



AUC's New Cairo Campus inauguration was marked by a weeklong program of events Page 16

FEATURES

- 8 **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**
In the midst of global economic turmoil, the 2009 graduating class — the first after AUC's historic move — expresses determination and optimism.
- 10 **LEADING THE WAY**
Five students from the Leadership for Education and Development program earned their bachelor's degrees at the midyear commencement.
- 14 **WISHING WOMEN WEL**
With funding from Goldman Sachs Inc., AUC and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania have partnered to teach business management skills to female entrepreneurs.
- 16 **A GRAND OPENING**
The inauguration of the New Cairo Campus marks a new milestone in the history of the university.
- 24 **AUC'S FOUNDING**
Charles Watson, AUC's founder and first president for 29 years, built the university's foundation for success.
- 26 **THEN AND NOW: AUC THROUGH THE LENS**
Snapshots of student life at AUC in the past and present.
- 30 **CHITCHAT**
Alumni share memories of their university days.
- 32 **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**
AUC has attracted a number of prominent speakers and public figures since its founding.
- 38 **DID YOU KNOW?**
A flashback through AUC history reveals what the university was like in its early years.

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 **AUSCENES**
Al Alfi named vice chairman of the board, regional and global partnerships established, Queen Rania Al-Abdullah '91 receives first YouTube visionary award
- 7 **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**
Gehad Moawad is the recipient of the Suzanne Mubarak Public School Scholarship
- ALUMNI PROFILES**
- 31 Riri Stark '41 is the same age as AUC
- 36 The late Eva Habib '31 was the first female student to enroll at AUC
- 45 Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy '74 is Egypt's ambassador to Germany
- 47 Mervat Hatem '71, '74 is former president of the Middle East Studies Association
- 46 **CLASS NOTES**
Class updates, weddings and deaths
- 48 **AKHER KALAM**
Adel El-Labban '77, '80 reaffirms AUC's mission of service to Egypt

Editor's Notes

An Eye on History

Welcome to *AUCToday's* special issue on the university's 90th anniversary. A thicker issue with many visuals, it gives you an inside look on AUC's history.

Working on this issue was particularly gratifying. Digging into the university archives, we came across interesting stories and colorful tidbits that we present to you: the way AUC came into being (page 24), the first female student who entered the university (page 36), the pattern of student life in the early days (page 38), an alumna who is the same age as AUC (page 31), distinguished visitors who came to the university over the years (page 32) and snapshots of AUC in its early years and today (page 26). As is evident from these pieces, AUC students and faculty members in the early years were a small and closely-knit group who developed a special bond. Similar to today, AUC students were always in the lead. They had a strong sense of service to their country and pioneered a number of initiatives in that respect.

Many thanks goes to staff at the Rare Books and Special Collections Library, particularly Stephen Urgola and Terra Kridler, for their constant and invaluable support in helping us dig for important facts and find relevant pictures. In addition, AUC's extraordinary history book, *The American University in Cairo: 1919 - 1987*, by Lawrence R. Murphy was a huge asset in preparing for this anniversary issue.

This edition is also special because it coincides with the official inauguration of the New Cairo Campus (See "A Grand Opening," page 16). Although the campus has been operational since September 2008, the official opening was held this February. A long-awaited dream for AUC, the inauguration of the campus represents a new chapter in the history of the university. The event was presided over by Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak '77, '82 and for a week, the university welcomed a number of distinguished speakers and public figures to take part in academic panels discussing contemporary topics of interest to Egypt and the region. Cultural and art exhibitions as well as musical concerts were also held.

We hope you enjoy your read as you learn about your alma mater from the day it was founded up to its 90th birthday.



Dalia Al Nimr

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Al Alfi Named Vice Chairman of Board of Trustees

Moataz Al Alfi is the first Egyptian to serve as vice chairman of AUC's Board of Trustees. Al Alfi, who has been a member of the board since 1997, was appointed to that position earlier this year.

A prominent philanthropist and business leader, Al Alfi is chief executive officer of EK Holding, the largest private equity and venture capital company in Egypt. The company focuses on strategic sectors, such as utilities and infrastructure, petrochemicals, oil exploration and production, and gas distribution. He is also the chairman of Tri-Ocean Energy, Heinz Egypt and Americana Group - Egypt.

According to B. Boyd Hight, chairman of the board, AUC has been fortunate to have Al Alfi serve as a leader for the university as a member of its board, contributing his time and expertise to shaping its future. "Having an individual with the talents and skills of Mr. Al Alfi ensures that the university is well positioned to continue to be a leader in higher education in Egypt and the region," said Hight.

Al Alfi is a member of several nonprofit non-governmental organizations that serve the development of human resources, education and the environment. He is the founder and vice chairman of the Future Generation Foundation and a board member of the Social Fund for Development. He was also selected by President Hosni Mubarak to the Egypt-U.S. President's Council to serve as chair of the Human Resources Development Committee between 1996 and 2004.



AUC Establishes Regional and Global Partnerships

The Gates Foundation has awarded a grant to partner AUC, the World Health Organization and U.S.-based Brandeis University to develop a new health policy and economics program. The multidisciplinary program will create a master's in health policy and economics — the first of its kind in the Middle East — as well as a regional resource center for applied health policy research.

The program will train health policy experts and economists who understand the special challenges of the region and have the knowledge and skills to respond. It will give particular emphasis to the region's low and middle-income Arab countries, including Egypt, but will serve the entire region.

AUC has also partnered with Harvard Business School to teach courses on economic development to graduate and executive students in Cairo.

"The courses address competitiveness and economic

development from a bottom-up, microeconomic perspective that is currently missing in most traditional development courses," said Tarek Selim, associate professor of economics. "The ultimate goal is for the students taking the course to benefit from the knowledge they are taught and make a meaningful impact on the economic competitiveness and prosperity of their countries."

The partnership is a result of AUC's affiliation with Harvard's International Competitiveness Program, a network of teaching and research collaborations across the globe. The graduate and executive-level program, Microeconomics of Competitiveness, examines both advanced and developing economies and addresses competitiveness at multiple levels: nations and sub-national units, such as states or provinces, as well as particular clusters and neighboring countries. Courses are co-taught at AUC and Harvard using online resources and videoconferencing.

Greenstock Delivers First Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture on New Cairo Campus

Jeremy Greenstock, former British ambassador to the United Nations and special envoy for Iraq from 2003 to 2004, argued that the U.S.-led war on Iraq illustrates the importance of justice, legitimacy and the interests of the people in solving the issues of Iran, Afghanistan and Palestine.

“I sometimes wonder if lessons are ever learned by anyone other than academics or theorists,” he said. “Are we prepared yet in Afghanistan to put the people first or to understand the limited shelf life of a foreign presence? Will the decision makers who matter understand that violence is not the answer in or for Iran? ... Above all perhaps, for this region, a future still has to be shaped out of the violence in Palestine. In my view, the recent attack on Gaza has achieved nothing for the longer term.”

Greenstock spoke on campus as part of the Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture series, dedicated to the UN administrator who died in the August 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Iraq. The Younes family and friends established a memorial fund at AUC that — in addition to the annual lecture — includes an MUN/MAL conference room on the university campus and an award for public and humanitarian service for graduating seniors. Greenstock’s lecture, titled “Lessons from Iraq,” coincided with the official inauguration of the New Cairo Campus and the Nadia Younes Conference Room.

Greenstock highlighted several important lessons learned from the experience in Iraq. These are the need for legitimacy, clarity of mission and unity of command; the importance of consolidating sufficient resources; understanding the limits of military power; organizing for a strong political leadership to take over after the war; and dealing effectively with security issues. “The post-invasion vacuum [in Iraq] was lethal,” he said. “It is the natural rule for democracy, anywhere, that the people have to have order before they have choice. Civil law and order, border security, guarding of huge ammunition dumps, firm local administration — none of these things were thought about or planned for in the early days of the CPA [Coalition Provisional Authority].”

With the planned withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq by mid 2010, Greenstock noted that Middle Eastern countries need to play an active role in helping war-torn Iraq stand on its feet. “If the American presence has by then run out of shelf life, both in Iraq and the United States, then the region must take up responsibility for helping Iraq through to the next stage of stabilization, and I hope that Egypt — always conscious of its leadership role in the Middle East — will be able to help bring that concept forward,” he said.



Academic Programs Receive International Recognition

AUC’s construction and mechanical engineering programs passed a rigorous international reaccreditation evaluation and will receive full-term accreditation in September 2009, when their current accreditation period expires. The evaluation team from ABET, one of the leading accreditation organizations worldwide, reported that there were no deficiencies, weaknesses or concerns. “The ABET board makes its formal decision on accreditation/reaccreditation in July of each year,” said Medhat Haroun, dean of the sciences and engineering school. “Normally, the time from the visit up to the following June is left for universities to remedy any noted deficiencies and weaknesses, and to address any concerns, in an attempt to comply with ABET accreditation criteria. We do not have to do any of that.”

In addition, the management department was named the best business program in Egypt and among the top three in Africa at the 2008 Eduniversal World Convention. It received the five Palmes award for its role as a business school with major international influence. The rankings and award were decided by 1,000 business school deans from around the world, as well as a representative from the Academic Council of the United Nations.

Queen Rania Wins YouTube Award



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah '91 recently won YouTube's first ever Visionary Award. Presented as part of the official launch of YouTube Live, the award celebrates active users of YouTube who aim to use the service as an open platform for constructive dialogue to highlight social and cultural issues, working for positive change in their communities and around the world. Her YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/queenrania, which is dedicated to breaking down stereotypes about the Arab and Muslim worlds and bridging the

East-West divide, has more than 15,000 subscribers and has been viewed more than half a million times since its launch in March 2008.

"YouTube encourages us to be active participants in a global conversation, making our voices heard, giving us the power to broadcast ourselves, increasing knowledge of each other, breaking down the barriers between us clip by clip," said Queen Rania in an official statement.

Chad Hurley, co-founder of the popular Internet video-sharing Web site, honored her efforts with the award during a 90-minute live event on the site. "Queen Rania sets the standard for breaking down stereotypes, and her YouTube videos are nothing short of inspirational," said Hurley. "It is both a pleasure and an honor to present her with this much-deserved tribute."

Former Sociology Professor Passes Away

Mark C. Kennedy, professor emeritus of sociology, died of heart failure in December 2008 at his home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. An AUC professor for 21 years, Kennedy was an anchor of the sociology unit and served as department chair for many years.

After witnessing combat during World War II, Kennedy attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he received a bachelor's in 1951 and

a master's in 1953. After working in the Texas oil fields, he completed his doctorate at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He taught there and at the University of Vermont before joining AUC in 1969. He was instrumental in the establishment of the university's flagship journal in the social sciences, *Cairo Papers in Social Science* in 1977, of which he was the founding editor.

El-Khazindar Center Documents Business Case Studies

El-Khazindar Business Research and Case Center was recently established at AUC to develop and publish case studies on companies operating in the Middle East and North Africa.

Founded by Hisham El-Khazindar '96, Ahmed Tolba '97, '01, assistant professor of marketing, and Eskandar Tooma '98, associate professor of finance, the center's vision is to become the leading case development center in the Middle East and the primary link between academic research and practical applications. "The aim is to provide students in the region with top-quality, relevant and up-to-date business cases that improve their learning experience and enrich their applied knowledge," explained Tolba.

