

8-24-2015

Khalil Hachem : Green and Golden

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Recommended Citation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of University Advancement., "Khalil Hachem : Green and Golden" (2015). *USFSP 50th Celebration: Documents*. 28.
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Alumni



KHALIL HACHEM ***BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE '92***

Founder and executive editor, Khalil Hachem launched *Bizmagazine.org* and *Ya Michigan*, to serve the immigrant business community in southeast Michigan. In addition to providing news, marketing and networking services, *Ya Michigan* offers comprehensive training through its Cultural Diversity Program. These classes educate law enforcement personnel, health providers, business and community leaders, acquainting them with the cultural norms, habits, and diet of Arab and Muslim Americans. Khalil brings more than 17 years of journalism and public relations experience to these projects. In demand as a knowledgeable and engaging speaker, Khalil

recently trained Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staff in Detroit.

Khalil's reporting career began in Lebanon at age 14 when he started a newspaper for his classmates. In 1983, he fled his war-torn country to learn English in the U.S., ultimately enrolling at USFSP where he displayed outstanding skills as a student leader and volleyball player.

Subsequently, Khalil worked for the *St. Petersburg Times*, *Beaumont Enterprise* (Texas), and the *Ann Arbor News* (Michigan), until it closed in 2009. While completing a master's degree in diplomacy and conflict resolution from Norwich University (Vermont), Khalil worked as communications director for the American Arab Chamber of Commerce. Food is another one of Khalil's passions: he regularly presents an array of delicious, healthy Lebanese dishes, on a table at which family and friends gather – to



communicate and to share.

“Although I am a journalist by training and trade, diversity and inclusion is my passion. I love to bridge the cultural gaps and bring people together. This passion began at the USF St. Petersburg campus, where it was a family hub for well-meaning educators, U.S. supporters and community members. The seed for cultural mitigation was planted by Sudsy, the late professors Harry Schaleman and Regis Factor and the wonderful Ray Arsenault. At the time, we worked on the Lecture Series together and we hosted different international symposiums featuring different countries. Of course, Jerry Notaro played a good role as well. Even in my journalistic reporting, I have always sought to bring people of different backgrounds together. One of the biggest roles Ya Michigan plays is that it attempts to educate the Middle Eastern communities about the American system and educates the community at large about the Middle Eastern culture.”

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