

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PRESENTS INAUGURAL LECTURE OF GLOBAL SPEAKERS SERIES (Rivier Today, Spring 2013)



Dr. Waleed El-Ansary delivers the inaugural lecture—the first in a series of global talks—to an audience of Rivier students, faculty and staff.

In the first of what will be an ongoing Global Speaker Series at Rivier University as part of a growing global engagement initiative, **Dr. Waleed El-Ansary** gave a talk titled “Egypt in Transition: Future Developments and Global Implications” in February 2013.

Dr. El-Ansary is Helal, Hisham and Laila Edris El-Swedey University Chair in Islamic Studies at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, previously serving as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina. He is a consultant to the Royal Court of Jordan as well as the Grand Mufti of Egypt.

Dr. El-Ansary spoke to a large crowd, including several students and faculty members, about the issues of social justice and what he described as an “intellectual battle” currently going on in Egypt, and the role that universities, especially those with religious ties, can play in addressing and engaging in these issues. He discussed the relationship between religion and economic development, as well as science and philosophy, followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

Dr. El-Ansary was guest speaker at a dinner for a select group of alumni and friends the evening prior to this lecture.

“As a globally engaged University, Rivier was honored to host Dr. El-Ansary, leading intellectual in the Islamic world, on our campus,” said Associate Vice President of Global Engagement Dr. Mark Meehan. “The students and faculty were able to connect to Dr. El-Ansary’s discussion as he addressed issues that impact all of humanity.” ■