



AUC's first undergraduate commencement at the New Cairo Campus this June Page 8

FEATURES

6 QUARANTINE CONNECTION

Members of the AUC community who were quarantined for a week inside the Zamalek dormitory grew close as a group.

8 FIRST TRADITION

Both the graduate and undergraduate commencements were held at the New Cairo Campus for the first time.

10 ACADEMIC IN CHIEF

Provost Lisa Anderson champions AUC's global vision.

13 NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

Alumni and faculty examine the effects of the global financial crisis on Egypt.

16 A SPECIAL RETURN

Alumni rediscovered homecoming traditions during the four-day weekend held at AUC's new home.

DEPARTMENTS

3 AUSCENES

New trustees appointed, Zewail named to U.S. president's council, former ambassador heads new public affairs school, ministry approves bachelor's in petroleum engineering

5 ALUMNI PROFILES

Iman Abdulfattah (MA '04) recounts her experience guiding President Barack Obama on a tour in the Sultan Hassan mosque in Cairo

19 AROUND THE WORLD

Alumni meet in various countries

20 AKHER KALAM

Jimmy A. Beshai '47 gives an account of his days with Martin Luther King, Jr.

Editor's Notes

A Common Purpose

As we were preparing this issue to go to print, two events occurred that reminded us that, despite our individual differences, we are all united as humans. First, U.S. President Barack Obama gave his famous speech from Cairo. Everyone was hooked. People put aside their work and obligations to listen to this highly anticipated speech. At AUC, lounges were filled with students, faculty, staff and custodians watching and listening attentively to the words of this new president as he extended a hand of friendship to the Arab and Muslim world. In his speech, Obama noted that the “interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive us apart.” Whether we agree or disagree with the details of the speech, this core message of peace and unity should continue to resonate with us, especially in times of adversity. In this issue's *Akher Kalam* (page 20), a graduate of the 1940s recalls his personal memories with Martin Luther King, Jr., who spoke at AUC during that time. In many ways, Obama represents the dream for which Martin Luther King fought. In addition, we examine another part of Obama's visit to Cairo: the tour that he took with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Sultan Hassan mosque. Iman Abdulfattah (MA '04), a distinguished alumna who guided Obama and Clinton on their tour, speaks about her experience that day (page 5).

The second significant event was the initial discovery of two cases of swine flu among AUC students residing at the Zamalek dorms, followed by five similar cases. The university was closed for three days, and the Zamalek dormitory was quarantined for a week. We didn't know what to expect. People were not sure whether to go out or just stay at home. At those defining moments, our futures were united because we felt at risk. When the World Health Organization announced H1N1 a global pandemic, again, it was a reminder of our interdependence and commonality, rather than our differences and conflicts. On pages 6 and 7, we look at what it was like at the Zamalek dorms during this period and how everyone worked together to pass through those difficult times.

Events like the spread of H1N1 and the global financial crisis (pages 13 – 15) are, of course, problems that need to be solved. However, such hardships can also bring out the best in people. Let us remember that we all share a common purpose based on human dignity, individual worth, respect for diversity and a value for life. We are more similar than different.



Dalia Al Nimr

The American University in Cairo is a nonprofit private institution devoted to providing English-language liberal arts education to serve Egypt and the Middle East.

Editor in Chief

Dalia Al Nimr

Designer

Hanan Omary

Writers

Jeffrey Bellis and Sarah Topol

Advisory Board

Louis Greiss '55, Laila Rustom, Nahed Dajani '83, Mirette Mabrouk '89, '90, Tarek Atia (YAB '91), Lamyia Tawfik '97, '04, Mohamed Selim '04, '06, Nada Sabet '05 and Sarah El Sirgany '04

Photography

Ahmad El-Nemr, Jeffrey Bellis, Katie Connolly, Charles Hively and Amira Gabr

AUCToday is published three times a year by the American University in Cairo.

We welcome all letters. Submissions may be edited for space and clarity. Please send all correspondence to:

AUCToday

The American University in Cairo
AUC Avenue
P.O. Box 74
New Cairo 11835
Egypt

or

AUCToday

The American University in Cairo
420 Fifth Avenue, Third floor
New York, NY 10018-2729
USA

tel 20.2.2615.2405 (Egypt)

auctoday@aucegypt.edu

www1.aucegypt.edu/publications/auctoday

Former Ambassador and Saudi Businesswoman Join Board of Trustees

Former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Daniel C. Kurtzer and Saudi Arabian businesswoman Basma Alireza were recently appointed as members of AUC's Board of Trustees.

Kurtzer, the S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle East Policy Studies at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, served as U.S. ambassador to Egypt from 1997 to 2001. During 29 years of public service, Kurtzer held a number of senior policy and diplomatic positions, including U.S. ambassador to Israel, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and principal deputy assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research. Since leaving government service, Kurtzer has authored numerous articles on U.S. policy in the Middle East. He served as an adviser to the Iraq Study Group and currently serves on the Advisory Council of the American Bar Association's Middle East North Africa Rule of Law Initiative. He is the co-author, with Scott Lasensky, of *Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East*, published in 2008. He also serves on a number of business and public service boards.

