

## Khalid Al-Jufairi at World Economic Forum

**Khalid Al-Jufairi** (SFS '09) of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar was selected by the British Council to attend the World Economic Forum on the Middle East in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. There, Khalid attended sessions and debates to participate in discussions and bring youth's perspective to world leaders' attention. Khalid was one of the 17 young participants to represent youth perspective on critical global issues such as sustainable development and the hyperlinked world.

After being recruited by the British Council because of his active involvement with UN Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations, Khalid initially participated in "Learning from the Future" workshop, hosted by Young Arab Leaders (YAL) – a philanthropic organization for youth initiatives for Arabs. This workshop was designed to be a preliminary exercise for the World Economic Forum. Khalid and 5 other Qatari students represented the Qatari delegation during the workshop.

"We foreshadowed the World Economic Forum agenda on three topics – multipolar world, hyperlinked world and sustainable development, and we discussed scenarios for each for the year 2025," said Khalid. "I brought up Qatar's use of liquefied natural gas as an alternative energy resource for our discussions on re-engineering of energy systems for sustainable development." They also discussed topics ranging from the emergence of cooperative blocks within Arab countries to the individualization of community members with new communication technologies. At the end of the workshop, Khalid was elected to represent the Qatari delegation at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East. Khalid and the other representatives put together a video message for the world leaders meeting in Sharm El Sheikh. The message was presented at the Forum as the opening feature.

[Watch the video message.](#)

Khalid and 16 other participants, sponsored by the British Council, were present from May 18th through 20th at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East. Along with government officials, diplomats and business representatives, Khalid attended sessions on topics similar to the ones at the YAL workshop, this time discussing the mechanics of reaching development goals, such as policy changes, and youth investments. Khalid's input mostly focused on educating the youth to raise qualified and employable individuals. He further elaborated saying, "In order to promote dialogue and bring tolerance, [education](#) is fundamental."

Along with 11 others, Khalid was one of the panelists for a BBC World Debate during the Forum. He debated with four important political figures: Tony Blair, Yahud Barak, Salam Fayyad and Kamal Mubarak. Again, Khalid used this chance to emphasize the role of education in matching market needs. He also raised matters such as reform in education and the question of accountability and leadership.

"I will disseminate my knowledge in Qatar through community initiatives," says Khalid. He looks forward to attending the Annual World Economic Forum Meeting 2009 in Davos, Switzerland and take part in youth employment projects in Middle East and North Africa.

## SFS–Qatar Students Prepare for Fourth Annual MUN

When Lubna Kayyali (SFS '09) was a first-year student at Georgetown's Qatar campus, she signed up as a committee chair for the inaugural **School of Foreign Service in Qatar Model United Nations Conference**, hosted in March 2006. "It was unique because it was my first time to be around students from so many different backgrounds," Kayyali said.

That conference was the first in what has become an annual event at SFS–Qatar, one in which students, staff, and faculty work together to host more than 350 high school students from around the world for four days of political simulations. Now Kayyali is a senior and preparing for her role as Chair of the World Health Organization in her final MUN at SFS–Qatar, which will run from January 29 to February 1, 2009. "It's wonderful to see MUN grow and become more diverse and popular. I feel that this will be a nice closure to my undergraduate experience," Kayyali said.

This year's group of students will gather from 38 countries as far away as Mexico, Sweden and the Philippines to debate issues in international politics with one another, in eight committees chaired by Georgetown SFS–Qatar students. They will discuss a variety of topics confronting world leaders today, such as Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, NATO's role in Afghanistan and disengagement in Iraq.

Interest in SFS–Qatar MUN has grown exponentially over the past four years. As word of the conference spread through the international high school circuit, the 2009 application process resulted in the acceptance of only 40 schools of the more than 70 that applied. "We were overwhelmed by the interest this year," said Kathryn King, who oversees the planning and organization of the conference. "We aim to be a forum for students of diverse backgrounds to practice diplomacy and develop leadership skills, but perhaps more importantly to learn from and to listen to one another."

