

Fulbrighter

The Fulbright Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The 2008 Re-Entry Workshop



Over seventy Fulbright and Israeli-Arab Scholarship grantees arrived in Washington, D.C. on February 28, 2008, to attend the annual Re-entry Workshop, which is designed to prepare students for the difficulties they may experience when they return to their respective home countries. The workshop began with a welcome dinner, followed by an energizing icebreaker that allowed the students and staff to get to know each other. This jump-started the social side of the workshop, as for most, it was their first chance to explore Washington, D.C. and get to know the AMIDEAST staff and their fellow Fulbrighters from the Middle East and North Africa.

The momentum continued early the next morning, with students still arriving from around the country. We gathered for breakfast with representatives from the U.S. State Department. AMIDEAST Fulbright Program Officer Stephanie D'Souza facilitated the day, which began with an introduction to the workshop and opening speakers: Donna Ives, the Branch Chief for the Middle East and North Africa at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Academic Exchange Programs and Kate Archambault, the Vice President of the Exchange Programs at AMIDEAST. The morning continued with more opportunities for the students to interact with each other, including introductions and an entertaining variety of answers to the question, "What will you miss from the U.S. when you return to your home countries?" Answers included: *"all of the friends I made"*, *"online shopping"*, *"convenience"*, *"chocolate chip cookies"*, *"freedom of speech"*, *"orderly lines"*, and *"the diversity of people."*

We then viewed a movie created by AMIDEAST staff, which portrayed the experiences AMIDEAST Fulbright Alumni faced when they returned back to their home countries. The students then brainstormed some experiences they may encounter when they return home. Our discussion of re-entry continued into the afternoon with Gary Weaver, a Professor in the Division of International Communication in the School of International Service at American University. Dr. Weaver gave a presentation on reverse cultural shock and engaged the students in a discussion about how they may have changed while studying in the



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U.S., as well as what they may experience and how to cope with these experiences when they return home. We then divided into groups where students had the chance to present different cultural situations that they might face and possible solutions to overcome them.

The presentations continued into the next morning, with rousing discussions over alternatives to the situations presented. Camille Franklin, Director of Career Development at American University, gave an energized lecture with practical advice on how students can improve their job prospects and develop tools to enhance their resumes and/or C.V. upon returning home.

In the afternoon we heard from Mallory Kirsh, Alumni Regional Coordinator at the U.S. Department of State, and Naomi Parekh, Director of Membership Development of the Fulbright Association, who discussed alumni opportunities and how Fulbright alumni can continue to develop Fulbright chapters in their home countries. Both the AMIDEAST staff and the participants enjoyed the weekend, including the formal workshop and the informal opportunities it sparked, which allowed everyone to get to know each other better.



Ali Afify (R) leads a high school debate

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Ali Afify is an Egyptian Non-Degree Fulbright Grantee

For some Fulbrighters the enrichment seminars marked their first opportunity to visit a U.S. high school. Others, like Ali Afify, have visited several classrooms during their Fulbright program. Ali has been volunteering with the Global Classroom, a program of Metro International that trains international students to teach interactive workshops about their culture in N.Y. public schools. He says, "When I was in Egypt, I never imagined that I would talk

about my country one day. Global Classroom gave me the chance to do so. I participated in the Opportunity Network workshop, which was an excellent opportunity to meet high school students in NYC. They were very bright and we have been told that they are the best students in NYC. In this workshop, my fellow Fulbrighters and I talked about our countries and answered questions from the students concerning everything about ourselves and our countries including culture, economy, people and traditions. By participating in such workshops I have also started to appreciate my own country, realizing that many things we used to take for granted are really great and unique, which made me more proud of my country. In other global classrooms, I not only talked about my country, but sometimes also involved the students in some activities that can get them closer to Egypt. Almost all of these students have never been outside the U.S.A., and I am sure they loved virtually visiting all the countries represented by me and by other global guides. In my opinion, correcting stereotypes is the most important benefit from this program because it will help American students to appreciate other cultures and create a global understanding." Please see metrointl.org for more information or visit the Global Classroom blog at globalclassroomintl.blogspot.com.

