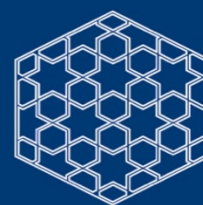




2017 FELLOWS AT FOX NEWS WITH DAVID CLARK, ERIC SHAWN AND ARTHEL NEVILLE



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

December 2017, Issue 5

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***With the Egypt and US parts of the Gabr Fellowship exchanges behind us, and the upcoming holiday season in front of us, things have quieted down slightly here at the Foundation. However, this does not mean that we have been idle – meetings with the Fellows across Los Angeles, New York and Washington have taken and are taking place, and the Fellows are actively working on their Action Projects.***

*This year has been yet another successful one for many of the Fellows and for the Foundation itself, and it is my aspiration that the new year brings even more awareness and the expansion of the 'East-West: the Art of Dialogue' Initiative in a continued effort and dedication to building bridges of understanding between the two cultures.*

*I am also proud to announce that we have a new Executive Director of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Miss Courtney Joline, who will be officially taking on her new role from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. I believe Courtney will continue to guide the Foundation and the Fellowship on the path of success, and I invite you to join me in supporting Courtney and wishing her the best of luck.*

*Last but not least, I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season and all the best for 2018.*

**M. Shafik Gabr**

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## In Focus...

### Sherif Soliman earns his Master's Degree



**Sherif Soliman (2017 Gabr Fellow)** received his Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Alexandria University. His graduation thesis was 'Estimating the Heat Efficiency of a Heat Exchanger in Multi-phase System.'

### Courtney Joline becomes the new Executive Director of the Shafik Gabr Foundation (US)



We are delighted to announce that **Courtney Joline (2017 Gabr Fellow)** will be assuming her new role as the Shafik Gabr Foundation's Executive Director (US).

Her predecessor, **Samantha Kleinfeld**, who did an excellent job in the 2017 program, is moving on to develop a new skillset with a position directing intergovernmental relations for the Sheriff of Hennepin County, Minnesota. However, she plans to continue to engage and be involved in the Foundation expansion and the Fellowship Program development.

Congratulations and best of luck to both ladies!

### Zeyad Elkelani receives Economic Research Forum in Egypt grant



**Zeyad Elkelani (2014 Gabr Fellow)** received a grant from the Economic Research Forum in Egypt to run surveys on state-business relations in the Middle East. His pilot cases are Jordan and Morocco.

Also, Zeyad has received a fellowship from the Ashburn Institute to write a paper on integration in the EU with the recent changes in Iberia, and he has become a member of the Peace Science Society, a selective group of academics promoting peace studies.

### Magda Kura establishes 'Countries Club'



**Magda Kura (2015 Gabr Fellow)** started a 'Countries Club' in New York, a monthly meeting for her friends and colleagues to learn about countries, culture and history.

She plans to expand this monthly meetup beyond her circle of friends in 2018 and include interviews with people from around the world.

### Suzanne Youngner starts job with International Medical Corps



**Suzanne Youngner (2014 Gabr Fellow)** recently started a new position with International Medical Corps in Washington D.C. She is supporting their humanitarian training response unit, which conducts workshops worldwide for NGOs in order to develop a more coordinated and effective response to natural disasters and armed conflict. She traveled to Jakarta for her first workshop the day after Thanksgiving.

## Basma El Baz writes new article for the *Huffington Post*



**Basma El Baz (2015 Gabr Fellow)** writes on the similarities between Radical Islamists and White Supremacists in her recent article for the *Huffington Post*:

Read the full article here: [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/they-want-to-replace-us-all\\_us\\_5a1fe094e4b064ca3c15120e](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/they-want-to-replace-us-all_us_5a1fe094e4b064ca3c15120e)

## Michael Matthiesen interviews Abdelrahman Fakida for WVUM Radio



**Michael Matthiesen and Abdelrahman Fakida (2017 Gabr Fellows)** chat about the Gabr Fellowship, social change and the 2011 events in Tahrir Square on WVUM 90.5 FM Radio. Listen to it here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/natalie-kivell/ra-83-alumni-week-with-mike-resistance-recall-lessons-from-tahrir-square-with-abde/>

In other news, **Michael** has recently been promoted to be a Grant Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Education's First in the World (FITW) Grant.

## Capitol Hill Briefing: Fighting Terrorism



On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the London Center for Policy Research in collaboration with American Pulse TV hosted a special Capitol Hill Briefing, entitled Fighting Terrorism.

