



Alumni News

Alumni Iftar Reception



On July 31 the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat organized an Iftar reception for Omani alumni of U.S. educational and cultural exchange programs. The Embassy organizes this annual gathering to celebrate the holy month of Ramadhan and renew its friendship and connection with alumni of different exchange programs. The reception was held at the Sadaf Restaurants in Seeb and was attended by about 65 alumni of various exchange programs. The event was a great opportunity for alumni to connect with their fellow alumni and meet new alumni who recently returned from the U.S.

During the event, Laura Malenas, Chef of the Political and Economic Section at the U.S. Embassy, welcomed the alumni and gave remarks about the great importance of such programs in building mutual understanding between Omanis and Americans. Also, she highlighted the significant role that Omani participants in exchange programs play in the U.S. institutions that hosted them by teaching others about the unique culture and values of Oman. She also mentioned that alumni have an equally important role in their home country by sharing their experience and knowledge from their exchange programs with friends and colleagues when they come back. Additionally, Mrs. Laura Malenas encouraged alumni to keep in touch with their international friends and colleagues around the world and with their Omani alumni and work together to benefit their communities.

Register at the International Exchange Alumni Website at: alumni.state.gov



With the coordination of the U.S. Embassy in Muscat, four Omani participants representing the Addiction Department at the Ministry of Health, AlHayat Association and Al Shabiba Newspaper joined an International Visitor Leadership Program on Combating Drugs. The participants attended various sessions in the field of education and counseling to reduce drug addiction and learned about the research experiments and studies carried out by a number of U.S. health care institutions in the United States. Also, participants had the chance to visit a number of rehabilitation centers, courts and police stations in different states. The group discussed with government and private institutions' representatives legal practices to combat drug abuse and the narcotics trade in each state. In addition, the participants also explored the laws of different states and efforts in combating drug abuse in the United States. The Omani team hopes to be able to learn from the U.S. experience and explore application areas in Oman and share their knowledge and best practices with individuals and institutions.

Follow link to read more about the program details prepared by one of the participants.

<http://shabiba.com/News/Article-20173.aspx> , <http://shabiba.com/News/Article-20836.aspx>

2013 NESAS UGRAD Students Depart Oman

On August 10, 2013, a group of four Omani students from different colleges in Oman departed for the United States to participate in the 2013 NESAS UGRAD program which is a one-year scholarship to study at an American undergraduate institution. The Near East and South Asia Undergraduate scholarship gives college-level students from the Middle East and North Africa an opportunity to study for one year in a U.S. educational institution and provides them with a broad exposure to the study environment of U.S. educational institutions. The program also includes a community service component and an internship related to the participants' field of study. This year Anas Al Rwahi, Maryam Al Bulushi, Shinnona Al Harthi and Afaf Al Zadjali are participating in the program. *Read more about NESAS UGRAD Exchange Program at:*

http://oman.usembassy.gov/nesa-undergraduate_exchange_program3.html



Participants picture with Embassy staff at pre-departure orientation

Alumni Corner

Moza Al Kindi shares her experience in the E-teacher Program:



Moza Al Kindi, center with the U.S. Ambassador

It was the first time for me to experience online courses, but in fact, it was really a great and fruitful experience. I learned a lot out of that course which was Teaching English to Young learners (TEYL). The reason I chose that course is because I teach children aged less than ten years old. Therefore, I wanted to learn more about different strategies and skills to help me in teaching. The course was really organized. The materials introduced were very relevant and helpful. The course was about ten weeks. Each week focused on a certain skill to read about then discuss it in the group discussion forum. I met different experienced teachers from different parts of the world. We shared ideas and thoughts together

and each one talked about certain situations related to the topic. What I liked about the course the most is that it was very organized and we had some facilitators who followed us and provided us with guidance. I didn't feel that I was lost or something. Everything was clear to me and we could weekly know our grades and how well we did plus some useful feedback. So I am looking forward to join another course with Oregon University because I really enjoyed working with them. Moza Al Kindi.

Read more about the E-teacher scholarship at: <http://oman.usembassy.gov/e-teacher-program>.

Embassy News

Public Affairs Section Participates in Salah Festival



The U.S. Embassy in Muscat has recently participated in the 2013 Salalah Festival by having a booth that provided a variety of resources and services for visitors. For the fourth consecutive year, the Embassy's participation received good public interest as more than 500 visitors stopped by over a period of six days. This year, there was a section for kids to color drawings and win children stories and coloring booklets. Also, there were free publications for adults in both Arabic and English. The publications included translated books about economy, tourism and culture in the U.S. as well as some maps and brochures and magazines on other different topics. In addition, Embassy staff and EducationUSA adviser provided visitors with information about undergraduate and graduate study in the U.S. and Department of State exchange programs opportunities.

