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Editor's Notes

A Leap into the Future

I remember when the *Back to the Future* movies were released, I watched them time and time again. Aside from Michael J. Fox, one of the things I liked most about the trilogy was how it pictured life in the future. I distinctly remember the scene from the first movie, when Dr. Emmett Brown told Marty as they were getting ready to travel through time to the year 2015, "Roads? Where we're going we don't need roads," and the car flew off. It is, after all, a science fiction movie, but it makes one think about the endless possibilities that may be in store for us.

At AUC, some of these possibilities are opening up. Faculty members working at the Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center (STRC) are coming up with ideas that will change our lives. Nanotechnology is the new buzzword in science and has amazing applications in a variety of fields, from medicine and electronics to sports and cosmetics. "A Tiny Tomorrow" (page 18) sheds light on the nanotechnology research projects conducted at the STRC. Working on an intricate scale, faculty members devise technological applications that are expected to have large payoffs in the future. Whether it be robots that perform surgery without an incision, windows that allow heat in during the winter and keep it out during the summer, or bricks embedded in buildings to warn of fires or earthquakes, it is mind boggling to think of the possibilities. Sooner than we think, these applications may become a normal part of our lives. As an alumna, I'm excited and proud that AUC is playing a role in this great scientific venture and taking a giant leap into the future.



Dalia Al Nimr

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Editor in Chief

Dalia Al Nimr

Designer

Hanan Omary

Writers

Sally Hassona, Leen Jaber and Peter Wieben

Advisory Board

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

Photography

Ahmad El-Nemr, Dana Smillie

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AUCToday

The American University in Cairo

113 Kasr El Aini Street

P.O. Box 2511

Cairo 11511

Egypt

or

AUCToday

The American University in Cairo

420 Fifth Avenue, Third floor

New York, NY 10018-2729

USA

tel 20.2.2797.5448 (Egypt)

e-mail auctoday@aucegypt.edu

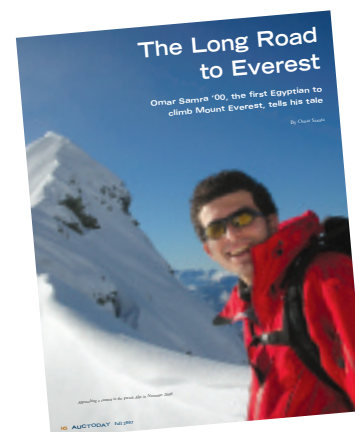
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Inspiration

I was inspired by Omar Samra's recent article, "The Long Road to Everest," in the Fall 2007 edition. I am a recreational hiker myself and identified with Mr. Samra's description of the awe and exuberance he experiences on each climb. I also related to his message

about the demands of being a modern professional and the corresponding, sometimes pressing, need to "get away from it all." I admire his courage to do so.

*Samuel Jack, YAB '03-'04
Washington, D.C.*



Connected

I am delighted to get all the newest information and feel very grateful indeed. I've attached a photo to show how I have fared since graduating in 1941.

*Riri Stark '41
New Zealand*



Memories

Do you receive any notes from the graduates of 1955? Here is a promise: I will write another note to you in 10 years.

The day I retired I came home and announced to my wife that I planned to write a novel. She looked at me and said, "You are going to write a novel? You have never even read one." I let her know that Albert Einstein did not read a book on relativity before he formulated his theory. My first novel, *Faris of Zora*, was published in July 2007 by Publish America. I read it three times since then, and I still enjoy reading it. I read everything I publish at least once, but I never had the joy I experience from reading that novel.

In 1992, with the company of my wife, I visited the Tahrir campus. As if years just evaporated, I asked the doorman about Am Abdu, the elderly gentleman who stood by the great gate and greeted all comers every morning and wished them well as they departed in the evening. The new doorman simply opened his mouth; he never heard of Am Abdu. I might visit AUC again and ask about Am Abdu.

*Sema'an I. Salem '55
Long Beach, California*

We Would Like to Hear From You

AUCToday welcomes letters from readers. They may be edited for length and clarity. Please send to auctoday@aucegypt.edu or Editor, AUCToday, Office of Communications and Marketing, 113 Kasr El Aini Street, P.O. Box 2511, Cairo 11511.

Arnold Speaks in LA on Role of AUC

Speaking at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on “The Role and Reality of the University in the Middle East,” President David Arnold emphasized the important function that an institution like AUC plays in preparing future leaders for the Arab region, noting that the solution lies in providing a high-quality education. “In the Middle East context, the greatest contribution that universities can make is to teach the next generation how to think, how to analyze complex problems, understand and evaluate different points of view, and how to reach independent judgments and conclusions,” he said.

Beyond academics, Arnold noted that AUC actively promotes community service among its students, as well as intellectual freedom and the open exchange of ideas. “When I look at the faces of the young men and women on our campus, all of them eager to learn, committed to doing more and doing better for themselves, for their families and for Egypt, it gives me hope,” he said.

Arnold’s address is part of a series of public appearances he has made this year in the United States to draw attention to the purpose of American-style higher education in the region.

Former Minister Appointed as AUC Counselor

In their recent visit to Cairo, AUC’s Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Amr Ezzat Salama, former minister of higher education and scientific research, as counselor. Salama replaces Nagi Shatla, who served in that post for 20 years.

Before joining AUC, Salama was chairman of the Housing and Building National Research Center for four years. “It was a prestigious post and I was happy there,” Salama said, “but I felt it was time for me to move on to another challenge, meet new people and acquire new experiences, especially at a leading institution such as AUC.”

As counselor, Salama will serve as a liaison between the university and the Egyptian government. Excited about the opportunities that lay ahead, he noted, “Moving to the new campus, with its marvelous facilities, is a turning point for AUC. We have to keep our edge in the region and maintain our advanced ranking. I hope to share in realizing AUC’s vision of becoming a world-class university.”

Salama is not new to the educational realm. In addition to his ministerial post, he served as president of Helwan University, where he was also professor of structural engineering. An expert on the strength and properties of materials, Salama has published more than 60 articles in international journals and conferences. He is a board member of several professional engineering associations in Egypt and is also a former Higher Managerial Court member of the first circle.



Professor Serves on U.S. Integrity Board



About Zeid with freshmen

Mohamed Abou Zeid, construction engineering professor, was recently elected to Clemson University’s advisory board on academic integrity and ethics, making him the first outside North

America to become a member.

The board works to create practices for and assess universities throughout the United States to ensure that these institutions and their students are held to the highest standards of academic integrity. “Our role is not only to implement these practices at AUC, but also to help the university become a model for academic honesty in the region,” said Abou Zeid, who played an important role in establishing a code of academic ethics at AUC.

AUC's Web Site Revamped

Employing a new design and structure, the university's recently launched Web site represents a new approach to the university's online presence.

Inas Hamam, associate director of communications who oversaw the design process, explained the reasons for the overhaul. "More than 90 percent of our online visitors live outside Egypt, using the Web as their main source of information about AUC," she said. "Therefore, we had to ensure that the Web site enables users to find all the information they are looking for quickly and easily, and at the same time reflects AUC's unique place in the region. It's a powerful marketing and communications tool."

To bring the Web site up-to-date, AUC hired Michael Stoner, an American Web design consultant who has worked on sites for prominent firms, universities and non-governmental organizations. After months of research and investigation, Stoner provided recommendations that revolved around three main areas: informative and up-to-date content, user-friendly navigation and advanced technology to run the site. Over the past year, work has been carried out to

ensure that the new Web site reflects these key issues, and pilot testing was conducted to ensure that the site gives users what they are looking for.

In terms of design, the look of the Web site has changed considerably. Now that menus and sidebars are streamlined, Hamam hopes that the site will be easier to navigate. "The more user-friendly it is, the more people will be able to focus on getting the information they need," she said.

In addition to the design, the technology used to run the Web site has been upgraded. "ACS [Academic Computing Services] worked closely with Microsoft, and there is a lot of new technology behind this site. It is now much easier to update content and keep everything current," Hamam said.

Visit AUC's new Web site at www.aucegypt.edu



Gerhart Center Holds Philanthropic Conference in Dubai

Discussing ways of optimizing philanthropy in the Middle East, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement recently organized a regional forum titled, From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy.

Held in Dubai, the initiative was presented in partnership with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation and under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai.

The impetus for the program is the result of a study made by the Gerhart center mapping patterns of philanthropy in the Arab world. The

study showed that the Arab region has witnessed a marked increase in the number of endowments and trusts established by individuals and families, as well as the number of corporate programs for social responsibility. To build upon and implement the study's findings, the event drew together leaders in the field of philanthropy to plan and promote effective philanthropic strategies for the Middle East. In order for philanthropy to thrive in the Arab world, the forum recommended fostering a philanthropic spirit through youth education, making philanthropy professionalized and specialized, removing legal roadblocks and increasing public awareness.

Speaking at the conference, AUC

President David Arnold commented on the role AUC plays as a partner and adviser to philanthropists. "In today's world, no university can afford to be an ivory tower, remote and removed from the societies we serve," he said.

"Universities are uniquely positioned to help promote philanthropy by mobilizing resources for high-quality research, and documentation and benchmarking of achievements."

Barbara Ibrahim, director of the Gerhart center, highlighted the center's role in the region. "We look forward to continuing our role as a support and catalyst for systematic, professional and strategic giving that aims to solve some of the most glaring social problems of our time," she said.

Nadhmi Auchi Scholarship Supports Arab Graduate Students

In the interest of promoting service throughout the Middle East, AUC is establishing the Nadhmi Auchi Young Arab Leaders Fellowship Program, a new initiative that provides 10 full-tuition scholarships for graduate studies. The goal of the fellowship is to provide training to a group of young leaders who can go on to fulfill public and community-service roles in the Arab world.

The program, which opened this year to students from Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria, provides tuition, living expenses and health insurance to qualified applicants. In order to qualify, interested students must demonstrate academic excellence, have two years of professional experience in community or public service and be driven by a desire to lead lives of service to their countries and communities. Along with their

graduate training, the scholars will be expected to work with non-governmental organizations or in other social service positions, as well as attend regional conferences and gatherings related to the field.

The program's namesake, Nadhmi Auchi, is an Iraqi born businessman who is a British citizen. His company, General Mediterranean Holdings, owns numerous corporations and properties throughout the Middle East and worldwide.