B. Boyd Hight, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees, noted that the board continues to strengthen its ranks with distinguished members drawn from public service and business professions in Egypt, the region and the world.

"The appointment of someone of Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer's caliber represents a valuable addition to our board and will play a vital role in advancing AUC's goal to become a leading global university," Hight said. "All of us on the board are extremely pleased to welcome him as a trustee as he joins the AUC community at this time of extraordinary transition in the life of the university."

Alireza serves as director of Rezayat Investment Company, a diversified international enterprise based in Saudi Arabia. She is also the co-founder of Blossom Mother and Child, a brand focusing on high-quality products for maternity and baby needs with retail and wholesale operations in Europe and the Middle East. In addition, she is the founder and trustee member of Al-Madad Foundation, a charity organization committed to increasing intercultural awareness to help alleviate problems of poverty and exclusion, with a focus on the Middle East.

Hight stated that Alireza will provide unique counsel to the board due to her professional and philanthropic practice. "Ms. Alireza's professional experience will provide the board with additional expertise in legal, financial, philanthropic and civic matters," he said. "She will play a vital role in advancing AUC's mission to serve the community and the region, as well as its vision to become a leading global university."

Obama Names Zewail to Council of Advisors on Science

Ahmed Zewail, AUC trustee and Nobel laureate, was recently named by President Barack Obama to the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

The new 20-member council, which includes three Nobel laureates, two university presidents and four MacArthur Fellows, will advise the president and vice president, and formulate policy in the fields of energy, education, health, climate change, environment, security and the economy. In making the announcement, Obama noted, "The days of science taking a back seat to ideology are over."

Zewail is the Linus Pauling Professor of Chemistry and professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where he is also director of the Physical Biology Center for Ultrafast Science and Technology. He joined Caltech in 1976, and today he is also the director of Caltech's Laboratory for Molecular Sciences. In 1999, Zewail was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Later that year, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak bestowed on him the Order of the Grand Collar of the Nile, Egypt's highest honor.

Zewail has received more than 50 prizes, awards, special honors and honorary degrees from 35 universities around the world. These include the Nobel Prize, the Albert Einstein World Award of Science, the Benjamin Franklin Medal, the Robert A. Welch Award, the Leonardo da Vinci Award of Excellence, the Wolf Prize and the King Faisal Prize.



Ministry Approves Petroleum Engineering

Egypt's Ministry of Higher Education recently approved the Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering.

AUC's Department of Petroleum and Energy Engineering was launched in 2007 after the program was fully endorsed by the university's senate, the president and the Board of Trustees. Last year, a protocol was signed between AUC and Egypt's Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmy, supporting the new department and major. "There is definitely a very strong demand for qualified petroleum engineers not only in the local market, but also in the regional and global markets," said Magdi Nasrallah, professor and founding chair of the department.

AUC's five-year program combines the study of petroleum engineering, gas technology and alternative energy resources such as solar, wind, fuel cell and nuclear technologies. The curriculum structure is designed to accommodate shifts in technologies toward alternative energy resources in light of the steady depletion of oil reserves. Graduates of the program are also exposed to environmental issues related to the industry and trained to develop solid communication and information technology skills.

Former Ambassador to Head New School of Public Affairs

AUC alumnus and former Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Fahmy '77, '80 has been named to serve as dean of the university's newly established School of Public Affairs.

Fahmy was Egypt's ambassador to the United States from 1999 to 2008. "We are enormously fortunate to have recruited a founding dean with energy, experience, vision and commitment," said AUC President David Arnold. "With Ambassador Fahmy leading this school, his mere presence at its helm signals our ambitions, and I am confident that he is the individual who will ensure that those ambitions are realized."

At the outset, the School of Public Affairs will offer undergraduate degrees in journalism and mass communication and graduate degrees in public policy, management and law. Additional degree programs, particularly in international policy and practice, are slated to be added over the next several years.

Dean Fahmy is not new to AUC, having received his Bachelor of Science in physics/mathematics and his Master of Arts in management from the university. Capping a distinguished career in diplomacy over the years, he has been a member



of the Egyptian Missions to the United Nations (disarmament and political affairs) in Geneva and New York. He has also served as Egypt's ambassador to Japan and political adviser to the foreign minister. Fahmy has written extensively on Middle East politics, development and peacemaking, as well as regional security and disarmament.

Looking forward to the challenge of starting the new school at AUC, Fahmy stated that he will draw on faculty and programs that are already in place at the university. "With half of the region's population below 25 years of age, academic institutions have a singular contribution to make in shaping the direction of the Middle East," he said. "As we establish this new school, it is important to recognize the talents and ambitions of the current AUC faculty in the departments of law, journalism and mass communication, and public policy and management. These departments have a youthful international faculty with great ambitions and enormous energy and commitment."

