

## 27th July 2024 Fellows Dinner

### INFORMATION STATEMENT



On 27th July 2024, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Mr Shafik Gabr, a working dinner was organised at I Ricchi in Washington, DC. The dinner was attended by two special guests: Ms Emilia Valbum, 3M Director, and Mr Moon Sulfab, Administrator of Information Technology, US Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, along with Board Member Mohamed Ramzi and 12 Fellows.

Mr Gabr opened the dinner by reiterating the thinking behind the Fellowship, especially during challenging global relations, and emphasised the importance of fostering understanding through face-to-face engagement. He expressed his belief in the power of the individual to create positive and constructive change, citing President Sadat of Egypt's humble beginnings and how the power of his leadership brought peace between Egypt and Israel. Mr Gabr continued that each Fellow has the opportunity to be a leader and contribute to a better world. He also thanked his nephew, Mohammed Ramzi, for his \$10,000 donation.

The Fellows then went around the table and shared their updates:

- Hunter King (2017): Hunter is getting married in 4 weeks in Lake Como. He has been very busy during the ongoing primary season.
- Elena Robertson (2025): Recently promoted to Associate Director of Programmes and is a candidate for the 2025 Fellowship.
- Thomas Hanna (2016): Recently resumed practising Jiu Jitsu and has been signed to a Philadelphia-based talent agency in addition to his day job. Mr Gabr asked Mr Hanna if he had ever been to Japan, to which Mr Hanna shared he had not. Mr Gabr shared anecdotes from his 2006 trip to Japan and discussed his most recent trip to China and its results.
- Jeremy Pesner (2022): Advanced in the Government Accountability Office interview process and hopes to be accepted in the coming weeks. He shared that it had been a challenging week as a close friend who suffered homelessness had passed away. The Fellows

shared their condolences, which sparked a wider discussion about the high levels of homelessness in the USA compared to Egypt. Topics discussed included the importance of the family unit and community in the Middle East, mental health resources, drug abuse, and potential policies for forceful detention to address homelessness.

- Mathias from 'Tilted Needle': Introduced himself to those he had not met before as a videographer working on social media content for the Foundation.
- Clara Sherwood (2025): Works at the State Department's Bureau of International Security and attended George Washington University. She shared her pleasure at joining the Fellowship.
- Moon Sulfab: Not a Fellow, but a friend of Mr Gabr for many years with a PhD from Virginia Tech, mentioned his recent attendance at the GOP convention in Milwaukee and his insights on the forthcoming elections.
- Mariella Becker (2022): Regaled the group with her recent travels to New York for the movie premiere of Egyptian Fellow Menna Touny. Becker has been giving tours to Washington media students and has now also been invited to join an advisory board and mentor students.
- Christi Fallon (2013): Continues to work for Raytheon and is frequently travelling to the Middle East. She will be returning to Egypt in September and recently visited Muscat for the first time, noting the welcoming culture and food.
- Dan Sullivan (2013): Recently received a teaching award at Harvard. He also attended the convention in Milwaukee and noted that it was interesting to compare his experience with mainstream media coverage.

- Crawford Horan (2022): Currently working with Caterpillar's Global Affairs Office in DC, gaining significant exposure and learning a lot.
- Pascal Rathle (2022): Now working for a fintech company, focusing on strategy, operations, and investor relations.
- Allison Feikes (2018): Former Programme Director (2022) remains working for Senator Susan Collins, focusing on appropriations. She has decided she aspires to be on 'Survivor'. Mr Gabr offered to assist her in meeting media producers.
- Katie Hagan (2022): An entrepreneur in the marine sector in Miami. Her business is growing rapidly, with a grand opening on September 25th. She is also expecting a baby girl in November.

After the introductions and discussions on various economic and political topics, Pascal shared a proposal, put together with other Fellows, for the forthcoming reunion after the successful 2023 reunion in Egypt. They proposed London, as Mr Gabr has a base there, with a few days in a secluded location in Scotland. Mr Gabr asked Fellows to share their other suggestions, which included:

- Santiago, Spain
- Big Sky, Montana
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Jackson Hole, Wyoming

- Seattle-Portland Corridor, Pacific Northwest

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of each location. Allison suggested Michigan City in Indiana, noting its facilities, accessibility, and seclusion, which would create the right atmosphere for a reunion.

Mr Gabr concluded the evening by agreeing to have a meeting in Cairo with the Egyptian Fellows to streamline the options.