The center aims to apply classroom concepts and theories to the local market of each developing country. As the center's activities grow, it will host conferences as a venue to present business cases and discuss current management issues in the region. It will also hold seminars to train faculty members in case development and usage in the classroom. In addition, there will be workshops for students to familiarize them with case analysis and networking opportunities with leading practitioners.

AUC Expands Regional Scholarship Opportunities

Three students from Palestine and two students from Yemen have been awarded full scholarships at AUC as part of the newly launched Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program.

Initiated and co-funded by the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative, the program expands AUC's scholarship offerings in the region, providing opportunities to deserving students who excel academically and display the potential to become future leaders in the region.

A total of 16 students over three years will be selected from the Middle East and North Africa, based on their academic excellence, leadership potential and proven track record in community service and volunteer work.

In addition to their academic studies at AUC, students in the program will develop their leadership skills and become involved in civic engagement and volunteer work with the goal of becoming community, business and national leaders of the future.

AUC currently provides scholarships to students in the region through several other scholarship funds, including the Palestinian Scholarship Fund awarded to undergraduate Palestinian students from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and a program named after AUC alum Queen Rania Al-Abdullah '91, which provides scholarships to female students from Jordan.

For more information on how to support scholarships at AUC, visit www.aucegypt.edu/giving/supportstudy.

Largest Employment Fair Held at New Cairo Campus

AUC's 44th employment fair was the first one held at the New Cairo Campus, and fittingly, the largest in the history of the university. Comprised of 150 companies offering more than 1,700 professional positions, the fair offered the largest variety of career fields in its history, running the gamut from accounting and biotechnology to insurance, electronics and telecommunication. These opportunities attracted a turnout of more than 1,800 senior students and alumni.

Maha Fakhry, director of recruitment services at the Career Advising and Placement Services office, noted that the spacious design of the New Cairo Campus helped make the fair more organized. "The layout was very smooth, and the floor plan was easier to follow and more convenient in terms of distribution due to the availability of space," she said. "Everything was well coordinated and organized, from pre-registration to organization, arrangement, layout, opening reception and the campus tours."

Employers were also impressed with the size of the fair. "This year, the fair was much bigger in terms of the number of participating companies, applicants and venue preparation," said Ihab Rizk from Citadel Capital, which has been participating in AUC's employment fairs since 2005. "We believe that with this fair held at the new campus — being the first interaction between the AUC alumni community and the new campus — it made history, and we wanted to be part of that."

Emphasizing why his company keeps returning to hire AUC graduates year after year, Rizk noted, "We recruit from AUC simply because it remains the first-class institution in its league in Egypt, if not the entire Middle East."

Inspired to Achieve

An avid reader of Arabic poetry, as well as stories by Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz and prominent writers such as Youssef Idris and Tawfik El Hakim, Gehad Moawad is a member of AUC's Arabic Literature Club. She is also a delegate at the student-run Model United Nations and World Economic Forum, as well as assistant to an Arabic studies professor. She won first place in the Student Union's Real Life program for her Bank Industry project, participated in a dialoguing initiative with international students and worked as a fundraiser with Volunteers in Action student club. A recipient of the Suzanne Mubarak Public School Scholarship, Moawad is making the best of her time at AUC.

"The variety of activities I'm in have helped develop my communication, presentation and marketing skills, but most importantly, they taught me how to express myself freely," she said.

Ranking third across Egypt in the *thanawiya amma* exams, Moawad found doors open for her at many universities, some offering full tuition scholarships. However, her choice to come to AUC was inspired by her dream to become an ambassador one day. "I am using the opportunity of being here at the university to

broaden my knowledge in order to successfully represent my country abroad," said the 19-year-old, speaking with passion about her love of Egypt. "Even if I do not become an ambassador, as long as I'm serving my country with the knowledge and skills that I acquired, then I'm satisfied."

Receiving the Suzanne Mubarak scholarship was of special significance for Moawad. "I have always looked up to Mrs. Mubarak as a defender of women's rights, so getting a scholarship in her name is very special to me," she said.

Throughout her two years at the university, Moawad has come to appreciate the American system of education. "It's very different from what I'm used to; I like its flexibility," she explained. "We are encouraged to create our own schedules, select electives that we like and choose our own professors. It makes me feel free and independent."

Moawad added that the intercultural diversity at AUC is also a major advantage. "I got to meet different people and am constantly exposed to

various ways of thinking. I feel I have grown intellectually."

The Suzanne Mubarak Public School Scholarship Fund is awarded to the most talented female students from Egypt's public schools. AUC is the first university in Egypt to offer the Public School Scholarship Fund (PSSF), granting full scholarships each year to 15 of Egypt's most outstanding public school students. Since the program's establishment in 1990, 200 students have graduated under PSSF, more than 70 percent with high or highest honors and some have



Almoad El-Nimr

received the President's Cup.

For more information on how you can contribute to the fund, call +2.02.2615.2491 or e-mail develop@aucegypt.edu or karimaam@aucegypt.edu.

By Dalia Al Nimr



Zeinab Amin, associate professor of mathematics and actuarial science, received the Excellence in Teaching Award



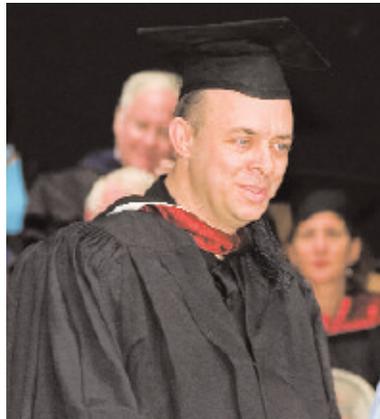
Rima Khalaf, CEO of the Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, was the keynote speaker at the undergraduate commencement



Farida Mortada receiving the Parents Association Award



Mary Morcos with the President's Cup



Graham Harman, associate professor of philosophy, received the Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award



Mortada receiving the Ahmed H. Zewail Prize for Excellence in the Sciences and Humanities



Amani Elshimi, senior lecturer of rhetoric and composition, received the Excellence in Core Curriculum Teaching Award



Stancel Campbell, chair of the performing and visual arts department and graduate class representative

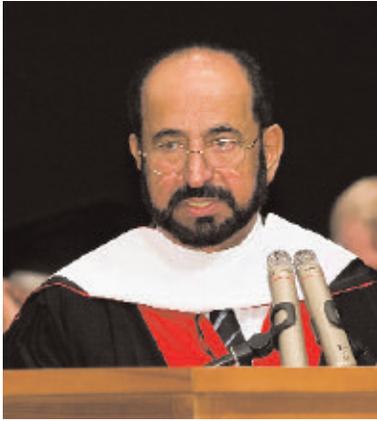
Great Expectations

Graduates of the first commencement after AUC's move have high hopes for the future

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

In her keynote speech at the undergraduate commencement, Rima Khalaf, chief executive officer of the Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, stressed the importance of using the opportunities provided by an AUC education for substantive progress throughout the world, especially during the present economic crisis. "You may be graduating during one of the most severe economic recessions of modern times. ... Some of you may find it more difficult to obtain the job or the income they desire. The firm you have planned to join may be drawing down the shutters. Don't be discouraged. Even in the most austere of circumstances, many opportunities will still come your way. Your education, training and skills will shield you in hard times and propel you in more promising ones."

Echoing the same sentiment, class representative and LEAD student Kareem Omara, economics major, urged his fellow



Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, ruler of Sharjah, was the keynote speaker at the graduate commencement

graduates to take steps toward solving some of the problems facing the world today. “At this defining moment, with all the global challenges that we face, we need to be the agents of change,” he said. “We need to work for peace, we need to work for equality, and above all, we need to work for tomorrow.”

At the ceremony, 332 undergraduate students received their degrees. Among the undergraduates recognized were Mary Morcos, biology major, recipient of the President’s Cup; Kismet El Hussein, economics major, who received the Nadia Younes Award for Humanitarian and Public Service; Farida Mortada, economics major, recipient of the Parents Association Award and the Ahmed H. Zewail Prize for Excellence in the Sciences and Humanities; and Zeina Tawakol, journalism and mass communication major, who received the Ahmed El Mehallawi Family Award for her strong academic achievement and contribution to extracurricular activities.



Undergraduate class representative Kareem Omara



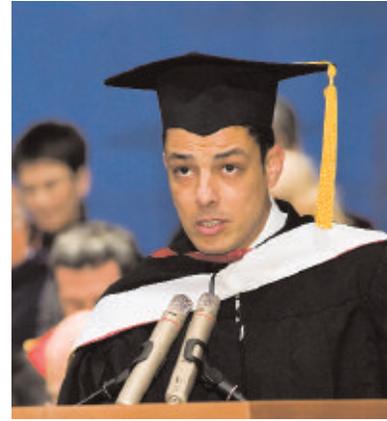
Provost Lisa Anderson

In addition, faculty members were also recognized. Graham Harman, associate professor of philosophy, received the Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors award; Zeinab Amin, associate professor of mathematics and actuarial science, received the Excellence in Teaching Award; and Amani Elshimi, senior lecturer at the rhetoric and composition department and director of community-based service learning at the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, received the Excellence in Core Curriculum Teaching Award.

At the graduate commencement, 140 students were awarded master’s degrees. His Highness Sheikh Dr.



Zeina Tawakol, recipient of the Ahmed El Mehallawi Family Award



Graduate class representative Ayman Hegazy



Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, ruler of Sharjah, delivered the keynote address,

urging students to put the knowledge they had gained to good use. “It is your responsibility to use your new in-depth knowledge and enhanced skills to advance not only yourselves, but also the communities and the societies around you,” he said.

Addressing his fellow graduates, Stencil Campbell, chair of AUC’s performing and visual arts department and recipient of a master’s in political science, said, “... Let us all shine brightly in the skies of Egypt and the world and beam out: We are AUC.”

By Jeffrey Bellis

LEADING THE WAY

By Peter Wieben and Dalia Al Nimr
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

At the 2009 midyear commencement ceremony, the first class of students from the Leadership for Education and Development (LEAD) program earned their degrees. The program, established in 2004 and funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, awards distinguished public school students in Egypt a full undergraduate scholarship to study at AUC.

Through LEAD, one male and one female from each of Egypt's 27 governorates have been admitted to the university each year for four consecutive years. The aim is to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attitude to become active players in Egypt's development.



Five years since the inception of the LEAD program, the first batch of graduates receive their degrees

Opening New Horizons

I first learned about the LEAD program from AUC's newspaper advertisement five years ago. I remember sitting with my family on a Friday reading the newspaper, when my mother asked me to bring Tuesday's paper. I thought it was an odd request. My mother handed the paper to my father, who began to smile. He got really excited. I myself didn't believe what was in the paper; LEAD was a heavenly package for me because AUC had been my dream since I was a little kid. I applied, and a few days later, the admissions staff called me at home to follow up on my application.

For the LEAD program, we needed to show that we had a talent or an activity outside of school. I was involved in my church's music program and choir, but I didn't include this in my application because I didn't think the university would be interested to know about it. Until that time, I was still focused on getting high grades on exams. I was surprised to find that my admissions counselor wanted to hear more. Now, I'm in the AUC Chamber Choir. I'm a bit of a music freak.

When I entered AUC, I was afraid in the beginning. I have a powerful support system of friends and family back home, and it was quite hard for me to leave all that and start making new friends with people who are different from me. I was afraid of not being able to fit into this whole thing. But everything went fine. I not only developed a close group of friends, but was able to travel abroad and study at Harvard for a summer program. I gradually came to appreciate people's differences. Of course, no one can develop a perfection of tolerance, but I think I have changed a great deal. I have found that the more people I meet, the more I'm exposed to, the more choices and experiences I am faced with, the more mature I become.

