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## Editor's Notes

### Settling in New Cairo

I am happy to be writing this letter from my office at the New Cairo Campus. Finally, AUC has established its new home.

Walking onto the campus on my first day back from my summer vacation, I was filled with a sense of pride. This is AUC, I thought. This is the place where I'll be working everyday. The architecture, the space and the whole layout of the campus were just wonderful to me. It is truly state-of-the-art.

Although some parts of the campus are unfinished and not all divisions are operational, one can imagine how good this will be a semester or year from now, when everything is up and running. Students, who may have a difficult time adjusting now, will eventually come to appreciate what this campus has to offer, not just in terms of buildings, but as a whole educational experience.

In this issue, we take you on a tour of the New Cairo Campus (see "Behind the Blueprints," page 10), with its various buildings and meeting spaces. In "Making History," (page 20) students give their reactions about the campus, and one journalism and mass communication student documents a diary during his first week of class (page 23). "Changing the New Cairo Landscape" (page 24) examines how AUC's presence in New Cairo is bound to change the dynamics of the area.

While the New Cairo Campus marks a new beginning, one should not forget that AUC is operating two campuses simultaneously. "Dressing Up Downtown" (page 28) looks at what parts of the university will remain in Tahrir, whereas "Nostalgia" (page 34) brings back cherished memories from different generations of alumni. In *Akher Kalam* (page 40), an alumna and staff member speaks of her fondness of the downtown campus since she was a little girl, and expresses her appreciation of the New Cairo Campus as a continuation of the old.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to seeing you all in AUC's new home.



*Dalia Al Nimr*

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## AUC Alumnus Ziad Bahaa-Eldin Joins Board of Trustees

Ziad Ahmed Bahaa-Eldin '87 was recently elected as a member of AUC's Board of Trustees. Bahaa-Eldin serves as chairman of the Upper Egypt Investment Company, as well as legal adviser and board member of the Central Bank of Egypt, the National Bank of Egypt and the Capital Market Authority.

B. Boyd Hight, chairman of the board, noted that "in addition to having a distinguished legal career in Egypt, Dr. Ziad is also a graduate of AUC and understands the challenges and opportunities facing the university in a very personal way. With the university's relocation to New Cairo, it will become increasingly important that the board be aware of the aspirations and goals the university's alumni have for AUC's future. I am confident Dr. Ziad will play a key role in ensuring that AUC is responsive to the needs of its alumni."

In addition to his business duties, Bahaa-Eldin is also founder and board member of the Ahmed Bahaa-Eldin Cultural Foundation, which promotes education, training and creative thinking among Egyptian youth. From 2004 to 2007, he served as chairman of the Egyptian General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, a government organization responsible for the promotion of investment, free-zone management and business climate policy advocacy. Previously, he worked as a lawyer and senior legal adviser to the minister of economy.

Bahaa-Eldin received a bachelor's in economics from AUC, a bachelor's in law from Cairo University, a master's in international business law (LLM) from King's College in London and a doctorate in banking law from the London School of Economics. He has also served as lecturer at Cairo University and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology.

## New Master's in Migration Studies Provides Regional Perspective



2005 World Refugee Day on campus

AUC recently established a new master's degree in migration and refugee studies. The multidisciplinary program is the first worldwide to combine migration and refugee studies with a focus on the Middle East and Africa.

Explaining the aim of the program, Philippe Fargues, director of AUC's recently renamed Center for Migration

and Refugee Studies (CMRS), noted that the Middle East and Africa region is among the largest resource, transit and destination regions for migration and refugees in the world. Despite its strategic position, it suffers from the most acute deficit of accurate knowledge with regard to international migration. "The new master's program in migration and refugee studies at AUC will examine topics that are becoming top issues on the global agenda," explained Fargues. "Migration was not that important 10 years ago; now it is dealt with as a priority in a number of international forums."

Fargues added that AUC's strategic position in the region makes it an ideal location to study and research the issues of migration and refugee studies. "CMRS intends to fill this knowledge gap by working along three building blocks — research, education and outreach — and aims to form strong synergies between them," he declared.

For more information on the program, visit [www.aucegypt.edu/ResearchatAUC/rc/cmrs/diplprog](http://www.aucegypt.edu/ResearchatAUC/rc/cmrs/diplprog).

### AUC Provides New E-mail Service Powered by Google

Coinciding with the move to the New Cairo Campus, AUC is establishing a new e-mail service based on the popular gmail product. AUCmail, powered by Google, offers new features, greater storage capacity and a more efficient interface. Addresses will carry the same URL: @aucegypt.edu.

John Stuckey, AUC's chief technology officer, called the new e-mail service a way of providing a "robust and full featured system" without spending a large portion of the university's budget. "We asked ourselves how we could provide the best possible service without breaking the bank," he said. "We realized the need for a system that is safe, reliable, fast, always available and able to incorporate new features. Google rolls these into one."

The virtues of the new system are numerous, starting with greatly increased storage capacity for every user, with multiple gigabytes of space. In addition, Google is packaging online

office applications with the AUCmail service. Faculty, staff and students will be able to create, share and edit documents, spreadsheets and presentations from any computer with Internet access. These documents will be stored on secure Internet servers, which means that users can access them from anywhere in the world without having to send them as attachments. "Collaborative work will become much easier under this system," Stuckey explained.

Other features include shareable calendars that will make it easier to arrange appointments and meetings, and a vastly improved SPAM filter to keep unwanted messages out while allowing important correspondence through.

Explaining how the new service is of mutual benefit to both parties, Stuckey noted, "Google will receive the honor of associating with AUC, and if they do the job we expect, a solid reputation for excellence among our unrivaled community of students, alumni, faculty and staff."

### Ministry Endorses New Petroleum Engineering Major



Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmi and AUC President David Arnold at the signing

AUC has signed a protocol with Egypt's Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmi to support the newly established undergraduate program in petroleum and energy engineering.

The new program adopts an integrated approach, striking a balance between petroleum engineering, gas technology and alternative energy resources. The program focuses on

strengthening ties with the industry and giving its graduates an education in the latest trends in the field of petroleum engineering. It will also provide students and faculty with state-of-the-art laboratories in drilling engineering, oil and gas production, petrophysics and computer facilities.

"AUC petroleum and energy engineering graduates are expected to have excellent job opportunities in one of the highest paying professions worldwide," said Medhat Haroun, dean of the School of Sciences and Engineering. "Our primary goal is to produce highly qualified engineers with the best possible preparation to compete in local, regional and global energy-related job markets. Graduates will also have excellent opportunities to continue their education toward higher degrees."

Echoing the same sentiment, Fahmi noted, "Petroleum engineering is a thriving industry, and we are all committed to see this project thrive."

## AUC Provides LEAD Scholarship to Visually Impaired Student

**A**bdel-Ghany Barakat is the first visually-impaired student studying under AUC's Leadership for Education and Development Program (LEAD).

Barakat, who graduated from Al Nour School for the visually impaired in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, scored the highest grades among visually impaired students across the country in the thanawiyya amma exam. He was also the Student Union president at his high school and took part in several community service projects. In addition, he participated in the Youth Exchange and Study Program in the United States.

Happy to join AUC, he noted, "This is a very big opportunity for me. I will finally be able to live in a world I deserve to live in."

At AUC, Barakat plans to major in political science. He believes the university's facilities for the visually impaired will help him succeed. These include adaptive technology corners in the library with fully equipped stations and specialized software to help visually impaired students access the Internet, e-mail and library resources. Also available are a Braille printer and an electronic vision aid device.

After graduation, Barakat plans to pursue postgraduate studies and work with the United Nations or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in helping to improve the lives of the visually impaired in Egypt. "I want to provide them with up-to-date technology and special needs programs, as well as a better educational system," he said.



LEAD is a collaborative venture between AUC, the United States Agency for International Development and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation. Each year, the program admits to AUC two outstanding public school students — one male and one female — from each of Egypt's 27 governorates. Students receive a full-tuition scholarship, as well as access to a full range of support services, special programs and hands-on learning opportunities.

## Career Web Provides New Employment Opportunities

**A**s part of its commitment to providing a lifelong career-development resource for all its graduates, AUC has launched Career Web, an online system used by more than 600 U.S. universities that provides an efficient, organized system for alumni and students to keep track of career and internship opportunities.

Maha Fakhry, director of recruitment services at the Career Advising and Placement Services office, explained the plethora of services provided by the online resource. "It is a fully functional system with job postings, on-campus recruiting visits, internship opportunities, workshops and events," she said. "The new Career Web has all of the offices' services under one comprehensive system."

The most obvious improvement over the old system is the ease with which students and alumni have access to job postings, as well as the search program that enables users to filter positions and internship opportunities from hundreds of companies. "Using the old system, alumni had to complete forms for each position they were interested in and did not have the opportunity to search and filter career opportunities via diversified criteria," Fakhry explained. "We expanded on the old system and added functionalities so that users have confidential accounts and can apply for career opportunities and services any time, any day."

For more information, visit [careerweb.caps.aucegypt.edu](http://careerweb.caps.aucegypt.edu) or e-mail [caps@aucegypt.edu](mailto:caps@aucegypt.edu).

## Four Faculty Members Honored at Commencement

At the 85th commencement ceremonies, four distinguished faculty members were presented with awards recognizing their achievements and contributions to the university.

Mohamed Abou Zeid, construction engineering professor, received the Excellence in Academic Service Award for his participation in a number of organizations on and off campus. Abou Zeid heads the Academic Integrity Council and serves as a distinguished visiting administrator at AUC's institutional research office. He was also chair and vice chair of the University Senate for four years. Outside of AUC, he is a board member of Clemson University's Center for Academic Integrity and Egypt's Quality of Education and Accreditation Authority. He is also a member of the Egyptian Shurra Council's education committee. "I need to remain engaged with my students, colleagues, grass roots and beneficiaries in order to relate to them and be more responsive to their needs," Abou Zeid said.

Presented with the Excellence in Core Curriculum Teaching Award, Adham Ramadan, visiting associate professor of chemistry, was honored for his extraordinary efforts in teaching two core courses for non-science majors: Chemistry 104, Man and Environment; and Science 150, General Science Lab.

Ramadan developed the chemistry course to incorporate new pedagogical tools, making strong use of information technology. With the lab course, he rewrote the experimental manual and worked with AUC's Center for Learning and Teaching to develop animations that would assist students in understanding the procedures involved in scientific

experiments. "I would like to continue working on the promotion of active learning," Ramadan said.

Selected based on student recommendations, Charles Davidson, assistant professor of political science, received the Parents Association Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. He taught a variety of international law courses at AUC. "This award has strengthened my desire to re-double my efforts to provide students with the best possible learning environment that I can," he stated. "I, of course, would have done so without the award, but this sort of recognition is very important and really quite motivational."

Focused on developing new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies against the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), Hassan Azzazy, associate professor and chair of the chemistry department, received the Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award. Through his work, he established a dynamic HCV research group at AUC to combat infection of the disease, which affects 10 million people in Egypt and 170 million worldwide. He was successful in attracting national and international funds, publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals and conferences, and forming a network of experts and collaborators from several Egyptian and international universities and research centers.

"Winning the award has had a dramatic impact on the morale of my research team, especially my graduate students," Azzazy said. "All members of my team have been working very hard on several research projects, and achieving this prestigious recognition will encourage us to work harder and increase our productivity to achieve our research goals."

