

Fulbright grant aids kinetics research

# Scientist to visit Saudi Arabia

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

Dr. Youhanna "John" Fares wasn't surprised by recently being chosen to receive a Fulbright grant.

"I had high hopes," Fares said Wednesday. "The group I work with is doing unique and innovative research, so I wasn't surprised."

The research scientist will leave for a nine-month sabbatical in Saudi Arabia near the end of the month. Fares will be lecturing and conducting research at the King Faisal Medical Research Facility at the University of Riyadh.

"The Saudis have the most advanced facilities," he said. The facility has four nuclear accelerators to produce isotopes that are used in treatment and production of radio-pharmaceuticals.

A radio-pharmaceutical lab is a chemical lab in which drugs are pro-

duced after being "labeled" with radioactivity. Radio-pharmaceuticals are used in studies of biological pathways and physiological functions of living tissues, such as tumors or cardiovascular blockages.

Fares said he will be doing research in tracer kinetics, as well as nuclear and physical chemistry.

"Radio-pharmaceuticals specialize in localizing certain diseases such as tumors," he said. "After the disease is localized, the pharmaceutical can be followed using tracer kinetics or imaging. This gives a much clearer idea of the progress of the disease or the crucial factors causing it."

Fares said, for example, that radio-labeled monoclonal antibodies may be the "magic bullets" that target cancer cells.

He is a member of the Biosystems Research Group in the Texas Engineering Extension Station's Industrial Engineering Division.

"We have engineering, operations research, chemistry, agronomy, plant physiology, physics and biomathematics all represented within the group," he said of the 10-member group.

Fares said the group has been researching the physiological functions of living plants for eight years.

With his colleagues John Goeschl and Charles Magnuson and scientists at Duke University, Fares developed a national facility to produce and house short-lived isotopes to study living plant productivity.

"We deal with the plant as a living system with millions of processes interacting simultaneously," he said. "By understanding what controls these processes, we will ultimately be able to produce plant varieties that can cope with different environmental conditions with maximal productivity."

The research has been supported

by various interests, including Sohio Oil Co., TEES and Duke University.

Fares has a Ph.D in physical and nuclear chemistry from the University of Florida. He has worked at Giessen University in West Germany, CERN Nuclear Laboratories in Geneva, Switzerland and at the Texas A&M Cyclotron.

He has taught nuclear and physical chemistry and tracer kinetics in Egypt, the Sudan and West Germany, as well as the United States.

His wife Yvonne, who will join him later in the year, works as arts products coordinator in the Texas A&M Printing Center.

Three of their four daughters are A&M graduates. Lila, the eldest, and her husband, Todd Lott, probably will travel to Saudi Arabia during the year. Their youngest daughter, Maran, a junior at A&M, will spend Christmas in Saudi Arabia.

# Rice professor: abstract art conveys human emotions

By KIM TREESE  
Reporter

Dr. William A. Camfield, art history professor at Rice University, opened two art exhibitions sponsored by the Texas A&M University Art Exhibits and the MSC Arts Committee Wednesday night with a presentation entitled, "Spiritual Dimensions in Spanish Realism and American Abstraction."

The exhibitions, Spanish Master Paintings and American Abstract Expressionist Paintings, will be at the J. Earl Rudder Exhibit Hall and the MSC Gallery until Nov. 23. Both exhibits are from the collection of the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation.

Although these works are different, Camfield said, they do have one

thing in common — their spiritual dimensions.

American Abstract Expressionism emerged in New York City in the 1940s. Within ten years it was responsible for shifting the visual center of art from Paris to New York.

"It certainly continues to exert an influence in art in this country as well as in Europe," Camfield said.

The paintings are largely uncontrolled, prerational actions or events echoing the restless, perhaps even rootless, lifestyle of the postwar years, Camfield said.

"The artist is not interested in the relationships with color or form," he said. "He is interested in conveying ordinary human emotions."

The Spanish Realists also were interested in portraying very ordinary

subjects. Sacred subjects such as St. Matthew were portrayed as common, believable people, instead of being exalted.

The paintings were based on the specific individual, Camfield said. People have taken spiritual interpretations from them sensing the intense, dignified grace of the subjects.

"All of these objects bear a symbolic, spiritual content," he said.

Both exhibitions will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. In addition, films dealing with the subject matter of the exhibits will be shown daily beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Exhibit Hall, and Thursday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.

# Creator of snowcones dead at 88

United Press International

DALLAS — Samuel Bert, who came to be known as the "Snowcone King" for creating the shaved ice and fruit flavoring treat at the State Fair of Texas, died at Baylor University Medical Center. He was 88.

The Springfield, Ill., native died Sunday of complications from a fall that broke his hip two weeks ago, his

family said. He was buried Tuesday.

Bert was fresh out of the Army in 1919 when he showed up at the fairgrounds with a new idea — shave ice into crystals, put the crushed ice in a cup and pour liquid flavoring over it.

Bert invented the snowcone machine in 1927 and the snowcone's popularity spread across America.

His wife, Mary, said her husband never told her how he came up with the idea of the snowcone.

During his long career, Bert branched out to other concessions, selling hamburgers and popcorn and operating thrill rides such as the roller coaster and the Wild Mouse.

Bert served in the Army in France during World War I.

# Style show, auction will be tonight

A style show and auction to benefit the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center will be at 6:30 tonight in the Brazos Center.

Fashions from Cardeaux, Charli, Dillard's, Lester's, Palumbo's, R. Rush and Shellenbergers will be modeled by some of the area's high-profile people including Jackie Sherrill, Executive Director Jim Thompson said.

"We have a cross section of people involved in the show," Frances Tieman, executive secretary said.

One of the highlights will be a silent auction. A bidder will write his or her name and bid on a piece of paper beside the item and if someone wants to bid higher they can mark out the other name and put their own name and bid. The item will go to the highest bidder.

An auction with Auctioneer Lloyd Joyce also will take place, Tieman said. A Mazda B-2000 SE-5 sport truck will be sold to the highest bidder.

Tickets are \$12.50 and can be reserved at the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center. For more information, call 822-0193.

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