My dream is to be a professor. The value of good professors is not all in what they teach; it is about who they really are. It is also in the relationships they form with you and what they add to you as a person. I would like to be one of those influential people. — *Mary Hisham, business administration graduate (with high honors); Minya governorate*



Class Representative

Without LEAD, I would not have come to the university. In my family, there is no history of people going to AUC, and I don't think they would have appreciated the liberal arts education.

I learned a lot of things during my university years, most importantly to be open minded. I always used to see things from my side, but when I joined the Student Union and became student representative to the University Senate, I realized that there is no right or wrong answer. The only way to be a good leader is to listen and help people understand one another.

I distinctly remember the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibility. It was one of my main projects and took more than a year to complete. I spent a lot of time discussing and debating with faculty senators and amending articles. I had to learn how to absorb other people's points of view and then condense them into something useful that could be agreed upon. When you do that sort of work, you stop looking for absolutes.

Being a LEAD student was very special to me. The best part was touring all of Egypt's governorates. I realized I was very ignorant about my own country. Living in Cairo, you tend to think that Egypt is Cairo, Alexandria and Sharm El

Sheikh. Outside of these places though, it is a totally different country. When we went touring, I understood that there were real problems that needed solutions. We met some good governors and others who were not so good, and I've been given the opportunity to see what works and what doesn't work in those positions. I've been able to make a mental list of what to strive for and what to avoid should I find myself in their shoes one day.

I want to climb the ladder. Twenty years on, I hope to be making use of

what I've learned here at AUC to help my country, maybe in the context of a political career. — *Kareem Omara, economics graduate and class representative at the commencement ceremony; Giza governorate*



Dedication to Serve

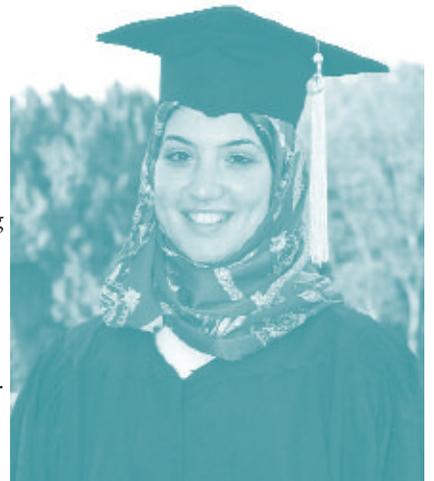
LEAD showed us the way. The program gives you everything: the education, training and other skills you need besides your academic studies. We went to all the governorates, and NGOs gave us presentations on different ways to help people aside from just money.

I was a member of the Student Union for two years, but I really enjoyed community service work. I joined as many clubs as I could, and each one left its own impact on me.

With Hand in Hand, I realized that one visit to the elderly makes a big difference to them. With Volunteers in Action, it was very fulfilling making *tamween* packages for the poor during Ramadan. I helped set up a group wedding for orphans. We arranged for celebrities to come and sing at the wedding and helped the brides furnish their apartments. In the summer, I worked with the Social Fund for

Development helping poor women set up small enterprises, such as kiosks and knitting workshops.

Eventually, I want to open my own business, with a focus on development and social responsibility. I really wish to create a pioneering project like Al Sawy Cultural Wheel to shed light on the real identity of Egyptians and to open up people's eyes to different types of art. I'm not a leader in a religious or political sense, but I'm confident I have the skills to lead and make the first move. — *Dina Hussein, journalism and mass communication graduate; Giza governorate*



Shattering Stereotypes



Every year at AUC has been an addition of experience. After each year, I would look at myself and see a totally different person. The training and activities made huge contributions to my personality, and I think it is something that will have a lasting impact on me.

I spent most of my life in Port Said, which is a traditional community.

When I came to AUC, it was like stepping into a whole new culture and lifestyle. The Egyptians you meet at the university are not the typical ones you run into on the street. In the dorms, I interacted with many American and study-abroad students. Living with them in the dorms allowed me to become their friend and understand them better. We talked about many things: politics, religion, the war in Iraq and life in general. We also went out together. Some of them are close friends to me now.

The most exciting time was when I went to the State University of New York. I was expecting to be treated like an outsider, but I was surprised to see how diverse and friendly the society is. I saw American, Asian, African and European people. I learned a lot about American culture and was introduced to new concepts, such as fraternities and sororities. I had fun watching sports events with friends like the Super Bowl and the NBA All-Star Game. I also played with snow for the first time. Above all, I learned to depend on myself totally.

I want to work in marketing or advertising. I want to travel around the world and meet other nationalities. I feel I am much more knowledgeable now and can go to any country and adapt without having any problems. — *Ali Darwish, business administration graduate; Port Said governorate*

A Sense of Independence

Before coming to AUC, I was a shy and quiet person. I was always hesitant to say my opinion on things, but now, I am more confident in expressing what I believe in.

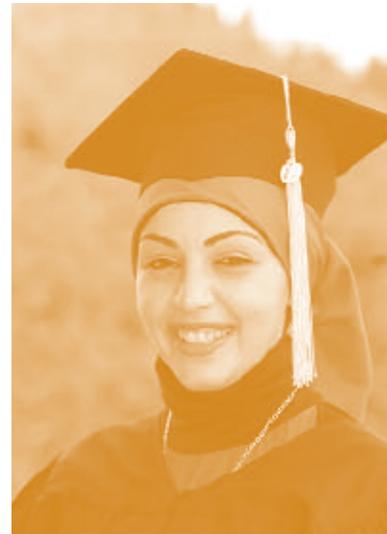
As a member of the Student Union, I helped organize its 40-year campaign celebrations. I was responsible for designing brochures and coming up with the overall theme of the campaign. I enjoyed the group work, which allowed me to get to know more people. I also played an acting role in the annual Talent Show. At first, I worked as an organizer for the show, and then the next year, I decided to act. It was a great experience and gave me courage to face people.

When I went to the States for a semester at Portland State University, I was worried and excited. When you live in another country, you know you have no parents or family to support you; you're all on your own. You have to solve your own problems and take complete responsibility for everything you do. I was approached by many people who asked me about the veil, not in any hostile way, but just out of curiosity. I liked the atmosphere in general and how everybody there was eager to learn, not just focused on getting high grades.

At AUC, I really enjoyed the presentations and group projects. In particular, I loved the advertising class I took with Dr. Sherine Moody. It was a blessing for me because it helped me pinpoint what

I want to do in life: advertising or video editing. When I worked on advertising campaigns or video editing projects for class, I never got bored. I would work for 12 hours and not get tired. I always had new ideas flowing in and more energy to continue.

I plan to move to Cairo for work. I'm not afraid of living on my own or coping with issues that come my way. I know I can do it. — *Sohair Sharaf El-Din, journalism and mass communication graduate; Domyat governorate*



Wishing Women WEL

As part of the 10,000 Women global initiative, AUC is giving underserved women in the region a business education

When the funding for her small business was cut after two years, Howayda El Demerdash hit a dead end. As the owner of Teach Right, a business that provides educational services by training Egyptian teachers, she found herself in a serious predicament. “The market is very challenging, and we are facing so many problems,” said El Demerdash. “There are no regulations that would require schools to train their teachers.”

El Demerdash knew that she needed to improve her skills in order to run a successful service. Today, she is one of 34 women representing the first cohort of graduates of AUC’s Women’s Entrepreneurship and Leadership (WEL) program.

The program is part of the 10,000 Women global initiative funded by Goldman Sachs Inc. and Goldman Sachs Charitable Fund. The initiative provides underserved women, predominantly in developing and emerging markets, with a business and management education by partnering universities in the United States and Europe with business schools in developing countries. The goal is to train 10,000 women over the next five years at a total cost of \$100 million. AUC partnered with the Wharton school of the University of Pennsylvania, one of the top business schools worldwide. The five-

week WEL program is the initiative’s only program in the Middle East, drawing its students from throughout the Arab region including Palestine, Jordan and Iraq.

“The potential for women is amazing,” said Maha ElShinnawy, management professor and director of the WEL program in the Middle East, noting that 18 percent of businesses in Egypt on the micro, small and medium levels are owned by women, but impediments such as financing

“This program wasn’t developed in New York. It was developed as a specialized case for Egypt and the Middle East.”

and education prevent that number from rising. “After conducting a needs assessment that demonstrated to us the educational needs of women in the region, we custom-designed the program to fit those needs, alleviating obstacles that hinder women’s businesses and granting better access to education, financing and a network of mentors.”

Women selected for the WEL program all manage their own businesses, have university degrees and are fluent in English. Participants were selected according to financial need and proven ambition, and those

enrolled in the program are taking part in a rigorous curriculum that includes connectivity to mentor networks. Their training incorporates professional leadership management and entrepreneurial skills, including marketing, accounting, market research, accessing capital, writing a business plan and strategic planning. The five-year goal of the program is to give 500 women from Egypt and the Arab region a business education to allow their businesses to grow and eventually add to their local economies.

“It is a great opportunity for the Wharton school to be doing a project like this in the Arab world,” said Mauro Guillen, faculty director of the program at Wharton.

Meeting with the first cohort of program participants in Egypt, AUC Trustee Dina Powell, managing director and global head of corporate engagement at Goldman Sachs, said she was pleased and humbled. “These are 34 amazing women from throughout the Middle East, and I am particularly proud of them as an Egyptian-American,” she noted, adding that the distinctiveness of the program lies in being tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs in the region. “This program wasn’t developed in New York. It was developed as a specialized case for Egypt and the Middle East.”

Powell explained that the 10,000 Women initiative was established when



Ahmad El-Nemr

Top: WEL participants in class; bottom: with AUC Trustee Dina Powell



Ahmad El-Nemr

“I hope to be able to pass on what I’ve learned to my family and to other women like me — women who want to be successful leaders.”

Goldman Sachs viewed United Nations reports that saw a social and economic multiplier effect on economies and communities with greater female labor-force participation. The initiative, launched in March 2008, invests in a largely untapped yet significant resource — the exponential power of women as entrepreneurs and managers.

For participants like El Demerdash, taking part in the program is exciting, albeit a little daunting. “The classes have been very good so far,” she said. “There are so many new concepts; I’m not sure I’ll be able to do everything I’ve learned in those five weeks.”

To Rana Habash, a Palestinian entrepreneur with an environmental consultation business, participating in the program represents a professional turning point. For more than 10 years, she has done consulting work for various industrial firms and international agencies including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. “I joined this program to learn accounting, managerial skills, how to market my business, and putting

strategies and plans into action in the short and long term,” she said. “The program is providing a sustainable service in that there is a mentoring period after the courses end. ... Thanks to everyone who shared to make this program see the light, and for us — Palestinian women — it gave us a great opportunity at this critical time of our lives.”

Echoing the same sentiment, Hend Zayed, a jewelry designer from Egypt, noted how WEL has helped her develop a new holistic attitude at work. “I discovered I don’t have to do and supervise everything on my own,” she said. “From the very first week, I learned how to reconstruct my personality and way of thinking. ... I hope to be able to pass on what I’ve learned to my family and to other women like me — women who want to be successful leaders.”

Classes for the second and third cohorts will take place in May and June 2009, respectively. For more information, visit www1.aucegypt.edu/welprogram or e-mail welapply@aucegypt.edu.