Fulbright Students Attend Enrichment Seminars

The U.S. Department of State sponsored eight four-day enrichment seminars for first-year foreign Fulbright Students that took place between the months of February and April 2008 throughout the United States. Each seminar brought together about 140 Fulbrighters and returned U.S. Fulbright grantees.

This year's theme was "Engaging the Electorate: The Dynamics of Politics and Participation in 2008." The seminars allowed Fulbrighters an opportunity to explore political participation and the election process in the United States. Scholars had the opportunity to hear from key individuals who are working in the field of campaigns and elections. The seminars were also a great opportunity for attendees to meet other students from around the world and interact on both an academic and social level. At the seminars, Fulbrighters had the opportunity to visit local high schools in an effort to be introduced to an American high school and broaden the worldview of the local city's students.



Nizar Al Wazir (bottom) and Khaldun Bshara (top) visit New York City classrooms.



Nizar Al Wazir, Gaza, University of Massachusetts

"Lots of stories to tell, everyday brings a new story, and it all has one common thing which is how lovely this place is. As days are passing, I discover more and more about this country. One of my best experiences in the U.S. was the Fulbright enrichment seminar that was held in New York, which taught me a lot about the presidential elections in this country, how people think, what issues matter for people, and how they decide for whom to vote. Moreover, I had the chance to go and visit an American high school for the first time in my life. I felt very proud to tell the American students about my country Palestine, my culture, and to tell them how much I'm enjoying living and studying here as well. I also had a wonderful experience having dinner with an American family that showed a great and warm hospitality. Finally, I'm really thankful that I had this wonderful opportunity to know more about this culture, and I hope that I will learn more with every day I spend in this country."

Congratulations to Spring 2008 Graduates!

Morsi Abdallah, Emory University, MPH
Ahlam Abdullah, Harvard University, MS Design
Rana Abu Ghazaleh, University of Buffalo, MA Urban Planning
Ahlam Abulaila, University of Montana, MA Literature
Kamelia Aleriani, Clark University, MA International Relations
Dalia Aleryani, Brandeis University, MS Health Policy
Shereen Aleryani, Williams College, MA International Development
Rami Aljadba, Purdue University, MS Engineering
Abdullah Aljumah, Eastern Michigan University, MA Linguistics
Mustafa Allawati, Cleveland State University, MBA
Ahmed Almasharafi, Western Kentucky University, MS Health & Medical Administrative Services
Reem Almasri, Georgetown University, MA Communication
Ziyad Almunifi, UCLA, LLM
Marwa Alnasa'a, University of Michigan, MPP Public Policy Analysis
Abdullah Alquraan, American University, MA International Studies
Hosam Alrqi, Boston University, MA Dental Public Health
Hisham Alsakin, Ball State University, MA Journalism
Fatoom Alwadi, School for International Training, MA Non-Profit Management
Mohamed Belrhiti, Columbia University, MBA Omar Besbes, University of Texas, MS Physics
Achraf El Bahi, California Institute of the Arts, MA Writing
Fatima Zohra El Bourkadi, College of William and Mary, MBA
Kamal El Mernissi, UC Berkeley, MBA
Ayah El Said, New York University, MA Economics
Shaimaa Elian, Georgetown University, LLM
Nariman Elias, Eastern Mennonite University, MA Conflict Transformation
Hala Faraj, University of South Florida, MBA
Ahmed Yassine Foukara, Columbia University, MBA
Eman Gawish, New Jersey City University, MA Early Childhood Education
Sawsan Gharaibeh, University of Virginia, SJD Law
Myriam Gharbi, Stanford, MBA
Lama Hamoudi, University of Arkansas, MA Comparative Literature
Bilal Idriss, Wright State University, MA Geological and Earth Sciences
Reema Jaffer, Claremont Graduate University, MS Human Resource Development
Youssef Jai, Johns Hopkins – SAIS, MA International Relations and Affairs
Talar Kazanjian, Johns Hopkins – SAIS, MA International Studies: Strategic Studies
Amina Lahbabi, Michigan State University, MA Advertising
Waleed Mahdi, University of New Mexico, MA Literature
Said Marouf, University of Wisconsin, MS Computer Engineering
Slim Menzli, University of Central Florida, MS Mechanical Engineering
Zied Mhirs, University of Washington, MPH International Public Health
Slaheddine M'Nasri, University of South Florida, MS Speech-Language Pathology
Ruba Musleh, Eastern Mennonite University, MA Conflict Transformation
Maisa Naji, Northern Arizona University, MA TESL
Ali Nouh, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA English
Fadi Rabieh, Eastern Mennonite University, MA Conflict Transformation
Ghada Sharif, University of Michigan-Flint, MS Biology
Asmaa Shehata, Ohio University, MA TESOL
Alya Sultani, Cleveland State University, MS Clinical Psychology
Marie-Jose Tayah, Eastern Mennonite University, MA Conflict Transformation
Miray Zaki, University of Chicago, MBA
Bassam Zeino, Cornell University, MA Architecture
Pia Zeinoun, Illinois State University, MA Clinical Psychology