In addition to the public affairs school, a new School of Business has also been established, encompassing the management and economics departments.

UNFORGETTABLE TOUR

Alumna guides Obama on Sultan Hassan mosque tour



During the U.S. presidential campaigns, Iman Abdulfattah (MA '04), who works as an Islamic art historian at Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, was sitting with one of her friends talking about the elections. "Imagine Barack Obama is elected president," she speculated. "Imagine he comes to Cairo and I take him to my favorite monument — the Mosque-*Madrasa* of Sultan Hassan."

Abdulfattah, who grew up in New York and was born to an American father and Egyptian mother, found her dream becoming a reality in June, when President Obama came to Egypt to deliver his long-awaited speech to the Muslim world. Surely enough, before the speech, he toured the Mosque-*Madrasa* of Sultan Hassan with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Abdulfattah was there guiding them around this historic Islamic monument.

Abdulfattah is not new to this. She has taken dignitaries and heads of state on tours before, including the presidents of Ghana and Serbia, the queen of Norway and the princess of Thailand. But this tour was special. Not only had Abdulfattah voted for Obama, but to her, he represented the American dream. "Obama achieved something that is unprecedented," Abdulfattah explained. "His physical manifestation, cultural background and mixed roots are things many Americans, including myself, can relate to. For me to be

entrusted to take this president — not just any U.S. president — on a tour preceding a speech that was highly anticipated around the world was very rewarding. No monetary incentive can ever equal the gratification I got."

On the day of the visit, Abdulfattah was extremely nervous, but it was President Obama who made her feel at ease. "He introduced me to every single member of his staff by name — a gesture that I hadn't seen before from other heads of state. He asked me where I was from, where I studied and sometimes joked to break the ice. He was genuinely interested and receptive, very elegant and confident," she said.

Obama and Clinton were well prepared. They had read up on the 14th century mosque, which also served as a communal school, hospital and dormitory, and its founder Sultan Hassan and were able to intertwine historical facts with the information provided to them. They also paid attention to the details. "At one point, President Obama asked about a Kufic Quranic inscription carved around the *qibla iwan*, saying that it is different from the type of Arabic he sees today," noted Abdulfattah. "I explained that the Kufic style of writing is archaic and angular, whereas what he is more familiar with is a cursive style of writing." Other features that caught their attention were the open courtyard, which provided access to

ancillary parts of the monument, and the types of stones used as decorative elements in the mosque.

Abdulfattah's interest in Islamic art and architecture developed at an early age. Every summer, she would travel with her mother to Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries like Morocco, Syria and Turkey, visiting historic sites. In 1994, she came to AUC as a study-abroad student. "An introductory course on the art and architecture of Cairo had a particular impact on me," she said. "We went on a series of field trips, and through my academic studies, I was able to understand the relation between monuments and the history of the city. That course really grounded me."

Abdulfattah earned her bachelor's in Near Eastern studies and literature from New York University and her master's in Islamic art and architecture from AUC. After working for U.S.-based nonprofit and educational organizations for several years, she came to Egypt in 2005 to work as an Islamic art historian at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, where she is involved with a number of museum and heritage projects. Her recent duties have included coordinating the renovation of the Museum of Islamic Art and taking part in the scientific development of the planned Museum of Historic Cairo. □

By Dalia Al Nimr

QUARANTINE CONNECTION



Jeffrey Bellis, photographed by Ahmad El-Nemr

Members of the AUC community shared a special bond at the Zamalek dorms

Writing and photography by Jeffrey Bellis, presidential intern at AUC's Office of Communications and Marketing, reporting from inside the quarantine

Approximately 150 students, interns, staff and faculty members were under quarantine from June 8 to 15 at AUC's Zamalek dormitory, after seven of its residents were diagnosed with the H1N1 virus.

Egypt's Ministry of Health imposed the ban in an attempt to contain the virus after tests for two residents turned out to be positive. The residents were American students who came to AUC as part of the Seton Hall Law School Summer Program for the Study of Law in the Middle East.

Dr. Suzanne Fouad, an AUC physician who works in the dormitory's clinic several times a week, was on hand when one of the first two positive cases visited her for a diagnosis. Suspecting that the student had swine flu, she informed Dr. Mohamed Amin, AUC's medical director, who consulted a hospital and then the Ministry of Health. The ministry tested everyone in the dormitory because another resident had arrived on the same plane as the 12-year-old Egyptian-American girl who represented the first case of swine flu in Egypt. "We began to check the temperatures and perform throat swabs on each resident," said Fouad.

Five new positive cases were confirmed when the test results returned a few days later. One was an AUC graduate student, and the rest were from the Seton Hall group. Tamiflu was administered to everyone at the dorms as a preventive measure, and representatives from the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Health held an information session for dorm residents. The quarantine, which was initially planned for 24 hours, was extended for a week. "When the test results came out and the Ministry of Health and Dr. Suzanne started communicating all the information, students began to calm down and accept the fact that they were stuck here for a week," said Alexander Guindy, assistant manager of student housing and resident director.



