



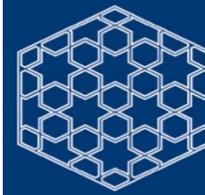
2018 GABR FELLOWS AT THE ROMAN AMPITHEATRE IN ALEXANDRIA

***Despite being a month into the new year, 2019 has already proved to be eventful. With a shutdown of the US government, a denunciation of the Brexit deal, and a turbulent global stock market, there are many disruptions expected in the months ahead. Ordinary citizens' faith has been tested and there seems to be a diminishing trust in institutions and traditional power structures. If people don't believe that their needs can be met through these avenues, then what fills that void?***

These are the questions that current Fellows will need to grapple with. As they move ahead in their careers and pivot to leadership roles, they will need to confront these challenges – and their intersection with technological advancements – and institute necessary reforms to better guide the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over the past few years, I have seen the Fellows grow, ask tough questions of their counterparts and those in positions of authority, and brainstorm innovative and effective solutions to the most pressing challenges of today. I am sanguine that they are up to the task of reshaping the world – to address the complexities of income inequality, global peace, cyber security, and economic development, among other issues of the utmost importance and magnitude.

As the Foundation gears up for the launch of applications for the 2019 Fellowship in the coming weeks, I look forward to having these same conversations with the next cohort. I look forward to challenging their preconceived notions by facilitating debate and dialogue, and engaging in the creation of a new vision for a better future. Please stay tuned for more exciting updates from the Foundation and the ever-growing community of Gabr Fellows.

M. Shafik Gabr



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

February 2019, Issue 19

## IN THIS ISSUE

### In Brief...

- Alexis Taylor** attends the World Economic Forum in Davos
- Dalia Ihab Younis** profiled in the media
- Fabrice Guerrier's** company publishes new book
- Gabr Foundation** reading corner
- Gabr Foundation** questions of the month
- Gabr Fellows** attend the Opera in Cairo
- Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** meets with Egyptian Fellows
- Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** attends the World Economic Forum
- Julie Yang** joins National Center for APEC
- Michael Matthiesen** appointed to Miami Dade College's Sustainability Committee
- Mike Burgess** gets married in London
- Mohamed El Hawary** joins Orange Business Services
- Nourhan Moussa** named CEO of the Birtish Legal Center

## News and Updates...

### Julie Yang Joins National Center for APEC



**Julie Yang (2018 Gabr Fellow)** joined the team at the National Center for APEC as Policy Director, based out of Seattle. Julie previously served as a Consultant for International Public Relations for the Ladies Professional Golf Association and was the Senior Manager for Korea and Japan in the International Division of the US Chamber of Commerce. She received her Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

### Nourhan Moussa Named CEO



**Nourhan Moussa (2014 Gabr Fellow)** was named the CEO of the British Legal Center in Egypt. The British Legal Center provides educational support from practicing international and British lawyers who want to improve their knowledge of the law and grow their skills for their professional growth and development. The organization also provides access to seminars, workshops, and online and in-person courses.

### Mike Matthiesen Receives Committee Appointment



**Michael Matthiesen (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was appointed to Miami Dade College's Sustainability Committee, which oversees environmental policies, and the President's Legislative Committee. The Legislative Advocacy Team represents Miami Dade College when the Florida state legislature is in session and lobbies on behalf of the university. Michael is a senior academic and career advisor and received his Master's degree from the University of College, London.

### Dalia Ihab Younis Profiled on BBC Arabic



**Dalia Ihab Younis (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was featured on the Nile FM and Nagoum FM websites for her work to celebrate and promote interfaith dialogue through music and song. She was also interviewed on BBC Arabic for her efforts and to promote her latest milestone, as Egypt's first veiled woman to sing and record Christian hymns in a church. Since 2017, Dalia has been committed to using music to bridge divides. To learn more, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/dalia.ihab.younis/>

### Mike Burgess Gets Married in London



**Mike Burgess (2015 Gabr Fellow)** got married on January 19<sup>th</sup> outside of London. Mike currently works in the United Kingdom's Parliament in Westminster. Prior to joining politics, he served for over a decade in the military with both the Royal Marines and the British Army, where he completed numerous operational tours of duty. Mike received his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the Open University.

### Mohamed El Hawary Joins Orange



**Mohamed El Hawary (2018 Gabr Fellow)** joined Orange Business Services as an Associate Project Manager. He previously served as a Business Analyst at Pocket Solutions, a software development company where he linked clients and the development team to ensure timely project management. He received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing from the Open University in Milton Keynes, England.

## Alexis Taylor Goes to Davos



**Alexis Taylor (2016 Gabr Fellow)** attended the World Economic Forum in Davos as part of a delegation from Austin, Texas. She was also recently selected by the World Economic Forum to help innovate their digital platform and was invited to attend Summer Davos. She also attended **Chairman M. Shafik Gabr's** annual dinner, *Expecting the Unexpected: 2019 and Beyond*, in Davos. Alexis currently serves as the Executive Director of 3-Day Startup.

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



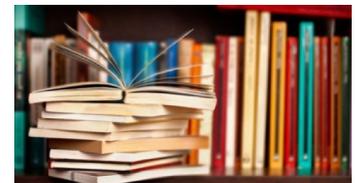
On January 8, 2019 **Chairman M. Shafik Gabr** met with the Fellows to celebrate the start of the New Year. He reiterated his commitment to setting up meetings between the Fellows and high profile decision makers from the United States and Egypt. The Fellows discussed the importance of the Fellowship alumni community and staying engaged beyond the two program components. The group also discussed recruitment strategies for the incoming 2019 cohorts. Individual Fellows expressed interest in meeting with specific figures in politics and academia. This was an opportunity for the Fellows to discuss their personal and professional achievements, interest in professional development opportunities, and updates on their action projects. This is a chance for the Fellows to engage one on one with Chairman Gabr and further commit to serving as ambassadors for dialogue.

