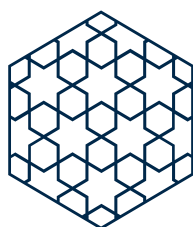


The Gabr Fellowship

East-West: The Art of Dialogue

An initiative of the Shafik Gabr Foundation
2025 Program



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation



Cover: 'Courtyard, Tunis' – Ferdinand Max Bredt

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Introduction by M. Shafik Gabr

This initiative was born in 2012, from a simple but alarming development. In conversations with young Egyptians in provincial towns, references to America were often met with perceptions of self-righteousness, arrogance, and a belief that disagreement is answered with force. Conversely, when speaking with Americans in the heartland of the United States, mentions of Egypt frequently evoked narrow associations—desert landscapes, terrorism, and Islamophobia. Rather than diminishing over time, these misconceptions have been amplified by social media and mass communication platforms—tools originally designed to bring societies closer, yet too often deepening misunderstanding and division.

These distorted narratives deeply concerned me, particularly because I knew at first hand how much common ground, shared interest, and potential for positive cooperation exist between Egyptians and Americans. The gap between perception and reality was both unnecessary and harmful.

It was from this conviction that the *East–West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative was established, along with its flagship program, the annual Gabr Fellowship. The program brings together young, emerging leaders from the United States who have never visited Egypt, and their counterparts from Egypt who have never traveled to the United States. Through direct, personal engagement, participants gain firsthand exposure to the other culture, fostering genuine understanding that no virtual exchange can replicate. True dialogue, I firmly believe, must be human and face-to-face.

By connecting these young leaders—united by a shared commitment to bridging divides—through an immersive exchange experience, they are better equipped to assume leadership roles in their professions, communities, and societies. During intensive visits to both Egypt and the United States, Fellows engage in meaningful dialogue with one another and with leading voices across diverse fields, including politics, business, technology, art, history, and economics. Following these exchanges, Fellows collaborate on joint action projects, which the Foundation supports both financially and administratively. Through these networks and interactions with distinguished speakers, participants lay the groundwork for sustained cooperation, ensuring that human relationships remain at the heart of our shared future.

Today, the Fellowship network includes more than 160 Fellows across the world—individuals of whom I am immensely proud. They have gone on to achieve distinction across a wide range of fields, from the arts and public service to business, education, and technology.

It is only by building bridges of understanding, investing in young leaders, and identifying shared interests and mutual benefits that we can meaningfully contribute to a better world for generations to come.

M. Shafik Gabr
Founder, The Shafik Gabr Foundation



The Initiative

The mission of the Shafik Gabr Foundation's *East–West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between emerging leaders from the United States and Egypt. The initiative was established in 2012 and serves to foster exchanges between emerging leaders from a variety of fields from both cultures.

The annual Gabr Fellowship is the premier program of the *East–West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative at the Shafik Gabr Foundation. Each year, the Fellowship consists of between 20 and 24 Fellows, with equal numbers of Americans and Egyptians, of which half are men and the other half women. Over the years, candidates from the United Kingdom, France, Lebanon, and Jordan have been invited to apply. The Fellows spend ten days in Egypt, followed by ten days in the United States, building enduring connections through rigorous discussions, cultural site visits, networking events, and hands-on activities. This is an intensive program consisting of high-level meetings and constant face-to-face dialogue with peers and distinguished speakers, engaging in deep discussions with key stakeholders from both countries in business, government, academia, religion, science, tech, finance, and more.

Through seminars, working groups, discussions, and workshops, the participants build leadership skills and an understanding of the 'other', while immersing themselves in complex policy matters and familiarizing themselves with the processes they are embedded in. This, along with various social events, cultural visits and activities, provides participants with an intimate glimpse into life on the other side of the Atlantic, something that we at the Foundation believe is essential in developing the young leaders of tomorrow, who, as a result, will be dedicated to pursuing united, innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

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 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. Fellows are entrusted with unpacking the misperceptions and fears that have plagued the East–West relationship over the years.

The experience does not end on the last day of the Fellowship, however. Upon their return to their communities, Fellows are tasked with implementing their creative action projects. The Fellows leverage their experience to transform their broader networks, and beyond, to develop meaningful initiatives that educate their colleagues, peers, family, and friends on the importance and power of intercultural dialogue. In addition, the Shafik Gabr Foundation hosts regular meetings of the Fellows with Chairman M. Shafik Gabr and distinguished guests, in the United States and in Egypt, where the Fellows discuss global issues, share their news, current work developments, and updates on their network groups, as well as their plans for the future.

The Gabr Fellows, empowered with new understanding and nuanced perspectives, become intercultural ambassadors. Together, they further advance the legacy of the Gabr Fellowship: an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

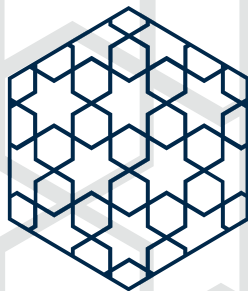
For additional information and regular updates about the initiative, please visit www.eastwestdialogue.org

The Foundations



The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development (Egypt)

The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development embodies an optimistic mission for the improvement of all the lives it serves—socially, economically, educationally, and medically. The Foundation provides diversified social services to the community, aiming at a better life with improved health care and education for all those in need. It has several projects underway, including major initiatives to improve elementary education in Egypt and a sponsorship program to support post-graduate studies for qualified students. A major initiative to bolster public health through free clinics and medical caravans has been launched, in addition to the provision of food and basic necessities to underprivileged communities.



The SHAFIK GABR Foundation

The Shafik Gabr Foundation (U.S.)

The Shafik Gabr Foundation's mission is to promote greater mutual understanding between the young leaders of Egypt and the United States by fostering dialogue and the exchange of ideas through the *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative. Established in 2012, the Foundation's flagship program, the annual Gabr Fellowship, sponsors exchange programs between emerging young leaders from Egypt and America, each representing a variety of sectors, including but not limited to, the arts and sciences, business, politics, law, technology, entrepreneurship, and media. The Fellows work jointly to leverage their experiences and launch projects that impact their peers and communities. The Foundation works in partnership with other charitable organizations, corporations, and individuals to renew and strengthen long-standing ties between the East and West. In the United States, the Foundation also supports research for children with epilepsy and cerebral palsy, as well as supporting educational initiatives.







Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board

Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board

Mr. Bruce E. Mosler

As Chairman of Global Brokerage at Cushman & Wakefield Inc., Mr. Bruce E. Mosler advises major tenants and investors on strategic real estate matters, managing key client relationships on behalf of the firm, globally. Mr. Mosler served as President and CEO of Cushman & Wakefield from 2005 to 2010, leading the firm from \$800 million in sales to \$2.1 billion, and diversifying the company's revenue stream by 30 percent through expansion of the business in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to this, he was President of U.S. Operations and implemented a number of initiatives for the firm, including creating national leadership roles in industrial, retail, and multifamily, and creating the Cushman & Wakefield Alliance, a first-of-its-kind affiliate network of top independent real estate companies operating as a unified team with Cushman & Wakefield.



Mr. Mosler sits on numerous nonprofit boards, and most notably has directed much of his attention to veteran and military issues. He serves as Co-Chairman of the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation's advisory board, and Chairman of the Cushman & Wakefield's Veteran's Initiative. Mr. Mosler also serves on the board of governors of the Real Estate Board of New York and is a member of the boards of the Team Rubicon, Navy League of the United States, New York State Troopers Foundation, Police Athletic League, Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and the advisory boards of the Navy SEAL Museum and Tufts University's Friends of Fletcher, among others.

Brigadier General (Retired) Tom Cosentino

Following an Army career that included numerous operational and strategic assignments over a 30-year span, the retired Army Brigadier General now serves as Business Executives for National Security (BENS) Chief Operating Officer, overseeing day-to-day operations while also improving outreach to and strategic dialogue with senior civilian and uniformed national security leaders. General Cosentino joined BENS in September 2015 following his last military assignment, where he served as the 28th Commandant of the National War College.

Prior to assuming command of the National War College, General Cosentino served as Deputy Director for Political and Military Affairs, providing military advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense.

He also served as the Deputy Commanding General for Regional Support, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan, and as the Chief of Strategy, Plans, and Assessments for the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq, where he developed U.S. plans to man, train, and equip over 4,000 Iraqi Army and Police Forces.

General Cosentino earned a BSc in Political Science from the University of the State of New York and holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Georgetown University and National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is also a PhD candidate in the Public Policy Program at the University of Maryland.



Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board

The Honorable Nick Rahall

Former Congressman Nick Rahall represented West Virginia's Third Congressional District for over three decades. He served as the ranking member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and also as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee from 2007 to 2011.

First elected in 1976, Congressman Rahall served 19 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and is recognized as the youngest-elected, longest-serving member in the history of the House. As the longest-serving member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he worked to build and repair the nation's highways and bridges, improve and modernize airports, and provide critical water, sewer systems, and flood control projects throughout West Virginia and across the United States.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman Rahall worked to honor the Committee's charge of serving Native Americans, the natural environment, wild lands, scenic vistas, fish and wildlife, and the public interest more broadly.



Mr. Mohamed Ramzi Roshdi

Mr. Roshdi's professional career spans two decades across the private sector, academia, and international development. For over 15 years, he has worked in a consulting and advisory capacity with leading multilateral organizations, including the World Bank, IFC, and the African Development Bank. His portfolio includes private and financial sector development, disruptive technologies, energy and human development across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, in addition to working closely with senior management on business delivery and organizational efficiencies and restructuring.

Within the private sector, Mr. Roshdi has advised leading family offices and venture capital funds on investment strategies for the past decade. Prior to that, he was a co-founder of ReliaBid, one of the world's first e-commerce services companies.

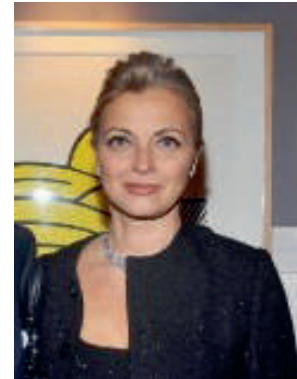
He is a proud member of the advisory boards of several leading and emerging technology companies in the U.S. and the Middle East. Mr. Roshdi received his Master's of Science degree in Information Technology and his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from The George Washington University's School of Business.



Mrs. Gehan Gabr

Mrs. Gabr has served as Vice Chair of the Shafik Gabr Foundation since 2011. The Foundation focuses on social development and providing diversified social services to the community in Egypt through a variety of initiatives which Mrs. Gabr has been significantly involved with.

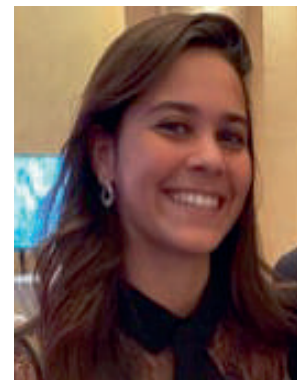
Previously, Mrs. Gabr was a partner at Bestours tourism agency in Egypt between 1983 and 1998. She also served on the board of directors at the British International School in Cairo from 2005 to 2011. Mrs. Gabr graduated from the Lycée Français in Egypt in 1979 and then studied French Literature at Cairo University. The Gabr family resides between Cairo, London, and Washington, D.C., Gehan Gabr is the wife of M. Shafik Gabr, Chairman of ARTOC Group and the Shafik Gabr Foundation.



Ms. Malak Shafik Gabr

Ms. Gabr graduated from Yale in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. Her professional career has spanned politics and media, including her selection to the WPP Fellowship, a prestigious global leadership program.

Since then, she has worked across advertising, brand strategy, client account growth, and creative marketing for clients such as Amazon, Mars, Google, Chase Bank, and TikTok. Previously, she interned for Congressman Darrell Issa, as well as with the Huffington Post and Fox News in New York. She is now based between London, Cairo, and Washington, D.C., and currently works on global branding and marketing strategy at MUBI, an international film company.



Mr. M. Shafik Gabr

Mr. M. Shafik Gabr is a renowned leader in international business, innovation, and investment. He is also one of the world's premier collectors of Orientalist art and is an accomplished philanthropist.

During his career, Mr. Gabr has established over 25 companies, as well as three investment holding companies, including ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, with businesses in infrastructure, automotive, engineering, construction, and real estate. Since 2016, Mr. Gabr has focused his attention on innovation and investment in technology, supporting a wide spectrum of tech companies, from startups to fully mature businesses. His approach is multidimensional, spanning AI, machine learning, data mining, mobility, and business.



Mr. Gabr is the Honorary Chairman and founding member of Egypt's International Economic Forum (EIEF), a board member of Stanhope Capital, International Chairman of the Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Committee, and a member of the steering committee of the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum. He is on the advisory boards of the Center for Financial Stability and the Middle East Institute, and the Global Advisory Council of the Mayo Clinic.

In his capacity as Honorary Chairman of EIEF, Mr. Gabr has hosted global leaders from the worlds of politics, economics, business, media, technology, and culture. These include President Václav Klaus, President Atifete Jahjaga, President Boris Tadić, President Zlatko Lagumdžija, and Prime Minister Tony Blair; Secretaries of State James Mattis, John Kelly, and Rex Tillerson; Secretary-General of the Arab League H.E. Amr Moussa; members of Congress, business leaders in technology, academics, and media figures from CNN, Fox, and CNBC. He has also hosted six CNBC programs on world business and peer-to-peer working.

Moreover, as Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Mr. Gabr regularly hosts his interactive "Expecting the Unexpected" working dinners in Cairo, Davos, London, Munich, and Washington, D.C. The dinners are off the record and engage leaders across the board in timely predictions of geopolitical and geoeconomic issues. The most recent dinner was held in Davos on January 19, 2026, during the World Economic Forum, with guests including former Presidents, Ministers, and Ambassadors, U.S. Congress members, international organization chairs and heads of think tanks, business leaders, and distinguished scholars from Europe, the Middle East, the United States, and Asia.

Mr. Gabr has been recognized among the "Most Influential Arabs" and "Top 50 Business Leaders in the Arab World." In 2009, he was presented with the Foreign Policy Association's (FPA) Award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, he was awarded the Meridian Global Citizen Award, and in November of that year, the Middle East Institute's Visionary Award. In March 2015, Mr. Gabr received the American University in Cairo's Global Impact Award, and the following year was presented with the College of Mount Saint Vincent's Saint Vincent de Paul Award and Drew University's Peacebuilder Award. In September 2017, he received the Policy Direction and Leadership Award from the London Centre for Policy Research. In November 2024, he was awarded the highest honor conferred upon foreign nationals by the Italian Republic: the *Grande Ufficiale* (Grand Officer) of the *Ordine della Stella d'Italia* (Order of the Star of Italy), and in April 2026, received the Gold Queen's Emblem from the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust.

Mr. Gabr's contributions and insights have been the subject of numerous articles, including some published in *Egypt Independent*. Additionally, his perspectives on international business, investment trends, and



cultural diplomacy have been featured in interviews with global media outlets such as Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, Al-Horra, and many more. Through these platforms, he has highlighted his extensive work on cross-cultural dialogue and offered perspectives on world markets and geopolitics.

Through the Shafik Gabr Social Development Foundation, Mr. Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education in Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture, and promoting sports and physical fitness for young people. In the area of higher education, he is a major supporter of the American University in Cairo (AUC). The Foundation also developed a free medical care system, providing medical caravans for residents of underprivileged areas of Greater Cairo. The Foundation established its first Medical and Social Development Center in Mokattam, Cairo, offering free medical and health services.

In 2012, Mr. Gabr established the Shafik Gabr Foundation in the U.S., which supports educational and medical initiatives and, in November 2012, launched the *East–West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative, promoting exchanges between young, emerging leaders from the U.S. and Egypt, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and bridge building. At present, the Foundation's Fellowship program has over 162 Fellows.

Mr. Gabr is recognized as one of the world's largest collectors of Orientalist art, specifically art by Orientalist traveler painters, amassing a unique and extensive collection that captures the beauty, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. His collection showcases masterpieces from the 19th and early 20th centuries, reflecting the works of prominent Orientalist painters who were captivated by the region's vibrant landscapes, traditions, and people. Through his dedication and passion for preserving and sharing these historical artworks, Mr. Gabr has significantly contributed to the nurturing of an appreciation and understanding of the Orientalist movement on a global scale.

Mr. Gabr has published 14 books on the subject of Orientalist traveler painters, the most recent in April 2026, which focuses on the work of the American Orientalist traveler painter Frederick Arthur Bridgman. The book launch in London was accompanied by an exhibition of the artist's work, with a thematic focus on the power of art to promote peace and stability.

Mr. Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.





2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies



2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

Egyptian Fellows



Abdullah Hussein

Senior Advisor for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Higher Education

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 34

Abdullah is an Egyptian entrepreneur and former UN specialist in youth mobilization. As co-founder of CairoRunners, he helped transform Egypt's sports culture and has managed global events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He now leads Upnxt Experiences and Identechs Smart Solutions, while serving as an advisor to Egypt's Minister of Higher Education.



Ingy Musallam

Junior Advisor for the Technical Education and Labor Market, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 27

Ingy is a Political Science graduate from the American University in Cairo (AUC), specializing in international cooperation and diplomacy. She has gained diverse experience through her work with the United Nations, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Currently, she serves at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Her work focuses on advancing development goals within the technical education and labour market enhancement sector.

