

Information Statement

The Washington DC Gabr Fellows Meeting

April 23rd, 2024

On the 23rd of April 2024, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Mr. Shafik Gabr, the Gabr Fellows met in Washington D.C. at i Ricchi Restaurant.

The evening commenced with updates from each Fellow, leading to a dynamic exchange of ideas and insights. Mr Gabr addressed questions posed by the Fellows, sparking engaging discussions on the intersection of technology and humanity, as well as relevant present global affairs.



Fellows Updated News

2022 Gabr Fellow Alen Amini

Alen is volunteering to act as director of The Shafik Gabr Foundation's work in the US. He'll be helping plan the 2024 Fellowship, supporting the Foundation's development activities, and leading alumni engagement initiatives.

2015 Gabr Fellow Elizabeth Dent

Liz has recently made her departure from the Pentagon where she was the Director for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

2016 Gabr Fellow Thomas Hanna

Thomas, who resides in Washington, D.C., is at the Department of Defense working in Acquisition/Procurement.

2018 Gabr Fellow Allison Feikes

Allison has just started as Legislative Assistant for Senator Susan Collins (R-ME). In this role, she serves as a policy advisor for education, labor, pensions, and trade. Senator Collins is Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Allison is part of the Senator's appropriations team.

Gabr 2022 Fellow Jack Lincoln

Jack is currently a Legislative Director for Congressman Ken Calvert.

2018 Gabr Fellow Charlie Truxal

Charlie is presently the Legislative Director for Congressman Morgan Luttrell and soon to be deployed to Poland as a reservist.

2015 Gabr Fellow Mohamed Ismail

Mohamed is presently a senior analyst investigating investment fraud and corruption.

2013 Gabr Fellow Dan Sullivan

Dan is part of the inaugural teaching fellow class in Cambridge, Massachusetts, focusing on the history of American founders.

2014 Gabr Fellow Nathan Thomas

Nathan is working on education programs with the Clinton Foundation and will soon join the Rockefeller Foundation for philanthropic initiatives.

2017 Gabr Fellow Hunter King

Hunter is a Director of Federal Affairs for the National Association for Gun Rights and will soon be getting married in Italy during September this year.

2022 Gabr Fellow Marielle Becker

Marielle works at the National Gallery of Art with a focus on strategy and relationships with the Hill.

2016 Gabr Fellow **John Ryan**

John is in his fourth year at the State Department, serving in the investigation council.

The topics of discussion raised by the Fellows included the following:

1. Opening of 2024 Fellowship applications
2. 2023 Fellowship reunion and the planned 2025 second reunion
3. How are we utilizing AI and any concerns around its implementation
4. Finding common ground amidst global polarization
5. Egypt's role in humanitarian aid supply chains for Sudan and Gaza
6. Addressing investor hesitations, overcoming fears, and cognitive biases
7. Impact of the Gaza occupation on the November 2024 US elections
8. Situation analysis - US campuses

Open Discussion

The 2024 Fellowship was discussed. Ideas were floated for hosting speaking engagements on Capitol Hill, as well as convening forums near university campuses to amplify the Foundation's reach and impact. Among the proposals was Allison Feikes's suggestion to anchor the Fellowship recruitment near a university, harnessing the intellectual vibrancy of academic institutions to enrich the Fellowship experience.



The 2023 Reunion was an outstanding success. It took place in Cairo and Luxor. It was decided that the 2025 reunion will take place in the US. Fellows presented different locations. All the Fellows agreed that hosting the event somewhere secluded and exclusive, outside of major cities was preferable as it gave the Fellows better access to the esteemed speakers. Locations such as Montana, Switzerland, South Atlantic, and Florida were all mentioned for consideration. There was also mention of London; however, overall, it was agreed somewhere in the US might be most appropriate due to travel times and the fact that last year's reunion was in Egypt. August is the preferred month for the gathering as it is quietest workwise for most of the Fellows. Mr. Gabr emphasized he was pleased with the suggestions of having the 2025 reunion in the US.

Mr. Gabr asked each Fellow who suggested a location in the US for the 2025 Reunion to do a one page with proposed details.

The Fellows then moved on to a topic Nathan Thomas had raised - Leveraging Artificial Intelligence: The Fellows delved into the current state of AI utilization across various sectors and discussed its potential to transform industries and societies. There was disagreement regarding whether AI should be involved in decision-making moving forward. Mr. Gabr referred to his recent article in the July 2023 Newsletter which is part fiction part fact in which he tasked two computers with coming up with a resolution to the current Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Fellows argued the pros and cons of taking a computer with no emotion proposing resolutions to global conflicts. The fundamental determiner, it was agreed, was the data that was being fed to the database - this would bias decision-making and was, therefore, something to be mindful of.

The discussion then moved on to Egypt's Role in Humanitarian Aid Supply Chains: An examination was conducted on Egypt's involvement in humanitarian efforts for Sudan and Gaza, assessing its impact on regional stability and welfare. Mr. Gabr referred to aid being available but held at the border by Israel, unable to gain access which sparked an intense debate.

Impact of the War in Gaza on the U.S. Elections: A discussion was conducted on the potential ramifications of the conflict in Gaza on the November 2024 U.S. elections, exploring its influence on domestic and foreign policy agendas.

The Gabr Fellows meeting experienced lively exchanges of ideas and perspectives, fostering a collaborative environment.

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Fellows in attendance were:

Alen Amini, 2022 Fellow
Allison Feikes, 2018 Fellow
Charles Truxal, 2018 Fellow
Christina Fallon, 2013 Fellow
Daniel Sullivan, 2013 Fellow
Elizabeth Dent, 2015 Fellow
Hunter King, 2017 Fellow
Jack Lincoln, 2022 Fellow
Jeremy Pesner, 2022 Fellow
John Ryan, 2016 Fellow
Marielle Becker, 2022 Fellow
Mohammed Ismail, 2015 Fellow
Nathan Thomas, 2014 Fellow
Pascal Rathle, 2022 Fellow
Thomas Hanna, 2016 Fellow