## The Shafik Gabr Foundation Sponsors Opening Ceremony for the Cairo Opera



On January 8, 2019 Gabr Fellows **Ahmed Aransho, Amr Seda, Karim El Sharkawy, Marwa Abdalla Elsayed, and Soaad Hossam** attended the opening of the *Independanse x Egypte*, a classical-meets-contemporary dance performance at the Cairo Opera House. The collaborative French-Egyptian project featured twelve dancers from the Cairo Opera Ballet Company and the Paris Opera Ballet, and launched a series of upcoming events to be held in Egypt and France throughout 2019, following the Shafik Gabr Foundation partnership with the French Institute in Egypt in commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Suez Canal.

## 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 *Faster, Higher, Farther: The Volkswagen Scandal* by Jack Ewing and *The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse* by Mohamed A. El-Erian.

## Chairman M. Shafik Gabr Attends the 2019 World Economic Forum in Davos



The World Economic Forum (WEF), the first international gathering of the year, has taken place in Davos, Switzerland from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Reuniting renowned business, academic and political leaders to discuss the most pressing global, regional, and industry agendas facing today's world, this year's meeting focused on the impact of the unprecedented pace of technological change under the official title of *Globalization 4.0: Shaping a New Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution*.

Our Chairman and one of the founding members of the WEF's International Business Council, **Mr. M. Shafik Gabr** participated in meetings, roundtables, and panels aimed at debating the most burning matters in the domains of security and conflict, inequality, ethics and identity, innovation and technologies, business disruption, and many more.

In conjunction with the replete official WEF program, Mr. and Mrs. Gabr hosted on January 21<sup>st</sup> their acclaimed annual *Expecting the Unexpected: 2019 and Beyond* dinner, where guests convene in a casual and friendly environment to informally discuss the predictions and expectations of the year ahead. This year, the event had the pleasure of welcoming **Alexis Taylor**, a 2016 Fellow, who was invited to attend the WEF as part of a delegation from Austin, Texas and two young Egyptian entrepreneurs, **Riad Armanious** (Eva Pharma) and **Mostafa Amin** (Breadfast), all attending WEF for the first time.

## Fabrice Guerrier's Company Publishes New Book



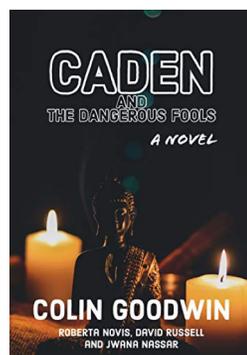
2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier is the founder of Syllble Studios, a startup that connects writers and editors around the world to create a final written product that is published and made accessible to readers and thinkers all over the world. The company's most recent publication is *Caden and the Dangerous Fools* and was written by Colin Goodwin, United Kingdom; Roberta Novis, Brazil; Jwana Nassar, Palestine; and David Russell, United States. An excerpt is presented below and the full book can be found on [Amazon](#). For more information on Syllble, visit their website [here](#).

### Chapter 1

*He didn't like it. She was up to something. He just knew it. And what was that? He sensed a faint tremor beneath his feet like the earth was waking from its slumber. Was it an earthquake? He felt the tremor grow and a feeling of disquiet took root in the pit of his stomach and quickly spread to sharpen his senses. He glared at her, and hissed under his breath, "What is she up to?" Her head was bowed, but she was growing, somehow... growing... "Zoë!" he shouted, "What are you doing!"*

*Zoë slowly raised her head to face him. Her eyes were closed, her face was intense, sweating, smiling. Under his feet, the ground was shaking and Caden began to grow uneasy. "Zoë!" he screamed, "what is going on?" Zoë opened her eyes and laughed, "Oh, poor thing! Don't you know?" She raised and opened her arms, "You've been holding me back, but now that has to stop... Caden!"*

*The ground was now moving and caused Caden to lose balance and stumble. He sensed the time he'd been dreading was upon him. He drew a breath, crouched and then leapt into the air as the breath burst from his lungs. He tucked in his legs to rotate as he drew in fresh air into his lungs and visualised a thunderbolt forming in his hara. He extended his legs to stabilise his position as the thunderbolt grew in his mind's eye, inhaling and positioning his hands to circle his hara and focus the energy as he did so. Caden felt the familiar feeling of the cosmos being drawn to his grasp as he drew his palms aside... then, as the dwell between breaths passed he shifted his attention outward, extended, forceful, the thunderbolt started to glow and between his palms the energy began to spark...*



## 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: Do you agree with President Trump’s decision to withdraw US forces from Syria?**

Yes: 30% of respondents

No: 59% of respondents

I don’t know: 11% of respondents

### **Question 2: Following US Secretary of State Pompeo’s visit to the Middle East, do you think countries in the region have more confidence in the East-West relationship?**

Yes: 18% of respondents

No: 68% of respondents

I don’t know: 14% of respondents

### **Question 3: With the first visit of a Minister from the Israeli government to Egypt since 2011, do you think a natural gas partnership between Egypt and Israel can lead to regional peace and security?**

Yes: 30% of respondents

No: 41% of respondents

I don’t know: 29% of respondents

### **Question 4: Are you pleased with President Sisi’s efforts to support the Coptic Christian community in Egypt?**

More: 68% of respondents

Less: 16% of respondents

I don’t know: 16% 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.

# 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/>



Albert Joseph Franke, *The Barber's Shop*, 1886

Connect with us



<https://eastwestdialogue.org/>

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