Student Updates

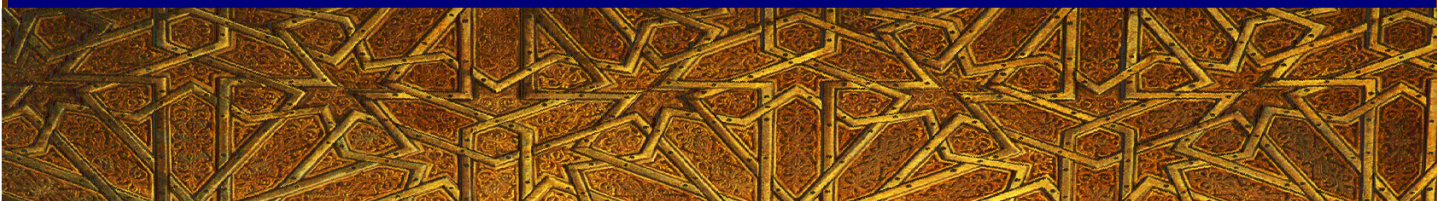
Morsi Abdallah, Emory University, West Bank, is currently taking part in a multi-site, federally funded project targeting HIV and unintended teen pregnancy prevention as part of his Masters in Public Health curriculum at Emory. His essay, "Health System Change: Needs and Strategies" won the first prize in the health system transformation Student Essay Contest, which was sponsored by Emory University Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions, Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC.

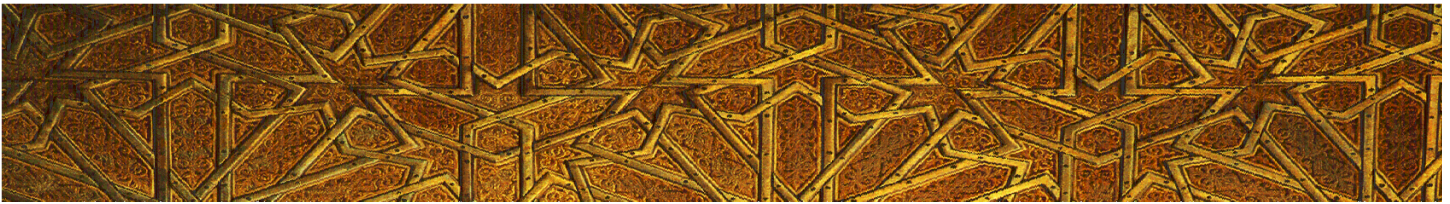
Abdullah Aljumah, Saudi Arabia, Eastern Michigan University, was honored at the Academic Honors Reception hosted by the Department of English Language and Literature, and was selected as this year's Outstanding Graduate Student in Linguistics.