Having advised students since that inaugural conference in 2006, Brendan Hill believes that MUN plays an important role in students' personal development as well as knowledge of the world around them. "SFS–Qatar MUN permits our students to take the lead in educating the world's youth on the importance of dialogue in resolving international disputes and encouraging collective action," he said.

Dana Al Kahlout (SFS '09), a student assistant for the last three years, was amazed by the transformation she has seen among students participating in the event. "At first they're awkward and sometimes afraid of speaking up; however, as soon as the first committee session is over they became very confident to the extent that you can see their eyes glow when asked about their country's role," she said.

SFS–Qatar students have been preparing for the conference since last January, assisting in the content, planning and logistics. In July 2008, ten students participated as delegates in The European International Model United Nations (TEIMUN), a college-level conference hosted in The Hague. Additionally, SFS–Qatar students hosted an MUN training day for high school students in Qatar in November 2008. Lending extra support to the conference is the student-run International Relations Club, which organizes sessions prior to the conference on parliamentary procedures and guidelines for chairing a committee.

## SFS–Qatar Student Receives Lena Landegger Community Service Award

Aakash Jayaprakash (SFS'11) receives the Lena Landegger Community Service Award in recognition of his service to community.

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For the first time, the Lena Landegger Community Service Award goes to a Hoya from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFS–Qatar).

**Aakash Jayaprakash** (SFS'11) is one of the 20 students to receive this special honor, as well as \$2,500 prize, as a result of his exceptional commitment to social justice and community service.

Created in honor of the late Lena Landegger, this award is made possible by the support of the Landegger Charitable Foundation. Through this award, Georgetown University recognizes young men and women from its student body to celebrate and honor the university's commitment to community engagement. "We are proud of the many students whose service and deep concern for others these awards highlight," said Jeanne Lord, Associate Dean of Student Affairs. "Their work for social justice and commitment to service has had a profound impact on communities all over the world." Following the university's Jesuit tradition of serving others, students at SFS–Qatar are also encouraged to participate in community service initiatives.

"Ever since its inception, Georgetown has been committed to merging academic curriculum with practical experiences to shape and educate leaders with strong social foundations," noted Uday Rosario, the Community Service Coordinator at SFS–Qatar and one of Aakash's recommenders for this award.

Aakash's involvement with community service dates before his arrival to SFS–Qatar. "Aakash approached me as an incoming freshman to participate in one of the first survey works of the socio-economic conditions of migrants residing in Qatar during the early summer of 2007," said economics professor Ganesh Seshan, other recommender for the Lena Landegger Community Service Award. Aakash was instrumental in building confidence to encourage migrants to voice their concerns, without which this project could not have been successful. Following this experience, he continued with the 'Labor Equation' project, which led him travel to Kerala, India, to visit 40 different families who have members working in Qatar. Recently, he was awarded to work on a project with Prof. Seshan for Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP) to design financial literacy curriculum to help migrants use their remittances in more productive ways.

Besides his work with migrant laborers in Qatar, Aakash has been part of various student clubs and projects dedicated to community engagement. With the HOPE club, he assisted in putting together a food drive for workers on the university campus. As a member of the Hoya English Language Program (HELP), he reached out to the same population to help tutor them in improving their English skills. He has also completed basic training in Disaster Management from the Qatar Red Crescent Society and has participated in the JUHAN (Jesuit University Humanitarian Action Network) conference in Fordham University, New York in June 2008 as part of this training.

Aakash believes that these experiences have built him into a true Hoya. "My service experiences at Georgetown have allowed me to better understand the interconnected nature of human beings and made me realize how, by helping out our fellow men, we are able to better our society in significant measures."

Rosario shares similar feelings on Aakash's involvement in community service that he sets an example for rest of his classmates. "Aakash understands and lives up to Jesuit ideals of social justice and service," he said.

Going forward, Aakash is determined to serve for his community and eliminate inequality. "Social injustice in any form has to be eradicated from our collective human identity if we are to progress as a society, and in order to do so we must learn to embrace our differences and accept our commonality in humanity," he said.