Even before the extension of the quarantine, people inside the dorms collaborated together to make the most out of their stay. The dormitory's director, resident directors and assistants, and the university's presidential interns met to assess everybody's critical needs. The first problem was providing food to nearly 150 people, so a 24-hour help desk and food station were set up in the lobby. Food was brought in daily from the Tahrir Square Campus, and, on some occasions, the Seton Hall program and AUC Trustee Moataz Al Alfi donated dinner. In addition, Mark Linz, director of AUC Press who was also part of the quarantine, donated 150 translated Arabic novels from his personal collection.

Because the quarantine was announced at night, one of the biggest challenges was that there were only six maintenance workers on duty. "The night shift is a much smaller number of people, and we could not let more cleaners enter the dorms because it would have extended the quarantine," explained Atef Nada, director of the Zamalek dormitory. This led to the enlistment of security guards as extra cleaners. In addition, in the absence of laundry workers, maintenance staff took over operation of the laundry to provide clean sheets and towels.

"We were all supporting each other like a family," said Fouad.

Joslyn Massengale, presidential intern at the Social Research Center, felt the same way. "I'm glad we all worked together to make this as painless as possible," she said.

Some students recognized that the dormitory was short-staffed and took the initiative of cleaning some of the rooms and bathrooms themselves. A few students even volunteered their services, helping to serve food and answer questions at the help desk.

Walid Beshr, a freshman from Yemen, was one of those students, and he noted that the situation improved as the days went by. "At first, everyone was scared by the news of their friends testing positive, but after the rest of the results came back negative, they were able to relax," said Beshr. "The staff were worried because they could not see their families for a week, but then they adjusted."

Shannon Mercer, a study-abroad student from Princeton University, said that she wasn't worried upon hearing about the positive cases. "Medically, swine flu isn't a huge problem, but I recognized the necessity of the week-long quarantine," she said. "It was unfortunate because it was the first week that we were all here [for the summer], but people treated us well."

To break up the monotony, soccer and basketball tournaments were held in the back courtyard, as well as yoga sessions, movie screenings and a handful of impromptu dance parties. A few students made light of the quarantine by editing the notice boards posted around the dorms, replacing "Ministry of Health" with "Ministry of Magic" in reference to the popular Harry Potter book series. In addition, a Tamiflu-themed karaoke song was created based on a suggestion by Samia Mehrez, professor of Arabic literature and a resident of the dorm, and was performed by students, staff and faculty during one of the terrace dinners.

Lynda Carr, another American study-abroad student, said that initially, the students were "frustrated with the situation, and everyone hung out within specific groups. The soccer tournament was a good way to get everyone together, as were the terrace dinners. People realized that we were stuck in this together," she explained.

At the end of the quarantine,

If you had known that you would be quarantined for a week and could bring one thing in with you, what would it be?

Playstation 3

Alexander Guindy
Assistant manager of student housing and resident director

More books

Joslyn Massengale
Presidential intern

More books and a big Bernese mountain dog

Shannon Mercer
American study-abroad student

My schoolbooks: Al-Kitaab II

Lynda Carr
American study-abroad student

One of my close friends and Playstation 3

Walid Beshr
Freshman from Yemen

My kids

Dr. Suzanne Fouad
AUC physician



members of the AUC administration and community greeted students as they bounded out onto the streets of Cairo. However, some of the residents had mixed feelings. "I am happy to be able to explore Cairo, go to class and go outside," said Mercer, "but I'm going to miss the bonding time that the quarantine provided." □



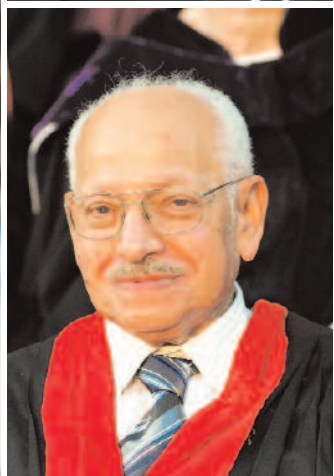
first TRADITION

**Held at the New Cairo Campus,
the 86th undergraduate
commencement marks a new
start for an old tradition**

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

Mikel Messiha, business administration major, recipient of the President's Cup; Salma Soliman, business administration major, was awarded the Parents Association Cup and the Ahmed Zewail Prize for Excellence in the Sciences and Humanities; Hassanein Amer (top), associate professor and chair of the electronics engineering department, received the Excellence in Academic Service Award; Ehab Abdel Rahman, visiting assistant professor of physics, received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award





Farkhonda Hassan addressing bachelor's degree candidates; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, keynote speaker at the graduate commencement; Vice Provost Ali Hadi, director of graduate studies and research, and Provost Lisa Anderson

The first at AUC's New Cairo Campus, the 86th undergraduate commencement saw the graduation of 446 bachelor's degree candidates. Delivering the keynote address, Farkhonda Hassan (MA '67), secretary-general of the National Council for Women, a scientist, prominent politician and former AUC faculty member, urged the graduating class to enhance their skills through knowledge. "You cannot download vision, imagination or creativity. That stuff, you have to upload it yourself the traditional way: reading, writing and learning," she said.

