

AMIDEAST امدبيست

PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

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Executive Summary

This quarter witnessed the gathering of most of PFDP's Fellows in the US for our annual US Fellows Conference. This year the conference took place in Austin, Texas, and featured a high level of interaction among the speakers and the Fellows, who contributed their thoughts and ideas to make the conference a great success. The keynote addresses were made by Ms. Ethel Brooks from USAID and the AMIDEAST CEO, Ambassador Kattouf.

Work continued to finalize the National Study of Undergraduate Teaching Practice. The study is now being printed in order to distribute it widely throughout Palestine and abroad.

The new MA scholarships are moving along smoothly, as a total of ten candidates have been selected and interviewed, after undertaking a preparatory course for the TOEFL exam, and then taking and passing the exam. After discussion with MOEHE and USAID officials, PFDP is now providing these scholars with pre-academic training in the English language. This has begun in the cities of Ramallah and Nablus.

The two Collaborative Projects in Teaching (CPT) have continued to hold events related to special needs education and improving teaching and learning of English language through technology. During this period, PFDP also held its SET training and SET Master Training in Jericho. The first of this year's Administrative Seminars also took place in Budapest.

Classes proceeded for the Academic Training in English in both West Bank and Gaza. Short-Term Fellows in Cohort IV left for the U.S. from Gaza and the West Bank.

PFDP is continuing preparations for its annual Academic Colloquium which is set to take place this year between July 31st and August 1st in Ramallah. The call for abstracts was sent to all higher education institutions with a closing date at the end of April.

PFDP continued support for the Bard-Al Quds Masters of Arts Program. The first two payments on the scholarship were made and IT equipment for the Bard Center was delivered.

The PFDP staff continued the daily administrative tasks of dealing with visa and permit issues, attending training, reporting on progress, monitoring grants, and communicating successes to clients and partners. PFDP is proud to announce its hiring of an Education Programs Manager, who will assist PFDP in the evaluation of its projects, and the achievement of its goals, especially in the area of centers for teaching excellence. PFDP also hired a Grant Officer to replace the Grant Manager who left the program in the previous quarter.

PFDP Program Activities

Objectives and Activities

1. Promote the expansion, retention, and professional development of promising academics teaching in the social sciences and humanities.

- 1.1 PhD Scholarships to U.S.
- 1.2 MA Scholarships to U.S.
- 1.3 Short-Term Fellowships to U.S.
- 1.4 Academic Colloquium in West Bank and Gaza
- 1.5 Fellows Conference in the U.S.
- 1.6 Pre-Academic Training

2. Revitalize and reform teaching at Palestinian higher education institutions.

- 2.1 Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET)
- 2.2 SET Master Trainers
- 2.3 English Training for Academics
- 2.4 Faculty Development Series
- 2.5 Administrative Seminars

3. Promote an institutional culture of teaching and learning.

- 3.1 US Palestinian Partnership Grants / Centers for Teaching Excellence
- 3.2 Collaborative Projects in Teaching
- 3.3 Faculty Grants for Teaching and Learning
- 3.4 Teaching Excellence Awards
- 3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation in Teaching and Learning
- 3.6 Scholarships to Local Universities
- 3.7 Bard – Al Quds MAT program

1. Promote the expansion, retention, and professional development of promising academics teaching in the social sciences and humanities.

1.1 PhD Scholarships to U.S.: News and Achievements

The PhD Fellows are completing their coursework and defending their dissertations in order to return to Palestine and begin their academic careers.

Ms. Ola Khalili has successfully defended her dissertation on teaching professional development programs in mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and will return home early this summer to work with the Ministry of Education. In her paper, Ms. Khalili concluded that there should be more emphasis on teacher professional development programs that are planned at the district and school level or what is called job-embedded professional programs. In parallel, trainers' competences should be upgraded so that they are more able to respond to teachers' needs in their contexts. Improving the way in which training is planned and implemented will have a greater influence on teachers' beliefs and practices especially in mathematics.

Both Mohammad Awad and Ayman Khalifa are preparing to defend their dissertations and return home early this summer. Ayman is defending a dissertation on epistemologies of research at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, while Mohammad will be defending his dissertation at the University of Texas-Dallas on volunteerism in the non-profit sector – a case study of Palestinian non-governmental organizations in the West Bank.

PFDP staff has continued to follow up on a number of pending issues such as the status of our PhD Fellows in Gaza, the return of Wael Ramadan, and the exit of Ihab Dakkak's wife.

A major issue this quarter was the decision of Wael Ramadan not to return immediately to Palestine after completing his doctorate in December. USAID has issued a bill of collection against Dr. Ramadan to recover the amount invested in the scholarship. Negotiations continued through much of the quarter regarding the timing of his return to Palestine from his current location in Canada.

1.2 MA Scholarships to U.S.

In January, interviews took place for 14 short-listed MA candidates of whom ten were chosen to proceed to the next step. Pre-academic training courses have begun taking place for the ten finalist scholars in both Ramallah and Nablus. In preparation for the TOEFL exam, the MA candidates engaged in a series of TOEFL training courses. PFDP, OSI, USAID, and the MOEHE worked closely together in order to select the most qualified candidates for the scholarships. Once TOEFL scores were received,

OSI sent candidate packages to US universities for final selection. It is expected that the candidates will travel to the US in September of 2010, to begin their programs.