## Washington, DC Students Visit SFS–Qatar on Social Entrepreneurship Course

This August, seven students from the Washington, DC, campus traveled to Doha with Professor Dale Murphy on a [course](#) trip to meet with their classmates from SFS–Qatar. As part of the requirements of the “Social Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and the U.S.” course, students are required to attend field trips in Doha, Qatar and Washington, DC. “We had a great time sharing backgrounds, talking about future plans and of course discussing politics,” said **Salwar Sultani** (SFS’11), referring to his colleagues’ visit from DC campus. Students from both campuses attended a week full of lectures, field trips and social outings.

This course on entrepreneurship exemplifies Georgetown University’s commitment to service to others and work for social justice. “I signed [up] for the course because I felt that it would allow me to gain the necessary tools to work for change,” said **Aakash Jayaprakash** (SFS’11). The course aims to equip students with the basic skills to turn them into entrepreneurs by exposing the students to the importance of entrepreneurship on the economical and political environments of a country. This course also covers how entrepreneurs get funding to start new businesses, as well as the challenges that present day philanthropy faces.

The course is uniquely different from most other [classes](#) because the class connects two separate campuses. Building on the [telepresence technology](#), the course takes place in two separate classrooms – one in Washington, DC, and the other in Doha, Qatar – linked via videoconference technology that enables clear and life-size audiovisual classroom experience. **Madhoorya Mantha** (SFS’11) comments that “[this is] one of the defining moments in SFS history, and an example of globalized world class education”.

SFS–Qatar students are univocal in their interest to join the course: to acquire tools for social change. Some like Jayaprakash got interested in the course as a way to complement his experience in the [Labor Equation project](#), a program where he got involved in researching migrant workers living in Doha, Qatar. Similarly, Sultani strongly believes that “positive change can be brought through social entrepreneurship.” SFS–Qatar students are very enthusiastic about the course as it directly relates to the political economy of the Gulf. **Shaily Agrawal** (SFS’11) observes that there a lot of opportunities for social entrepreneurs in a booming economy, like Qatar’s. Along similar lines, **Mark Saliba** (SFS’09) sees this course as a way to educate regional Arabs on opportunities to channel their wealth into social capital.

For DC student **George Chipev** (SFS’09) the international perspective of the course was an important motivator for him to [register](#). He is very much interested in building on each campus students’ experiences and background to combine the knowledge on Middle East and Qatar with the history of social entrepreneurship coming from Washington, DC. Similarly, **Lauren Elizabeth Funk** (SFS’10) is very interested to explore how different ideas on social entrepreneurship can be married.

This course trip had been a great opportunity for Georgetown students to experience the University’s international presence first-hand. Chipev comments that SFS–Qatar has grown beyond being an experiment at this point and became an effective and integral part of Georgetown community. “I think SFS–Qatar has much to [offer](#) to Georgetown, ultimately,” he said.

Similarly, Jayaprakash remarks that with this trip, SFS–Qatar students build a better sense of their Hoya identity, “when [they] see that [they] are not all that different from students in DC.”

DC students are already looking forward to the end of this semester to host their friends from Qatar. “They worked hard to help us feel comfortable and to show us part of their lives” says Chihev. “I hope to be able to do the same when they visit DC.”

## An Education Legacy Spanning More than 40 Years

“There are five stages to a professor’s life,” wrote Profesor Oweiss in a 2002 letter on his retirement to Georgetown [University](#) president Leo O’Donovan. “Tireless, tiring, tiresome, tired, retired.” Dr. Ibrahim M. Oweiss is preparing to retire for the second time from Georgetown University, after seeing SFS–Qatar Class of 2009 walk across the stage at their commencement ceremony. 2009 marks his 41st year as an educator.

Before joining Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFS–Qatar), Oweiss taught at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, until 2002. After completing his PhD at the University of Minnesota in 1961, he stayed at his Alma Mater to teach economics. When the 1967 War broke out, Oweiss wrote against Nasser’s policies and prepared to return home to Egypt. As the news of his resignation from University of Minnesota hit the well-known publication of American Economic Review, he was offered positions to teach at Yale, University of San Francisco, University of Cincinnati and Georgetown University. Following visits to all these campuses, he decided to join Faculty of Economics at Georgetown University in 1967.

