

Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh



النقير الشامل لللوم السعودل المفنوح المقاع بجامعة كارنلجى ملون

لوم الأربعا ٢١/٣/١٤٢٧هـ الموافق ١٩/٤/٢٠٠٦م



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www.saudinpitt.org

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الرقم: ٥٩٣/١٨/٥٠١
التاريخ: ١٥/٣/١٤٢٧هـ
الموافق: ١٣/٤/٢٠٠٦م
الرفقات: لا يوجد

وزارة الخارجية
سفارة المملكة العربية السعودية في واشنطن
ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037
مكتب السفير

الإخوة المبتعثين الكرام بنادي الطلبة السعوديين
مدينة بتسبرج ولاية بنسلفانيا

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته :

إشارة الى رسالتكم المؤرخة في ١٤٢٧/٣/٨هـ بشأن دعوتكم لصاحب السمو الملكي الأمير تركي الفيصل ، سفير خادم الحرمين الشريفين ، لدى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية ، لحضور اليوم السعودي المفتوح المقرر إقامته يوم الأربعاء ١٩ / أبريل ٢٠٠٦م بجامعة كارنيجي ميلون ، وذلك في إطار أنشطة النادي الثقافية .

يطيب لي أن أنقل لكم شكر وتقدير سمو السفير ، يحفظه الله ، على وطنيتكم وجهودكم الطيبة لإبراز الصورة الحقيقية لبلادنا العزيزة ، وكم كان يود سموه الكريم مشاركتكم هذه المناسبة لولا إرتباطاته العملية المسبقة ، وسيتم النظر في وقت آخر لمشاركتكم هذه البرامج حسب برنامج سموه .

مع تمنيات سموه لكم بالتوفيق والنجاح .

وتقبلوا تحياتي ،،،،،
أخوكم

سلمان بن سلطان بن عبدالعزيز

الوزير المفوض بالسفارة

<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/multicultural/Mini-Grant%20Application.pdf>

ehalf@andrew.cmu.edu Emily Half

Saudi Open House

4/19/2006

Sponsored by

Muslim Students Association (MSA)

Saudi Students House (SSH)

Funds requested \$400

Coordinators

Basil As-Sadhan
President of the SSH
bsadhan@ece.cmu.edu

Nazeeh Al-Othmany
VP and cultural coordinator of the SSH
nsast6@pitt.edu

There is a large number of Saudi Students expected to attend different universities and schools in Pittsburgh in the coming five years. This led the members of the Saudi Students House to work on organizing different events and programs that would promote cultural exchange with the students at different schools and universities.

The objective is to provide platforms that would promote dialogue with other students to increase the awareness of students towards other cultures and to promote diversity, tolerance, and peace.

Organizations Profile

Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh

Objective:

To present Saudi Arabian culture and development through social events which help in mutual understanding between people in Saudi Arabia and the US. To provide new coming Saudi students with every possible assistance. To organize and coordinate social activities with Saudi students and Saudi community in Pittsburgh.

Activities:

- Participated in the multicultural student fair in the UC on 9/17/2005
- Participated in the international food festival in the UC on 11/4/2005
- Currently preparing to hold a Saudi Open House in Connan room on 4/19/2006
- Monthly general body meeting hosting a speaker from among our selves, summer picnics, Saudi tables in Pitt, computer skills 2-hour courses in Pitt's computer labs, recreational trips for whitewater rafting and snow tubing, 2 ping pong tournaments, weekly soccer meetings

Officers:

Basil As-Sadhan - President
Nazeeh Al-Othamny - VP and Cultural Coordinator
Ahmad Al-Ghadir - Treasurer
Marshad Al-Mutairi - Social and Sports Coordinator

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marshadalmutairi@yahoo.com

Muslim Students Association in CMU

Objective:

To work for the betterment of the Muslim and Non-Muslim community on campus through community service, education and social activities.

Activities:

- Participated in the multicultural student fair in the UC on 9/17/2005
- Held an Iftar meal in campus during the moth on Ramadan, where the President of CMU attended
- Organized a lecture about Prophet Muhammad in McConomy auditorium on 3/27/2006
- Weekly discussion groups

Officers:

Ryan Tarpine	- President	rtarpine@andrew.cmu.edu
Salahuddin Choudhary	- Vice President	salahuddin@cmu.edu
Samiah Akhtar	- Secretary	samiah@cmu.edu
Nader Shakir	- Treasurer	nshakir@andrew.cmu.edu

Event Proposal

Last summer, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia made an agreement with President Bush to increase the number of Saudi Students coming to USA, and as a result, Saudi Arabia decided to launch approximately ~5000 scholarships for Saudi students every semester to come and study in the USA during the coming five years.