Mutahar Al-Murtadha, Yemen, volunteered as a greeter and consultant at the electronic village of the TESOL Convention in New York City on April 4th. On April 17th, he presented on Yemen to faculty at his college. He has also been selected to present a paper on Grammatical Problems Faced by Arab Learners in the Northern New England Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Spring Conference in May.

Shatha Alwardi, Bahrain. As part of her IMBA program at the University of South Carolina, Shatha took an immersion class on Central and Eastern Europe business issues and went on a field trip to Vienna and Prague. The class attended presentations at major companies and government institutions in both locations, including the European Commission Office, the United Nations, and the U.S. Embassy. For her graduate assistantship, she worked at the Columbia World Affairs Council and coordinated events as part of the Council mission to serve as a catalyst for building relations between the state of South Carolina and the rest of the world. Currently, she's doing an internship at Lightstone Capital Management in New York.

Abdu Kareem Ghazi, Yemen, Kent State University, attended the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) conference and had the opportunity to meet scientists whose work he has studied. He found all the sessions to be rich with valuable information and plans to apply his new knowledge and research to promote the nursing field.





Updates Continued

Waleed Mahdi, Yemen, presented a paper titled "Hollywood's Untold Story of Arabs and Camels" in the 29th South-west Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference and has received an invitation from the editor of "Postscript: Essays in Film and the Humanities" to publish it in the journal. He established the Network of Yemeni Scholars and designed its website: <http://yemenischolars.com>. This is the first-ever intellectual electronic community for English-speaking Yemeni scholars of various academic ranks. The website offers a forum, an electronic group, and important web-links. It also features a "scholar profiles" section in which the scholars' contact details, fields of study, achievements, and publications are listed. Waleed received the prestigious MacArthur Scholars Fellowship to attend the University of Minnesota for his PhD program in American Studies. He is specifically interested in addressing contemporary cultural encounters between the U.S. and the Middle East.

Ghassan Matar, Gaza, was elected Secretary of the Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP) Student User Group at Central Michigan University. The group's objective is to present information on SAP systems, invite experts from companies using SAP systems to present, and help students network. Ghassan has participated in many activities since his arrival in January. He went on a trip to Moline, Illinois with other students and professors from his department. They visited the John Deere company to see how they implement the SAP System. He also joined his International Club on a trip to Traverse City, Michigan, and participated in the International Expo on his university campus.

Ramzi Qaabar, West Bank, was put on the Dean's List at Carnegie Mellon University for his outstanding GPA and will intern this summer at the Bank of New York Mellon in Pittsburgh.

Rami Washeh, Jordan, has been working on a project titled "Cross Talk Reduction between Strip Waveguides with the Assistance of a Photonic Crystal Cavity", in which he designed different structures to reduce the cross talk between two intersecting strip waveguides with the assistance of a photonic crystal cavity at the intersecting area. He is currently in the process of testing the fabricated structures. The effort of this research has resulted in a paper that was accepted in the Proceedings of the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) Symposium on Photonic Devices and Applications which will be held in August 2008, in San Diego, California. Also, on March 31, 2008, Rami's daughter Raneem celebrated her first birthday. Rami and his wife, Tasneem, threw a party for Raneem in Rochester. His family in Irbid, Jordan, also threw a party that they attended via video conference.

The Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, in Providence Rhode Island

Waseem Alhusami is a Syrian Fulbright grantee pursuing his MS in Human Resources at Purdue University



Waseem Alhusami with IIE and State Department staff at the Providence Seminar

When I arrived at the Providence Airport, I didn't know that I was going to have this unique and exciting experience. On my way to the hotel, I was thinking of the different activities that we were supposed to have during this three-day program.

