



AMERICAN  
MIDDLE EAST  
INSTITUTE

The American Middle East Institute  
presents our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Conference

# America's Smart City

## Growing Business with the Middle East

*Opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing,  
Robotics & IT, Autonomous Vehicles & More*

Daytime of October 15, 2019  
Omni William Penn Hotel - Pittsburgh

EVENING SPEAKER

# Thomas Friedman

*Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist  
and Bestselling Author*

October 15, 2019 | 8PM  
Carnegie Music Hall | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*Friedman's lecture is the culminating event of our  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Conference.*





# Welcome From the American Middle East Institute

Dear Friends:

Welcome to our 12th annual conference! We are delighted to have Thomas Friedman return for his 2nd appearance with us as our evening keynote speaker. Tom was our inaugural speaker back in 2008 when we mounted our very first conference as a brand new Institute. Not only does Tom have an in-depth understanding of the Middle East, but he is also a great synthesizer of global trends, with a gift of communicating complex topics in a clear, understandable way.

We are back in the 'burgh' after mounting last year's event in...Dubai! Last October, we decided to 'take the show on the road' for our annual event and brought some leading companies working in advanced manufacturing, robotics, and artificial intelligence. There were great presentations from both the American and Emirati sides.

We were pleased to have Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto be a part of our delegation to Dubai. The Mayor gave an inspiring talk about how Pittsburgh has transformed itself from its darkest days of the past into a thriving center of the most advanced technologies and innovations applied to healthcare, manufacturing, energy efficiency, and more, undergirded by our region's 36 colleges and universities.

A talk by Netflix's co-founder, a desert safari, camel rides, dinner under the stars in front of The Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world, complete with a laser light show on its facade), a visit to Gitex (the biggest tech

show in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia) all contributed to an unforgettable experience for our delegation.

Most important of all, and the reason for our visit to Dubai, we were able to establish some real friendships with private and government decision makers in the U.A.E. that have led to opportunities for our member companies and universities.

We hope you will support the work of the American Middle East Institute to build bridges to the countries of the Middle East in business, education, and culture.

Sincerely,

*Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis  
President & CEO  
American Middle East Institute  
Pittsburgh, PA  
October 15, 2019*



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The American Middle East Institute thanks you for attending our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The American Middle East Institute (AMEI) is an independent, non-profit organization, headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. AMEI is focused on building business, educational and cultural ties between the United States and the countries of the Middle East. We believe these kinds of connections represent a powerful form of diplomacy.

For more information please visit: [www.AmericanMEI.org](http://www.AmericanMEI.org)



# Tuesday, October 15, 2019

## Omni William Penn Hotel

The American Middle East Institute  
Twelfth Annual Business Conference

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS.

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE.

**10:00 am** Greetings from HE Dr. Ismail Sallam  
Former Egyptian Health Minister

Welcome by Simin Curtis  
*President & CEO*  
*AMEI*

Welcome by Hon. Rich Fitzgerald  
*Allegheny County Executive*

### Morning Segment - The Steel City's New Industrial Revolution: Advanced Manufacturing

Petra Mitchell  
*President & CEO,*  
*Catalyst Connection*

Jay Douglass  
*COO,*  
*Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing*

Mike Lordi, Esq.  
*CEO*  
*Elliott Group*

Special Conversation with  
Dr. Mark Johnson led by Bill Flanagan

### Networking Break

VIDEO: GMIS Summit

Special Focus: UAE GMIS Summit  
Namir Hourani  
*Managing Director, GMIS*

**11:45 am**

### Lunch Transition

Remarks by  
HE Dr. Sahar Nasr  
*Minister of Investment & International  
Cooperation, Egypt*

VIDEO: This is Egypt

Remarks by  
Hisham Fahmy  
*CEO & Advisor to the Board*  
*AmCham Egypt*

VIDEO: Invest Saudi

Conversation with  
Ahmed Abuzinadah  
*Commercial Attache*  
*Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia at  
Washington D.C.; and Simin Curtis*