*Azzazy, Ramadan, Abou Zeid and Davidson*



# Breaking the Mold

Since the age of 10, Ahmed El Mezeini '09 knew where he was heading. He was going to be a scientist.

“For as long as I can remember, I always enjoyed math and physics and concentrated all my efforts in that direction,” said El Mezeini, who is pursuing graduate studies in physics at AUC. “I remember reading college-level books in math and physics at the age of 14. I was fascinated by the field and had a curiosity to understand how things work and the laws of nature. I believe a person cannot fully appreciate the great depth and character of the universality of physical laws without an understanding of mathematics, which is why I always wanted to be a scientist.”

Today, El Mezeini's dream has come true. He recently traveled to Japan to participate in a two-year research project spearheaded by Fujio Masuoka, a world-class Japanese scientist credited as the inventor of the flash memory technology and storage format. Joined by 30 academics, researchers and scientists from around the globe, El Mezeini is the only candidate from the Middle East. He is also the youngest team member.

“When I went in for the interview [with Masuoka], I felt that I'm speaking to someone who is considered a legend in the semiconductor industry. Working on this project is a great privilege for me and a milestone in my career,” El Mezeini explained, crediting his time at AUC for where he is now. “I believe that joining AUC's physics



department for my graduate degree was one of the best decisions I ever made. ... This opportunity in Japan would not have been possible if it hadn't been for my professors' continuous guidance and support.”

The project is a joint two-year venture between Japan's research and development firm, Unisantis Electronics, founded by Yousef Jameel '68, and Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics. Both teams will design a new nanoscale 3D structure transistor called the Surrounding Gate Transistor, which is expected to run 10 times the speed of current chips, reaching up to 50 gigahertz, generate less heat and cost less to produce. “This is my chance to prove myself and be distinguished,” El Mezeini noted. “I want to be able to contribute work that will be of public value.”

For the past few years, El Mezeini has been working as a research assistant at AUC, specializing in high-energy physics and astrophysics. Sherif Sedky, physics professor, nominated El Mezeini for the project in Japan because of his

unique qualities. “We pay careful attention in selecting our students, as we are always keen to get the best, and Ahmed is one of them,” Sedky emphasized. “The reason for nominating Ahmed is that he was about to finish his thesis, and at the same time he is very ambitious and would like to acquire international experience. He is also distinguished in his skills, capability of applying acquired knowledge in an efficient way and methodology for solving problems.”

Echoing the same sentiment, Jameel said, “We were looking for top quality researchers to work on the project, and Ahmed is truly gifted.”

Looking ahead, El Mezeini plans to pursue a doctorate in theoretical physics, with an emphasis on the fields of nanotechnology and quantum computing. “I would love that, one day, my work would be of significant contribution to the scientific community worldwide and become the foundation for the next generation's work,” he said. □

By Dalia Al Nimr

# MEET THE ARAB PRESS



**A wide-scale survey of Arab journalists conducted by AUC's Kamal Adham Center shatters stereotypes about regional media**

“Arabic TV does not do our country justice,” U.S. President George Bush complained in early 2006, calling the Arab media a purveyor of “propaganda” that “just isn’t right, it isn’t fair, and it doesn’t give people the impression of what we’re about.”

Citing this as a “prime example of how Arab news media have been demonized” by the U.S. administration, Lawrence Pintak, director of the Kamal Adham Center for Journalism Training and Research, used results from a survey he recently conducted with Arab journalists to disprove these claims.

“Arab journalists don’t hate America,” Pintak said. “They hate the fact that — from their perspective — the U.S. just doesn’t live up to its own values or promises. They have been painted as the enemy; in reality, they are potential allies for a smart administration.”

Pintak, in collaboration with Jeremy Ginges of the New School for Social Research in New York, conducted a survey with 601 journalists from 13 Arab countries in North Africa, the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula. The survey,

the first of its kind to be conducted on such a wide scale, received the cooperation of major pan-Arab news organizations. Survey results show that Arab journalists are not anti-American and consider themselves agents of change, similar to their Western counterparts. "The findings shatter many of the myths upon which American public diplomacy has been based," stated Pintak.

The study shows that 62 percent of Arab journalists have a favorable view of the American people even though they dislike the U.S. government. Many of the journalists surveyed are skeptical about America's calls for democratic reform, Palestinian rights and U.S. aid to victims of the 2005 tsunami, labeling these as insincere attempts to oppose anti-Americanism.

The study also demonstrated that the primary goal of journalists in the Arab world is to create political and social reform in the Middle East. Almost 75 percent of the respondents indicated this as a top priority, an outlook that is not at odds with the Bush administration's purported "democratic agenda" for the region. Whether or not they put it as their primary journalistic mission, almost all of the journalists surveyed said Arab society was in need of change. Of these, two-thirds said the change should be gradual, while a third supported radical adjustment. "Many see themselves as agents of political and social change who believe it is their mission to reform the antidemocratic regimes they live under," Pintak said. "Rather than being the enemy, most Arab journalists are potential allies whose agenda broadly tracks the stated goals of U.S. Middle East policy and who can be a valuable

conduit for explaining American policy to their audiences."

The survey attempted to understand the priorities of Arab journalists as a whole. When asked about the top 10 missions of Arab journalism, respondents cited political reform, human rights, poverty and education as the most important, ranking Palestinian statehood, the war in Iraq and terrorism farther down the list. In addition, U.S. foreign policy, lack of political change and Israel were viewed as the greatest threats to the Arab world.

With respect to their political beliefs, half considered themselves democratic, and only small percentages identified themselves as Islamists (10 percent) or Arab nationalists (15 percent). Most of the journalists who participated in the study were skeptical about the role of the Muslim clergy in society and supported the separation of mosque and state.

Arab journalists are also pragmatic. Almost half say Western "interference" in the Arab world is permissible if it benefits the Arab people, though the overwhelming majority says nothing can justify the invasion of Iraq. They were also critical of their own professionalism and independence, saying that only 11 percent of Arab journalists are truly free to write as they please.

Summing up the study, Pintak explained that future relations between Arab countries and the Western world would have to include a healthy role for the Arab press. "If the next administration is going to try to reach out to the Arab people, it won't get far by blaming the messenger," he said. □

*By Peter Wieben*

## *Journalism Center Changes Name, Adds Master's Degree*

The Center for Electronic Journalism has changed its name to the Kamal Adham Center for Journalism Training and Research, in recognition of a \$5 million contribution from Faisal Adham in the name of his late father, who provided extensive support for the center.

The contribution will be used for construction of state-of-the-art digital training facilities on the New Cairo Campus and for the establishment of a \$4 million endowment to support continued operations of the center.

"The late Sheikh Kamal Adham would have certainly been proud of the success the Adham center has achieved up until today, since AUC was at the top of his priorities," said his son, Faisal Adham. "I assure you I will continue supporting this center and this great institution."

In addition to the name change, the center has just launched a new two-year master's degree in television and digital journalism, with more than 20 students in the inaugural class.

"This degree expands the focus of our existing degree from television journalism to include online journalism and other forms of digital media," said Lawrence Pintak, the center's director. "It will better prepare our students for the new shape of Arab journalism in the 21st century."



# Behind the **BLUEPRINTS**

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr  
and Omar Mohsen

**W**ith so much being said about what the New Cairo Campus facilities have to offer, the project that has occupied AUC for a decade can seem overwhelming. Behind the bustle of opening a new campus, however, is an elegantly simple design concept. The campus is divided into three smaller campuses — lower, middle and upper — each fulfilling a specific need.

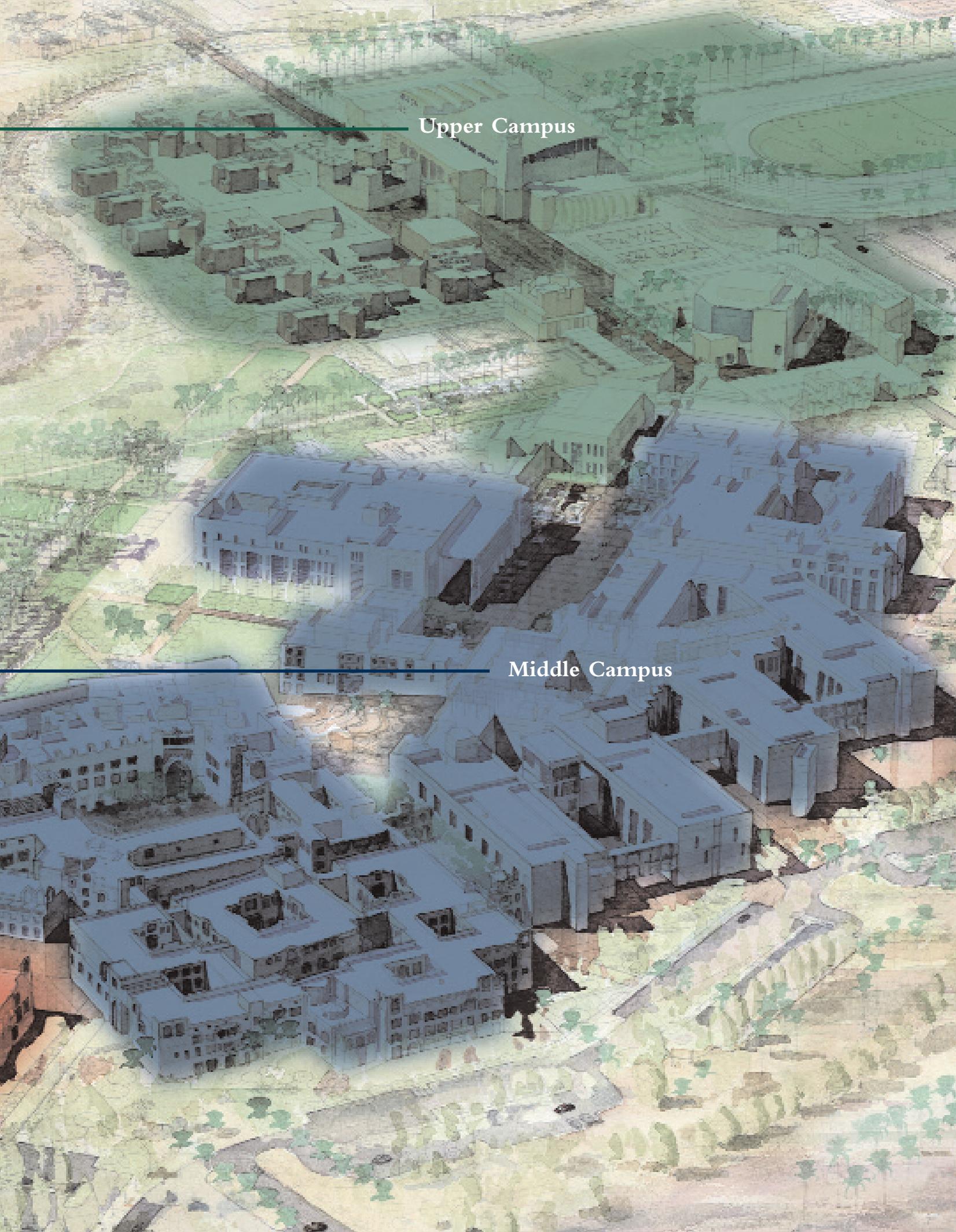
The lower campus is open to the public and is AUC's face to the community. It is designed to invite the local community to participate in the life of the university through performance venues, parks, meeting spaces and the AUC bookstore.

The middle campus is the academic core of the campus. With all of the schools and research centers in one area to allow for consultation, intellectual exchange and academic excellence, it also includes the Library and Administration Building.