2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

Egyptian Fellows



Lydia Kamiel

FinTech Partnerships Lead, Commercial International Bank (CIB)

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 33

Lydia has worked with more than a hundred startups across all stages, bringing extensive experience in event management, marketing, acceleration programs, and banking. Her career reflects a well-rounded perspective on the startup ecosystem, enabling her to navigate its challenges with insight and creativity. Beyond her professional pursuits, Lydia is an avid outdoor enthusiast who has completed an Ironman 70.3, cycled across Egypt, and summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.



Mahmoud Elmakawe

Digital and Public Diplomacy Officer, European Union Delegation to Egypt

Hometown: October City, Giza

Age: 32

Mahmoud is the Digital and Public Diplomacy Officer at the EU Delegation to Egypt, leading the EU's strategic communication in the country. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the American University in Cairo (AUC) and specializes in international affairs, climate action, and governance reform.



Mariam AlSherif

CEO and Co-Founder, Fame and OneFurever

Hometown: October City, Giza

Age: 29

Mariam is an Egyptian entrepreneur and founder of Fame, a creative solutions company that assists businesses achieve mission objectives. She also recently launched OneFurever, a community-based app for rescuing, adopting, and finding lost pets. Other pending ventures include projects in the pharma and agriculture industries.

2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

Egyptian Fellows



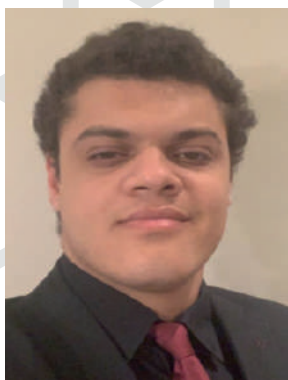
Maries Meshrequey

Senior Policy and Liaison Associate, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 28

Maries is a Master's candidate at Cairo University's Faculty of Economics and Political Science. She has built her career in public policy and development through roles across several Egyptian government organizations and, most recently, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a Policy Associate for the MENA region.



Omar El-Sheikh

Senior Business Developer, JRNY Age

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 29

Omar specializes in business development, program design, and strategic partnerships, creating impactful initiatives that foster collaboration and innovation. He is also a Lazord AUC Alumni, with experience in ecosystem building and project management.



Youssef Emam

Associate and Assistant Lecturer of Commercial Law, Matouk Bassiouny Law Firm and Ain Shams University

Hometown: Cairo

Age: 25

Youssef is a diversified legal professional with a strong academic and professional track record. He specializes in corporate and transactional matters, advising Egyptian multinationals and SMEs on navigating complex legal and regulatory challenges through practical and business-oriented solutions.

2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

American Fellows



Alphaeus Hanson

Due Diligence Lead, Transform Venture Capital

Hometown: San Francisco, California

Age: 28

Alphaeus leads due diligence workstreams for Transform Venture Capital, an early-stage deep tech blind pool fund based in San Francisco, while managing relations with the fund investors. He provides operational and advisory services to Dark Alpha Capital, an independent sponsor based in the U.S. Alphaeus is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations Young Professional Briefing series and Chair of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy Cyber and Technology working group. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Delaware.



Crystal Staebell

Senior Program Coordinator, United States Energy Association

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Age: 28

Crystal works as a Senior Program Coordinator at the United States Energy Association with the U.S. Department of Energy. She previously worked at the Bechtel Corporation and the International Association for Political Science Students while living in Belgium and Turkey. She is a member of several professional groups, such as the Council on Foreign Relations' Young Professionals Program, and she serves as the Social Chair for the Turkish-American Professional Network. She received her Master's from Bogazici University in Istanbul and her Bachelor's from American University in Washington, D.C.

2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

American Fellows



George Williams II

Inaugural Economic Recovery Corps Fellow with the U.S. Department of Commerce

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Age: 35

George leads a \$67M+ mega-site initiative integrating housing, workforce, and industrial strategy with the Fund for Our Economic Future in Ohio. He is the Founder of Diversity Global Institutes, Director at Devland Innovation, and Senior Fellow and Director of Programs at the African Legacies Institute. His career spans service at the White House, the Clinton Global Initiative, and the Markham Group, as well as fellowships with the German Marshall Fund, Mosaic Taiwan, the Pacific Forum, and the Helsinki Geo-economics School, in addition to space and nuclear policy work at the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center.



Jude Husein

Chief of State Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives, Pennsylvania State Senate

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Age: 27

Jude was born in Jerusalem and raised in North Philadelphia. She has built a strong track record in community organizing, political strategy, and advocacy. Currently pursuing her Master's degree at La Salle University, Jude serves as Chief of State Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives for the Pennsylvania State Senate, where she is the only Arab staffer in the General Assembly and serves as Deputy Executive Director of PhillyBOLT. Jude actively contributes to boards and initiatives such as Philadelphia250, City Commissioners Language Advisory Committee, and multiple community advisory committees. Named Activist of the Year by *The Philadelphia Citizen*, she is a respected leader in strategic planning and political advocacy across Pennsylvania and beyond.

2025 Gabr Fellows: Biographies

American Fellows



King Adjei-Frimpong

Executive Director, Widernet
Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts
Age: 39

King is Executive Director of Widernet, expanding education opportunities for underprivileged communities globally. He was previously Director of Stakeholder Engagement for the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas. King is a term member at the Council on Foreign Relations, an Economic Club of New York Fellow, and an Eisenhower Fellow. He received his Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, his MBA from the University of Virginia – Darden School of Business, and his Bachelor's degree from UCLA.



Kristina Arakelyan

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Service, New York University
Hometown: New York
Age: 34

Kristina is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Service at New York University. She is a long-time New Yorker who has worked for over a decade in the public and nonprofit sectors on immigration, social service, domestic violence, human trafficking, and labor policies and programs. Kristina holds graduate degrees in Eastern European studies, criminology, and public health.



Maria Clara Sherwood

Program Analyst at Department of Energy (TechSource Inc.)
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Age: 26

Clara Sherwood is a Program Analyst at the U.S. Department of Energy and a foreign affairs specialist with experience across U.S. government agencies, think tanks, and international programs. She previously worked at the U.S. Department of State and is a 2025 CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues Scholar, a former Fulbright Scholar in Morocco, and a two-time recipient of the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship in Arabic. Clara earned her graduate degree in international affairs from George Washington University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor's degree from Washington and Jefferson College. Outside of her professional work, she is a trained multi-genre vocalist and former collegiate lacrosse player.







2025 Gabr Fellowship Projects

East to West Law Society

Team: Youssef Emam

Project Overview

The East to West Law Society will establish a platform for Egyptian and American lawyers, law firms, judges, legislators, and legal societies to engage in collaborative activities.

The project activities will include:

- Creating a digital platform: Developing an interactive website and online community where legal professionals from both countries can connect, share resources, and engage in discussions.
- Publishing reports and magazines: Producing informative publications that highlight legal developments, comparative legal analysis, and case studies from both Egypt and the U.S.
- Podcasts and webinars: Organizing regular podcasts and webinars featuring prominent lawyers, judges, and legal experts from both countries to discuss legal topics, share insights, and promote cross-cultural understanding.
- Moot courts competition: Organizing an annual moot court competition that brings together law students from Egypt and the U.S. to engage in simulated legal arguments, fostering academic exchange and practical legal skills development.
- International conferences: Hosting conferences that bring together legal professionals from both countries to discuss current legal issues, exchange ideas, and establish professional networks.

The Goal

The goal of the East to West Law Society is to promote awareness, understanding, and collaboration between Egyptian and American legal professionals. By creating a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange, the project aims to bridge the gap between the two different legal systems and foster a deeper understanding of each other's legal practices, cultures, and perspectives.

The Challenge

Law plays a pivotal role in building culture among nations and fostering understanding and cooperation. It provides a framework for societies to establish norms, resolve conflicts, and ensure justice. Through legal systems, countries develop shared values and principles that shape their cultural identity. Additionally, law acts as a common language, enabling nations to engage in dialogue, collaborate on international issues, and establish treaties and agreements based on mutual understanding and respect.

The Egyptian legal system and the U.S. legal system differ in their approaches and foundations. In simple terms, the Egyptian legal system follows a civil law tradition, which is based on comprehensive codes and statutes that outline legal rules and principles. It places emphasis on written laws and relies on judges to interpret and apply them to specific cases. On the other hand, the U.S. legal system operates under a common law tradition, which relies on judicial precedent and case law. It places importance on the decisions made by judges in previous cases, which serve as binding authority for future cases.

The challenge is to bridge the gap and enhance mutual understanding between Egyptian and American legal professionals due to the differences in legal systems (civil law in Egypt and common law in the U.S.). This project aims to overcome these differences and foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and cultural understanding between legal professionals from both countries.

Population Served

The project will primarily serve Egyptian and American lawyers, law firms, law students, and legal societies. By facilitating connections and collaboration, the project will benefit legal professionals seeking to expand their networks, enhance their understanding of international legal practices, and engage in cross-cultural legal dialogue.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures: Soft power interactions, such as cultural exchanges and diplomacy, can help to increase understanding and appreciation of different cultures and ways of life.
- Improved relations between the two countries: Building bridges between American and Egyptian communities can help to improve relations between the two countries, potentially leading to increased cooperation and collaboration on a variety of issues.
- Increased economic and trade opportunities: Improved relations between the two countries could also lead to increased economic and trade opportunities, which could be beneficial for both sides.
- Greater political stability: Building bridges between American and Egyptian communities could also contribute to greater political stability in the region, as it could help to reduce tensions and conflicts between the two countries.

Project Milestones

- **Phase 1:** Establish the East to West Law Society digital platform, including website development and online community features [by December 15, 2025].
- **Phase 2:** Publish the first issue of the society's magazine and release the initial podcast episodes and webinars [by February 15, 2026].
- **Phase 3:** Organize the inaugural moot court competition and host the first international conference [by December 15, 2026].
- **Phase 4:** Expand the society's activities, diversify funding resources, increase membership, and develop partnerships with prominent legal organizations in both countries [by December 15, 2027].

Furthering the Foundation's Mission

- The East to West Law Society aligns with the Foundation's mission of sustainable bridge-building across Eastern and Western societies. By fostering understanding and collaboration between Egyptian and American legal professionals, the project promotes dialogue, cultural exchange, and mutual respect. It contributes to the Foundation's goals of fostering sustainable relationships, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and advancing the field of law within an East-West context.
- By implementing the East to West Law Society project, the Gabr Fellowship will facilitate meaningful connections, promote mutual understanding, and create a lasting impact within the legal communities of both Egypt and the United States.

Hands-On Policy Analysis

Team: Kristina Arakelyan, Egyptian Fellows working on public policy

Project Overview

Hands-On Policy Analysis is a practical training series designed to prepare public policy students in Egypt for the workforce through applied workshops and seminars. The program focuses on essential policy analysis skills (e.g. stakeholder mapping, memo writing, needs assessment, data analysis, and impact evaluation) delivered through interactive, real-world exercises.

Sessions will feature Gabr Fellow guest speakers sharing case studies from their professional experience, connecting theory with practice. Students will analyze live policy challenges, develop actionable solutions, and receive mentorship from practitioners. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic study and the applied demands of policy work.

The Goal

To strengthen the analytical, evaluative, and communication skills of Egypt's next generation of policy professionals through applied, practitioner-led training and mentorship.

The Challenge

- Aligning workshop content with diverse student backgrounds and institutional contexts.
- Adapting international policy frameworks to Egypt's specific policy environment and data constraints.
- Coordinating schedules and resources across participating universities.
- Ensuring consistent engagement from Fellows and sustaining program momentum.

Population Served

Undergraduate and graduate students studying public policy, governance, or related fields at Egyptian universities.

Expected Outcomes

- A cohort of students trained in practical policy analysis and evaluation methods.
- Stronger connections between students and policy practitioners through the Gabr Fellows network.
- Tangible student deliverables (policy memos, stakeholder maps, and evaluation frameworks).
- A replicable, Egypt-based model for applied policy training.

Project Milestones

- **Phase 1 (months 1–6):** Coordination and design;
- **Phase 2 (month 7):** Workshop implementation;
- **Phase 3 (month 8):** Reflection and dissemination: publish book, order copies (~300), launch website, and distribute.

Furthering the Foundation's Mission

The initiative advances the Gabr Foundation's mission of promoting dialogue, leadership, and collaboration between Egypt and the wider world. By bringing Fellows and students together in a practical learning environment, the project cultivates informed, capable young professionals who can apply policy tools to address Egypt's development challenges. It fosters cross-generational mentorship, strengthens local institutional capacity, and builds a foundation for continued East–West exchange grounded in shared problem solving.

A Tale of Two Capitals

Team: Crystal Staebell, Maries Meshrequey, and Clara Sherwood

Project Overview

A series of five to six think tank and educational events will be held at various institutions in Washington, D.C., and Cairo, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to exchange perspectives on key areas shaping both the United States and Egypt. Each event will explore different sectors—such as defense, energy, and art—highlighting the ways in which collaboration and understanding can bridge cultural and professional divides.

This series of events will be concluded with a contemporary photography exhibition, showcasing photographs of people interviewed in both Washington, D.C. and Cairo. The street interviews, where people are asked about their perception of life, peace, and other values, aim to showcase that, beyond possible political, economic, and cultural differences, humans across both capitals still appreciate life, peace, and happiness equally.

The Goal

- Increase Egyptian–U.S. cultural exchange given the lack of a cultural center.
- Display Egyptian and U.S. differences and similarities.
- Ensure a high attendance at these events where people come out of the discussion having learned something about U.S.–Egyptian areas for cooperation.
- Allow for networking amongst those in attendance. An event on Egypt will attract a large audience of Middle East figures and scholars, specifically Egyptians. These events, while educational, also offer a forum for networking and dialogue.

The Challenge

Reaching a mainstream audience: Making sure that we have access to contact lists of individuals potentially interested in such events to ensure that we have the attendance figures required to make this a success. Offering food or lunch as part of the event might act as a good incentive but would require additional funding. We will talk to the institutions to see what money they are willing to allocate for this. We also need to create an interactive exhibit and identify a photographer.

Expected Outcomes

This project will strengthen cross-cultural understanding and collaboration between American and Egyptian communities by fostering dialogue through policy discussions, artistic exchange, and storytelling. Participants will gain new perspectives on shared challenges and opportunities across sectors. Washington, D.C. is known for its think tank and panel discussion scene, so to create a series that highlights the areas of cooperation between Egypt and the United States has the potential to be well-received and attended.

The final exhibition and accompanying street interviews will highlight the human dimension of both societies, offering authentic portrayals of everyday life in Washington, D.C. and Cairo. The initiative will result in a network of engaged professionals, students, and artists who continue dialogue beyond the events, as well as a visual and narrative archive that captures how both nations see and relate to one another.

Project Milestones

Week 1 – Planning and scoping

- Identify key discussion topics and potential speakers across sectors (defense, energy, art).
- Determine overall budget and resource needs, including photography crew, event logistics, and exhibition materials.

Week 3 – Outreach and coordination

- Contact potential venues (GWU, MEI, American University in Cairo).
- Begin formal outreach to confirmed and prospective speakers or panelists after venue confirmation.

Week 5 – Scheduling and confirmation

- Finalize event dates and secure venue bookings.
- Confirm participation of speakers and collaborators.

Week 7 – Communication and logistics

- Review finalized schedule with all partners.
- Maintain ongoing correspondence with venues, speakers, and the photography team to ensure alignment.

Week 9 – Final preparation and execution

- Fine-tune event details, promotional materials, and technical logistics.
- Begin initial stages of the photography and interview project.
- Prepare for the culminating exhibition and accompanying discussions.

Bridging Voices: A Cross-Cultural Podcast between Egypt and the United States

Team: Mahmoud Elmakawe and George Williams II

Project Overview

Bridging Voices is a podcast series dedicated to exploring cultural similarities and differences between Egypt and the United States through honest, youth-centered dialogue. Each 45 to 60-minute episode will feature one Egyptian and one American guest—ranging from students, artists, entrepreneurs, and young professionals—engaging in open discussions on topics such as identity, education, social change, traditions, and innovation.

The podcast will be produced in both English and Arabic (with subtitles or translated highlights), and distributed across major digital platforms including Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Podcasts. The project will begin as a pilot season of six episodes, later expanding with sponsorships and institutional partnerships.

The Goal

To foster a deeper understanding between young Egyptians and Americans by providing a platform for authentic storytelling and dialogue that highlights shared human experiences, challenges misconceptions, and builds bridges of respect and cooperation. The podcast aims to encourage curiosity, empathy, and collaboration among youth, inspiring them to become active contributors to cross-cultural understanding.

The Challenge

Despite increased global connectivity, cultural misconceptions and stereotypes between Egyptians and Americans still persist—often reinforced by limited exposure to authentic dialogue, as well as media narratives that highlight differences more than shared values. With youth increasingly shaping the future of both societies, there is a pressing need to create meaningful, accessible conversations that promote empathy, understanding, and collaboration across borders.