PFDP is also working on promotional material for the next cohort of MA scholars. Posters and brochures will be sent to schools and MOEHE district and central offices in May to solicit applications.

1.3 Short-Term Fellowships (STF) to the U.S.

In January, PFDP staff conducted a pre-departure orientation for the two Gaza Short-Term Fellows, who were awaiting final documents to depart to the US. The pre-departure orientation for the West Bank Fellows was also conducted in January at AMIDEAST offices in Ramallah. This year's cohort is comprised of 11 participants from different disciplines, and includes two women.



Pre-departure orientation for West Bank Short Term Fellows- January 10, 2010

Upon their departure, PFDP's Communications Officer remained in close contact with all of the Short-Term Fellows, who took advantage of most of the opportunities in front of them in the States in order to collect research or prepare courses for delivery in Palestine when they return. Two of the fellows from Cohort IV, Dr. Nabil Al Joulani and Dr. Samir Said have already spoken at university seminars, and have published a series of papers. Dr. Khader Juma' was featured in the front page of the newsletter of the language department at Indiana State University.



(Left) Dr. Nabil with his mentor (center) Dr. Nabil giving a lecture on “Soil Contamination in Hebron City Due to Stone Cutting Industry” (Right) Participants at Dr. Nabil’s lecture

Short Term Fellows- 2010

#	First Name	Last Name	U.S university	Home University	Major Field
1	Nadera	Alaraj	Lewis University	Bethlehem University	Education/ IT
2	Khader	Jum'a	Indiana State University	AlQuds Open University	Education/ English
3	Tariq	Sirhan	University of South Florida in Tampa	UNRWA Mens Training Center	Education/ Urban Planning
4	Nabil	Al-Joulani	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Polytechnic University (PPU)	Environmental Science
5	Samir	Said	Hartford University	Polytechnic University (PPU)	Education/ Environmental Science
6	Akram	Miqdad	City University of New York	AlQuds University- AbuDeis	Education
7	Salaheddin	Juneidi	University of Pennsylvania	Technical College: Aroub College	Education
8	Nadia	Najjab	Georgetown University	Birzeit University	History
9	Jehad	El Hissi	Harvard University	Al-Quds Universtiy/ Azhar U.	Public Health
10	Abdelkarim	Eideh	University of Michigan	Al Quds University	Social Research
11	Hani	Mahdi	University of Illinois	Al Azhar University	Public Health

1.4 Academic Colloquium in the West Bank and Gaza

Preparations are moving along smoothly for the upcoming Academic Colloquium. The Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah has been reserved for the event, which is set to take place

between July 31st and August 1st of 2010. Current preparations are underway for joint presentations between Palestinian and US professors. PhD Fellow Mohammad Awad is preparing a joint presentation with his US advisor Dr. Kimberly Aaron on volunteerism in Palestine.

PFDP has begun preliminary arrangements for the colloquium schedule and list of invitations, as well as coordinating with different speakers including officials from USAID and the Palestinian Minister of Education. The Colloquium will include various panels and smaller group workshops in order to allow the easier facilitation of ideas and discussions.

The call for abstracts was sent out in the beginning of March to all Academic VP's for distribution to interested faculty. A notice for the call was also published in the local newspapers, and posted on the PFDP website.

1.5 US Fellows Conference



After detailed preparations and arrangements by OSI, the PFDP US Fellows Conference was successfully held in Austin, Texas between March 12 and 14. The conference provided PFDP Fellows with an opportunity to gather together in one place and exchange research and build a network. The Fellows discussed different means of establishing alumni activities. PFDP has studied all the suggestions and plans to pursue some of the activities in order to ensure the Fellows create meaningful networks. The suggested activities include connecting with other Arab experiences, establishing an alumni association, participating in post-graduate research, providing practical experience in teaching, and making AMIDEAST and OSI resources available to all alumni. (See OSI section for further details on the conference)



(Left) PFDP Fellows during conference lectures. (Center) Fellows during university campus tour (Right) one of the break-out groups to discuss PhD dissertations.

2. Revitalize and reform teaching at Palestinian higher education institutions.

2.1 Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET)



The Seminar for Excellence in Teaching was conducted on January 21. The course included seven participants of which one was a female. The training was co-conducted by CEU trainers Dr. Sophia Howlett and Joanna Renc-Roe.

The Seminar presented the participants with a variety of new tools and ideas to utilize while teaching. One of the main concepts presented was that of teacher and student autonomy, by which students are urged to reflect on what they learn and cooperate, and through which teachers are granted the autonomy to select their own methods and approaches to teaching. The seminar also stressed on the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and the utilization of learning experiences worldwide. This was the second 40 hour training session for this cohort and participants were awarded a certificate of completion at the end of the course. The call for applications for the next cohort was sent out in March with a closing date in May.