The upper campus recognizes the needs of contemporary students to collaborate, socialize and multitask by providing an area full of lecture halls, meeting areas, residences and sports facilities. The student life area also brings recreation and relaxation to a student's daily routine.

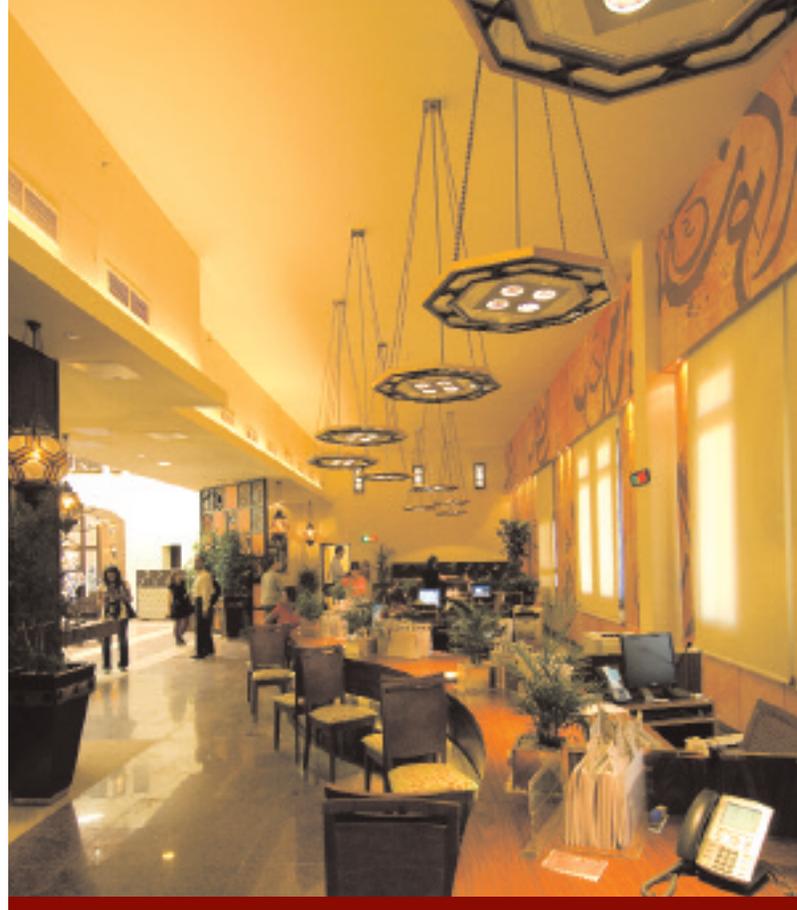
**AUC's New Cairo Campus is built around design themes that combine a local architectural spirit with a unique urban character**

**Lower Campus**

An aerial architectural rendering of a university campus. The image is divided into two main sections by a horizontal line. The upper section, labeled 'Upper Campus', features a cluster of buildings with green roofs and walls, interspersed with green lawns and trees. A large, circular field, possibly a stadium or sports field, is visible in the upper right. The lower section, labeled 'Middle Campus', shows a more dense arrangement of buildings with blue roofs and walls, surrounded by greenery and a winding path. The overall style is a detailed architectural visualization.

Upper Campus

Middle Campus



Prospective students and parents will have all of their questions answered at the Dr. Hamza Al Kholi Information Center (*top row*), a single-stop resource for anyone interested in learning more about the university, the campus and its students. The public is welcome to visit the Dr. and Mrs. Elias Hebeka Bookstore (*bottom row*), one of three AUC Press bookstores. The bookstore is adjoined by an outdoor coffee kiosk.



# Lower Campus

Visitors are greeted with a cascade of red-brick steps flanked by palm groves. This is the Paul and Charlotte Corddry Park (*right*), an area housing numerous terraces and shaded areas populated by trees bred and grown at AUC's own Desert Development Center. Within the park is the public amphitheater (*center left*) that hosts cultural events and is large enough to hold 300 people.



Nearby is the Performing and Visual Arts Center (*top right and bottom left*), home to art, music and film studios, and art galleries, including the Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Qassimi Art Gallery. It also encompasses the Gerhart Theatre (a black-box theater) and the Malak Gabr Arts Theatre.



## *Middle Campus*

The Research Center (*bottom*) stands adjacent to the AUC Portal, overlooking the main walkway and university garden. This three-story complex houses AUC's academic and research centers and institutes.

Beyond the park is the AUC Portal (*top*), designed after the iconic arch of the downtown campus. Passing through the portal, visitors enter the middle campus, which houses the Research Center and Administration Building, the three academic schools, the Hatem and Janet Mostafa Core Academic Center, as well as the AUC Library.





Across from the Research Center is the beginning of the Alumni Wall (*top left*), which runs all the way through to the upper part of the campus.



The Administration Building (*top right*) houses the president's and provost's offices, alumni office and other administrative offices. Across from it is the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Hall, which houses the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (*bottom*). Courtyards in the hall create comfortable outdoor gathering places and share the hollow square-building design repeated across the campus on different scales. The design allows as much natural light and air as possible into offices, classrooms and labs.





Despite being one and a half times the size of a football field, the Bartlett Plaza (*top left*) is designed like a scattering of intimate rooms cooled by fountains, stone cladding and water gardens. The meeting area is organized around this plaza, which is the principal outdoor location for large events such as commencement.



By providing all freshmen core courses in a single venue, the Hatem and Janet Mostafa Core Academic Center (*top right*) helps unify the freshman class and provide a cohesive academic experience. Inside this fully equipped building is the largest lecture hall on campus, the Mansour Group Lecture Hall. Seating 225, this hall caters primarily to Core Curriculum students, but also hosts guest lecturers.



The School of Sciences and Engineering (*left*) is the largest of the three schools and is home to 145 laboratories outfitted with a special ventilation system and cutting-edge lab equipment. The school also incorporates two research centers.



The AUC Library (*top*) is a centerpiece both for its architectural brilliance and innovative functionality. The large *mashrabeya*-style structure on the eastern façade elegantly limits the amount of direct sunlight entering the building. Inside, the five floors allow fluidity for multitasking by offering reading rooms, computer labs, a coffee shop and quiet study areas. The library has space for more than 700,000 volumes and periodicals, 22,000 e-books and 84 databases. Across from the Library is Abdul Latif Jameel Hall (*bottom*), which houses the School of Business, Economics and Communication. The building is also home to the new Institute of Executive Education and the Heikal Department of Management.



The middle campus is organized around AUC Avenue (*top*), a pedestrian walkway that runs under flyovers and through open courtyards.

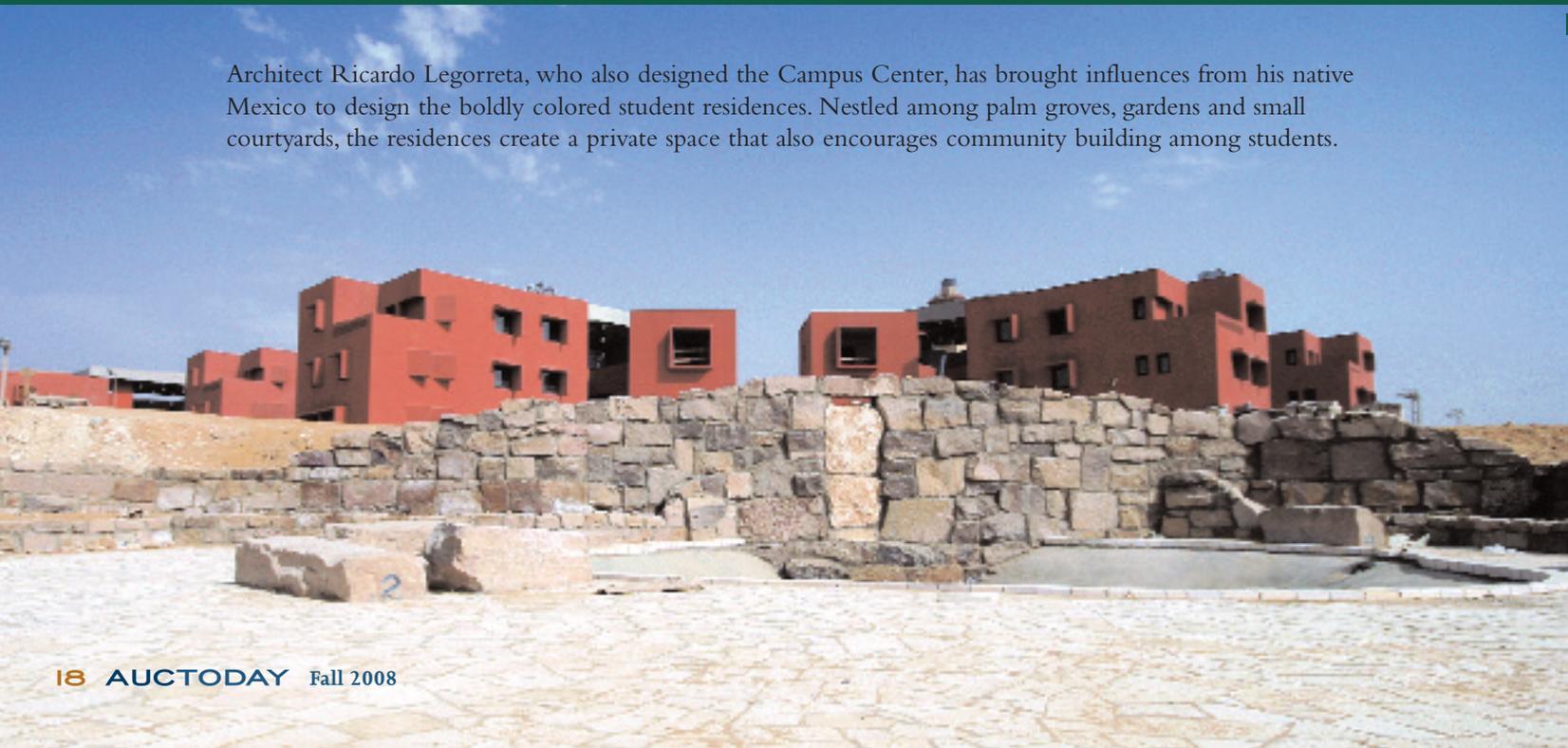




## Upper Campus

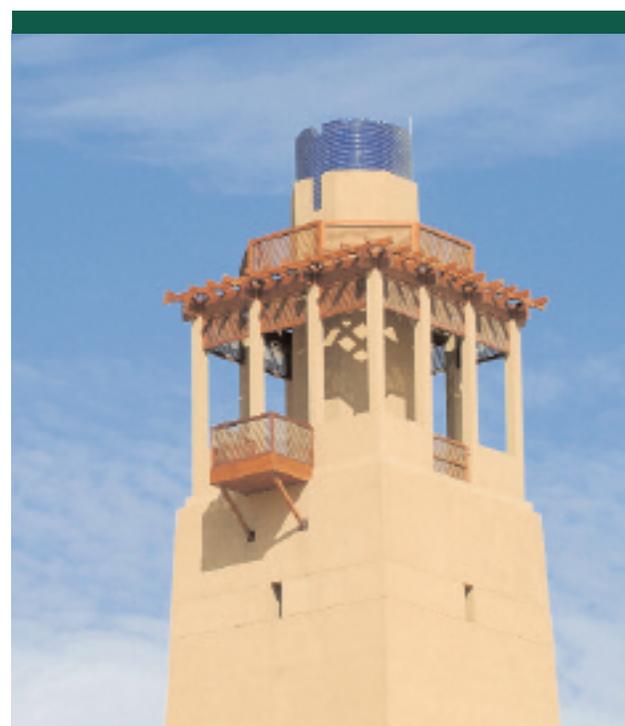
At the Campus Center (*top left*), students will find a bookstore, gift shop, travel office and main dining room. In addition, this building hosts the Student Union, off-campus studies department and the Americana Food Court. An area for gathering, organizing and relaxing, the Campus Center has several meeting places, including the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Lecture Hall, a room that accommodates 150 people. Located inside the Campus Center, the large Bassily Auditorium (*top right*) seats 1,400, while the Moataz Al-Alfi Hall seats 200. Equivalent to Ewart and Oriental halls respectively, these halls will host a myriad of cultural events and lectures.