Population Served

The primary target audience will be young people aged 18–28 in both Egypt and the United States, including university students, young professionals, and digital-native audiences who consume educational and cultural content online.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced cultural understanding: Listeners will gain deeper insights into the values, challenges, and perspectives of youth in both countries.
- Stronger people-to-people connections: Personal stories and shared experiences will foster empathy and humanize cultural narratives.
- Empowered youth dialogue: The podcast will inspire young audiences to participate in cross-cultural discussions and creative collaborations.

Project Milestones

Weeks 1–2:

- Research and identify potential guests (Egyptian and American youth leaders, creatives, or changemakers).
- Finalize podcast name, branding, and theme music.
- Develop episode structure and visual identity.

Weeks 3–4:

- Record pilot episode.
- Set up digital platforms (Spotify, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok for snippets and engagement).
- Design promotional materials.

Weeks 5–6:

- Record remaining five episodes.
- Begin outreach to potential sponsors and cultural institutions for future funding and expansion.

Weeks 7–8:

- Edit and produce episodes with subtitles and short clips for social media promotion.
- Launch and promote the podcast online.

Weeks 9–10:

- Evaluate audience feedback and engagement metrics.
- Prepare final report and presentation for the Shafik Gabr Foundation, including recommendations for next season's development.

Furthering the Foundation's Mission

By promoting dialogue between East and West, the podcast will further the Fellowship's vision of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Rihla Retreats

Team: Mariam El Sherif and King Adjei-Frimpong

Project Overview

Rihla Retreats is an international wellness brand creating bespoke, all-inclusive retreats in Egypt and the United States, merging wellness, art, and heritage. The concept bridges Eastern and Western healing philosophies, offering a rejuvenating space for leaders, innovators, and high-performing individuals seeking balance, recovery, and clarity. Rihla's purpose is to provide transformative experiences that integrate ancient practices and modern science, while fostering cross-cultural connection and personal growth.

The Goal

To launch Rihla's first world-class wellness retreat by Q2 2026, creating a model that can be replicated internationally. The ultimate aim is to establish Rihla as a premium cross-cultural wellness brand, uniting global leaders in environments that inspire healing, creativity, and transformation.

The Challenge

- Legal structuring: Determining whether to incorporate in Egypt, the U.S., or both (so far Egypt).
- Site selection: Identifying and securing three or four high-end locations in each country.
- KPI challenge: Reaching the ultimate target audience and gathering a data base.
- Market entry: Breaking into a competitive global wellness and hospitality market.
- Operational logistics: Managing cross-border operations and ensuring seamless guest experience across different time zones and cultures.

Project Milestones

Phase 1: Research and planning

- Identify retreat sites in Egypt and the U.S.; define guest personas; develop brand IP and digital assets.
- Timeline: Q4 2025–Q1 2026

Phase 2: Pilot retreat development

- Design retreat structure, finalize partnerships with resorts/hotels, and test prototype programs.
- Timeline: Q2 2026

Phase 3: Launch

- Officially launch the first Rihla Signature Wellness Retreat.
- Timeline: Q2–Q3 2026

Phase 4: Brand expansion

- Build partnerships with global wellness organizations, develop corporate retreat offerings, and expand into additional destinations.
- Timeline: Q4 2026–2027

Phase 5: Growth and evaluation

- Review performance, optimize pricing, and strengthen brand presence across media and luxury markets.
- Timeline: 2027 onward

Through My Eyes: An Arab American Journey

Team: Alphaeus Hanson and Jude Husein

Project Overview

This project is a short autobiographical book and accompanying exhibit chronicling the life of an Arab American, Arab Palestinian through a collection of short stories, poems, and photographs. Told through personal reflections, the work captures the intersections of identity, culture, and public service—presenting a mosaic of experiences shaped by community, resilience, and belonging.

The Goal

The book will contain between 100 and 150 pages of short stories, poems, and ten curated photographs divided into thematic sections: Roots and Identity—early life, family, and cultural grounding; Public Service—time in state government, civic engagement, and leadership; Community and Organizing—grassroots work, advocacy, and coalition building; Life in Philadelphia—reflections on home, place, and everyday moments of connection.

- The prose will be written in a reflective, narrative tone that balances personal storytelling with cultural commentary and poetic introspection.
- The exhibit will serve as a living extension of the book—an immersive storytelling space that invites audiences to experience the writing through visual, textual, and emotional layers.
- Presentation: Excerpts from short stories and poems will be displayed alongside the curated photographs—each pairing evoking a particular theme, moment, or emotion from the author's journey.
- Design: The exhibit will feature mixed-media elements, such as framed text panels, projection, or audio recordings of readings, and ambient soundscapes inspired by key places (like the hum of Philadelphia streets or echoes of community gatherings).
- Experience: Visitors will move through the exhibit as though walking through chapters of the book, engaging with both the written and visual narratives that explore identity, displacement, resilience, and belonging.

The Challenge

Often under-represented groups in the United States, such as Arab Americans, do not have country-specific forums in which to share their experiences. There is insufficient opportunity to both share and receive accounts from youth with similar cultural and ancestral backgrounds. When opportunities like these do arise, they do not coalesce perspectives in one format with a common theme and do not sustain the connection forum particularly for youth.

Population Served

Throughout the Fellowship program, and in our discourse with youth in the Arab world (and across the globe), we've come to realize that young professionals want to expand their intellectual horizons through cultural exposure to the perspectives of Arabs and Americans in the United States. The population served through this initiative would be young professionals in Egypt and Arab Americans in the United States who want to incorporate global perspectives into the work that they do in business, politics, academia, and civil society.

Project Milestones

- **Phase 1:** Six bi-monthly articles capturing our perspectives on three different components of our engagement (such as professional, personal, and extracurricular).
- **Phase 2:** Create and aggregate material for the book.
- **Phase 3:** Conduct virtual and in-person events to galvanize support for the publishing of the book and to provide access to the stories of the author and Fellowship team. This is akin to a pre-book tour.
- **Phase 4:** Publish the book and launch promotional media campaign in U.S. and Egypt markets.

Expected Outcomes

- Completed manuscript for publication and/or digital release.
- Curated selection of ten photographs for inclusion in both the book and exhibit.
- Exhibit design plan, including layout, captions, and multimedia integration.
- Promotional materials and concept statement for exhibition launch.

Furthering the Foundation's Mission

Through authoring the book and the creation of fora for expression, we will convene the audiences necessary to achieve cross-cultural dialogue on issues pertinent to youth in the United States and Egypt. The book will tell the story of Arab Americans, and the events will provide opportunities for our target audience to share their reflections on the book and perspectives from their places in both countries.

Building Inclusive Communities in Egypt: Exploring the Starfire Model

Team: Ingy Musallam

Project Overview

Starfire Council, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, works to build inclusive communities by connecting people with disabilities to their neighbors, local organizations, and shared experiences. Its model emphasizes person-centered relationships and the power of everyday connections to reduce isolation and foster inclusion. The organization's impact has grown through partnerships, storytelling, and community engagement.

This project will explore how the community-building approach of Starfire Council can be adapted and expanded to Egypt. Working in collaboration with Alen Amini (Gabr Fellow 2022), the project will build on Starfire's experience in creating inclusive communities and promoting belonging among people with disabilities. The goal is to begin learning how these ideas and practices could take shape in Egyptian contexts, focusing on collaboration, inclusion, and community connection.

The Goal

- To learn about Starfire's key principles and practices and explore how they could translate to the Egyptian context.
- Engage Egyptian stakeholders, such as local NGOs, community organizations, and families, to understand existing inclusion efforts.
- Co-develop a framework for a possible pilot or partnership that promotes social inclusion and community connection in Egypt.

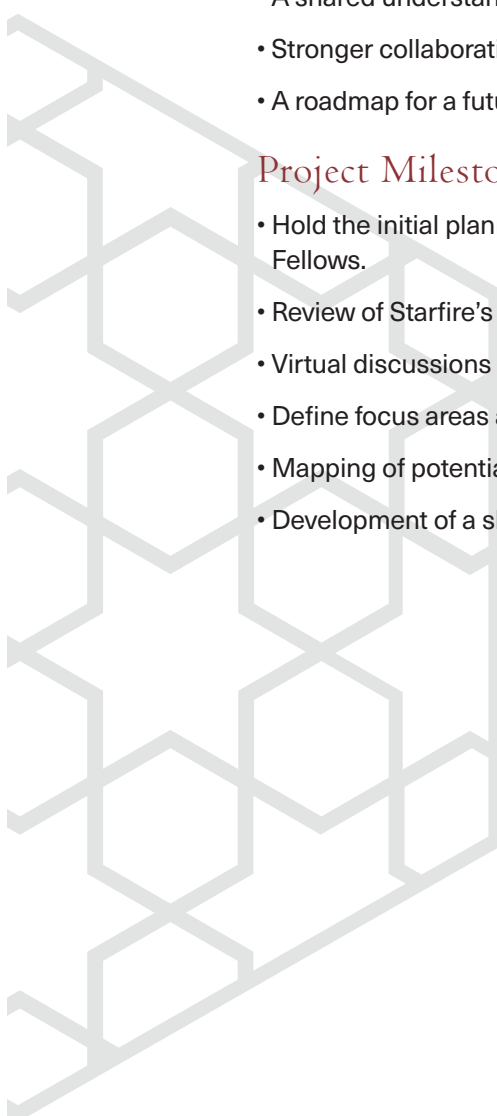
The Challenge

This project will use Starfire's work as inspiration for cross-cultural learning. Egypt has a rich tradition of community life and social solidarity, yet inclusion of people with disabilities remains an ongoing challenge. By learning from Starfire's model, the project aims to spark dialogue and identify locally relevant approaches to inclusive community development.



Expected Outcomes

- A shared understanding of how Starfire's inclusive community model could be adapted to Egypt.
- Stronger collaboration between U.S. and Egyptian changemakers.
- A roadmap for a future pilot or partnership promoting inclusion and belonging in Egyptian communities.



Project Milestones

- Hold the initial planning meeting with Alen Amini and collaborative meetings between 2025 and 2022 Gabr Fellows.
- Review of Starfire's programs, materials, and community engagement strategies.
- Virtual discussions and exchange with Starfire's team in the United States.
- Define focus areas and roles for collaboration.
- Mapping of potential local partners, community sites, and opportunities in Egypt.
- Development of a short concept paper outlining next steps for a future pilot project

The Game Changer Program: Bridging Gaps and Building Futures through Sports

Team: Abdullah Hussein

Potential team members: King Adjei, George Williams, Clara Sherwood, and Lydia Kamiel

Project Overview

Egypt's young population represents immense potential, yet traditional educational systems often fail to develop holistic life skills, resilience, and awareness. This gap is especially visible in sports, where raw talent frequently goes underdeveloped.

Sports teach discipline, teamwork, resilience, and strategic thinking. They transcend social and economic barriers, uniting communities and fostering life skills as a development tool.

The Game Changer Program leverages this power, creating a dual-track platform that combines holistic youth development with elite athletic advancement. Through structured training, mentorship, and educational support, the program nurtures future leaders and world-class athletes using a public-private partnership model:

- Partner ministries (Ministry of Youth and Sports) ensure alignment with national policies and provide facilities in any governorates needed.
- Private sector engagement brings investment, expertise, and innovation.
- Risks are shared, creating a mutual incentive for success, while diversified income streams (sponsorships, development sector efforts, partnerships, and in-kind contributions) secure long-term operation and sustainability.

The program should provide sponsorship for top tier underprivileged athletes inspired by the Fellowship.

The Goal

The primary goal is to develop a pathway for Egyptian youth to excel in sports and life skills, culminating in at least one male and one female athlete qualifying for the 2030 Youth Olympic Games.

Secondary Goals:

- Establish world-class, inclusive academies.
- Integrate Egypt-U.S. knowledge exchange in sports science, sports psychology, and proper physical conditioning to avoid young age and chronic injuries.
- Scale sports-for-development initiatives into a cohesive national network.
- Promote sustainable funding via sponsorships, development sector efforts, partnerships, and in-kind contributions.
- Inspire youth through athlete ambassadors and community engagement campaigns.

The Challenge

- Unequal access to sports facilities and training, especially in rural areas.
- Parental and community concerns prioritizing academics over sports.
- Ensuring inclusivity for athletes with disabilities as well as underserved communities.
- Sustaining long-term motivation and physical conditioning.
- Integrating existing sports-for-development initiatives under a unified framework.
- Unequal access to sports facilities and training, especially in rural areas.
- Parental and community concerns prioritizing academics over sports.
- Ensuring inclusivity for athletes with disabilities as well as underserved communities.
- Sustaining long-term motivation and physical conditioning.
- Integrating existing sports-for-development initiatives under a unified framework.

Population Served

- Elite Track: Eight sponsored athletes (one male and one female per sport: handball, karate, athletics, speedball), aged 12–15 at the age of selection and U20 by 2030; 20% with disabilities.
- Holistic Development Track: Youth aged 12–18, emphasizing underserved communities.

Expected Outcomes

- Direct pathway for eight Egyptian athletes to qualify for the 2030 Youth Olympics.
- Sustainable Egypt–U.S. knowledge exchange in sports science and psychology.
- World-class inclusive training academies serving as national models.
- Enhanced global recognition for Egyptian sports.
- Thousands of young people gain life skills, resilience, and civic engagement.
- Long-term program sustainability through sponsorships, partnerships, and academy fees.
- Unified sports-for-social-change network amplifying impact.
- Marketing and visibility through athlete ambassadors, tournaments, and media partnerships.

The Game Changer Program: Bridging Gaps and Building Futures through Sports (continued)

Project Milestones

Milestone 1: Talent Scouting and Program Foundation (months 1–6)

- Nationwide search for elite athletes and broader academy recruitment.
- National marketing and selection events across governorates.
- Early engagement of parents and community leaders to build trust.
- Digital tracking systems for registration and progress.

Outcomes: Pipeline for elite athletes, community awareness, and early investment credibility.

Challenges and solutions: Low rural awareness addressed through partnerships with schools, youth centers, and digital campaigns.

Milestone 2: Fusion Training and Social Change Integration (months 7–18)

- Intensive multi-disciplinary training combining:
 - Egyptian technical coaching;
 - U.S. expertise in sports psychology, conditioning, and performance analytics.
- Holistic workshops: mental well-being, nutrition, English learning, civic engagement.
- Native Sports Exchange: Lacrosse (USA) and Speed-Ball (Egypt).
- Integration of existing sports-for-development initiatives under one national network.
- Mixed-age and mixed-skill teams for peer learning.

Outcomes: Cohesive network of initiatives, holistic youth development, and international knowledge transfer.

Challenges and solutions: Academic priority concerns addressed by integrating educational support within the program.

Milestone 3: Pathway to 2030 Youth Olympics and Age Cohort Progression (years 2–5)

- Continuous high-performance training and competition cycles for elite athletes.
- Regular exchange programs with U.S. sports institutes.
- Mid-term evaluation at year 3 for athletic, educational, and well-being outcomes.

Outcomes: Qualification of at least one male and one female athlete for the Youth Olympics; refined athlete development framework; sustained Egypt–U.S. collaboration.

Challenges and solutions: Motivation maintained via structured goal-setting, mentorship, and national recognition events.

Next Steps

1. Stakeholder analysis: Map ministries, private partners, NGOs, and community leaders.
2. Project team assembly: Recruit experts in sports, education, finance, operations, and marketing.
3. Responsibility matrix (RACI Chart): Clarify roles and decision-making authority.
4. Kick-off meeting: Align partners on vision, objectives, milestones, and communication.
5. Operational plan and budget: Detailed phased plan with resources and timelines.
6. Partnership agreements: Formalize collaborations through MoUs and contracts.

North Africa and Red Sea (NARS) Brief

Team: George D. Williams II and Omar El-Sheikh

Project Overview

The North Africa and Red Sea (NARS) Brief is a compact, policy-relevant initiative designed to fill a gap repeatedly identified by Mr. Gabr and multiple expert speakers during the Fellowship: the lack of a sustained, credible platform delivering North African and Red Sea regional perspectives directly into U.S. policy and analytical spaces.

Rather than building a new institution from scratch, the NARS Brief leverages existing assets—particularly the Gabr Foundation newsletter, its global network, and Egypt's position as a diplomatic/geoeconomic anchor. The platform will deliver two products:

- A monthly memo (600–900 words): Synthesizing regionally significant developments, centered on Egypt, with rotating country coverage including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Djibouti.
- An on-the-ground note (300–500 words): A lived-experience reflection from a regional practitioner, academic, or entrepreneur. Notes may be anonymized.

In addition, the Brief will be supported by quarterly micro-convenings in Washington, D.C. (and Cairo, potentially), providing off-the-record exchanges among policymakers, scholars, business leaders, and journalists.

This project is intentionally lean, achievable, and impactful, and directly aligns with the Gabr Fellowship's mission to transform dialogue into action.

The Goal

To establish a sustained, credible, practitioner-led channel that brings authentic North African and Red Sea regional insights to U.S. and transatlantic decision-makers, thereby strengthening policy understanding, encouraging more balanced narratives, and amplifying voices that are often overlooked in traditional foreign-policy ecosystems.

More concretely, the project aims to:

- Embed a recurring North Africa-centered briefing into the Gabr Foundation newsletter.
- Deliver analysis that is actionable, balanced, and timely for policy windows.
- Elevate Egyptian and regional expertise into Washington, D.C./U.S. circles.
- Foster ongoing micro-convenings that deepen cross-border understanding.
- Create a foundation for possible scale into a formal report or regional platform.