The Panel featured **Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-Tx)**, **Senator Richard Black (Virginia State Senate)**, **Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-Ca)**, **Lieutenant Colonel Tony Shaffer (Vice President of the London Center for Policy Research)**, **Mr. Shafik Gabr (Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation)**, **Mr. Robert McFarlane (former National Security Advisor to President Reagan)**, and **Dr. Michael Morgan (Egyptian-American Senior Fellow at the London Center and a TV Presenter)**.

The discussion was engaging and insightful, with concrete suggestions put forward on how to defeat terrorism and eradicate it, including urging Congress to recognize and call out terror organizations and the countries which support terrorists. A need of greater collaboration between countries and intelligence organizations was called for.

## Inaugural Cairo Youth Baseball League's Success



December 2, 2017 marked the culmination of the inaugural Cairo Youth Baseball League, which stemmed from **Kemp Gouldin's (2015 Gabr Fellow)** Action Project "Because Baseball". Nearly 120 Egyptian children have learned (and loved) to play the game of baseball. They have been taught by a team of dedicated volunteers (both American and Egyptian). Five of the coaches are PE teachers in Cairo, and they will take the game back to their schools and teach the students who were not able to participate in the League.

Kemp was recently interviewed on the Morning Show of the Nile FM Radio Channel on "Because Baseball," where he spoke on its development, and the support he received from the Shafik Gabr Foundation.

Listen to the interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ug8ObLkEgIQ>

## Spotlight on....

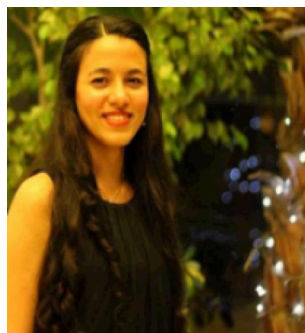
### The 2017 World Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh



The World Youth Forum is a platform bringing youth from around the world together with decision makers and influential officials. The forum is a chance to engage with top policy-makers, and network with promising youth from the region and the world that are determined to create positive change in the world we live in today.

This year's World Youth Forum was held between 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> November, under the patronage of HE President Abdelfattah El Sisi, including HE Prime Minister Sherif Ismail, and HE Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry in attendance.

In addition to **Nourhan Moussa (2014 Gabr Fellow)** who represented the USA at the UN Security Council simulation of the Forum, other Gabr Fellows also took part in the Forum:



**Sarah Badr (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was chosen as the official spokeswoman for the World Youth Forum. Sarah said that the idea of the forum dawned upon them during the third national youth conference which was held in Ismailia last April. "We presented the idea to President Sisi during the third national conference in Ismailia. It was announced at the fourth national youth conference in Alexandria and from there we started to turn the idea into reality," she added.

Read Menna Farouk's (2017 Gabr Fellow) interview with Sarah here: <https://egyptianstreets.com/2017/11/07/world-youth-forum-boosting-tourism-in-sharm-el-sheikh-spokesperson/>



**Amr Seda (2017 Gabr Fellow)** successfully participated in the Model United Nations at the World Youth Forum, representing the delegation of China and delivering several speeches over 3 days.

"The main topic that was being discussed at the MUN Security Council simulation was combating terrorism. Many of my speeches and debates during the simulation were inspired by the sessions I attended during the Gabr Fellowship a week before the forum. Getting a chance to visit the Security Council at the UN Headquarters, and engaging in several roundtable discussions about terrorism with key policy makers in Egypt and the US added a lot of depth to my understanding of the underlying causes of terrorism and what the international community should do about it. I believe that being a Gabr Fellow was the main reason I won the 'Distinguished Delegate' award at the end of the forum," said Amr.

## ‘East-West: The Art of Dialogue’ Initiative Bridges Gaps, Cultures

By Menna Farouk, 2017 Gabr Fellow and Front-page Editor at the Egyptian Gazette

**Menna Farouk writes about her experience with the Gabr Fellowship and how the journey impacted her and her colleagues.**

An initiative by one of Egypt’s top businessmen, Mohamed Shafik Gabr, is bridging gaps between the peoples of the Arab world and the West, particularly the US, by fostering cultural exchanges between young emerging leaders on both sides, in entrepreneurship, science, the arts, engineering, the media, civil society and business.

