

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

February 26, 2013

World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize
The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought
P.O.Box: 950361
Amman, 11195
Jordan

Distinguished Judges:

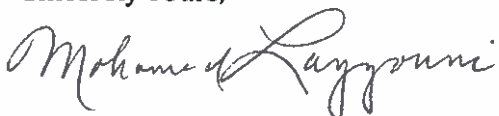
السلام عليكم

Please accept this letter in support of the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrated at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. Merrimack, a Catholic university, has a long history of interfaith dialogue and respect among different religions. For twenty years the college's Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations has convened scholars, students, and members of the Massachusetts community for interfaith discussions and prayer.

I support their application for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize. Over five hundred students, professors and friends of Merrimack College participated in the week's events, including their tenth annual interfaith prayer celebration; making peace flags with the newest student club, the Interfaith Alliance; and the "Feast of Faiths" dialogue dinner facilitated by student interfaith leaders which featured testimonies of interfaith experiences. Such a prize would give prominence to the important work of the university and provide necessary support for their programs in interfaith engagement.

With prayer for God's blessings on your important work of tolerance and peace, I am

Sincerely Yours,



Dr. Mohamed Lazzouni
Chair, Advisory Board of the Center; Director at the Inter-Religious Center on Public Life (ICPL), a joint venture of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School; and Visiting Scholar affiliated with the Jesuit Institute at Boston College

Mohamed Lazzouni Ph.D.

Education

PH.D. in Physics from Oxford University, a Masters in Physics from London University, and a degree in finance from Harvard's Executive Education Program.

Dr. Lazzouni was trained in Classical Islam in Traditional Schools in North Africa, and was affiliated with the Oxford Center of Islamic Studies at its founding stage. The focus of his training was on Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic Philosophy, and the History of Spiritual Islam.

Professional Experience

Chief Technology Officer and the Senior Vice President of MorphoTrust USA, a world-leading technology company specializing in providing Identity Solutions to governments around the world.

Interfaith Experience

- Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations at Merrimack College
- Director at the Inter-Religious Center on Public Life (ICPL), a joint venture of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School
- Visiting Scholar affiliated with the Jesuit Institute at Boston College
- Former Director at the United Way of Central Massachusetts
- Former Director at the National Center for Christian, Jews and Muslims

He was a founding member of the Oxford University Muslim Student Association, and served as the academic advisor to the Muslim Student Association of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Lazzouni pioneered the building of full time Islamic Education institutions in the United States. After managing the education committee of the Islamic Council of New England, he founded Al Hamra Academy. Al Hamra Academy in Shrewsbury MA became the first Islamic K-to-8 school to be accredited in New England. It is today an exceptional success and serves as a model for Islamic schools in the United States.

Dr. Lazzouni has been influential in setting the agenda of the discourse on Islam over the last 15 years in intellectual and spiritual milieus in New England.

One of Dr. Lazzouni's areas of focus has been "interfaith dialogue." He worked on developing several programs aimed at bringing together Jews, Christians and Muslims to build bridges.