Upon my arrival at the hotel, I had to go and get my welcome packet along with the Fulbright T-shirt. Then, I went and had some rest. Later, we had the introduction dinner where we met with 145 other Fulbrighters from more than 45 countries all over the world. It was really amazing to see all these scholars coming from different countries in the world, representing diverse cultures, speaking different languages, having the same aspirations and holding the same mission. I had the chance to be introduced to people from Egypt, Morocco, India, Pakistan, Germany, Russia, Nigeria, Haiti, Jamaica, England, New Zealand and other countries.

The activities in this program included city tours, high school visits, guest speakers, a reception at the State House, a tour to Newport and a final dinner at a town club. However, the most exciting activity for me was the high school visit. Having been a teacher for more than five years, this visit reminded me of my students in Damascus, and the sweet memories I had and the informal relation I used to enjoy with them.

When we arrived at the school, we were escorted by two teenagers who represented the elite of the school. We were taken to the principal's office where the principal and some other teachers welcomed us and offered some treats and drinks. Then, we were split into small groups. Each group was escorted by two students to the assigned classes where students were informed about our visit and classes were prepared for the event. Courteously, the teacher welcomed us and took us to our seats. My group included me, from Syria, a Fulbrighter from Pakistan and one from Bangladesh. To

organize this talk, I told the students to start asking us questions and later we would ask them questions. So, students began asking us questions about our interests, personal lives, countries, cultures, lifestyles, legislations, political environments, election systems and education. At times, I felt that I was the Syrian Ambassador in that high school, which was an exciting thing and a burden at the same time. It was really exciting to inform all those American students about my country and enrich this cross-cultural experience that the students were having. At the same time, it was a burden because I was afraid to misrepresent my country to the students and have them form a misconception about it. However, my mission was achieved successfully as I felt the students' appreciation and gratitude in their words as well as in their eyes.

Later on, we, the Fulbrighters, were supposed to ask the students questions. This was the time I was looking forward to. I inquired about my students' goals, ambitions, lifestyles, problems and interests. We also asked them about their views on the coming November presidential elections and who they were supporting. Though many of them didn't have the right to vote due to their age, they, in a way, were representing the diverse backgrounds and families they came from.

At the end of the meeting, I availed myself of the opportunity to talk about the Fulbright Scholarship. I gave them a brief summary about its mission, goals and activities. I highly encouraged them to think seriously of applying and getting the chance to carry on their future studies in any part of the world, so they could learn more about the world, widen their horizons, enrich their life experiences and keep holding the torch of peace, knowledge and mutual understanding.

Dr Seuss and Transitions

Rania Maayeh is a Palestinian Fulbright grantee pursuing her MA in TESOL at West Chester University.

I recently watched the movie based on the book by Dr. Seuss, Horton Hears a Who. It was amazing to see how Horton, the elephant, was able to hear a voice coming from a mere speck that he found on a clover. The voice he heard was that of the mayor of Whoville, an entire village of people living on that tiny speck. Horton was able to take notice of the people on the speck and he tried hard to protect them. This is a great example of how important it is to gain knowledge of other cultures and other countries. I feel like the mayor on that speck, but in a different way. With the Fulbright experience, I now have the opportunity to leave my speck, my small country, and come here to learn and share.

My experience so far has been very rich. I have gained insights and knowledge that will continue to have an impact on my life. The personal growth and academic and cultural benefits I have gained have changed my life. In other words, I am not the same person anymore! I came here thinking that I had enough knowledge about the country and the culture, but I was wrong. The opportunity to study, to meet new people and make new friends has been wonderful. I am glad I have had the opportunity to talk about my country and my culture and to share my experiences with other students. The benefit of having a dialogue with people from other cultures goes far beyond the social level; it raises awareness, empathy and understanding.

