



2017 GABR FELLOWS AT CNBC STUDIOS IN NEW YORK CITY

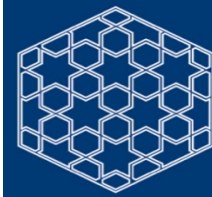
***Both Egypt and the U.S. are in transition - one of significant bilateral, regional, and global impact. Managing the transition is not only a matter for today, but of tomorrow as well. Instant solutions are no longer valid. Given the multiple changes both Egypt and the U.S. face, this is the right time for a strategic, rather than transactional, relationship. Neither Egypt nor the U.S. pose a national security threat to the other. On the contrary, both countries are aligned on a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from fighting terrorism to establishing stability and security in the Middle East.***

Working together requires not only leadership alignment, but also a better understanding of 'the other'. The present leadership around the world requires not only official dialogue, but also a much deeper relationship that comes from real face to face engagement. The understanding that develops from this produces real win-win initiatives that are implementable in real time and do not just produce processes that overcome results.

It is in this vein that the Foundation focuses on investing in the next generation of leaders. Through this intensive experience, the Fellows will get a first-hand look at their foreign peers' cultures, politics, worldviews, and visions for the future. But even more importantly, they will create personal relationships that facilitate direct, honest dialogue, which will propel them to achieve remarkable outcomes.

This gets to the heart of the Gabr Fellowship. Our community of emerging leaders will be empowered to brainstorm solutions, create systems for ongoing engagement, and lay the foundation for strategic cooperation. As the Foundation prepares to welcome a new class of Fellows, I am pleased to see that our ever-growing community continues to make strides to make the world a safer, more equitable place for us all. I hope you enjoy the most recent newsletter and continue to follow the Fellows' journeys in the months and years ahead.

**M. Shafik Gabr**



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

April 2018, Issue 9

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## In Focus...

### Casey Smith Presents at SXSW



**Casey Smith (2015 Gabr Fellow)** was on a panel at SXSW, where she discussed rising talent in the global food scene, sector innovation, and the future of the burgeoning food industry. In many places across the US, the food industry plays a critical role in employment and economic growth. Great work Casey!

### US Fellows Reunite in Washington, DC



Gabr Fellows from the United States met with Chairman and Founder **Mr. M. Shafik Gabr**. They discussed personal and professional updates and current events, including staffing changes in the Trump Administration, Russian interference in the US election, and the bitcoin as a viable investment opportunity.

### Courtney Joline Accepted to MBA Program



**Courtney Joline (2017 Gabr Fellow)** and Executive Director of the Shafik Gabr Foundation (US) was accepted to Georgetown University's Evening MBA program. She will focus on nonprofit management and international development, and take courses in financial management and accounting. Best of luck Courtney!

### Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



In the latest edition of the Gabr Foundation reading corner, Mr. Gabr suggested to the Fellows that they read *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari and *1001 Inventions: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization* by Salim T.S. Al-Hassani. He also noted that *Killing the Rising Sun* by Bill O'Reilly was not a worthwhile endeavor. Happy reading and do write back with your feedback on the books!

### Tom Stein Completes Nepal Trek



**Tom Stein (2017 Gabr Fellow)** completed a two-week trek to the Himalayas and Everest view in Namache, in north-eastern Nepal with his wife. This once-in-a-lifetime trip was an extremely worthwhile and formative experience. Nepal is home to 8 of the 14 highest peaks in the world, and is a sight to behold for nature lovers, hikers, and explorers alike.

### Leah Moschella Delivers Keynote Address



**Leah Moschella (2015 Gabr Fellow)** delivered the keynote speech at the Hawaii Department of Education and P-20 Council Statewide College and Career Pathways conference. Leah's plenary session covered strategies for educators, colleges, and businesses to support low-income students in achieving success in college and beyond. She also spoke at the Linked Learning Conference in California.

### Neveen Saied Has a Job Transition



**Nevven Saied (2017 Gabr Fellow)** accepted a job offer with Terre des Hommes, a Swiss non-governmental organization that focuses on children's rights in more than 30 countries around the globe, as a Regional manager. She previously worked as a Program Manager in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Congratulations Neveen!