These scholarships were in 14 technical fields related to medicine, engineering and technology. During the current spring semester, there were about 50 Saudi Students who ended up in different schools and Universities around Pittsburgh and more are expected to come in the next few years.

This increased flux of students encourages us to organize programs and events that would provide cultural exchange between Saudi and American Students to promote better understanding for each other which is one of the prime objectives of the Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh since education and awareness are ways to empower peace and tolerance.

Our guests will be able to meet Saudi students male and females, experience Henna, Arabic food, learn about Saudi Arabia's education, health system, development, taste tea and Arabic coffee, culture, currency, have their names written in Arabic, experience the seating arrangements in a tent that is going to be assembled in the room and then join discussions run by several Saudi students about women in Saudi, Islam, America in the mind of Saudi students, and many more activities that will hopefully provide a good cultural exchange between our Students and guests.

Our guests will also experience the Saudi hospitality through tasting free food that is prepared by some of the members of the Saudi Students House. We would like our guests to experience different aspects of the social and economical life in Saudi Arabia a side that is rarely emphasized in international media.

The following table shows a list of events taking place in the event (refer to the attached diagram of the room setup):

Table 1, 2	Welcome Tables containing books about Saudi Arabia, Survey, welcome flowers
Table 3	Have your name written in Arabic

Table 4, 5	Statistics about Saudi Education, Trade, Universities,
Table 6, 7	Display of Art work of Arabic Calligraphy by Award winning CMU Student
Table 8, 9, 10	Ladies corner (Arabic food recipes, Henna, Saudi Currency, Saudi dresses, Take photos in Saudi Abaya for ladies)
Table 11, 12, 13	Food Corner (different Saudi dishes prepared by members of the Saudi students house, some food will also be catered)
Table 14	Offering Tea with Mint, Arabic coffee
Tent and Living room seating	Experience a traditional living room, play one of the traditional games (Kayram), have your picture taken while wearing Saudi dress
Round table discussion	Short presentations by Saudi Students about Reflections of a Saudi Student before arriving to America, Examples of Saudi Pioneer Women

Budget:-

Expenses:

Renting the hall	175
Renting a microphone	50
Renting stands to assemble the tent	40
Buying stationary items to prepare posters	80
Buying plates, cups, spoons for serving food	80
Copying fliers (both colored/black and white)	150
Buying Baklawa (middle eastern sweet)	75
Buying flowers to be distributed to guests	50
Preparing Post Cards for writing names in Arabic	150
Catering a portion of the served food	300
Total	1150

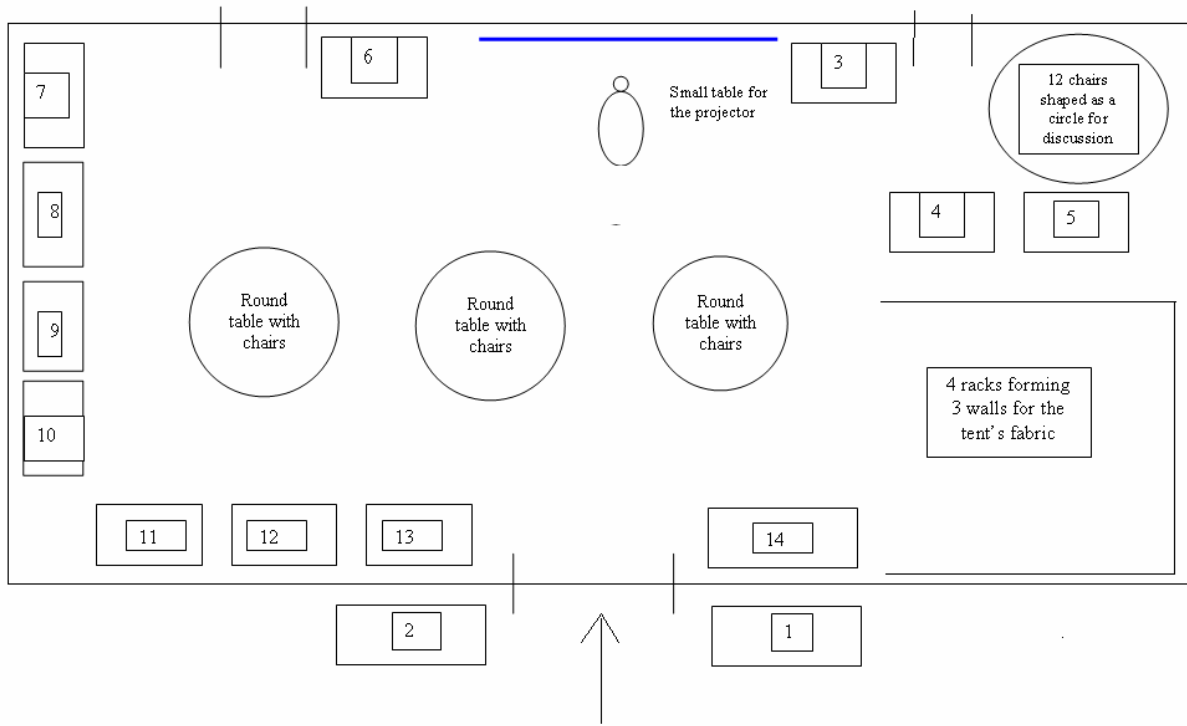
Funds:

Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission	500
Office of the Dean of Student Affairs (hopefully)	400
SSH's bank account	250
Total	1150

***Program Layout:-**

Saudi Open House

4/19/2006, Connan Room UC, 2:30-8:00



University Center

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itorders@andrew.cmu.edu

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Invitation to an open House about Saudi Arabia

Dear Sir/Madam

The Saudi Students House invites you to an Open House about Saudi Arabia. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM, in the Connan room, University Center building in Carnegie Mellon University.

Last summer, king Abdullah of Saudi Arabia made an agreement with President Bush to increase the number of Saudi Students coming to USA, and as a result, Saudi Arabia decided to launch approximately ~5000 scholarships for Saudi students every semester to come and study in the USA.

These scholarships were in 14 technical fields related to medicine, engineering and technology. During the current spring semester, there were about 50 Saudi Students who ended up in different schools and Universities around Pittsburgh and more are expected to come in the next few years.

This increased flux of students encourages us to organize programs and events that would provide cultural exchange between Saudi and American Students to promote better understanding for each other which is one of the prime objectives of the Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh.

The event includes experiencing many aspects of our culture so we hope that you would have some time to attend the event with your family and friends and help us in building more bridges with the Community.

The program will include the following:

- Free food and drinks for everyone
- How to cook some delicious meals and Arabian coffee
- You will have the chance to try on the Saudis' uniform (males & females) and you may bring your own cameras to take as many photos as you like
- Participate in open discussion about Saudi Arabia with some Saudis students
- Have your name written in Arabic and learn some common Arabic vocabularies in a few minutes
- For ladies only: Have beautiful henna (temporary tattoo) on your forehead
- And more & more...

Thank you

DONT MISS IT

After a long semester, the **Saudi Students House** in Pittsburgh would like to welcome our friends from all over the world to join us in a special event

Saudi Open House

Wednesday April 19th

4:30-7:00 PM

**Connan Room - University Center at 5032 Forbes Ave.
Carnegie Mellon University**

The Program on that day will include:-

- **Free** food and drinks for everyone
- How to cook some delicious meals and Arabian coffee
- You will have the chance to try on the Saudis' uniform (males & females) and you may bring your own cameras to take as many photos as you like
- Participate in open discussion about Saudi Arabia with some Saudis students
- Have your name written in Arabic and learn some common Arabic vocabularies in a few minutes
- For ladies only: Have beautiful henna (temporary tattoo) on your forehead
- And more & more...

For more information please contact saudi_n_pitt@yahoo.com



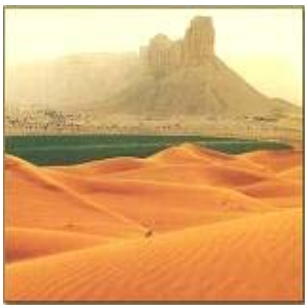
Discover the rich heritage, values, unique culture, traditions, distinctive customs and history of an exotic and ancient land
Travel with us to all the geographical features and terrains, from the coastal plains of the Red Sea and the Gulf through oceans of sands in the desert all the way up to the mountains.
Experience the taste of Arabic coffee, Tea and dates.
Join us with your friends and family

Saudi Open House

Wednesday April 19th

4:30-7:00 PM

Cannon Room - University Center
Carnegie Mellon University



The event is free and open to all public
Sponsored by the Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh

Copy Cat

Residence Hall

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University Center

Space Quest

www.cmu.edu/university-center

University Center

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Student Activities

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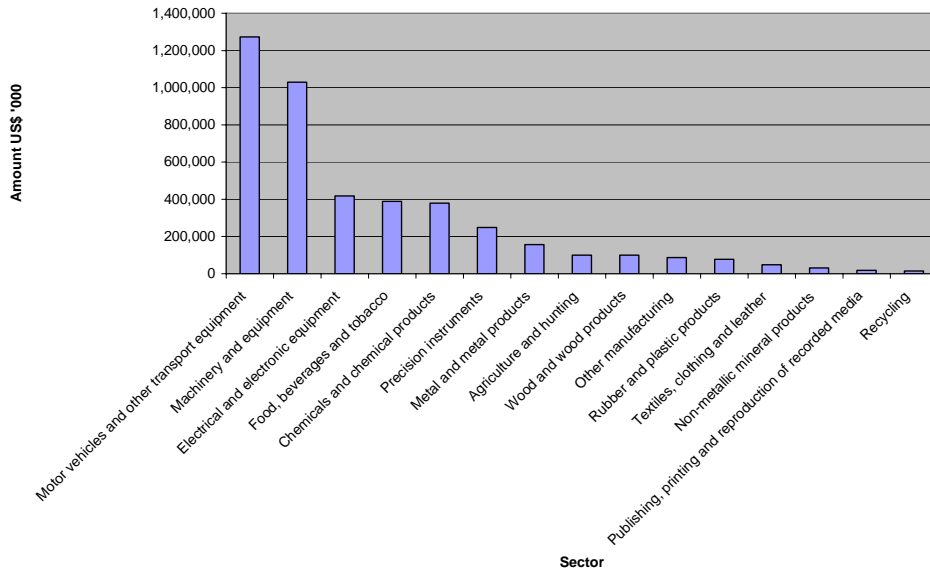




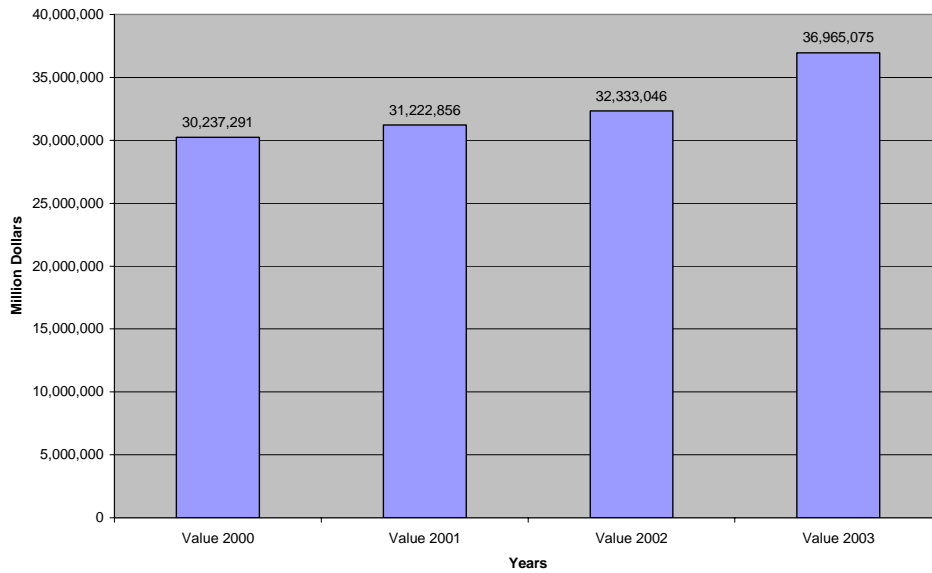
Saudi Arabian Exports To The United State				
Exporter	Importer	Sector	Current Exports 2002-2003	share in SAU 's exports of sector, in %
Saudi Arabia	United States	TOTAL	14136936	0.218
Saudi Arabia	United States	Petroleum	13,800,000	25.6%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Chemicals and chemical products	173,545	7.9%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Coke, petroleum products and nuclear fuel	115,474	1.5%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Food, beverages and tobacco	24,363	23.9%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Textiles, clothing and leather	7,617	12.0%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Metal and metal products	6,118	4.1%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Machinery and equipment	2,466	3.2%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Recycling	2,097	5.1%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Non-metallic mineral products	1,687	2.1%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Electrical and electronic equipment	1,480	2.7%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Rubber and plastic products	1,019	3.2%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	446	0.2%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media	221	1.5%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Agriculture and hunting	104	0.5%
Saudi Arabia	United States	Precision instruments	98	0.1%

Sources: ITC's TradeSim model, version 3. Tariff data are derived from www.macmap.org data and FDI data has been provided by UNCTAD.