By Jeffrey Bellis



A Grand Opening



The official opening of AUC's New Cairo Campus brought prominent figures from the arts, sciences and public arena

Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak '77, '82 presided over the official inauguration ceremony of the New Cairo Campus. The celebration started with a procession led by the first lady, who toured the campus and met with AUC student representatives. Margaret Scobey, U.S. ambassador to Egypt, delivered a message of congratulations from U.S. President Barack Obama to AUC.

The celebration kicked off a weeklong schedule of events, including cultural and art exhibitions, musical performances and academic panels and lectures that featured distinguished speakers from around the world. These included Nobel laureate and AUC Trustee Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Jeffrey Sachs, professor of health policy, management and sustainable development and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; Alaa Al Aswany, author of *The Yacoubian Building* and *Chicago*; and Youssef Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of finance.

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr, Dana Smillie and Mahmoud Hindy



Far left: AUC President David Arnold presenting Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak '77, '82 with the key to AUC; top left: U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey delivering U.S. President Barack Obama's message of congratulations to the university; right: student representatives meet with the first lady



“Today, as we officially inaugurate AUC’s New Cairo Campus, we are witnessing a dream come true for education — a dream that will have a huge and positive impact on Egypt, the region and the world.”

Egypt’s First Lady Suzanne Mubarak ’77, ’82



Top left: Youssef Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of finance; James Rawley, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme; faculty showcase concert; middle: Allan Goodman, president and chief executive officer of the International Institute of Education; Talaat Abdel Malek, professor of economics at AUC, and Hania El Sholkamy, research assistant professor at AUC's Social Research Center; bottom: 90th anniversary Gala Dinner; right: His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, ruler of Sharjah, inaugurates the Sharjah Art Gallery at AUC's Center for the Arts



Top: Jeffrey Sachs, professor of health policy, management and sustainable development and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; top right: inauguration reception; Alaa Al Aswany author of The Yacoubian Building and Chicago; Kishore Mahbubani dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore; middle: jazz performance by the Charlie Young Quartet; bottom: roundtable on New Cairo Campus planning and design; AUC Trustee Mohamed ElBaradei, Nobel Prize winner and director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Nabil Fahmy '74, '77, former ambassador of Egypt to the United States



“The opening of a new campus marks the beginning of a new era for one of the Middle East’s great academic institutions, and a new era for the Egyptian-United States partnership that is symbolized by the history of this university. ... I am honored to affirm the commitment of the American people as your partner and friend in this endeavor.”

U.S. President Barack Obama
Message delivered by U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey

ME IC N UNIVE CITY IN C
THE FUN E



This year marks two important milestones in the history of the university: the inauguration of its New Cairo Campus and the celebration of AUC's 90th anniversary, providing a unique opportunity to look back at the university's major accomplishments and reflect on its rich history.

Photographs from the University Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections Library

AUC's Founding



The dream and vision of the university's first president established the foundation for AUC as it is today

Charles Watson was born and raised in Cairo, leaving for the United States once he reached adulthood to study at the Lawrenceville School and Princeton University. After teaching in different prestigious universities including Princeton, he spent many years in various positions affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church, first as a pastor and later as secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. As a college student, Watson had often dreamed of launching an American university in Cairo, and as part of his work, he made separate trips to Cairo in 1912, 1915 and 1917 to evaluate the Egyptian educational system.

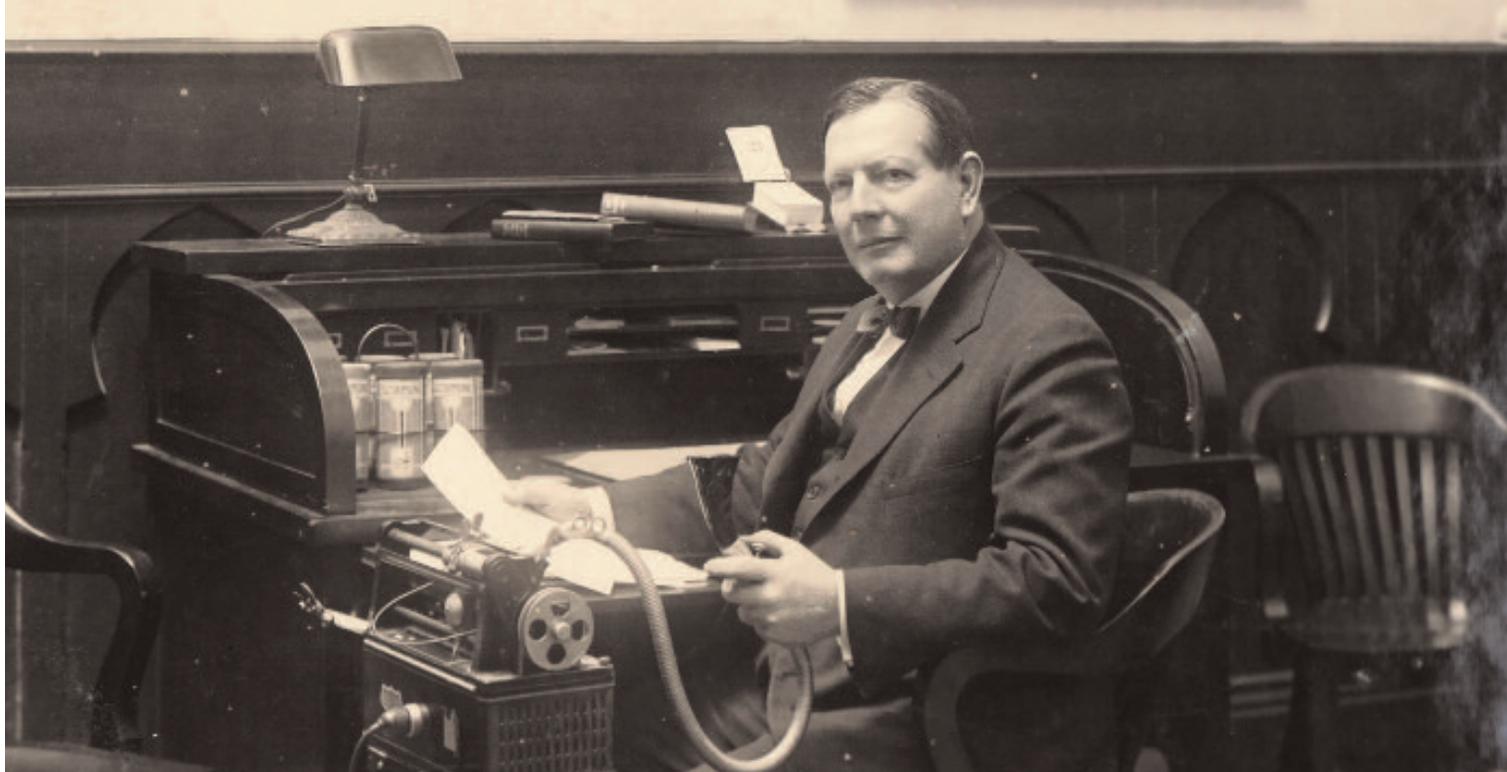
Largely as a result of his efforts and passion for the project, AUC's Board of Trustees was organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1915, and Watson was chosen as president-elect of the proposed university.

The First World War (1915 - 1918) inhibited fundraising efforts and delayed the opening of the university, but to Watson, it provided more of an incentive to fulfill his dream. In 1916, in a letter to the Board of Trustees, he wrote, "I think you will agree with me that in these days, when the energies of Western civilization are so largely absorbed in activities of destruction, we

Americans must count it a God-given privilege, indeed a solemn responsibility too, to devote our energies to such constructive work for the uplift of humanity as is contemplated" in the founding of the university.

After the war ended, the board needed to decide the location of the university campus. The original plan was to build a campus near the pyramids, but this was met with some resistance, as it was too far from the center of Cairo. There was also the possibility of buying a plot of land near Tahrir Square, but the price was far more than could be raised in the time needed to complete the deal. This changed after the British arrested nationalist leader Saad Zaghloul and violent demonstrations broke out, causing land prices to plummet. The price of the land of the Tahrir Square Main Campus dropped to half of its value at \$93,000. On April 18, 1919, Charles Watson officially gained the rights to AUC land.

In the time it took to actually purchase the land, the Board of Trustees was working furiously to complete the legal necessities in Philadelphia, and to do so, they needed to officially name the university. In early correspondence, the college was referred to as Cairo University, but the British leaders in Cairo balked at this because it was too similar to the government-funded Egyptian University (today's Cairo University). The British had plans to expand and modernize the existing Egyptian university, and a competing American college was seen by them as "inappropriate." Eventually, the board settled on The



American University at Cairo. The name was changed in 1959 from “at Cairo” to “in Cairo” because one government official believed it made Cairo seem like a small, unimportant village to the outside world. The Board of Trustees saw no need to create a fuss over such a small issue and agreed to the name change.

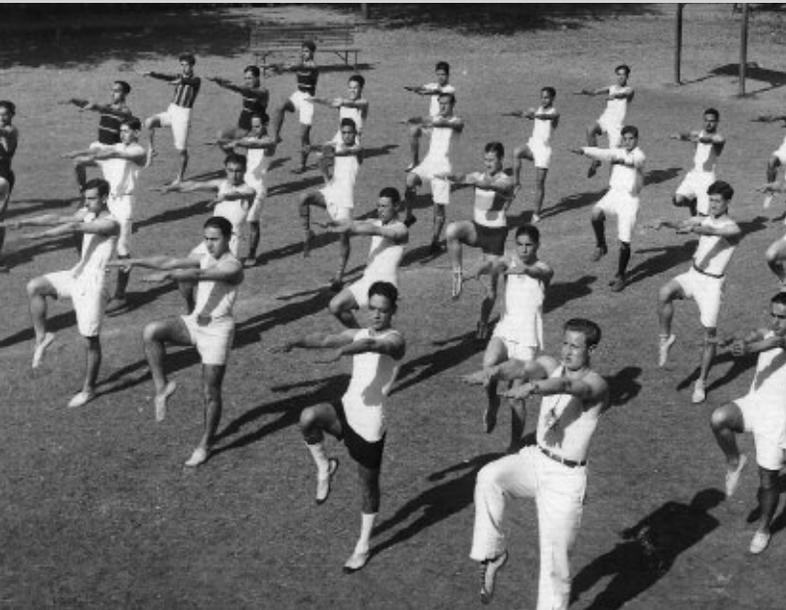
Initially, AUC was created to be a preparatory school and a university. It opened on October 5, 1920, with 142 students in its sole department, the College of Arts and Sciences. There were eight Americans and nine Egyptians making up the first year’s faculty, with Watson overseeing that everything went smoothly. During his tenure, Watson cultivated an association with the Hill family, who gave generous contributions to the university. He promoted freedom of discussion and brought in carefully selected young professors from the United States and Egypt to teach at AUC. His early vision of the university expanded into a desire to express service to Egypt and prepare its youth for their later positions in life; therefore, he established the Division of Extension in 1924 as a means of educating the whole community. He wanted AUC to provide quality education with an emphasis on honesty and integrity of character, and he gave numerous lectures on this topic throughout his many years of service.

“The American University at Cairo has from the beginning laid a unique emphasis on character training in education.”

“The American University at Cairo has from the beginning laid a unique emphasis on character training in education,” said Watson in the commencement address of June 1925. “Our education is directed not merely to the student’s head and intellect, but also to his heart and moral character. ... It becomes a duty, therefore, to see that moral training shall go hand in hand with scholarship in all our processes of education.”