**Afternoon Segment - Robots: Meet the Steel City's  
New Neighbors**

**1:05 pm**

Introduction by Bill Flanagan

Chris Moehle, *Managing Director*  
*Coal Hill Ventures & Robotics Hub*

Douglas Ramsey, *Chief Development*  
*Officer, Hackrod*

Aaron Morris, Ph.D.  
*Co-founder Allvision IO*

Robotics Conversation with Bill Flanagan

Closing Comments by Simin Curtis

**Notes**



## Welcoming Remarks



### His Excellency Dr. Ismail Sallam

Former Health Minister of Egypt  
Chair, AMEI Advisory Council

His Excellency Dr. Ismail Sallam was the Minister of Health and Population of Egypt from 1996 to 2002. During his tenure, Dr. Sallam led sector reform strategy that changed the image of Egyptian health care and improved the country's key health indicator ranking to 43rd out of 191 countries (WHO, 2000). An active member of the Egyptian Parliament for 16 years and a majority leader of the Upper Chamber, Dr. Sallam has served as Chairman of the Executive Council of the Arab Ministers of Health, the League of Arab States, the Executive Bureau African Ministers of Health, and the Organization of African Unity (1997 – 2002). Dr. Sallam received the United Nations Award (2000), the Award of the World Health Organization Prize (1999), the Award of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (2001) and the United States Surgeon General's Medallion, USA (2000) for leadership in developing a National disease Prevention and Health Promotion Agenda for Egypt among other achievements. He is a Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery and chairs three charitable organizations



### Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis

President, Chief Executive Officer and Founder  
American Middle East Institute

Simin is President, CEO, and Founder of the American Middle East Institute (AMEI), an independent, national, non-profit organization that was formally incorporated in Pittsburgh in 2008. The Institute's signature annual business conferences have featured Mideast royalty and ministers, and such well-known U.S. figures as Henry Kissinger, Madeleine Albright, Colin Powell, and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. Simin is a for-profit and not-for-profit entrepreneur, who helped her husband, Greg Curtis, found Greycourt & Co., Inc., an investment advisory firm to many of the world's wealthiest families, where she served as vice president of marketing and communications for many years. Active in many civic and business organizations, she is a past Director of the Harvard Alumni Association, and Honorary Consul of the Sultanate of Oman in Pittsburgh



### Rich Fitzgerald

Allegheny County Executive

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald took office on January 3, 2012, and he's currently in his second term. After more than 19 years in public service, he still relishes his role working with others to make the county a great place to live, work, and play. Under Rich's leadership, the county has concentrated on economic development and job creation to great effect. It boasts an abundance of high-quality jobs, a diverse and growing economy, low cost of living, and an excellent quality of life. The county's bond rating is at its highest level since 1983, and seven straight budgets have passed with no millage increases. More than 1.2 million residents also are seeing significant improvements thanks to innovative approaches to public health, recreation, and transportation. Born and raised in the City of Pittsburgh, Rich graduated from Carnegie Mellon University. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Squirrel Hill. They have eight children.



## Middle Eastern Dignitaries & Speakers



### Her Excellency Dr. Sahar Nasr

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation  
The Arab Republic of Egypt

Her Excellency Dr. Sahar Nasr was sworn in as the Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation on February 16, 2017 then reappointed on June 14, 2018.

Dr. Nasr earned her Professorship from the Supreme Council of Universities. She is a Professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo and a Lecturer at several Egyptian and foreign universities. Throughout her academic career, she published over 60 research papers, technical

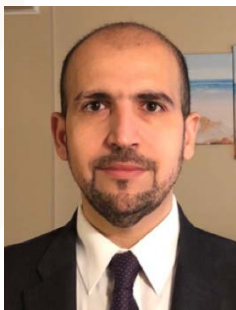
reports and books. Some of these papers have contributed to drafting and structuring economic policies in various developing countries and emerging markets, including Egypt.

Since assuming her role as Minister of International Cooperation on September 19, 2015, Dr. Nasr has made several strides in restructuring and reforming the Ministry, such as the establishment of a unit for monitoring and evaluation and a policy development and strategic planning unit in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Egypt.

Furthermore, Dr. Nasr has focused on strengthening Egypt's ties with its existing international partners, as well as exploring new opportunities for cooperation, all through the establishment of mutually-beneficial partnerships. Dr. Nasr also serves as Governor of Egypt to several institutions such as The World Bank, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Dr. Nasr has extensive experience in negotiating and securing international grants and loans, especially within her role as Lead Economist at the World Bank.

In 2015 Her Excellency was named the most influential woman in the Arab economic sector.



### Ahmed Abuzinadah

Commercial Attaché  
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia at Washington D.C.

Ahmed Abuzinadah is the commercial attaché in the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC. Ahmed's focus is on building sustainable bridges and bilateral business and economic relations between Saudi Arabia and United States.

