



FELLOWS AT SULTAN HASSAN (EGYPT 2016) *A MASSIVE MOSQUE LOCATED IN THE OLD CITY OF CAIRO, IT WAS BUILT DURING THE MAMLUK ISLAMIC ERA IN EGYPT IN 1359

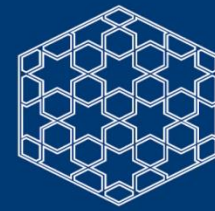
EAST-WEST: THE ART OF DIALOGUE *An initiative by the Shafik Gabr Foundation to enhance critical understanding and cooperation amongst young emerging leaders in the Arab World and the West through global exchanges.*

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.

The journey has begun in 2013 with 22 Fellows (10 Egyptians and 12 Americans) and today, the Gabr Fellowship Program marks its 5th Anniversary with more than 80 Fellows from all over the globe; driven with the same passion and commitment towards bridging the gap between the East and the West through the Art of Dialogue and conversation. 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. Through their participation and their projects, these Fellows are sowing the seeds of community and cooperation that promise to change our worldview, our economies, social and political introduction toward a positive future

As we are getting close to welcoming the new cohort of the 2017 Gabr Fellowship Program to our family, I am happy to share with you all "The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter" which we have initiated as a tool to bring us all closer and provide a platform for sharing our news, updates and ideas so I invite you all to actively engage with us in this initiative and contribute your thoughts and opinions. We want to hear your voice and stay connected with all of you.

M. Shafik Gabr, Founder



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

August 2017, Issue 1

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Final Selected Applicants for the 2017 Fellowship Will be announced Mid-August

Screening of candidates for the 2017 Gabr Fellowship has completed.

Final applicants will be selected Mid-August by the Chairman.



As we approach the 2017 Gabr Fellowship, we would like to reflect upon the successful 2016 Fellowship Class, sharing the most recent Annual Art of Dialogue Reception, held in Washington, DC in courtesy of McDermott, Will & Emery, Mr Stephen Ryan, and the Honorable Jim Moran.

<https://eastwestdialogue.org/2016-art-of-dialogue-reception/>



Muhammad Nagi (Gabr Fellow 2015) interview with Cairo Scene Magazine

*"I wanted a place that not only provides a ready physical space with all the facilities we need to be productive, but that also accommodates and eases the process of getting things done amongst a community of like-minded change-makers. This was when the idea of **AlMaqarr** Co-working Space first came to life"* says Nagi

<http://m.cairoscene.com/Geek/Cairo-Maqarr-Co-Working-Space-8-Key-Lessons-Startup-Entrepreneur>

Hani El Zomor (Gabr Fellow 2016)

Telephone interview with Nile TV local broadcast with its afternoon show CLT about Mr. President El Sisi visit to Germany as part of his participation of G20 summit about Africa.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh73c8Fo0fA&feature=youtu.be>

Nick Dreselly (Gabr Fellow 2015) is running for US Congress in Colorado's open congressional seat in District 2

Nick Dreselly has publicly announced his run for US Congress in Colorado's open congressional seat CD2. (CD2 is now open as Congressman Jared Polis, will be instead running for Governor so there is no 'incumbent' in the race).

Nick has chosen to run as an Independent for many reasons which he has outlined in his formal announcement, primarily Nick states that it is

"due to the fact that, however difficult this may be, I have come to the realization that in America's current heavily polarized and gridlocked state there is simply no other way to make progress on any major piece of legislation."

You can find more about this through the Facebook campaign page



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.facebook.com/NickThomasforCongress/>

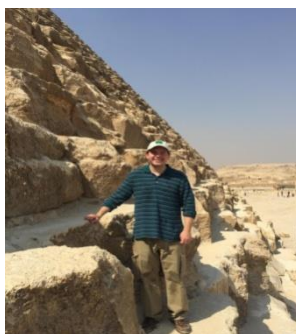
Website:

<http://nickthomasforcongress.com>



**Katherine Tan
(Gabr Fellow 2016)
has begun to pursue
her Executive MBA
at the Wharton
School in
Philadelphia**

2016 Fellow Katherine Tan, Program Officer at Millennium Challenge Corporation has begun to pursue her Executive MBA at the Wharton School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was awarded a fellowship by the school for her public service background. Katherine decided to pursue her MBA in order to bring more analytic rigor and formal business knowledge to her work engaging private sector investment for international economic development and poverty relief. Katherine will continue working at MCC while pursuing her degree.