Watson, who was known for his even temperament and dignified character, worked tirelessly in support of AUC as its president from 1916 to 1945. These efforts culminated in his receiving an award from King Farouk in 1944, the High Decoration of the Order of Ismail, one of the highest honors conferred by the Egyptian government at the time. The first American to receive the award, Watson was granted it in recognition of his years of devotion and dedication to the people of Egypt, and for the university becoming a bridge between East and West. As Watson once noted, AUC’s mission is to act as a “bridge of friendliness. At one end of the bridge stands Egypt and other Muslim lands eager for help in solving the new problems of this day. At the other end of the bridge is America. ... The big idea is bringing the two together.”

By Jeffrey Bellis



Sports

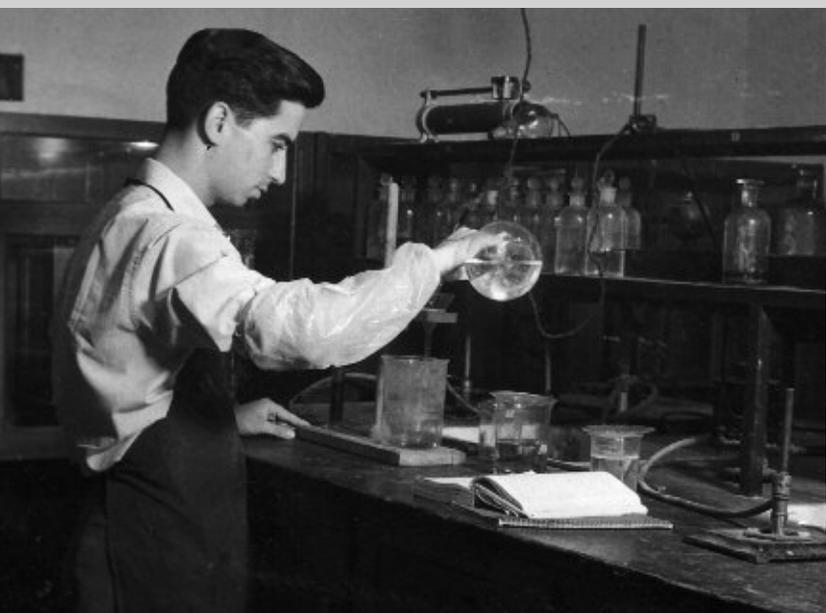


Music



Then and Now: AUC Through the Lens

The university has evolved from
a small community college to a
world-class university



Laboratories



Theater





International Day



Classroom





Library



Hanging out



CHITCHAT

What would you do different if you went back as a student?

- I would have not taken Quantum Mechanics
- Avoid the business administration major
- Spend less time programming at the computer lab and take more electives in the social sciences
- Not get too worried or stressed out from midterms or finals. Now I know there is nothing worth stressing over

Favorite stereotypes about AUCians

- Gucci corner
- Smart and progressive
- We were all Beatles or Hippies
- Doers and achievers in the workplace
- Special local, regional and international people
- The dollar signs people see once they know you are from AUC. Like in cartoons, my eyes are two \$\$, and my mouth might turn into a cash register
- Deterministic and knowledgeable
- Spoiled kids, join AUC to play and are overwhelmingly Westernized, in the bad sense of the word

Most important thing AUC taught you

- Persistence and taking initiative
- Believe in myself
- Think outside the box
- Everything can be proven with the right evidence and arguments
- Success is the result of small efforts carried out day after day
- Depend on external sources for increasing knowledge: our days, the library; today, the Net; tomorrow, who knows?

Shaaban, El Sherbini and Fadel



Alumni reflect on their time at the university



Zahran, Salama and Obeid

Special memories

- Wednesday nights at the *Caravan* preparing the paper to go to print
- Thursday movie nights, platform, between courts, Fountain Area
- Skipping class once to have breakfast at Semiramis, hanging out at the platform steps to check out passers by and having chocolate cake at the JC restaurant
- Very long meetings we carried out to organize charity events and conferences
- In one of my class presentations, I led a team of three people and chose to support a very controversial topic that most people would normally be opposing. I was taking a contrary side on this topic in real life, but my goal was to challenge myself. I worked hard to prepare for this debate, arranged the right arguments and the debate was a massive success for my team. I have been debating skillfully ever since, and have loved doing presentations

Mourad Rouchdy '73,
United Arab Emirates
Mohamed Almahallawi '75,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Karim Ibrahim '77,
United Arab Emirates
Magda Smith '86, Australia
Noha Salama '91, Germany
Mahmoud Obeid '91, Jordan

Heba Shaaban '92, United Arab
Emirates
Islam Sarhan '93, Egypt
Nayera Fadel '94, Egypt
Tarek El Sherbini '97, United
Kingdom
Karim Eissa '99, United Kingdom
Ahmed Zahran '02, Egypt
Raghda El Ebrashi '04, Egypt

Alumna Shares Birthday with AUC

Celebrating nine decades of her life, Riri Stark '41 shares memories of her university days



“I am 90 years old, the same age as AUC.”

Riri Stark '41 (nee Dimoulitsa) celebrated her 90th birthday in the same year that her alma mater looks back on 90 years of its own history.

Riri graduated from the American College in Cairo in 1937. She took intensive Greek lessons and was accepted at the law school of Athens. As she began her second year at the University of Athens, world events began to shape the direction of her life. Upon returning to Alexandria for the holidays, war was declared in Europe. This made it impossible for her to return to her studies in Greece and caused her to rethink her future.

“I was heartbroken to drop law,” she said. “With a heavy heart, I went to Cairo.” In 1939, she enrolled as a junior at AUC, then only a few decades old.

Without concrete plans, she met with Charles Watson, AUC president and dean, who encouraged her to look into a career in teaching. “I met with the very approachable Dr. Watson, who became my professor of comparative religion and a mentor in all our studies,” she said. “He convinced me

that teaching was opening doors and lighting candles. After that, I felt better.”

To add to her challenges, she needed to work to support herself and pay her tuition. She moved in with the family of the former prime minister, Sidky Pasha, to help their young granddaughter and ended up staying with them until her graduation.

When she started classes, Riri was one of only seven students, who developed a close bond together. “There was a little *foul* (beans) restaurant down the corner,” Riri

*“I am 90 years old,
the same age as AUC.”*

recalled. “We would go for breakfast, and at 8 o’clock be there for our first lecture.” Once, she recalls, she enjoyed a dinner only a few meters from King Farouk, who was “sitting at the next table and eyeing us closely.”

Riri particularly remembers the days of World War II. “During the war years, AUC was our haven,” she said. “With Jews and Arabs side by side in perfect harmony, it was an era of understanding and helping one another with love and empathy.”

She also recalls every detail of her graduation day. Prime Minister Hussein

Sirry Pasha spoke in Arabic about American culture and its contribution to civilization. Watson spoke in English on democratic ideals and education. Riri, who was valedictorian of her class, delivered a speech stressing the importance of harmonious cooperation among different nationalities and cultures. “For me, the most amazing thing was that the speech was not censored; no one had asked to see it before it was given. What amazing trust!” she said.

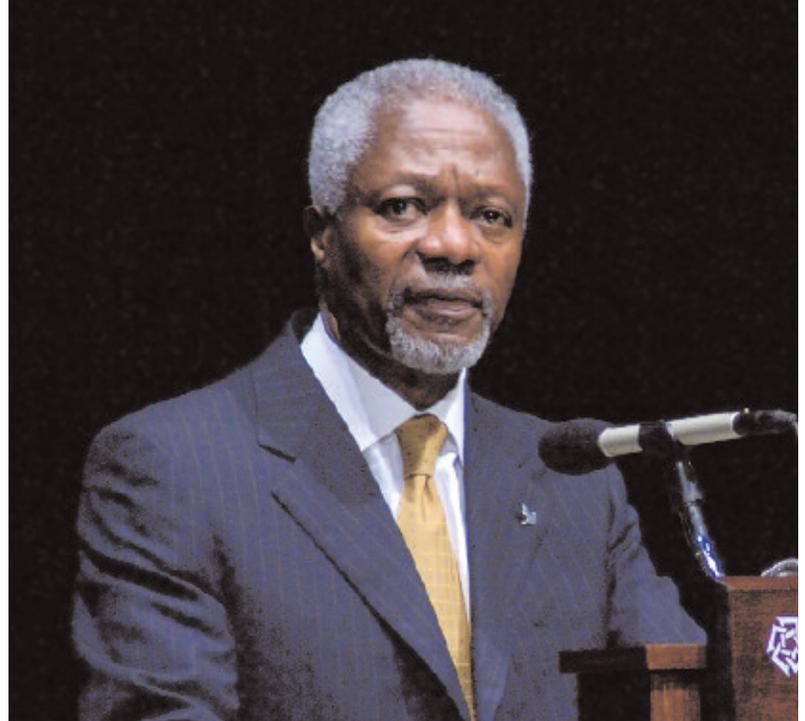
After graduation, Riri taught English at the Chatby College in Alexandria. In 1943, she married a New Zealander. Two years later, she moved to New Zealand with her husband and daughter and taught there for 25 years. Today, at age 90, she still teaches French and Greek at her home.

Looking back at her days at AUC, Riri noted, “I ended my studies at an institution that gave us all the confidence, pride and weapons to face life. . . . 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. Since we are both celebrating our 90th birthdays this year, I wish AUC continued growth and success.”

By Peter Wieben



Om Kalthum, legendary Egyptian singer, songwriter and artist, held her first major performance at Ewart Hall in 1937



Kofi Annan, seventh secretary-general of the United Nations and recipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize, inaugurated the Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture series in 2005

Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United States and recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, visited AUC in 2008



The late Edward Said, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, was the keynote speaker at AUC's Model United Nations inaugural conference in 1989



Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and known as the father of modern linguistics, visited AUC in 1993





Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. secretary of state and the first African American woman to serve in that position, spoke at AUC in 2005



Boutros Ghali, sixth secretary-general of the United Nations, visited AUC in the 1970s and in 2003

Distinguished *Visitors*

Over the years, AUC has hosted prominent figures from around the world

Hillary Clinton, U.S. secretary of state and former first lady of the United States, visited AUC in 1999



Taha Hussein, literary scholar and former minister of education, visited AUC in the 1950s





Al Gore, 45th vice president of the United States, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 and environmentalist activist, visited AUC in 1994



Karen Armstrong, British author of numerous works on comparative religion, delivered a weeklong series of lectures in 2005

Naguib Mahfouz, Egyptian novelist who won the 1988 Nobel Prize for literature, visited AUC in 1989



Mary Robinson, first female president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited AUC in 2007