2.2 SET Master Trainers



The SET Master Trainers workshop was successfully held in Jericho on the 16th of January. The workshop took place in conjunction with the SET training, as it gave the master trainers an opportunity to experience and participate in training using the SET material. Eight individuals participated in the training course, including three women. During the workshop, each participant gave a presentation that they had prepared earlier

on various topics such as lecture techniques, course design and course assessment. The participants received constant feedback from the trainers and were given additional teaching tips. In addition, the Master Trainers participated in a five-day session at the CEU in Budapest where they participated in training activities and gained access to CEU's extensive library of curriculum and training resources.

2.3 English Training for Academics

Professional English Development (PED) is a new program component that aims at enhancing the English language skills of faculty who completed their degrees in the region, and therefore, have not had a chance to improve their English language skills. The intention is to provide an initial 100 hour course of English language for a selected cohort of 15 at the chosen university. The courses focus on basic English language, grammar, vocabulary, and conversation.

After a selection process, a total of 46 Palestinian faculty began receiving English language courses in Hebron and Nablus in February and will continue until May, 2010. In Gaza, a placement exam for applicants took place on January 11. Following the placement exam, 30 participants were selected and divided into two groups, one consisting of faculty from Palestine University and the other of faculty from Al-Azhar University, with 15 participants in each group. The training was initiated in the first week of March and so far 40 hours of training have been completed.



English Training classes in Gaza.

2.5 CEU Administrative Seminars

The CEU Administrative Seminars is a series of three to four day workshops in professional development topics that aim to develop Palestinian faculty and senior administrators. Each workshop focuses on a specific topic such as fundraising and internationalizing the university programs and curriculum.

The first of this year's CEU Administrative Seminars took place on February 16-19. It explored the new quality control mechanisms emerging across Europe, and how they affect universities either in Europe or in the 'neighborhood' as Europe, and in particular the UK, exports its quality control approaches. The workshop also looked at the global policy context, accreditation and quality control in the US, the UK approach to

accountability and the ‘ratings war’ now emerging globally. Seven administrators participated in the workshop that took place at the Central European University in Budapest, including two from Palestine Polytechnic University, two from An-Najah University, one from Al-Quds, one from Bethelehm University, and the PFDP COP.



(Left) PFDP COP with participant Mr. Allam Mousa participating in the seminar (Right) Group photo of Seminar participants

3. Promote an institutional culture of teaching and learning.

3.1 US Palestinian Partnership Grants / Centers for Teaching Excellence

During this quarter the COP requested a modification of the PFDP activity related to support for faculties of education that was added to the program in CA Modification 11. That \$2M element was to provide major grants to Palestinian faculties of education to work with US universities to reform their program offerings in line with the National Teacher Education Strategy. A number of circumstances relating to this component suggest that the program would not be able to expend the funds in this area before the end of the program if at all. Therefore the COP requested that the activity be replaced with a major grants program for setting up Centers for Teaching Excellence in at least one Palestinian university.

A number of things made implementation of the education faculty grants activity problematic. One is that Palestinian faculties of education have been undergoing accreditation for the past six months and the process is not yet complete. Any restructuring effort funded by USAID would need to start after the accreditation process is complete when there is agreement between the Ministry, the accreditation authority, and the university regarding next steps. We do not know when this will happen but it was scheduled in late fall and has been significantly delayed. The World Bank and European Commission are also funding improvements in the provision of teacher education, both in-service and pre-service, and the total amount in this fiscal year available to the Ministry of Education is close to \$10M in the form of grants. The additional \$2M provided by USAID for potentially overlapping activities would most likely lengthen the process of preparing and responding to requests for proposals by the universities given that it is a large amount for a small system. A number of meetings were held between the major donors and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in order to reduce the possibility for overlap and to ensure that funding would be expended in accordance with the Ministry's goals. However, the lack of clarity as to purpose on the Ministry's part and the length of time to set up a steering committee for the activity and to prepare plans indicate that it will be at least six months before the system is ready to begin to be ready to apply for USAID funded grants. Given this situation and the length of time left in the program, it is highly unlikely that the \$2M allotted for this activity will be expended according to the Program Description.

In discussion with the AOTR and Deputy Education Officer, one major alternative was suggested. That was to shift the funding to support Centers for Teaching Excellence. This activity was part of the original PFDP proposal and project plan and has been an element of most of the Palestinian universities' long-term plans and has wide support by institutional leadership. Given the existence of nascent centers in some universities already and the lack of competing initiatives and donors, the possibility of implementing at least one center before program close-out is much greater than the original activity.

Response to this request had not been received by the end of the quarter.

3.2 Collaborative Projects in Teaching (CPT)

During this quarter, two Collaborative Projects in Teaching have successfully begun their implementation as follows:

1. Special Needs Education:

Dr. Sami Basha of Bethlehem University received a second grant to extend the collaborative project in teaching in the area of special needs. After signing a contract with PFDP on February 1st, Dr. Basha conducted his first session between February 19 and 20 at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah. The second session took place on March 16-23/3/2010 at Funoon al Tifel Center in Hebron, while the third session was conducted on March 19-20 at the Santa Maria Hotel in Bethlehem.