**John Ryan
(Gabr Fellow 2016) to be the
First Lieutenant in the 10th
Legal Operations
Detachment**

2016 Fellow John Ryan, Democratic Deputy Chief Counsel at US. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will be taking a 4-month leave of absence starting on October 8, 2017 to enter the Direct Commission Officer Course for the United States Army JAG Reserve. Following his training at FT. Benning and Charlottesville, John will be based in Gaithersburg, MD as a First Lieutenant in the 10th Legal Operations Detachment.



**Zeyad El Kelani
(Gabr Fellow 2014) pursues
his PhD in Politics at
Claremont University**

"My PhD is in politics and policy at the Department of International studies. My primary field is in world politics, where I work with Professor Jacek Kugler, one of the founders of power transition theory on the next power transition dynamics in the world, how US., EU, Russia, China and India will play this projected dynamics" says Zeyad, Graduate Assistant at the Peter F. Drucker School of Management

**Basma ELBaz (Gabr
Fellow 2015) in her
21st article for the
Huffington Post talks
about how Egypt is
losing money by
neglecting creative
industries. The Need
to Create an Egyptian
"Despacito"
19.7.2017**

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-need-to-create-an-egyptian-despacito_us_596f38c7e4b05561da5a5c00



**TO READ BASMA'S FULL
ARTICLES ON HUFFPOST**
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/basma-elbaz85-927>

Egypt parliamentarian delegation visits Washington D.C. after almost a decade

07/23/2017 01:06 pm ET

By: Sasha Toperich

For the first time in nine years, a delegation of Egyptian parliamentarians visited Washington D.C. During their week-long stay, which coincided with the Holy month of Ramadan, the 14-membered delegation met with a bipartisan cohort of US. members of Congress.



The MPs also met with members of the Egypt Desk, headed by Yael Lumpar at the State Department, followed by meetings with representatives of various think tanks in closed settings. In a symbolism that reinforces Egypt's commitment to building stronger relations with the US., the delegates were unable to eat or drink in between their meetings until dusk (at Iftar, when Muslims break the fast). The visiting MPs exerted extensive efforts in opening channels of communications with their counterparts and within beltway political circles.

Although the first official Egyptian parliamentarian delegation to visit Washington DC in nearly a decade, it will not be the last. Egyptian legislators have expressed their desire to rebuild and strengthen bilateral relations, strained during the past two US. administrations. Unsurprisingly, the meetings' agendas were filled, first and foremost with Egypt's sundry challenges: deep economic and institutional reforms (including the new investment and NGO laws), a counter-terrorism offensive, anti-corruption strategies, rural-

development and the rebuilding of infrastructure, to name a few. The status of Egyptian Christians and Egypt's role in leading religious reforms in the region and within the Islamic world, following President Sisi's bold call for the need to revisit theological practices, presented a spotlight in almost every meeting.

The meetings highlighted the importance of close bilateral ties between the two countries, rather than submitting to calls to downgrading the relationship with a country that is at the center of the Arab world.

Egypt continues to be a significant ally in the global war on terrorism, remains the most influential country among its neighbors, and holds an irreplaceable place in the Middle East peace process. President Trump's decision to improve relations with President Sisi was a move in the right direction. Egypt is serious in its commitment to eradicate radical Islam falsely disseminated in the name of religion, improve its economy, reform its government, and walk the thin line – sometimes successfully and sometimes not – of

insuring its citizens both human rights standards and national security. None of this can be achieved overnight, but the renewed relations between Washington D.C. and Cairo are likely to speed up this process. In any case, the new US. administration is a breath of fresh air for Egypt, and that is beginning to show.

Such positive efforts are worthy of acknowledgment and support, as is the work of [Shafik Gabr](#), a successful businessman who established a foundation in the United States to bring young future Egyptian and American leaders closer together. Gabr's "[East-West: Art of Dialogue Initiative](#)" believes in people-to-people engagement as a core element of any long-term built on trust and mutual respect.

To read the Full article:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/5974d6f3e4b0f1feb89b4465>

Reflections on the Art of Dialogue



Becoming A Gabr Fellow

The Foundation Team sheds light on the rigorous selection process of the Gabr Fellowship Program sharing their insights on what makes for a competitive applicant.

The selection of Gabr Fellows is based on the following criteria: a record of professional achievement early in one's career in respect to his/her field, evidence of leadership skills exemplified in both the application and interview, a demonstrated interest and commitment to public service reflected in the social impact of the action project as well as professional record, and lastly the skill set to succeed at the highest level in his/her respected field and ability to work effectively as a team member and team leader in the Gabr Fellowship Cohort.