Sawsan Mardini, director of graduate student services, explained that the program will provide opportunities to those who would not otherwise have been able to study at the graduate level. "It's a wonderful opportunity, and we're looking forward to the success of the program," she said.

For more information, e-mail aucgrad@aucegypt.edu

AUC Offers New Science and Engineering Degrees

In response to the growing market demand for graduates in certain specialized areas and the need to fill the quality gap in some industries, AUC has introduced new academic programs in its School of Sciences and Engineering (SSE). These constitute undergraduate majors in architectural, computer, and petroleum and energy engineering; a concentration in mechatronics; as well as a Master of Science in biotechnology and Master of Engineering degrees in construction, mechanical and environmental engineering. The school also formalized a premedical track to aid students wishing to study medicine in North America.

Medhat Haroun, SSE dean, noted that a market study, including students,

parents and multinational companies, was conducted to explore the feasibility of these programs, as well as the professional needs and curriculum requirements. "The study showed an overwhelming demand for these new academic programs," Haroun said.

With the architectural engineering program, the main goal is to train architects who can lead the profession in Egypt and the Middle East into the digital age. The program promotes the implementation of the latest advances in information and communication technology, and incorporates strong construction engineering and professional content that responds to the needs of the industry.

The computer engineering program will produce graduates with a broad

perspective in both software and hardware topics relevant to computer systems engineering. It provides the foundation necessary to analyze, design and evaluate systems software, middleware and hardware architectures and interfaces.

As biotechnology has become a driving force of economic growth and has a great impact on many fields, including medicine, agriculture, environment, energy and the chemical industry, AUC now offers a graduate program in biotechnology to bring together science, technology and entrepreneurship. The program is uniquely designed to prepare graduates for the job market. It also provides students with cutting-edge training and helps develop the industry in Egypt.

Egyptian Artist Donates 16 Paintings to AUC's New Campus



Gazbia Sirry, one of Egypt's premier artists, donated 16 of her paintings to the university.

The donated works are oil on canvas originals that span four decades of the artist's life in Egypt, Europe and North America. The

contribution will help make AUC's new campus halls bright, beautiful and thought provoking.

Sirry has won numerous awards, and her work is emblematic of modern art in Egypt and the region. Her education brought her from Cairo to Europe's artistic centers in Rome, Paris and London, but the heart of her work did not stray from Egypt. "These are paintings about this place, this country," she said. In addition to her work as an artist, Sirry previously served as a painting instructor at AUC.

Throughout her career, Sirry has held 68 solo exhibitions in Egypt, the Middle East, Europe and North

America. She has been presented with the State Fellowship for Creative Artists, Huntington Hartford Foundation Fellowship, a Fulbright and the National Museum for Women in the Arts Fellowship. Among her many honors are the first prize at the Salon du Caire, State Merit Prize, and Order of Sciences and Arts, first degree.

Sirry's work is on demand regionally and internationally. She recently sold a painting to Christie's in Dubai, a famous fine art auction house, and will also be the first Egyptian to exhibit work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Education Initiative Helps Shape Children's Learning

A new program at AUC's School of Continuing Education is changing the way parents and teachers in Egypt educate their children. The Education Initiative extends beyond teaching strategies to the philosophy of education that experts hope will set Egypt on a more competitive track in the years to come.

The initiative covers four areas key to children's development: educational leadership, early literacy education, teaching for non-education majors and special needs education.

Russanne Hozayin, the program's executive director, explained that these areas were chosen to fill crucial niches

in Egypt's education training sector. "Early literacy education, for example, is virtually unknown in Egypt," she said, "but the benefits, indeed the necessity, of this sort of education has been demonstrated in other contexts."

Hozayin noted that the program is not meant to be a series of tools and ideas for teachers, but a new way to look at education that takes into account the latest research in child psychology and early education. "Part of what we are working with are expectations," she explained. "We were seeing parents who expected that they could drop their children off at schools to be 'reformed,'

without taking responsibility for the child's development. We work with teachers and parents together to show what can be reasonably expected, and what factors must be in place for literacy to unfold."

Bringing in qualified instructors from Egypt and abroad, the program provides high-quality training that is tailored to meet the needs of the Egyptian educational system. "We're offering unique programs at international standards, courses that mirror what you see in the United States and Europe," Hozayin said.

For information on how to enroll, e-mail educprog@aucegypt.edu

AUC Hosts Prominent Speakers On Campus

This year, AUC hosted a number of high-profile speakers who delivered lectures on a variety of topics, from Al-Qaeda masterminds and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the role of intellectuals in democracy and the peaceful coexistence between religions.

Mary Robinson, the first female president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, argued that universal human rights are not simply a Western construct as many critics claim, but that security, health care and access to education are valued across cultures. "We need to reclaim this as our birthright," she said.

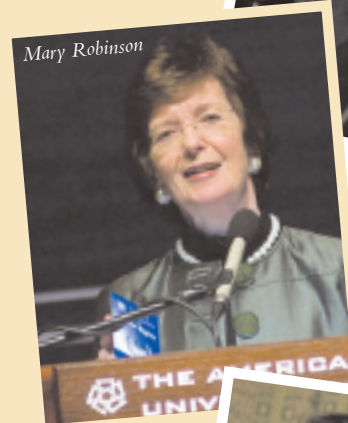
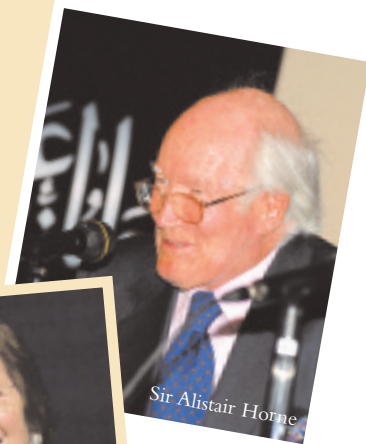
Robinson, who delivered the third annual Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture, stressed the need for world leaders to recognize these basic human rights if they want to avoid the problems of hunger, disease and violence that plague many nations today. "Human rights are essential to arriving at a sustainable peace," she noted.

In a lecture on "Covering Al-Qaeda: Reality and Spin Doctoring," Al Jazeera's London bureau chief and award-winning chief investigative correspondent Yosri Fouda (MA '92) stated that the language of the media, particularly in the United States, does not anger a terrorist group like Al-Qaeda or disrupt their plans, but makes them proud of their actions. Fouda explained the importance of conducting serious investigations into the minds of terrorists before spin doctoring is used to depict any situation. "In any democracy, there needs to be a reality and a truth. Language and spin doctoring can do more harm than good," he said.

Speaking about what he called "the two-fold legacies of Athens and Jerusalem," Cornel West, professor of religion at Princeton University, said that a truly engaged intellectual must pursue the painful self-examination and relentless questioning embodied by Socrates, while feeling and taking on the world's suffering like the prophets of Jerusalem. "This is what we call the maturation of the soul: fusing deep reflection with deep compassion, care and love for others," he said.

Other speakers included Shibley Telhami, political science professor at the University of Maryland, who presented findings from the U.S. Institute of Peace Study Group on Arab-Israeli Relations; Hans Küng, a prominent Christian theologian, who called for a peaceful dialogue between people of different religions based on their common traits; Sir Alistair Horne, a British historian who provided detailed narratives of the 1973 war between Egypt and Israel; and acclaimed novelist Anne Lamott, who spoke about her nonfiction book *Bird by Bird*, which serves as a guide for emerging writers.

To listen to the full speeches, visit www.aucegypt.edu/resources/smc/webcasts/index.cfm



Terrorism Expert Predicts Failure for Al-Qaeda

Describing Al-Qaeda as a suicide machine rather than a terror organization, Pulitzer Prize winner Lawrence Wright (MA '71) looked at the reasons why well-educated, young men turn to Al-Qaeda and predicted its inevitable failure in a lecture at AUC titled, "Al-Qaeda: Past, Present and Future."

The author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, Wright noted that political oppression and a lack of civil society in the Middle East and North Africa were some of the causes of radicalism. He explained that this feeling is "aggravated by a sense of paralysis that feels especially acute when much of the world is enjoying economic growth and the blessings of democratic reform."

He cited research by AUC Professor Saad Eddin Ibrahim and the CIA psychiatrist Marc Sageman that revealed that members of radical Islamic groups, including Al-Qaeda, were usually ambitious, well-educated and, interestingly enough, "not even very religious." What they all had in common was that they were away from home and their roots. "With these feelings of marginalization, Islam would become more than a religion; it would become an identity," Wright said.

What distinguishes Al-Qaeda from any other terrorist organization is that, "They simply want to kill as many people as possible," Wright said. "This particular appetite for carnage and desire for revenge" is a result of the physical torture and humiliation that many of its members, including radical Egyptian Islamist and Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, were subjected to in prison. "There is a psychological factor at work that draws young men, ... and that is the sense of humiliation, and its companion, the longing for revenge," he added.

It was this desire for revenge that was behind Osama Bin Laden's attacks on the United States. His initial plan was to draw the United States into Afghanistan, where he expected it would experience the same catastrophe that befell the Soviet Union. "Osama Bin Laden had an agenda with 9/11," he explained. "He believed that the United States would become the disunited states and fall, and Islam will reclaim its rightful place as a superpower in the world." His plan failed, however, and within six weeks, 80 percent of Al-Qaeda had been captured or killed. For the next three years, the terrorist organization was essentially dead.

"It was the invasion of Iraq that breathed life back into the



monster," said Wright. Iraq offered Al-Qaeda a whole new country to train in, and became a lot like what Bin Laden had envisioned for America in Afghanistan.

In 1998, Abu Bakr Naji, one of the chief Al-Qaeda strategists, posted a long-term plan titled, "The Management of Savagery," which predicted the group's victory by 2020. However, in his lecture at AUC, Wright's prediction was that Al-Qaeda was doomed to fail for three reasons: It has too many enemies, most of its victims are actually Muslims and it has no vision of the future. "It's not really a political movement. It's an instinct, a reaction — like a snake bite."

Wright explained how the group maintains its following. "For many of the young men who are drawn to join it, Al-Qaeda is not really a terror organization. It's a suicide machine," he said. "It is fueled by the despair that is such a feature of their lives because of political, economic, social and psychological reasons. Al-Qaeda offers them a chance to feel powerful in the world. All they have to do is die."