The aim of this CPT is to establish a university program in special and inclusive education with a specialization in moderate or mild disabilities. Such a program is designed to provide excellent preparation for career progression within the same institution to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills in how to support successful inclusion for children with special educational needs in Palestinian schools and institutions.



First session (Grand Park Hotel/Ramallah) 19/2/2010



(Left) second session 16-23/3/2010 / Hebron. (Right) Third session 19-20/3/2010/ Bethlehem



2. Improving Teaching and Learning of English Language through Technology

Dr. Abdel Karim Daraghmeh of An-Najah University is leading the second grant on improving teaching and learning of English language through technology. The contract was signed on February 12, with the aim of improving the teaching and learning methods in both English for specific purposes and English writing classes by developing the most effective blended learning environment. Dr. Abdel Karim conducted one main meeting and three secondary workshops as part of his agreement with PFDP. The meetings included 15 professors from different Palestinian universities and were conducted in preparation for their upcoming event which will include international advisors Dr. Deborah Healey and Dr. Kay Westerfield from the University of Oregon, among other professors from several Palestinian universities. This is a collaborative project between the Arab American University, Al-Quds Open University, Al-Quds University, and

Birzeit University. The international advisors will discuss means and methodology of implementing blended learning in Palestinian universities and lead to course development in these areas.



Academic writing and blended learning course with Dr. AbdelKarim- March 19, 2010 at Al-Yasmin Hotel/ Nablus

3.3 Faculty Grants for Teaching and Learning

PFDP Faculty Grants for 2010 were announced in January, with a submission date of January 31st. A total of nine faculty grant applications were received from the West Bank and 14 from Gaza. The selected West Bank applicants were requested to send full proposals before the middle of February. The committee reviewed the proposals on Thursday the 25th. Out of the nine proposals, five were selected by the committee.

The only outstanding faculty grant from the 2009 round is Dr Salem Thawaba's text book prepared for teaching courses in the Departments of Architecture and Geography. This deliverable, submitted to USAID for approval is still being reviewed and is the subject of a request for waiver of USAID branding in order for the book to be printed and distributed.

Below is a brief description of the five grants that were awarded for this year.

Summary of New Faculty Grants for 2010

	Title & Description of Activity	Principal Contact	University
1	<p><u>Improve the Quality of Field Training In Social Work</u></p> <p>To produce and deliver relevant academic knowledge and know-how for field training of learners in social work. To develop structural links between academics and professionals in the field of Social Work to ensure continuous feedback on theories, concepts and practices.</p>	Dr. Imad Eshtaya Social Work	AL Quds Open University
2	<p><u>Improving TEFL Methods & Practices at Palestinian Universities</u></p> <p>The intended conference on TEFL Methods and Practices on October 20, 2010 will be the first of a kind for the English program at the university. The conference will be an optimal opportunity to display and publicize and assess the increasing and ongoing attempts at QOU mainly and other institutions as well to utilize on-line technology in the English programs. There will be recommendations given at the end of the conference by participants, These will encourage English departments at universities to develop their programs and methods.</p>	Dr. Insaf Abbas Education	Al Quds Open University
3	<p><u>Using video cases in pre-service teacher education: Developing teaching strategies course</u></p> <p>The proposed project aims to develop the teaching of a second course in Education 330: Teaching Strategies and Techniques Diploma program. The project aims to review and update the content of the course, to introduce promising new methods in teacher education, and to help the student-teacher bridge the gap between theory and practice.</p>	Dr. Maher Hashweh Education	Birzeit University

4	<p><u>Student Conference titled “Rethink – I am Here”</u> This project is expected to be the first to bring students and teachers together in discussing the educational process and allow the teachers to listen to what students have to say. It is expected that this project will enhance students’ knowledge about the educational process and enlighten them with the latest ideas and theories in teaching and learning. It is also expected that the project will create a knowledge network between students from different Palestinian universities. In addition, it is expected to strengthen students’ research skills and leadership, and allow them to communicate and interact with notable academics.</p>	Dr. Saida Atatri Education	AL Quds Open University
5	<p><u>Mentoring Program</u> The mentoring program is intended to help new faculty members in adapting to the new work environment. The program provides each of the new instructors with an experienced mentor to guide and assist them in managing their duties in their early years of academia. The mentor’s role is to provide advice and direction to the new faculty member, while responsibility is still maintained by the new faculty member. A good relationship with a supportive, active mentor has been shown to contribute significantly to a new faculty member’s career development and satisfaction.</p>	Dr. Saqer Darwish Social Science	Al Quds University

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation in Teaching and Learning

National Study of Undergraduate Teaching Practice

During this quarter, PFDP completed all pending aspects of the study, sent the document out for printing, and made plans for a launching event.