He is a dedicated and results-driven professional offering extensive senior management level experience. Before joining the public sector, Ahmed established a successful Business and investments venture and taken full responsibility for the implementation of critical business functions, at the same time as effectively developing new business opportunities through a range of avenues. A competent strategist and analyst who makes use of industry and consumer data and trends to develop innovative plans that facilitate competitive growth and superiority. Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to influence decisions and to develop positive relationships both internally and externally.

Before that, he was the CEO of Alsunbula for investments with more than \$200 million assets under management, and the senior marketing manager in Aljazira Bank, Ahmed worked also as the Managing director of AMAD marketing and international investments.

Ahmed started his career in SAVOLA group as marketing brand manager and commodities futures trader. He holds a bachelor of science in business administration and an MBA in marketing.



**Mr. Hisham A. Fahmy**

CEO & Advisor to the Board  
AmCham Egypt (American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt)

Mr. Hisham Fahmy is CEO of AmCham Egypt Inc., a mirror organization for AmCham Egypt based in Washington D.C., and advisor to the AmCham Egypt Board of Governors. Prior to January 2016, Fahmy served the CEO of AmCham Egypt since December 1999. Mr. Fahmy has organized over 28 business missions to the U.S. as well as U.S. missions to Egypt in cooperation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Fahmy was instrumental in the establishment of the AmCham MENA Regional Council to promote U.S. business and investment in the MENA region, and served as the council's Regional Coordinating CEO. He currently serves on the Board of the Egypt-U.S. Business Council (EUSBC), the Advisory Board of the American University in Cairo's (AUC) School of Business, and the Board of the Education for Employment association. A member of the American Society for Association Executives, he is the founder and former chairman of the Egyptian Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Fahmy graduated from the American University in Cairo in 1974 with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry.



**Namir Hourani**

Managing Director  
Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS)

Namir Hourani is the Managing Director of the organizing committee for the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS – [www.gmisummit.com](http://www.gmisummit.com)). A joint initiative between the UAE Government and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), GMIS is the world's first cross-industry forum dedicated to shaping the future of manufacturing.

Prior to the role of Managing Director, Namir volunteered to establish the inaugural GMIS in 2017 at the Paris Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi by leading all marketing and operational logistics on behalf of the organising committee. During his tenure as a volunteer, Namir was instrumental in transforming GMIS into a platform for global good. This transformation has transpired in the launch of GMIS' first endeavor – the Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity ([www.makingprosperity.com](http://www.makingprosperity.com)), a global impact initiative which aims to unite the world's leading manufacturers, start-ups and entrepreneurs, governments, UN agencies and philanthropists, academia and researchers, to form a community dedicated to spreading global prosperity through the art of 'making'.

Namir started his career in marketing and held various roles at Procter & Gamble, Universal McCann, 3M and Impact BBDO, and credits his accomplishments to the experience he gained from working with these global organizations.

Namir is of Lebanese descent, born and raised in Dubai. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from the American University in Dubai (2003) and attended Georgetown University (2001) in Washington DC.





## The Steel City's New Industrial Revolution: Advanced Manufacturing



**Petra Mitchell**

President & CEO  
Catalyst Connection

Ms. Petra Mitchell is the President and CEO of Catalyst Connection, a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to helping manufacturers with business growth and job creation. Catalyst Connection is the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and the Industrial Resource Center (IRC) of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Ms. Mitchell's experience in manufacturing operations, technology acceleration and business development stretches back to 1988. Before joining Catalyst Connection, she was employed by GE Aircraft Engines, now GE Aviation. She holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Dayton, and an M.S. from the University of Cincinnati. She is on the Board of Directors of the Advanced Robotics in Manufacturing (ARM) Institute, Leadership Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (IRC) Network. Previously she served as a Board Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland –Pittsburgh Branch, Keystone Powdered Metals and Kopp Glass Inc. Ms. Mitchell is also the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia.



**Jay Douglass**

Chief Operating Officer  
Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM)

Jay is Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM). Founded at Carnegie Mellon University in January 2017 and now operating as an independent non-profit, ARM won an \$80 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to become the leading catalyst of robotics innovation to accelerate growth in US-based manufacturing.

ARM operates as part of the Manufacturing USA network, and is supported by an additional \$150 million in commitments from 170 members and partners in industry, academia, technology, government and economic development groups. By creating a collaborative ecosystem of like-minded organizations, ARM is speeding the movement of industrial robots into commercial use, while preparing a labor force to operate and manage these technologies.