Wright received an MA in applied linguistics in 1971 from AUC and taught English there for two years. He accredited much of his interest in the Middle East, as well as his success, to the time he spent in Egypt and at AUC. "I became fascinated by this part of the world and gained a lot of affection for the Middle East. Those two years left me with a great love for Egypt and an abiding respect for the university," he said.

Inspired by the Arab people and the history of the region, Wright knew he wanted to learn and to write about its politics. This is what led him to write a book on the history of Al-Qaeda. "I am an American journalist, and this is the biggest story of my generation," he said. "I have been preparing all my life to write this story."

Wright is a well-established journalist, playwright and screenwriter, and has published six books. He writes for *The New Yorker* magazine and has won several awards for his work. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and plays the keyboard in the Texas-based blues band, Who Do.



President David Arnold and AUC Trustee Moataz Al-Alfi presenting the award to Yomna Safwat

Moataz Al-Alfi Award Recognizes Service

The Moataz Al-Alfi Family Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Social Innovation was inaugurated at the midyear commencement. The award honors students who have shown proactive participation in civic engagement with a commitment to a particular cause, and have proven leadership and innovation in their pursuit. The recipient receives recognition on a plaque at the new campus, funding for one year of tuition and a trophy. Moataz Al-Alfi, AUC trustee, chief executive officer of EK Holding Company and vice president of the Future Generation Foundation, provided funding for the award.

Yomna Safwat, business administration sophomore and the first recipient of the award, established The Right Road student club last year to promote and spread awareness about safe driving in Egypt. After losing her brother to an automobile accident in 2006, Safwat felt inspired to do something about road safety. "I believe car accidents are a preventable danger," she said.

The club is currently working on establishing ambulance centers throughout the Katameya area, increasing signs on dangerous roads to warn drivers, repairing street conditions, and offering courses on first aid and defensive driving.

Making Change

AUC Trustee Mohamed Ibrahim called on the graduates to develop Egypt, Africa and the world

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

Addressing the bachelor's candidates at the midyear commencement ceremony, Mohamed Ibrahim, AUC trustee and founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation that aims to establish good governance in Africa, stressed the importance of giving back to

their nation and to the African continent in general. "There is an economic basket of goods that needs to be established for good governance — human development, infrastructure, education, human rights and institutions that the government



Dalia El Tayebi, business administration major and recipient of the President's Cup; Hashim Larry, business administration major and recipient of the Parents Association Award; and Marian Abdel-Shahid, computer science major and recipient of the Ahmed H. Zewail Prize for Excellence in the Sciences and Humanities



André Raymond, professor emeritus of Arabic studies at the University of Provence in France, keynote speaker at the master's ceremony and recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUC; Mohamed Ibrahim, AUC trustee and founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation; Yousef Jameel '68 receiving an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

will be responsible for — and we all must ensure this,” he said.

Ibrahim called on the graduates to make change in the continent and the world through creativity and innovation. “I encourage you to think outside the box,” he said. “We shouldn’t just remember Africa when there is a football game. ... We all need to work to take this place forward, and that is only going to happen with good governance.”

At the ceremony, Yousef Jameel '68, Saudi businessman and devoted AUC alum, and André Raymond, professor emeritus of Arabic studies at the University of Provence in France and keynote speaker at the master's ceremony, each received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Of the 326 diplomas awarded, 38 students graduated with honors (cum laude), 41 with high honors (magna cum laude) and 29 with highest honors (summa cum laude).

Among the undergraduates recognized were business administration major Dalia El Tayebi, who received the

President's Cup for the highest grade point average in the senior class. Hashim Larry, also a business administration major, received the Parents Association Award for blending academic achievement with student activities. Computer science major Marian Abdel-Shahid received the Ahmed H. Zewail Prize for Excellence in the Sciences and Humanities, and construction engineering major Sherif Sweillam received the Ahmed El Mehallawi Family Award for his academic excellence and contribution to community-service activities.

Undergraduate class representative Safaa Abdoun, who graduated with a degree in journalism and mass communication, urged her peers to aim high and never settle for the path of least resistance. “Dare to dream and believe in yourself, because if you do, others will also believe in you. ... Don't settle for what you know you can accomplish. Challenge yourself to pursue the impossible,” she said.

At a separate graduate

ceremony, Raymond delivered the keynote speech, placing a burden of responsibility on the graduates' shoulders. “You here tonight, no matter what your backgrounds, are the privileged ones of society, and as such, you will be expected to put forth an effort commensurate with your past excellence and your current success,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the master's candidates, Noha Zaki from the MBA program explained the importance of maintaining personal identity. “Even though we might be dressed tonight in identical caps and gowns, I believe that individuality is the key to success,” she said. “There is a leader inside each and every one of you. So, dare to mobilize ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. Dare to transform values into actions, visions into realities, obstacles into innovations, separateness into solidarity and risks into rewards. Dare to turn every challenging situation into remarkable success.” □

Windows of Opportunity

AUC students and alumni are in the lead at Microsoft



Ahmad El-Nor

Top: Alumni working at Microsoft Egypt; right: Fathalla and El Gaaly with Bill Gates

With the job market in Egypt booming, AUC students and graduates are in great demand by national and multinational corporations regionally and internationally. In particular, the fields of computer science, engineering, management consulting and investment are growing in the region, with Egypt being no exception. According to the Commercial Intelligence Service, Egypt has become home to at least 900 international companies spanning 37 industries, mostly due to a flourishing economy and smart investments.

AUC students have been an integral part of this growth, demonstrated by the annual employment fairs held by the university. This fall, 136 companies came to recruit AUC seniors, a number that increased from 104 last year. "AUC prepares students to work globally and grants them exposure to multicultural environments, allowing them to adapt

anywhere," said Maha Guindi, executive director of Career Advising and Placement Services, explaining the fair's success.

Many of the corporations that have participated in AUC's employment fairs and on-campus recruiting visits return annually to hire students for both entry-level and senior positions. Among these companies are General Electric, Booz Allen Hamilton and Microsoft.

Over the years, Microsoft has kept close ties with the university. In addition to recruiting fresh graduates, the company has hosted AUC students as interns at Microsoft Egypt, the Cairo Microsoft Innovation Center and the corporate headquarters in Redmond, Washington. It also holds local and regional software competitions, where AUC teams have performed exceptionally well over the years. In all these avenues, AUC students and alumni have proven their ability to



adapt to challenging work environments, utilizing their creativity and problem-solving skills that they learned in the classroom.

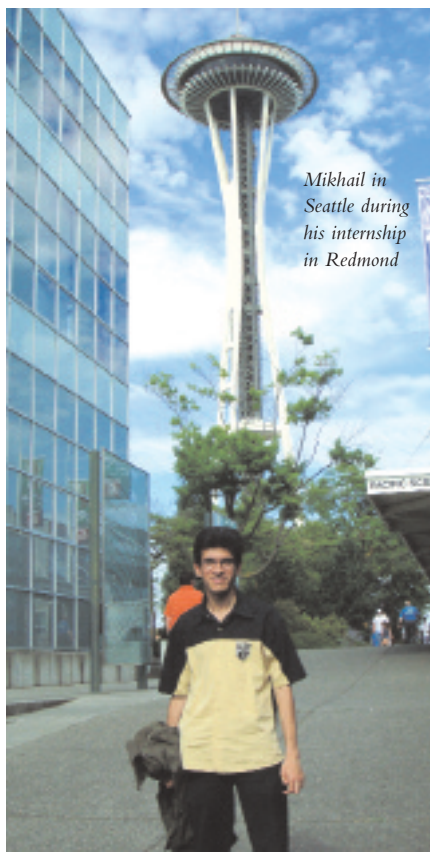
"The university does a wonderful job of preparing its students to be successful once they graduate," said Anne Cheng, international staffing consultant for Microsoft in Redmond who has recruited a great number of AUC students for internships and permanent jobs. "They are bright and passionate about developing software that changes how people work, live and play."

Cheng added that because AUC students have been educated outside the United States and bring with them aspects of both Middle Eastern and Western cultures, having them join Microsoft makes the place more diverse, which enhances the quality of

the company's product range. "It is critical that we have broad and diverse teams where people of all backgrounds are impacting our products," she said.

For many of the alumni who work at Microsoft, their jobs open up continuous learning opportunities. Dina Radwan '02, customer and partner experience lead at Microsoft Egypt, feels she has developed considerably on a professional level. "Through my work, I have learned how to interact with customers tactfully, how to implement creative marketing and how to be professional," she noted. "The key is to be creative, and that's something I definitely learned from AUC."

Besides creativity, success lies in the ability to learn and adapt to changing work environments. "I believe the best thing I was taught at AUC is how to learn," said Ayman Shoukry '99, who has been working at Microsoft in Redmond for the past eight years as a lead program manager with the Visual C++ team. "Being able to seek information, be proactive and flexible, and learn how to apply new things everyday makes a big difference."



Mikhail in Seattle during his internship in Redmond

Staying ahead of this rapidly evolving field, AUC's School of Sciences and Engineering introduced a new degree in computer engineering that incorporates the skills and knowledge needed to lead today's tech industry, a field subject to dynamic and changing trends. AUC's program strives to help define these trends, ensuring that its graduates are prepared for an industry that requires knowledge of computers and the ability to combine and network multiple media.

As proof of its success, AUC's computer science and engineering department was recently granted renewed accreditation by ABET Inc., one of the leading accreditation organizations worldwide, for its Bachelor of Science in computer science. The department also receives positive feedback from employers. "We've received a letter from Microsoft saying they rate our students as some of the best worldwide," said Mikhail Naguib Mikhail, chair of the department.

In addition to securing jobs with Microsoft, AUC students have maintained links with the company through internships. Computer science seniors Karim Henien and Mina Mikhail both earned the only two spots open for interns from Egypt to work at the Microsoft headquarters. Spending the summer in Redmond developing applications for the new Windows 7, Mikhail said he grew professionally. "I learned fast and have really improved in the operating systems branch," he said.

In addition to internships, AUC students have been successful in computer science competitions to develop software and technological devices. After winning first place in the local round of the Imagine Cup competition, a worldwide contest for software development, Ahmad Fathalla



Radwan has been working at Microsoft Egypt for the past five years

Ahmad El-Nemr

'05 and Tarek El Gaaly '05 were among the few teams selected to present their software to Microsoft mogul Bill Gates in Redmond. The students' software, Educare, is designed to assist teachers in preparing lessons tailored for students with learning disabilities. "I completely agree with your vision; great work," Gates told the team after they presented their project.