## Michael Matthiesen Lobbies Congress



**Michael Matthiesen (2017 Gabr Fellow)** joined a coalition of volunteers and public health advocates from the United Nations Foundation to lobby Congress to fund the President's Malaria Initiative. Despite advances in medicine, in many parts of the world one child dies from the disease every 45 seconds and malaria is still a major health issue for half the world's population living in the poorest communities. Great work Michael!

## Gabr Fellows Attend EIEF Round Table



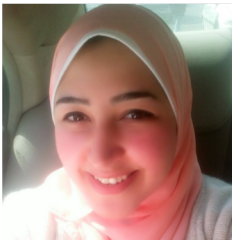
Gabr Fellows in Egypt met with Chairman and Founder **Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** during the EIEF panel discussion on "Fact and Fiction: US-Egypt Bilateral Relations." The event was hosted by **Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** and included **Mr. Eli Gold** of the London Center for Policy Research; **Mr. Karim Darwish**, Member of Egypt's Parliament; and **Professor Karim Haggag** of the American University in Cairo. Attendees of the panel included ambassadors, academic and think tank representatives, members of the business community, and government officials.

## Applications are Open for the 2018 Fellowship



Applications for the 2018 Gabr Fellowship have officially launched. If you know someone who is passionate about creating lasting relationships, wants to participate in an immersive cross-cultural experience, and is interested in building a stronger, more inclusive world, then they should apply. Participants will meet with business leaders, government officials, and members of the academic and think tank communities. This program is open to emerging young leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. More information can be found on <https://eastwestdialogue.org>.

## Dalia Ihab Younis Making Strides in Musical Career



**Dalia Ihab Younis (2017 Gabr Fellow)** received her MBA from the ESCLA Business School. She was recently featured on the BBC to discuss her musical career, and also performed at the first TEDx event organized by STEM students in Egypt. In honor of Mother's Day, Dalia released a video with a message of support for parents of children with disabilities, based on her experience as the mother of an autistic child. Finally, Dalia performed the first of its kind tribute concert in Egypt in honor of Ziad Rabbani, one of the most influential Lebanese musicians from the 1970s.

## Gabr Fellows Reunite in Egypt



**Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** met with the Egyptian Gabr Fellows to discuss personal and professional updates and news ranging from the Presidential Election in Egypt, Facebook's privacy scandal, personnel changes in the White House, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and other current events in the United States and Egypt. Fellows also provided updates on their action projects and how they are continuing to serve as ambassadors and advocates for exchange.

## John Ryan Graduates from JAG Coursework



**John Ryan (2016 Gabr Fellow)** graduated from the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course. He is joining the 10<sup>th</sup> Legal Operations Detachment as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and will serve in the Army Reserves while continuing his day job on Capitol Hill on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Judge Advocates serve as legal advisors and are charged with the defense and prosecution of military law. Congratulations John!

# Everything You Need to Know About 'Sinai Trail,' Egypt's First Long Distance Hike

By **Basma El Baz**, 2015 Gabr Fellow

View full article at <http://nilefm.com/life/article/1122/everything-you-need-to-know-about-sinai-trail-egypt-s-first-long-distance-hike->

Sinai Trail is Egypt's first long distance hike route. It began as a 220 km-route, taking 12 days to complete and involving three Bedouin tribes. Now, it has grown to become a 550 km-route, taking 42 days, and involving cooperation between eight tribes who manage the trail together.

The trail was voted the *Best New Tourism Project* in the Wider World at the BGTW Tourism Awards in 2016; it was ranked one of the best new trails in the world by Wanderlust Magazine in the UK in 2017 and by Outdoors Magazine in the USA in 2017. But the beauty of 'Sinai Trail' lies not only in the fact that it is helping tourism in the area, but also it is keeping Egypt's most ancient, beautiful cultures alive for generations in the future.

NileFM interviewed Ben Hoffler, one of the co-founders of the Sinai Trail, alongside Bedouin leaders from three different tribes, to know more about the trail and how it is affecting Bedouin community and culture.