The Challenge

1. Narrative Gaps and Under-representation

North African perspectives (especially Egyptian, Maghreb, and Red Sea perspectives) are persistently under-represented in Washington and European policy conversations. Bridging this gap requires consistent, credible content and trusted distribution.

2. Cross-Border Coordination

Operating across Egypt, North Africa, and U.S. policy circles requires coordination across time zones, institutions, and professional cultures.

3. Protection of Contributors

Some contributors may need anonymity given political sensitivities in their home countries.

4. Maintaining Quality and Consistency

Producing concise, high-quality monthly analysis and curating diverse regional voices requires organized workflows and editorial oversight.

5. Limited Resources

Running this pilot cost-effectively while sustaining momentum will require careful scoping, prioritization, and reliance on in-kind support.

Project Milestones

Phase 1: Foundation and Pilot Launch (month 1)

- Issue 1: first Monthly Memo, plus On-the-Ground Note embedded in Gabr newsletter.
- Feedback cycle and refinement (with input from Gabr Fellows, selected speakers).
- Mapping of regional lenses (Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya).
- Development of advisory circle aligned with the Fellowship network.

Phase 2: Expansion of Monthly Products (months 2–3)

- Monthly Memo #2 and #3, and two additional On-the-Ground Notes.
- Finalization of annotation, visual structure, and branding for consistency.
- Begin reposting (optional) on Substack or Medium for increased accessibility.

Phase 3: First Micro-Convening (month 3)

- Host first D.C. micro-convening at Howard University's Ralph Bunche Center.
- Off-the-record roundtable framed around a core theme such as: "North Africa in a Red Sea World: Egypt, Maghreb, and Djibouti during Geopolitical Flux."
- Participants: CSIS, World Bank, AUC, academia, journalists, Gabr Fellows, etc.
- Summary note used only internally to shape future issues.

Phase 4: Evaluation and Scale Planning (month 4 and beyond)

- Assessment of what resonated with policymakers.
- Trajectory plan (e.g. quarterly PDF report, editorial board, regional partnerships).
- Begin outreach to potential supporters for Phase 2.
- Submit summary and recommendations to the Gabr Foundation.





2025 Gabr Fellowship Speakers



2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Ahmad Dallal

Dr. Ahmad Dallal, AUC's 13th president, is an accomplished academic leader and renowned scholar with U.S. and regional higher educational expertise. Dr. Dallal is the former dean of Georgetown University in Qatar and has served as provost at the American University of Beirut (AUB) from 2009 to 2015. His leadership has driven institutional reforms, increased scholarly output, and expanded student diversity. A prominent scholar of Islamic studies, he has taught at Smith College, Yale University, Stanford University, AUB, and Georgetown University, where he also served as Chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies. Dr. Dallal holds a BE in mechanical engineering from AUB and a Master's and Doctorate in Islamic studies from Columbia University.

Dr. Ahmed Darwish

Dr. Ahmed Darwish is a prominent Egyptian academic, consultant, and statesman specializing in computer engineering and digital governance. He earned his engineering degrees from Cairo University before completing his doctoral studies at the University of California, Davis. As a career educator, he served for many years as a Professor of Computer Engineering at Cairo University. From 2004 to 2011, he served as Egypt's Minister of State for Administrative Development, leading the nation's foundational e-government initiative. Under his tenure, Egypt's digital public services achieved significant international recognition, ranking twenty-third globally in the 2010 United Nations report. He was later appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone from 2015 to 2017. In this high-level role, he established the strategic regulatory frameworks and master investment plans for six major maritime ports. Beyond public office, Dr. Darwish acts as an international policy consultant for global organizations including the World Bank and the United Nations. He also serves as an independent board director for major financial and corporate institutions, including Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Egypt.

H.E. Ahmed Issa

H.E. Ahmed Issa served Egypt as former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, appointed from 2022 to 2024 after a distinguished career in banking and finance. Beginning at Commercial International Bank (CIB Egypt) in 1993, he rose through leadership roles, including CEO of Retail Banking, Group CFO, and Managing Director at CI Capital. He has also chaired Corplease and Falcon Group, and served on the boards of EGYPTAIR Holding, ITIDA, and the Trade Development Authority. As Minister, he applied a results-driven, finance-oriented approach to modernize Egypt's tourism ecosystem, strengthen investment, and enhance visitor experiences to global standards. His leadership combines financial acumen, strategic vision, and cross-sector collaboration, positioning Egypt as a premier global destination while advancing its economic development.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Mr. Ahmed El Alfi

Mr. Ahmed El Alfi is the Founder and Chairman of Sawari Ventures, a leading Cairo-based venture capital firm established in 2010 that invests in high-impact businesses across Egypt and the MENA region. He is also the co-founder of Flat6Labs, one of the region's most prominent startup accelerators, and the founder of Nafham, an online educational platform, as well as The Greek Campus, a major innovation hub in downtown Cairo. Previously, he served as CEO of EFG Hermes Private Equity and founded Hybrid Capital Partners in 1990, successfully backing and exiting several ventures. Named by Fast Company as one of the world's most creative people, Mr. El Alfi has helped build Egypt's startup ecosystem by mobilizing significant capital—such as a \$71 million fund for Egyptian tech startups—and mentoring more than 30 portfolio companies, including SWVL, Instabug, and Si-Ware. His vision emphasizes impact-driven investment, digital transformation, and job creation through entrepreneurship.

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim is the Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), the world's largest archaeological museum dedicated to a single civilization. Previously, he served as CEO of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC). With extensive experience in museum leadership, cultural policy, and heritage management, he has been central to preparing GEM for its full opening. His vision is to establish the museum as a global cultural hub, advancing research, education, sustainability, and international partnerships while making Egypt's heritage accessible to both local and global audiences.

H.E. Badr Abdel Atty

Minister Badr Abdel Atty was appointed Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs in July 2024, following the merger with the Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs. A veteran diplomat, he has over three decades of experience representing Egypt in Europe, the United States, Asia, and the Middle East. He previously served on the European Union (2022–2024) and as Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany (2015–2019). Earlier, he held several senior leadership positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson/Director of Public Diplomacy, Deputy Assistant Minister for EU and Western Europe Affairs, National Coordinator for the Union for the Mediterranean, and Director of Palestinian Affairs. His diplomatic postings also included Washington, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, and Brussels, where he worked on political, regional, and peace-process issues.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Farid Fadel

Dr. Farid Fadel is an accomplished ophthalmologist, painter, author, and musician, often described as a true Renaissance man. A celebrated naturalist painter, he has held more than 60 solo exhibitions worldwide, with works showcased across Egypt, Europe, the United States, Africa, and the Gulf. His art, known for its detail and emotional resonance, captures Egyptian landscapes, daily life, and especially the struggles and spirit of displaced Nubian communities. He has been honored internationally, including receiving the Pope's Medal from the Vatican, and his works reside in museums, embassies, and private collections globally. He has also authored four books. Dr. Fadel blends medical precision with artistic and musical sensitivity, creating a legacy that bridges science, culture, and humanity.

Ambassador Gamal Roushdy

Ambassador Gamal Roushdy is a senior Egyptian diplomat currently serving as the official spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the Arab League. He assumed this high-profile position in May 2022 after being appointed by Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit. Before this role, Ambassador Roushdy built an extensive diplomatic career within the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds the formal rank of Ambassador and is an alumnus of Cairo University. As chief spokesperson, he acts as the primary voice communicating the Arab League's unified position. He regularly briefs international media on critical regional crises, including the conflicts in Gaza and Sudan. His statements frequently address vital issues regarding Middle Eastern security, state sovereignty, and maritime safety. Additionally, he manages communication strategies for major multilateral events like the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. Through these duties, Roushdy plays a pivotal role in shaping public and global perceptions of Arab diplomacy.

Dr. Hany Nematallah

Dr. Hany Nematallah is an Egyptian Senator and currently serves as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee under the National Front Party. He plays a leading role in shaping Egypt's foreign diplomacy and international engagement through his oversight of legislative foreign affairs. In his capacity as Committee Chair, Dr. Nematallah guides parliamentary discussions on Egypt's external policies, bilateral agreements, and global partnerships. Through his position, he contributes to bridging Egypt's domestic legislative processes with its international objectives and strategic alliances.

H.E. Hassan El Khatib

H.E. Hassan El Khatib was appointed Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade in July 2024, bringing over two decades of global financial and investment expertise into public service. He previously served as Managing Director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), where he oversaw an equity portfolio of \$8 to \$10 billion across 38 countries, delivering landmark exits exceeding \$6 billion. He also held senior roles at The Carlyle Group (MENA) and EFG Hermes Private Equity, with leadership across sectors including energy, infrastructure, real estate, and technology.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

H.E. Ambassador Herro Mustafa

H.E. Herro Mustafa is the United States Ambassador to Egypt, appointed in 2023 after a distinguished diplomatic career across the globe. She previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, where she deepened cooperation on security, energy, and governance, and has held senior roles as Deputy Chief of Mission in Portugal, Political Minister-Counsellor in India, and Senior Advisor for Middle East Affairs to Vice President Joe Biden. Ambassador Mustafa also served at the National Security Council and as Special Assistant to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, shaping U.S. policy at pivotal moments. Her personal journey from refugee to senior diplomat embodies resilience and public service, and today she leads U.S. engagement with Egypt to strengthen strategic ties, regional stability, and cultural dialogue.

Mr. Hisham El-Khazindar

Mr. Hisham El-Khazindar is a prominent Egyptian financier and entrepreneur who co-founded Qalaa Holdings in 2004. He currently serves as the Managing Director of the firm, which has become a leading investment company in Africa and the Middle East. Before this milestone, he built a robust foundational career in investment banking at EFG Hermes. He also gained vital international experience through a secondment to Goldman Sachs in London. Mr. El-Khazindar earned his Bachelor's degree from the American University in Cairo (AUC) before completing an MBA at Harvard Business School. He now serves as a dedicated trustee on the Board of Directors at AUC. Additionally, his corporate influence extends to serving on the boards of major regional companies including Elsewedy Electric and MAGRABi Retail. He also dedicates time to philanthropic and economic development initiatives, including serving as a trustee for the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt.

Ambassador Hisham Moustafa Badr

Ambassador Hisham Moustafa Badr is a distinguished Egyptian diplomat and strategic leader with advanced degrees in Political Science and International Relations from Oxford University and the American University in Cairo (AUC). He currently serves as Assistant Minister for Strategic Partnerships at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, where he coordinates national smart green projects and oversees the Egypt Government Excellence Award. A former Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, he has held numerous senior roles in multilateral diplomacy. His work reflects a strong commitment to sustainability, public-sector excellence, and advancing Egypt's long-term development goals.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Hossam Badrawi

Dr. Hossam Badrawi is a distinguished Egyptian physician, academic, politician, and intellectual who has left a significant mark on Egypt's healthcare, education, and political landscapes. He graduated with honors from Cairo University's Kasr El Aini School of Medicine in 1974 before pursuing postgraduate medical and educational studies in the United States. As a prominent medical figure, he served as a professor and chaired the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cairo University. He is also widely recognized as a healthcare trailblazer, having established the well-known Nile Badrawi Hospital in Cairo. In the political arena, he chaired the Education Committee in the Egyptian Parliament from 2000 to 2005. He famously served as the final Secretary-General of the National Democratic Party during the critical last days of the January 25 Revolution in 2011, notably advising President Mubarak to step down before resigning himself. Following the revolution, he co-founded the Union Party and dedicated himself to civil society. He leads several impactful NGOs, including the Takatof Association for building schools, and the Education First Foundation for training teachers. Additionally, he is a prolific author and artist, regularly publishing on politics, philosophy, and education reform.

Ambassador Hussein Fahmy

Ambassador Hussein Fahmy is an internationally acclaimed actor, cultural icon, and humanitarian leader whose career spans more than five decades in Egyptian and Arab cinema. As the current President of the Cairo International Film Festival, he revitalized one of the region's most prestigious artistic platforms, expanding its global reach and advocating for the preservation of Egyptian film heritage. Off-screen, Ambassador Fahmy has been a dedicated humanitarian, serving as the UNDP Regional Goodwill Ambassador for the Arab States (1998–2006) and as Global Ambassador for the Special Olympics, where he has championed inclusion, human development, and the rights of people with disabilities. His unique blend of artistic excellence and humanitarian advocacy has made him a symbol of Egypt's cultural influence worldwide.

Mr. Ibrahim Hamouda

Mr. Ibrahim Hamouda is a seasoned business consultant with expertise in strategy, advisory, and international collaboration. He is prominently associated with Greek House Davos, where he contributes to high-level discussions connecting businesses, innovation, and diplomacy. His work bridges regional markets and global networks, helping organizations navigate complex environments and scale impact. Mr. Hamouda's strategic insight and cross-border perspective make him a key voice at forums and business consortia alike. As well as this, he is also a former 2017 Fellow participating in the Shafik Gabr Foundation Fellowship program.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Marianne A. Azer

Dr. Marianne A. Azer is an Associate Professor and Director of the Information Center at Egypt's National Telecommunication Institute (NTI), with extensive expertise in wireless communication security, cloud computing, and IoT privacy. She previously served as Advisor and Deputy to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Strategic Initiatives and served as a Member of Parliament (2016–2021), where she also chaired the Youth and Women Committee at the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP). With more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and numerous national and international awards, Dr. Azer is recognized for advancing ICT policy, engineering education, and secure digital frameworks. Her career bridges academic research, technology governance, and public leadership, championing youth and women's engagement in shaping the future of inclusive and secure digital societies.

Dr. May El Batran

Dr. May El Batran is an Egyptian leader in education, development, and public policy. She served as a Member of Parliament (2015–2020), becoming the youngest founding Chair of the Communications and Information Committee. She is the Founder of the Dr. May El Batran Foundation for Sustainable Development, and Managing Director of TMA Development, Training and Consulting. With a background in pharmacy and a PhD in technology and development, she advocates for education reform, women's empowerment, and digital transformation in Egypt and the Arab region.

Dr. Mohamed Abou-Zeid

Dr. Mohamed Abou-Zeid is a Professor of Construction at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Dr. Abou-Zeid received his PhD from the University of Kansas in 1994 with honors. He joined AUC in 1997 as a full-time faculty member. He has held several positions at AUC, including the Chair of the University Senate, the Chair of the Academic Integrity Council, and the Chair of the Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering. Dr. Abou-Zeid is currently the elected Chairman of the board of the International Center for Academic Integrity in Clemson University. He served as the Chair of the Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering from 2008 until February 2015. He has also served as a board member of Egypt's First National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education (NAQAAE).

Dr. Mohamed Kamal

Dr. Mohamed Kamal is a Professor of Political Science at Cairo University and Director of the Center for the Study of Developing Countries. A leading scholar and public intellectual, he has served in Egypt's Shura Council, contributing to the Education and Youth Committee, and sits on several government and advisory bodies. Dr. Kamal is also a prolific writer, publishing weekly columns in *Al-Masry Al-Youm* and *Al-Ahram*, where he provides analysis on Egyptian politics, governance reform, and foreign policy. His career bridges academia, policy, and public engagement, with a vision to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and Egypt's constructive role in regional and global affairs.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

General (Retired) Mohamed El Keshky

General Mohamed El Keshky is a distinguished Egyptian military leader who concluded his service as Assistant Minister of Defense for External Affairs, where he spearheaded Egypt's defense diplomacy and international relations. Earlier in his career, he commanded an artillery battalion during Operation Desert Storm (1991) and went on to represent Egypt as Deputy Defense Attaché in London and later as Defense Attaché in Washington, D.C. (2009–2013), where he was elected Dean of the Military Attaché Corps, representing over 170 nations. His contributions have been recognized with high honors, including Egypt's Order of the Republic and the U.S. Legion of Merit (2013)—a distinction awarded to him as the only Egyptian foreign national to receive it. Renowned for his expertise in military strategy and defense diplomacy, General El Keshky is widely respected for strengthening Egypt's global partnerships and advancing international security cooperation.

H.E. Mohamed El Orabi

H.E. Mohamed El Orabi is a veteran Egyptian diplomat and statesman with more than four decades of service. He joined the Egyptian Foreign Service in 1976, holding key postings in Washington, London, Kuwait, and Israel, where he later served as Deputy Chief of Mission (1994–1998), before becoming Egypt's Ambassador to Germany (2001–2008) and Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs. In June 2011, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, and in 2015 was elected to Parliament, where he chaired the Foreign Relations Committee. Currently, he serves as President of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) and Chairman of its Executive Committee, while also contributing to several national think tanks and advisory bodies. Widely recognized for his work in economic diplomacy and international relations, H.E. Mohamed El Orabi has played a central role in strengthening Egypt's ties with major global partners.