Similarly, in the recent competition held by the Cairo Microsoft Innovation Center (CMIC), AUC students Mona Mahfouz, Tarek Hefni, Khaled Hafez and Soha Hassan won first place and were awarded an internship at CMIC in the Smart Village to develop their proposal for a new software application. The team's software, BSpark, enables mobile phone images to be automatically posted for members of the same network to view on their phones immediately, eliminating the process of uploading the image to a computer, fixing its dimensions and then putting it online.

Ahmad El-Shimi, lead program manager at CMIC, lauded the team's effort. "They showed initiative in their proposal, thought hard and critiqued it," he said, adding, "AUC students are more well-rounded right out of college. They tend to be current in recent technology; are very polished in their soft skills such as teamwork; and have analytical, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. ... They have excellent prospects and are very high on the list." □

By Leen Jaber

MORE for the CORE

By Sally Hassona
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr



Postdoctoral fellows are being recruited from top universities around the world to teach the Core Curriculum



Top: Lee has developed a connection with her modern history students; left: Tiffany Vora, molecular biology, Princeton University; Mia Lee, history, University of Michigan; Sami Abuhamedh, psychology, University of Chicago; Sean McMahon, international relations and international political economy, University of Alberta; Courtney Fugate, philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Neeraja Sankaran, history of medicine and science, Yale University

“I want my students to understand rather than just memorize, to learn things like the decision-making process, how to measure things and the uncertainty of results. At the end of the day, I am trying to create critical thinkers,” said Tiffany Vora, a postdoctoral fellow from Princeton University who is teaching the Scientific Thinking course at AUC.

Vora is part of a group of six postdoctoral fellows who have been recruited to teach Core Curriculum courses. As part of its commitment to liberal arts education, the university has recently restructured the Core Curriculum, revamping its courses and bringing in postdoctoral fellows from top universities around the world to teach them.

The fellows are recruited for three years, after which a new group will be selected. Having just completed their doctoral studies from prominent universities, including Princeton and Yale, these fellows offer fresh insight into the

core program.

“Having young scholars who recently acquired their PhDs teach the core courses creates a mutual benefit to the professors and students,” said John Swanson, associate provost and director of the Core Curriculum. “Not only will these new professors acquire teaching experience, they will also become familiar with the Arab world and the Middle East region as a whole. For the students, they will have full-time professors who are close to them in age, which will facilitate discussion and understanding on both sides. This proximity in age will also enable the teaching fellows to understand the types of problems students are having with course material and explain it to them in a way that they can relate to.”

This year, 200 applicants applied for six postdoctoral teaching slots. The selected professors, Swanson explained, come from different universities around the world and have varying research interests,

“There are innumerable and somewhat indescribable benefits of living in a new country, amongst a culture different from my own.”

Neeraja Sankaran, PhD in history of medicine and science, Yale University



“I was very interested to come here, and so far it is the best personal and professional decision I’ve ever taken.”

Sean McMahon,
PhD in international
relations and
international political
economy,
University of Alberta



which enhances the quality of education they can offer to students.

Vora, who holds a PhD in molecular biology, brings innovative teaching methods to her students. “I can see that most of my students come from schools that rely on memorization, and I want to change that,” she said.

Vora decided to join AUC because she felt that coming to this part of the world would help develop her teaching skills and promote her enthusiasm for science. “I want to experience the real interaction between the United States and the Middle East and discover a broader global perspective as a scientist,” she said.

Sharing the same excitement about being in Egypt and at AUC, Mia Lee, who has a PhD in history from the University of Michigan, is teaching a new core course in modern history. “I actually applied to study at AUC as an undergraduate, but my parents were against me leaving to another country at the time. So it’s nice to be able to finally come here,” she said.

A specialist in modern German history, Lee has already begun to form a bond with her students. “My history students are very bright, friendly and helpful,” she said. “Sometimes they go out of their way to help me out or tell me about current events.”

Lee added that teaching at AUC is a great opportunity for her and her students to exchange knowledge and experiences. “Being here will help with my research on modern Germany because of Egypt’s proximate location to Europe,” Lee noted. “Students will also discover history from a new perspective. I can see how positive they all are from the portfolios they submit about the subject.”

Like Vora and Lee, many of the

postdoctoral fellows appreciate the opportunity to be in a culture different from their own. “I learn a new word everyday, and I’m understanding the pattern of Egyptian society,” said Sean McMahon, who holds a PhD in international relations and international political economy from the University of Alberta in Canada. “My PhD supervisor recommended visiting AUC. I was very interested to come here, and so far it is the best personal and professional decision I’ve ever taken.”

Teaching an introductory political science course, McMahon also brings new ideas and approaches to his classes. “I like to integrate technology into my teaching,” he explained. “Whenever relevant, I use a PowerPoint presentation that relates to the topic. I want students to feel that the idea is not just merely academic.”

McMahon also encourages a vibrant discussion in class. “I have 25 students who exchange their ideas and opinions freely in seminar-type peer sessions. Ultimately, you have to identify whether you want to teach or just deliver standard pedagogy.”

For Neeraja Sankaran, who completed her PhD in the history of medicine and science from Yale University, coming to AUC was a perfect fit. “When I read the job announcement,” she said, “the description of the position, especially the Core Curriculum and the Scientific Thinking course, jumped out at me immediately as an ideal match for someone with my background and aspirations. The fact that it was in Egypt brought me back vividly to my childhood dreams of the pyramids and the Nile.”

Sankaran, who is teaching Scientific Thinking at AUC, enjoys the

academic environment and feels she is advancing professionally. “I get to teach and develop new courses, thus expanding my portfolio. There is also the potential for exploring new avenues in my research,” she said, adding that her students’ dedication makes her experience more exhilarating. “The enthusiasm they bring to class and their willingness to ask questions is what I enjoy the most.” Sankaran hopes to teach courses in scientific writing and the history of science in the future.

Aside from academics, Sankaran enjoys living in Egypt. “There are innumerable and somewhat indescribable benefits of living in a new country, amongst a culture different from my own, with the opportunity to learn a new language,” she said.

The new Core Curriculum structure has gone into effect this fall, after a review of the program revealed weaknesses in the freshman-year experience. Though the courses cover the same subject areas — writing, language and information literacy; philosophic and scientific

thinking; Arab history, literature and society; humanities; and natural and social sciences — they have been restructured to suit students at different stages of their study.

Under the new program, courses have been divided into three levels: an elementary level designed specifically for freshmen; a secondary level, which includes 200 and 300-level courses; and a final capstone level that is meant to foster student research and practical skills through involvement in a senior thesis or project, senior seminar or supervised internship. In addition, the Core Seminar has become a 400-level course and has been revamped to give it a stronger international focus.

“The primary goal is to create a structure that we hope will allow the university to achieve its basic general education objectives more effectively and efficiently,” said Swanson.

“Under the new structure, students are not expected to complete the core subjects by the time they enter a major or only during their freshman year, but rather continue with these courses within the context of their discipline.” □



Mia Lee, PhD in history,
University of Michigan

“My history students are very bright, friendly and helpful. Sometimes they go out of their way to help me or tell me about current events.”

Vora during her Scientific Thinking class





A TINY TOMORROW

Nanotechnology research at AUC works on a microscopic level to change the way people live

By Peter Wieben

Imagine a laboratory the size of your watch that you can wear every day. By taking small blood samples, it will be able to analyze your whole body and wirelessly send the information to your doctor. Now, imagine going in for surgery and having a microscopic robot injected into your arm through a syringe, then having the robot perform the surgery from within your body without making an incision. Although this may sound like science fiction, such procedures may be possible within 20 years, thanks in part to the research being conducted at AUC's Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center (STRC).

Established in 2003 as a result of the generous support of Yousef Jameel '68, the STRC supports a variety of nanoscience and technology-oriented projects. Bringing together internationally renowned and published scientists from around the world, the center employs state-of-the-art equipment in the physical sciences and engineering. Its research activities encompass five main areas: microfabrication, structured nanomaterial, surface chemistry,



Dania Smilitie

Head of the microfabrication group at the STRC, Sedky works in the Clean Room, an environment specially designed to minimize airborne dust for nanotechnology projects

biotechnology, and environmental science and engineering. Taking a multidisciplinary approach and fostering the transfer of knowledge through a variety of partnerships, the STRC is poised to develop AUC as a premier center for scientific research regionally and globally.

With nanotechnology — the science of the very, very small — big steps are being taken at the STRC to understand a tiny world invisible to the naked eye. Scientists at AUC are hopeful that knowledge of nanotechnology will mean progress, changing the way we live our lives.

To understand what scientists at

AUC are doing with nanotechnology, one has to visualize how small a nanometer is. Technically speaking, a nanometer is 1×10^{-9} meters, or one one-billionth of a meter long. Imagine holding a ball one nanometer across, and comparing it to a soccer ball. The nanoball is to a soccer ball as a soccer ball is to Earth.

In fact, nanometers are so incredibly small that professors working on the nanoscale are looking at a world most people simply would not recognize. They are able to tinker with the very building blocks of matter, influencing the molecular structures of materials and constructing minuscule devices

atom by atom. These devices, commonly referred to as microelectromechanical (MEMS) and nanoelectromechanical (NEMS) systems, may soon make computers faster, cars cleaner and bodies healthier.

Sherif Sedky, associate professor of physics who holds 11 patents on microscopic devices, is working on techniques that could one day be responsible for a dizzying array of new gadgets, as well as improvements to familiar technologies such as mobile phones. “The field is only 15 years old, but nearly every system you can think of has some MEMS component in it, from pharmaceuticals and mobile

phones to the wing of an airplane and the fabric of your stain-resistant shirt,” Sedky said.

To produce devices on the nanoscale, there are two main techniques. The technique currently used by Sedky, the top-down approach, allows scientists to build small devices using larger tools. To create a shape at the nanoscale, he starts with a very thin film and trims it to the desired shape using photolithography and chemical etching. By stacking these films layer upon layer, he is able to create two- and three-dimensional shapes that can then be used to perform tasks at the microscopic level.