## **NileFM: How did 'Sinai Trail' initiate?**

Ben Hoffler: The Sinai Trail grew out of the Sinai is Safe Campaign; Sinai is Safe was a grassroots campaign in which different Bedouin tribes came together, for single, one-off hiking events involving up to 100 people. They guided these groups through the Sinai to show a different, more positive, hopeful side of the region, and to create a counter narrative to all the bad news. Sinai is Safe was about challenging perceptions of the Sinai and encouraging people to think about it in a new way; but we needed more than that to really make a difference. The Sinai Trail grew out of discussions we had on Sinai is Safe. Before the Sinai Trail, everything was more individualistic and scattered; everybody worked more alone to their own interests, focusing on their own particular programs- like hikes to specific mountains. We wanted to change that and build a single path that wouldn't belong to one individual- but to all the tribes of Sinai- and into which we could put 100% of our energy, ideas, and cooperation.

## **What is your role in the project?**

At the beginning, most of my work involved walking with Bedouin of different tribes; exploring the region to find the best way for the trail and recording the way, the place names, the stories of the landscape, and anything else relevant. After that it became more about documenting the trail- creating hiking maps, travel information guides for hikers, a website. Once we'd documented the trail, it was more about telling people about it: promoting the trail in Egypt and around the world, however we could. At every stage, my role has also been about being a neutral point of contact between all the tribes involved; as an outsider - as someone who isn't Bedouin and who has no tribal affiliations- I have been able to intervene sometimes in ways that it would have been hard for a Bedouin from one particular tribe to do. In everything I've done, I've been backed by leaders of different Bedouin tribes and helped by people from all over Egypt and the world.

## **Which tribes cooperated with you so far?**

The Tarabin, Muezeina and Jebeleya were the 3 tribes involved in the beginning. In March 2018 we expanded the Sinai Trail to involve 5 new tribes; these are 1) Awlad Said 2) Garasha 3) Sowalha 4) Hamada and 5) Alegat. Together we have 8 tribes in the Sinai Trail now. Historically, the tribes of South Sinai existed in an alliance called the "Towarah": this is an ancient group of tribes who would work together and help each other in times of need. The Sinai Trail has reassembled almost all of this old alliance back together around a travelling route for the first time in many decades. The last time the tribes recall working together as they do now were in the old days of the Darb el Hajj, when pilgrims would cross the Sinai to Mecca.

## **Were there any difficulties in convincing some tribes to participate in the project?**

Tourism has always been more relevant for some tribes than others. Some tribes have had virtually no tourism in their territories; or if they did it was so long ago- and things have changed so much- that they have come to see it as an unstable industry that gives no firm stability for the future. The Sinai Trail is about tourism; so some were more skeptical about the trail and its capacity to make a difference than others. When we went to the five new tribes the Sinai Trail was already 3

years old; it had been voted one of the world's best new trails several times and it was working well, bringing tourism to three tribes, a thing that helped in convincing the other tribes.

## **Tell us about the difficulties the project faced before it came to life.**

Building the Sinai Trail involved walking many thousands of kilometers to get things right; we'd walk, and walk again, visiting an area, then re-visiting it again, to make the trail the best, most beautiful, historic, interesting and attractive route possible. But building the Trail was never about just walking; it was about talking too.

## **There are many misconceptions about safety in Sinai, especially since the UK government banned traveling to Sharm Al Sheikh. How does this affect the business?**

Travel warnings from European and other governments have been hugely damaging. They have discouraged citizens of these countries from visiting the Sinai by reinforcing, in an official, powerful, and widely trusted voice, that the Sinai is a danger zone better avoided. However, it's important to say it's not just government travel warnings or flight suspensions that have damaged the Sinai; media coverage has also played a part in affecting perceptions of the region. North Sinai is often not distinguished from South Sinai in any meaningful way, and the Sinai as a totality is shown as a dangerous place. Encouraging people to visit the Sinai is our biggest challenge. Sinai Trail has been increasingly active over the last three years; more people have been hiking it every year, from Egypt and all over the world. Word of mouth has been really important in getting the trail known. When people see other people doing the trail it gives them confidence; it makes them reconsider the other narratives they hear about the Sinai and investigate the possibility of doing it themselves.

To read more, visit <http://nilefm.com/life/article/1122/everything-you-need-to-know-about-sinai-trail-egypt-s-first-long-distance-hike> and stay tuned for more articles and thoughts from Gabr Fellows in the next newsletter.

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



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