Architect Ricardo Legorreta, who also designed the Campus Center, has brought influences from his native Mexico to design the boldly colored student residences. Nestled among palm groves, gardens and small courtyards, the residences create a private space that also encourages community building among students.

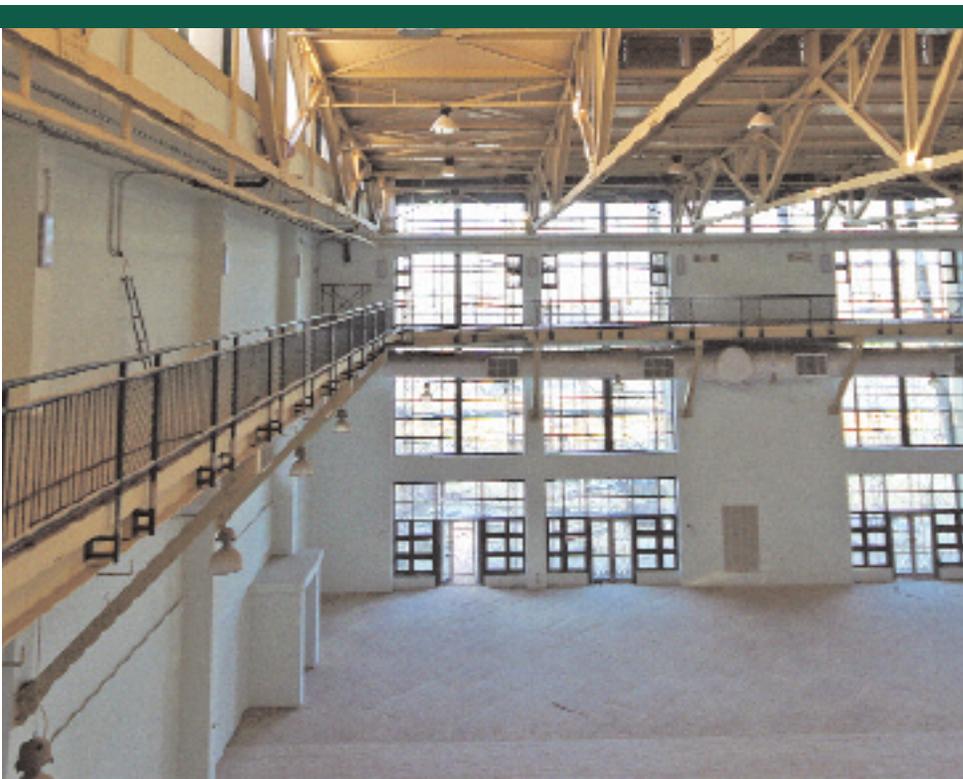




The indoor sports facility offers gymnasiums, an indoor jogging track, squash courts, training and martial arts rooms, and exercise equipment. Within these facilities, the ARTOC Central Athletic Court will draw recreational and professional sports events and initiatives. This 1,396-square-meter multi-purpose court can accommodate up to 2,000 fans. Outside, the campus is equipped with the Olympic-size Paul B. Hannon Swimming Pool, the Khalaf Ahmed Al Habtoor Football and Track Field that can seat up to 2,000 spectators, the Ahmed Galal Ismail Basketball Court, as well as tennis courts and a soccer field. Besides supporting extracurricular and university team events, the sports complex will be able to host national and international tournaments.



The 30-meter-high Mobinil Tower (*top*) overlooks the sports complex and serves as a navigational reference point for the entire campus, while providing a birds-eye-view of sporting events. The tower is also a wind catcher, naturally providing sustainable and healthy cooling and ventilation for the sports facilities below.





# MAKING HISTORY

**The New Cairo Campus opens its doors to students, marking a new beginning in AUC's 90-year legacy**

Photos by Omar Mohsen

**W**ith the start of classes on September 7, thousands of students flooded into the New Cairo Campus armed with maps and floor plans. Shady passageways between the academic schools were immediately taken over as old friends greeted each other and teamed up to explore the new campus. The library also

quickly became a popular spot, providing many students with a much needed air-conditioned refuge from the heat.

For students attending AUC this semester, the experience is unique. Everything is new, from the campus and commute to classes and services. To help ease the transition, information desks were placed at

every gate with staff members answering student inquiries about course registration, ID activation and transportation. In addition, Student Union volunteers, clad in dark blue T-shirts, served as guides, helping students navigate the 260-acre campus in search of their classes. By the end of the week, things had started to settle.



**Eyad Ali**  
**Petroleum engineering freshman**

*Things are a bit chaotic, but the place is amazing. I like the campus and its architecture. I feel lucky to be studying petroleum engineering here.*



**Yasmin Mohi Eldin**  
**Actuarial science senior**

*The place feels like a resort. The air is clean and fresh, and the space is very wide. It was a bit frustrating on the first day. I spent half an hour looking for my class.*

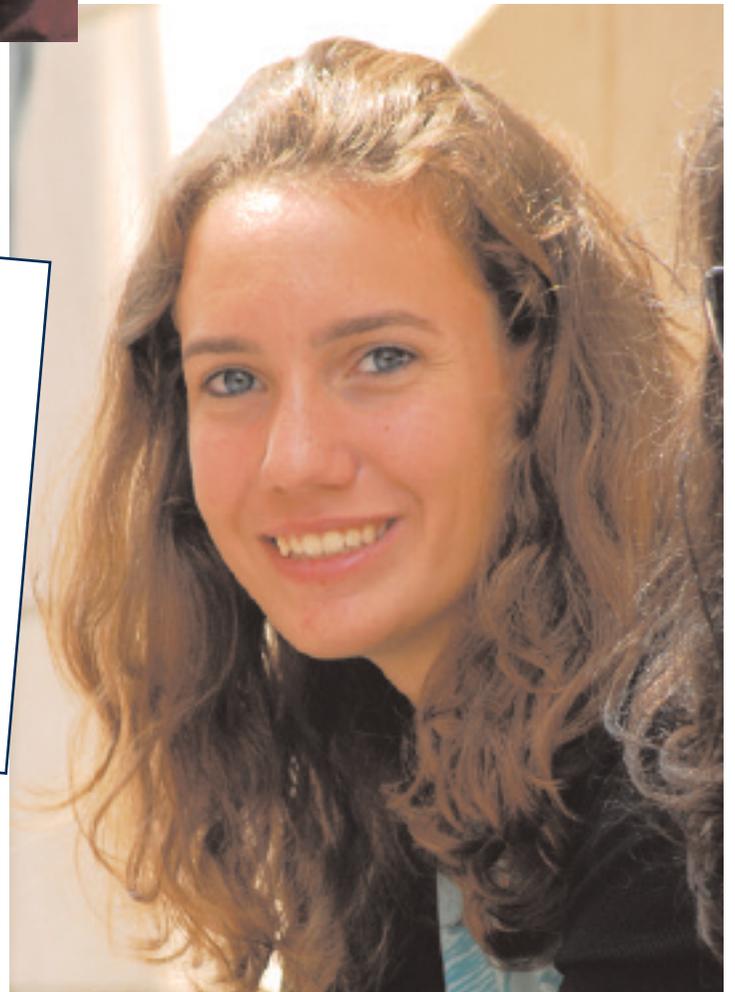


**Omar Attaby**  
**Construction engineering**  
**freshman**

*I'm excited but worried. Beginnings are usually shaky. I had a lab class today, but couldn't find it. I'm sure everything will eventually work out. This campus is really something. I believe it will enhance AUC's image regionally and internationally.*

**Sarah Mazhar**  
**Actuarial science senior**

*I like the Arab-Islamic architecture; it reminds me of the old campus. We have to walk a lot from one building to the other, but it's better than dealing with traffic. I'm glad to be attending a year here. I would have wanted to stay longer to see this campus fully-fledged and complete.*



## Student Diary

### My First Week of Class in New Cairo

Saturday, September 6 (One day before classes started)

Checking out some real estate near the new campus with my parents, I told my dad to take a little detour and go through the AUC visitor's gate. I asked the guard at the gate a few questions then headed back out. My initial impressions of the campus were the wide space and the massive scale of the buildings, and how the architecture complemented the surrounding landscape. However, my overruling concern was how in the world I was going to find my way around in such a big campus. Having recalled that there were only 10 minutes between classes worried me even more.

Sunday, September 7 (First day of class)

I passed by a friend to pick her up on my way to the university. Parking inside the campus was a breeze. It was good to be with someone on the first day because we could find our way around faster. Although it was confusing in some cases, we did find our way around quickly.

I came to realize that the 10 minutes between classes might not be a big rush after all. I went to my mass communication adviser to find her sitting amongst several dozen other bewildered students in a classroom lab. I was able to get the information I needed from the adviser and arrived late to the first class. I opened the doors only to find empty desks and chairs that are still in their plastic and cardboard wrapping. After spending some time on campus, I went home, fatigued from basking in the desert sun that shined on the big, open plazas.

Monday, September 8

I must say I am impressed with the Student Service Center on campus. The offices inside look very professional, and the staff members are all pleasant and well trained. Today I was lucky to find my class and attend it. I then left straight away to finish some errands around town and go home early to make up for the lack of sleep the night before.

Tuesday, September 9

I went to class on time and found it quite full. Students had started to find their way around and were able to attend most of their classes. I felt that the semester had really begun today. I was definitely feeling more at ease inside the buildings. After class, I went with a couple of friends to the Jared's Bagels outlet on campus, although I didn't eat. It's nice to have Cilantro and Cinnabon there as well.

Wednesday, September 10

During class, there was a continuous blinking light that I later find out was a test for the fire alarm. That was a bit annoying. I saw one or two students riding their roller blades and scooters on campus. Everyone is free to do whatever they want here. Whether they want to hang around or sit in a secluded place to study, they'll find what they want here. The place is that big.

Thursday, September 11

Assignments started pouring in. I began to get a feel of what each course is going to be like and the type of work it will entail. I also started to find out what my friends' favorite spots on campus are. In terms of transportation, my friends and I came up with a car-pooling timetable between us based on our class schedules. I ended up leaving late and was stuck in a heavy traffic jam on my way home to Maadi. That reminded me of the commute to and from downtown.

In general, I like the new campus. I am happy to be graduating from a campus that is well suited to be called AUC. It's nice to have our graduation ceremony at the campus where we studied, instead of the Cairo International Conference Center. I look forward to visiting the campus when I graduate. I am proud to be affiliated to such a fine place.