3.6 Scholarships to Local Universities

During this period, the number of students to receive scholarships to attend Al Azhar University reached 2,028 students after the addition of a third group of students. Each of the students was carefully reviewed after meeting a required criteria and undergoing various testing and interviews. Academic and personal information was reviewed using their official transcripts and identification cards. After a USAID request, PFDP Gaza staff conducted a sample file review of two hundred students. The sample review used actual student applications from the university to ensure that the students submitted are eligible.

The review included 10 % of students (200 students) with an error margin that does not exceed 5 % of the 200 students.

All students whose estimated tuition fees are above \$1,000 were sent to USAID for vetting, totaling 1,777 students.

In January, a change in board members of Al-Azhar University caused USAID to request a re-vetting of the Board of Trustees. This was followed by a detailed review of the university by-laws in February and the council members in March. Vetting of the scholarship students and payment to Al-Azhar for the scholarships is pending a Mission decision to proceed or not.

3.7 Bard – Al Quds MAT program

PFDP worked closely with staff from Bard College, Al-Quds University, and USAID in order to agree on a date for the launching ceremony for this event. However, the event was postponed since the furniture and equipment were still not delivered at that time. The IT and equipment will be delivered in the coming quarter, and the date of the ceremony will be planned after that.

Bard College submitted invoices for payment for the first two tranches of the scholarship for students in the Master of Arts in Teaching program during this quarter.

Open Society Institute US-Based Activity

PFDP Grantee Conference

Throughout January, February, and March, OSI staff continued making preparations for the PFDP grantee conference. OSI held the third annual PFDP grantee fellows' conference at the University of Texas at Austin's AT&T Conference Center from March 12-14.

The conference was attended by 22 doctoral grantees and seven short-term grantees. Seven grantees / alumni did not attend. Six non-attendees were PhD grantees. These grantees were: Sadek Firwana, Nasser Abu El Nour, Mysoon Abu El Nour, who are all in Gaza conducting research and writing their dissertations; Ahmed Abu Awad and Ihab Saad, who were preparing for their doctoral comprehensive exams; and Wael Dokhan, who was ill. One non-attendee was a visiting fellow: Dr. Nadia Najjab. She was unable to obtain childcare during the conference.

The Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas, Ms. Terri Burke, launched the event on March 12 by speaking about the group's work on the nationally famous "religion in public schools" debate in Texas. Ms. Burke's talk was followed by an animated discussion. Dr. Teri Albrecht, the Director of UT-Austin's International Office, also welcomed the group. Further presentations on March 12 included an interesting keynote welcome by Ambassador Theodore Kattouf, the President of AMIDEAST, and an inspiring welcome speech by Ms. Ethel Brooks of USAID (Field Technical Officer, Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau, Office of Education). The day ended with a festive group meal at a Tex-Mex restaurant.

On March 13 events included a talk by Dr. Germine Awad of UT-Austin's College of Education. Dr. Awad presented findings from a recent research survey study she conducted on prejudice against Middle Easterners in the U.S. The rest of the day's events were interactive sessions. The first session was composed of a series of field-specific student workshops. These workshops were scheduled as a response to suggestions made by grantees in 2008 and 2009 that their conferences should include more time for them to learn about their colleagues' academic work and provide a forum for practicing their critical skills. The workshops required grantees to prepare presentations of colleagues' work and lead constructive criticism discussions. This structure allowed grantees to learn about their colleagues' research projects, obtain experience discussing work in their fields, and work on making their written ideas clear to audiences. A further set of presentations involved grantee presentations of their work with commentator-led discussions. A fine example of this series was a talk by PhD grantee Mohammad Awad of the University of Texas at Dallas, whose discussion of his work on volunteerism in civil society was contextualized by a member of his dissertation committee, Dr. Kimberly A. Aaron. A final interactive workshop was a brainstorming session jointly led by AMIDEAST COP John FitzGibbon and PhD grantee Hasan Ayoub. The session was on ideas for PFDP activities for alumni in the West Bank / Gaza.

March 14 was devoted to discussions of programmatic issues, including updates on grantees' academic status and visa / DS-2019 form needs. All grantees also completed a conference evaluation. The evaluations were strong. All of the grantees reported that the conference was well structured and allowed sufficient interactive time with colleagues. Most of the grantees also commented that they appreciated the inclusion of the grantee-based disciplinary workshops and the fact that OSI had contacted them for input before arranging the conference's events.

The conference's agenda can be found in Annex B.

Short-Term Fellows

Cohort IV, First Visits

Cohort IV West Bank Short-Term Fellows arrived in the US in January. OSI facilitated their arrival arrangements and logistics and ensured a smooth transition for each of them. The nine fellows included: Nadira Araj, Samer Said, Nabil Joulani, Khader Juma, Salaheddin Juneidi, Hani Mahdi, Akram Miqdadi, Nadia Najjab, and Tariq Serhan. Unfortunately, Dr. Jihad El-Hissi was unable to undertake his visit at Harvard University because of an illness in his family.

All of these STFs settled in well and report having productive visits. All STFs have visit plans forms on file at OSI.

