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The American Geographical Society Awards 2024 AGS Council Fellowship to Mr. Abdulla Al-Kafy

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) awards Mr. Abdulla Al-Kafy, a Ph.D. student at University of Texas at Austin, a 2024 AGS Council Fellowship.

[New York City, NY] – [April 2, 2024] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2024 AGS Council Fellowships to support master’s and doctoral research. The recipients are Mr. Abdulla Al Kafy, a Ph.D. student at University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Liana Katz, a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, Mrs. Sonia Kaufman, a Ph.D candidate at University of Arizona, and Ms. Zoe Rosenblum, a Ph.D candidate at Oregon State University. Masters and doctoral students from American universities are eligible to apply for the Fellowships. Established in 2013, each recipient receives a $2,000 award for their graduate research project. AGS will recognize the four Fellows during its annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, to be held November 21-22, 2024 in New York City.

Mr. Al Kafy will use the fellowship funds to assist with fieldwork for his project, Predicting the cooling potential of green roofs for mitigating diurnal heat island intensity by utilizing 2D-3D urban morphological characteristics. He wrote, “By harnessing the power of cutting-edge 2D-3D urban morphological characteristics and artificial neural networks, I aim to identify the most effective strategies for selecting building roofs for green roof installation, maximizing the cooling impact on diurnal land surface temperatures. This fellowship provides a remarkable opportunity to unravel the complex interactions between urban morphology and climate, and I am committed to making a meaningful contribution to the development of sustainable and resilient urban environments.” He added, “I am deeply grateful to the American Geographical Society for their support and trust in my research endeavors. I look forward to sharing my findings with urban planners, environmental regulators, and local governments, ultimately shaping a more sustainable and resilient future for our cities.”

Dr. Marie Price, President of AGS and Chair of the Selection Committee, remarked, “The Council of the American Geographical Society is pleased to award four research grants to student members of the society. In our effort to support the next generation of scholars and practitioners we began the Council Fellowships ten years ago. We have awarded 37 Council Fellowships since 2014. Our intent is to expand the program in coming years to fund more awards through partnering with the AGS Champions program. Congratulations to this year's winners.”

The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the
American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

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