The other technique is called the bottom-up approach, in which molecules are literally pieced together one by one. “We will be able to build a computer atom by atom,” Sedky said. “Speed will increase by hundreds of times, and storage will increase by thousands of times.”

Sedky’s projects are smaller than a dust mite, but they take an incredible amount of precision and dedication to build. Despite the obvious challenges of constructing a working device the size of a human cell, Sedky noted that working on such tiny scales places special demands on him as an engineer. “Things are different on this small of a scale; you have to take account of everything,” he said.

From the time Sedky comes up with an idea for a device, the process of creating MEMS can last for more than four years, as the fabrication itself is a delicate procedure. “The construction phase alone can take anywhere from six months to a year,” Sedky said. In addition, before building a MEMS device, Sedky puts his ideas through elaborate simulations to prevent complications.

At the STRC, Sedky finds the tools he needs to approach all these issues. These include the lasers needed to prepare the thin film and tune its physical properties, the lithography and chemicals required to trim components into the proper shapes, the electron microscope for viewing it all, and a clean room where flecks of dust — which are like boulders on the microscale — are kept at bay. “There are lots of devices here that make what we do possible,” Sedky said.

“We will be able to build a computer atom by atom. Speed will increase by hundreds of times, and storage will increase by thousands of times.”

If a specific task can’t be completed in Cairo, the STRC provides AUC’s scientists with an excellent opportunity to collaborate with other experts around the world. “Our equipment complements what you would find at other institutions,” Sedky said. “This was intentional; it helps us promote a lot of collaboration with other labs. This is the kind of applied research Egypt and the region needs.”

The STRC exemplifies positive collaboration in the transfer of technology through its partnership with the Nanoscience Centre at the University of Cambridge. Mark Welland, director of Cambridge’s Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration in Nanotechnology, has been associated with the center since its establishment and continues to be closely involved in all aspects of its activities. The STRC is also engaged in collaborative research with the Interuniversity Microelectronics

Center in Belgium, where specialized and more intricate fabrication work can be done, and the National Research Center in Egypt.

Sedky believes the work being conducted at the STRC will be part of a new generation of nanodevices that have the potential to alter people’s lifestyles. Such devices include “smart bricks” with tiny sensors that can analyze building safety and warn of fires or earthquakes. These same sensors can be placed in and around cars, helping airbags deploy properly, warning of low tire pressure, and sensing objects around a car, all while being invisible and consuming only negligible amounts of power. “These devices will change the way we live,” Sedky said.

The ideas for such devices often come from problems scientists encounter in their communities. Ehab Abdel Rahman, visiting assistant professor of physics, thinks his work may one day be used as part of a remedy for Cairo’s chronic pollution problem. “We are working toward using hydrogen as fuel. It’s incredibly clean; its only byproducts are water, heat or energy; and it’s efficient,” he said. However, using hydrogen to power cars that operate on current technology would be unwieldy, if not outright dangerous. “Storing hydrogen as a gas would require a tank as big as the car itself,” Abdel Rahman explained, “and it is risky to store hydrogen as a gas or liquid.” To overcome these pitfalls, Abdel Rahman is using nanotechnology to create a solid material able to safely hold hydrogen at high concentrations.

“Think of it as a hydrogen sponge,” Abdel Rahman explained. “You would pull up to a hydro station, and it would take you about 15 seconds to fill your tank; it would be that fast.



Abdel Rahman monitors the work of a pulsed laser deposition system as it prepares the alloys used to store hydrogen

What would actually be happening is that you would be pumping hydrogen onto this sponge inside your car, and as soon as it is saturated, you would have enough fuel to run the car.”

Fuel is not the only application Abdel Rahman has found for nanotechnology. Working with his colleague Amr Shaarawi, physics professor, he also studies photonic crystals, tiny bits of material that control beams of light. These could one day be assembled into computer components much faster and smaller than their current relatives. Today’s computers “think” in electrons, or small doses of electricity, but using the light logic gates Abdel Rahman and Shaarawi are hoping to design, companies could theoretically build optical computers capable of transferring information much faster than an electron can travel through a wire. Built on the nanoscale, optical computers would be much lighter

and smaller than today’s laptops.

While an optical PC may be a thing of the future, Abdel Rahman noted that the photonic crystals could be noticeable around AUC within a few years. “We are working on the development of smart windows that allow heat in during the winter and keep it out during the summer,” he said. Abdel Rahman explained that in the winter, when the sun is at a lower angle in the sky, the transparent filter would allow infrared light (the light that causes heat) to pass through it. In the summer, when the angle changes, the filter would keep the infrared light out. “In theory, we could warm classrooms in the winter and keep them cool in the summer just by adding a microscopic layer of nanofilters to our windows,” he said.

“Students are getting excited,” added Sedky, who says that many students who would have studied nanotechnology abroad in the past

are now staying at AUC to work at the STRC. “They are going to leave with lots of experience in what they are doing, and this is a very exciting time for nanotechnology worldwide.”

Sharing Sedky’s passion, Joumanna El Rifai, a graduate student and research assistant, works on optics in the STRC, constructing lenses on the nanoscale. “The great thing about the STRC is that it brings people together from a variety of disciplines,” she said. “I can see nanotechnology at AUC going anywhere because it involves so many fields and so many talented people. There are the optics that I do, the obvious applications in physics and chemistry, and it can have a huge impact in biology as well. You can even use nanotechnology in cancer detection; things are getting smaller and smaller everyday.”

In the STRC, however, the impact of nanotechnology seems only to be growing. □

From Bricks to Books

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr



The first building completed on the new campus, the library is ready to house AUC's unique collection

The library will be remembered in AUC's history as the first building to be completed on the new campus.

Standing five stories high, the library is located at the heart of the 260-acre site. Stephen Johnson of Holzman Pfeiffer Associates, the firm that designed the library, described it as the "natural heart of the campus."

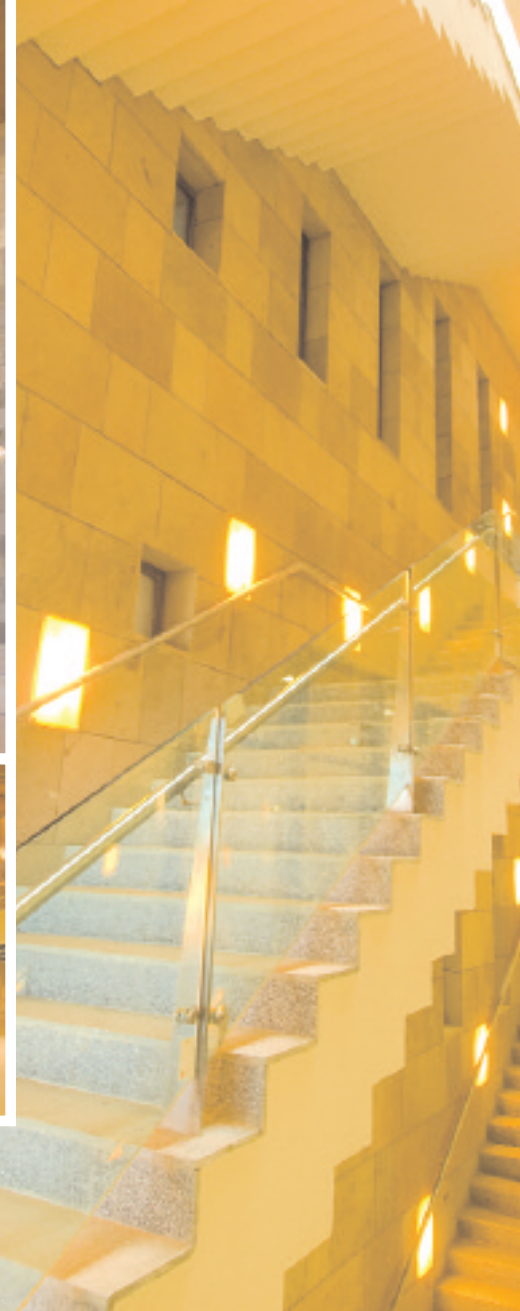
The building's exterior is made mainly of glass, concrete and sandstone from Aswan. A screen wall with an outer perforated exterior reminiscent of the *mashrabea* design provides protection from the sun.

The library occupies a total of 20,550 square meters and overlooks the university garden and Bartlett Plaza. It will be home to a diverse range of facilities, from computer laboratories and modern study rooms to videoconferencing services and advanced research equipment.

The garden level contains the Serenity Room, presented by AUC Trustee Suad Al-Husseini Juffali. It is a reading room overlooking the university garden. There, students will be able to study and read quietly with plenty of natural light. There will also be a data center with the newest technology available for students, faculty and staff.

In addition to the indoor reading room, there is an outdoor reading space in the garden. Students will be able to take library books outside without having to check them out. The space will also be used for special events, and a coffee shop will help make it more inviting.

The plaza level will be home to a multimedia room with high-tech audio and video equipment that can be used for teaching, learning and research. It will also contain the new learning commons, a unique addition to the AUC library. The commons is an area that integrates independent study,



Left: The library is located at the heart of the new campus; top left: Serenity Room presented by AUC Trustee Suad Al-Husseini Juffali; bottom left: Mr. and Mrs. C. Stedman Garber, Jr. Garden in the terrace of the rare books library; center and right: inside the new campus library

interactive learning, multimedia and technology rooms; copy and writing centers; and a library help desk. Students can listen to music, watch a DVD, see a live performance or listen to a speaker while working on their assignments.

“Our students are of a generation that multitasks and drifts between work, leisure and social activities with great ease,” said Pandeli Glavanis, associate director of the Center for Learning and Teaching. “To attract and engage them, the learning commons needs to provide such an environment.”

The next two floors of the library will house more than 400,000 volumes, with room for expansion, as well as open reading spaces, closed carrels for independent study, two large classrooms to serve graduate students and 20 group-study rooms. While the downtown library has few rooms for group work, the new library will allow students to be more interactive in their studies. “The way students learn has changed; people like to work together,” said Shahira El Sawy, dean of libraries and learning technologies. “Learning has

changed in the world. It is not enough to just have a lecture. There is teamwork and collective thinking.”

