:30pm  Competing Strains of Instability in the Middle East – Is there a Fix?
Dr. Alexander Mirtchev President and Founder of the Krull Corporation; and Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
The University Club of Washington DC
1135 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036
Friday, November 20
Washington, DC, USA

2:00pm - 3:00pm  Middle East Peace, What Will it Take?  
Mr. Bill Taylor, Executive Vice President  
United States Institute of Peace  
2301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037

3:30pm - 4:30pm  Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Deal and Stability in the Region  
Dr. Jon Alterman Senior Vice President, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and Director, Middle East Program  
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)  
1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW; Washington, DC 20036

Saturday, November 21
Washington, DC, USA

9:00am - 12:00pm  Action Project Coordination

Fellows travel home.
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows at Coca Cola World

Egyptian Delegation at the United Nations
Fellows with Mr. George Selim at the White House

Fellows at Cairo Tower

Gabr Fellows at the Roman Amphitheatre in Alexandria
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows at Google

Fellows with Mr. and Mrs. M. Shafik Gabr at the Cocktail Reception Hosted by Ms. Georgette Mosbacher
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows at the Giza Pyramids

Fellows at the Metropolitan Museum-Egypt Pavilion
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows at the Pentagon

Fellows during their visit to the Suez Canal
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows at CNN Headquarters

Fellows with Mr. and Mrs. M. Shafik Gabr at Dinner hosted by Egyptian Ambassador Yasser Reda
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows visit to Hatshepsut Temple in Luxor

Fellows visit at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York
2015 Gabr Fellows - Photo Gallery

Fellows with Mr. M. Shafik Gabr at the “East-West: The Art of Dialogue” Reception at The McDermott Building in Washington
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Afnan Khalil
Senior Lawyer, Bank Audi S.A.E

“Joining the program did not only allow me to visit the land of dreams, this program was the experience of a lifetime. I was introduced to people and places that I never knew existed, not only in the US, but even in Egypt (my home country). I realized that I have a social responsibility towards the community I live in and towards the whole world. Nothing compares to the person to person relationships I developed. I made friends from Egypt and the US who I will make sure to keep forever. I really recommend that each and every person work hard and apply for the program, and if you are accepted to join get ready…it’s a boot camp not a shopping trip.”

Casey Smith
Founder & Executive Director of Cooking Up Cultures

“The Fellowship opened a world to me that was previously obscure and unknown. I now have both a better framework of understanding and diverse contacts to apply to my current and future professional career. In addition, the friendships we formed are genuine and I believe will be long standing. It is with great enthusiasm and optimism that I look to the future of all my Fellows.”

Ahmed Mohamed
Teaching and Research Assistant, The British University in Egypt

“I believe that, in today’s globalized world, participation in exchange programs has become a prerequisite for effectively contributing to the international community. Not only was the Gabr Fellowship program an exchange program, it also provided an amazing comparative advantage, in political education and diplomacy, over any other exchange program. It provided unparalleled opportunities in terms of the qualities of the Fellows, qualities of the speakers and the massive platform one can build connections through to help with transforming the objectives of this program into reality.”

Elisabeth Dent
Strategic Planner at the Department of State’s Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC)

“This experience completely changed my life and the way I thought about the ‘other’. I didn’t just make friends, I became a part of a family that will continue to work to change the way the East and West view each other.”
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Ahmed Radwan
Actor
“\[We\text{ }live\text{ }in\text{ }a\text{ }world\text{ }of\text{ }monologues.\text{ }Everyone\text{ }is\text{ }talking\text{ }and\text{ }listening\text{ }to\text{ }himself\text{ }but\text{ }to\text{ }break\text{ }through\text{ }you\text{ }have\text{ }to\text{ }engage\text{ }people\text{ }in\text{ }dialogues\text{ }and\text{ }this\text{ }is\text{ }what\text{ }we\text{ }did\text{ }in\text{ }the\text{ }East-West\text{ }dialogue.\text{ }We\text{ }shared\text{ }our\text{ }ideas,\text{ }culture,\text{ }food,\text{ }music\text{ }and\text{ }traditions among\text{ }20\text{ }amazing\text{ }Egyptian,\text{ }American\text{ }&\text{ }British\text{ }Gabr\text{ }Foundation\text{ }Fellows.\text{ }If\text{ }I describe\text{ }what\text{ }I\text{ }gained\text{ }from\text{ }this\text{ }fellowship\text{ }in\text{ }one\text{ }word\text{ }it\text{ }would\text{ }be\text{ }PERSISTENCE,\text{ }in\text{ }order\text{ }to\text{ }achieve\text{ }your\text{ }dreams\text{ }you\text{ }have\text{ }to\text{ }work\text{ }hard\text{ }&\text{ }smart,\text{ }and\text{ }my\text{ }dream\text{ }is\text{ }to be\text{ }an\text{ }actor\text{ }who\text{ }spreads\text{ }peace\text{ }&\text{ }positive\text{ }thoughts\text{ }around\text{ }the\text{ }world\text{ }to\text{ }help\text{ }keep \text{ }the\text{ }dialogue.”