Previously Jay worked at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. His focus was on developing business opportunities for technology development and technology transfer with commercial organizations. He most recently managed the SEI's business in Europe. Jay has worked with a wide variety of software development and quality technologies.

Jay's educational background includes a BS in Business Administration from Miami University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.



**Michael Lordi, Esq.**

Chief Executive Officer  
Elliott Group

As Chief Executive Officer, Michael Lordi directs the worldwide operations of Elliott Group, a leading supplier of highly engineered rotating equipment to the oil & gas, petrochemical, and general industrial markets based in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. With more than 2600 employees, Elliott Group has major manufacturing operations in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, Sodegaura, Chiba, Japan, Bangalore, India and Ruian, China. Also included are repair facilities, field service and engineering offices, and parts distribution centers in 25 countries. During his 30+ years with Elliott Group he has held a wide range of positions managing the design, manufacture and sale of new equipment, in addition to service operations and corporate development. Mr. Lordi holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Science (BS), a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Law Degree (JD). He is also licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania in the USA. Elliott Group is a subsidiary of Ebara Corporation, Tokyo, Japan.



**Mark Johnson, Ph.D.**

Former Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)  
Founding Director, Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Clemson University

Mark Johnson, Ph.D., is the former Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). AMO is focused on creating a fertile innovation environment for advanced manufacturing, enabling vigorous domestic development of new energy-efficient manufacturing processes and materials technologies to reduce the energy intensity and life-cycle energy consumption of manufactured products.

Previously, Mark served as a Program Director in the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E) where he had the longest tenure in that post—from ARPA-E's formation in 2010 to mid-2013. At ARPA-E, Mark led initiatives to advance energy storage and critical materials, as well as projects in small business, advanced semiconductor, novel wind architectures, superconductors and electric machines.

He also served as the Industry and Innovation Program Director for the Future Renewable Electric Energy Delivery and Management (FREEDM) Systems Center. This is a National Science Foundation Gen-111 Engineering Research Center targeting the convergence of power electronics, energy storage, renewable resource integration and information technology for electric power systems.

Mark joined EERE on assignment from North Carolina State University, where he was an Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. His research has focused on crystal growth and device fabrication of compound semiconductor materials with electronic and photonic applications. Mark also taught in the Technology, Entrepreneurship and Commercialization program jointly between the NC State Colleges of Management and Engineering. In addition to his academic career, Mark is an entrepreneur and early stage leader in Quantum Epitaxial Designs (now International Quantum Epitaxy), EPI Systems (now Veeco) and Nitronex (now GaAs Labs).

Mark has a bachelor's degree from MIT and a Ph.D., from NC State, both in Materials Science and Engineering.



### Bill Flanagan

Chief Corporate Relations Officer  
Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Bill Flanagan serves as Chief Corporate Relations Officer for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliated regional development organizations: The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh LLC and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. In this role, Bill guides the development of regional and organizational messaging strategy, and works with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and quality of place across the Pittsburgh region.

In 2009, Bill served as president of the Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership, the public-private partnership that welcomed the world to Pittsburgh for the G-20 Summit. From 2004-2008 Bill served as the Executive Director of Pittsburgh 250, the 14-county commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the naming of Pittsburgh.

An experienced broadcast journalist, Bill has told the story of the transformation of the economy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for more than 35-years. He serves as host and producer of "Our Region's Business," a weekly business public affairs program now in its 15th year on WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, PA, the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel (PCNC), and YouTube.

Bill serves as vice chair of Rivers of Steel and on the board of Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc. and as an advisor to the Daisy Wilson Artist Community, the National Flag Foundation, and the International Free Expression Project.

Bill and his wife, Ann Devlin Flanagan, are the parents of two children, Will and the late Mara Catherine

## Robots: Meet the Steel City's New Neighbors



### Chris Moehle

Managing Director  
Coal Hill Ventures & Robotics Hub

Chris Moehle is the managing director of The Robotics Hub in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Moehle, a firm believer in the power of robotics to improve economies and communities, founded the robotics-based venture capital fund with the goal of increasing the amount of companies that tackle the most pressing problems in our society.

In addition to serving as a chairman and CEO of JDV Robotics, an assistive robotics software enterprise, Moehle advises cutting-edge firms such as Agility Robotics, Allvision IO, Module, Seismic (robotic clothing) and many others. He frequently lectures on the topic of "Robotics For Humanity: How Advanced Robotics Are Improving our Lives."