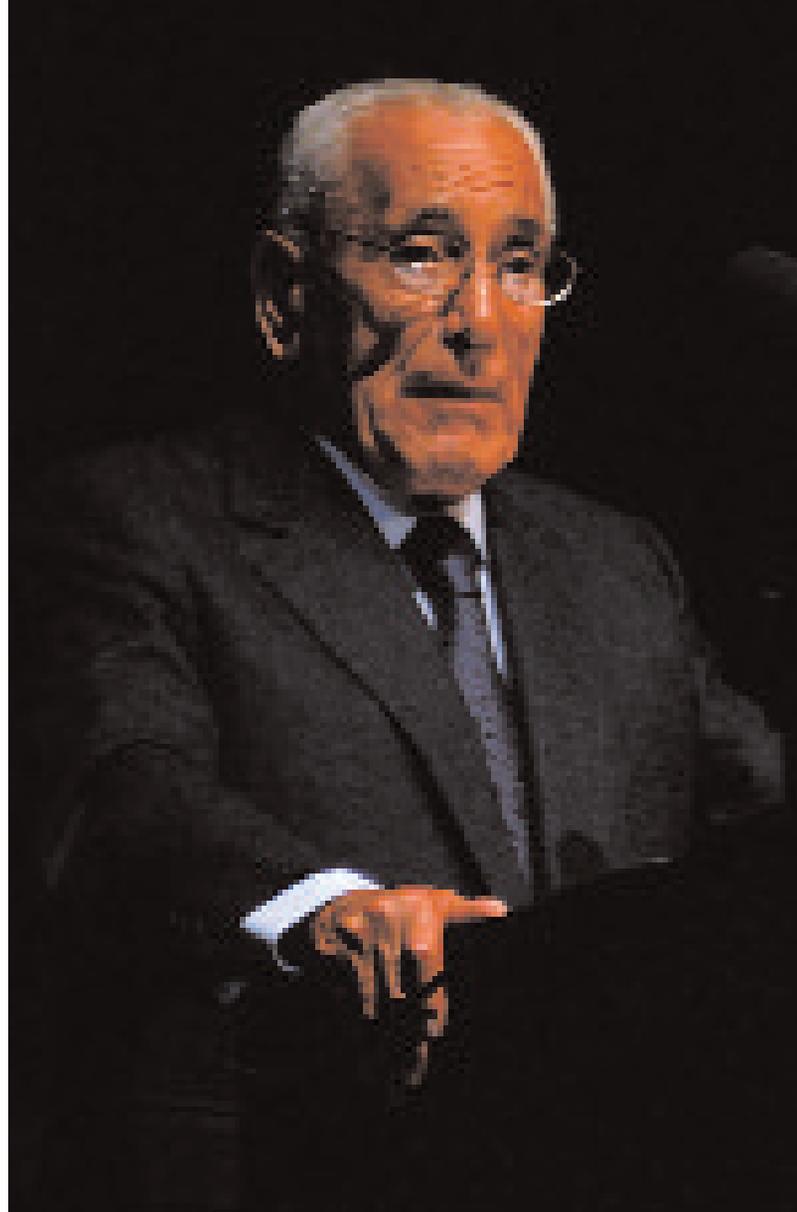


Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria visited AUC in the 1990s

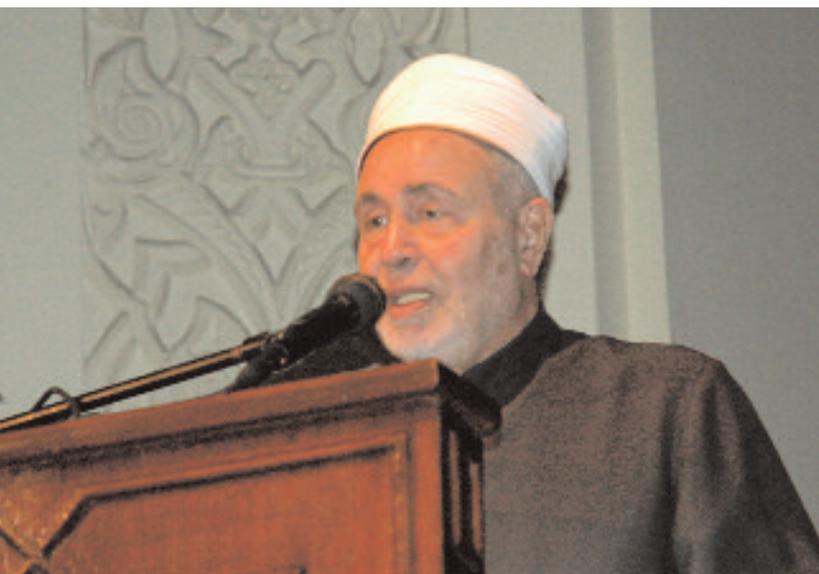




Robert Penn Warren, American poet and novelist who received the 1947 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1957 and 1979, visited AUC in 1966

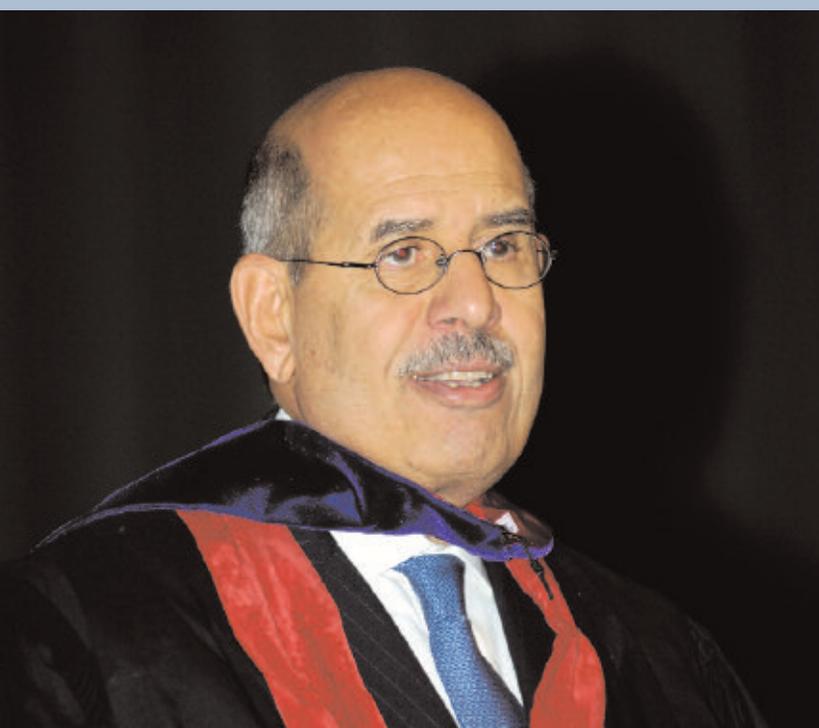


Mohammed Heikal, leading Egyptian journalist and former editor in chief of Al Ahram newspaper, visited AUC in 1995 and 2007



Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar Muhammed Tantawi visited AUC in 2004

AUC Trustee Mohamed ElBaradei, Nobel Peace Prize winner, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency and recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUC



AUC Trustee Ahmed Zewail, Linus Pauling Chair in Chemical Physics at Caltech, winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize in chemistry and recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUC



THE PATH OF A PIONEER

Eva Habib '31 was the first female student to enter AUC, excelling in her field and setting the stage for others

The late Eva Habib el Masri was a pioneer in multiple facets of her life. As the first female AUC student, she was valedictorian of her class and opened the doors for all of the female students attending the university today.

Habib's father was a respected government official. In addition to being appointed secretary general of the senate following independence in 1924, he worked in the Ministry of Finance and received the title of pasha from King Farouk for distinguished service to his country.

Educated in American schools and universities throughout her life, Habib began at the American Mission College for Girls. She attended the college between the ages of 4 and 16,

eventually graduating in 1928 with the highest average grade in her class for the final three years, which granted her first prize. During her return visits to the college in the summer, she met a teacher who suggested that she apply to AUC, saying that she would be the perfect pioneer because of her academic record.

She presented the idea to her father that summer, who put all of his support behind her. Her father allowed her to enroll at AUC because he believed that education was an end in itself, not just a means to an end. "I am giving her the joy and the pride of being a pioneer in the field of co-education, which is coming to Egypt as certainly as the rising sun comes every morning," he said, as Habib



This group of students received degrees in June, 1931. Miss Eva Habib is the first girl graduate.



documented in her memoirs.

Habib and her father went to meet with Charles Watson, president and founder of AUC. Upon reviewing the laws and statutes of the university, they found that there was nothing in writing that prohibited women from enrolling, and in the fall of 1928, Habib was admitted to AUC.

As documented in her memoirs, Habib was nervous on her first day. “Arriving at my destination [AUC], I did not walk on the sidewalk of the university itself, but I crossed the street and walked on the opposite side. When I stood there and evaluated the situation, I suddenly developed the jitters. The front garden of the university was full of students, greeting each other and talking with a din that reached me. . . . I was half tempted to return home, but my pride and dignity buttressed me and made me overcome this temptation. . . . Little did I know, as I dashed through the crowd and ran up those stairs, that I was building up my inward strength and influencing my future destiny.”

Her outstanding work at the mission college enabled her to enroll as a sophomore at AUC. She studied the

social sciences (sociology, economics and social psychology) and the natural sciences (organic chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy). Of these, she preferred astronomy because it allowed for class trips to the Helwan Observatory. She also studied speech, literature and philosophy, and took an elective course in journalism her first year, which led to her involvement in the *AUC Review* (today’s *Caravan*), of which she became editor in chief as a senior. She was also a member of the Cosmopolitan Club and played the piano for the Glee Club.

Habib excelled at AUC, winning the annual spelling contest and receiving

“I was half tempted to return home, but my pride and dignity buttressed me and made me overcome this temptation.”

the highest grades in all of her classes, leading her to being named valedictorian at the June commencement of 1931. “My commencement day . . . was a memorable day,” she wrote in her memoirs. “As long as I live, I will remember it with a feeling of great joy. . . . I was the star of the day. I was valedictorian and received all the first prizes. . . . [Feminist leader] Madame Hoda Shaarawi was present, and a few days later called me up to tell me that she was exceedingly glad to see me graduate because I represented the beginning of the realization of her dream, which was that higher education would be made accessible to Egypt’s young women.”

As editor in chief, Habib met many important visitors, including Ralph Harlow, a professor at Smith College in the United States. Harlow was visiting Cairo on a sabbatical trip through the Middle East, and after a talk at Ewart Hall, he met Habib and encouraged her to apply to Smith College under the foreign students fellowship grant. She followed his advice, became the first Egyptian to join and ended up finishing a master’s in sociology in one year at Smith — an achievement unmatched by any foreign student at that time.

Her involvement with the *AUC Review* propelled her into selecting journalism as one of her careers, and her first major position outside the university was as editor in chief of a bi-weekly magazine called *Al-Misriyyah*, founded by feminist leader Hoda Shaarawi. She held this position from 1937 to 1942, when the pressures of war forced the closure of the magazine.

After the war, Habib married a lawyer from Alexandria, Youssef, and together they traveled to the United States, where she studied at five different universities, eventually settling on a master’s in library science. Along with her husband, she became an American citizen and a successful librarian in the New York University Libraries.

In her memoirs, Habib acknowledged that she owed much of her success in life to the experience of attending AUC. “I have no doubt that had I not gone to AUC, all the opportunities that came across my way and that have been recorded in the previous chapters, would not have come about,” she said.

By Jeffrey Bellis

DID YOU KNOW?

1912

Charles Watson completes report outlining vision for AUC

1919

AUC officially incorporated in Washington, D.C.