Eze Redwood
Partner at Wings Café, Kansas City, KS
“The Gabr Fellowship was transformational. It takes creatively intelligent emerging leaders, puts them in front of global influencers, and challenges them to create something meaningful. This was an opportunity to meet the people influencing the world, get mentored by amazing people, become friends with other amazing people, and create something new.”

Basma El Baz
Writer
“This Fellowship can be one of the reasons to end world problems and violence because it figured out that the solution is in people to people interaction, bridging gaps of communication and fostering understanding. I learned a lot about the American people and the culture of the country and I learned more about my country and myself. I will work on using this knowledge and this shared goal of Shafik Gabr Foundation to build a better world for us all.”

Judson Moore
Operations Manager at Mutual Mobile
“The Gabr Fellowship has opened my mind to a new world of possibilities. The leaders I met and the dialogue I was engaged in has shifted the course of my life, my way of thinking and I now have a new possibility to be a leader myself in making the world a better and more understood place.”
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Bassma Fahim  
CFO Executive Assistant & Office Manager at Binsuwaidan Advocates and Legal Consultants

“The Gabr Fellowship has provided us as Fellows with a unique and life-changing experience. I’m not exaggerating when I say that the Gabr Fellowship is a turning point in my life. New vistas of knowledge & awareness are opening up for us. With this Fellowship, we are pursuing opportunities & adding a value instead of just simply impoverishing the future. I had a priceless opportunity to participate in a special Fellowship, meeting with Legislators, Public Speakers, CEOs, Congressmen and Ambassadors in USA and Egypt hearing diverse opinions and being exposed to different points of views. I came up with the perspective that there is no difference between people of East & West, we are all human beings with the same needs and spirit. The only difference is in our cultures and perspectives and that is the nature of the whole world.”

Kemp Gouldin  
Sales and Marketing Director at Sakhr Software USA

“I had always dreamt of visiting the pyramids – those marvels of engineering haunted my imagination since I first saw pictures of them in grade school. However, I never thought that I would be so connected to their homeland. Being a Gabr Fellow afforded me a deep love for Egypt and especially its amazing people, while renewing my appreciation for the U.S. We, the Fellows, laughed (a lot); we cried (a few times); we tackled heavy cultural, personal and geopolitical issues. We acknowledged differences but celebrated commonalities. We arrived as strangers and left as lifelong friends. And as Mr. Gabr is often to say, “This is only the beginning…” I cannot wait to see where this story leads.”

Mohamed Ismail  
Cultural Worker at Culture Resource Foundation

“My experience through The Gabr Fellowship program has become one of the most influential aspects of my entire life. Mr. Gabr and the Fellowship team have motivated me to explore new areas of society, to broaden my ideas about the world, and to show a level of dialogue and understanding beyond that which I thought I was capable. I have grown so much as a person just by taking this step to leave the familiar and open to all the possibilities that are offered by being in a new place with new people! I highly recommend The Gabr Fellowship program to anyone who wants a unique experience fostering dialogue between the East and West.”
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Leah Moshella  
*Founder and President of Boston Girls' Leadership*

“Coming home from the Gabr Fellowship I feel more connected, energized, and empowered to make an impact as an aware global citizen. The program far exceeded my expectations by providing a once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to, question, and challenge key decision-makers in policy, business, entrepreneurship and politics. Furthermore, this Fellowship connected me with 19 of the most innovative, dedicated and intelligent emerging leaders as my peers. Not only was I able to expand my knowledge exponentially through the network of experts, but I was able to live with, discuss, laugh, and cry with the community of Gabr Fellows who will absolutely be their industry’s biggest leaders. In today’s increasingly challenging world, the Gabr Fellowship creates a community for dialogue and understanding while challenging each one of us to better understand our own unique power, skill-set and ability to change the world.”