Omar Nofal, journalism and mass communication senior



Omar Nofal, photographed by Ahmad El-Nemr



## Changing the New Cairo LANDSCAPE



Ahmed El-Sayid

Top: AUC's New Cairo Campus in November 2006; bottom: the campus in September 2008

### **AUC's 260-acre campus will bring cultural and economic development to the surrounding community**

**W**ith AUC relocating to New Cairo, residents of the area will find their lives changing as a result of the establishment of a massive new university in their neighborhood. Though AUC hopes to bring positive changes to the area, there are also those who worry about increased traffic, crowds and higher costs following AUCians into the desert. Luckily, when the dust settles from the move, staff, faculty and students are ready to be good neighbors.

Among the most immediate and obvious impact AUC will have on New Cairo is an influx of cultural performances, plays and special events, many of which will be open to the

public. "AUC is the first institution in the area offering cultural events to the community through theater, film, art and music, all several times a week," said Frank Bradley, associate professor in the performing and visual arts (PVA) department.

In fact, the PVA department has its own building, housing more rooms and facilities to expand its productions as well as its audience. A special entrance to the building gives way to a public area, making it even more inviting for the community.

"Moving out to an area that's growing faster than I've seen a city grow should bring in more and more people over the years looking for cultural events to attend," Bradley

noted, adding that he thinks people will come not only from New Cairo and the surrounding communities, but also from Maadi, Heliopolis and Nasr City, since these are closer to the new campus than downtown.

Brian Curling, assistant professor and director of the art gallery, not only anticipates a wide audience, but also wishes to draw in artists from around Cairo to collectively use the large art exhibition area. “We are planning to invite artists throughout Cairo to the new campus to discuss how best to use the space to culturally enhance the city,” he said. Curling also hopes to be able to span socio-economic backgrounds when reaching out to the community, spreading awareness through art. “There is a huge demand for art throughout Cairo,” he said. “We just need to provide the dynamic experience and find a way to get the artists here.”

In addition to the PVA concerts, performances and exhibitions, the community also has public use of the bookstore, outdoor café and park. “Having an attractive campus will hopefully bring people out for more than just seeing a play, but to also enjoy the bookstore and maybe a picnic lunch as well,” noted Bradley.

While the university is expanding its campus and community of visitors, the area surrounding AUC is also growing, providing a new place for Egyptians to live, eat and shop. Due to the presence of a campus that will accommodate more than 5,000 students, in addition to faculty and staff, businesses and real estate will be riding the wave of new construction in the area.

“We’re going to see a major boom,” said Ahmed Kamaly, associate professor of economics. “The move is going to increase activity and make real-estate properties more attractive to own.”

With the real estate industry already experiencing a boost due to inflation, Kamaly predicted that the move to New Cairo will only serve to increase this effect. “The big draw will be for apartments, though there are areas set aside for compounds and villas,” he noted. “The advantage of an apartment is that it is easier when it comes to transactions.”

While property values will undoubtedly rise, Kamaly doesn’t predict a sharp rise in prices for everyday goods. “On the contrary,” he explained, “I think that with all the competition to serve this new population, the prices will be at or below Cairo’s standard urban levels.”

**“It’s everyone’s responsibility to keep the new campus from being a gated community. When you look at the big picture, it’s up to us to determine what impact we’ll have on New Cairo.”**

The people providing these goods and services, however, may not be living in New Cairo. Kamaly said that the entire area is already zoned as a residential district, which means that small businesses will not be able to move to the immediate area. What is more likely is that service providers would come in to New Cairo from other parts of town. “From that perspective,” he said, “it might make sense to consider extending the metro line to New Cairo. At this point, though, it is just too soon to tell.”

In the meantime, workers arrive via the already busy road connecting New Cairo to more central neighborhoods.

This is a fact not lost on many members of the AUC community, who fear both the danger and loss of time increased traffic may entail.

AUC students, however, have anticipated this need. They plan to put up signs along the road to the New Cairo Campus, urging drivers to slow down and drive safely. The Right Road student club is already working on establishing ambulance centers throughout the Katameya area, increasing signs on dangerous roads to warn drivers and repairing street conditions. The club, in coordination with the Student Union, is also organizing a road-safety campaign on campus, putting up flyers, posters and speed signs to remind the AUC community about the importance of safe driving. “Car accidents are a preventable danger, and we need to do something to stop them,” said Yomna Safwat, president of the club and the first recipient of the Moataz Al-Alfi Family Leadership Award For Philanthropy and Social Innovation.

Helen Rizzo, associate professor of sociology, noted that while students will continue to serve the community through clubs and academic courses, being in New Cairo may present challenges, particularly at the beginning. “It’s everyone’s responsibility to keep the new campus from being a gated community,” she said. “When you look at the big picture, it’s up to us to determine what impact we’ll have on New Cairo. There’s a potential for us to bring crowds, pollution and high prices to a new area, but there’s also the hope that lectures, cultural events and music will be beneficial. Really, it is going to depend on students, faculty and staff to stay connected with the neighborhood, just as we were on the downtown campus.” □

*By Leen Jaber and Peter Wieben*

# Rethinking *Sharia*

**Recently selected as a Carnegie Scholar, Amr Shalakany calls into question the solidity of Islamic law over time**

**A**mr Shalakany, assistant professor of law and director of AUC's LLM program, has studied and practiced law all over the world. He earned a degree from Harvard, where he later taught Islamic and comparative law; worked for the international law firm, Baker & McKenzie in London; served as legal adviser for the Palestine Liberation Organization during the second intifada; and taught at Birzeit University, where he helped set up a

law clinic. Recently, Shalakany has been selected as a Carnegie Scholar by the prestigious Carnegie Corporation of New York for his commitment to investigating new lines of research in modern Egyptian legal history.

Through his research titled "The Redefinition of Sharia in Modern Egyptian Legal Thought: 1798 - Present," Shalakany traces the changing definition of sharia — Islamic law — over the past two centuries of Egyptian jurisprudence and court practice. He



challenges the commonly accepted idea that there was a transition from Islamic to secular law in 1883, arguing that legal secularism existed in Egypt prior to that year and was rooted in Ottoman and Islamic concepts of legitimacy.

“The common conception of Islamic legal history is one of continuity, but in reality, the very definition of sharia has changed in the past 200 years,” he said. “The way we understand it now is not the way it has always been defined.”

The argument is an important and controversial one. Challenging the notion that sharia has been the same since the founding of Islam, Shalakany hopes to put a contemporary legal debate into a modern context, but in doing so, he is calling into question a crucial source of authority.

“A foundational premise has long ruled among historians of modern Egyptian law, namely that Egypt had an ‘Islamic’ legal system before 1883, which modernized into a ‘secular’ normative order from that year onward,” Shalakany said. “This premise is shared by Western and Egyptian mainstream historians alike, both of whom generally describe the post-1883 development of Egyptian legal thought as riddled with anxieties over reconciling traditional sharia principles and modern needs for legal reform. The same premise also underpins ideological demands for the return of the sharia by Islamist political actors today, most prominently in the Muslim Brotherhood platform during the 2007 elections, calling for a full-scale review of Egypt’s legal system to assess its conformity with sharia norms.”

Shalakany is at the forefront of a growing trend in Islamic legal historiography to scrutinize the origins of contemporary ideas of legal authority. In the recent past, the solidity

and rigidity of sharia has been largely taken for granted. “There is a new stream of historical scholarship that has been challenging the status quo of Islamic legal historiography since the 1950s,” he noted. “The popular story can now be completely debunked.”

His research has attracted significant attention, particularly since the Carnegie Foundation of New York has offered him a grant as part of the Carnegie Scholars Program. The grant, established in 1999, provides financial and intellectual support to writers, analysts and thinkers addressing critical research questions. Scholars are selected for their originality, intellectual capacity and ability to communicate

**“If I can convince readers to consider that the way we understand sharia today is not how it was always understood in the past ... then my work is done.”**

their ideas in ways that can catalyze public discourse.

Shalakany’s research sets him apart, both because of its quality and the fact that his concern is with issues that do not often receive concentrated attention in the West. AUC’s law department, he noted, is committed to addressing these issues that have been relegated to the periphery of legal study. Such issues range from studies of Islamic law in action to discussions of how best to participate in globalization.

“What we offer is the only degree of its kind in Egypt,” he said. Generally, Egyptian legal education focuses on rote memorization and what Shalakany referred to as “carbon-copy exams.” Such methods churn out students who

have memorized a great deal of information, but who are unequipped to analyze, debate and practice law on the international stage.

“I myself am a product of this system,” Shalakany laughed. He recalled arriving at Harvard as a law student and being surprised by the amount of debate, questioning and prolonged pondering taking place in the classroom. “I showed up for class the first day ready to take notes on a long lecture. Instead, the professor spoke for five minutes and began grilling the students. ... The idea was not to leave students with a right or wrong answer, but to teach them how to think.”

Now, Shalakany and the other scholars in AUC’s law department are demanding the same of their students. “I ask my students to come to class prepared to be asked about anything regarding the readings,” he said, adding that AUC’s law students are poised to serve in leading positions in a country that sorely needs strong legal minds. “We have many students going on to work in courts, multinationals, ministries and NGOs. Some students have also taken roles in public advocacy and public interest,” he said.

Shalakany will spend the next two years working exclusively on his research at the Egyptian National Archives, which is expected to culminate in a book manuscript in English that will also be translated to Arabic. “If I can convince readers to consider that the way we understand sharia today is not how it was always understood in the past, and to doubt even for a moment that our contemporary definition of sharia is the same as it was defined two centuries ago, then my work is done,” he said. □

*By Peter Wieben*



# Dressing Up Downtown

By Peter Wieben  
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

**With AUC's relocation to New Cairo, the downtown campus will be remodeled to create a cultural haven for lovers of art and literature**

While all eyes are turned to New Cairo, AUC's presence downtown is being rethought, remodeled and reenergized to provide the Egyptian community with a lasting and important center for culture, arts and education.

The Main Campus and the Falaki Academic Center serve as the hub of AUC's activities downtown, both undergoing significant changes. Within the first few years after the move, the Greek Campus will be sold, Old Falaki will be demolished and part of the Administration Building will be converted into a two-level bookstore. The School of Continuing Education (SCE), Center for Migration and Refugee

Studies, Management Center and law department will continue to operate downtown.

"The downtown campus will be transformed into a vibrant cultural oasis," said Waguida El Bakary, associate dean for educational support services at the SCE. "It will be the only contact many visitors to Cairo will have with AUC, and we are sure that their visit will be positive."

