



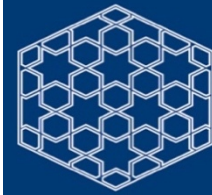
2018 GABR FELLOWS AT CNBC STUDIOS

*With the start of 2019 comes new beginnings and possibilities for the Shafik Gabr Foundation. After a successful 2018, marked by the implementation of the annual Gabr Fellowship program and engagement with key stakeholders in a variety of sectors, the Foundation is poised for continued success in the coming year. At a time of growth in new technologies and the reshaping of the status quo in business, the Foundation aims to empower and inspire the next generation.*

Two decades into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is more uncertainty about the future than ever before. There is more disruption and unexpected developments, marked by the growth of artificial intelligence, new cyber security threats, and advancements in robotics. What is certain is that technology and new machine learning will continue to encroach on individuals' daily lives and play a critical role in workforce development – or displacement. The next generation of leaders will be forced to grapple with these new challenges and opportunities and spearhead a future that celebrates these new advancements, while ensuring growth and development is equitable and inclusive.

In the coming year, the Foundation will provide opportunities for all Gabr Fellows to debate and discuss these issues and empower them as strategic and thoughtful thinkers prepared to lead in the coming decade and beyond. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities for engagement and dialogue, and I wish you a happy, healthy, and successful 2019.

M. Shafik Gabr



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

January 2019, Issue 18

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## News and Updates...

### Charles Truxal Promoted to First Lieutenant



**Charles Truxal (2018 Gabr Fellow)** was promoted to the position of First Lieutenant and was moved into the role of a company Executive Officer in the 229<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Reserves. In addition to his work with the Reserves and the Virginia Army National Guard, he currently serves as a Military Legislative Assistant in the Office of Congressman Matt Gaetz from Florida. Charles has also served in other offices in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate.

### Zeyad El Kelani Presents at Seminar



**Zeyad El Kelani (2014 Gabr Fellow)** participated in a seminar at Claremont Graduate University on the topic of "Impact of Political Capacity on Demographic Change and Economic Recovery." The seminar discussed the assessment of political performance of nations using empirical and objective methods in order to assist governments and non-governmental organizations to bridge the gap in development and stability.

### Allison Feikes Moves to the Senate



**Allison Feikes (2018 Gabr Fellow)** accepted a position as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Mike Braun of Indiana. Allison previously served as a Legislative Assistant in the office of Congresswoman Barbara Comstock where she focused on foreign affairs and defense policy. Allison also completed a Fulbright Scholarship in Turkey and worked at the US Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. Allison holds a Master's Degree from SAIS.

### Nourhan Moussa Attended World Youth Forum



**Nourhan Moussa (2014 Gabr Fellow)** attended the World Youth Forum and the Business for Africa Conference that was held in Sharm El Sheikh in December. The Forum is a unique business-to-business and government-to-business platform, bringing together policymakers, financiers, leading industrialists and young entrepreneurs. This edition of the Forum focused on peace and development, and brought together 3,000 youth represented by 60 delegations from around the world.

### Becca Doten Promoted at LAWA



**Becca Doten (2013 Gabr Fellow)** was promoted to become a member of the Executive Team of Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). Becca now serves as the Managing Director for Media Relations after serving as the Director of Public Relations. She previously worked as the Chief of Staff to a Los Angeles Councilmember, Director of Mayor Garcetti's Crisis Response Team, and the Assistant State Controller in charge of External Affairs. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California.

### Soaad Hossam to Open Africa Power Program



**Soaad Hossam (2018 Gabr Fellow)** was selected by the Enel Foundation to open the Africa Power Program in Addis Ababa in late January. The program aims to forge a new generation of African leaders engaged in creating a clean energy future in their respective countries. The initiative offers a series of professional development and leadership activities, comprising residential training modules in Ethiopia and Italy.

## Thomas Hanna Moves to the Department of Commerce



**Thomas Hanna (2016 Gabr Fellow)** recently moved to a new position in the US Department of Commerce as an International Trade Analyst with the International Trade Administration. He previously served as a Research Analyst at the Institute of International Finance. Thomas received his Master of Arts Degree in Diplomacy and International Commerce at the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce.

## Chairman M. Shafik Gabr Meets with the Gabr Fellows in Egypt



On December 8, 2018 **Chairman M. Shafik Gabr** met with Gabr Fellows in Cairo, where the Fellows discussed their personal and professional updates and engaged in discussion about developments in art, politics, and business. They also discussed the importance of cinema and the Foundation's efforts to reignite Egyptian media's prominence on the world stage. The Foundation recently hosted an event to celebrate the Cairo International Film Festival, in partnership with America Abroad Media. The Fellows also discussed updates surrounding the Sadat Congressional Medal recently signed into law by President Trump and ongoing Yellow Vest Protests in France. The Fellows were encouraged to learn more about Artificial Intelligence, the biosciences, and cyber security. **Chairman Gabr** also promised committed Fellows that he will arrange meetings with new members of Congress. **Marwa Abdalla Elsayed (2018 Gabr Fellow)** also received her award for best photo from the 2018 Gabr Fellowship program.

## Abdelrahman Amr Leads Class Discussion



**Abdelrahman Amr (2017 Gabr Fellow)** skyped from Vancouver into **Professor Michael Matthiesen's (2017 Gabr Fellow) *Critical Thinking and Ethics*** course at Miami Dade College. During the conversation, Abdelrahman spoke about his experiences during the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and the practical application of philosophical concepts such as secularism, philosophy of power, and social change. The class then participated in a question and answer session and gained insight into Abdelrahman's unique experiences.