Dr. Mona Makram-Ebeid

Dr. Mona Makram-Ebeid is a leading Egyptian public figure, academic, and policy advisor with decades of service in politics, human rights, and education. She served as a Senator in the Egyptian Shoura Council (2012–2013) and chaired the Committee of Social Rights at the National Council on Human Rights. She has advised international organizations including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Bank, and Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. A Distinguished Lecturer at the American University in Cairo (AUC) since 1990, she also teaches at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi and other universities. She has been a visiting scholar at Harvard, MIT, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and lectured at leading institutions worldwide. A prolific writer and media commentator, she is fluent in English, French, Arabic, and Italian. She has received many honors, including the French Legion of Honour and the AUC Distinguished Alumni Award.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Mariam Ayad

Dr. Mariam Ayad is Associate Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She previously served as a tenured Associate Professor of Art History and Egyptology at the University of Memphis, where she also held the position of Assistant Director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (2003–2010). Her teaching covers Middle and Late Egyptian grammar and literature, Coptic, Nubian cultures, women in temple ritual, and ancient Egyptian history. She directs the Opening of the Mouth Epigraphic Project at the Tomb of Harwa (TT 37) in Luxor and serves as a peer reviewer for several leading journals and AUC Press. Dr. Ayad earned her MA in Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations from the University of Toronto (1996) and her PhD in Egyptology from Brown University, where her dissertation focused on funerary texts, the Third Intermediate Period, and women in temple hierarchies.

Dr. Noha Abou-Khatwa

Dr. Noha Abou-Khatwa is a scholar of Islamic art, manuscript culture, and Mamluk architecture, with a PhD in Islamic Art and Material Culture and an MA in Islamic Art and Architecture from the American University in Cairo (AUC). Her research explores Arabic calligraphy, manuscript illumination, codicology, and the intellectual history of Islamic arts, with a particular focus on the artistic exchanges between manuscript design and architectural decoration. She has led major conservation and heritage initiatives, including directing projects at the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation and heading the Dar al-Kutub Manuscript Conservation Project in Cairo. She also founded the Islamic Art Network, one of the earliest digital humanities initiatives dedicated to Cairo's Islamic art and architecture.

Dr. Noha Bakr

Dr. Noha Bakr is a professor and adjunct faculty member at the American University in Cairo (AUC), teaching courses on international organizations, human rights, and gender issues. She previously served as Assistant to Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation for the Americas Sector and has held senior leadership roles, including Communications and Corporate Affairs Director at Lafarge Egypt and Executive Director of the Cement Division at the Federation of Egyptian Industries. She sits on the advisory boards for several leading institutions, including the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies, the Kemet Boutros Ghali Foundation for Peace and Knowledge, and the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs. Bridging academia, public service, and the private sector, Dr. Bakr is recognized for her contributions to diplomacy, human rights, civil society, and security policy, with a vision focused on strengthening institutional cooperation and advancing inclusive development.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Nourhan N. Moussa

Dr. Nourhan N. Moussa, a 2014 Gabr Fellow, is a legal and business expert with over 15 years of experience at the intersection of law, technology, and innovation. She specializes in regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies such as AI, cybersecurity, and digital transformation, advising governments and international bodies on complex compliance issues. Currently, she is Co-Founder of Tactics Corp. and Group Director of Digital Transformation and Strategic Partnerships at Multi-Level Group (UAE and Egypt). She has also held key roles with USAID, the Egyptian Cabinet, and the American Bar Association. Dr. Moussa holds advanced degrees in law, cybercrime, and business, and has been recognized globally for her leadership and contributions to policy, governance, and research in tech-driven fields.

H.E. Sameh Shoukry

H.E. Sameh Shoukry served as Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2024, guiding the country through pivotal regional and global challenges. A seasoned diplomat who began his career in 1976, he has represented Egypt in key international forums, including as Ambassador to the United States (2008–2012) and Permanent Representative to UN agencies in Geneva. Over four decades, he has played central roles in Gaza ceasefire negotiations, GERD diplomacy, and Egypt's global climate leadership, notably presiding over COP27 in 2022. Recognized for his composed and strategic leadership style, H.E. Sameh Shoukry leaves a legacy of effective diplomacy grounded in professionalism, humanitarian principles, and international cooperation.

Ms. Randa Fouad

Ms. Randa Fouad is a development communication specialist, turned visual artist, recognized for pioneering the integration of art and sustainable development. She began her career with the United Nations, working on the MDGs and SDGs, later serving as Senior Advisor to Egypt's Ministers of Environment and heading the Middle East Office of *The Times* (London). In 2013, she transitioned into fine arts, developing a unique style that fuses cultural symbolism with modern abstraction. Her work has been showcased in over 45 exhibitions worldwide, including solo shows *Egyptian Fantasy* (2019) and *Towa: Land of Light* (2020). A cultural advocate and founder of the Arab Media Forum for Environment and Development, she has been honored with the Women of the Heart International Award (2021) and was named among the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Egypt (2022). Through art, partnerships, and teaching roles at institutions such as UCLA and Beirut Arab University, Randa champions the use of creativity as a catalyst for youth empowerment, women's leadership, and systemic change.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt Program Speakers

Dr. Sherif Kamel

Dr. Sherif Kamel is Professor of Management at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Prior to joining AUC, he directed the Regional IT Institute and managed training at Egypt's Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center. He consults on organizational transformation, IT, and strategy, and has taught at institutions including Middlesex University, Kellogg School of Management, and Maastricht School of Management. Dr. Kamel has spoken at numerous global conferences, served as a judge in IT competitions, and received leadership awards. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and is a Fellow of both the Eisenhower and Center for Global Enterprise.

Mr. Seif El Khawanky

Mr. Seif El Khawanky is Country Director of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in Egypt, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He has over a decade of experience in governance, economic development, and international relations across the Middle East and North Africa. Previously, he served as International Relations Advisor at Egypt's Ministry of State for Administrative Development, managing partnerships with international financial institutions and regional counterparts. His policy work spans energy reform in Lebanon, education development in Tunisia, decentralization in Jordan, entrepreneurial ecosystems in Bahrain, and informal sector reform in Syria.

Mr. Ziad Aly

Mr. Ziad Aly is a seasoned executive and investment strategist with over 20 years of leadership across emerging markets, infrastructure, and diversified investments. He is the Chairman and CEO of Peacock Investment Holding, guiding strategy across energy, financial services, and sustainable infrastructure, and, since 2019, has also served as Chairman of Peacock Power, expanding energy and industrial portfolios. Previously, he was Chairman and CEO of ALZWAD for Economic Development, where he advanced public-private partnerships and regional growth. With extensive board-level experience, Mr. Aly is recognized for aligning capital with development goals, promoting ESG standards, and driving innovation-focused, sustainable growth across MENA and international markets.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ambassador Andrew Young

Ambassador Andrew Young joined the International Student Management Office at the National Defense University as Director in June 2023. He previously served as Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement at U.S. Africa Command (2020–2023) and as U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso (2016–2020). With over 30 years of public service across four continents—spanning postings in Germany, Mali, Korea, Myanmar, India, Hong Kong, the Central African Republic, and more—Young brings deep experience in diplomacy, defense policy and international engagement.

He holds a Master's degree in African Studies and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor's in Political Science and French from the University of California, Berkeley. His awards include the U.S. Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, and Burkina Faso's Knight of the Order of the Stallion.

Mr. Barret Travis

Mr. Barrett Travis is a seasoned executive at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), where he leads mission-critical efforts in policy, strategy, and operations to ensure GEOINT support to U.S. national security priorities. His role spans internal and external stakeholder management, program oversight, and strategic growth initiatives across the agency's global mission set. Drawing on a background in geospatial intelligence and defense analytics, Mr. Travis helps shape how NGA integrates emerging technologies and cooperative partnerships into its operations—ensuring that geospatial insights remain agile, reliable, and relevant in fast-moving security environments.

Ms. Belle Etra Yoeli

Ms. Belle Etra Yoeli serves as Chief Advocacy Officer at the American Jewish Committee (AJC), where she leads the organization's global advocacy, policy strategy, and government engagement. A decade-long leader within AJC, she has advanced initiatives that combat antisemitism, promote interfaith cooperation, and strengthen democratic values through global partnerships. Previously AJC's Chief Communications and Innovation Officer and Chief of Staff to the CEO, Ms. Yoeli has been instrumental in shaping AJC's digital advocacy presence and public outreach platforms, including the acclaimed Advocacy Anywhere series. Her work bridges strategic communications, policy innovation, and coalition-building across continents.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Dr. Bouthaina Guermazi

Dr. Bouthaina Guermazi is a senior leader at the World Bank, directing strategy and operations across the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. She oversees a diverse portfolio of programs advancing economic growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development across the region. Previously, she served as Director of the World Bank's Digital Development Department, where she spearheaded global efforts to expand broadband connectivity, digital public infrastructure, and technology-driven innovation. With over two decades of experience in international development and telecommunications policy, Dr. Guermazi has advised governments on digital transformation, private-sector participation, and enabling regulation for emerging technologies. Before joining the World Bank, she worked as a consultant and academic specializing in telecom reform and law.

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann has represented Tennessee's 3rd District since 2011 and serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, overseeing funding for the Department of Energy, including the nation's nuclear complex. A leading advocate for U.S. nuclear energy and national security, he also chairs the House Nuclear Issues Working Group. Before entering Congress, Fleischmann was a practising attorney and business leader in Chattanooga. In Washington, he champions nuclear innovation, energy independence, and economic growth, consistently supporting Oak Ridge National Laboratory and initiatives that align science, security, and regional development.

Congressman Darrell Issa

Congressman Darrell Issa represents California's 48th District and has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2001, previously representing the 49th and 50th Districts. A former U.S. Army Captain, Congressman Issa brings both military and business experience to his role in Congress. He is the Founder and former CEO of Directed Electronics, Inc., a leading company in vehicle anti-theft and security technology, and holds multiple U.S. patents in the field. Congressman Issa serves as a senior member of the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees and previously chaired the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Known for his focus on limited government, accountability, and innovation, he has led efforts to enhance transparency, safeguard taxpayer dollars, and protect intellectual property rights. His leadership reflects a commitment to strengthening national security, promoting business competitiveness, and advancing technological progress.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Mr. David Ignatius

Mr. David Ignatius is an acclaimed journalist, author, and foreign affairs columnist for *The Washington Post*. He began his career at *The Washington Monthly* and later joined *The Wall Street Journal* as Middle East Correspondent and Chief Diplomatic Correspondent before moving to *The Washington Post* in 1986, where he served as Assistant Managing Editor for Business News. Mr. Ignatius is the author of 11 novels, many centered on espionage and intelligence, including *Agents of Innocence*, *The Increment*, and *The Paladin*. His 2007 novel *Body of Lies* was adapted into a major motion picture directed by Ridley Scott. A respected voice in global policy discussions, he frequently appears on PBS, CNN, and international media to comment on diplomacy, defense, and intelligence. Through his journalism and fiction, Mr. Ignatius offers profound insights into geopolitics, ethics, and the intersection of intelligence and public life.

Mr. David Makovsky

Mr. David Makovsky is a leading authority on U.S. policy in the Middle East and the dynamics of the Arab Israeli conflict. As Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Project on Arab-Israel Relations at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, he has shaped high-level policy discussions on peace, diplomacy, and regional stability for more than two decades. From 2013 to 2014, Mr. Makovsky served as Senior Advisor to the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, contributing directly to American diplomatic initiatives in the region. Prior to that, he built a distinguished career in journalism as Executive Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* and as a long-time correspondent covering the peace process and regional developments. He is the co-author, with Dennis Ross, of the acclaimed books *Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East* and *Be Strong and of Good Courage*. Mr. Makovsky is also an adjunct professor of Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a frequent commentator on national and international media.

Professor De Kai

Professor De Kai is an internationally recognized computer scientist and AI ethicist, best known for pioneering the field of machine translation. As Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and Distinguished Research Scholar at the International Computer Science Institute (ICSI), Berkeley, he has shaped the evolution of AI and language technologies worldwide. He built one of the first web-based global translation systems—groundbreaking work that laid the foundation for modern platforms such as Google Translate, Yahoo Translate, and Microsoft Bing Translator. A Founding Fellow of the Association for Computational Linguistics, he is one of only 17 scientists worldwide to hold that distinction. Professor De Kai's interdisciplinary approach bridges computer science, linguistics, music, and ethics. He is a global thought leader on AI ethics and governance, serving as an Independent Director at The Future Society and an inaugural member of Google's AI Ethics Council.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Dr. Diana Craig Patch

Dr. Diana Craig Patch is a distinguished Egyptologist and Senior Curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. As the Lila Acheson Wallace Curator in Charge of the Department of Egyptian Art, she oversees one of the world's leading collections of Egyptian antiquities and directs the museum's Joint Expedition to Malqata, an archaeological project in Upper Egypt exploring the festival city of Amenhotep III. Her curatorial work includes landmark exhibitions such as *The Dawn of Egyptian Art* (2012) and *Jewelry: The Body Transformed* (2017–2018). A specialist in early Egyptian state formation and material culture, Dr. Patch combines field excavation, conservation, and research to illuminate Egypt's ancient past. She holds a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Pennsylvania and is recognized for translating complex archaeological scholarship into engaging museum experiences that connect global audiences to ancient civilization.

Congressman Don Beyer

Congressman Don Beyer is a seasoned public servant, diplomat, and business leader representing Virginia's 8th Congressional District, including Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County. He serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means and is the Senior Democrat on the Joint Economic Committee. Before his election to Congress in 2015, Congressman Beyer served as U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Obama and as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998. A graduate of Williams College with a BA in Economics, he built a successful automotive group in Northern Virginia before dedicating his career to public service. In Congress, Congressman Beyer champions policies on economic growth, climate action, disability rights, and technology innovation. Known for his pragmatic and bipartisan approach, he continues to promote transparency, opportunity, and sustainable progress at both the national and community levels.

Mr. Elmamoun Yousif Sulfab (“Moon”)

Mr. Moon Sulfab serves as Administrator of Information Technology in the office of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, a role he has held since 2007. With over 20 years of experience in information technology and systems administration, he plays a vital role in maintaining and securing the digital infrastructure of the Senate leadership office. An *ex officio* member of the Senate Systems Administrators Association (SSAA), Mr. Sulfab is known for his technical skill, discretion, and steadfast commitment to operational reliability. His work ensures the smooth, secure functioning of high-level government systems in one of the nation's most demanding political and technical environments.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ms. Elizabeth Dent

Ms. Elizabeth Dent specializes in U.S. foreign and defense policy toward the Gulf states, Iraq, and Syria. Before joining the Washington Institute, she served as Director for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in the U.S. Department of Defense, where she managed the U.S. defense relationship with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. She also played leading roles in efforts against the Islamic State, having worked at the State Department and the NATO-led coalition. With a career grounded in national security and diplomacy, Ms. Dent applies her experience to research, policy analysis, and public commentary at the Washington Institute. She holds an MA in International Affairs from American University and a BA in History and Political Science (Middle Eastern Studies) from Miami University.

Dr. Eric Trager

Dr. Eric Trager is a prominent scholar and policy advisor specializing in Middle Eastern politics, with a focus on Egypt and Islamist movements. Known for his blend of rigorous analysis and policy experience, he has become one of Washington's most trusted voices on the region. Dr. Trager has held senior roles at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and on both the Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Armed Services Committees, advising Congress on Middle East policy and security. He is the author of *Arab Fall: How the Muslim Brotherhood Won and Lost Egypt in 891 Days* and a frequent commentator in major media outlets. Based in Washington, D.C., Dr. Trager continues to shape U.S. understanding of regional politics through his research, writing, and engagement with policymakers.

Mr. George Selim

Mr. George Selim serves as Senior Vice President for Programs at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), where he oversees education, law enforcement, and community security initiatives, including the ADL's Center on Extremism. A veteran of public service, Mr. Selim previously directed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Community Partnerships and led the federal Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Task Force. He also served on the National Security Council Staff at the White House, focusing on domestic and international security issues, and held positions at the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the Arab American Institute. Throughout his career, Mr. Selim has championed approaches that blend security policy with civil rights and community engagement. His leadership has strengthened collaboration between government, law enforcement, and faith communities to counter extremism, foster trust, and build resilient communities nationwide.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin

Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin is an accomplished Egyptian diplomat and economic policy leader serving as Alternate Executive Director at the World Bank Group, representing a constituency spanning Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, and Yemen. In this role, he helps guide the Bank's strategic direction on sustainable development, fiscal reform, and regional cooperation. Before joining the World Bank in 2022, Ambassador Seifeldin held senior positions in Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and Deputy Head of Mission in Germany. His career spans over three decades of leadership in diplomacy, trade, and global economic engagement. At the World Bank, he is focused on advancing inclusive growth and development partnerships that foster stability and opportunity across the Middle East and North Africa.

Congresswoman Jane Harman

Congresswoman Jane Harman is a distinguished American public servant, legal professional, and policy leader who represented California's 36th Congressional District for nine terms (1993–1999; 2001–2011). Following her congressional career, she became the first woman to serve as President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2011–2021), where she continues as President Emerita and Distinguished Fellow. During her time in Congress, Congresswoman Harman was a Ranking Member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment. She has been a key voice on national security, intelligence reform, and bipartisan defense policy, and currently chairs the Commission on the National Defense Strategy. A recipient of numerous honors, including the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service, Congresswoman Harman is widely recognized for her leadership in homeland security, defense modernization, and legislative oversight.

Mr. James Schmeling, J.D.

