



Gabr Fellows and Moon Sulfab with Chairman Gabr at US Fellows Dinner at i Ricchi (July 27, 2024)

The Political Squash

It was hot and humid in Washington, DC. I had two hours before my next medical appointment at Lafayette Centre and needed caffeine. I walked towards M Street, past New Hampshire Avenue and Walgreens, then turned left on 22nd Street and entered The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, where I was met with a refreshing blast of cool air.

I had been to The Ritz-Carlton many times in the past and enjoyed the “Living Room,” a warm and cozy area with nice lounge seating and good service. I ordered a bottle of still water and an Earl Grey tea and helped myself to a copy of the Washington Post. About ten minutes passed when a group of four noisy youths descended into the area when one of them suddenly pointed at me and came over.

It took me a moment to recognise Ramy Turk, the son of Albert Turk, a

friend and well-known head of an accounting firm in Egypt. I stood up and shook Ramy’s hand, and as we exchanged greetings, the other three friends of Ramy came over and introduced themselves. The foursome had graduated from GW and Georgetown and were friends living in Maryland and Virginia. Ramy, tall like his father and athletic, had graduated in International Relations and was working at a think tank. Steve Burns was from San Diego, California, graduated from GW in Computer Science, and he, along with Ali Khan, originally from Pakistan and also a GW graduate in Electronics Engineering, had established a startup and raised, according to Steve, over \$4 million in three years. The fourth young man, Yusuf Ali Reza, was from Saudi Arabia, had graduated from Georgetown in Political Science, and was currently pursuing his doctorate.

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Ramy, whom I had not seen for a number of years, asked permission to have the group join me. I welcomed them and put the newspaper aside. As I sipped my tea, the young men ordered lemonade and grapefruit juice. The next forty minutes was a complex discussion about US elections, the Ukraine-Russia war, and the multiple crises in the Middle East. Responding to their eager questions and intelligent comments,

I was very impressed by the group's Atlanta thoughts, insights, and queries.

Finally, as I was about to ask them about their futures, the Olympics in France took center stage. Both Ramy and Ali were squash players and had earned a number of championships in Pakistan, the UK, Egypt, and America. They asked why squash is not an Olympic sport despite all the efforts to include it in the Olympic program. They expressed astonishment that squash, a respected, active, and competitive sport, had not been accepted until now by the International Olympic Committee, while table tennis, known as ping-pong, has been an Olympic sport since 1988.

What's worse, Ali said, raising his right arm for emphasis, "skateboarding" has become an Olympic sport since 2020. "How can that be?" Ali exclaimed. Steve, with clear disgust, added that it is shameful that "breakdancing" has become an Olympic sport starting this year in Paris, and your squash is not! "Moreover tennis, surfing and badminton are Olympic sports and your squash will never be" said Steve in an angry voice, looking at Ali.

Yusef Ali Reza, the young man from Saudi Arabia who was very quiet, in a low tone said, "Why should we be surprised? It's all political." He added squash is denied with all its rules and regulations plus its clear athletic prowess and beach volleyball has been an Olympic sport since 1996 in

Yusef sighed and as he finished his lemonade said that if MBS played squash, it would already be an Olympic sport. Ramy, looking at his watch, said they had to leave to catch a Kennedy Center performance. As we were shaking hands, he asked pointedly why squash is not an Olympic sport. I looked at the four young men purposefully and said, "The reason is that whoever is supporting squash in Egypt, Pakistan, and Malaysia, all of whom have great squash traditions and players, doesn't know how to play the game."

"Play the game?" Ali blurted out. "Yes," I responded. "The IOC needs a plan that includes vision, influence, complex lobbying, and a results-oriented focus."

The four young people looked at me perplexed, except Steve, who smiled and said, "Right you are." Ramy shuffled and they were kind in thanking me before running off to their commitment at the Kennedy Center.

I sat down, poured my own water into my glass, and picked up the newspaper and as I was glancing at the news, there was an item about Israel, and my thoughts turned to how they play the game perfectly. . Their vision, influence, lobbying,

resources, and results-focused orientation are unparalleled in the US.

How has Israel achieved so much with their exceptional toolbox that included the term "anti-Semitic," and how their miraculous abilities allowed them to achieve the impossible.

