

**MAWLID
EN-NABAWI
IS MAY 25**

Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington

Friends of Algeria

EDITORIAL

By Houria Sammari

The recent nomination of Dr. Elias Zerhouni as Head of the National Health Institute (NIH), the world's most prestigious health research institution, has the beautiful sound of a bell reminding us that Algeria also has its fair share of talent and passion and that, once these cross our borders, they can lead to international recognition. The NIH also counts Dr. Taoufik Ouatas, our own AAAGW Secretary, among its recognized scientists. Further, the future of sports in America is not in lack of talented Algerians. Mehdi Addadi, a student and a swimming champion at the UMBC, is also a prime example of combined talent and passion. The Algerian American community is, again, bountiful when it comes to upcoming youth talents. Anees Benferhat, who won the Jason Science Project, and Amir Nezar who wrote in Newsweek, are additional

Continued on last page

Friends of Algeria

**Algerian-American
Association
of Greater Washington
P.O. Box 65063
Washington, DC 20035**

**Email: foa@aaagw.org
Web: www.aaagw.org**

International Women Day

Algerian women in the Washington area were invited by AAAGW to attend a breast cancer seminar. The event took place on March 8 in Bethesda. The choice of International Women Day was made to increase AAAGW's membership's awareness of the disease and its cure, including ongoing research. Early detection is a key to its treatment and can mean life or death for those diagnosed with this cancer.

The presentation was interactive and practical. The women who attended the event were able to voice their concerns and worries. One attendee had gone through the experience of having a dear friend diagnosed with the disease, and reported she was completely unprepared to provide support as she did not know much about it. Although she had spent many hours reading information on the Internet, she said the session was very useful and clarified some areas. The audience was happy to learn that progress in diagnosis and treatment was taking place. Snack and drinks were served and women who attended were given beautiful bouquets of flowers in celebration of International Women Day.

The lecturer, Mr. Taoufik Ouatas, is an Algerian born scientist at the National Cancer Institute at NIH. He began working on the molecular mechanisms leading to Cancer development using normal Embryogenesis in animal models in 1992, after three M.Sc. degrees respectively from the Universities of Houari Boumediene (Genetics, Algiers, Algeria), Luminy (Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology, Marseilles, France) and Pierre et Marie Curie (Development Biology, Paris, France). Before his graduation as a summa cum laude from Pierre et Marie Curie University in Paris (1997), he was appointed as an Associate Professor of Physiology at the French National Museum for Natural History,

2002 World Cup

By Abdenour Azeddine

Friday May, 31 at 7:30am (EST), France and Senegal will kick-off the 2002 edition of the World Cup of the most played sports game in the world. "Football", "Futbol", or soccer, it is in some countries more than a religion.

Senegal qualified for the first time this year over Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Namibia. The last time Algeria participated in the World Cup was 1986 and the first time was in 1982. The 1982 edition is best remembered for the winning by the Algerian team of the very prestigious team of Germany. It was an unforgettable day in June 1982 in Gijon, Spain, when the Algerian squad led by young and talented players like Dahleb, Madjer, Belloumi, Assad, Merzekane and others gave a lesson to the German team: final score 2-1.

This year for the first time in Asia, Japan and South Korea will host the World Cup. The opening game will take place in Seoul, S. Korea while the final will be in Yokohama, Japan. The only problem for viewers on this side of the world is timing. You will need to wake up as early as 3:30 am to watch live games. Games will be broadcasted on ABC, ESPN and the Hispanic channel Univision.

Teams to watch closely: France, Brazil, Italy, Cameroon, Argentina, England and Portugal. Check the World Cup website at <http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com>

Continued

where he developed a new non-invasive gene therapy technique. He then joined the Women's cancer section at the National Cancer Institute (NIH, Bethesda) to develop new approaches to the understanding and treatment of metastatic breast Cancer. Using a mechanistic approach, Dr. Ouatas discovered two highly potent drugs against advanced mammary cancer that are presently under trial in animals. Dr. Ouatas has also been a very active member of the AAAGW and is currently serving as the Association's Secretary.

PROFILE OF ALGERIAN-AMERICANS

U.S. Senate confirms Dr. Elias Zerhouni's nomination to head NIH

WASHINGTON, May 2 - The U.S. Senate approved President Bush's nomination of Dr. Elias Zerhouni, an Algerian-born physician, to lead the National Institute of Health. Dr. Zerhouni a well-known member of our community, left Algeria in 1975, where he received his education, to

further his education in the United States to pursue his dreams as an expert in biomedical engineering. Medical studies are in his family: his wife Nadia is also a pediatrician. Dr. Zerhouni was in recent years a member of the Board of Directors of AAAGW.



Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.

Elias Zerhouni, 51, has combined a talent and passion for math, physics, biomedical research and clinical innovation with great organizational acumen and skill as a consensus builder during a 27-year career marked by significant achievements in medicine, business and management of complex science-based organizations.

Arriving in the U.S. from his native Algeria at age 24 speaking barely a word of English, the multilingual scientist rose rapidly through the ranks to principal leadership posts at Johns Hopkins, where he serves as professor of radiology and biomedical engineering, chairman of radiology and, since 1997, Executive Vice Dean of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Elias Adam Zerhouni was born in 1951 in Nedroma, a small mountain town on French

Algeria's western border. Reared in a family of eight children, he moved with his father, a teacher of mathematics and physics, and his mother to a suburb of the capital city of Algiers two years later and spent his primary school years there during Algeria's war of independence.

After graduating from Lycée Emir Abdelkader in Algiers with both Algerian and French baccalaureates, he earned his medical degree from the University of Algiers School of Medicine in 1975. The influence of his maternal uncle, a well-known radiologist who trained in France and Sweden, was critical in Dr. Zerhouni's choice of specialty. He showed Dr. Zerhouni the world's first CT scan images of the brain soon after they were made by England's Dr. Godfrey Hounsfield, prompting his nephew's pursuit of radiology, a field that combined his interests in physics and mathematics with medicine.

Married to Nadia, a pediatrician and medical school classmate whom he met when both qualified for the Algerian national swimming team during high school, the couple has three children. Will, 25, is a second-year student at Harvard Law School. Yasmin, 22, just finished her undergraduate work at Columbia University and will pursue a master's degree in education at

Columbia. Adam, 16, attends the Severn School in Severna Park, MD., where the family lives. Now fluent in English, French and Arabic, and conversant in German as well, Zerhouni plays lute and piano and shares an enthusiasm for opera and tennis with his wife.

(Excerpts from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine - March 15, 2002)

Spotlight on young Algerian-Americans

Congratulation to **Anees Benferhat** a ninth-grade Algerian-American from New York who entered the Jason Project contest, and, out of 1200 applicants from around the world, was selected to go

to Alaska and conduct research with a team of American scientists. The Jason Project website is available at: <http://www.jasonproject.org>
(Submitted by a proud mother)

Leading the way, congratulation to another young teenager from Vienna, VA. **Amir Nezar** voiced his opinion about Homeland security and wrote a letter to Newsweek (Jan 14, 2001) expressing his concern on Constitution's principles.

Send us information and articles on talented or successful Algerian-Americans. AAAGW will be delighted to introduce them to the community.

Home Grown Champion Swimmer

By Youcef Aissi

It is on March 6, 2002 that the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) announced that the record of 50 meters freestyle (20.35) was held by Mehdi Addadi, and that the first place for the 4x100 meters and the 4x200 meters freestyle was held by his team as well. What a good surprise for our modest Mehdi?

A quick search for his name on google.com reveals the list of his fulfillments that is a rather lengthy one. He holds the records of the University in 100 (48.85 second) and 200 meters backstroke (1:49.29), and 100 meters butterfly (48.67). He is also a prizewinner of four different records in freestyle relay.

Captain of his team "the Retrievers" at the University of Maryland in Baltimore (UMBC) for four years, Mehdi Addadi will not only finish his Degree in Economics this next June, but also the biggest record that no swimmer in the

history of the University of Maryland was ever able to attain. He won the first place in each of the events that he completed with the University. All the swimmers from his team as well as his coach never cease to speak about the respect they have for Mehdi for his modesty as an example on one hand, and for his achievements on the other hand. "He represented Algeria at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, as well as at the Mediterranean games in Tunis" said his coach - Chad Cradock - with pride, confident that Mehdi's best results are yet to come. His objective at this time is to get ready for the next 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, in spite of his uncertainty about his participation. Mehdi has competitive feeling towards himself only, and pushes his limits for his pleasure only. That is how some of the virtues of this champion are, a champ who smiles modestly at any one.

Mehdi Addadi

Named Outstanding Male Swimmer at the 2001 ECAC Championships after capturing titles in the 100 back, 100 freestyle and the 100 fly. His time in the 100 fly at the ECACs was an NCAA provisional mark.