Mr. James Schmeling serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Defense University (NDU) Foundation, where he leads efforts to strengthen public-private partnerships that advance the education and professional development of U.S. national security leaders. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Mr. Schmeling brings more than 25 years of experience in higher education leadership, nonprofit management, and veteran advocacy. Before joining the NDU Foundation, he was Executive Vice President of Student Veterans of America, where he led major corporate and philanthropic collaborations to support veteran education and employment. Earlier, he co-founded the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University and the Burton Blatt Institute, overseeing more than \$90 million in grant-funded programs.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Dr. Jon Alterman

Dr. Jon B. Alterman serves as Senior Vice President, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and Director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. A leading expert on the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy, he provides insight on regional security, political transitions, and strategic competition. Before joining CSIS in 2002, Dr. Alterman served on the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State and as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. He previously worked at the U.S. Institute of Peace and as a scholar and author focused on regional affairs. A frequent commentator in major media outlets, he brings academic depth and policy experience to global discussions on diplomacy, conflict, and U.S. engagement in the Middle East.

Ambassador John D. Negroponte

Ambassador John D. Negroponte has served the United States in a distinguished diplomatic and national security career spanning more than four decades. A veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, his ambassadorial posts include Honduras, Mexico, the Philippines, Iraq, and the United Nations, where he represented the U.S. from 2001 to 2004. He became the nation's first Director of National Intelligence (2005–2007), leading post-9/11 intelligence integration efforts, and later served as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State (2007–2009). His extensive experience also includes roles as Vice Chairman of McLarty Associates and as a Distinguished Fellow and Professor at institutions such as Yale and George Washington University. Widely recognized for his leadership across diplomacy, intelligence, and global security, Ambassador Negroponte's career reflects deep expertise in navigating complex international challenges and shaping U.S. foreign policy during pivotal moments in modern history.

Dr. Jonathan M. Golden

Dr. Jonathan M. Golden is the Director of the Center on Religion, Culture and Conflict (CRCC) at Drew University, where he also serves as Associate Professor of Teaching in the Departments of Comparative Religion and Anthropology. He leads the university's Certificate Program in Conflict Resolution and Leadership and the Drew Institute on Religion and Conflict Transformation, which brings together young interfaith and peacebuilding leaders from around the world. An educator and scholar dedicated to bridging theory and practice, Dr. Golden's work centers on interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and leadership development. His publications include *Ancient Canaan and Israel: New Perspectives and Religion in the Classroom* and the forthcoming book *Turning Point*. Through teaching and mentorship, he equips emerging leaders to navigate the intersections of religion, culture, and global conflict.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ms. Kate Seelye

Ms. Kate Seelye is the Vice President for Arts and Culture at the Middle East Institute (MEI), where she leads programs that highlight the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the Middle East. Since joining MEI in 2009, she has been instrumental in expanding the Institute's outreach, launching the Arts and Culture program in 2015 and the MEI Art Gallery in 2019—the first in Washington, D.C. devoted to contemporary Middle Eastern art. Before MEI, Ms. Seelye had a distinguished career as a journalist, reporting across the Arab world for National Public Radio (NPR), PBS, and other international media from her base in Beirut. Her work brought nuanced perspectives on Middle Eastern politics, culture, and society to global audiences. Through her leadership, Ms. Seelye continues to promote cultural diplomacy and cross-cultural understanding, positioning MEI as a hub for artistic expression and dialogue between the Middle East and the United States.

Ms. Lauren Lovelace

Ms. Lauren Lovelace is a senior U.S. diplomat with extensive experience in public diplomacy, international engagement, and policy leadership. A career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, she currently serves as Senior Advisor in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, focusing on advancing U.S. partnerships and strategic priorities in the Indo-Pacific region. Over her career, Ms. Lovelace has served in key diplomatic posts across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, including assignments in India, Bangladesh, Ireland, and the United Nations. Her work has emphasized cultural diplomacy, education exchange, and strengthening democratic governance. Fluent in French, Arabic, and Russian, she brings a cross-cultural and multilingual approach to diplomacy. Recognized with multiple Department of State awards, Ms. Lovelace is known for her leadership, integrity, and commitment to global cooperation.

Colonel Laurel Walsh

Colonel Laurel Walsh serves as the U.S. Space Force Chair and Assistant Professor at the Eisenhower School, National Defense University. Commissioned in 1999 through the Air Force Officer Training School, she transitioned to the U.S. Space Force in 2021 after more than two decades of leadership in space and missile operations. Her career includes command and staff positions at multiple echelons, including service as Director of Joint and National Security Council Matters at Headquarters Space Staff, where she coordinated defense policy and interagency strategy. Colonel Walsh holds degrees in Anthropology and Political Science from The Ohio State University, an MS in International Relations from Troy State University, and an MS in National Security Strategy from the National War College. At the Eisenhower School, she integrates operational experience with academic insight, helping educate senior military and civilian leaders on national security, strategic leadership, and the evolving role of space in global defense.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ms. Lilita (Lili) Infante

Ms. Lilita Infante is a leading expert in cybercrime, cryptocurrency investigations, and digital asset recovery. A former Special Agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), she specialized in cyber-enabled narcotics and dark-web operations, founding the DEA's first Counternarcotics Cyber Investigations Task Force (CCITF). Her work played a key role in landmark cases, including the takedown of the Hydra Market, one of the largest illegal cryptocurrency markets in history. After leaving government service, Ms. Infante founded CAT Labs, a technology firm focused on blockchain forensics and digital asset recovery. Recognized with multiple federal law enforcement awards, she continues to advise global agencies and policymakers on cryptocurrency crime and blockchain regulation. Through her leadership, Ms. Infante is helping shape the future of a safer, more transparent digital economy.

Ms. Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen

Ms. Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen is an American foreign policy professional and Middle East expert with over two decades of experience. She currently serves as a Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute (MEI), a prominent Washington, D.C.-based think tank. Before joining MEI, she spent 15 years as the Director of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Her specialized research focuses heavily on Arab–Israeli relations, regional conflict dynamics, and diplomatic history. Earlier in her career, she worked as a program officer for Harvard University's Middle East Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government. She also served as an Arabic language specialist and translator for the U.S. Department of State. Academically, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Arabic and French and a Master's degree in Arabic linguistics and Arab area studies from Georgetown University. Today, she is a frequent commentator and moderator across international media, policy forums, and academic panels.

Ms. Lyn Sneige

Ms. Lyne Sneige leads the Arts and Culture Center at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., where she directs the MEI Art Gallery and its programming that amplifies voices from the Middle East and its diaspora. Joining MEI in 2014, her work has developed powerful partnerships across U.S. galleries, European cultural centers, and Middle Eastern institutions. With over 20 years of experience in international cultural development, Ms. Sneige previously served as Deputy Director in Lebanon and Regional Manager for Arts and Culture in the MENA region with the British Council. A Salzburg Global Seminar fellow and nominator for the Agha Khan Music Awards, she serves on the board of the NGO Action for Hope and advised Beirut's forthcoming Museum of Art (BeMA). Ms. Sneige holds a BA in Sociology and an MA in Sociology and Communication from the American University of Beirut and is fluent in English, French, and Arabic.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz

Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz is a veteran Egyptian diplomat with nearly four decades of experience in multilateral diplomacy, international development, and peacebuilding. He has held several senior posts in the United Nations and the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN (2005–2012), Political Advisor to President Hosni Mubarak (1999–2005), and UN Under-Secretary-General for Africa (2012–2017). Since 2017, he has served as the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations. Throughout his career, Ambassador Abdelaziz has played a key role in advancing global and regional initiatives such as the UN Agenda 2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the creation of pivotal UN bodies, including UN Women, the Human Rights Council, and the Peacebuilding Commission. His leadership has helped shape international dialogue on human rights, sustainable development, and collective security.

Dr. Marina Wes

Dr. Marina Wes is an accomplished economist and development leader with over 30 years of experience in international finance and policy. She currently serves as the World Bank's Director of Strategy and Operations for the Western and Central Africa Region, overseeing strategic programming and implementation across 22 countries with a portfolio exceeding \$50 billion. Previously, she served as Country Director for Egypt, Yemen, and Djibouti, and as Country Manager for Poland, the West Bank and Gaza, and Türkiye. Before joining the World Bank, she was a principal economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and an Assistant Professor of International Finance at the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Wes holds a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and an MA from Trinity College, Cambridge. Her expertise centers on macroeconomics, trade policy, and inclusive growth, with a focus on strengthening institutional capacity in developing economies.

Brigadier General (Retired) Mark T. Kimmitt

Brigadier General (Retired) Mark T. Kimmitt is a veteran U.S. Army officer and national security expert whose 30-year career spanned command, operations, and strategy at the highest levels of defense. During his military service, he served as Deputy Director for Operations in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and as Deputy Director for Strategy and Plans at U.S. Central Command, helping shape regional policy and coalition coordination. Following his retirement, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East (2006–2008), overseeing U.S. defense relations with Arab states and Israel, and later served as Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs (2008–2009), directing global security assistance, arms transfers, and defense diplomacy. General Kimmitt has also held leadership positions with NATO and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and today provides strategic consulting to corporations and governments on defense, crisis management, and Middle East policy.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Mr. Michael P. Schulhof

Mr. Michael P. Schulhof is a veteran business leader, investor, and scientist with decades of experience guiding global enterprises across technology, media, aerospace, and energy. As Chairman of GTI Holdings, a New York-based private equity and advisory firm, he leads strategic investments and partnerships spanning the U.S., India, and Europe. Earlier in his career, Mr. Schulhof served as President and CEO of Sony Corporation of America and Sony Music Corporation, where he helped integrate cutting-edge technology with entertainment content and global markets. He began his career as a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, publishing extensively in solid-state physics. Mr. Schulhof sits on numerous boards, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, the Brookings Institution, and international companies in India, Europe, Israel, and the U.S. Honored by the French Republic as Officier, he is widely recognized for advancing innovation, cultural exchange, and global business collaboration.

Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari

Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari is a distinguished Tunisian diplomat with extensive experience in multilateral negotiations, peacebuilding, and international cooperation. Since 2019, he has served as Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations, where he leads efforts to promote political dialogue, conflict prevention, and regional stability. Before joining the UN Secretariat, Ambassador Khiari represented Tunisia as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, and Director General for the Americas, Asia, and Oceania at the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Over his career, he has played key roles in the UN Security Council, General Assembly, and the Non-Aligned Movement, advancing global peace and regional cooperation through diplomacy and consensus-building.

Mr. Murray Abeles

Mr. Murray Abeles is an accomplished finance and operations executive with extensive experience leading financial management, strategic planning, and institutional advancement in both nonprofit and private-sector organizations. As Chief Financial Officer, he oversees fiscal strategy, budgeting, and operational efficiency, ensuring alignment of resources with long-term organizational goals. Before assuming his current role, Mr. Abeles served in senior financial leadership positions at several mission-driven institutions, including the Wilson Center and the Jewish Federations of North America, where he directed finance, investment, and audit functions. Earlier in his career, he worked in corporate finance and consulting, bringing a results-oriented approach to resource optimization and risk management. Recognized for his disciplined leadership and collaborative style, Mr. Abeles has played a key role in modernizing systems, improving accountability, and supporting strategic growth across complex organizations. His expertise bridges sound financial stewardship with a deep commitment to public-service excellence.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Mr. Pascal Rathel

Mr. Pascal Rathel is a global innovator and strategist specializing in inclusive economic growth, civic leadership, and technology-driven development. His current roles include Chief of Staff at a major emerging-market investment firm and Founding Partner of a frontier-tech venture fund. Mr. Rathel also serves as Senior Advisor at the Shafik Gabr Foundation, where he advances cross-cultural dialogue and global cooperation. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Council for Inclusive Capitalism as an Associate to Lady Lynn Forester de Rothschild and served as a Policy Assistant in local government, laying the groundwork for his commitment to public-private partnership. He founded the Global Shapers Community Jacksonville Hub under the World Economic Forum, mobilizing youth civic engagement and intergenerational leadership. Mr. Rathel holds an MS in Social Policy and an ML from the University of Pennsylvania, and an Executive Certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School. His interdisciplinary background—combining policy, finance, sport, and music—drives his vision: fostering ethical innovation and inclusive systems for sustainable growth.

Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin

Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin serves as the 18th President of the National Defense University (NDU), assuming the role in October 2024. A career naval officer and aviator, he graduated with merit from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 with a BS in Aerospace Engineering (Astronautics) and holds a Master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College. Vice Admiral Garvin has commanded at every level in maritime patrol aviation, including Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10, and previously served as Commander of Navy Recruiting Command and Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group. His shore assignments include Federal Executive Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At NDU, Vice Admiral Garvin leads the nation's premier institution for joint professional military education, preparing future military and civilian leaders to address evolving global security challenges through innovation, collaboration, and strategic insight.

Dr. Robert B. Satloff

Dr. Robert B. Satloff is one of the leading voices on U.S. policy in the Middle East, serving as Segal Executive Director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy since 1993 and holding the Howard P. Berkowitz Chair in U.S. Middle East Policy. An accomplished scholar and author, he has written extensively on Arab-Islamic relations, political reform, and the Arab-Israeli peace process. Beyond academia, Dr. Satloff hosts the long-running Arabic-language program *Dakhil Washington* ("Inside Washington") on Alhurra TV, offering Arab audiences insight into U.S. policy and society. His decades of leadership have shaped both scholarly and policy discourse, bridging research and real-world strategy to advance understanding between the U.S. and the Middle East.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Mr. Sander R. Gerber

Mr. Sander R. Gerber is a leading investment executive and public-policy advocate who serves as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Hudson Bay Capital Management, a New York-based hedge fund. He oversees the firm's global investment strategy and institutional portfolio management, combining financial leadership with civic engagement. Beyond finance, Mr. Gerber is deeply involved in national security and foreign-policy initiatives. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, sits on advisory and policy boards including the Council for a Secure America, and holds fellowships with JINSA and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. A recipient of JINSA's Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson Distinguished Service Award (2017), Mr. Gerber is recognized for bridging the worlds of finance, diplomacy, and public policy.

Professor Shibley Telhami

Professor Shibley Telhami is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. A leading scholar of Middle Eastern politics, U.S. foreign policy, and public opinion, he has been a key voice in advancing dialogue on peace and conflict resolution in the Arab-Israeli context. Professor Telhami previously served as Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and has contributed to the work of the Iraq Study Group and the U.S. Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World. He has authored or edited numerous books, including *The Stakes: America and the Middle East* and *The World Through Arab Eyes*. Renowned for his polling on Arab and American attitudes toward the Middle East, Telhami frequently provides analysis to policymakers and media worldwide.

Mr. Steven A. Cook

Mr. Steven A. Cook is the Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), where he focuses on Arab and Turkish politics, U.S. foreign policy, and the intersection of governance and security in the region. A leading voice on Middle Eastern affairs, he has written extensively on political transitions, authoritarianism, and U.S. engagement in the Arab world. He is the author of several acclaimed books, including *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*, *False Dawn: Protest, Democracy, and Violence in the New Middle East*, and *Ruling But Not Governing: The Military and Political Development in Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey*. Before joining CFR, Mr. Cook held fellowships at the Brookings Institution and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He holds degrees from Vassar College, Johns Hopkins SAIS, and the University of Pennsylvania, and is fluent in Arabic and Turkish.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ambassador Stuart E. Jones

Ambassador Stuart Jones is a veteran U.S. diplomat with over three decades of experience shaping American engagement across the Middle East. He has served as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan and Iraq, Deputy Chief of Mission in Cairo and Baghdad, and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. A trusted leader in complex environments, Jones played key roles in stabilizing post-conflict Iraq, supporting Syrian refugee efforts, and advancing U.S.-regional partnerships. After his distinguished Foreign Service career, he joined Bechtel Corporation as President for Regions and Corporate Relations, and in 2025 became President and CEO of the Middle East Institute, where he continues to promote dialogue and diplomacy across the region.

Dr. Susan R. Burns

Dr. Susan R. Burns is President of the University of Mount Saint Vincent, where she leads with a vision rooted in academic excellence, inclusion, and Vincentian values of service and social justice. Before assuming the presidency in 2021, she served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Clarke University, where she oversaw academic innovation, strategic planning, and institutional growth. A lifelong advocate for student-centered education and access, Dr. Burns continues to strengthen Mount Saint Vincent's liberal arts tradition while expanding its academic reach and community impact through collaboration and mission-driven leadership.

Dr. Susan E. Saxton

Dr. Susan E. Saxton is a global education leader and strategist recognized for building and transforming academic institutions across the U.S. and the Middle East. As COO of the Middle East Institute, she oversees operations and strategic growth while advancing MEI's mission of regional engagement and scholarship. Previously, Dr. Saxton served as Founding President of the American University of Bahrain, the Kingdom's first American-style university, and has held senior leadership roles at organizations including Laureate Education, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, and the International Baccalaureate Organization. Her career reflects a lifelong commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and cross-cultural collaboration in higher education.