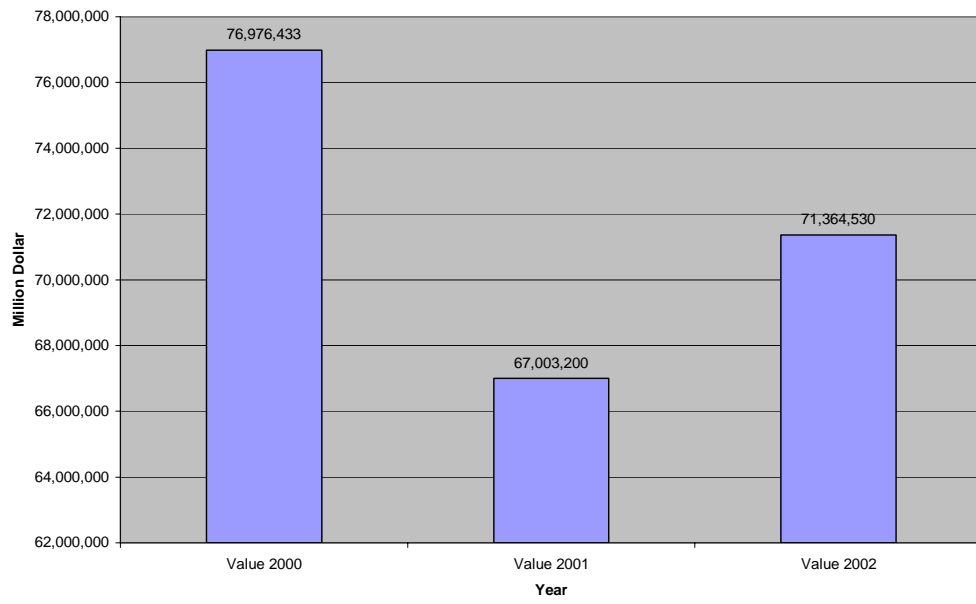
US Exports To Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabian Imports Values



Saudi Arabian Exports



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Write your name in Arabic Postcard (4 pages needed, 2 per color)

ARABIC NUMBERS

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

THE ARABIC ALPHABET

													LETTER	
sād	shīn	sīn	zay	rā	dhāl	dāl	Khā	hā	jīm	thā	tā	bā	alif	NAME
s.	sh	s	z	r	dh	d	kh	h	j	th	t	b	,	SOUND
													LETTER	
yā	wāw	hā	nūn	mīm	lām	Kāf	Qāf	fā	ghayn	‘Ayn	Zā	tā	Dhād	NAME
y	w	h	n	m	l	k	q	f	gh	‘	z	t	d	SOUND

Arabic is written from right to left

The letters “d”, “h”, “s”, “t” and “z” are presented twice, however, each has a different sound

A few words in Arabic as they sound when spoken:

HELLO: Marhaba GOOD MORNING: Sabah Al-Khair GOOD EVENING: Masa Al-Khair
MY NAME IS: Ismi..... GOOD: Tayyib PLEASE: Min Fadlik THANKS: Shukran
YOU'RE WELCOME: Afwan YES: Naam NO: La FRIEND: Sadeeq GOODBYE: Ma'a Salamah



My name in Arabic

**With the compliments of the Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh
P.O. Box 71048, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**



What is Henna?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

'*Henna*' is a flowering plant. It is native to tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, southern Asia and northern Australasia with an arid or at least seasonally dry climate.

It is a shrub growing to 6 m tall. The flowers are fragrant, produced in conical panicles 10–40 cm long, each flower 5 mm diameter, with four white petals. The fruit is a dry capsule 6–8 mm diameter, containing numerous 1–2.5 mm seeds.

Cultivation and uses:-

Henna is used as a dye, particularly in hair coloring, and temporary body art known as "mehndi" (also written as "mehendi" or "mehandi"). The dye is extracted from the dried leaf and petioles of the plant.

The natural dye is traditionally found in India, Pakistan, Iran, and North Africa, and also in expatriate communities from these countries. It is also widely used in the Arabic peninsula.

Preparing the Henna:-

To create henna, the leaves are dried and ground into a powder that is greenish-brown. Strong tea, lemon juice and essential oils (such as tea tree and lavender) can be added to release the dye from the powder, and sugar is mixed in to produce a mud-like consistency. The resulting paste needs to set for about 24-30 hours at room temperature to allow the dye to release fully. This can be sped up to as little as 1 hour by warming the mixture to 40 °C.