Promoting greater East-West understanding, the initiative held its fifth round this year, allowing 19 young Egyptians and Americans to speak to top government officials, private sector leaders, intellectuals, politicians, economists and celebrities in both countries. This year, the Gabr Fellows spent one week in Egypt followed by a further week in the US, building enduring connections through hands-on activities and rigorous discussions.

“I am totally convinced that we should support young people, so they can become enlightened leaders in the future,” Gabr told the Egyptian Mail. The top-notch businessman added that young people should gain their knowledge not only from reading books or taking study courses, “they should also travel abroad and talk to people, in order to enrich their experience”.

“The United States is the world’s number one superpower. It accounts for 30 per cent of the world’s economy. It is really important that Egyptian youth get to know their American counterparts so as to understand what the US is and to deal with it positively,” he noted. Gabr also said that the Egyptian-US relationship is strategic and just as the US is the top power in the world Egypt is the top power in the Arab region. “Such an exchange would be very useful for boosting relations between the two countries,” he added.

“The East-West: The Art of Dialogue” programme, which has come to be known as “The Gabr Fellowship”, also seeks to enhance relations between the two countries by making room for cross-cultural dialogue and co-operation over projects. The Fellowship’s carefully selected participants work on these projects together, in order to promote the goal of the programme: building bridges. The Fellowship has been running since 2013 and

is made up of 20 to 24 fellows, half of them American and half Egyptian, with each side equally divided between men and women. Sometimes, the Fellowship includes other nationalities, with one participant from the United Kingdom having been included in the 2015 programme, and a participant from Lebanon included in the 2016 programme.

This year, the fellows had the chance to meet top officials from organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the State Department, the Pentagon, the Department of Homeland Security, the Congress, the National Security Council, Drew University and Morgan Stanley.

In Egypt, the fellows met senior officials from the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Arab League, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Egyptian General Intelligence Service, among others. Discussions covered the Egyptian-US relationship, the US-Middle East strategy, the role of storytelling and news media in the US, financial journalism in the US, promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships in art, science, business, culture, education and policy in the 21st Century, Egypt-US challenges and prospects and Egypt’s role in the Security Council and other key issues of interest.

Other topics included the World Bank’s role in tackling the regional infrastructure, climate change and public-private partnerships, brokering peace in the Middle East, the overall Middle East security strategy and the development of the US national security strategy, the term radical Islamic terrorism and its implications in relation to international co-operation, enhancing Egyptian-US investment opportunities and Egypt-US military relations under the current US administration.

“Eye-opening, inspiring and life-changing ... that is how I describe my experience with the Gabr Fellowship,” said Neveen Saeed, one of the participants and the founder and programme manager of the Information Technology Institute’s Career Development Programme at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

“After spending 18 days in Egypt and the US and meeting with decision-makers of both

countries, I learnt a lot about the decision-making process complexities and their underlying perspectives. I also realised the cultural differences and the numerous similarities. I thought I knew a lot about the American culture, but my interactions with my friends proved that there are many cultural aspects that are hard to capture in a movie or read about in a book,” Saeed added.

Jessica Mulligan, another participant and a government relations manager at the US Global Leadership Coalition (USLC), said, “The Gabr Fellowship was an opportunity to hold far-reaching discussions about Egyptian culture and politics with incredibly smart, energetic young professionals living halfway across the world from me.” The USLC is a broad-based network of more than 500 businesses and nonprofit organisations which support strong investments in development and diplomacy. Mulligan, 25, told the Mail that the most important thing she had learnt from the fellowship was how to have tough conversations with people she disagrees with while remaining respectful and thoughtful.

For Reham Gamal, another participant and an assistant lecturer at the Department of Political Mass Media, the experience was special as well. “This experience added different dimensions to my life and exposed me to people from different backgrounds and cultures, with differing opinions which all enriched my skills and added to my knowledge of various matters,” Gamal said. Gamal, 26, added that the fellowship had deepened her understanding of various political issues related to the Middle East as well as the US in a relatively short period of time.

“It was very helpful being on one side of the Atlantic, travelling to the other side, and gaining knowledge of the various perspectives of the US-Egyptian relationship from key players in both the US and Egypt,” said Michael Matthiesen, another participant and a senior academic and career adviser at the Miami Dade College. “I have made some great friends and connections and have realised there are more opportunities out there for me professionally than I ever realised before. If nothing else, I have expanded my horizons and made some lifelong friends along the way,” he added.

# 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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