The stated criteria paired with the character and attitude of the applicant are taken into consideration when selecting the Gabr Fellow Class.

The selection process is very competitive. The Shafik Gabr Foundation offices process and review the applications, former Fellows interview the applicants to identify the most promising candidates, the administration and Advisory Board then interview the applicants and suggest top applicants to move forward to meet Chairman Shafik Gabr. Out of hundreds of applicants, only twenty two are selected to become a Gabr Fellow.

Nourhan Moussa (Gabr Fellow 2014)

Visits the Foundation's Office in Cairo upon her return from "Egypt 4th National Youth Conference" held on Monday July, 24th, in Alexandria With President El-Sisi

Cairo, July 30th, 2017

Nourhan shared her experience at the conference with the Foundation members pointing out the main themes of the conference and what is at the forefront agenda of the government, she says:

"There were two main points about this conference: the simulation for the government exercise by the Presidential Leadership Program (PLP) Candidates, where every candidate would represent a Ministry and discuss the different strategies and policy recommendations to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of his/her Ministry. The Second item debated during the conference was the (Sustainable development Strategy for Egypt 2030) where Egypt's Economic Reform was the first item on the Government Agenda" says Nourhan. She added that in her own personal opinion she believes that the two main issues that should be at the forefront agenda of the government for 2030 are Economic Reform and Security.





When 2015 Gabr Fellow Kemp Gouldin told his Egyptian friends that he was planning an initiative to bring Baseball to Egypt, they all laughed thinking their American friend was kidding, not only because they thought the logistics would make the mission impossible but also because most Egyptians do not know what the hell Baseball is. But to their surprise, this determined Sales and Marketing Executive from Washington DC did it and initiative "Because Baseball" was born.

In Gouldin's travels to the south of Egypt, he observed reliefs on the Temple of Philae depicting pharaohs holding what appear to be baseball bats and balls, a theory that seems to be supported by archaeologists. So Gouldin believes that bringing this very American game to Egypt is like a return to the origins.

TO FIND OUT MORE:

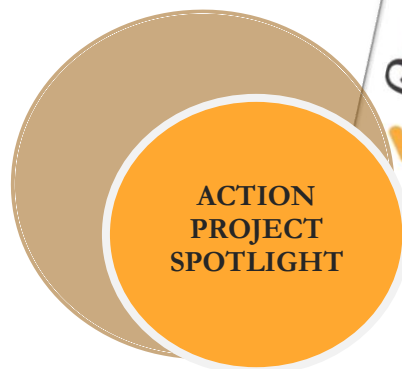
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bringing-baseball-to-the-land-of-the-pharaohs_us_590f25b2e4b046ea176aec51?ncid=engmodushpmg00000004

<https://www.facebook.com/BecauseBaseball/photos/pb.165097620554880.-2207520000.1500907616.234682903596351/?type=3&theater>

Bringing Baseball to the Land of the Pharaohs

By Basma ElBaz (Gabr Fellow 2015)

When asked why he started "Because Baseball" initiative he said: "I think it is a game of incredible fun and depth. Baseball has a unique framework that celebrates feats of the individual that collectively benefit the team as a whole. And, as a new sport here in Egypt, there are no preconceived notions attached to the game – it has the ability to be a sport for all Egyptians. As such, baseball can bring people together and break down barriers." However, the mission was not easy as predicted. It took a dedicated team of Egyptians and Americans year and half to make it happen. The daring project has several garcious sponsors, amon them is the: "Shafik Gabr Foundation" whose undertaking "[The Art of Dialogue](#)" focuses on cross-cultural dialogue between the East and the West. Because Baseball's mission dovetails beuatifully with that of the foundation,



seeking to connect communities and build bridges of understanding through the common language of sport. Individuals from US and Egypt who love the sport of baseball, youth, as well as Egypt have also eagerly supported this historic initiative. In addition, "Major League Baseball" and "Pitch In For Baseball" in the United States have teamed up to donate baseball equipment for this historic initiative. The most challenging part of this project was

getting the word out. When I was telling an Egyptian father about the initiative since I thought his 11 years old daughter might be interested, his reply was "Sure my daughter loves sports, she plays Volleyball. but what's Baseball?". Next Season "Because Baseball" plans to launch a 6-team youth league for children 8-12 years of age. "There will be approximately 100 spots for kids all over Cairo to allow even greater numbers of children to experience the joy of baseball", said Gouldin.

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter



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Connect with us



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