Muhammad Nagi  
*Founder & Managing Director, Al Maqarr*

“After a whole month of a very intense program, I discovered that life has so many things we didn’t know about and we as future-shapers have more things to bring to the world. I was exposed to many new aspects, meeting high profile people with expertise in politics, economy, entrepreneurship, art and culture was truly a life changing experience! I’ve never had the chance to see the other part of the story, to think differently, to have access to the vague world of world leaders and be exposed to the global decision-making process. On the same side, I did so with 20 passionate leaders from East and West. We, literally, did everything with each other; we laughed, we talked, we expressed and learned! I’m so proud I was part of a great person-to-person communication, because this is what our world needs today.”

Magdalena Kura  
*Excelsior Service Fellow, Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York*

“The Gabr Fellowship was not just a trip; It was a life-altering, powerful experience words cannot describe. This journey shaped me in ways I never thought possible. I will never forget the jokes, smiles, difficult conversations, and the friends I met in Egypt. It’s amazing to see how strong of a bond we created in such a short time. The people I met, the things I did, the places I saw, and everything I learned made me stronger, and left me hopeful about the future. Thank you a million times for these memories. I will never forget them.”
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Michelle Matus  
*Multimedia Journalist*

“The Fellowship allowed me to explore new ideas, reexamine old beliefs, and develop a deeper understanding of my own country and of Egypt. I could have never anticipated the influence that the Gabr Fellowship would have on my life. Twenty exceptional people embarked on an epic journey of discovery where we quickly became friends and by the end, consider each other family. I will forever be grateful for the discussions we had with distinguished leaders, as well as my counterparts on the trip. The insights we gained will prove invaluable to our professional lives as we move forward. The Fellowship doesn’t end after the last person boards a plane -- we continue the relationships we made to build a stronger future between the East and the West. I cannot express the gratitude I have for Mr. Shafik Gabr for giving me this transformational opportunity.”

Ola Ali  
*Architect, Dar el Handasah Corporation*

“Calling the Gabr Fellowship a life changing experience would definitely be an understatement, I have had a paradigm shift of my perspective towards many social & political topics from all over the world. Sharing this Fellowship with the other 19 emerging leaders from Egypt, the US & Britain has helped me have a broader understanding of the other, and also accepting them as human beings, for in the end, we all care about making this world a better place regardless of our diverse political, social or religious backgrounds.”

Mike Burges  
*Chief of Staff, House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom*

“The Gabr Fellowship program is an absolute triumph of learning, understanding and international dialogue. For many Fellows, both from the East and West, it is no exaggeration to say it proved to be a life-changing, transformative experience. To have such privileged access to so many special people, organizations and institutions was a humbling experience. Robust questions were posed, ideologies were challenged and life-long friendships were forged. The Gabr Fellowship is a uniquely rewarding adventure.”
Impressions from the 2015 Gabr Fellows

Murray Abeles  
Senior Associate at Franco Financial Group

“The Gabr Fellowship is designed to challenge your assumptions about the world and yourself. I emerged from the program with a snapshot of what it takes to be a global citizen and a passion ignited. As introspection without action is worthless, I look forward to leveraging the experience into building bridges and moving humanity forward.”

Nick Dreselly  
Enterpreneur

“To whom much is given, much is expected, and opportunities as incredible as the Gabr Fellowship come along only once in a blue moon; reminding us of how fascinating and wonderful our world is and challenging us with how much work there is yet to do. We departed with the charge to carry what we’d learned here forward to find a way to actually make a positive impact in our own right, and as our society again builds walls and demonizes refugees, it is up to us to again remind our colleagues and friends of the commonalities we share and the innate love that lives within the majority of humanity. Shafik Gabr has planted the seeds and charged his Fellows to make real steps towards U.S.-Egypt Relations; this was only the beginning.”
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