

**HONORARY DOCTORAL CEREMONY FOR  
MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED BENAISSA**

**When:** Tuesday, December 4, 2007;  
3:30 P: Award Ceremony;  
4:15 P: Address “*Moroccan-American Relations in the Context of  
Key Global Issues*”  
5:00 P: Post ceremony reception

**Where:** Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, Cowles Auditorium  
301 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

**FREE and Open to the Public – Pre-registration is not required**

As a follow up to MIC’s highly successful 2006 Celebration of Morocco benefit, Carol Engebretson Byrne led a 15-person citizen delegation of MIC board members and community leaders to Morocco in early November this year. This trip was planned with help from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco and His Excellency Aziz Mekouar, Moroccan ambassador to the United States.

MIC’s connections with Morocco go back as far as October 1998, when University of Minnesota alumnus Mohamed Benaissa addressed MIC audiences in his capacity as Moroccan Ambassador to the United States with a presentation entitled “*The Global Economy – A Moroccan Perspective.*”

A 1963 graduate of the University of Minnesota and Fulbright Scholar, Mr. Benaissa served the United Nations and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for some 11 years through assignments in New York, Rome, Ethiopia and Ghana. In 1993 he was selected by His Majesty King Hassan II as Morocco’s Ambassador to the U.S., and from 1999 to fall 2007 he served as Morocco’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

In the spirit of further cementing the ties between Minnesota and Morocco, Carol has joined Gene Allen, former executive director for the University of Minnesota’s Office of International Programs, and Dr. Steve Clarke, MIC member, in nominating Mr. Benaissa for a special award from the University.

**Come celebrate the unique relationship between Minnesota and Morocco when President Bruinicks, a Regent and many others of the University of Minnesota, confer an Honorary Doctor of Laws for Public Service – the highest honor granted by the University of Minnesota - on His Excellency Mohamed Benaissa.**

In addition to being fundraisers, MIC’s gala benefits open doors to the world ... building and strengthening Minnesota’s ties to other nations.