Until retiring from Georgetown University for the first time in 2002, Oweiss authored more than fifty scholarly publications and coined now commonplace economic terms such as Petrodollars, Hostage Capital and the Oweiss Demand Curve. Following his retirement, he was elected to be part of the University’s Board of Regents, where he advised on negotiations between the State of Qatar and Georgetown University on the formation of SFS–Qatar. Upon a invitation from Dean James Reardon–Anderson, he joined the SFS–Qatar faculty as a Visiting Professor of Economics.

“It was our great good fortune that Prof. Oweiss agreed to join the team that founded SFS–Qatar in the fall of 2005. He taught our first class of students in both micro and macro economics and helped to establish the identity and character of Georgetown in an area of the world that he knows so well,” Reardon–Anderson noted. “His mark on this institution is permanent and recognized by all who have been part of this great adventure.”

Prof. Oweiss is one of the five original faculty members to teach at SFS–Qatar. While continuing his economics courses, he has lectured widely in Doha on a variety of topics including the changing price of oil and the global financial crisis of 2008. He was particularly well–received for his lecture on Economic Cost of the War on Iraq at the Academic Bridge Program, where he graphed out the monetary and human burden of the Iraq war on the United States, Iraq and other involved nations. He has also appeared on Al Jazeera and CNN as an expert commenting on economic issues.

Oweiss is leaving SFS–Qatar with great memories and satisfaction. “Everybody at SFS–Qatar should be proud of the fact that they are part of this educational mission outside of the USA in a faraway land,” says Oweiss. “SFS–Qatar is building bridges which will have enormous impact on the region and contribute to US–Middle East understanding.” Oweiss continues that it is quite an achievement to follow the same rigorous admissions criteria as observed in Washington, DC, and deliver the same curriculum at a location 7,000 miles away from the Main Campus.

He is proud to have taught all [classes](#) from 2005 to 2009 at SFS–Qatar campus. He has been impressed by the first class admitted in 2005 and observed them grow into exceptional individuals. According to Oweiss, these students were able to prove that they are at par with their colleagues abroad when some of them studied in Washington, DC, for their junior year abroad and excelled compared to their peers on Main Campus.

His students in Doha love him so much that they see him as more than a professor. "He did not teach me about economics, he taught me about life," says Lubna Kayyali (SFS'09). "Professor Oweiss' contributions go beyond the [classroom]." To express their affection, students have nicknamed him "Uncle Ibrahim" and "Grandfather of Economics."

Students are not the only ones who have embraced Oweiss with nicknames. His students in Washington, DC, called him "Honest Abe" after the director of the famous Exorcist film approached the professor to take the lead as the Jesuit Priest Father Lankester Merrin. Confused by the director's interest in him, Oweiss asked him "Why me, when you have all these Jesuits on campus?"

His answer was simple, "you have an honest face." Nevertheless, Oweiss appeared among the crowd in the scene in front of Healy Hall.

Professor Oweiss has touched lives of numerous students in his 41 years as an educator. He can't forget when President Bill Clinton hugged him after his address at one of the Annual Carroll Quigley Lectures. During his senior year in 1968, Clinton was one of professor's students.

Throughout his academic life, Oweiss helped establish numerous centers and institutions around the world. He was one of the three founders of Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. He was a founding member of College of Business and Economics at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman and the Egyptian American Scholars. He was the founder of Council for Egyptian American Relations and was also the first Chairman of Jones Institute at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

After bidding farewell to the SFS-Qatar Class of 2009, he will relocate back to Washington, DC, and keep up with his scholarly work by continuing to lecture and consult. "After so many years, Georgetown University is an integral part of my life," says Oweiss. He will resume his role on the Board of Regents and finish his autobiography, A Tale of Cultures, which will be published in the summer of 2009.

On February 10, 2009, he will be addressing for Center for International and Regional Studies for their [Monthly Dialogue Series](#).

Prof. Oweiss can always be reached at his [Georgetown email address](#). More information on his research is available on [his website](#).