Reading 'They Dare to Speak Out' by Paul Findley or 'The Israel Lobby' by Mearsheimer and Walt showcases Israel's success. This also reminded me of how the Islamic and Arab world failed not only at "playing the game" but worse at not even recognising the rules, which is step one of how to play the game.

Egypt, my country, I remembered the last time it played the game successfully was when President Anwar Sadat was alive. He personally understood the rules and not only played the game but also scored until he was assassinated.

As I was paying the bill and leaving the hotel to go to my medical appointment, I wondered when Egypt would play the game again successfully.

M. Shafik Gabr

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



RJ JOHNSON, 2018 FELLOW

RJ received his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Policy & Urban Affairs from the Nelson Mandela College of Government & Social Sciences at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His dissertation was titled “A Comparative Analysis of Voting Systems in Oregon and Louisiana for Presidential Elections from 2000-2020.” Earlier this year, his research was selected for presentation at the National Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), where he also served as a session moderator. He was named the top debater of the Frances P. Liddell Student Policy Debate Competition, leading his team to win the National Championship.

ALEXIS TAYLOR, 2016 FELLOW

Alexis was selected by Indeed.com's parent company, Recruit Holdings, to participate in the Business for Social Responsibility's 2024 Future of Reporting Initiative. In this year long program, Alexis regularly engages with sustainability reporting peers at America's largest public companies, participates in briefings on the evolving regulatory reporting landscape, and receives practical insights for implementing robust reporting infrastructures that will transform the way businesses manage emerging risks & opportunities.



KATIE HAGAN, 2022 FELLOW

In June, Katie was re-elected for another 2-year term to the 2024-2026 Board of Directors for the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF). MIASF is the largest marine trade organization in the Southeast United States dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing the 142,000 middle class jobs in Broward County and 149,000 jobs regionally in marine businesses (driving the economic output to \$9.9 billion in Broward County and \$18.5 billion regionally). Katie remains one of the youngest members of the Board to be elected, since the 1960s. In partnership with MIASF, Katie's company FHG Marine Engineering is delighted to announce their Grand Opening Event the evening of September 19th, 2024 in celebration of FHG's new workshop facility in Pompano Beach. All are warmly invited and welcome to attend.

PASCAL RATHLE, 2022 FELLOW

Pascal has joined Artesian (Alternative Investments) as an Advisor. He is co-steering Venture Capital as a Service alongside the Sydney, Australia headquartered fund with \$1.2B AUM and an Asia Pacific focus.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

DALIA YOUNIS, 2017 FELLOW

On July 8, 2024, Dalia Younis performed with her ensemble Klaxics at the launching ceremony of the Gemini Cinema Tech Hub, the first initiative of this kind in Upper Egypt. The ceremony was also attended by high representatives of the Ministry of Culture, House of Representatives, universities and companies involved in business, arts and design, artists, mass media. Promoted by Gemini Africa, under the leadership of CEO Thoma Adly, with the support of USAID, this hub will incentivize creativity and entrepreneurship particularly of young people and women, according to a well-tested by now economic sustainability model. It will help both artistic expression of Egyptian new talents, as well as community development in order to achieve social well-being. On this occasion, Dalia and her team were introduced as one of the success stories of the previous alumni of Gemini Africa's incubator program for performing arts.



CHASE BOWMAN, 2014 FELLOW

Chase has an art show opening at Virginia Tech's Armory Gallery in Blacksburg, Virginia. The show runs from August to September in 2024. The title of the show is "Threadbare Heart".

HUNTER KING, 2017 FELLOW

Hunter will be getting married to his lovely fiancé Madelyne next month in Lake Como, Italy. He has been busy at work for the National Association for Gun Rights, enjoying a successful primary season, seeing over 15 NAGR PAC endorsed candidates advance onto the general elections. Additionally, Hunter has been assisting the Foundation in its quest to find the best candidates for the upcoming Gabr fellowship. He is also helping to lock down a location for the upcoming Gabr reunion, building off of the first successful reunion in Luxor, Egypt.