Hassan carried a special message to the female graduates. "In your experience here at AUC, you have seen women in leadership and decision-making roles," she noted. "Don't be surprised that some in this world do not share our collective belief about the potential capacity of women. Don't allow those beliefs to set you off course, but to make you stronger and more resilient."

At the ceremony, Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd, professor of public law at Cairo University, a judge and former president of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal received an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from AUC.

Addressing 117 master's degree candidates at the graduate commencement, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former United Nations secretary-general and recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from AUC, highlighted five major global problems, including the crisis of international organization, state transformation, the impact of globalization on the average citizen, discrimination in military conflicts, and the global economic and financial crisis. "These global problems cannot be resolved through the present United Nations," he explained "States, not state actors, [and] civil society must take on new responsibilities. It is still not too late to create a new United Nations for this era." □

By Dalia Al Nimr

From top to bottom: Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd, recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUC; Salah El Haggag, professor of mechanical engineering, received the Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award; Carol Clark, English language teacher, received the Excellence in Core Curriculum Teaching Award; Nathaniel Bowditch, assistant professor of philosophy, received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award

ACADEMIC *in* CHIEF



Provost Lisa Anderson envisions AUC as an international center of excellence

By Dalia Al Nimr
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

As AUC's provost, Lisa Anderson is on a mission. Her goal is to make the university widely known, not just in Egypt and the region, but around the globe.

"The world of higher education will become tightly networked in the next 10 years, and there will be around 100 really well-known universities around the world. I believe AUC can be one of those," said Provost Anderson.

A specialist on politics in the Middle East and Africa, Anderson is former dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, where she also served as professor of international relations, chair of the political science department and director of the Middle East Institute. She joined AUC at a time of transition, when the university relocated to New Cairo. While some may balk at the challenges such a move presents, particularly in her first year as provost, Anderson was excited about the prospects.

"I am delighted to have joined the university at such a fabulous moment in its history," she said. "AUC

can now do things that it never dreamt of on seven acres in Tahrir; the opportunities are endless.”

Anderson developed an affinity with Egypt and the region in college, when one research paper altered the course of her career. “I went to university thinking I want to be a civil rights lawyer, changing the world and having an impact on everything around me,” she said. However, during her sophomore year, in a class titled Politics and Culture in World Affairs, her teacher assigned her a paper on Egypt. Anderson knew nothing about the country, but researched it well and ended up writing 80 pages, from the time of Mohammed Ali to Gamal Abdul Nasser. “My teacher thought it was a good paper, and I told myself I will keep doing this until I get bored. In fact, I have been fascinated ever since,” she said.

The experience also propelled Anderson to become a professor herself. “I realized that teachers can change the world, one person at a time,” she noted. “They open windows that we didn’t know existed, and that’s what happened with me.”

Anderson went on to earn her master’s in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a doctorate in political science from Columbia University. During that time, she also joined AUC’s Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), accompanied by her husband at the end of her stay. “I’m not a good advertisement for CASA,” she said with a smile, referring to her weakness in spoken Arabic, “but my husband and I loved Cairo, which reminded us of New York.”

Consequently, when Anderson got a chance to return to Cairo years later as AUC provost, she didn’t hesitate. Not only is the city a fertile research ground for a political scientist, the sense of hospitality continues to draw her in. “I have never gone anywhere here where I haven’t felt completely comfortable and at ease, and I see my position as a way to reciprocate that,” she explained. “As provost, I have the opportunity to play a positive role in improving the quality of higher education here and to give voice in the United States to the aspirations of people in the region.”

In her role as provost, Anderson is responsible for shaping and implementing the university’s academic vision and building the size and quality of its faculty. Amidst a global economic recession, a surge

“The world of higher education will become tightly networked in the next 10 years, and there will be around 100 really well-known universities around the world. I believe AUC can be one of those.”



of international universities in Egypt and the Arab world, and the university’s historic move, the challenges are enormous, and so are the opportunities. Anderson’s vision

What Does a Provost Do?

Over the years, AUC had a number of provosts, including George Gibson (1987 - 1992), Andrew Kerek (1992 - 1998), Tim Sullivan (1998 - 2008) and Lisa Anderson (2008 - present). In the photo below, Kerek, Sullivan and Anderson meet during the inauguration ceremony of AUC's New Cairo Campus held in February 2009.