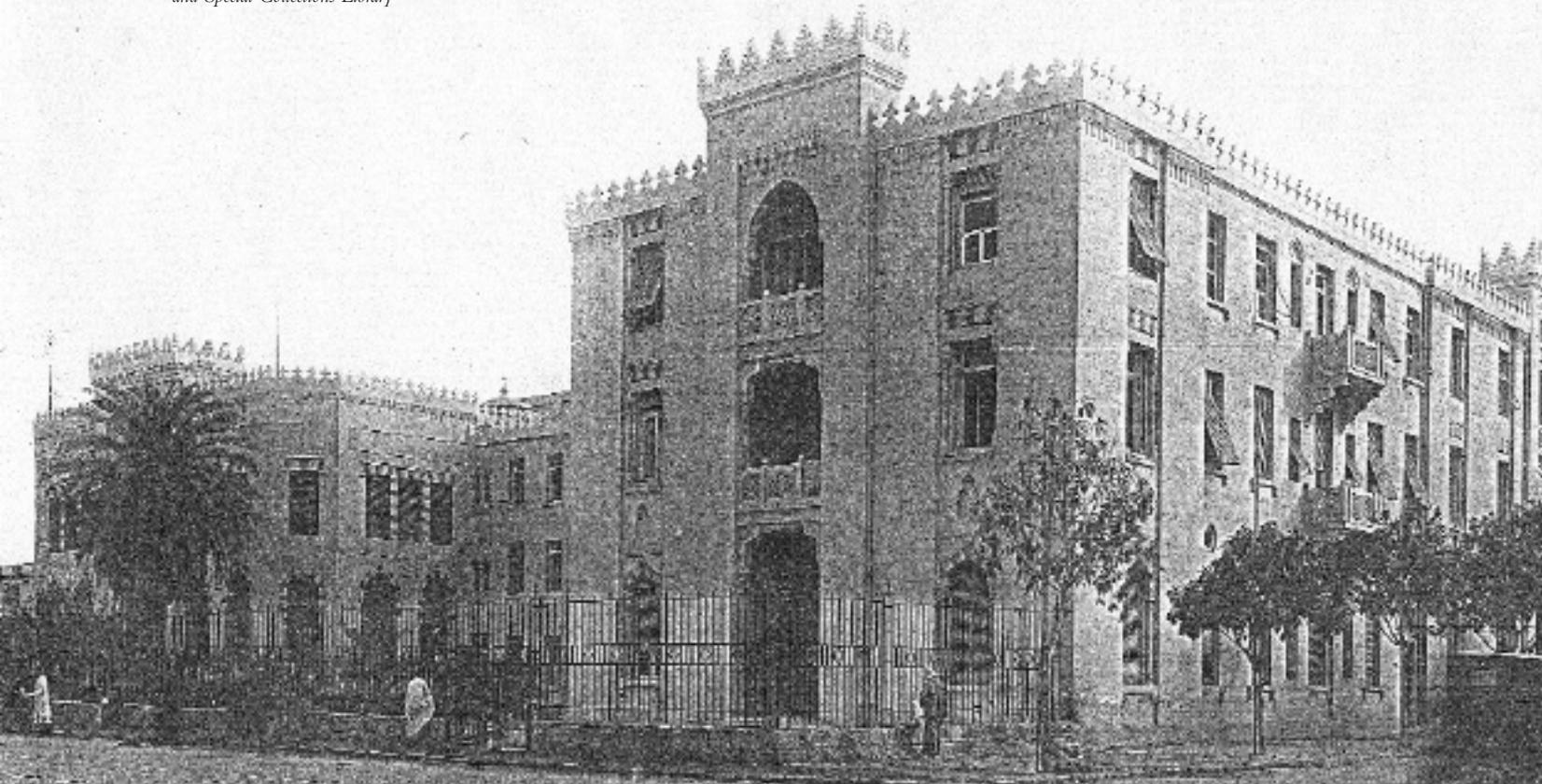
In fact, with plans underway for a complete transformation of the downtown campus, tourists won't be the only ones lining up to relax, learn and socialize in AUC's oasis. A



series of renovations and additions will transform the Administration Building on the Main Campus into the downtown cultural center, a gathering place for lovers of literature, theater, art and academics. The cultural center will house reception areas as well as the Margo Veillon Gallery for Contemporary Egyptian Art, featuring works depicting Egyptian life by one of the most prolific and beloved artists to devote a career to Cairo.

AUC will also maintain a strong

*Top: Ewart Memorial Hall filled to capacity for one of AUC's events during the 1930s; bottom: Main Campus in the early 1930s; photographs from the University Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections Library*





“Old Falaki will be torn down to make way for a large garden entrance to New Falaki.”

*Top left: Falaki Academic Center will house the School of Continuing Education; bottom: Portions of the Greek Campus will continue to operate for at least one year after the move; right: The Science Building will eventually be torn down*



cultural presence downtown. The Main Campus will continue to host lectures and cultural events, and Ewart and Oriental Halls will provide downtown residents with a link to events in New Cairo. “There will be live transmission for some events, so that while the event is taking place in New Cairo, it would be broadcast in Ewart Hall,” said Ranya Boraie, associate director for special events at the communications and marketing office, adding that “events that prove to be successful in one campus may be held again in the other campus.”

Among the most lavish of changes will be what Mirette Mabrouk, associate director of publishing operations at the AUC Press, called “a gorgeously designed new bookstore.” The bookstore will be the centerpiece of AUC’s offering to the community. As a combination café and bookstore, it will take advantage of the lush gardens on the Main Campus to provide space for customers to relax.

“We’re planning to open up to the

“The downtown campus will be transformed into a vibrant cultural oasis. It will be the only contact many visitors to Cairo will have with AUC, and we are sure that their visit will be positive.”



public and provide a nice, quiet place to relax and read,” said Dax Roque, the bookstore’s manager. “You can come in off Tahrir and enjoy garden space, coffee and great books.”

In cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and the Supreme Council of Antiquities, AUC has already contracted local resident architect Agnieszka Dobrowolska to undertake the internal re-planning of the historic Administration Building ground floor to resemble its original interior style. Roque noted that the bookstore will ensure that AUC remains the center of the literary scene downtown. “We expect to be the main bookstore in the downtown area; this is an exciting time,” Roque noted. “From the bookstore’s perspective we aren’t only moving; we’re adding a whole new store. We’ll have a major presence in Tahrir, as well as on the new campus.”

Meanwhile, the SCE will be moving into the Falaki Academic

Center. El Bakary put an image to some of the plans. “Old Falaki will be torn down to make way for a large garden entrance to New Falaki,” she said.

Inside, the SCE will be the main occupant, sharing space with the Management Center and Engineering Services. The ground floor will provide a centralized location for SCE students to fill in admission forms, register for courses and pay their tuition. “We’ve organized all of the essential offices into one place to streamline students’ registration process,” El Bakary explained.

Activity downtown will be further increased by the law department and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies moving into their new homes in Hill House. These are among AUC’s most internationally acclaimed units, ensuring that Tahrir will remain a site for collaboration, cutting-edge research and progress for years to come.

While organizers look forward to all of these plans coming to fruition, completion of the downtown vision is still some time off. Though they will eventually be sold, many of the familiar landmarks of AUC’s downtown campus will temporarily remain under university control. Portions of the Greek Campus, as well as remote offices like the AUC Clinic, will continue to operate for at least one year to ease the transition and provide support to AUC’s downtown faculty, staff and students.

With two campuses operating simultaneously, AUC is continuing its rich tradition of education and outreach to different parts of the Egyptian community. “AUC has been a part of downtown Cairo for 90 years, and from cultural exhibits to academic programs, the university will maintain its presence in historic Tahrir Square,” said AUC President David Arnold. “We [also] look forward to AUC becoming an educational anchor for its new community and a stimulant to the cultural and recreational life of New Cairo.” □

# Making a **MARK**

**Naim Fahmi recounts his life journey and  
the forgotten history of the AUC logo**

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

**F**ormer AUC President Christopher Thoron and illustrator Naim Fahmi were sitting in the president's office and staring at the walls. It was the early 1970s and the two men were engrossed in a project that had occupied them for weeks, the outcome of which they hardly could have predicted at the time. Their goal was to design a new logo that would represent the university and unify its image. At the time, AUC's disparate departments often marked their publications with designs unrelated to the university or each other.

Fahmi was an unlikely person to be pondering with Thoron that afternoon. He had spent years as a typesetter and illustrator working at the U.S. Embassy. To produce a single page of printed material could take hours at that time, and Fahmi was something of an artist hermit, spending long hours meticulously preparing documents for printing. Since an early age, he had spent much of his time alone — drawing, painting or writing.

His peaceful life was disrupted, however, with the onset of the Six-Day War in 1967. The embassy staff had been evacuated, leaving all Egyptian staff to fend for themselves. As former employees of the United States, they were pariahs. "We were not accepted by the Egyptians because we had worked with the Americans, and we were not accepted by the Americans because we were Egyptian," Fahmi recalled.



Out of work and without a penny in his pocket, Fahmi took up a job in a printshop making 10 piasters a day. “I did anything they asked, mostly sweeping and cleaning.”

Luckily, his fortunes were about to improve. In a strange twist of fate, the war would result in the founding of one of AUC’s most prestigious institutions — the AUC Press. At the same time, Fahmi would be taken from his odd jobs and given a new career as a university printer and typesetter. “It happened that the American embassy donated all of the printing presses to AUC. We were part of the machines,” he said. Fahmi and an Italian co-worker followed the machines to a small room in AUC. “We created our own work. At first, that was just forms and letterheads,” he noted.

Soon, however, Fahmi’s work drew the attention of AUC President Christopher Thoron, whom Fahmi described as an artist, a man who was suffering from cancer, but who spent his time at AUC making an impact that lasts to this day. “He knew he was dying,” said Fahmi. “He made a great effort to polish the image of AUC. At that time we had no logo, no official type, no colors.”

Thoron made it his mission to standardize the way AUC would be seen around the world. “We made many good things,” Fahmi said. “We selected an official type. I created new Arabic calligraphy for each department, and the style is still used today. We made calligraphy and letterheads for each department in a nice shape.”

As time went on, Thoron and Fahmi worked with

increasing focus and dedication to finish what both men saw as a crucial task for the university. They found themselves sitting in Thoron’s office considering attributes for a new logo.

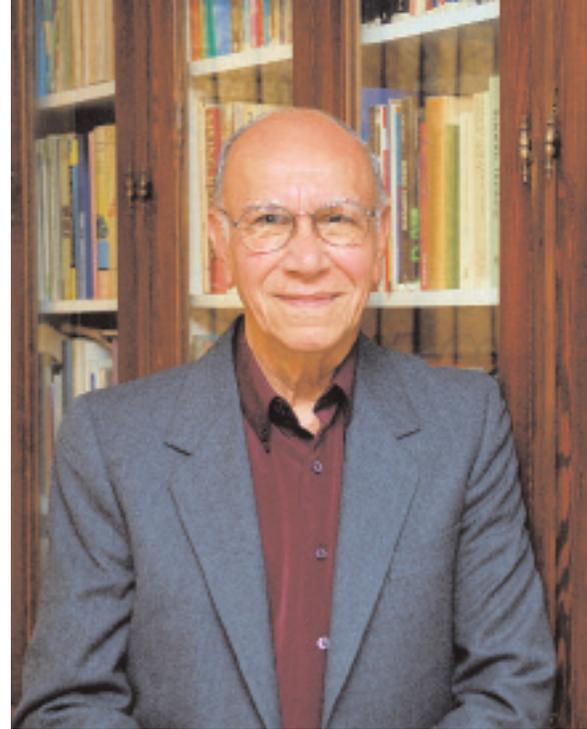
“We were thinking of a logo that gave thoughts of motion,” he explained. “It also had to express that this was a scientific place — scientific but not stale.” Fahmi said that he and Thoron considered using an atom as the logo, but Fahmi was uncomfortable with this idea. “It wasn’t enough for a university,” he explained. “Everyone was using it. Second, it didn’t have an Arab image. It needed to smell of Egypt.”

As they considered the problem, Thoron happened to glance up at the door of the president’s office in the Main Campus palace. “He looked at the wooden doors and traced a small unit of the artistic paneling,” Fahmi recalled. “He gave me the paper and told me to play with the shape.”

Thoron’s stroke of inspiration became arduous work for Fahmi, and for the next three months he drew, measured and cut shapes based on the president’s door. Finally, after many lonely hours in a drawing room, he settled on the pentagon that characterizes AUC today, each of its five sides a copy of Thoron’s sketch.