Mr. Thomas L. Friedman

Mr. Thomas L. Friedman is an acclaimed journalist, author, and commentator whose work has profoundly shaped global conversations on technology, globalization, and international relations. A longtime Foreign Affairs Columnist for *The New York Times*, he has reported from Beirut, Jerusalem, and beyond, bringing clarity to some of the world's most complex issues. Mr. Friedman is the author of several bestselling books, including *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, *The World Is Flat*, and *Thank You for Being Late*. His reporting and analysis have earned him three Pulitzer Prizes and the National Book Award, establishing him as one of the most influential voices on how innovation, conflict, and connectivity define the modern era.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

American Program Speakers

Ms. Vivian Salama

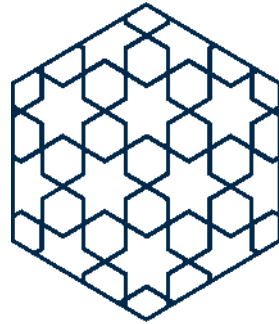
Ms. Vivian Salama is a Staff Writer at *The Atlantic*, where she covers national security, U.S. foreign policy, and global affairs. She joined *The Atlantic* in 2025 after a distinguished career reporting for *The Wall Street Journal*, where she covered the White House and U.S. national security. Previously, she served as Baghdad Bureau Chief for the Associated Press and reported extensively from the Middle East, including Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Over more than two decades in journalism, Ms. Salama has reported from more than 85 countries, providing frontline coverage of wars, diplomacy, and political transitions. She has also contributed to major outlets such as NBC News and Bloomberg. Fluent in Arabic and deeply experienced in international reporting, Ms. Salama brings a global perspective to her analysis of American foreign policy and world affairs. She holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University and is a member of the D.C. Bar.

Ambassador Yael Lempert

Ambassador Yael Lempert is a career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service with nearly three decades of experience shaping American diplomacy across the Middle East and North Africa. Most recently, she served as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan (2023–2025), where she worked to strengthen bilateral cooperation, regional stability, and security partnerships. Previously, Ambassador Lempert held senior roles including Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires in London, and Senior Director for the Levant, Israel, and Egypt at the National Security Council. A recipient of the Presidential Rank Award and NSC Outstanding Service Award, she is widely recognized for her deep regional expertise and commitment to advancing U.S. foreign policy through diplomacy and collaboration.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP EGYPTIAN PROGRAM

September 22, 2025–September 30, 2025

Cairo | Ismailia | Suez Canal

The 2025 Gabr Fellowship Program has given extraordinary young leaders from the United States and Egypt a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect, not only with one another but also with influential figures in business, technology, finance, and other fields from Egypt and the wider Middle Eastern region. Cross-cultural competence is essential for young leaders' future success in creating a more equitable and peaceful society in a world that is becoming ever more interconnected.

The Gabr Foundation created a comprehensive program that provided a rigorous perspective of Egypt. The Fellows met with significant figures, where they had insightful roundtable discussions that provided the Fellows with new perspectives and in-depth knowledge. The Fellows met with many leaders, including H.E. Minister Badr Abdel Atty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Gamal Roushdy, Official Spokesperson of the Arab League, along with other senior politicians. Through these meetings, the Fellows learned about Egypt's role in the world, its foreign relations, and policies. The Fellows also had the opportunity of a guided tour of the New Administrative Capital, a large-scale project of a new capital city in Cairo that will become the new administrative and financial capital of Egypt. The Fellows were addressed by President Ahmad Dallal and other senior professors, securing insights into educational trends in Egypt. The Fellows also had a unique experience at the Suez Canal Authority, where they had an exclusive cruise along the expanded Canal.

In addition, the 2025 Gabr Fellows met with experienced leaders in economics, media, art, politics, entrepreneurship, and business. The program concluded with the 2025 Fellows discussing with their counterparts their action projects, which aim to enhance the cultural understanding between the U.S. and Egypt.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Monday, September 22

Cairo

- 9:00am–11:00am** Welcome breakfast at Intercontinental Semiramis hotel
- 12:00pm–1:45pm** Coffee and light lunch
- 2:00pm–3:15pm** Egypt–U.S. Bilateral Relations
Speaker: **H.E. Sameh Shoukry**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (2014–2024), at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 3:30pm–4:45pm** Egypt Towards a Tech Future
Speaker: **Dr. May El Batran**, Former Chair of Tech committee and communication Egyptian Parliament (2015–2020), at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 5:00pm–6:15pm** Art, Climate, and Sustainability
Speaker: **Ms. Randa Fouad**, President of the World Art Forum, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 6:30pm–7:30pm** The Art of Dialogue
Speaker: **Ambassador Hussein Fahmy**, Actor, Global Ambassador for Special Olympics, President, Cairo International Film Festival, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 7:30pm–9:00pm** Dinner with former Fellows at ARTOC Group Headquarters



2025 Gabr Fellows with H.E. Sameh Shoukry and Chairman M. Shafik Gabr



2025 Gabr Fellows with Chairman M. Shafik Gabr, Ambassador Hussein Fahmy, and Ms. Randa Fouad



2025 Gabr Fellows in a discussion with Dr. May El Batran

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Tuesday, September 23

Cairo

- 8:30am–9:30am** U.S.–Egypt Bilateral Relations
Speaker: **H.E. Herro Mustafa**, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt
Breakfast at Crimson Restaurant
- 10:15am–11:30am** Tourism in Egypt
Speaker: **H.E. Ahmed Issa**, Minister of Tourism (2022–2024), at Intercontinental Hotel Semiramis
- 12:30pm–3:15pm** Military Assessment in the Middle East Region and Tour of Badr University
Speaker: **General Mohamed El Keshky**, Assistant to the Minister of Defense (2013–2019), at Badr University
- 5:00pm–6:00pm** Investment opportunities in Egypt
Speaker: **H.E. Minister Hassan El Khatib**, Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade
- 7:15pm–8:15pm** The 2034 Project for a Better Future
Speakers: **Mr. Ziad Aly**, Chairman and CEO of Peacock Holding, at Intercontinental Semiramis Hotel
- 8:15pm–10:00pm** Dinner at Intercontinental Semiramis Hotel



2025 Gabr Fellows with General Mohamed El Keshky



2025 Gabr Fellows with U.S. Ambassador Herro Mustafa

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Wednesday, September 24 Cairo

- 10:00am–10:10am** Arrival at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 10:10am–11:00am** Campus tour led by student ambassadors at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 11:00am–11:30am** Conversation on Higher Education in Egypt
Speaker: **Dr. Ahmed El Dallal**, President of the American University in Cairo, AUC New Cairo Campus
- 11:30am–12:00pm** Leadership Reimagined: The Next Frontier
Speaker: **Dr. Sherif Kamel**, Dean, Onsi Sawiris School of Business, at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 12:00pm–12:30pm** Lunch at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 12:30pm–1:00pm** What is Egyptology?
Speaker: **Dr. Mariam Ayad**, Professor of Sociology, Egyptology, and Anthropology, at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 1:00pm–1:30pm** Sustainability of Our Communities: Current Challenges and Future Opportunities
Speaker: **Dr. Mohamed Abou-Zeid**, Professor of Construction, at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 1:30pm–2:00pm** Islamic Art and Architecture: Unity in Multiplicity
Speaker: **Dr. Noha Abou-Khatwa**, Assistant Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, at AUC New Cairo Campus
- 3:15pm–4:30pm** Egyptian Human Rights: Fictions and Facts
Speaker: **Dr. Noha Bakr**, Member of the National Council of Human Rights and Member of the Supreme Council of Culture, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 5:00pm–6:15pm** Egypt in a Changing World
Speaker: **H.E. Mohamed El Orabi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011), at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 6:30pm–7:30pm** Art and Creativity
Speaker: **Dr. Farid Fadel**, Egyptian Artist, Ophthalmologist, and Musician, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 8:00pm–9:00pm** Dinner at Naguib Mahfouz restaurant

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Ahmad Dallal, President of AUC Fellows at the American University in Cairo



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Noha Bakr and Chairman M. Shafik Gabr



2025 Gabr Fellows dinner at Naguib Mahfouz restaurant



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Farid Fadel

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Thursday, September 25

Suez Canal, Cairo

10:00am–3:00pm Fellows visit to the Suez Canal

4:00pm–5:00pm The political Future of Technology: AI Governance, Digital Rights and Advanced Mobility, and Fellowship Stages
Speakers: **Dr. Nourhan Moussa**, Group Director of Digital Transformations and Strategic Partnerships for MLG (UAE Company) and former 2014 Fellow
Mr. Ibrahim Hamouda, Business Consultant at Greek House Davos and Former 2017 fellow, at ARTOC Group Headquarters

5:30pm–6:30pm Women in Parliament
Speaker: **Dr. Marianne A. Azer**, Member of Parliament (2016–2021), at ARTOC Group Headquarters

7:00pm–9:00pm Fellowship Reception at ARTOC Group Headquarters



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Nourhan Moussa 2014 Gabr Fellow



2025 Gabr Fellows visiting Suez Canal



Chairman M. Shafik Gabr's speech at the 2025 Fellowship reception

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Friday, September 26

Cairo

8:45am–1:30pm Guided tour of the religious complexes:

- Rifa'i Mosque
- Sultan Hassan Mosque
- Mohamed Ali Mosque at the Citadel
- The Hanging Church
- Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus
- Ben Ezra Synagogue

2:00pm–4:00pm Guided tour of the Egyptian Museum of Civilization

5:00pm–6:30pm Tour of Khan el-Khalili

7:00pm–9:00pm Dinner at Zeeyara rooftop restaurant



2025 Gabr Fellows at Mohamed Ali Mosque



2025 Gabr Fellows at The Hanging Church



2025 Gabr Fellows at Khan el-Khalili

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Saturday, September 27

Cairo

- 8:00am–10:45am Tour of Sakkara and Memphis
- 11:15am–1:15pm Guided tour of the Pyramids
- 1:30pm–2:30pm Lunch at Nile Lounge
- 3:00pm–5:00pm Guided tour of the Grand Egyptian Museum
- 5:45pm–7:00pm Nazlet El-Semman (horse and camel riding)
- 8:00pm–10:00pm Dinner at Taboula restaurant



2025 Gabr Fellows at the Great Pyramids of Egypt



2025 Gabr Fellows riding horses



2025 Gabr Fellows at the Sphinx



2025 Gabr Fellows dinner at Taboula

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Sunday, September 28

New Administrative Capital, Cairo

10:00am–3:00pm Tour of New Administrative Capital

5:00pm–6:00pm Economics of Culture and Tourism
Speaker: **Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim**, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Egyptian Museum, at Intercontinental Hotel Semiramis

6:30pm–7:30pm U.S.–Egypt Bridgebuilding
Speaker: **Dr. Mona Makram Ebeid**, Former Member of the Shoura (Egyptian Senate; 2012–2013), Egypt, at Intercontinental Hotel Semiramis

7:45pm–9:00pm Dinner at Intercontinental Hotel Semiramis



2025 Gabr Fellows tour Cathedral of Nativity of Christ



2025 Gabr Fellows tour Al-Fattah Al-Alim Mosque



2025 Gabr Fellows tour Egypt's New Administrative Capital

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Monday, September 29

Cairo

- 8:30am–10:30am** The Tech Ecosystem in Egypt
Speaker: **Mr. Ahmed El Alfi**, Founder and Chairman, Sawari Ventures, at Greek Campus
- 11:45am–12:45pm** Green Innovation in Action
Speaker: **Ambassador Hisham Moustafa Badr**, Assistant Minister for Strategic Partnerships, Excellence, and Initiatives, at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Egypt, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 12:45pm–1:30pm** Lunch at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 1:30pm–2:30pm** Egyptian Foreign Policy in a World of Turmoil
Speaker: **Dr. Mohamed Kamal**, Professor of Political Science at Cairo University, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 3:30pm–5:00pm** Trending Hashtags
Speaker: **Dr. Ahmed Darwish**, Minister of State for Administration and Development (2004–2011) and Former Chairman of the General Authority of Suez Canal Economic Zone, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 6:00pm–7:30pm** Open discussion
Speaker: **H.E. Minister Badr Abdel Atty**, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Tahrir, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 8:30pm–10:30pm** Dinner at Zain Boat Nile Cruise



2025 Gabr Fellows with H.E. Minister Badr Abdel Atty



2025 Gabr Fellows with Mr. Ahmed El Alfi

2025 Gabr Fellowship

Egyptian Program Schedule

Tuesday, September 30

Cairo

- 9:30am–10:30am** Addressing Regional Instability in the Arab world
Speaker: **Ambassador Gamal Roushdy**, Official Spokesperson to the Arab League's General Secretary at League of Arab States, at Tahrir Square
- 11:00am–12:15pm** A Turbulent Global Economic Environment
Speaker: **Mr. Hisham El Khizendar**, Co-founder and Managing Director of Qalaa Holdings, at Qalaa Holdings HQ
- 1:00pm–2:00pm** Lunch at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 2:15pm–3:30pm** Vision of Egypt 2030
Speaker: **Dr. Hossam Badrawi**, President of Badrawi Foundation for Education and development, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 3:45pm–5:00pm** Building Future-Ready Entrepreneurs
Speaker: **Mr. Seif El Khawanky**, Country Director for Egypt at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 5:15pm–6:30pm** Building Future-Ready Entrepreneurs
Speaker: **Dr. Hany Nemattallah**, Senator in Egypt's Senate, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, National Front Party, at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 6:30pm–7:00pm** Coffee break at ARTOC Group Headquarters
- 7:00pm–9:00pm** Open discussion and closing dinner at ARTOC Group Headquarters



2025 Gabr Fellows with Mr. Hisham El Khizendar

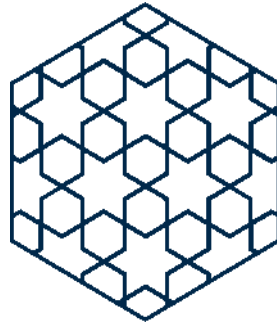


2025 Gabr Fellows at The Arab League



2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP UNITED STATES PROGRAM

October 26, 2025–November 3, 2025

New York | Washington, D.C.

The U.S. portion of the Gabr Fellowship began in New York City with a cruise around Manhattan. The Fellows were joined by Ms. Natasha Gural, a writer for Forbes. They took in the views, including that of the Statue of Liberty. This auspicious start preceded a whirlwind trip to the city, which included a visit to the Empire State Building, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The New York Historical. On the evening of October 28, the Fellows departed the city to complete the rest of their program in Washington, D.C.

In D.C., they began with a day at CTA Innovation House. Members of Congress covered topics ranging from national defense strategy and U.S. military policy to foreign policy. The rest of the week included robust discussions with government officials and private sector and nonprofit leaders. Highlights included speaking with Mr. Barrett Travis, Dr. Aaron Lobel, Professor Shibley Telhami, and Ambassador John D. Negroponte on the topic of geopolitics. The Fellows went to the Middle East Institute (MEI), the World Bank, and The Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP).

During the weekend, they visited the Eastern Market, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial, as well as watching an NBA game.

Overall, the Fellows ended the program with a better understanding of the U.S.–Egypt relationship, U.S. politics, and U.S. policy priorities. They forged relationships with leaders and gained new resources that will help them in accomplishing their professional goals. Most importantly, the cohort grew closer, building lifelong friendships.

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Sunday, October 26 New York City

- 12:00pm–1:00pm** Check in and settle at Hilton Garden Inn Times Square Hotel
- 1:00pm–2:30pm** Visit to The New York Historical
- 2:30pm–3:45pm** Lunch
- 4:00pm–5:30pm** Visit to Empire State Building
- 6:30pm–8:30pm** Dinner cruise on the Hudson River
- 8:30pm–10:30pm** Free time at Times Square



2025 Gabr Fellows at the Empire State Building



2025 Gabr Fellows at The New York Historical



2025 Gabr Fellows by the Hudson River

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Monday, October 27 New York City

- 9:00am–10:00am** The Role of Regional Organizations in Achieving International Peace and Security
Speaker: **Ambassador Maged Abdelfatah Abdelaziz**, Permanent Representative of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, at 733 Third Avenue 22nd floor, New York
- 10:00am–11:00am** UN Role in Geopolitical Issues
Speaker: **Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari**, UN Assistant Secretary General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, at 733 Third Avenue 22nd floor, New York
- 11:30am–12:45pm** Tour of The Public Theatre
Speaker: **Mr. Murray Abeles**, Chief Financial Officer, at The Public Theatre
- 1:30pm–2:40pm** Leadership and Higher Education in America
Speaker: **Dr. Susan R. Burns**, President of Mount Saint Vincent College, at Mount Saint Vincent University
Lunch
- 2:40pm–3:00pm** Campus tour of Mount Saint Vincent University
- 3:45pm–4:45pm** Repeat of Internet Bubble of 2000
Speaker: **Mr. Michael P. Schulhof**, Chairman of GTI Holdings, at the Hotel Regency
- 5:15pm–6:15pm** Lessons from a Career in Public Diplomacy
Speaker: **Ms. Lauren Lovelace**, U.S. Diplomat, at Hilton Garden Inn Times Square Hotel
- 5:15pm–6:15pm** Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn Times Square Hotel



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Susan R. Burns



2025 Gabr Fellows with Mr. Michael P. Schulhof

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Tuesday, October 28

New York City & Washington, D.C.