Won the 100 back at the All Africa Games

NEC champion in both the 100 fly and the 100 back

ECAC champ in 100 free in '00 as well as 100 back in '99. Key member of three UMBC relay teams that captured gold at '99 ECACs (200 free relay, 400 medley relay, 400 free relay)

Mehdi addadi attended Amara Rachid High School in Algiers, Algeria. He was born February 13, 1978. He is currently a sophomore majoring in Financial Economics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)



JOIN AAAGW NOW!

visit www.aaagw.org



MEDIA EDIT PRO, Inc.

Founded in 2000, Media Edit Pro, Inc. is a unique, one-stop-shopping video production company owned by Algerian-American, Mr. Djoudi Belkacemi. Before starting his own business in the Washington, DC area, Djoudi Belkacemi worked for major European and Middle Eastern TV networks in the broadcast and multimedia industries for more than fifteen years. Media Edit Pro employs experienced multimedia and broadcast engineers, technicians and computer experts to offer the

best services.

Media Edit Pro services include full video production, video commercials, video editing, event coverage, video conversion and duplication, DVD mastering, video web casting, motion graphics and special effects, multimedia/web/graphic designs and special services for foreign news channels.

MEDIA EDIT PRO, Inc.
5671 Columbia Pike, Ste # 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
Phone: (703) 575 9525
Toll Free: 1 866 EDIT PRO
Fax: (703) 575 9528

A Journey to the Video World

By *Abdenour Azeddine*

It all started when Amine opened the door to us. We were all very interested in learning how to make video clips. Djoudi (owner), Karim and his brother Amine gave us a brief description of each piece of equipment. Houria, the marketing person, also helped in describing the different elements that were needed in production: movie director, light director, actors and scripts.

We were able to produce a complete video-clip using Media Edit Pro's best DVCAM. We then moved to the editing pictures, sounds, and adding special effects. All the editing was computerized using DPS Velocity and Adobe After Effects.

This was very interesting opportunity to go behind the scenes and learn how video and television shows are produced. The sad part is that only few members took advantage of this unique chance. Many thanks to the whole Media Edit Pro team for their time and effort.

Taxes etc ...

Dr. Mustapha Rechache, CPA, MBA, Ph.D, gave a very interesting presentation to members of our community last March. The session included a summary of the new tax laws as well as tips on filing income tax returns. The

information on IRAs, -standard of ROTH- was very valuable. The options for college funds was also a hot topic for attendees with young kids. All in all, the session was packed with very usefull information. A big hand to Mustapha!.

Not discouraged by the

low turnout of members, Mustapha offered to give at a future date a session on life insurance and estate planning. If you are interested in this topic, please contact information@aaagw.org. AAAGW may schedule this event in the fall.

General Assembly of Members of AAAGW

The Board of Directors is organizing a General Assembly on **Sunday June 2nd** at 11:00am at the BCC center in Bethesda.

The purpose of the General Assembly is to give Members the opportunity to express opinions on the activities of the Association, make recommendations to the Board of Directors, and to offer a long term strategy for success.

You are cordially invited to attend this important event. Refreshments will be served.

**The Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Regional Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane,
Bethesda, MD 20814.**

For more information, please send an email to information@aaagw.org

Continued from front page

examples we are sharing with you in this Spring Newsletter.

We hope you will read their accomplishments with pride and delight, and we invite you to recognize other talented fellow Algerian-Americans. For, in this challenging era, where troubles in the Region do disservice to Algeria, it is a enchantment to put the spotlight on Algerian-Americans who are set to make a dent in U.S. history, and who contribute to advancements in areas essential to humankind.

AAAGW'S SPRING POTLUCK Cabin John Regional Park



Sunday May 19, 2002

12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Cabin John Regional Park
Shelter "J"**

**Barbecue meats and drinks
will be provided by AAAGW**

Please bring a dish and desserts to share with the community

Directions

Take the Old Georgetown Road North Exit off of I- 495. Turn left onto Tuckerman Lane. Then either turn left at the light for Westlake Drive and the entrance to the park is on the right, continue to shelter "J" on the right.



SPIDER-MAN

Bring your kids and come join other fellow AAAGW members for a great movie outing!

**Saturday May 18, 2002
4:00pm**

**Cineplex Odeon White Flint
11301 Rockville Pike,
Kensington MD 20891**

Discount tickets for members

\$5

Please request tickets in advance by sending an email to treasurer@aaagw.org