Allergic reactions to natural henna are rare, and typically do not cause serious health effects. Symptoms are usually apparent within a few hours, and are generally limited to mild itching, shortness of breath, and/or tightness in the chest.

***Use of henna as body art:-**

Mehndi is the application of henna as a temporary form of skin decoration. This usage is popular in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia as well as expatriate communities from these areas. It is usually drawn on the hands and feet, where the designs will last the longest.

Henna paste is usually applied to the skin using a plastic cone or a paint brush, but sometimes a small metal-tipped jacquard bottle used for silk painting (a "jac bottle") is used. The affected area is then wrapped with tissue, plastic, or medical tape to lock in body heat, creating a more intense color on the skin. The wrap is worn overnight and then removed. The final color is reddish brown and can last anywhere from two weeks to several months depending on the quality of the paste.

The patterns of Mehndi are typically quite intricate, and predominantly applied to brides before wedding ceremonies. However, traditions in Bangladesh, Kashmir and Sudan sometimes expect bridegrooms to be painted as well. In Rajasthan (northwest India), where mehndi is a very ancient folk art, the grooms are given designs which are often as elaborate as those for brides. In Kerala (South India), Henna is known as "Mylanchi" and is commonly used by the Mappila (Muslim) community during weddings and festivals.

Mehndi decorations became fashionable in the West in the late 1990s, where they are sometimes called "henna tattoos". This American marketing slang is inaccurate, since tattoos are defined as permanent surgical insertion of pigments "underneath" the skin.



Recipe Memories of Desert Storm







- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comprises about four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula
- Each year the Holy City of Makkah hosts about 2,000,000 pilgrims from all over the world
- In 1984 (1404 AH), Saudi Arabia competed in the Olympic Games for the first time, in the games of football and rifle-shooting
- The efforts of the Saudi athletes culminated in the success of the Saudi National Football Team in 1984 (1404 AH), when the team won the Asian Football Cup
- The development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has brought with it increasing opportunities for women in both education and employment
- In 1960 (1379/80 AH), the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia undertook the introduction of a national education program for girls
- Saudi oil reserves are the largest in the world, and Saudi Arabia is the world's leading oil producer and exporter

- The College of Pharmacology at King Saud University developed a drug effective in stabilizing blood sugar in diabetics
- In Saudi Arabia, general education consist of kindergarten, six years of primary school, and three years each of intermediate and secondary (high) school
- The heart surgeons at the Armed Forces Hospital Heart Center in Riyadh are leaders in performing innovative open-heart surgeries on an infants

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Saudi Open House – CMU Feedback form
Help us do better in future events

1) Are you a:				
<input type="radio"/> Student	<input type="radio"/> Faculty member	<input type="radio"/> Staff member		
2) Are you affiliated with:				
<input type="radio"/> CMU	<input type="radio"/> Pitt	<input type="radio"/> Duquesne		
<input type="radio"/> Point Park	<input type="radio"/> Other, please specify _____			
3) How did you hear about the event?				
<input type="radio"/> Email announcement	<input type="radio"/> Flier or Poster	<input type="radio"/> Friend		
<input type="radio"/> You were passing by	<input type="radio"/> Other, please specify _____			
4) Which displays you liked the most?				
<input type="radio"/> Food	<input type="radio"/> Food recipeis	<input type="radio"/> Writing names in Arabic		
<input type="radio"/> Photos with Saudi uniform	<input type="radio"/> PowerPoint presentation	<input type="radio"/> Drawings and paintings		
<input type="radio"/> Discussion with Saudis	<input type="radio"/> henna (temporary tattoo)	<input type="radio"/> Flowers		
<input type="radio"/> Tent and Saudi seating	<input type="radio"/> Saudi coffee	<input type="radio"/> Saudi tea		
<input type="radio"/> Saudi Songs	<input type="radio"/> Saudi clothes	<input type="radio"/> Books about Islam		
<input type="radio"/> Welcoming table	<input type="radio"/> Other, please specify _____			
5) Did you learn something new about Saudi Arabia? If yes, please specify.				
6) What was one thing you wanted to learn about but was not in the event?				
7) Additional comments?				
8) How do you rate this event?				
<input type="radio"/> Excellent	<input type="radio"/> Very Good	<input type="radio"/> Good	<input type="radio"/> Fair	<input type="radio"/> Poor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Please distribute and Advertise Widely

Contact: _____
Saudi Students House
www.saudinpitt.org

Saudi Students to organize and Open house about Saudi Arabia

*SSH to hold an open house about Saudi Arabia on April 19th, 2006 between 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM at the Cannon room, University Center, Carnegie Mellon University
5032 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213,*

Last summer, king Abdullah of Saudi Arabia made an agreement with President Bush to increase the number of Saudi Students coming to USA, and as a result, Saudi Arabia decided to launch approximately ~5000 scholarships for Saudi students every semester to come and study in the USA during the coming five years.