1920

First 142 students begin classes equivalent to the final two years of high school

Student Union formed

1921

School of Oriental Studies established

1923

First commencement

1924

Degrees recognized by the New York State Board of Regents as equivalent to junior college degrees

Division of Extension (forerunner to the School of Continuing Education) established

First campus newspaper, AUC Review, issued

1925

First university-level courses offered

Ruth Litt donated \$100,000 for an auditorium to be named after her grandfather, William Dana Ewart

1926

Old Boys Club created for alumni

1927

AUC offers four years of secondary school and four of college

1928

First university-level bachelor's degrees awarded to three students

AUC welcomes first female student Eva Habib el Masri

1929

Hill family started AUC's first endowment fund with \$450,000

1931

Old Boys Club developed into Alumni Association

Gillespie family donated \$65,000 to build Oriental Hall

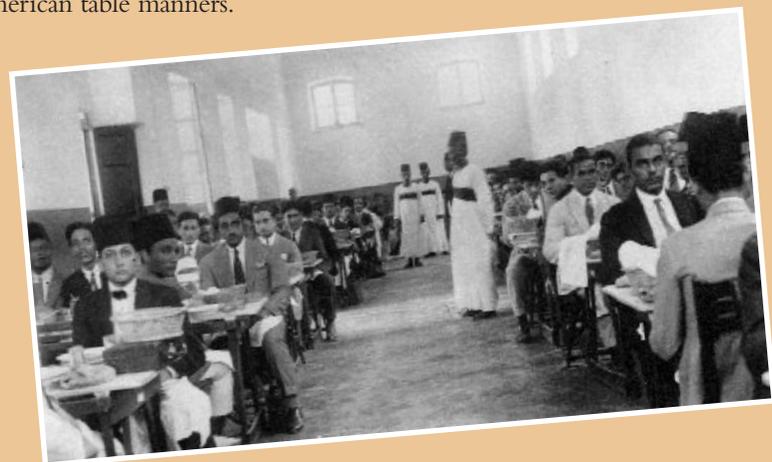
The AUC Pyramid

In the early 1920s, AUC was an all-male school. Each student, dressed in short pants and an undershirt, took two hours of athletics each week, mainly calisthenics and gymnastics. Back then, people did not associate sports activities with a college or university. In fact, some connected physical activity with low social status, while others were embarrassed to be seen in short pants in public. Crowds often gathered outside the AUC fence to watch. As the boys became more proficient, they were able to form a pyramid by standing on each other's shoulders. This became an AUC landmark.



Food Trivia

Cost of tuition in the 1920s was around LE 16 a year; compulsory noon lunches cost LE 13.5 a year. The noon meal aimed to provide a healthy time of companionship, allowing students to become accustomed to Western food and giving teachers the opportunity to introduce American table manners.



How Theater Began at AUC

C. Worth Howard, head of the English department in the 1920s, emphasized dramatics as a means of self-expression and a way of improving English. Boys living in the hostel performed the first play in 1926, after which all students joined in presenting subsequent performances, with boys playing female roles when necessary. The theater program expanded, and plays were presented at assemblies, commencement ceremonies and for the general public. Students handled all aspects of production, from constructing the scenery and designing the costumes to distributing tickets. Howard was very popular among students, and his success led to the establishment of the College Players student club, which was later named the Masker's Club.



Speak English on Campus



In AUC's early years, there were "Speak English on Campus" campaigns. Desserts were awarded to those who used English during the lunch hour, and a spelling bee encouraged competition among the best students.

1937

Om Kalthum performed in Ewart Hall

Late 1930s

Campus Caravan replaced AUC Review

1940

King Abdullah of Jordan visited AUC

1941

AUC hosted special concerts in Ewart Hall for allied soldiers in Egypt

1942

AUC students petitioned Ministry of War to allow an instructor to teach them military formations, which soon replaced acrobatics and team sports

1950

First graduate degree awarded

1951

Last preparatory class graduated, making AUC strictly a university-level institution

1952

Helen Keller visited AUC

1953

Hill House formally dedicated as first student dormitory on campus

Social Research Center created

1954

Late Egyptian presidents Gamal Abdul Nasser and Mohammed Naguib attended AUC's Arabic Language Day Convocation

1956

English Language Institute opened

School of Oriental Studies became the Center for Arabic Studies

AUC obtained Creswell Collection

1959

Hill House rededicated as a library

1960

AUC Press established

1961

AUC's name was changed from "at" Cairo to "in" Cairo

1964

Buildings purchased from the Greek community. Falaki building built for use as a student dormitory

1966

Science Building construction completed

1967

Center for Arabic Study Abroad opened

Government sequestered AUC

1972

AUC Press obtained exclusive English-language rights to the works of Naguib Mahfouz

1974

Ministry of Higher Education recognized all but three AUC degrees as equivalent to those offered by Egyptian universities

Sports program won representation in the National Universities Sports Union

1975

Egyptian government relinquished control of AUC

Protocol issued between AUC's Board of Trustees and the Egyptian government

1978

AUC Press published the first Naguib Mahfouz novel in English

1979

Desert Development Center approved

1982

New library on the Greek Campus completed

AUC received largest single donation (\$5,500,000) from Yousef Jameel '68

Middle States Commission on Higher Education granted AUC full accreditation

1985

Opening of Egypt's first university bookstore

1988

Mahfouz won Nobel Prize. AUC Press was already his English-language publisher (with nine of his novels in print) and worldwide agent

1989

Abdul Latif Jameel Building for Middle East Management Studies inaugurated

Core Curriculum introduced

Model United Nations started

1990

Model Arab League started

AUC's War Efforts

During World War II, AUC students petitioned the Ministry of War to allow an instructor to teach them military formations, which soon replaced acrobatics and team sports. The university also established a canteen for allied troops and offered special courses to them in Arabic and Egyptian culture. The Red Cross also used part of the athletic field, and the Allied Middle East Supply Center conducted experiments and tests in AUC's science laboratories.

During the 1956 Suez War, AUC organized a blood donor's program to which Raymond McLain, AUC president at the time, made the first contribution, followed by members of the AUC community and the general public.



A Tradition of Firsts

AUC was the first in the region to:

- Establish a university career center
- Launch an academic integrity initiative
- Hold the Model United Nations conference
- Offer a master's in international human rights law
- Establish a financial training and consulting center

The Story Behind the *Caravan*

After several weeks of posting articles and pictures on a bulletin board, a journalism class issued the first newspaper, *AUC Review*, in April 1924.



The four-page paper included articles on AUC personalities, campus news, official announcements and editorials on university issues. Gradually, outside advertising was secured, more students purchased subscriptions and the school contributed additional funds. As a result, bigger issues appeared each week. At the end of the year, a special issue focused on past activities and profiled graduating seniors. Within a year, an Arabic section was

added. In the late 1930s, *Campus Caravan* replaced *AUC Review*,

reporting on student activities and providing a workshop for journalism students.



Grades on Personality

In the 1920s, students were graded on character traits such as obedience, diligence, punctuality, cheerfulness, personal appearance, honesty, initiative, generosity and companionship. The rating was made twice a year. The purpose was to help students improve their personalities in preparation for success in life.



1991

AUC opened Zamalek building

1992

Rare books library inaugurated

1993

Noam Chomsky spoke at AUC

University Senate established

1994

AUC celebrated 75th anniversary

1995

Grand Mufti Sheikh Muhammed Tantawi and Pope Shenouda III spoke at AUC

AUC Professor Kent Weeks rediscovered KV5 in Valley of the Kings

1996

Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature established

1997

AUC purchased land in New Cairo

1999

U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton spoke in Ewart Hall

2000

Queen Rania Al Abdullah '91 visited AUC. Distinguished guests in first years of the century included Jimmy Carter, Kofi Annan, Condoleezza Rice, and Nobel laureates Ahmed Zewail and Mohamed ElBaradei

2003

New Cairo Campus design completed and cornerstone laid by Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak '77, '82

2004

AUC established Leadership for Education and Development program

AUC signed construction contract for New Cairo Campus

2007

AUC Press published its 1,000th book

2008

First day of class held on the New Cairo Campus

2009

Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak '77, '82 inaugurated New Cairo Campus

AUC celebrated 90th anniversary

Around the World

United States



An alumni gathering was held in October 2008 at the Marriott Dearborn Hotel in Detroit, Michigan



During the alumni gathering in Michigan, Aleya Rouchdy '62 received the Distinguished Alumni Volunteer Award.

Holder of a master's and doctorate from the University of Texas in Austin, Rouchdy has served as professor of Arabic and linguistics at Wayne State University and was chair of the Near Eastern and Asian studies department from 1995 to 2005. Today, she is professor emerita at Wayne State University, where she received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Outstanding Scholarly Award.

Rouchdy is an accomplished author and has published many books, including *Nubians and the Nubian Language in Contemporary Egypt*, *The Arabic Language in America*, as well as *Language Contact and Language Conflict Phenomena in Arabic*. She is a member of the Michigan Council for the Humanities Board, the Middle East Studies Association nominating committee and the American Research Center in Egypt, as well as executive board member and president of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic.



During a reception in Washington, D.C. in November 2008, Juan Cole (MA '78) received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Cole is the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He has a bachelor's in history and literature of religions from Northwestern University, a master's in Arabic Studies and history from AUC, and a doctorate in Islamic Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has written extensively about Egypt, Iran, Iraq and South Asia. His most recent books include *Engaging the Muslim World* and *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East*. Having lived in the Middle East for extended periods of time, Cole speaks Arabic, Persian and Urdu. He has been a regular guest on PBS's *Lehrer New Hour*, and has also appeared on *ABC Nightly News*, *Nightline*, the *Today Show*, *Democracy Now* and many others.

At the same reception, Mervat Hatem '71, '75, political science professor at Howard University and former president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), also received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Hatem is well known for her voluminous published work in the field of gender and politics in Egypt, the Middle East and the United States. She has published more than 60 articles and book chapters that contribute to the better understanding of Egyptian and Muslim women. More recently, she has finished a manuscript inspired by the works of Aisha Taymur, a famous Egyptian female writer.

In addition to MESA, Hatem has been a board member of the Women and Memory Forum, an Egyptian non-governmental research organization, since 1997.



Egypt



Yousef Jameel '65 (center) visited the New Cairo Campus in November 2008, during which he toured the Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center. Established as a result of a generous gift by Jameel, the center is now in its sixth year and has become the top research center in Egypt and the region



Sherif Sedky, physics professor and associate director of the Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center, was recognized by Jameel during the visit

United Arab Emirates



An alumni dinner was held in November 2008 at The Address, Downtown Burj Dubai hotel



At the alumni dinner in Dubai, Amin Khayyal '95 received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Khayyal holds a bachelor's in chemistry from AUC and has more than 12 years experience in marketing, sales and business development in the chemical/petrochemical industry across the Middle East, Europe and Africa. In 2008, he became general manager of DuPont Company in Abu Dhabi, with the responsibility of setting up their new office there. Previously, he worked with Dubai's Dow Chemical Company.

Khayyal was selected by the Egyptian Ministry of Youth as the national youth representative to Japan in 1996. He also has led several AIESEC projects on the national and university levels. He was elected as president of the Cairo Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club on two terms, prior to serving as the club's vice president.

Qatar



An alumni iftar was held in September 2008 at the Doha Sheraton Hotel

Alumni Profile

A Diplomatic Life

Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy '74, Egypt's ambassador to Germany, was an accomplished diplomat from an early age

From the beginning of his career, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy '74, Egypt's ambassador to Germany, made great strides as a diplomat. At age 24, after serving in the cabinet of the foreign minister for two years, he traveled to New York as third secretary at the permanent mission of Egypt to the United Nations, a top posting for a young diplomat.

"The 1970s was a period of significant change in the world, from the call for a New International Economic Order and the Camp David Accords to the oil crisis and the Iranian Revolution," Ramzy said. "To be in New York, the capital of the world, at such a time was very special. ... and to be able to sit behind the nameplate of my country, negotiating and speaking in public fora was a unique formative experience."