SOAAD HOSSAM, 2017 FELLOW

SOaad has been admitted to the Paris Bar. She is officially qualified as a lawyer in France.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



ELIZABETH TRAPP, 2014 FELLOW

In October, Elizabeth will be presenting a paper at the Dress Historian's international conference held at the Tower of London. Her topic is the depiction of dress and textiles in contemporary African painting.

YASSER EL ZAHHAR, 2016 FELLOW

Yasser has embarked on an exciting new venture within his work by launching a podcast titled "Abjjad-cast." This innovative series features in-depth interviews with top writers and publishers from the MENA region. So far, Yasser has released two episodes, featuring renowned authors Omar Taher and Nour Abd El Megeed. Tune in every Wednesday for new episodes as Yasser continues to explore the literary world through engaging conversations with the region's most influential voices.



MENNA EL-TOUNY, 2022 FELLOW

The short film "Mirah" that Menna acted in has screened in the Zanzibar International Film Festival, Seattle Arab Film Festival and International Film Festival of Kerala in the month of August alone.

MICHELLE MATUS, 2015 FELLOW

Michelle is joining the University of Nevada, Reno as their Director of Creative Services.



KEMP GOULDIN, 2015 FELLOW

Kemp and his organization, Because Baseball, recently brought Coaching Ambassadors Jarrett Parker and Dustin Ward to share the game of baseball with Egyptian youth. They also recently partnered with Major League Baseball for the third annual Play Ball Weekend in Egypt, which gathered nearly 300 girls and boys to joyfully learn and play the game of baseball. Major League Baseball All-Star Brian Jordan and his daughter Kenley joined Jarrett and Dustin to headline the all-volunteer coaching staff. Because Baseball has also joined forces with the Egyptian National Special Olympics Program and youth from Cairo to make the joy of baseball even more accessible to children of all walks of life and abilities. These stories have already garnered a great deal of attention on Instagram and X (Twitter). Kemp and Because Baseball are grateful for the support of the Gabr Foundation and Fellows. They could not write this story of joy and friendship without you.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

JEREMY PESNER, 2022 FELLOW

Jeremy recently recorded a video summarizing his research paper on science and social impact for the Civic Science Media Laboratory. His paper was initially published as part of the Journal of Science Policy & Governance's Endless Frontier paper competition in 2021, and Jeremy's work won him third place. Jeremy is pleased to see continued interest in his research, and is also interviewed further down this very page.

To watch the video, please click here:

[CLICK HERE](#)



INTERVIEW WITH...

JEREMY PESNER, 2022 GABR FELLOW

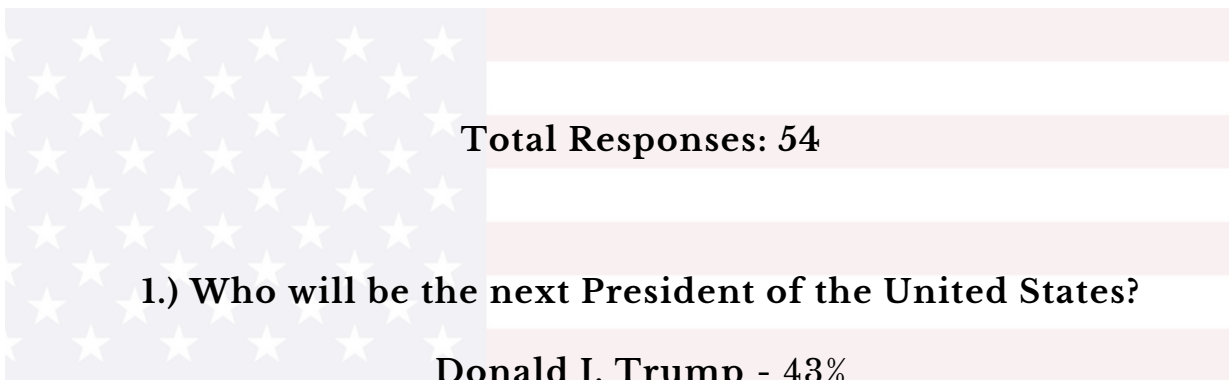


Jeremy is a policy analyst, researcher and public speaker with a focus on policy issues of information technology, telecommunications, innovation and futurism. He has given and moderated presentations at various conferences including Hackers on Planet Earth, World Future Society, TEDx Fulbright, TEDx Herndon, and SciTalk. He lived abroad in Israel, where he worked on the country's technology policy at Start-Up Nation Central as an Israel Government Fellow. He remains actively involved with the Gabr fellowship and several other organizations & communities.