Palestinian Education Professionals / Masters in Education Interviews and Placement Preparations

In January Joe Glicksberg and Patrick Hynes (OSI's PFDP Program Coordinator) traveled to Ramallah and Jerusalem for interviews with MA fellowship applicants. In early January OSI arranged to have Leigh Graham of Teachers College, Columbia University, participate in the selection process. 10 finalists were chosen from a pool of 14 qualified applicants. A joint OSI-AMIDEAST staff meeting with Basri Saleh at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) was also conducted during the visit to discuss planning for next year's advertising / selection cycle.

In February and March OSI staff continued outreach to potential host universities for the Palestinian Education Professionals / Masters in Education program. All universities currently hosting PFDP grantees in Education were contacted along with additional targeted institutions. OSI staff prepared and mailed approximately 80 packets to potential host universities to begin individual finalist placements. The packets were mailed to Masters program directors, associate deans of graduate studies, and select faculty members at 30 public and private universities. The packets contained: a) a cover letter; b) finalist files with

interview comments summaries; c) a PFDP program and Masters in Education component overview; d) ranking instructions; e) a ranking sheet; and f) a host university application. Follow-up will be conducted throughout April and the remainder of the spring semester by phone and e-mail.

Ongoing Contact with Host Universities

Throughout the quarter OSI staff:

- answered questions from host universities about issues such as grantee health insurance coverage and grantee tuition / fees billing;
- responded to questions from host universities about PFDP terms and conditions;
- processed invoices from host universities for tuition/fees.

Grantee Contact and Monitoring

Routine Monitoring

Throughout the quarter OSI staff continued:

- responding to grantee questions about programmatic issues;
- communicating with grantees to answer questions about PFDP terms and conditions;
- processing grantee living stipends and requests for professional development funds;
- sending grantee work authorization requests to USAID.

Wael Ramadan Case

The most significant grantee monitoring challenge that OSI faced during the quarter concerned PhD grantee Wael Ramadan, who graduated from his doctoral program in public policy at Cleveland State University in Fall 2009. Wael went to Canada post-graduation. OSI and AMIDEAST staff were in extensive contact with Wael throughout March in order to make certain that he fully understood his J-1 visa legal and programmatic obligations and the serious consequences of his actions. OSI and AMIDEAST staff also kept in close contact with USAID staff concerning this case. At present has been classified as a non-returnee in SEVIS, but has promised to return to Palestine in May. USAID began preparations for processing a bill of collection for him in March.

Grantee News and Outreach Activities:

Ola Khalili (PhD Fellow, Education, University of Massachusetts-Amherst) – Ola successfully defended her dissertation early this spring and is now doing final corrections while anticipating an end of semester graduation.

Ayman Khalifah (PhD Fellow, Education, University of Massachusetts-Amherst) – Ayman successfully defended his dissertation early this spring and is now doing final corrections while anticipating an end of semester graduation.

Mohammad Awad (PhD Fellow, Public Administration, University of Texas-Dallas) – Mohammad successfully completed his dissertation early this spring and is now doing final corrections while anticipating an end of semester graduation.

Abdelnasser Arafat (PhD Fellow, Urban Planning, University of Florida) – Abdelnasser passed his comprehensive doctoral exams and has advanced to PhD candidacy.

Abdrabu Abu Alyan (PhD Fellow, Education, University of Massachusetts-Amherst) will return shortly to Gaza to conduct research and write his dissertation.

Nabil Al Joulani and **Sameer Saed** (Short-Term Fellows) have given workshops and lectures during their stay in the US (see Short-Term Fellows)

PFDP Administration and Reporting

Financial

AMIDEAST submitted its 2nd quarter financial pipeline report on March 15, 2010. The total cumulative expenditures reported in the pipeline report were \$498,298.00 including expenditures by OSI. Total actual expenditures were given as \$608,455.00 excluding OSI expenditures.

Administrative

Staffing

During this period, PFDP successfully hired Ms. Samar Abboushi as the new Education Program Manager. Samar is a Fulbright scholar with a master's degree in Nutrition. She has extensive experience in the field of program management, resource mobilization and public relations and education working with national and international organizations. Her latest position was with the NGO Development Center and with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) before that. Ms. Samar will assist the COP in developing evaluation plans for the project as well as oversee the grants component of PFDP.

In February, Mr. Bernaba Ghanim was hired as Grant Officer to replace Mr. Islam Hijawi who left the position of Grants Officer in December. Bernaba has extensive experience with USAID projects and holds a CMA and diplomas in small enterprise management and journalism.

USAID

During this quarter, PFDP staff continued to work closely with USAID WB/G Mission personnel in the Education, Contracts, Measurement and Evaluation, and Media/PR offices.

Visas and Permits

The various issues, logistical arrangements, and procedural questions regarding the granting of permits to travel by Israeli authorities and visas for entrance to the US take an inordinate amount of staff time. Discussions often include PFDP, OSI, USAID, and US State Department staff as well as the requests from PFDP Fellows and dependants as to the status of their applications. Issues dealt with during this quarter include:

- Obtaining permits for Gaza Fellows to return to Gaza via Erez
- Processing J-1 visas for Short-Term Fellows' second or third visit.
- Processing J-2 visa for the wife of PhD Fellow Ihab Dakkak. Ihab was married in December and PFDP applied for a J-2 visa for his new wife on January 27.