New Acting Public Affairs Officer

Maxwell H. Stoneman recently joined the U.S. Embassy Muscat coming from the U.S. Embassy in Casablanca, Morocco. Mr. Stoneman is currently the Acting Public Affairs Officer at the Public Affairs Section. Mr. Stoneman, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Middle East Studies/Arabic. As part of his undergraduate program he studied Arabic at the University of Jordan in Amman for four months. Prior to joining the Department of State, he worked at Classical 89 KBYU-FM as an on-air announcer and producer. Also, he did graduate work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem focusing on Israeli Studies. Maxwell speaks Arabic, French, Hebrew and Portuguese.



Resources

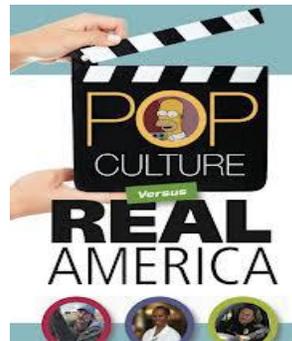
Online journals and publications



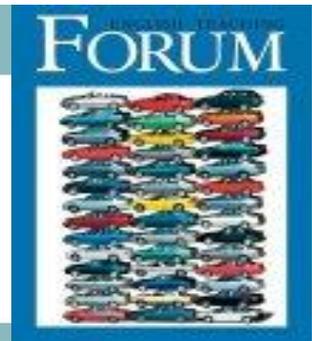
www.ejUSA.state.gov



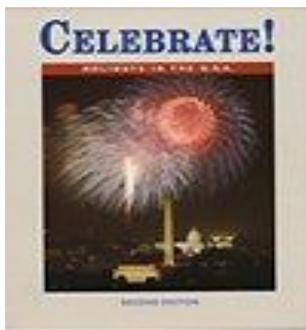
[Overcoming Barriers to Equal Education](#)



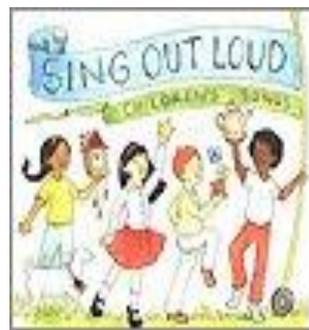
[Pop Culture Versus Real America](#)



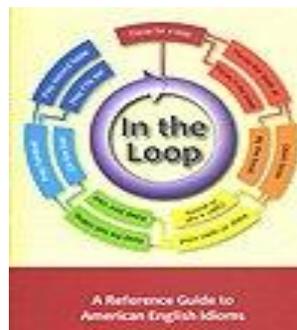
[English Teaching Forum](#)



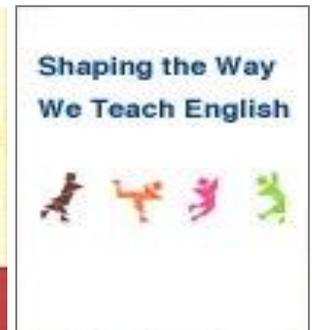
[Celebrate! Holidays in the U.S.A.](#)



[Sing Out Loud: Children's Songs](#)



[In the Loop: American Idioms Book](#)



[Shaping the Way We Teach English](#)

Websites

Education Resources



U.S. Exchange Programs

<http://oman.usembassy.gov/educational-exchange.html>



American English Website

<http://americanenglish.state.gov>



American English Mobile App

<http://m.binu.com/ae>

Travel and Tourism Resources to the U.S.



Discover America

www.discoveramerica.com



www.Recreation.gov



[Traveling to the United States](#)



The new website responds to alumni requests for a faster, more modern, interactive, and accessible website. It features enhancements of your favorite content including a \$33 billion grants database, job opportunities, an e-library of more than 20,000 publications, and alumni news and events. It also offers exciting new features including a project collaboration space as well as tools for you to more easily connect and engage with your peers. Additionally, the new site features pages that are viewable by the public so that we can work with you to share your achievements with a global audience. Visit: <https://alumni.state.gov/>

About State Alumni Voice:

State Alumni Voice is a monthly newsletter published by the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat and aims to connect to Omani alumni of U.S. exchange programs. The newsletter features alumni news by highlighting alumni recent events and activities as well as U.S. Embassy outreach programs. It is also a platform for alumni to share their success stories through their exchange programs and spread the word about them. The newsletter also provides alumni with updated information, resources, job and training opportunities and upcoming events and programs deadlines.



Keep in touch and send us your suggestions for alumni events, inquiries, success stories, and proposals. Contact Alumni Coordinator, Sami Al Kharusi at: AL-KharusiSS@state.gov U.S.

Embassy Social Media Links:  |  |  |  | 