The provost is the chief academic officer of the university, reporting directly to the president. The word provost comes from Old English *profost* and Old French *provost*, meaning a superintendent or person placed over others. A provost provides academic vision and leadership; oversees faculty affairs, including recruitment, promotion and tenure; and ensures that the quality of research and education are at par with the university's mission and goals. The provost is involved in policy development, budgetary allocations and evaluative measures, in addition to working closely with the school deans to coordinate and support the academic schools. The provost meets regularly with the Provost's Council to consider all issues pertaining to academic programs.

Kerek, Anderson and Sullivan



is to enhance AUC's visibility worldwide through investing in faculty, promoting their research and revamping some of the university's academic programs. And she has already taken steps in that direction.

For starters, beginning with the newly established School of Business, the university has embarked on a restructuring of the academic administration to provide more managerial autonomy and budgetary responsibility to the individual schools across campus. In addition, over the next few years, the university will expand the research portfolio and curricular offerings at its new School of Public Affairs.

"This is an exciting time at AUC, as the new campus encourages us to be bold and imaginative in envisioning how we will contribute to creating more just, peaceful and prosperous lives for the people and communities of our world — now and in the future," Anderson said.

In addition, in an effort to build on the university's location, Anderson aims to develop the curriculum in innovative ways, the first of which is establishing a series of courses designed around Cairo. These include courses on the city and its link to modern literature, to construction engineering, to the Arab League, as well as to local and regional politics. "The aim is to use Cairo as a field site across the curriculum in a thematically consistent and systematic way and to integrate it into the teaching as much as possible. This gives us a new vantage point to make use of the rich and valuable resource at our disposal — Cairo," Anderson

explained, noting that, like Columbia, AUC faculty and students are immersed in their communities.

Other areas Anderson wishes to develop are forging institutional partnerships and enhancing collaborative research with top universities worldwide, as well as promoting interdisciplinary training and dual-degree programs at AUC — something she was successful with at Columbia. "AUC is perfect for such collaborations and scholarly exchange," she said. In recent years, the university has established partnerships with top-ranking educational institutions around the world, including Harvard and Cornell universities, MIT, Oxford University and the University of Cambridge. It also signed a research agreement with the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, a world-class graduate-level research university in Saudi Arabia. "It is easy to get parochial and inward looking, but it's much more instructive and fruitful to have partnerships where learning is reciprocal," Anderson noted.

With the enhancement of faculty recruitment and development, a new set of academic programs coming into focus, partnerships with other universities flourishing and an increase in scholarships that brings a diverse group of students to campus, AUC is set to be a world-class university in the next decade or two. "There aren't many competitors to achieving this status, and AUC is unique in that respect," Anderson affirmed. "Cairo is a world-class city, and there is a wealth of talent to draw from in Egypt." □

NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS



Adel El-Labban

Alumni and faculty share insights into the global economic downturn and its effect on Egypt

By Jeffrey Bellis



Eskandar Tooma

The current global financial crisis has taken its toll on different countries around the world, and Egypt has not escaped. Two alumni, who are experts in the world of finance, share their insights on the

consequences of the economic crisis on Egypt: Adel El-Labban '77, '80 is the group chief executive officer and managing director of Ahli United bank in Bahrain, and Eskandar Tooma '98 is associate professor of finance at AUC and financial adviser to numerous respected real-estate and development groups.

TO WHAT EXTENT HAS EGYPT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS?



Egypt is part of the global economy and has, therefore, been affected on several fronts. For instance, international trade proceeds from the Suez Canal, which are a major source of revenue for Egypt, have seen a reduction of 25 to 30 percent. Tourism has plummeted, and the overall demand for Egyptian exports by harder-hit countries has decreased. The Egyptian capital market has also seen a significant drop. When the global economy began to shrink, Egypt suffered a quick selling scheme in which investors tried to switch to other markets. This led to a reduction of greater than 60 percent of the market, dropping from 11,000 to 4,000 points. This drop affects many different types of businesses, but new and small existing companies feel it the most because it is significantly harder to attract investors and capital in a slow market.



Egypt is not immune to the crisis, but has fared better than other countries for several reasons. First, Egypt's banking system is more risk averse than that of the United States. National banks only lend up to 50 percent of their deposits, and a large majority of that is risk-free because it is loaned to the government. Egypt's Central Bank is very risk-averse because it requires a high reserve ratio. Also, because Egyptian salaries are low and constitute only a small percentage of total expenditures, we have heard far less about layoffs here in Egypt than in other countries. In addition, Egypt is a cash-based society. More advanced, developed countries lean more toward credit and away from cash and are, therefore, more at risk when the economy takes a downturn.

COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, WHERE THERE IS A GENERAL STATE OF PANIC, MASSIVE LAYOFFS AND SHUTDOWN OF CORPORATIONS, EGYPT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE STRUGGLING SO MUCH, WHY?

DUE TO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE GULF, LARGE NUMBERS OF EGYPTIANS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS AND ARE RETURNING. DOES THIS POSE A PROBLEM FOR EGYPT AND IN WHAT WAY?