During the remainder of the quarter PFDP gathered documentation and arranged for interviews. Permission had not been granted by the end of the quarter.

- Obtaining permits for new PFDP staff to travel to Jerusalem.
- Obtaining permits from Israeli authorities for PhD Fellows to return to the US via Erez and Jordan to complete their dissertation. Sadek Firwana waited over 22 weeks for this permission which was finally denied.
- Security clearance for PhD Fellows. Ammar Dwaik received security clearance to return to the US after waiting for over two months.
- Schengen visa requests for Administrative Seminar attendees. These visas take over a month to be issued and are only for a short period of time.

University Outreach/Communications

The PFDP Communications Coordinator began outreach visits to West Bank universities promoting this year's PFDP components. The PFDP Program Officer in Gaza also conducted outreach visits to Gaza universities also promoting the year's PFDP components and the COP visited Gaza on a regular basis, generally every month or six weeks. During this quarter, PFDP Communications Coordinator attended all PFDP activities in order to document them, assist in logistical preparations, and take pictures for our growing archive.

Furthermore, the PFDP Communications Coordinator attended the annual US Fellows Conference, during which more footage was gathered for the PFDP program media. Interviews were also conducted with the various fellows and footage was gathered during the conference and elsewhere around the campus of the University of Texas-Austin.

The COP continued regular efforts to link to the donor community. He attended the monthly Education Cluster meeting held at MOEHE during this quarter and convened a donor meeting to discuss the US Palestinian Partnership grant process, and attended monthly meetings of The Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)

The Communications Coordinator is also continuously ensuring that the Geo-MIS system is updated with PFDP data including success stories, photographs, and data for the program indicators.

During this period, PFDP corresponded with the designated advertising company regarding the design and layout of newsletter number four. Upon agreement, 1000 copies were ordered for distribution to the higher education system.

In February, PFDP Communications Coordinator and Program Assistant participated in a series of meeting organized by USAID and their partners in order to brainstorm for their upcoming month long activities to celebrate Palestinian women. PFDP staff participated in these meetings and attended the final ceremony of the events. Two of PFDP photos were featured in the USAID website section of women's month.



(Left) Young female students from Birzeit University listening to a lecture by Dr. Maher Hashweh, who received a faculty grant through PFDP. (Right) Dr. Raja receiving her Teaching Excellence Award from Mission Director Sumka at An-Najah University in Nablus in 2009.

Annex A

PFDP Detailed Activity Plan: Year 5: Activities Planned for Year 5,

Quarter Three

	Activity/Task	April	May	June
1.1	PhD Scholarships to U.S.	OSI monitors progress	OSI monitors progress	OSI monitors progress
1.2	MA Scholarships to U.S.	Place DS forms for successful candidates in TRAINET system; Provide pre-academic training for finalists	Provide pre-academic training for finalists	Provide pre-academic training for finalists
1.3	Short-Term Fellowships to U.S.	OSI monitors progress	STF return from first term visit.	STF reports submitted
1.4	Academic Colloquium in West Bank and Gaza	First draft of presentations and or papers.	Advertising for Colloquium; invitations to MOEHE and institutions;	Final logistical arrangements; final presentations submitted for copying.
1.5	Fellows Conference	Presentations on website; evaluations compiled and analyzed.		
1.6	Pre-academic Training	Training for MA Fellows continues	Training for MA Fellows continues	Training for MA first cohort concludes

THE PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

	Activity/Task	April	May	June
2.1	Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET)	Finalize SET candidate list		SET Summer institute
2.2	SET Master Trainers			Master Trainer supported training.
2.3	English Training for Academics	Deliver first round of courses; Review courses and delivery and revise as necessary		
2.4	Faculty Development Series			
2.5	Administrative Seminars	Second CEU Administrative Seminar offered at CEU in Budapest	Third CEU Administrative Seminar offered	Fourth CEU Administrative Seminar offered

THE PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

	Activity/Task	April	May	June
3.1	Centers for Teaching Excellence	Call for expressions of interest and consultants in US	Call for expressions of interest at Palestinian universities	US consultant works with local institutions to prepare proposals
3.2	Collaborative Projects in Teaching	on-going monitoring and activities	Ongoing monitoring and activities. CPT committee to review progress	on-going monitoring and activities
3.3	Faculty Grants for Teaching and Learning	Ongoing monitoring of grant implementation. Contracts concluded with two Gaza projects.	Continue implementation	Continue implementation
3.4	Teaching Excellence Awards	Peer Review Committee meets to confirm criteria and review progress in applications to date	Further advertising if required	Final adjudication of nominations; interviews with USAID/COP
3.5	Studies in Teaching and Learning	Print National Study of Undergraduate Teaching	Launch workshop for National Study	Distribution to all West Bank and Gaza Universities
3.6	Scholarships to Local Universities	Prepare vetting forms for students	Request USAID permission to proceed	Prepare individual letters acknowledging scholarship
3.7	Bard – Al Quds MAT program	Transfer furniture to Bard/Al Quds	Arrange for supplemental purchase of IT equipment. Receive 3 rd invoice for payment	Deliver all furniture and IT equipment. Receive title documents. Prepare new purchase order

