

Curriculum Vitae of Suheil Badi Bushrui, B.A., Ph.D., L.H.D.

A Summary

Professor Suheil Badi Bushrui (B.A., Ph.D., L.H.D.) is a distinguished author, poet, critic, translator and media personality, well known in the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. Widely recognized for his seminal studies in English of the works of W. B. Yeats and for his translations of Yeats' poetry into Arabic, Professor Bushrui is also the foremost authority on the works of Kahlil Gibran. In his capacity as an eminent Gibran scholar, Professor Bushrui actively works with a network of researchers and enthusiasts located throughout the world, including Asia, Africa, North America, and Europe. Professor Bushrui has done extensive work in Arabic and English on Ameen Rihani and his intellectual legacy as a bridge-builder between the East and the West.

At present, Professor Bushrui holds the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace in the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland, a position to which he was appointed as the first incumbent in July 1992. He is also the founder and Director of the Kahlil Gibran Research and Studies Project at the University of Maryland, which is the first academic forum in the world devoted to the preservation of Gibran's legacy and the promotion of East-West intercultural relations.

Professor Bushrui was appointed as an Affiliate Faculty member with the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs in 1999; in 2004, he was asked to serve as an Affiliate Faculty member with the University of Maryland's Center for Heritage Resource Studies, an interdisciplinary program which promotes the study of culture, architecture, and archeology. In October 2004, Professor Bushrui delivered the keynote address before the "Archeology and Interpretation" shared training program organized by the Center for Heritage Resource Studies and the U.S. National Park Service. His address was entitled "Heritage: Poetry and Archaeology as the Common Language of the Past, the Present, and The Future."

Professor Bushrui has taught at the universities of Southampton and Oxford (U.K.), Calgary and York (Canada), Ibadan (Nigeria), Beirut (Lebanon), and Antwerp and Brussels (Belgium); he has also lectured widely at several international institutes of higher learning in the East and the West. From 1959 to 1962, he was a British Council Scholar. Professor Bushrui was the first Arab national to be appointed to the Chair of English at the American University of Beirut, a position he held from 1968 to 1986. Between 1985 and 1986, he served as Chairman of the International Association for the Study of Anglo-Irish Literature (IASAIL), and from 1971 to 1986 he was President of the Association of University Teachers of English in the Arab World (AUTEAW).

Between 1982 and 1988, Professor Bushrui was senior advisor on cultural matters and official interpreter for the President of the Republic of Lebanon; in that capacity, he actively planned and participated in many cultural activities designed to promote national reconciliation and amity. As a presidential advisor, he also participated in activities related to Lebanon and the United Nations. In 1983, he chaired a presidential committee in Lebanon which organized the international celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kahlil Gibran. Those activities focused on the theme of Unity in Diversity and were held in Beirut, Oxford, London, and Washington, DC.

Professor Bushrui chaired the organizing committee of “The First International Conference on Kahlil Gibran,” held at the University of Maryland in December 1999. The conference was an important milestone in the history of Gibran studies. Professor Bushrui is currently chairing the organizing committee of the Second International Conference on Kahlil Gibran, which will convene at the University of Maryland in April of 2006 in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of his passing. This second conference, similar to the one before it, will be attended by Gibran scholars from Europe, Africa, Asia, South and North America, Australia, as well as the Arab world.

Professor Bushrui is an active participant in several international organizations dedicated to promoting peace and conflict resolution. He is a founding member of the International Dialogue on Transition to a Global Society. He also serves on the Board of Governors of The Temple of Understanding, a worldwide interfaith organization which is an affiliate of the United Nations, and he is an International Fellow of the Temenos Academy in London, which is under the distinguished patronage of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. In 1995, Professor Bushrui was appointed Creative Member of The Club of Budapest and has collaborated with Professor Ervin Laszlo (founder and president of the Club) on a number of international projects. In September 1999, he joined the Advisory Council of the International Program on Religion and Conflict Resolution of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding (located in New York City).

Professor Bushrui is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Lebanese National Order of Merit, London University’s Una Ellis-Fermor Literary Prize, the Silver Medal of Merit of the Vatican-sponsored Military and Religious Order of Constantine and St. George, the University of Maryland’s Outstanding Faculty Award, a Maryland Governor’s Citation for excellence in education, the Life Achievement Award of the Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut, the Temple of Understanding’s Juliet Hollister Award for exceptional service to interfaith understanding (previous recipients of this award include: Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan; Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama; and President Nelson Mandela), and the First Temple of Understanding Interfaith Education Award. In May 2004, Professor Bushrui received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Franklin & Marshall College in recognition of his

...considerable contributions to the promotion of world peace as the first incumbent of the Bahá’í Chair for World Peace at the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, [his] renown as a scholar without parallel in the work of Kahlil Gibran, [his] superior commitment to undergraduate education, and [his] distinguished career in service to all humankind....

