

Contents

El Batout '85 (left), Rory Peck Award recipient, filming from inside an Iraqi facility Page 17

FEATURES

- 7 BENEATH THE SURFACE**
Site preparation phase on AUC's new campus is complete
- 10 THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA**
President David Arnold's inauguration ceremony ushers a new and exciting time in AUC's history
- 12 SALUTING THE GRADUATES**
Snapshots from the midyear commencement capture the feelings of the class of 2004
- 14 THE PATH OF A PIONEER**
With more than five decades of experience in journalism, Professor John Merrill has made monumental contributions to his field
- 16 THE THRILL OF THE CHASE**
From the frontline of wars, natural disasters and political hotspots, alumni international correspondents capture both the suffering and the triumph of the human spirit
- 20 RED SEA EXPLORERS**
Immersed in an intensive 21-day environmental biology course, students walk away with a broader understanding of their world and their capabilities
- 26 MARKING 50 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**
AUC's Social Research Center plays a leading local and regional role
- 30 A LESSON IN SERVICE**
Students share the life-long lessons they are learning in AUC's service courses

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 AUSCENES**
AUC welcomes new trustees, Egyptian wins Mahfouz medal, alumnus wins Rhodes fellowship
- ALUMNI PROFILES**
- 29** Iman Bibars '81, '88 leads efforts to change the law and empower women
- 33** Akil Beshir '79 on Telecom Egypt and the telecommunications industry
- 34 ALUMNI NEWS**
Distinguished Alumni Awards in the United States, receptions and gatherings around the world, alumni media panel
- 38 CLASS NOTES**
Class updates and weddings
- 40 AKHER KALAM**
Sara Hussein, editor-in-chief of AUC's student newspaper *Caravan*, writes of her visit to an Israeli settlement

On the cover: A student snorkeling in the Red Sea, photographed by Georg Heiss

Editor's Notes

Serving Society

One of the perks of being an editor of an alumni magazine is the chance to meet members of the university community. In covering "Red Sea Explorers," I had the rare opportunity to tag along during the field portion of a 21-day intensive environmental biology class. As I watched the students go about their lab work, struggle into their wetsuits before their daily snorkeling activity or devour their dinner, I couldn't help but think of how all of this fits into a larger picture. In talking with the instructors, I was impressed by their incessant drive to provide meaningful and practical real-world applications for their students. Their goal — beyond teaching conservation or sustainable development — is to help mold engineers, businessmen, journalists or policy makers who are conscious of the world around them and the critical role they play in shaping it. In speaking with the students, it became clear that the instructors largely achieved their goal.

The link between the naturally academic nature of university life and the obligation to serve the wider community is best captured by the broad array of roles and activities undertaken by students, faculty and alumni. This issue highlights the many ways that AUC, through its students and graduates, extends its role to the outside world. In "The Thrill of the Chase," alumni working as international correspondents open a window into their exciting world. Despite the brutal toll their profession takes on their personal lives, a sense of obligation or the feeling that they are doing society a service is often what keeps them going. Also in the field of journalism, "The Path of a Pioneer," profiles Professor John Merrill and his contribution over the more than five decades he has devoted to the field.

Service learning courses, introduced at AUC last fall, are yet another example of the integration of community service into the regular curriculum. In "A Lesson in Service," students convey the insight they gained from the experience.

Through its Social Research Center (SRC), AUC is also providing a direct service to the local and regional community. "Marking 50 Years of Development Assistance in Egypt," *AUCToday* overviews the SRC's contributions in a wide range of areas.

On a final note in *Akher Kalam*, Sara Hussein, the editor-in-chief of AUC's student newspaper the *Caravan*, shares her thoughts on a recent visit to an Israeli settlement. Wise beyond her years, Hussein exemplifies the active role many students play in shaping their community.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to your feedback.



Dina Abulfotuh

Dina Abulfotuh

AUCTODAY

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO Spring 2004

Volume 12, No. 2

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

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

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AUC's Board of Trustees Welcomes Two New Distinguished Members

AUC's Board of Trustees has elected two new members.

Kenneth A. Bacon is president and chief executive officer of Refugees International, based in Washington, D.C. From 1994-2001, he was assistant secretary, Public Affairs, at the US Department of Defense. Prior to that, he was an editor, columnist and reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, specializing in defense, banking, economics and international finance. Bacon received an M.B.A and an M.A. in journalism from Columbia University and a B.A. in English from Amherst College. Bacon is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a board member of Population Action International, InterAction and the



Kenneth A. Bacon

International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The board also elected Richard A. Bartlett, managing director of Resources Holdings, Ltd., a merchant banking firm in New York City. Before joining that firm in 1985, he was a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Harry A.