When the logo was sent to the United States to be reproduced, it fell to Fahmi to suggest colors that he felt would represent the university. At the time, he said, universities around the region favored the hard primary colors they felt symbolized strength. Fahmi, who had worked as AUC’s hidden artist for years, selected black and red, which he described as different and more sensitive.

His logo has been successful. Fahmi recalls that near the end of his time at AUC, high-profile designers



*Naim Fahmi created the AUC logo*

were hired to redesign the logo. The result was a thin square around the logo, and a change of colors to ochre and burgundy.

“A few years later, the square vanished,” said Fahmi. With his logo now being used around the New Cairo Campus, Egypt and the world, Fahmi maintains a low profile. He spends much of his time in his study lined with thousands of books, all of which Fahmi has read. After leaving AUC, he continued to find comfort in his solitude, but became a quietly prolific artist, writing more than 30 books and producing thousands of poems, paintings and songs.

Fahmi says his life was never about achieving fame or fortune. Since the months he spent assembling AUC’s iconic logo, he hasn’t given the symbol much thought, even though his design has traveled the world and been seen by millions of people. “I draw things, I write things, and when I am finished, I put them behind me,” he said. “There is no use holding on to what you create. In the end, it doesn’t really belong to you.” □

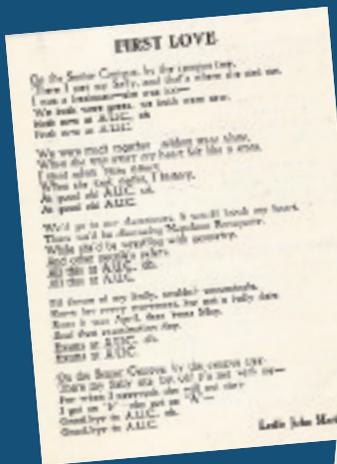
*By Peter Wieben*



# Nostalgia

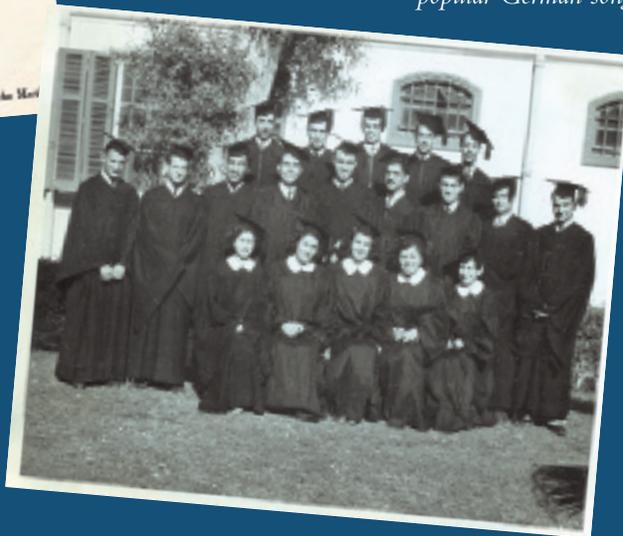
Below are entries for the contest that ran in *Inside AUC*, the alumni e-newsletter, where readers were asked to send pictures that reflect their memories of the downtown campus.

## Alumni reflect on their memories of the downtown campus



**Leslie John Martin '47**  
Maryland, USA

*One photo is of the entire 1947 graduating class, except for one graduate: George Eliades. I am in the back row, second from left. I listed myself as John, which is the name I went by, since it was in my photo album. The picture was taken under the Campus Tree, on what was then the Senior Campus. The other photo is of a song we sang. I had written the lyrics to the song. We sang it to the tune of Lili Marlene, a popular German song that the British Army — in which I had served — picked up and sang to English words.*



**Evangelos A. Calamitsis '54**  
Bethesda, Maryland

*I was delighted to see in the Spring 2008 issue of AUCToday a photo of the latest recipient of the President's Cup. This brought back some lovely memories of my own days at AUC. In the early 1950s, I received a strikingly similar cup — the Kirk Cup — but as I recall it was for both scholarship and athletics. The attached photo of the award ceremony in Ewart Hall shows then President Badeau, the Egyptian Minister of Education and Dean Howard. Please keep up the great work of informing all alumni and friends of developments and prospects regarding our very dear university.*



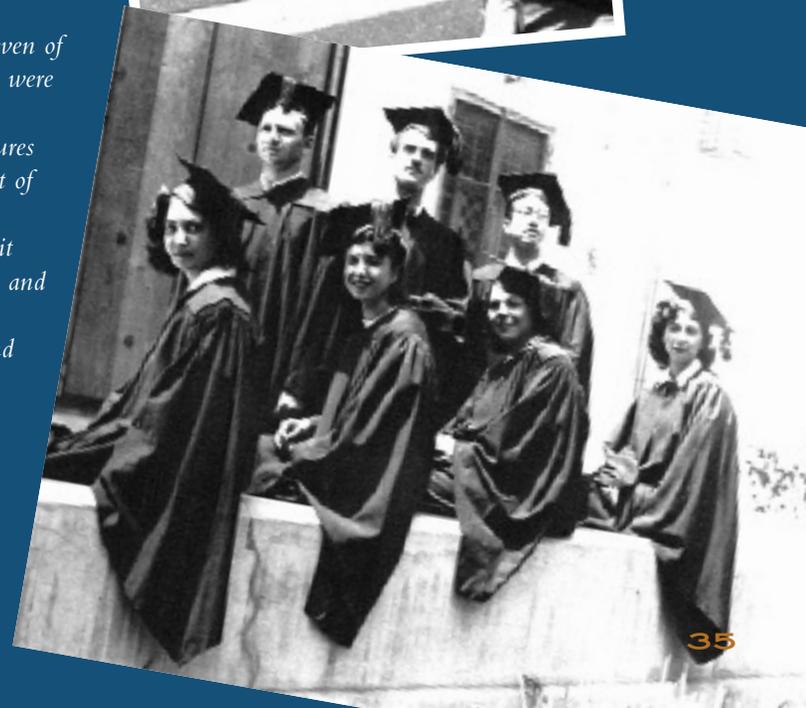
**Gail Farngalo '85 (Liberia)  
Georgia, USA**

*These two photos were taken on the Main Campus within the courtyard between the two halls. One is of a dance performance of the Los Mexicas group, which was founded by Patricia Juarez, a Mexican-American student on a study-abroad program. I am the dancer in the burgundy top; the only other dancers whose names I recall are Abdul-Razak Imam (Nigeria), who was a senior then, and another female performer by the name of Manar. The other photo is of me (on the right) and Gwendolyn Obahor on the evening of our graduation. I look forward to visiting AUC again to reflect on four years of fond memories, as well as creating new ones of the new campus.*



**Riri Stark née Dimoulitsa '41  
New Zealand**

*During the war years, AUC was our haven. There were only seven of us in our senior year — four girls and three boys. Our teachers were our friends, and Dr. Watson, the dean, was our professor of comparative religion and a mentor in all our studies. These pictures were taken in the little garden on campus, where we spent a lot of time studying, chatting or (like Liliane and Laura) putting on makeup. With Jews and Arabs side by side in perfect harmony, it was an era of understanding and helping one another with love and empathy. I revel at the AUC of today — immense and grand with so many more subjects offered — and purr with pride and happiness that I was there so long ago. My best wishes for its continual growth and may it be a haven for future generations.*

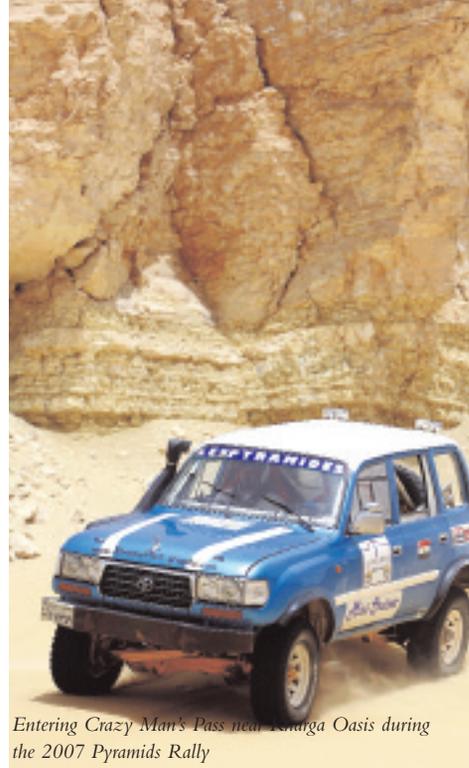


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## Alumni Profile

# DUNE RACER

Abdel Hamid Abou Youssef '99 describes what it is like to live on the fast lane



Entering Crazy Man's Pass near Bahariya Oasis during the 2007 Pyramids Rally



At the podium of the 2006 Pharaohs Rally

“It’s almost like you’re in a boat,” Abdel Hamid Abou Youssef '99 said of his car rallying adventure. “The dunes are like waves; the car goes up and down and left and right. There are all types of terrain. Personally, I find that the sand dunes are the most interesting, most dangerous and most beautiful.”

Like a sailor on the open ocean, Abou Youssef’s career as a rally driver has been fueled by a love of exploration that has taken him around the world through the most dangerous deserts and to the most remote mountain peaks. As the team owner and pilot for Sand Sea Sailors, a successful rally-racing team, adventure defines Abou Youssef’s character, and he wouldn’t have it any other way. “Adrenaline is a way of life,” he declared.

A rally race can be more than 3,000 kilometers long and takes more than a week to complete. Along the way, a team like Abou Youssef’s faces innumerable obstacles. “You can break the car on a jump or going over a bump,” Abou Youssef said dramatically. “You face all sorts of

terrain, and you have to be driving as fast as possible. Of course, there's also the danger of getting lost."

Specifically, Abou Youssef finds Egypt's Great Sand Sea in the Western Desert one of the most challenging endeavors. "You face sand dunes that are 80 to 100 meters high," he pointed out. "The formations you come across are extremely complex. As a racer, you have to treat this terrain with the utmost respect."

Among his countrymen, Abou Youssef is at the top of his game, winning the international Pyramids Rally three years in a row. In 2007, 24 cars entered the prestigious and grueling Pharaohs Rally. Of these, only 14 finished, with Abou Youssef coming in fourth — the only Egyptian to finish. "These races are a major challenge," he noted. "You know you have to be going fast, but there is always a balance of fast enough versus too fast. You want to get there quickly, but in the end, you want to get there."

With all of his success in the racing world, Abou Youssef is setting his sights on the international scene. Winning the Pharaohs Rally is one goal, but the real prize is even more difficult. "The Paris-Dakar Rally: I'd have to say that's the Holy Grail, the Everest and the K2 of my sport," he said, adding that Egyptians should one day dominate a racing sport whose track is the open desert. "Egypt is underrepresented worldwide, and this is unacceptable. We are 96 percent desert! How can we not have the best teams in the world?"

Abou Youssef is working hard to change this. With his team he founded a rally school, which held its first classes in Winter 2008. The course was both theoretical and practical, with aspiring adventurers being taught to copilot, navigate, handle rough terrain and understand race regulations. "We're working to build a community in Egypt," Abou Youssef said. "We're trying to increase the number of fans and, of

course, the number of achievements."