Moehle previously served as an associate director of new ventures at the National Robotics Engineering Center. He holds a PhD in Applied Science from the University of Virginia and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business.



**Douglas Ramsey**

Chief Development Officer  
Hackrod

Douglas Ramsey has over 25 years of experience working across a number of manufacturing industries including primary metals, automotive, aerospace, energy, defense, and consumer products in the US, Europe, Japan, and South Korea.

Douglas is an international thought leader in advanced manufacturing technology and policy. Most recently, he served as the Chairman of the Industrial Control Board for the US National Lightweight Metals Innovation Institute (LIFT) in Detroit and as a manufacturing technology policy advisor and contributor to the White House as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP 2.0). He has also held board and advisory roles with a number of manufacturing institutes in the US including the Smart Manufacturing Leadership Coalition (SMLC), America Makes, the Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CESMII), and Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI).

Douglas holds a Masters in Science and Economics in Strategic Studies from the National University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK and a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Studies and a Minor in Japanese from the Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Ramsey is fluent in English and Japanese.



**Aaron Morris**

Co-Founder  
Allvision IO

Aaron Morris is a roboticist and seasoned entrepreneur with a history of transforming innovative technologies and service businesses into commercial products. He is co-founder of Allvision IO, which strives to make sense of the world around us by organizing and analyzing rich spatial data provided by our partners and customers -- generated from autonomous vehicles, high definition mapping and other remote sensing solutions (satellite and aerial imagery).

Aaron holds a PhD from Carnegie Mellon University in Robotics with a focus on autonomous robots, computer vision, machine learning, mapping, perception, and planning systems. Subsequently, he has supported companies within the robotics space at varying sizes and stages in order to launch products, obtain investment and build operations. In particular, he led Reality Solutions for the startup Autodesk until its acquisition.





# Thomas Friedman

*Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist & Bestselling Author*



Thomas L. Friedman is an internationally renowned author, reporter, and the New York Times foreign affairs columnist—the recipient of three Pulitzer Prizes and the author of six bestselling books, among them *From Beirut to Jerusalem* and *The World Is Flat*. Tom Friedman is known for his direct reporting and sophisticated analysis of complex issues facing the world. According to *Foreign Policy* magazine, “Friedman doesn’t just report on events; he helps shape them.” Winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, he has covered the monumental stories from around the globe for *The New York Times* since 1981. *Vanity Fair* called him “the country’s best newspaper columnist.”

In December 2016 Friedman published his seventh and latest book *Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide To Thriving In The Age Of Accelerations*. It became his seventh New York Times bestseller. In *Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*, Friedman offers a blueprint for overcoming the stresses and challenges of a world being transformed by technology, globalization, and climate change.

His previous New York Times bestseller, co-written with Michael Mandelbaum, was *That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back*. According to *The Christian Science Monitor*, “Anyone who cares about America’s future ought to read this book and hear the authors’ compelling case.”

Friedman’s *The World is Flat* has sold four-and-a-half million copies and won the inaugural Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award. In 2012 Friedman updated his National Book Award-winner, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, adding a fresh discussion of the Arab Awakenings and Arab/Israeli relations in a new preface and afterword.

Friedman’s *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution — and How It Can Renew America*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller. Friedman’s other bestsellers include *Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism*, and *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called “simply the best book written on globalization.”

Ranked #2 on *The Wall Street Journal*’s list of “influential business thinkers,” named to the 2011 Thinkers50 and the 2013 list of *Foreign Policy*’s Top Global Thinkers, and considered one of “America’s Best Leaders” by *US News & World Report*, Friedman is a frequent guest on programs such as *Meet The Press* and *Morning Joe*. His TV documentaries, *Searching for the Roots of 9/11*, *The Other Side of Outsourcing*, and *Addicted to Oil*, have aired on the Discovery Channel. Friedman is featured in Showtime’s climate change documentary series *Years of Living Dangerously*, executive produced by James Cameron and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In awarding Friedman his third Pulitzer Prize, the Pulitzer Board cited his “clarity of vision, based on extensive reporting, in commenting on the worldwide impact of the terrorist threat.”