These scholarships were in 14 technical fields related to medicine, engineering and technology. During the current spring semester, there were about 50 Saudi Students who ended up in different schools and Universities around Pittsburgh and more are expected to come in the next few years.

This increased flux of students encourages us to organize programs and events that would provide cultural exchange between Saudi and American Students to promote better understanding for each other which is one of the prime objectives of the Saudi Students House in Pittsburgh since education and awareness are ways to empower peace and tolerance.

Guests to the event are going to discover the rich heritage, values, unique culture, traditions, distinctive customs and history of an exotic and ancient land. The program includes many events directed towards introducing the culture of Saudi Arabia in many aspects.

Our guests will be able to meet Saudi students male and females, experience Henna, Arabic food, learn about Saudi Arabia's education, health system, development, music, culture, experience the seating arrangements in a tent that is going to be assembled in the room and then join discussions run by several Saudi students about Women in Saudi, Islam, America in the mind of Saudi students, and many more activities that will hopefully provide some good time for you and for your families.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 19th, 2006, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

WHERE: *Connan room, University Center, Carnegie Mellon University, 5032 Forbes Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15213,*

We hope that you would be able to send a reporter who would help in delivering our message to the larger community of Pittsburgh.

http://www.thetartan.org/2006/4/24/news/saudi_open_house
Saudi Students House holds event to promote national

Outside the University Center's Connan Room last Wednesday, pamphlets laid on tables provided information about Islamic terrorists, moral systems, and politics. Inside, Saudi Arabian students celebrated cultural values with fellow Carnegie Mellon students from all kinds of backgrounds.

To foster cultural exchange, the Saudi Students House (SSH) in Pittsburgh led the Saudi Open House last week.

The open house filled every inch of the Connan Room with spectators and Saudi culture.

The event featured Saudi games, food, art, dances, and tattoos. Students dressed in traditional Saudi attire greeted visitors and served authentic food to a long line of chattering guests.

Hoda Moustapha, who recently received her PhD from Carnegie Mellon, displayed her works of art at the open house.

Moustapha takes cultural and religious words and makes them into many different designs for paintings. She believes that this event will help students a lot.

"Once people see a different culture, they change their perception," Moustapha said.

The SSH held a similar event at the University of Pittsburgh recently. Basil As-Sadhan, a PhD candidate in Carnegie Mellon's electrical and computer engineering department and the president of SSH, said that the Pitt Open House received positive feedback that encouraged him and his fellow students to bring the event to Carnegie Mellon.

"In order to learn about others, we must present ourselves," As-Sadhan said. "It's a two-way exchange.... [Saudi] students in America are not only just studying. They are mingling and living with Americans as well."

Students of different backgrounds mingled quite a bit in the small room, and interested students could learn about Saudi traditions through PowerPoint presentations and display boards with printed information.

Nazeeh Al-Othmany, a graduate student in electrical engineering at Pitt, believes that such information exchange both educates and counters poor media representation of both cultures.

“I want people to take from this [an unwillingness] to surrender to media stereotypes,” Al-Othmany said.

Al-Othmany believes that Americans think of Saudi Arabia as a desert country with a lot of oil, and he said that the open house would encourage more

interaction to change that perception.

He also said that the Saudis see America as a haven of high crime rate and killings on the street.

“The image of the United States in the eyes of Saudis is the image of Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, and Jerry Springer,” said Al-Othmany.

“If the American media is doing such a bad job at presenting its own culture, you can imagine how bad it’s doing at presenting other cultures.”

As for the influence of cultural exchanges, Al-Othmany believes that changing stereotypes through grassroots movements will eventually influence politicians.

He also emphasized the importance of more educational programs like delegations and student exchanges.

“We need to be proactive in presenting our culture and our values to the society so that people would learn about us and would not be scared of us, because people fear what they don’t know,” Al-Othmany said. “The only way to make these perceptions disappear is through interactions.”