Annex B

US Fellows Conference Agenda

Palestinian Faculty Development Program (PFDP)

&

Palestinian Rule of Law Program (PROL)

Hosted by the International Office of the University of Texas at Austin

2010 Joint Fellows' Conference

Schedule

*** Unless otherwise noted all events will be held at: ***

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center 1900 University Avenue, Austin, Texas
78705

Tel: 512-404-1900

Thursday, March 11

11:00am – 11:00pm Grantee Arrivals in Austin

Friday, March 12

8:00 am Breakfast – Conference Dining Room

9:30 am Grantee, Staff, and Participant Introductions

Martha Loerke, Director, OSI Network Scholarship Programs; John FitzGibbon, AMIDEAST COP
PFDP; Joe Glicksberg, Program Manager, PFDP

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Teri Albrecht, Director, International Student & Scholar Services, International
Office, University of Texas at Austin

Location: Classroom 102

10:15 am Talk – “Righting Texas Civil Wrongs: Protecting Religious Freedom in Texas Public
Schools”

Terri Burke, Executive Director

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas

Location: Classroom 102

11:15 am Coffee Break – Conference Break Area

11:30 am Keynote Speech -- AMIDEAST

Ambassador Theodore Kattouf, President, AMIDEAST

Location: Classroom 102 2

THE PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

12:30 pm Lunch – Conference Dining Room

1:15 pm Break for Friday Prayer

2:00 pm Keynote Speech – USAID

Ms. Ethel Brooks, Field Technical Advisor, Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau,
Office of Education, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Location: Classroom 102

3:00 pm Campus Tour – Meet in Classroom 102

4:15pm End of Day's Activities

5:30pm Meet in AT&T Center Hotel Lobby to Walk as Group to Dinner

6:00pm Group Dinner at El Mercado Uptown Restaurant

1702 Lavaca St. at 17th St.; Tel: 512-477-7689

Saturday, March 13

8:00 am Breakfast – Conference Dining Room

9:00 am PFDP Grantees: PhD and Visiting Faculty Disciplinary Interactive Grantee Workshops –
Paired Presentations and Critiques

PROL Grantees – PROL GRANTEES:

a) Discussion of Internship Plans and Engagement with the PROL and Palestinian Community upon
Your Return

b) Brainstorming Session on Internship Grant Management

Location: All PFDP and PROL Grantees Meet in Classroom 102 Before Moving to Breakout Rooms
PFDP Workshops

Group 1 – Political Science, Classroom 107

Group 2 – Public Policy and Social Work, Classroom 107

Group 3 – Education, Classroom 108

Group 4 – Urban Planning, Classroom 108

Group 5 – Visiting Faculty, Room 102

PROL Discussion -- Conference Break Area with Patrick Hynes 3

THE PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

11:30 am All Grantees: Talk and Discussion: “Prejudice Against Middle Easterners in the United States: Research Findings”

Dr. Germine Awad, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education, UT-Austin

Location: Classroom 102

12:30 pm Lunch (and Prayer Time) – Conference Dining Area

1:45 pm PFDP GRANTEES: Group Work and Brainstorming Session -- “Bringing It Home: Engaging in the PFDP and Palestinian Community upon Your Return”

John FitzGibbon, Chief of Party, PFDP, AMIDEAST

Hasan Ayoub, PFDP PhD Grantee, University of Denver

Location: Classroom 102

PROL Grantees: Presentation: “Beyond the Written Constitution: Constitutional Crisis of, and the Institutional Deadlock in, the Palestinian Political System as entrenched in the Basic Law”

Dr. Asem Khalil, PROL Visiting Faculty Fellow, New York University School of Law

Location: Classroom 107

3:00 pm Grantee Presentations of Dissertation Research

Mohammad Awad , UT-Dallas, Public Administration

Discussant: Dr. Kimberly A. Aaron (Mohammad’s Dissertation Adviser)

Ola Khalili, UMass-Amherst, Education

Discussant: TBA

Dua’ Nakhla, UT-Austin, Political Science

Discussant: Joe Glicksberg

Ayman Khalifah, UMass-Amherst, Education

Discussant: TBA

4:30 pm Grantee Free Time -- Dinner on Own in Austin

Sunday, March 14

8:00 am Breakfast – Conference Dining Room

9:30 am Academic Status Questionnaire Presentation

10:00 am Discussion of DS-2019 Status of PhD Grantees

10:30 am Conference Evaluation and Group Discussion 4

THE PALESTINIAN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)

11:00 pm Closing Remarks

John FitzGibbon, AMIDEAST COP PFDP

Joe Glicksberg, OSI Program Manager, PFDP

11:15 am Hotel Check-Out and Bag Storage

12:00 pm Lunch – Conference Dining Area

12:30 pm Grantee Departures – (Shuttle Buses to Airport from ATT Center at 12:30pm and 2:30pm)