This is a very serious challenge. All Gulf employers, government and private, are scaling down their investment plans and reviewing their labor costs with a focus on reduction of expatriates. The larger oil and gas producers (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Qatar), who have accumulated cash reserves relative to their smaller populations, will maintain positive economic growth and a generally better employment environment for Egyptian expatriates. Greater stresses will be felt in Oman, Bahrain, Dubai and the rest of the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, the global crunch has driven many qualified U.S. and European professionals to seek greener employment pastures outside their home markets currently facing an extended recession. This talent pool was previously not too keen on pursuing Gulf-based employment opportunities, but has now emerged as a serious new competitive challenge for Egyptian white-collar job seekers in the Gulf.



WHAT CHANGES SHOULD EGYPT MAKE TO ADJUST TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION?



The basic shift that has already started is a greater focus on assisting the broader masses, who will feel the brunt of this crisis on their already precarious living standards. In my opinion, a better-managed foreign-exchange policy, smaller scale — particularly rural-based — investment spending and selective social programs, including better-targeted food subsidies, are critically needed and will have a more direct and effective impact than fiscal spending on large-scale projects. The latter have a longer gestation period and involve a significant capital outflow to purchase foreign components.



The current crisis should also lead to improving efficiency and productivity in the Egyptian export and tourism sectors, setting higher standards for quality and delivery, and developing new, less expensive, more innovative products to address the reduced buying power of their customers across the world. A gradual devaluation of the Egyptian pound may be required, if a sharp slowdown continues, and should be carefully managed to reduce associated inflationary pressures.



The size of the damage is large. All major economies (United States, United Kingdom, European Union and Japan) will decline between 3 to 5 percent in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2009, as per International Monetary Fund estimates. This is unprecedented in magnitude and geographic scope. Accordingly, any recovery will not be earlier than 2010 and will be slow, if not anemic, at the initial stages. For Egypt, the impact will be more felt in the second half of 2009 and into 2010 as the recession intensifies with the country's major trading partners, resulting in economic slowdown, job losses, reduced investments and real-income contraction.

Consequently, this is the time for prudence and realism. The crisis is coming and will last for more than one year. To the extent possible, budgets should be tailored to basic needs, as jobs and salary increases are under threat. Times of adversity traditionally bring out the best in Egyptians in terms of social solidarity, resilience and creative adaptation. I hope that this difficult period will be no exception. □

WHEN DO YOU PREDICT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY WILL BEGIN TO REBOUND FROM THE CURRENT CRISIS AND WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THE AVERAGE EGYPTIAN AT THIS STAGE?



A Special Return

**Alumni homecoming weekend
at AUC's New Cairo Campus**

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr





Dozens of white umbrellas flooded Bartlett Plaza on the four-day homecoming held at the New Cairo Campus for the first time, with more than 3,200 alumni and their families in attendance.

The weekend commenced with a reception for alumni traveling from abroad and continued with activities and entertainment for adults and children throughout the weekend, including musical performances and a sports tournament. Some alumni traveled from as far as England, the United States, France, Belgium, Germany, Tunisia, Qatar, Kuwait and Lebanon specifically to attend.

Holding the event on the New Cairo Campus enhanced the festive atmosphere for alumni. "The new campus is very big; it's more like a celebration or reunion than the old one," said Lobna Mostafa '04.

Although the campus was different, the atmosphere that distinguishes AUC remained the same. "Entering this morning, with all the decoration, it reminded me of initiation day in 1945," said Zeinab Gohar '50.

One of the highlights of the day was the torch relay ceremony to inaugurate the New Cairo Campus, in which a torch was passed from alumni grouped by decade to the current Student Union president. A gala dinner ended the celebrations, with a performance by the Riff Band. □

By Sarah Topol





50th reunion celebrations held on the New Cairo Campus during the four-day alumni weekend



Abu Bakr Radwan '69, one of the awardees at the 40th reunion celebrations during alumni weekend, with Raymonda Raif '91, director of alumni and trustee affairs

During alumni weekend, three alumni received Distinguished Alumni Awards for their accomplishments in various fields

Since joining AUC in 1973, Mary Iskander '76 has established key projects to reunite and honor AUC's alumni, including the compilation of a database with nearly 30,000 alumni worldwide, her initiation of the International Alumni Council in 1981 and the formation of active alumni chapters around the world. In 2000, Iskander coordinated the campaign for the New Cairo Campus, and in 2007, she was appointed the associate vice president of institutional advancement for alumni affairs and special adviser to the AUC president.



Karim Ramadan '87 is general manager of Microsoft Egypt, a position he has held for the past seven years. Under Ramadan's tenure, Microsoft Egypt was awarded — for the first time in the Middle East and Africa — the Best Subsidiary in the World Award from Microsoft, as well as the Corporate Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of State. Among Ramadan's accomplishments are the development of large nationwide projects such as the e-Gov Project, the Egyptian Education Initiative and Cyber Peace Initiative for Internet Safety for Children.