From: "Matthew McKee" <mmckee1@andrew.cmu.edu>
To: <nsast6@pitt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 3:12 PM
Subject: Apology

Mr. Alothmany,

Thank you for your correction ,and I apologize profusely. It was a careless mistake in the interest of a catchy lead, and you're right, my choice of words was offensive, wrong, and counterproductive. Your position is completely justified. The phrase is both factually and stereotypically incorrect, and I will support any correction we print. I also hope that you will consider writing a letter to the editor)forum@thetartan.org (to present your position, because it is a critically important issue. Thank you very much for pointing this out, and once again, I offer you my sincere apologies.

Yours,

Matthew McKee

-----Original Message -----

From: "Brittany McCandless" <bmccandl@andrew.cmu.edu>

To: <nsast6@pitt.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 2:50 PM

Subject: response to Saudi Student's... article

Mr. Alothmany,

Hello! My name is Brittany McCandless, and I'm the News Editor at The Tartan. I appreciate your response and correction on the Saudi Student open house article .

I will run a correction in next week's print issue. If you'd like to publish your letter as a Letter to the Editor, please email forum@thetartan.org ,and the forum editor Marshall Roy will get back to you about space in next week's issue. Please do keep in mind that as we are only publishing one more issue this semester, there may not be enough space .

I apologize for any misunderstanding or inconvenience this may have caused .

Regards,
Brittany

Terrorism has neither religion nor nationality
http://www.thetartan.org/2006/5/1/forum/LTE_terrorism

I would like to thank The Tartan its coverage of the Saudi Open House on April 19. The article ["Saudi Students House holds event to promote national awareness," April 24] was quite nice; however, I want to raise concerns about using the following sentence in the beginning of the article: "Pamphlets laid on tables provided information about Islamic terrorists."

The pamphlets contained statements made by many Saudi officials, scholars, and intellectuals condemning terrorism. They also contained statements from U.S. officials, including the 9/11 commission report that commended the level of cooperation of Saudi Arabia with the international community in combating terrorism. So I really don't think that the words "Islamic terrorism" are an accurate description of the contents of those pamphlets.

In addition, terrorism has neither a religion nor a nationality because there are fanatics within every ideology around the world. There are people who blow up abortion clinics in the name of Jesus (peace and blessings of God be upon him). We can't call them Christian terrorists; we can't even refer to those actions as "Christian terrorism" because the teachings of Christianity are exactly the opposite of these actions. We cannot accuse the entire faith of the actions of a few people who want to advance personal interests and agendas through twisted interpretations of religion.

Islam is a religion that is followed by 1.5 billion people around the world, and it does not teach terrorism. The Qur'an, which is the word of God revealed to the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him), teaches us that killing one soul is like killing all humanity.

The whole purpose of our event was to educate the audience about our values, our customs, and our culture, and to show how distant they are from the stereotypical images usually displayed in the media.

I truly appreciate the efforts made by The Tartan in providing a good coverage for the event, but I am very concerned with the negative image that might appear in the minds of those who see the association of Islam as a religion with terrorism. We are a people for peace, and our faith, values, and culture are innocent of terrorism.

Nazeeh Alothmany

Saudi Open House Organizing Committee

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www.saudinpitt.org :





طلاب سعوديون في أمريكا يفتدون الافتراءات ضد المملكة

بتسبرج: الوطن

أقام نادي الطلبة السعوديين في مدينة بتسبرج بولاية بنسلفانيا الأمريكية يوماً مفتوحاً في إحدى صالات جامعة كارنيغي ميلون بدعم من الملحقة الثقافية في واشنطن، وعمادة شؤون الطلاب بالجامعة. وكانت أبرز ملامح اليوم حلقات النقاش التي تناولت التشويه الإعلامي للسعودية وتفنيد كل تلك الأكاذيب، كما أبرزت حلقات النقاش نماذج لنساء سعوديات رائدات في مختلف المجالات. وقد تعرف زوار اليوم الذين بلغ عددهم ٣٠٠ شخص على السعودية من خلال العديد من الأركان والأجنحة التعريفية والمطبوعات والعروض المرئية والتي نقلت تراث السعودية الثقافي والاجتماعي إضافة إلى ملامح عن تطورها ونهضتها الاقتصادية والصناعية والعمرانية. وجاءت تعليقات الزوار في الاستبيان الذي تم توزيعه عليهم إيجابية للغاية فقد ذكر بعضهم أن فكرتهم عن السعودية تغيرت تماماً بعد متابعتهم لفعاليات اليوم المفتوح.