On 11 June 2003, Professor Bushrui delivered an address at the European Parliament in Brussels on the subject of “The Ethics of Globalization.” Mrs. Jean Lambert, a Member of the European Parliament from Britain, responded to Professor Bushrui’s speech by commenting: “It is indeed refreshing to hear the Professor remind us of those eternal values of the spirit, especially now that we are formally inaugurating our European constitution.”

In October 2003, The House of Lords in London honored Professor Bushrui at a special reception organized under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord St. John of Bletso. In his

introduction to the event, Lord St. John paid tribute to Professor Bushrui's work in a variety of fields, including promoting understanding between East and West, Arabic-English translation, building bridges of intercultural reconciliation, and activities related to the UN's International Year of the Culture of Peace and its sequel the following year on the Dialogue of Civilizations.

In July of 2004, Professor Bushrui—in conjunction with the International Academy for Human Sciences and Culture located in Walenstadt, Switzerland—helped organize an international seminar entitled “East and West: A Clash of Cultures or a Process of Wholeness.” This event was the latest in a series of such international seminars that Professor Bushrui has co-organized since 2001. The 2004 seminar provided an in-depth discussion of the cultural and spiritual aspects of globalization and the need to build unity on the basis of commonalities and reciprocal influences between the East and the West. Over one hundred persons from eight different countries participated in the seminar, which attracted much local media coverage. Regional political leaders, including two mayors, attended selected events. During the summer of 2005, the latest in the series of seminars will take place, this one on the theme of “Peace Education: Theory and Practice.”

In July and August of 2004, Professor Bushrui directed the “World Peace Programme,” an education and training course which convened in the Czech Republic. The 2004 summer session of the program took place in the town of Hluboka nad Vltavou. Students from many different parts of the world attended this inaugural session of the World Peace Programme. The main goal of the three-week retreat was to inculcate a spirit of leadership among the participants and to address issues related to the environment, the diversity of cultures, economics, world politics, and Information Technology.

In early 2005, Professor Bushrui was appointed as a regular member of the World Wisdom Council (WWC), a prestigious new organization co-sponsored by the Club of Budapest and the World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality. Membership in the World Wisdom Council is by invitation of its convening organizations and is contingent on a demonstrated moral and intellectual commitment to the purposes and mandate of the WWC. The main goals of the WWC include: first, bringing to the attention of the widest layers of the public both the dangers and the opportunities inherent in the human condition in its global dimension; and second, offering guidance for developing the individual and collective wisdom that empowers action capable of bringing about constructive change in the local and the global economic, social, and ecological environment. Currently, the World Wisdom Council is composed of the following distinguished international personalities: Ahmed Akbar, Suheil Bushrui, Peter Gabriel, Ashok Gangadean, Jane Goodall, Jonathan Granoff, Hazel Henderson, Audrey Kitagawa, Ervin Laszlo, Angaangaq Lyberth, Ekaterina Mojaeva-Köstler, Lady Fiona Montagu, Bibi Russell, Masami Saionji, Elisabet Sahtouris, Karan Singh, Tu Wei-ming, and Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker.

In August of 2005, Professor Bushrui has been invited by the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Anniversary Committee to deliver the keynote address at an event marking the 100th anniversary of the peace treaty between Russia and Japan. The event will take place in Eliot, New Hampshire, and Professor Bushrui's remarks will be entitled “A Step Towards a Culture of Peace? Reflections on the Treaty of Portsmouth.” The organizers of the event are expecting Japanese, Russian, and American diplomats to be in attendance.

Professor Bushrui's publications are extensive in both English and Arabic; his work, particularly on Gibran, has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish and Chinese. In addition to his many books (in both Arabic and English), Professor Bushrui is the author of numerous scholarly articles on topics such as Arabic and English literature, interreligious understanding, intercultural communication, conflict resolution, and global issues.

Professor Bushrui's most recent book is *The Wisdom of the Irish* (Oneworld, 2004), which consists of selections drawn from the variety of Irish literature, folklore and tradition (please see the attached review of this book by Brendan Kennelly). *The Wisdom of the Irish* will be honored at a special event taking place in August 2005 in Dublin, Ireland.

Among Professor Bushrui's forthcoming books is *al-Amir Yattahadath* ("The Prince Speaks"), a selection of the speeches of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, translated into Arabic by His gracious permission. This collection will also appear simultaneously in an English language edition. In addition, Professor Bushrui is in the process of finalizing *The Spiritual Heritage of the Human Race*, a comprehensive survey of the divine and non-divine spiritual traditions of humanity, represented as a prolegomena and foundation for interfaith studies. Significantly, Professor Bushrui's University of Maryland Honors Program course, on which the textbook is based, has been adopted by the University of Southern Maine (USM) as part of its undergraduate general education curriculum (please see the attached letter from Dr. Robert Atkinson of the USM).