10:00am–11:00am Tour of Egyptian Art Galleries

Dr. Diana Craig Patch, Lila Acheson Wallace Curator in Charge of the Department of Egyptian Art, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

11:30am–12:30pm Global Markets in the Age of Uncertainty and the Role of Hedge Funds

Speaker: **Mr. Sander R. Gerber**, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer at Hudson Bay Capital, at Hudson Bay Capital Office

1:00pm–2:00pm More than Ever: The Need for Dialogue in an Increasingly Divided World

Speaker: **Dr. Jonathan M. Golden**, Director of the Center on Religion, Culture, and Conflict (CRCC) Drew University, at Hilton Garden Inn Times Square Hotel

2:15pm–3:30pm Cross-Cultural Dialogue

Speaker: **Ms. Belle Etra Yoeli**, Chief Advocacy Officer at American Jewish Community, at Hilton Garden Inn Times Square Hotel

3:30pm–4:30pm Lunch

9:30pm Check in at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Jonathan M. Golden



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Diana Craig Patch at The Met

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Wednesday, October 29
Washington, D.C.

- 9:30am–10:30am** U.S. Military Policy in the Middle East
Speaker: **Brigadier General (Retired) Mark T. Kimmitt**, U.S. Foreign Policy and Security, at CTA Innovation House
- 10:30am–11:00am** U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
Speaker: **Congressman Don Beyer**, U.S. Representative for Virginia's 8th Congressional District, at CTA Innovation House
- 11:00am–12:00pm** U.S.–Egypt Relations and Congress
Speaker: **Dr. Eric Trager**, Academic, Commentator, and Political Advisor, at CTA Innovation House
- 12:00pm–1:00pm** National Defense Strategy; U.S.–Egypt Military Cooperation
Speaker: **Congresswoman Jane Harman**, Chair of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy, at CTA Innovation House
- 1:00pm–2:00pm** U.S. Congress Today and U.S.–Egypt Bilateral Relations
Speaker: **Congressman Chuck Fleischmann**, U.S. Representative for Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District and Chairman of the Energy and Water Development of the House Appropriations Committee, at CTA Innovation House
- 2:00pm–3:00pm** U.S. Senate Overview
Speaker: **Mr. Moon Sulfab**, Administrator of Information Technology and Office of U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, at CTA Innovation House
- 3:00pm–4:00pm** The Middle East Viewed from Washington, D.C.
Speaker: **Congressman Darrell Issa**, U.S. Representative for California's 50th Congressional District, at CTA Innovation House
- 4:00pm–5:00pm** Lunch
- 5:00pm–6:00pm** Discussion with former Fellows
Speaker: **Mr. Pascal Rathle**, Gabr Former Fellow, at CTA Innovation House



2025 Gabr Fellows with Congressman Chuck Fleischmann
and Chairman M. Shafik Gabr



2025 Gabr Fellows with Congresswoman Jane Harman
and Chairman M. Shafik Gabr

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Thursday, October 30

Washington, D.C.

- 9:00am–9:50am** Navigating the New Geopolitics of the Middle East
Speaker: **Ambassador Stuart E. Jones**, President and CEO of the Middle East Institute
Ambassador Yael Lempert, Vice President for Outreach in the Middle East Institute
Ms. Lucy Kurtzer Ellenbogen, Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute, at the Middle East Institute
- 9:50am–10:00am** Making Sense of the Think Tank Ecosystem
Speaker: **Dr. Susan E. Saxton**, COO at the Middle East Institute, at the Middle East Institute
- 10:00am–11:00am** Rethinking Policy Through a Cultural Lens; followed by a gallery tour
Speaker: **Ms. Kate Seelye**, Vice President for Arts and Culture in the Middle East Institute
Ms. Lyne Sneige, Director of the Arts and Culture Center in the Middle East Institute, at the Middle East Institute
- 11:30am–1:00pm** Power of Media and Journalism
Speaker: **Mr. David Ignatius**, Columnist and Associate Editor at *The Washington Post*, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 1:00pm–2:30pm** Media Landscape in Trump's Washington
Speaker: **Ms. Vivian Salama**, Staff Writer at *The Atlantic* covering security, defense, and related policy topics, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 3:00pm–5:00pm** Trump Administration Middle East Policy
Speaker: **Mr. David Makovsky**, Ziegler Distinguished Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
Ms. Elizabeth Dent, Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
Dr. Robert B. Satloff, Executive Director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- 5:30pm–7:00pm** Intelligence Community in the Modern World
Speaker: **Mr. Barrett Travis**, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 7:30pm–9:30pm** Dinner hosted by **Chairman Shafik Gabr** along with special guests and former Fellows at I Ricchi

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule



2025 Gabr Fellows at the Middle East Institute



2025 Gabr Fellows with Mr. Barrett Travis



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. Robert B. Satloff

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Friday, October 31

Washington, D.C.

- 9:00am–10:30am** U.S. Foreign Policy in a Trump Administration
Speaker: **Dr. Jon B. Alterman**, Brzezinski Chair, at CSIS
- 11:00am–12:30pm** The Big Trends in The World Today
Speaker: **Mr. Thomas L. Friedman**, Political Commentator and Author at *The New York Times*, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 1:00pm–2:15pm** Crypto/Dark Web Case Study
Speaker: **Ms. Lilita Infante**, Founder and CEO of CATLabs, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 2:30pm–3:30pm** The Importance of Middle Eastern Stories
Speaker: **Dr. Aaron Lobel**, Chairman and CEO of BlackBirch Entertainment, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 3:45pm–5:00pm** U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
Speaker: **Dr. Steven A. Cook**, Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies, at the Council on Foreign Relations
- 5:30pm–6:30pm** Outlook for the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict
Speaker: **Professor Shibley Telhami**, Author and Professor, University of Maryland, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol
- 6:30–7:30pm** Geopolitics from the U.S. perspective
Speaker: **Ambassador John D. Negroponte**, Vice Chairman of McLarty Associates, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol



2025 Gabr Fellows with Ms. Lilita Infante



2025 Gabr Fellows with Dr. John B. Alterman

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Saturday, November 1 Washington, D.C.

10:00am–11:00am Fellows tour of Eastern Market

12:30pm–2:30pm Grand Egyptian Museum Launch at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

3:00pm–5:00pm Visit Monuments

- National Mall
- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Washington Monument

6:00pm–9:30pm Washington Wizards vs Orlando Magic—NBA Game at Capital One



2025 Gabr Fellows at an NBA game at Capital One



2025 Gabr Fellows at Second World War memorial



2025 Gabr Fellows at the Washington Monument

2025 Gabr Fellowship

U.S. Program Schedule

Sunday, November 2
Washington, D.C.

10:45am–3:30pm Shopping at Tyson's Corner Mall

4:00pm–5:30pm AI and the Modern World
Speaker: **Professor De Kai**, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, at Hilton Garden Inn Washington, D.C./U.S. Capitol

7:00pm–10:00pm Dinner with **Chairman M. Shafik Gabr** and special guests at Café Milano



2025 Gabr Fellows with Professor De Kai



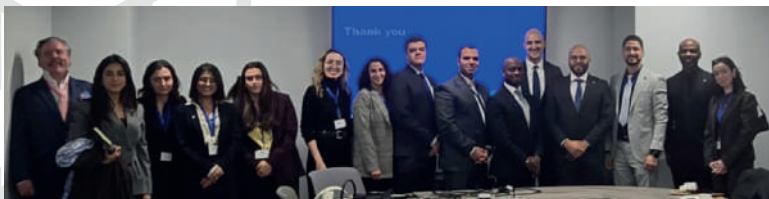
2025 Gabr Fellows with Chairman M. Shafik Gabr at Café Milano

2025 Gabr Fellowship

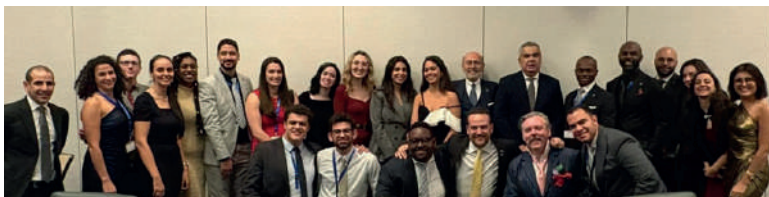
U.S. Program Schedule

Monday, November 3
Washington, D.C.

- 9:00am–12:15pm** National Defense University Visit
Speaker: **Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin**, President, National Defense University
Mr. James Schmeling, President and CEO, National Defense University Foundation
Ambassador Andrew Young, International Student Management Office Director, National Defense University
Colonel Laurel V. Walsh, Space Force Chair, Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, at National Defense University
- 1:00pm–1:30pm** Developments in World Bank Operations, and the Future of the World Bank Group
Speaker: **Dr. Marina Wes**, Director, Strategy and Operations, Western and Central Africa Region, at National Defense University
- 1:30pm–2:00pm** World Bank Operations in the Middle East and North Africa
Speaker: **Dr. Boutheina Guermazi**, Director of Strategy and Operations, Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, at National Defense University
- 2:00pm–2:30pm** Development in East Africa
Speaker: **Mr. Ahmed Rostom**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, at National Defense University
- 2:30pm–3:00pm** Closing remarks
Speaker: **Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin**, Alternate Executive Director, at National Defense University
- 3:30pm–5:30pm** Egyptian–American in Public Service
Speaker: **Mr. George Selim**, Executive Vice President and Chief Engagement Officer at ADL, at National Defense University
- 6:00pm–9:00pm** The Shafik Gabr 2025 Fellowship cocktail reception at Four Seasons



2025 Gabr Fellows with Mr. George Selim



2025 Gabr Fellows with Chairman M. Shafik Gabr, Ambassador Motaz Zahran and Former Fellows at Four Seasons



2025 Gabr Fellows at National Defense University

Impressions from the 2025 Gabr Fellows



Abdullah Mostafa

"This Fellowship was a powerful reminder of how meaningful dialogue can reshape understanding. My experience inspired me to develop the triple E concept: Empowerment, which strengthened my confidence and voice; Engagement, which sparked deep conversations with speakers and Fellows; and Exposure, which broadened my perspective of Egypt and the United States. Mr. Gabr pushed my limits, reinforcing my commitment to growth and making an impact."



Alphaeus Hanson

"This fellowship brought a curated cohort of young leaders into spaces that showcased the style, strategy, and approach used by leaders to operate important institutions in Egypt and the U.S. The experience of interacting with this group of intelligent, prudent, and unique individuals reinforced the conviction for success the Chairman cultivates through this exclusive exposure and dialectical dialogue."



Crystal Staebell

"I can say with confidence that this fellowship ranks among the most professionally challenging and rewarding experiences I've ever undertaken. Across our weeks in the U.S. and Egypt there were countless moments when I believed I might not make it. We were pushed in every dimension: physically to keep pace with the demanding schedule; mentally to engage in deep, ideas-driven conversations and debates; socially to forge meaningful connections with 15+ fellow participants and 40+ speakers; and emotionally, as we confronted our own biases and limiting beliefs. Emerging from the program, I gained not just a network of brilliant, accomplished friends and professional contacts across sectors, but also a bedrock of self-confidence and a renewed ambition to carry forward the Fellowship's goal."



George Williams II

"The Gabr Fellowship has been a rare and transformative experience for me—one that reaffirmed that dialogue, when practiced with honesty, good faith, and humility, remains among humanity's most powerful tools. What makes this program extraordinary, beyond its access to leaders and institutions, is the spirit of curiosity, candor, and shared growth it cultivates among its Fellows. In an era defined by polarization, the Fellowship proves that meaningful exchange across borders and perspectives is both possible and essential. It reminded me that diplomacy begins in small circles of trust, where people choose to see one another not as adversaries, but as partners in building a shared future."



Ingy Musallam

“What I’ll remember most from this experience are the people I shared it with. Getting to know the other Fellows, hearing their stories, learning from their perspectives, and sharing so many honest conversations was the most meaningful part for me. Those connections gave real depth to everything we did. I’m also deeply grateful for the places we visited and the speakers who pushed us to think in new ways. This experience has broadened how I see the world and has strengthened my belief in the value of genuine dialogue across cultures.”



Jude Husein

“This Fellowship was a tremendous experience. My favorite part was engaging with my colleagues, who have now turned into friends. Learning from each other, debriefing after each session—which were led by notable speakers—and discussing the issues raised, even when we disagreed, definitely proved to be a key piece of this Fellowship.”



King Adjei-Frimpong

“This Fellowship was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It offered an incredible chance to enter into dialogue with people and in places I could never have imagined. It was clear to me that every detail of the trip was carefully and thoughtfully planned, from the selection of the Fellows and the meeting sites to the speakers.”



Kristina Arakelyan

“The program was both intellectually stimulating—deepening my understanding of Egypt’s history and contemporary challenges—and, thanks in no small part to the Fellows, personally enriching.”



Lydia Kamiel

“The program was very insightful; it felt as though my universe had expanded with all the new opportunities and challenges it revealed. It provided a great opportunity to shift my perspective from a technical, tactical focus to a more strategic and big-picture understanding.”

Impressions from the 2025 Gabr Fellows



Mahmoud Elmakawe

"My participation in the Shafik Gabr Fellowship was a truly transformative experience. The program offered a unique platform for meaningful dialogue between East and West, allowing us to bridge cultural perspectives through open discussion, collaboration, and shared experiences. Engaging with distinguished leaders, institutions, and fellow participants deepened my understanding of cross-cultural relations, and inspired me to contribute actively to building mutual respect and understanding between our regions. It was an enriching journey that strengthened both my professional and personal outlook on global cooperation."



Mariam AlSherif

"As a Shafik Gabr Fellow, I experienced one of the most transformative journeys of my life, one that bridged not only cultures, but also perspectives, ambitions, and purpose. Traveling between Egypt and the United States, I engaged in powerful dialogues with leaders, diplomats, and change makers who expanded how I view global collaboration and peace-building. The Fellowship strengthened my belief that dialogue is not just conversation, it's a catalyst for change. It inspired me to continue my mission of connecting creativity with diplomacy, and to use storytelling, strategy, and cultural understanding as tools to build bridges between nations."



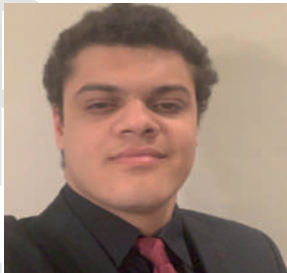
Maries Meshrequey

"Saying that this Fellowship is life changing isn't an exaggeration! It left me with more questions than answers, which means that it challenged me to the core. Conversations with Fellows, discussions with the guest speakers, and seeing the U.S. for the first time through this experience, made me realize how narrow my perspective on a lot of issues was, and what it could be if I stay open to listening and learning. I'm so grateful for being part of this community of inspiring Fellows."



Maria Clara Sherwood

“This program has equipped me with a refreshed mindset: I now view my country’s leaders as accessible and feel reinvigorated to pursue my professional goals. Alongside a network of colleagues with whom I can exchange ideas and ongoing support, this experience is poised to have a lasting impact.”



Omar El-Sheikh

“It was a great experience meeting so many people, interacting with the Fellows, exchanging ideas and perspectives, and forming friendships. I learned a lot about engaging with people you disagree with, gained new perspectives, and feel energized to be more actively involved.”



Youssef Emam

“The Fellowship has been nothing short of a life-changing experience; a rare journey that reshapes how one sees the world and their own potential to impact it. Through its exceptional selection of Fellows—diverse, yet united by curiosity, purpose, and leadership—and its carefully curated speakers drawn from the highest circles of diplomacy, business, and culture, the Fellowship creates a living dialogue between East and West that is both deeply intellectual and profoundly human. It is not merely a program, it is an awakening. It is an eye-opening exploration of ideas, perspectives, and values that continues to inspire long after it ends.”

Recognition

The Shafik Gabr Foundation would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the following institutions and individuals in relation to the *East–West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative and the Gabr Fellowship.

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Mr. Roberto Powers
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H.E. Ahmed Issa, Former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities from 2022 to 2024
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Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin, President, National Defense University
Lieutenant General Michael Plehn, Former President of the National Defense University
General Mohamed El Keshky, Former Assistant Minister of Defense for External Affairs
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The Honorable Darrell Issa, U.S. House of Representatives (CA-49)
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, U.S. Representative for Tennessee’s 3rd Congressional District and Chairman of the Energy and Water Development of the House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Don Beyer, U.S. Representative for Virginia’s 8th Congressional District
The Honorable Jane Harman, Chair of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy
Ambassador Motaz Zahran, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States
Ambassador Hisham Seifeldin, Alternate Executive Director at the World Bank
Ambassador Tamim Khalaf, Official Spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Ambassador Herro Mustafa, the United States Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt
Ambassador Stuart E. Jones, President and CEO of the Middle East Institute
Ambassador Gamal Roushdy, Official Spokesperson at the Arab League
Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM)
Dr. Ahmad Dallal, President, the American University in Cairo (AUC)
Dr. Robert B. Satloff, Executive Director of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy at WINEP
Dr. Steven A. Cook, Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies at CFR
Mr. Michael Schulhof, Chairman of GTI Holdings
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Mr. George Selim, Executive Vice President and Chief Engagement Officer at ADL
Mr. James Schmeling, President and CEO, National Defense University Foundation
Mr. Hussein Fahmy, Actor and Global Ambassador for the Special Olympics
Mr. Moon Sulfab, Administrator and Director of Information Technology for the office of Senator Mitch McConnell
Mr. Khaled Taha, Advisor to the Chairman of Suez Canal Public Relations

Back cover: ‘The Temple of Seti I, Abydos’ – Ernst Koerner