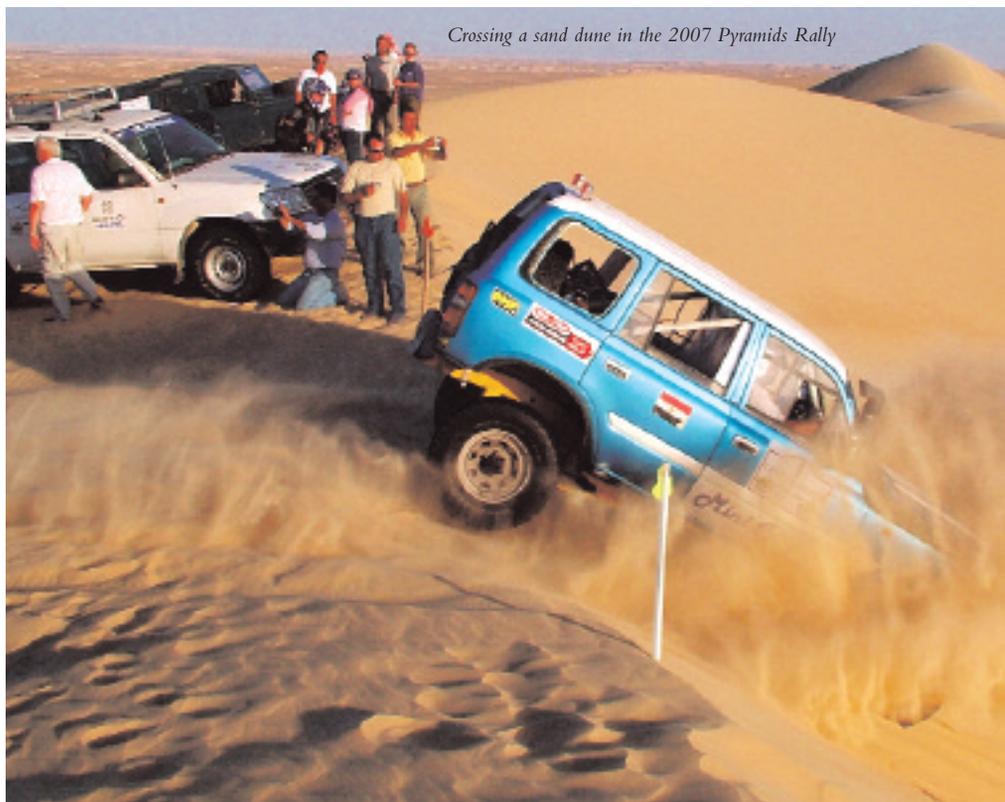
In the end, Abou Youssef attributes his love of the unknown to a spirit of exploration. "It is really all about exploration, which is also what I enjoyed about AUC," he said. "I was an engineering major, but I was encouraged to open my eyes to many different fields. I took theater, psychology and astrophysics. The liberal arts education at AUC really does embody a spirit of exploration."

In the coming years, Abou Youssef plans to build the rally community in Egypt and bring his own talents to an international stage. He said that while he loves winning, racing has always felt natural to him. "Out in the dunes, I'm at home," he explained. "I love knowing that I can race over these areas and leave a track, and if I came back the next day, it would be as if no one had been there for 1,000 years. It's such a beautiful, powerful place, and I'm fortunate to be there." □

*By Peter Wieben*



*Abou Youssef at the finish line of the 2005 Pharaohs Rally, his first rally ever*



*Crossing a sand dune in the 2007 Pyramids Rally*

# Class Notes

'90

**Osama El Nimer** would like to hear from his friends and classmates at [elnimer67@hotmail.com](mailto:elnimer67@hotmail.com)

'91

**Amira Kazem** (MA '95) received her doctorate in business administration from Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands in 2003. For the past 10 years, she has been involved in private-sector development, particularly organizational behavior, entrepreneurship and human capital. She currently serves as a consultant at the World Bank office in Cairo, supervising the skills development project that aims to trigger private sector demand for vocational and technical training.

'92

**Heba Shaaban** recently joined the Dubai School of Government as a translator. The Dubai School of Government was established in 2005 under the patronage of His Highness Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in liaison with Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

**Heba Naguib Nashed** is currently working as the IT manager and executive assistant to the general manager at Raytheon Southeast Asia Systems Company, RAYSEAS-Egypt. She has been married to Engineer Ashraf Ramzy Kamal for 15 years now and is blessed with two daughters, Monika and Karen. She is

in contact with some of her friends from AUC and hopes to reunite with most of her old friends, whom she misses a lot.

'93

**Basel El Kasaby** is a partner in a law firm in Omaha, specializing in immigration law.

'94

**Tamer Gaber** is married to Lobna Lasheen '97, '02. They have jointly established the Egyptian Company for Touristic Development, Solaris.

'95

**Amin Khayyal** has worked for 11 years in commercial roles with the Dow Chemical Company in Egypt, Germany and the United Arab Emirates. He joined DuPont company in Dubai in February 2008. Khayyal is married and has a baby boy, Noah (1).

**Yomna Kamel** received the 2008 Harvard Science Writers and Journalists Fellowship. She is one of three journalists selected from the Arab world by the Dubai Harvard Foundation for Medical Research. Kamel is also a freelance journalist and a mass communication faculty member at the Higher Colleges of Technology in Dubai. She is married to Walid El Tigi '93 and is a mother of two girls, Farida and Nabila.

'96

**Dahlia Sabbour** has been working in journalism and education since graduation. In 2000, she traveled to

the United States and studied educational theater at New York University. After returning to Cairo in 2002, she worked as a tutor for students with learning difficulties. Most recently, she started a private business called Creative Training, which uses theater workshops to bring people together and address important issues using creative drama techniques. She can be reached at [dsabbour@aucegypt.edu](mailto:dsabbour@aucegypt.edu).

'98

**Nermeen Abdel Hamid** is married and has a son named Seifullah.

'99

**Ahmed Shehata** was promoted to sales consulting manager for the retail, private and manufacturing sector, Oracle Systems Ltd., Saudi Arabia. After graduation, he worked with Raya Holding for three years as an Oracle applications consultant.

**Hamed Shamma** (MBA '02) joined AUC in September 2007 as assistant professor of marketing. He worked as a corporate reporting and performance executive at Mobinil before earning his doctorate in marketing from George Washington University in August 2007.

'00

**Mohamed Khamis** is a senior business analyst at LINKdotNET. He is married to Reham, a teaching assistant in clinical toxicology.

**'01**

**Tamer Shaheen** serves as third secretary at the Egyptian Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. He worked in the banking and marketing fields, as well as with the United Nations and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, before joining the diplomatic corps. Shaheen has participated in several international conferences and was Egypt's point of contact to the Regional Disaster Management Center of Excellence. He is currently the rapporteur for the United Nations Environment Programme subcommittee.

**'03**

**Lamees El Baghdady** (MA '06) is a mass communication lecturer and head of the advertising and public relations major at Modern Sciences and Arts University. She is the author of several academic publications, including a book titled *Virtual Societies*. She has been nominated to represent Egypt with her research project titled, "Playing at Cyberspace: Perspectives on Egyptian Children's Digital Socialization" at the Fifth World Summit on Media and Children. El Baghdady is also a candidate at Annenberg/Oxford Summer Institute dealing with Internet governance studies, which is the topic of her doctoral dissertation.

**'04**

**Mohamed Mahmoud** received an award from the American University in Dubai for the highest academic standing in the MBA program. He is

currently working with Unilever Dubai in the finance department, partnering with the supply chain of Unilever Arabia.

### ***Special Programs***

**Debra Yerike** (YAB '78) enjoyed her education at AUC, which was enhanced by the diversity of people, places and events. She believes that each moment was "delicious" and an educational experience.

**Eduardo Lopez-Reyes** (ALU '06) cherishes the time and friends he made at AUC and hopes to be able to return to the university one day. His fiancée is currently studying Arabic. He is working on his doctorate in politics at Durham University in England, but is conducting his research in the United States. He lives in New Hampshire in the United States and visits England once every three months.

### ***In Memoriam***

Orhan Sadik-Khan '51 died in 2007.

Jaweed Al Ghussein '53 died in July 2008 in London.

Varoujan Kazandjian '53 died in July 2008 in Cairo.

Cecile Iskander El Gamal '77 died in September 2008.

Mohamed El Diwani '80 died in July 2008 in Dubai.

## *Weddings*



*Peter Iskander '04 married Rita Makram on May 22, 2008 at St. Mark Church in Heliopolis. A dancing dinner party followed at Katameya Heights Club*



*Fadlalla Abowafia '03 married Dalia Natout '04 in April 2008. The wedding took place at the Four Seasons Nile Plaza Hotel in Cairo*

## Between Old and New

**A**UC has a special place in my heart. I always say I am one of AUC's daughters. I have been visiting the university since I was very young. My father used to work as a senior agriculture engineer, and he knows every tree planted in the two Main Campus gardens. He showed me where I can find the lemon, mandarin and mango trees. The lemon tree is located on the right hand side of the stairs leading to the cafeteria on the Main Campus. Each year, I wait for its flowers to bloom and have developed a habit of picking a lemon every morning before heading to my office. I am really going to miss the beauty of this campus.

As for me, I witnessed many things that most people do not know about. I remember the student dormitory, the tennis court and the old gym when they were located in the Old Falaki building. I remember the Wallace Theater, the construction of the Jameel center, and the clinic when it was located on the first floor of the Social Science Building.

In 1992, I joined AUC as an undergraduate student majoring in journalism and mass communication, and I can't forget those wonderful four years. I used to spend many hours reading old newspapers in the microform unit in the Main Library, or surfing the old editions of *Description de L'Egypte* in the rare books library. The gorgeous villa that houses the rare books library is one of the reasons I decided to minor in Islamic art and architecture. I enjoyed every minute I spent studying the subject, thanks to the professors, the villa and AUC's special collection.

I spent three more wonderful years studying for my master's in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (TAFL). Attending classes in the Administration Building where the TAFL program is located is one of my favorite memories. I fell in love with the building, which is like a maze to me. It is unique with its narrow and hidden hallways that can unexpectedly take you to another part of the building.

After that, I was fortunate to work at the university at the

vice provost's office, situated in the same magnificent Administration Building. I was lucky to have my office located in what used to be the office balcony of Prince Ahmed Fouad, who later became the king of Egypt, where he used to drink his morning coffee in 1908. At the time, he was president of the board of the Egyptian University, which later became Cairo University, and this building used to be a palace directly facing the Nile. I enjoyed my two tall wooden Arabesque windows: one facing the beautiful Science Building garden and the other facing Tahrir Square.

I will never forget the wonderful memories I had in the downtown campus. Those memories are carved in my heart.

Today, as AUC has moved to New Cairo, I feel I am engraving new memories. When I first stepped into the campus, I was truly impressed. Everything about it is fabulous, from the architecture and the size of the project to the tremendous research that has gone into building every inch of it. Settling into my office at the Administration Building, I was ecstatic to know that the trees growing underneath my window are actually fruit trees that will bear mangoes, lemon and oranges. In a way, I felt that I am reliving my downtown memories.

The move is truly a turning point in the history of the university. Operating two campuses — one downtown and one in New Cairo — is a huge and extraordinary feat, but AUC has always made us proud and I believe it will continue to do so. As the slogan goes, AUC is "Making History Again." I feel happy to witness and be a part of the making of this history.

*Dalia Saad '96, '00 is the academic publications coordinator at the vice provost's office.*



*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](mailto:auctoday@aucegypt.edu) and may be edited for length and clarity.*