



**Intellectual Freedom in the Middle East
Schedule: April 16 and 17**

April 16, 2008

Noon - Lunch Discussion: "Education for Universal Brotherhood in the Middle East and Beyond"

- **Roger Davidson**, President & Founder, Society for Universal Sacred Music
Location: Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, University Library

5:30 p.m. - Keynote Address:

- **Josh Rushing**, Correspondent, Al Jazeera International
A former U.S. Marine captain with 15 years of service, Josh Rushing is now a controversial media figure working for Al Jazeera International, the first international news network in English to broadcast from outside the West.
Location: Campus Recreation Center Gymnasium
Open to the public with a ticket by calling 401-254-3067.

April 17, 2008

(All events located in the New Academic Building)

9:15 a.m. - Opening Remarks:

- **Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.**, President, Roger Williams University

9:40 a.m. - Panel I: "What is Intellectual Freedom: When, Where and Why is it Important?"

The first panel of the colloquium will provide a framework for the panel discussions following it. Panel I will engage experts in the field to explore both the meaning and importance today of the overall concept of intellectual freedom. Interpretations of traditions and current practices in the Middle East will also be considered.

Panelists:

- **Allan Goodman, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, The Institute for International Education
- **Marcia A. Grant, Ph.D.**, Planning Head, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, The Aga Khan University
- **Owen Kirby**, Political Program Manager of the Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Bureau of Near East Affairs, U.S. State Department

Moderator:

- **Laura de Abruna, Ph.D.**, Provost & Senior Vice President, Roger Williams University

11:10 a.m. - Panel II: “Facts on the Ground- Artists, Writers and Scholars at Risk”

Panelists will discuss actual case histories, international programs, and identify both threats and opportunities associated with free expression and individuals at risk.

Panelists:

- **Qussay Al-Attabi**, Ph.D. Candidate at Brown University and Rescued Scholar
- **Anders Jerichow**, President, Danish PEN
- **Larry Siems**, Director of Freedom to Write and International Programs at PEN American Center

Moderator:

- **David Logan, J.D.**, Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law

12:30 p.m. Luncheon Keynote Speaker: "The State of Media and Intellectual Freedom in the Region”

- **Zafar Siddiqi**, Chairman, CNBC Arabiya

Introduction by **Fred Cohen**, Former President, King World International Productions

2:10 p.m. Panel III: “The Influence of Mass Media on Public Opinion and Identity in the Arab World”

Members of the journalistic community will consider the impact and role of print and electronic mass media on intellectual life in the Middle East. Relationships to the Western media will also be considered.

Panelists:

- **Fred Cohen**, Former President, King World International Productions
- **Kamille Gentles-Peart, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Communications, Roger Williams University
- **Hala Taweel, Ph.D.**, President, University of the Middle East Project
- **Robert Whitcomb**, Vice President/Editorial Pages Editor, The Providence Journal Company & Secretary of the Media Thinking Group, The Aga Khan University

Moderator:

- **Dave Layman**, Former Television News Anchor

3:30 p.m. Closing Session: “Where Do We Go From Here as a Global Community?”

- **Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.**, President, Roger Williams University