- 1) **What are the 3 most important takeaways of your Gabr Fellowship experience?**
 - Sometimes your greatest connections and opportunities don't come from the people you know well, but the people you've just met
 - Getting people into the same room is often 70% of the challenge
 - No matter people's historical or cultural differences, it's easy to connect over even the smallest things
- 2) **Would you visit Egypt again?**
 - Without a doubt. I lived next door for nearly a year but never understood the role that the country plays in the wider Middle East ecosystem! Now that I understand its significance I feel like there is a lot more for me to learn.
- 3) **What can make Egypt-US bilateral relations stronger?**
 - Identify Egypt's modern strengths on the world stage. What would Egypt like the US to recognize it for besides the Pyramids and its ancient history?
- 4) **Did the program in Egypt and the US bring new knowledge to you?**
 - I understood the power of relationships and networks before but I've seen Mr. Gabr take it to new levels. It doesn't take him long to connect with new people, and even invite them into his circles and events so we can meet them! I look forward to who I'll meet and what I'll learn through this wide community!

QUESTIONS 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.



Stay tuned for next month's 'questions of the month' where the Gabr Fellows' take on current events, as our community of future leaders consider the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

AI Creates More Work for Humans, Contributes to Burnout, Survey Finds

By Michael Kan, PCMag

The rise of AI is supposed to help companies streamline their operations and will potentially even take jobs away from humans. But a recent survey finds that generative AI tools burden employees with more work, not less.

Online freelancing platform Upwork commissioned a survey in the US, UK, Australia, and Canada to examine how AI has impacted the workplace. The study polled 2,500 workers, half of whom are company executives; the other half are full-time employees or freelancers.

The survey found that 96% of executives expect AI to boost worker productivity. However, the same poll indicates workers are struggling to improve their efficiency with today's AI tools.

“Nearly half (47%) of employees using AI say they have no idea how to achieve the productivity gains their employers expect, and 77% say these tools have actually

decreased their productivity and added to their workload,” the study says.

As for why, the survey found that 39% of employees often have to spend extra time checking the AI's work since some chatbots are notorious for making things up or “hallucinating.” Meanwhile, 21% of respondents said they had to spend extra time learning how to use the same tools.

In addition, “40% of employees feel their company is asking too much of them when it comes to AI,” Upwork finds. “Consequently, 71% of full-time employees are burned out, and 65% report struggling with their employer's demands on their productivity. Alarmingly, 1 in 3 employees say they will likely quit their jobs in the next six months due to burnout or being overworked.”

The results suggest generative AI might be a double-edged sword like other office technologies, such as email. Although it can optimize some processes, the programs can also load workers with other tasks, such as overloaded inboxes and spam.

The findings also show “that introducing new technologies into outdated work models and

systems is failing to unlock the full expected productivity value of AI,” says Kelly Monahan, managing director of Upwork's research institute. “While it's certainly possible for AI to simultaneously boost productivity and improve employee well-being, this outcome will require a fundamental shift in how we organize talent and work.”

Even so, the backers of today's generative AI programs will probably disagree with the survey's results. For example, Microsoft, which has been promoting its Copilot AI, published its own study in May, which found that 90% of workers believe AI saves time on the job.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.

To read the full article, please click here:



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship programme helps to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, half of which are men and the other half women, with an equal distribution between participants from the United States and Egypt. The Fellowship also accepts applicants from Jordan, Lebanon, France and the United Kingdom. Fellows represent a variety of sectors, including the arts, law, finance, tech, non- profits, and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

The mission of the Fellowship is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the two cultures by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between emerging leaders from the United States and Egypt. Together, they explore one another's cultures, political realities, business trends and their goals for the future.



2022 Gabr Fellows at the National Defense University with the NDU's President, Lt Gen Michel Plehn

In addition to engaging in deep discussions with key stakeholders from both countries in business, government, academia, religion, science, tech and finance, all Fellows are invited to form multinational teams to complete an action project. These projects empower the Fellows as inter-cultural ambassadors, amplifying the Fellowship's reach and impact.