I, quite by chance, met a wonderful person, (my own Horton!) and without her, nothing would have been easy for me. As a woman with three children, coming to study and live here alone, not knowing anyone, I don't think I would have made it without her support. There are a multitude of Hortons in this world who are able to understand and value other people. All we need is to find them! The world is growing smaller, and in order to lead a better life, we need to benefit from such relationships, for they are the foundation for a peaceful future. Wonderful people have



Rania Maayeh with her family

embraced my family and me; our transition has gone smoothly and effectively; the friendships we have made cushion us from the difficulties of culture shock and homesickness. We are seen as an asset and a privilege, my children are motivated to learn, and the positive environment that surrounds us is inspiring us to contribute more to our own culture as well as to the culture here.

I had the chance to speak in a Middle East history class about my life as a Palestinian. I participated in an International Cultural Panel and spoke about my culture, women in my country, our traditions and customs. I recently attended a Curriculum Integration Seminar for the faculty of West Chester University, and I spoke about issues of diversity on campus. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to share my experiences. Additionally, I have also attended the TESOL convention for one day, and I will be speaking at my son's school for International Day at the end of the month. It is our role as human beings to be aware of everything around us, to have the empathy and the compassion towards others, to accept different ways of life, and to accept one another. At the end, it is we who make the world a better place. We all need to be like Horton who is open to hearing other people. And we all need to be like Whoville's mayor who is fighting to be noticed and heard.

A Quest for Identity

Waleed Mahdi is a Yemeni Fulbright grantee pursuing his MA in Literature at the University of New Mexico



“One’s life is not what one makes it; many doors open for certain people through no virtues of their own.” When I read these words, written by Peggy McIntosh in her essay White Privilege, Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, I remember my misfortunes in my quest for identity during my stay in the United States. At this corner of the world, it has been difficult for me to associate myself with a specific entity – be it geographic, religious, or ethnic – without falling prey to stereotypes. The first question I am always asked is not *who are you?* It is rather WHAT ARE YOU?

My primary response to such a question is: I am from Yemen. The next expected question, if not *What is Yemen*, will be *Where is Yemen?* When they come to know that it is a country, they start then with the shocking questions: Are there cars in Yemen? Do they use cell phones there? Do they watch T.V?

To avoid such disheartening questions, I tend to explain the location of Yemen in relation to its neighboring countries: Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Kuwait. I am, however, directly associated with the foolish extravagance of the elite in the Gulf countries. When moving across the Red Sea to describe Yemen as a neighboring country of Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia, my country is viewed through the lens of the conflict-torn Horn of Africa. When I tend to choose a general term “Middle Eastern”, I am judged to be a threatening and an un-peaceful person. When I describe myself as an Asian, they express their concerns about my respect and worship of cows, mistaking me for an Indian and my religion for Hinduism.

In defending my religious believes, I hurriedly describe myself as a “Muslim.” a word charged with explosives, powerful enough to undermine such an American monument as the World Trade Center Towers. Terrorist, narrow-minded, and fanatic are but simple and common words that briefly describe Muslims here.

Having failed to define my identity in geographic and religious terms, I shift to my last hope, which centers on the question of ethnicity. I am “Semitic.” The quick response I receive is: Are you Jewish? or Do you live in Israel? I then have to narrow down my ethnic ties to Arabs. The moment the word “Arab” is pronounced, I know that I will have to inherit the American rich legacy of attitudes towards this ethnic group. Adjectives used to describe Arabs include violent, emotional, irrational, simple-minded, harsh, tough, and nomadic. In the 21st century, Arabs are still viewed by the average American as people who are best at riding camels, residing in tents, and milking goats.

Since my arrival to the United States, I have been haunted by these disadvantages, which made me prefer to be a “Mercury” citizen. I have heard of disadvantages associated with gender difference: male or female; class hierarchy: upper, middle or lower; marital status: single or married; and even race prejudice: Native, African, or Hispanic. I have, however, never experienced such an attitude full of preconceived assumptions and stereotypes about people like me.