Ramzy's career took off after that, taking him to major cities where he witnessed significant political and socioeconomic transitions firsthand. Serving as counselor in the Egyptian embassy in Moscow in the late 1980s, he was there during the fall of the Berlin Wall and the final years before the collapse of the Soviet Union. In Washington, working as Egypt's deputy chief of mission in the mid 1990s, he observed the signing of the Oslo accords, the first direct, face-to-face agreement between Israel and Palestine. "In the White House, I saw Palestinians and Israelis in tears — tears of joy for peace. It says a lot about what humanity is striving for," he said.

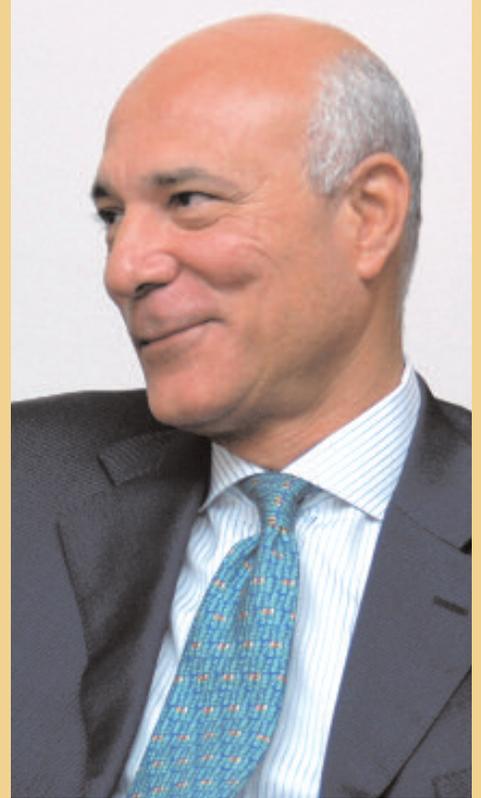
Recounting a similar incident that affected him when he was in New York, Ramzy noted how numerous people from all walks of life came to sign President Sadat's condolence book when he was assassinated. "Sadat took a risk for peace, and people came because of what he stood for."

Quickly rising in his career, Ramzy took up his first post as ambassador to Brazil at the age

of 42, the youngest Egyptian ambassador at the time. "For me to be an ambassador at that stage of my life was very special," he noted.

After staying for three years in Brazil, which he considers as a "true melting pot," Ramzy wore different diplomatic hats from 2005 to 2007 as Egypt's ambassador to Austria, permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations in Vienna and to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Egypt's representative in the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors, as well as non-resident ambassador to the Slovak Republic. During those years, not only did he enjoy the "exceptionally beautiful" city of Vienna and its proximity to many European countries, Ramzy was able to foster productive relations with Austria. Today, from his post in Germany, he hopes to do the same. "Germany is the largest economy in Europe and the third largest in the world," Ramzy said. "It is very important to bring its economic relations with Egypt to the level of political relations."

Keen on relaying his life lessons to the young generation, Ramzy pointed out that passion and an open mind are the keys to a successful diplomatic career. "The life of a diplomat can be very exciting, but it is not easy," he said. "There are lots of responsibilities and constraints on your personal life, but if you love it enough, it is highly rewarding."



By Dalia Al Nimr

Class Notes

'86

Safiya Al Ghazzawi treasures her memories of AUC, including trips to Istanbul, a Halloween dinner and dancing competitions. She also remembers many of her professors with fondness.

'91

Ibrahim Saleh (MA '00) published his new research paper titled "In the Foggy Middle East: Just Wars Remain the Name of the Game" in the *Global Governance Research Network Journal*. Saleh presented his paper at the 21st annual meeting of the Academic Council of the United Nations System in Bonn, Germany in June 2008. He was asked to write a short version of the paper for the Alliance of Civilizations Media Literacy Clearing House.

'94

Nayera Fadel launched the Air Bridge Network in Egypt, connecting international female business leaders with their Egyptian peers to explore local issues from a global perspective. She would love to hear from her classmates through abnetwork@vitalnetwork.org.

Ahmed Fawzi is the managing director of Global Chimie, specialized in industrial chemicals, and Man Trade, specialized in machinery. He has been married for 10 years and is the father of Alia, Nour and Malak. He misses AUC, particularly the Student Union and the Folklore Group.

'00

Yasmine Labib currently works part time in her own company, specialized in weaving machinery. She is also a full-time mother of Farah, 6, and Farid, 2. Labib misses everything about AUC.

'03

Mamdouh Fadil began his doctorate in social anthropology in October 2008 from Sussex University in the United Kingdom.

'05

Hebatallah Khalifa graduated with high honors from AUC, majoring in computer science and minoring in business administration. Immediately after graduation, she joined ITWorx, where she worked for three years and left six months after being promoted to a senior position. She married Samer, her colleague from work, in August 2007. They currently live in Bahrain and have a 2-month-old daughter, Layan.

Special Programs

Lisa Caugherty Hahn (YAB '79) is interested in reconnecting with anyone who attended AUC during Fall 1998 to Spring 1999 through lisa.hahn@chcomm.com.

In Memoriam

Samuel Abu Hamad '64 died in December 2008.

Dimitri Zenon Voyiadzis '65, '69 died in December 2008 in Athens, Greece.

Nagla Salah Gad '89 died in January 2009.

Mohamed Youssef Rashwan '98 died in June 2008.

Sherif Fathalla El Dalei '05 died in February 2009.

Maha Gabr '06 died in February 2009.

Weddings

Lobna Hegazy '05, contract specialist, married Yasser El Halwagy, procurement and contracting specialist at United Gas Derivatives Company, on July 27, 2007. Their wedding took place at the Cataract Pyramids Resort. The couple spent their honeymoon in Cyprus and Sinai and currently live in Egypt





Justin D. Knight / Howard University

Building Connections

Mervat Hatem '71, '74 is working to increase understanding of the Middle East through scholarly work

Having served as president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Mervat Hatem '71, '74 looks back with a sense of satisfaction. Now in her third year, Hatem's tenure at MESA has been centered on showcasing distinguished scholarly work carried out to improve understanding of the region, its people and policies, as well as supporting academic freedom in the Middle East and North America through its various committees.

"What I find most fulfilling and important about serving that association is the prospect of facilitating interdisciplinary communication among professionals who seek to correct the many misperceptions and misunderstandings about the region at home and abroad," said Hatem, who recently received AUC's Distinguished Alumni Award for her accomplishments at MESA, where she currently serves as a board member.

Political science professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Hatem attended AUC when U.S. and Egyptian relations reached their lowest point following the 1967 War, leading to the severing of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the placement of AUC under sequestration. Back then, AUC students represented a diverse group of Egyptians, Arabs and Americans who worked together to build connections based on academic and research interests in the country. Although AUC students discussed and supported the demonstrations led by their counterparts at national universities, critiquing the 1967 war and its failed policies, they decided not to organize their own demonstrations in recognition of the critical position that AUC had as one of the few remaining visible American institutions in Egypt.

"For a young student population to balance their strong political feelings regarding the war with these weighty

national and international concerns remains a source of personal pride," Hatem recalled, noting that the student meetings held at AUC helped develop her political thinking. "As a sophomore in political science in 1968, these meetings provided a hands-on political education that included analysis of the war and the messiness of its consequences for this small island of American liberal arts education."

For many students, the most serious challenge at the end of their undergraduate education in the early 1970s was that the Egyptian government did not recognize the degrees offered by AUC. As a result, Hatem went to the University of Michigan to finish her graduate education. After receiving her doctorate in 1982, she made the decision to switch her research interests from the study of international relations and organizations to gender and politics in Egypt and the Middle East, which was a newly developing field at the time. "Middle East women's studies offered the added promise of self reflection on the complex role that gender plays in shaping who I am. I have never regretted that decision," said Hatem, whose most recent work concerns itself with the way gender provides a central component in the development of the discourses on globalization, the so-called clash of civilizations and the war on terror. She has also increasingly directed her attention to Arab American contributions to the study of gender and politics.

"What I find most interesting [about this subject] is the way it sensitizes one to the male-dominated character of formal politics and the implications this has for women's political engagement," said Hatem. "It is at heart an interdisciplinary enterprise that expands one's intellectual horizons, including the integration of national, comparative and international dimensions."

By Jeffrey Bellis

The True Face of AUC

I was very impressed by your coverage of the New Cairo Campus in the last issue of *AUCToday*. The campus move undoubtedly represents a transformational shift in terms of AUC's capacity building and educational evolution. From a small, niche university up to the late 1970s to the preferred educational destination for Egypt's best and brightest, AUC has now hopefully found the platform needed to cope with the size constraints triggered by its own success and to assume its natural role as the leading university in Egypt and the Arab world.

Leaving nostalgia aside, the Tahrir-Falaki campuses had, for many years, been overtaken not just by space issues, but also by events. Historically situated at the hub of Cairo's vibrant political, economic and cultural scenes, centered in the residential districts of Garden City and Zamalek and the corporate offices and cafés of downtown Cairo, the city has long since evolved beyond Tahrir Square. Demographic pressures have shifted the new socioeconomic balance of power toward the petro-dollar suburbs of Mohandiseen and Nasr City, and more recently to New Cairo and the Sixth of October City. AUC needed to evolve accordingly.

New Cairo will, in my assessment, be the most successful of these new urban developments, given its central location and easy access. AUC's iconic New Cairo Campus will once again be located at the center of Egypt's political, economic and potentially cultural life and will be able to continue benefiting and cross-fertilizing with its surrounding environment through its large base of graduates, students and aspiring entrants.

The transition to the New Cairo Campus is not just a locational shift or a structural achievement. It should represent a seminal opportunity to re-affirm, on a wider and stronger scale, the liberal values and moral fiber that have always given AUC its distinct character and identity in times of adversity as well as success. I am very encouraged by the clear attempt to retain a visual architectural link to the old campus, but it is more important to reinforce these core defining values at times of sharp and often conflicting change affecting Egypt and its region.

The move to New Cairo also comes at very economically uncertain times. The financial meltdown in OECD countries

has triggered a global recession, which will last through 2009 at least. All theories of economic de-coupling have been proven wrong. Egypt and the Arab world are not immune, as globalization works both ways. Better banking asset quality and good macroeconomic stewardship will hopefully reduce, but cannot deflect, the impact of the incoming economic tsunami. Egypt's income from workers' remittances, tourism receipts and Suez Canal tolls will be negatively impacted, and economic slowdown will follow. This is not meant as an alarmist, but a rational conclusion as to what is now an increasingly inevitable and growingly visible development.

AUC, in turn, is not immune or de-coupled from the global economic downturn and its associated implications. In the coming crisis, revenues and donations will be impacted, but AUC should not just retire to an ivory tower existence in its impressive new campus until surrounding conditions improve. The intellectual capital residing in its faculty, students and alumni is its primary asset. Mobilized and motivated, it can make a significant difference. It should be directed to specific initiatives to meet the university's needs and to provide support beyond its campus by initiating programs, stimulating discussions and being actively involved in programs geared at helping the needy and unemployed who are most vulnerable to further economic pressures.

While AUC inspires the envy of most average Egyptians, it is often mistakenly perceived as an elitist enclave with no strong affiliation to its host country. Its many socio-educational contributions are not sufficiently known, understood or appreciated. The coming difficult days are an opportunity for AUC to use the intellectual capacity residing in the new and old campuses, and their now greater resources, to show the true face of AUC as a liberal, non-sectarian, progressive and engaged institution answering the needs of its country to the extent of its abilities. A challenge beckons, and AUC should not be found lacking.

Adel El-Labban '77, '80 is the chief executive officer and managing director of Ahli United Bank, Bahrain.



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.