## Welcoming Remarks



### **Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis**

President, Chief Executive Officer and Founder  
American Middle East Institute

*See full biography on Page 3*



### **Namir Hourani**

Managing Director  
Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS)

*See full biography on Page 5*

## Introduction of Mr. Friedman



### **Morgan O'Brien**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Peoples Natural Gas Company

Morgan K. O'Brien is president and chief executive officer of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, affiliated utilities serving approximately 739,000 customers in southwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Since joining Peoples Natural Gas, O'Brien has reestablished the 100 plus year old company in western Pennsylvania. The company has significantly grown its employment in the region and has brought nearly 300 new jobs back to the region and created a high performing Customer Service Center in Pittsburgh. In addition, he has orchestrated the largest infrastructure improvement and modernization project in the company's history.

Peoples is the largest natural gas distribution company in Pennsylvania and serves customers in West Virginia and Kentucky as well.

O'Brien has positioned Peoples as a true community partner and champion. The company invests and partners with many organizations that drive economic development and improve the quality of life in the region. Under his leadership, Peoples' mission is to make the lives of all its customers better.

Prior to joining Peoples Natural Gas in February 2010, O'Brien served as President and CEO of Duquesne Light Holdings from September 2001 to January 2010. Prior to his tenure at Duquesne, he served in various management positions at PNC Bank and major accounting firms.

A Pittsburgh native, O'Brien earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and master's degree in Taxation from Robert Morris University. O'Brien is active in civic organizations throughout the region.



## Q & A with Mr. Friedman



### Grant Oliphant

President

The Heinz Endowments

Grant Oliphant has been a positive force in the philanthropy and public service realms for nearly three decades. He has written and spoken extensively on issues of equity, race, social justice and courageous leadership and he has been a strong and effective advocate for the critical role of journalism and media industry entrepreneurship in local communities and nationally.

Following a six-year tenure as President of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Mr. Oliphant joined The Heinz Endowments as President in 2014 where he has refocused the foundation's work on the core principle of a Just Pittsburgh, supporting commitments and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all. He has developed a widespread following for his podcast, "We Can Be."

A former journalist, Mr. Oliphant previously served as press secretary for Senator John Heinz, and for nearly 20 years held senior management posts with Heinz family foundations

## Special Appearance by Digit



Digit is the latest product offering from Agility Robotics, the leading provider of highly mobile, biped robots. Digit features robust, bipedal walking and running gaits; perception to enable stair climbing and safe travel in unstructured environments; and arms for basic manipulation tasks.

Agility Robotics, with locations in Oregon and Pittsburgh, addresses the mobility problem faced by mobile robots, to allow machines to work with humans, for humans, and around humans. Robotic legged locomotion will enable a major transformation of our world, with applications in logistics and package delivery for fast and inexpensive 24/7 service, in-home robots for telepresence and assistance, and real-time data collection and mapping of human and natural environments.



## Board of Directors & Advisory Council

**Hon. Paul H. O'Neill**

Honorary Founding Chair,  
AMEI Advisory Council

**His Excellency Dr. Ismail Sallam**

Former Health Minister of Egypt,  
Chair, AMEI Advisory Council

**His Excellency Sayyid Badr  
Al-Busaidi**

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UPMC

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**Donald Heberle**

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Cleveland Clinic

**Michael Lordi, Esq**

Elliott Group

**Chris Moehle**

Coal Hill Ventures & Robotics Hub

**Mark Santo, Esq.**

Vice President, AMEI

**Devesh Sharma**

Aquatech International

**Ceci Sommers**

Special Advisor, AMEI

## Special Thanks

**Armada Global**

**Elaine Bellin** - Paragon Food

**Churchill Strategies**

**Jeff Coleman**

**Hon. County Executive Rich  
Fitzgerald**

**Bill Flanagan**

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**Hepatica**

**Namir Hourani**

**Steve Irwin**

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**Chris Moehle**

**Nate Sherer Video Production**

**Hon. Mayor Bill Peduto**

**Charles Stout**

**Maria Wagley**





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*Building Bridges Between America  
and the Middle East.*



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AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT [WWW.AMERICANMEI.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANMEI.ORG).



## Notes





AMEI HONORS THE MEMORY OF OUR  
ESTEEMED FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE,  
**DR. JANNE E. NOLAN**  
*1951-2019*

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of a “founding mother” of our Institute, Dr. Janne E. Nolan, who died on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, of glioblastoma.

Author of nine books, Janne was a beloved professor and a renowned nuclear security expert and foreign policy analyst, who advised the White House and Congress over a long career.

We are forever grateful to Janne’s contributions to the American Middle East Institute.

She will be missed.

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