AUC’s Rare Books and Special Collections Library, one of the university’s most esteemed facilities, will be on the top floor and will feature the Mr. and Mrs. C. Stedman Garber, Jr. Garden on the terrace. In addition to the AUC archives, the rare books library holds more than 50,000 books, manuscripts, photographs, slides and maps. Special collections include the Creswell Library of Islamic Art and Architecture, and the collections of Max Debbane, Selim Hassan, Labib Habachi, Mahmoud Saba, Hassan Fathy and Van Leo. The rare books library will also operate a scholarly research and training resource center specializing in the civilizations of ancient, medieval, and modern Egypt and the region. □

By Leen Jaber

Leaving a Legacy

After 35 years at AUC, Tim Sullivan will be remembered for his accomplishments as professor and provost

By Dalia Al Nimr



Almad El-Namr

In the Administration Building on the Main Campus, Provost Tim Sullivan is busy at work in his office, which is almost entirely enclosed with wooden Islamic architectural designs. With his distinctive white beard, warm smile and calm demeanor, Sullivan is a face familiar to most people at AUC.

A political science professor since 1973 and provost since 1998, Sullivan has long been an integral part of the AUC community. Students, professors and administrators all testify to his commitment, dedication and enthusiasm for the university. As he prepares to retire from AUC at the end of this academic year, Sullivan leaves behind a distinctive legacy.

“His service to the university has been extraordinary, and his academic leadership has helped propel AUC to its current position of distinction as the region’s leading private university,” said AUC President David Arnold. “As president, I have benefited enormously from Tim’s dedication and wisdom.”

Walid Kazzuha, political science professor and chair of the department, also praised Sullivan as an administrator and colleague. “Tim has the excellent quality of rising above the details and addressing the major issues, and in his position as provost, he has led the university academically to new heights,” he said. “In the political science department, he will always be remembered by faculty and students as the founder and promoter of the

Model United Nations (MUN) and Model Arab League (MAL).”

Sullivan received his bachelor’s in political science from Seattle University and his doctorate in international relations and government from Claremont Graduate University. He taught at the University of Portland, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Utah, in addition to AUC.

Reflecting on his time at the university, Sullivan said, “When I first came, AUC was somewhat marginal,

“In the political science department, he will always be remembered by faculty and students as the founder and promoter of the MUN and MAL.”

and its degrees were not widely recognized. Now, the university is no longer marginal in Egypt or the Arab world; its graduates are in prominent positions everywhere; its faculty members are highly visible; and the number of speakers and cultural activities has increased enormously. It has truly been a privilege to be a part of this growth.”

Having joined AUC 20 days before the war in 1973, Sullivan witnessed an extraordinary part of AUC’s history. During the war, he explained, classes were suspended, and a few faculty

meetings were held on an occasional basis. “We used to meet in the Blue Room on the Greek Campus. There was a very special sense of community because we felt we were all in it together,” Sullivan said, remembering how machine guns, barricades and blued-out windows were prevalent at the time. “After the war, there was a sense of excitement in the country and at AUC. When the university reopened, we all felt that a lot was going to change.”

Even when the war was over, the 1970s proved to be a volatile time in Egypt. With the bread riots of 1977, curfews were put in place and tear gas was common. Sullivan remembered how one day, bored from their stay indoors, he and Kazzuha went for a walk. “We smelled the tear gas in the street and saw a crowd throwing rocks at AUC’s Science Building. At the end, we were grateful to be able to get back home,” he said.

Sullivan noted that despite the turbulence, AUC witnessed an unprecedented period of growth that continues today. However, one thing that diminished is the sense of community among faculty members. “People became wrapped up in their own departments and interacted less as faculty. They are acting within their own departments and schools, not across departments,” he said, expressing hope that the communal sense of the past might be restored on AUC’s new campus. “Because of the layout and

left: Sullivan at AUC; bottom left: Model United Nations Security Council, April 3-6, 1991; right: Model Arab League trip to Washington, D.C. in 1998, photos from the rare books archive





Ahmed El-Nour

Top: Provost Sullivan presenting the Ahmed El Mehallawi Family Award to Ossama Soliman '05, computer science major, during the February 2005 commencement ceremony; bottom: In his office in 1990



Rare books archive

structure of the new campus, everything will be contiguous there.”

As a political scientist, Sullivan’s teaching and research interests have focused on various aspects of international relations and public international law, especially in the Middle East. He has written books and book chapters on women and development in Egypt, the United Nations and multilateral diplomacy, and politics in the Arab world. For the past 35 years, Sullivan has found Egypt a fertile ground for research and exploration. “Egypt is a very interesting place to be for a political scientist,” he explained. “Issues such as political development, the status of women and international relations means that there is something new to learn everyday.”

In his classes, Sullivan was keen to deliver the material to his students in an informative and enlightening manner. “Being a political science graduate, I feel I was fortunate to be Dr. Sullivan’s student in several courses,” said Maha Abdelfattah ’88. “He always had this charming talent of teaching us about bloody wars and struggles in an enjoyable, smiling manner that made it seem as if we were discussing nice, rosy topics.”

Sharing the same viewpoint, Rhamy Abdel-Hamid ’93, said, “With Professor Sullivan, every lecture was an adventure. He made sure class was interactive by

starting out the sessions with often-replicated but never-equalled comments, questions, observations and calls to action. This was a great way of starting out the lecture. It made us more aware of what was happening in the world around us and forced us to think deeper about the things we saw or heard in the news.”

For Sullivan, the AUC student body made his job special. “Teaching was more fun here than at any institution,” he said. “I like debate and exploring ideas with others, and with the diverse group of students at the university, people have different attitudes with regard to politics and religion. This triggers a real discussion in class.”

Outside the classroom, Sullivan was more than just a professor. “His office was always open for us as students to pass by and chat together, not only about academic topics, but all issues of our everyday life,” said Abdelfattah.

Echoing the same sentiment, Katia Neouimina ’00 noted, “Dr. Sullivan is a mentor, role model, professor and friend. His honesty, spark in the eye and commitment to his students have drawn us to him.”

Wafaa Abdelhamid, director of the provost’s office who has been working with Sullivan for the past 10 years, noted that he never turns down a student’s request for a meeting. “Students are always his first priority,”

she said. “No matter how busy he is, we have to make time for him to meet them.”

As a political science professor, Sullivan is famous for his initiation and endorsement of the MUN and MAL at AUC. It started in 1989 when the university was invited to send an MUN delegation to Moscow. “Our team did very well, and students were enthusiastic about initiating MUN at AUC,” he said. Sullivan had to start from scratch, teaching students how to organize a debate, chair a meeting, and deal with the protocols of discussion and resolutions. “It was labor intensive, but in this program, there was camaraderie among us. We were all working together to create something and sustain it,” Sullivan said, adding that such programs are essential for students’ intellectual development. “MUN does not just teach about political issues; it’s a way to stimulate people to think critically and independently, organize and assemble, and take responsibility. They are not being graded, but are being watched by everyone, so they all try to excel.”

By the same token, MAL was established a year later. “It was an interesting time to start MAL since it coincided with Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. There was a greater range of

opinions discussed in that conference than most campuses in the United States. In many ways, it replicated the real Arab League,” Sullivan said.

For many of the students, these conferences represented the highlight of their AUC education. “The MUN and MAL conferences I attended shaped so much of my professional skills, debating abilities and personal character,” said Christine Assaad ’98.

Remembering an incident when students organizing an MUN conference disagreed to the point of conflict, Assaad noted how Sullivan handled the matter with a cool calm. “Tension was rising and personalities under stress were clashing, but Dr. Sullivan remained calm and appeased disasters before they occurred by providing much needed advice in the most subtle and diplomatic manner to each and every one of us,” she said. “He ensured that every conference was a success by guiding us in the right direction, while teaching us how to do it ourselves the next time. He had a keen eye in identifying his students’ strengths and helped them capitalize on these strengths.”

In the administrative realm, Sullivan left a strong imprint as provost. He was on the Century Committee that recommended moving to the new campus, as well as adding history and

biology as undergraduate majors. He was also a major driving force behind the creation of the Center for Learning and Teaching and the Leadership for Education and Development Program, as well as the implementation of a code of academic integrity at AUC, accreditation of the business program, increase in faculty tenure slots, recruitment of postdoctoral fellows to teach Core Curriculum courses and development of international programs at AUC. Under his leadership, communication technology, particularly videoconferencing facilities, has spurred on campus. Sullivan is also working on raising faculty salaries. “You don’t achieve anything alone,” he said with a modest tone.

Relocating back to the United States, Sullivan will have a busy first year after retirement. He will continue to work with AUC on a consultancy basis, and will also finish the third edition of a book he is co-authoring on multilateral diplomacy. However, the thing he treasures most is being able to spend more time with his wife Jeanne and their children Mark, Erin and Colin. Mark ’92 and his wife Denise (MA ’94) both studied at AUC. Sullivan also has five grandchildren, three in Egypt and two in the United States. “I’m a family person,” he said. □

Sullivan with his wife Jeanne at their Maadi residence



Motivated Mind

Amr Osman '00, a graduate of the Public School Scholarship Fund, has made his way to the Ivy League



Since leaving AUC to pursue graduate studies at the University of St Andrew's in Scotland, Amr Osman '00 traveled to the east coast of the United States, where he landed his current position as a doctoral fellow and teaching assistant in Islamic Studies at Princeton University. For Osman, part of the motivation for studying at Princeton was being among academia's elite. "I am certainly learning from some of the top people in the world," said Osman, who also spent a year at Harvard University as a visiting fellow. The road through all of these famed institutions, however, began far from the Ivy League.

Growing up in Tanta in the delta area, Osman was educated in Egypt's Arabic public school system. In 1996, as graduation from high school loomed, a fortuitous advertisement caught his attention. "I saw an ad that said AUC was offering scholarships for 10 top thanawiya amma students," he said. Quickly submitting his application, Osman was nominated, interviewed at the Ministry of Education and placed among the final 100 students to be interviewed at AUC. From these, only 10 would be entering the university that fall under the Public School Scholarship Fund, and Osman was among the selected few. "From such a large group, it was an honor to be chosen," he said.

Despite his accomplishments, challenges laid ahead for Osman as he began studying at AUC. For starters, he had to learn to communicate in English. “I had learned English essentially as a dead language,” he explained. “When I came to AUC, it was necessary to use English to communicate, and it was difficult.” Osman nearly left AUC for Cairo University in order to study in Arabic, but his professors and mentors at AUC encouraged him to stay.