Mervat El Kaffas '80 majored in journalism and mass communication and, in 1980, joined Egyptian TV as a news editor and presenter. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, she served as host of major radio programs and talk shows for the local European service of Cairo Radio. In 2002, she was director of Nile TV's news bulletins and in 2005, she was head of the channel's news department. In March 2009, she became president of Nile TV.



Around the World

Qatar

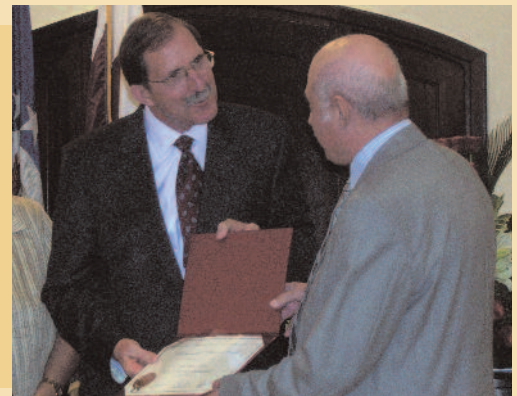


Alumni reception in Doha



President David Arnold presenting an AUC Press book as a token of appreciation to Joe LeBaron, the U.S. ambassador to Qatar, and his wife, who hosted an alumni reception at their residence in April 2009

Sami Barzak '67, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the reception in Qatar, graduated from AUC with a bachelor's in economics and political science. Upon graduation, he worked as executive secretary at Kassam and Abdullah Darwish Fakhroo group in Qatar. From 1969 till 1975, he was head of administrative affairs at the Department of Information and then director of administrative and financial affairs at Qatar's Ministry of Information. In 1975, he joined the Amiri Diwan as director of administrative and financial affairs and then served as administrative and financial controller, a post he currently holds.



France



Nasser Kamel, Egypt's ambassador to France, and his wife Dalia El Batal '86 hosted an alumni gathering at their residence in Paris in May 2009

Remembering Martin Luther King

When I met Martin Luther King, Jr. at Crozer Theological Seminary in September 1950, I had just turned 23, and I had no idea that this congenial African American who was two years younger than me was destined to become the icon of the civil rights movement all over the world. For the many who were lucky as I was to be his friend and classmate, he is the most unforgettable man in my life.

I knew Dr. King in 1950 and 1951 as a classmate in Crozer Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania. During that year, he was president of a student body largely comprised of southern whites. We had adjacent rooms in the dormitory, and this gave me a good opportunity to exchange visits and discuss various topics of common interest with him. As a leader of the student body, he had the magnetic power to draw an audience to his words from the moment he rose to deliver a speech. As a student, he was fond of intellectual debate, and whether at the dining room or in coffee sessions, he was the fulcrum for stimulating questions or smashing rebuttal. Yet along with his scholarly lure, he was even more drawn by a person in need and the plight of the man furthest down.

Following that year in Crozer, I returned to Cairo, where I was scheduled to teach at AUC. I corresponded with Dr. King a few times. His letters, as time went, receded the feeling that he was burdened with compassion for the poor and the oppressed in American society. This was the motive behind his fight for freedom in Montgomery, Alabama. He was now committed to the cause of poor, unemployed African Americans.

The following year, Dr. King was a world figure, and I expected to hear about him through news media rather than through personal correspondence. Yet, to my surprise, I received a letter from him in April 1958 indicating that he intended to visit me in Cairo on his way from India. Dr. King could have chosen to receive the highest welcome from the Egyptian government had he wanted. Instead, he preferred to arrive incognito and to enjoy the calm solitude of sunset near the Pyramids. He arrived with his charming wife Coretta, spending two days at the Continental Hotel, overlooking the old Cairo Opera. I took him out sightseeing, including a visit to the AUC campus, and a visit to Dar Al-Hilal with the late Emile Samaan '47, who was editor in chief of the *Caravan*. I introduced him to Professor Alan Horton, dean of the graduate school, who invited him to address the students in the Wednesday assembly.

In 1965, Wadei Philistin, professor of journalism at AUC and a distinguished Egyptian writer in his own right, translated Dr. King's book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, with the Arabic title *Ala Darb El-Horeya*, or *On the Road to Freedom*. It is the only book by Dr. King that Arab readers are familiar with today.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was considered an idealist by some and a rabble-rouser by the media, but he succeeded in changing that image of his mission in life. He was twice on the cover of *Time* magazine, and he was able to lead a civil rights movement that changed the course of history. Without him, I believe it would not have been possible for Barack Obama to become the 44th president of the United States. I was fortunate to have known Martin Luther King, Jr., and his fine example as a leader has enriched and ennobled my life. □

Jimmy A. Beshai '47 is a staff psychologist at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.



Charles Hively, Pennsylvania

Akher Kalam is an open forum for members of the AUC community. We invite you to share your thoughts on any topic of your choice. Submissions should be sent to auctoday@aucegypt.edu and may be edited for length and clarity.