Ultimately, through hands-on activities, rigorous discussions, cultural site visits, and the collaborative action projects, the Fellows have a greater understanding of both countries and become part of an international cohort dedicated to building a more equitable and peaceful world.

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 as well as linguistic ambassadors to one another, they then 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, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions' most pressing issues.



Gabr Fellows with Major General Mohamed El Keshky, Egypt's Former Assistant Minister of Defense



Gabr Fellows take on the Pyramids

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

Sponsor a Fellow - Individuals have the opportunity to nominate a Fellow and if selected, sponsor their participation in the Gabr Fellowship. Sponsors will be recognised in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events.

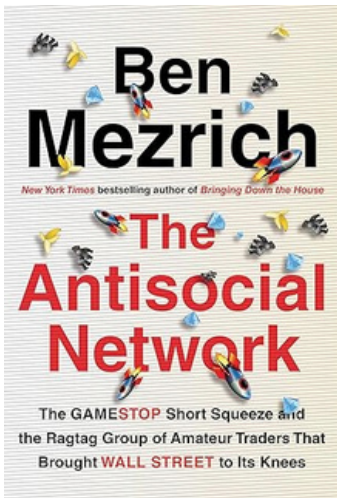
Corporate patron - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship Foundation and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation's homepage and be given visibility at all events in the United States and Egypt.

Unrestricted support - A general operating grant can empower the Foundation to continue to invest in innovative platforms to facilitate ongoing dialogue between the East and West. From new technologies to expanding the programme to more countries and a greater number of participants, the Fellowship can create a broader multiregional impact.

To support the Foundation, click here:



Gabr Foundation Book and Movie Corner

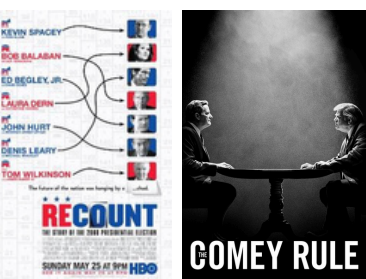


Gabr Fellow Jeremy Pesner recommends *The Antisocial Network*, which chronicles the now-famous “meme stock” of Gamestop. The stock was overinflated by a collaboration of amateur investors coordinating through the WallStreetBets subreddit. The response from the elite indicate just how tilted the stock market is in their favor.



Mr. Gabr recommends *Elon Musk*, Walter Isaacson's focused biography on the technological innovator. As an increasing amount of public infrastructure, from social media to rocket launches to satellite Internet, comes under his influence, it is essential to understand the emotions and motives of the man behind it all.

Mr. Gabr recommends *Recount*, a political drama film depicting the events surrounding the 2000 U.S. presidential election, particularly the contested vote count in Florida. The focus is on the intense legal and political battles that unfolded between the George W. Bush and Al Gore campaigns, and portrays the complexities and drama of the situation, emphasizing the impact of the recount on American politics.



Mr. Gabr recommends *The Comey Rule*, a 2020 political drama miniseries that explores former FBI Director James Comey's tenure during the 2016 U.S. presidential election and his interactions with President Donald Trump. The series covers the FBI's investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails, Russian interference in the election, and Comey's ethical struggles. The miniseries highlights the challenges of maintaining integrity in a politically charged environment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR AUGUST FELLOWS!



Leslie Lang Tsai
2013 Gabr Fellow
August 4



Nathan Thomas
2014 Gabr Fellow
August 4



Kellie Quinn
2022 Gabr Fellow
August 6



Assem Bolbol
2022 Gabr Fellow
August 7



Mike Burgess
2015 Gabr Fellow
August 17



Mariam Ibrahim
2013 Gabr Fellow
August 22



Ahmed Naguib
2014 Gabr Fellow
August 23



Katherine Tan
2016 Gabr Fellow
August 26



Neeven Mohamed
2017 Gabr Fellow
August 26

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

Monthly 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 program, please see the previous years' reports at
<https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



Jean-Léon Gérôme, *Arnaut of Cairo*
Oil on panel
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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