Osman majored in political science and international relations, but his real passion was Islamic studies. “I found that the parts of political science I was most interested in focused on Islam,” he said. During his university years, he began to notice that looking at political Islam through the lens of political science didn’t offer a complete picture. “When you’re dealing with political Islam and Islamic networks, political scientists sometimes don’t have a complete background in Islam, so they can’t fully understand what Muslims are thinking and saying. So I decided to focus on Islam itself.”

Following through with his decision after graduating from AUC, Osman turned his studies at Princeton to the Quran, hadith (Prophet Muhammad’s sayings), political Islam and Islamic theology. It would turn out to be a decision that put him at the cutting edge of both religious studies and political science. “After 9/11, the focus really shifted,” he said. “Courses on

Islam typically had around 20 students. After 9/11, it was 40 to 50. Really, there was limitless interest.”

Now in the United States, Osman teaches in a different political atmosphere than Egypt. He has seen renewed interest in Islam, but he is also forced to contend with some people’s lack of knowledge, as embodied by events such as the Anti-Islamic Fascism Week, an effort by U.S. conservatives to publicize a negative view of Islam. While he joins with students to offer a positive perspective, Osman believes that the surge in interest regarding Islam is a step in the right direction.

“It’s too early to tell, but I think it’s good in the sense that more and more people try to learn about Islam from Islamic sources,” he said. “They now know what Muslims say about the religion and realize that the Quran mentions many things that they consider valuable. They find that there are so many things that are common among faiths, and many misconceptions are removed.”

Osman currently lives in the United States with his wife and baby daughter Fayruz Hibat-Allah. He will continue teaching and working toward his doctorate, which focuses on the history of a medieval Islamic school. In the long term, he wishes to return to his alma mater. “I hope to be a professor at AUC,” he said. “AUC has put me in the right direction, and I am sure I will learn even more by returning to it.” □

By Peter Wieben

Public School Scholarship Fund Opens Doors

Established in 1990, the Public School Scholarship Fund grants full five-year undergraduate scholarships every year to 20 of Egypt’s most outstanding public school students, making an AUC education accessible to all segments of Egyptian society.

Since its inception, the fund has provided scholarships to more than 150 top public school students across the country. More than 70 percent of its recipients have graduated with high or highest honors, and some have received the President’s Cup, awarded to students with the highest grade point average in the graduating class. Many of its graduates go to prestigious graduate schools abroad, including Princeton and Johns Hopkins universities, as well as have impressive careers in computer science, telecommunications, business and engineering. There are currently 76 public school scholarship students studying at AUC.

In addition to the fund, annual and endowed scholarships have also been established in the names of individuals and corporations who fully sponsor the education of one or more public school students. Currently, there are 41 public school scholarship funds at AUC, 16 endowed and 25 current.

AUC’s late President John Gerhart was instrumental in pushing forward public school scholarships at the university. He personally initiated the John Gerhart Public School Scholarship Fund, and after his death, the John and Gail Gerhart Fund was established.

To learn more about supporting scholarships, visit www.aucegypt.edu/giving/alumni

Left: Osman at Princeton University; bottom: with his wife in New York City







2007 *Homecoming*

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr



Around the World

Egypt



During the chairman's reception held in February 2008 in the Semiramis InterContinental, awards were given to two distinguished alumni. Left: President David Arnold and Boyd Hight, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presenting Shafik Gabr '73 with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; right: Omar Samra '00, the first Egyptian to climb Mount Everest, received the Young Alumni Achievement Award

Canada



President David Arnold and Sherry Arnold hosted a reception for friends and alumni of AUC in November 2007 at the Salon Saint Laurent, InterContinental Montréal

United States



Lawrence Wright (MA '71), winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for his book The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11, was honored during the chairman's reception in New York in October 2007



Alumni gathering hosted by AUC Trustee Bruce Ludwig and Carolyn Ludwig at the Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles, California in October 2007

United Arab Emirates



Raymonda Rajif '91, director of alumni affairs, President David Arnold and Mustafa Abdel-Wadood '91



The United Arab Emirates alumni chapter held a dinner in January 2008 at Le Meridien Hotel Mina Seyahi in Dubai. Top left: President David Arnold and Sheikh Hussein Banawi; top right: Nabil Arar '86, Ayman Ayad '87, Medhat El Kirdany '87, Mostafa Nagy '90 and Sherif Wahba '85; bottom: alumni at the event



Top: For the first time, the UAE alumni chapter held a desert safari in November 2007; bottom: Iftar in Ramadan for more than 150 alumni in September 2007 at Al-Murooj Rotana Hotel in Dubai



At the alumni dinner in Dubai, Mustafa Abdel-Wadood '91 received the Alumni Achievement Award from AUC.

Abdel-Wadood is managing director and board member of the Dubai-based Abraaj Capital, the leading private equity firm in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region. Prior to that, Abdel-Wadood served as chief executive officer of EFG-Hermes in the United Arab Emirates; managing director of Sigma Capital; and director of development and investments at Orascom. Abdel-Wadood is also co-founder and member of the Dubai-based Young Arab Leaders organization.

In 2002, Abdel-Wadood was chosen by the World Economic Forum as one of the 100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow, and as a Young Global Leader in 2007. Demonstrating his commitment to his alma mater, he recently established the Mustafa Abdel-Wadood Public School Scholarship.

United Kingdom

Host of various television programs on Middle Eastern affairs and a consultant for *Al Hayat* newspaper, Salim Nassar '60 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from AUC. Nassar was presented with the award during an alumni reception held by Egypt's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Gehad Madi and his wife Mona Madi at their residence in London in October 2007.

Nassar started his career with *Al Sayyad* magazine in Lebanon, and was later appointed as editor in chief of *Al Shabaka* magazine and *Al Safa* newspaper. He also worked for *Al Jomhour* and *Al Hawadith* magazines, as well as *Al Anwaar* newspaper.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Nassar wrote a number of books, including *Five O'clock, A Medal on the Face*, *Coup de Grace* and *Strangers*. Known for his precision in the analysis of political events, Nassar has also written daily and weekly articles about the Middle East.



President David Arnold, Salim Nassar '60, Ramzi Dalloul '59 and Gehad Madi, Egypt's ambassador to the United Kingdom



Kegham Djeghalian '07, Ammar Nouh '07, Phyllis Preston '44, Bassil Karim '07 and Raymonda Raif '91, director of alumni affairs, during the alumni reception in London



Ibtisam Auchi received an award from President David Arnold on behalf of Nadhmi Auchi in recognition of his establishment of the Nadhmi Auchi Graduate Fellowship program



President David Arnold presented Gehad Madi, Egypt's ambassador to the United Kingdom, and his wife Mona Madi with an AUC Press book as a token of appreciation for their continuous support

Alumni Profile

Determined to Succeed

Shafik Gabr '73 ascended the business ranks through perseverance and hard work

When Shafik Gabr '73 enrolled as a student at AUC 38 years ago, he didn't have the financial means to support his education. "Back then, my late father agreed to pay my first year's fees only; after that, I was on my own. It was a challenge financially, but I knew that the struggle would be worth it," he said.

Today, Gabr is chairman and managing director of ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, an investment company headquartered in Egypt and operating in 32 countries in a number of diverse fields, from aerospace, the automotive industry and steel fabrication to publishing and real estate development. He recently received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from AUC in recognition of his accomplishments.

"If someone would have told me back then, when I received a scholarship and was paid LE 30 a month, that I would be here today, receiving an acknowledgement from the Board of Trustees and the president, I would not have believed it," said Gabr, while receiving the award during the chairman's reception in February 2008. "But this is what AUC is all about — dreams, aspirations and world-class learning that has educated generations of leaders before me."

Remembering his time at AUC, Gabr noted how the university was in a state of emergency, as was the rest of the country. "At that time, AUC's windows were painted dark

Gabr with his wife and daughter Malak



Gabr at the chairman's reception in February 2008

blue. There were sand bags at all major entrances and exits. Making calls was virtually impossible, and Tahrir Square was flooded with water — not from the rain," he said. "It was indeed a different world. It was a world of war and multidimensional challenges."

Gabr went on to explain how he and his fellow classmates lived through it all. "We took our classes by candlelight during blackouts. Even with the war of attrition and difficult times, we competed in sports; we showed off our talents," he said.

An established businessman, Gabr is chairman of Egypt's International Economic Forum and the Arab Business Council. He is a member of many professional organizations, including the Council of 100 Leaders, Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egyptian Businessmen's Association, International Business Council of the World Economic Forum, business advisory board of the International Organization for Migration, and Zurich Financial Services advisory board. Gabr is also founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt and served as its first Egyptian president from 1995 to 1997.

Gabr believes that the key to success is human development. "We must invest in our people to eliminate the skills deficit. By doing so, the Arab world will experience real growth, and that will lead to innovation in services and higher income levels across the region."

In addition to business, Gabr is active on the social front. He is chairman of the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development, a community-service endeavor that expanded during the 1990s to establishing schools, supporting literacy programs, training in language and information technology skills, and endorsing sports programs for youth. The foundation focuses on the Moqattam, Alkhalfa and Mansouria areas. □

Class Notes

'55

After graduating from AUC, **Sema'an Salem** joined the University of Texas at Austin and received his PhD in physics in 1959. He taught there for two years, then joined the faculty of California State University, Long Beach, where he stayed for 32 years teaching and conducting research. He has written more than 100 scientific papers and several books. His first novel, *Faris of Zora*, was published in July 2007 by Publish America.

'75

Mona Makram-Ebeid (MA), lecturer in the political science department and former member of the Egyptian Parliament, was awarded a visiting fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, from which she graduated in 1982. In October 2007, she visited the United States and gave lectures to students at the institute of politics on stability and reform in Arab countries and the participation of Egyptian women in politics. She has recently been elected to the board of the Club of Rome.

'84

Inas El-Nakib is married to Egypt's Ambassador to Morocco Kadri Fathi Abdel-

Alum Rises to Top of Banking Sector

While his classmates tried on their caps and gowns in preparation for graduation, Omar Alseesi '79 was already several months into his position at the Arab African International Bank, laying the groundwork for a career that would take him around the world and to the top of Egypt's financial sector as the chief executive officer of the Egyptian Gulf Bank.

His rise to leadership, however, required some major leaps of faith along the way. To begin with, Alseesi entered AUC to study engineering. "I was successful in engineering," he said, "but I woke up one morning and realized that I saw myself as a banker. It was a dream I had developed during my first few semesters at AUC."