The description detailed above of the suffering that I have supposedly undergone in the United States could have been published in any Yemeni newspaper; it would be easily believed by people in my home country. The reason is simple: being a Yemeni living in America and following the pre-established misconceptions and stereotypes of the kind of hardship a Yemeni would be expected to face in America make me a reliable authority. Well! Here is the news: I have never experienced any difficulties regarding my identity here. People are always respectfully curious to know more about my country, my religion and my ethnicity.

Uncovering the Field of Lighting Design

Marihan Mehelba is an Egyptian Fulbright Arts Grantee

My Fulbright experience is best described as the alteration phase in my life and the magic wand that made my dreams come true on the professional, academic and the personal level. Lighting design is an artistic gift I learned by experience, research and persistence. The chance to finally learn the right way in a country that is the leader of art and entertainment in the field, especially academically, was something I had always been waiting for. I was affiliated at Indiana University in beautiful Bloomington with a strong department of theatre and drama and a very supportive academic advisor, Prof. Shakespeare, who helped me all along the way. I have started to explore and develop the lighting designer I am and the artist in me, opening chances for other hobbies like photography which was triggered by some classes and the beauty of the country. As the Western experience is as essential as my academic development, my Professor helped me join the Teaching Assistants working in the theatre helping with the season's productions, which was a very fruitful experience as the American system is very different from ours.

As a non-degree student, I had the chance to take some time and attend some of the most important events and conferences. I was awarded the Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC) student sponsorship to go to the Lighting Dimensions International (LDI), the largest show display and conference of the industry where I was introduced to some of the most important designers and professionals in the field, meeting backstage with the creators behind all the magic in Disney and the amazing Cirque du Soleil team. Thanks to the Fulbright, I was able to go to the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) and the University Resident Theatre Association (URTA), the country's oldest and largest consortium of professional theatre training graduate programs, where I had interviews with 17 universities to start an MFA degree in lighting design. I'm also attending the Broadway Lighting and Projection Master class and the Grand MA training (considered one of two best lighting boards in the world).

Not only have I had the chance to fulfill my professional fantasies, but also my personal ones by carrying my suitcase and traveling around this stunning country to visit ten different states, each with its own charm, and getting to know more about the American culture and how open, simple and hard working the people are. I discovered it's a place where the whole world has gathered to get a fair chance in life. Also, I realized some of my childhood dreams by visiting Disney World and NASA. Now that I'm proceeding towards an MFA degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, which is a dream come true, and going through the whole process by myself, I understand what a burden the Fulbright team carried and everything they granted for us. So, I would like to take the chance to express my gratitude and appreciation for the help and support they all offered.

The Fulbright experience can take endless words to describe. It is more than just an educational and cultural program. It bonds people together not only with the American culture, but also with the whole world by the workshops and seminars that gathered us Middle Easterners to build precious friendships that will always last. Linking the whole world in one valuable experience, those were priceless moments to pause and capture.





Pictures from the Re-Entry Seminar
In Washington, D.C.





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- 1. AMIDEAST Fulbrighters in front of the White House
- 2. AMIDEAST Fulbrighters in front of the U.S. Capital
- 4. Fulbright students from all around the world meet at the Rhode Island Enrichment Seminar
- 5. Rami Whahsheh and daughter Ra-neem



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6. Ramzi Qaabar visits New York City
7. Khaldun Bshara and Heather Hughes at the NY Enrichment Seminar
8. Amina Lahbabi, Rami Aljadba and Dina Khalifa at the Re-Entry Conference
9. Sonia Kamoun , Mohamed Ben Lakhel, Ali Afify, and friends re-unite in Texas at the Alamo



10. Tariq Abuhamdia and Rana Abu Ghazaleh at a restaurant in Washington D.C.

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