## Nick Thomas Re-enters the Airline Sector



**Nick Thomas (2015 Gabr Fellow)** received 16,356 votes in his recent run for Congress in Colorado's 2<sup>nd</sup> District. This was the best performance by an Independent candidate in the district's history, the best for any third party Congressional candidate in Colorado, and one of the three best nationwide. He will be re-entering flight school and rather than continuing with stunt pilot work, Nick will join an airline in late 2019.

## Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner is encouraging Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended over the past many issues. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Elite and the Decline of US Primacy* by Stephen Walt and *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou.

## Shafik Gabr Foundation and America Abroad Media Host Reception Celebrating the Launch of *Black Birch Entertainment* and *Screen Buzz Egypt*



Ms. Nelly Karim, Mrs. Gigi Gabr, Mr. Shafik Gabr, Mr. Aaron Lobel, and Mr. Ihab Gohar

On November 28, 2018 the Shafik Gabr Foundation co-hosted in Cairo a reception in partnership with America Abroad Media on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cairo International Film Festival. The Film Festival was launched to enhance the role of Egypt in the world of filmmaking and cinema and has consistently served as a bridge between the cultures of the world. The Foundation, in its pursuit of furthering dialogue between the East and West, believes that media can and should be a tool of discourse and a foundation for mutual understanding. Through the power of storytelling, viewers have a better grasp of realities on the ground in different countries, gain insights into different points of view, and become more empathetic and inclusive.

The celebration was a resounding success, attended by prominent figures in Egyptian and international filmmaking alongside government officials, business leaders, and other innovators. Egypt continues to be a pivotal player in global cinema and the Foundation looks forward to support the sector's ongoing growth and development in the coming years. At a time when bridge-building and mutual understanding is of critical importance, Egyptian cinema can be a key vehicle for engagement and dialogue.



Mr. Marwan Hamed, Mr. Mark Goffman, Mr. Samuel Baum, Ms. Jessica Mecklenburg, Mr. Aaron Lobel, Ms. Saba Mubarak, and Mr. Alaa Karkouti

## Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles — in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more— they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

### **Question 1: Will British lawmakers pass a Brexit deal in early 2019?**

Yes: 40% of respondents

No: 40% of respondents

I don't know: 20% of respondents

### **Question 2: Should there be greater cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the area of counterterrorism?**

Yes: 77% of respondents

No: 13% of respondents

I don't know: 10% of respondents

### **Question 3: Will the United States pull back its support for Saudi Arabia's intervention in Yemen?**

Yes: 47% of respondents

No: 47% of respondents

I don't know: 6% of respondents

### **Question 4: Do you expect more or less conflict globally in 2019?**

More: 77% of respondents

Less: 20% of respondents

I don't know: 3% of respondents

Stay tuned for next month's question of the month and the Gabr Fellows' takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

## In Focus...

### A Positive Sign: Facilitators and Deaf Children Learn Together

Dalia Ihab Younis, 2017 Gabr Fellow

*Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the authors' alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published on [UNICEF's website](#).*

"When I noticed this newcomer child is not mingling with others, I went to talk to him to know what's wrong. He didn't reply. In fact, he couldn't talk", said Basma, one of the facilitators at Maktab Sehha Awal Primay Healthcare Unit (PHU)'s Family Club in Aswan about her first encounter with Mahmoud.

Checking her facilitator's guide, Basma found very little information on dealing with children with this kind of disability. So, she decided to do her own research. "I started searching online for video tutorials that teach sign language", said Basma on how she began to take steps to be able to communicate with Mahmoud. She was able to learn a few words which she tried with him in the session that followed. The results were amazing. She describes: "Mahmoud was deeply touched that I made this effort to try to communicate with him, he began to be more calm in class and a sense of belonging began to be created".

Day after day, Basma learned more words through her online research and the help of

Mahmoud himself. Her colleague Saleh began to learn as well when he saw the positive impact on the young boy. His mentor was another deaf boy named Khaled.

"The Family Club is considered a safe space for Mahmoud, Khaled and boys like them" Saleh said based on the feedback he got after being able to communicate in sign language. "A deaf or hearing-impaired child might feel unwelcomed or stigmatized because of his or her disability, and this might lead to a violent reaction or exclusion by other children. We made sure this doesn't happen here".

Following Mahmoud and Khaled, nine other deaf children joined, based on the positive feedback they got in the Family Club. The children were encouraged to mingle with other children and teach them some basic sign language to help in day-to-day communication, especially during play time.

Dr. Essam Allam, Health Officer at UNICEF, was soon informed of the story of the two proactive facilitators and the impact they were doing. He commented: "I thanked them myself for their creative and positive action, and I contacted our colleagues in charge of the facilitators' curriculum to see how we can upgrade it to include more guidance on children with disabilities".

UNICEF Egypt and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) have established Family Clubs within Primary Healthcare Units (PHUs) to offer child protection activities and services (particularly those that prevent and respond to violence) linked to the provision of mainstream health services. The Family Clubs are also linked with Child Protection Committees (CPCs) at the district and governorate level, allowing for comprehensive case management.

As part of psychosocial support, Family Club facilitators are trained on case management to identify, support and refer children subject to violence, neglect, exploitation or abuse, and are also referring children to the national child helpline 16000. In 2017, 9,869 children, youth and adolescents were supported.

In Aswan, the number of beneficiary children in 2017 was estimated to be around 3,367 children.

**To read the full article please visit**

<https://www.unicef.org/egypt/stories/positive-sign-facilitators-and-deaf-children-learning-together>.

**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/>



*Reading the Letter*, Ludwig Deutsch

Connect with us



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