Certainly, the switch was a tremendous challenge, and Alseesi said that he was not always as successful in his new field as he had been as an engineer. However, Alseesi, who had a reputation on campus as a sportsman, could never turn down a challenge. "There were times when I would have to miss class to accept a challenger in tennis," he said. "Once or twice my professor walked right onto the court on the Main Campus demanding to know why I had missed class."

Alseesi attributes this incident not to apathy, but to a familial atmosphere at AUC. "I can't remember a single instance in which anyone was infuriated with a professor or a colleague," he said. "It really was a family, which is all the more impressive considering we all came



from such different backgrounds."

The diverse environment he found at AUC turned out to be excellent preparation for Alseesi, who quickly climbed through the ranks of international banking, working in London, Tunis, Beirut and Kuwait before returning to Cairo. "In the international field of banking, this sort of career is not unusual," he explained. "Working globally, you get a lot of exposure to international bankers and access to customers worldwide."

Now the head of one of Egypt's medium-size banks, Alseesi is calling upon his diverse experience to bring Egypt's banking sector up to international standards. To stay ahead of the field, Alseesi must constantly reinvent his thinking. "We're not going to imitate or copy trends in the banking industry; we're always looking to do things differently," he said, adding that the demand for constant innovation would be taxing if not for the excellent team working for him. "Some of my top managers are AUCians," he said. "They come from a very open culture at AUC, and it's good to be working with people who are multicultural and understand things in a non-traditional way."

Mottaleb. Before taking his assignment in 2005, he held posts in Italy, Algeria, Brazil and Zimbabwe. They have two daughters who are studying at AUC: Nour (22), accounting senior; and Salma (18), a freshman planning to major in psychology. Both girls play soccer. El-Nakib is involved in a lot of welfare activities.

'87

Lamyia Araby (MA '01) is a lecturer of English language and literature at Prince Sultan University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She is married and has two daughters, Yasmine and Dalia. She earned her PhD from the American University of London in June 2003.

'91

Ibrahim Saleh (MA '00) received an invitation from His Excellency José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, prime minister of Spain, to participate in the Alliance of Civilizations forum held in Madrid and attended by prominent public figures. Saleh spoke about the means of building an alliance of civilizations through media literacy education. As a result of his active participation in the forum, AUC's journalism and mass communication department was selected as one of 27 global partner organizations of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Media Literacy

Education Clearinghouse. Saleh is also the first scholar in the Arab world and the Middle East to win the Elizabeth Neilson prize as the best researcher in 2007 during the 60th anniversary of the World Association of Public Opinion Research that was recently held in Berlin, Germany. Saleh received the prize for his research paper titled "Sitting in the Shadows of the Subsidy in Egypt: Revisiting the Notion of Street Politics."

'92

Saad Darwazah is the head of contracts, procurement division, in Qatar Steel Company. He has been working in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar for the last 13 years. He received his MBA from the University of Leicester in 2004. Darwazah is married and has two children. He would like to hear from his colleagues at shdarwazah@yahoo.com

Tarek Selim (MSc '95) joined AUC in Fall 2002. He is currently an associate professor in the economics department. Selim received the best research award from the business, economics and communication school in 2006. He recently married Rehab Sharaf El Din '96, '02. The couple would like to hear from their colleagues and friends at tselim@aucegypt.edu

'96

Nahed El Tantawy (MA '01) completed her PhD at Georgia State University. Her dissertation was titled, "U.S. Newspaper Representation of Muslim and Arab Women Post September 11, 2001."

'99

Mariam Youssef works as senior manager at Coca-Cola, in charge of the Sprite, Fanta and Schweppes brands, after working for nine years with Unilever. She married Baher Sherif Sabry, regional sales manager at Conrad and Hilton hotels in Egypt.

'02

Mohamed Abdel Latif (MA '07) is general manager and senior business and migration consultant at the Australian migration and citizenship services. He worked at the United States Embassy, then traveled to Australia for consulting training.

'03

Mohamed El Araby (MA '06) works as retail roaming team leader at Vodafone Egypt, handling all visitors and prepaid roaming propositions. He married Sarah El Hawary on July 7, 2007.

Beate Sayed received her Master of Arts in philosophy, religious studies and Jewish

Returning to Cairo and Alma Mater



After graduating from AUC in 1983 with a bachelor's in Middle East studies, Kim Jackson returned to her alma mater last year as the associate vice president for student life. Excited to be back, Jackson said, "This is the first professional experience where I really feel passionate about the campus and the place I work."

Jackson was born and raised in Pennsylvania and transferred to AUC as a sophomore in 1980, after her father, who was working in the Middle East, convinced her to apply. Jackson described her experience at AUC as an eye-opening adventure that changed her profoundly. "It was the single

most important event in my life up to that point," she said. "I was a narrow-minded parochial black girl from Pennsylvania, and being in Cairo opened up my world."

With a master's in education, specializing in college student development, Jackson worked in various universities throughout the United States in the realms of academic, multicultural and international student affairs. At AUC, she has her hands full developing programs to facilitate the recruitment and enrollment of international students and enrich their experience on campus. She is also working to create opportunities for Egyptian and international students to build relationships through peer-to-peer and mentor programs, panel discussions and open dialogue. "I would like to develop staff to be student-centered and to creatively and critically think about enhancing Egyptian-international student involvement on campus," Jackson said.

Outside of work, Jackson enjoys books, film and spending time with her 7-year-old son, Che.

studies with highest honors from the Free University of Berlin in August 2005. She worked for a

year as a research assistant at the Research Institute for Theology and Religious Studies at the

Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. She then moved back to Berlin, Germany, where she is currently pursuing her PhD in philosophy at the Free University while working as a research assistant at the University of Potsdam's religious studies institute.

'04

Mohamed Mahmoud joined Unilever Gulf in Dubai as a finance management trainee, after three years of working in software engineering and information technology management. He completed his MBA in December 2007 from the American University in Dubai.

'07

Carol Hammal has been working as a visual artist since 2006, focusing on painting and photography. She successfully introduced an art therapy project for high school students in two major French schools in Cairo. She also practices music as a keyboardist.

Special Programs

Plamen Nikolov (ALU '04) is a PhD student at Harvard University, where he is focusing on development and health economics. He has extensively researched the relationship between microfinance and health. In Summer 2007, Nikolov worked for the Garmeen

Foundation in Washington, D.C., building a methodological tool tracking the speed with which microfinance recipients worldwide cross national poverty lines. He would be happy to hear from AUC alumni in the Boston area at plamen_nikolov@harvard.edu

In Memoriam

Emile Samaan '47 died in Kerala, India on November 11, 2007 at the age of 81.

Valedictorian of his class, Samaan was a journalism student and editor of the student newspaper *Caravan* and was instrumental in the founding of student government at AUC. Samaan did graduate work in journalism on a Fulbright scholarship at Northwestern University. Between 1952 and 1953, he worked with the Quaker Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, to provide services to 1 million Palestinian

refugees. After that, Samaan joined Dar Al-Hilal, working his way up from copy editor to editor in chief. He spent the last 10 years of his life in Kerala, India.

Wail El Farouki '70 died in Jordan in September 2007.

Ahmed Amin (MA '78) died in December 2007.

Vanessa Shahira Korany '04 (ALU '01) died in December 2007.

Weddings



Sami Maher Al Shorafa '00 married Samar Gamal Nour '05 at the Marriott hotel in December 2007. The couple spent their honeymoon in Italy. They are currently living in Dubai, where Al Shorafa is working in the public relations field



Enas Newire '05, molecular researcher for U.S. NAMRU-3, married Ahmed Ismail, teaching assistant at Misr International University, on August 31, 2007 at Cataract Pyramids Resort Garden. The couple spent their honeymoon in Sharm El Sheikh and Chicago, and are currently living in Maryotteyya, Egypt

A Dream Come True

“**T**he state of our world today is no cause for rejoicing. Rather, it is a cause for alarm. This requires us to work together with open minds in order to change it to the better, and in order to meet the aspirations of our peoples to freedom, justice, dignified life, security and peace.” Those were some of the statements made by Egypt’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmad Aboul Gheit, in his address to the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Aboul Gheit’s whole speech was very powerful, precise and to the point. As I sat in the General Assembly listening to his words, my mind drifted, and I started wondering if 30 years from now I could be addressing the General Assembly. Then I thought to myself how that would be far-fetched, but aren’t dreams meant to be far-fetched and it is up to each person to work hard and turn them into a reality? Proof of that was that I was sitting in the same room with international diplomats and government officials, which was a far-fetched idea a year ago.

Politics has always fascinated me, and that is why I chose to pursue my studies as both an undergraduate and graduate student in political science with a concentration in international relations. Through my education, I was exposed to different aspects of the political world, such as the diverse political systems, regions and international institutions. Despite all the knowledge that I acquired over the years, my education was lacking the critical factor of being practically exposed to the political world. In the summer of 2007, I was provided with the opportunity to intern at the United Nations headquarters in New York in the political affairs department.

Interning at the UN had always been a dream of mine. I applied for the internship in early September 2006; however, I understood that the selection process was very competitive, since they receive around 3,000

applications each session and only select approximately 200 individuals

from around the world. There are three internship sessions during the year: fall, spring and summer. Interns at the UN are usually master’s and PhD students from universities in the United States and Europe. I was one of the fortunate ones selected for the Summer 2007 internship session, but I was one of the very few interns from the Middle East. During the internship, my background and education were an asset, and I was assigned projects that were mostly related to the Middle East region. My day-to-day tasks varied, but they included attending meetings, writing up notes and conducting research. Everyday at the UN was an exciting experience for me. Whether it was learning that a country like Belize exists or bumping into a diplomat or foreign minister one recognizes, I was constantly benefiting from the environment at the UN.

The duration of the internship was initially two months; however, I greatly enjoyed the work environment and ended up interning for five months. The internship was a great opportunity during which I improved my analytical, writing and presentation skills. It also gave me a chance to meet individuals from various cultures and backgrounds. Interning at the UN helped me grow both on a personal and professional level, and taught me that it is up to each one of us to be determined, act upon our dreams and turn them into a reality. We cannot simply sit and dream of a better, safer and more just world, but we have to act and bring about that change. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Hend Medhat is a political science graduate student at AUC.



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.