Blackmun and prior to that, law clerk in US Circuit Court for the District of Columbia. Bartlett received his J.D. from Yale Law School and his B.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He is a council member of the Brookings Institution, Chair of Princeton's Class of '79 Special Gifts Committee and a member of the Yale Law School Fund.



Richard A. Bartlett

Egyptian Author Awarded Naguib Mahfouz Medal



Shalaby at the award ceremony

Egyptian writer Khairy Shalaby was awarded by the AUC Press the 2003 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature for his novel, *The Lodging House* (*Wikalat 'Atitya*).

"I wish to express my deep gratitude to the distinguished panel of judges who felt that my novel met the standards of this great award," Shalaby said at the ceremony. "[This award] is a badge of honor inscribed with the name of Naguib Mahfouz like a precious stone, bearing the scent of his noble, humanistic spirit."

Recipient of the 1980-81 Egyptian National Prize for Literature and editor-in-chief of both *Poetry Magazine* and *Library of Popular Studies* book series, Shalaby is author of 70 books, including novels, short stories, historical tales and critical studies. Many of his books became bestsellers and were translated into several languages including English, French, Italian, Russian and Chinese. In addition, some of his works have been turned into successful films and television series.

AUC Professor Heads the American Association of Teachers of Arabic

Zeinab Ibrahim, senior Arabic language teacher at the Arabic Language Institute, is the first AUC professor and the first non-American to serve as president of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA).

The AATA is an institution aiming to promote the study and research of Arabic and to provide channels of communication between teachers of Arabic language.

Ibrahim was a member of the AATA for 12 years, three of which were on the Executive Board. Last year, the board elected her president.



Ibrahim (right) during her ALI class

Considering her election a tremendous responsibility, Ibrahim noted, “I am very pleased and happy that my colleagues gave me this vote of confidence. I now have an obligation to fulfill their trust.”

Since she became president, Ibrahim has worked on increasing lines of communication between the AATA and other organizations through regular meetings and videoconferencing sessions. “We have established close links with prominent organizations such as the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the Middle East Studies Association,” she said.

Clough Delivers Inaugural Lecture in Comparative Religion



Clough on the importance of studying religion without prejudice

Tracing the background and beginnings of the field of comparative religion and discussing the increasing role it plays in the pluralistic world we live in today, Associate Professor Bradley Clough, an international expert on religion, delivered the inaugural lecture of the Abdulhadi H. Taher Professorship in Comparative Religion.

The first to teach at AUC under the newly established endowed professorship, Clough’s lecture, “Studying Religion in a Plural World: The Enterprise of Comparative Religion,” drew a large audience from both inside and outside the AUC community. Abdulhadi Taher, the renowned Saudi businessman who donated \$2 million to establish the professorship, attended the lecture.

Debunking skepticism about the study of comparative religion as a means of promoting one set of religious ideologies, Clough said: “Despite popular belief that comparative religion aims to create a syncretistic religion, the aim is not to blend but to understand one another and hopefully produce work for use in inter-religious dialogue.”

Academically, students should approach the topic with what Clough



Abdulhadi Taher and his daughter Nashwa at the lecture

termed a “sympathetic” approach, which involves beginning the study with a blank slate, leaving behind prejudices. “Setting aside such notions greatly helps students to understand each religion in its own terms,” asserted Clough.

The Abdulhadi H. Taher Professorship in Comparative Religion provides the funds to build up the library collection in religious studies, hold conferences and invite specialists in the field to teach or lecture at AUC.



Welch: There's a need to dismantle the infrastructure of terror in Palestine



Aboul Magd: When people start talking, they speak as though they monopolize wisdom

Welch and Aboul Magd Discuss Regional Issues

US Ambassador to Egypt C. David Welch and Ahmad Kamal Aboul Magd, law professor at Cairo University and former minister of information, discussed the recent war on Iraq and other regional issues during a visit to campus.

Summing up the US stance on the Palestinian-Israeli crisis, Welch said that the main challenge to peace is the terror attacks against Israel. "There's a need to dismantle the infrastructure of terror in Palestine," said Welch. Rebuffing suggestions that the US-led war on Iraq was a form of terrorism, Welch said, "Ridding the world of this menace was not a mistake ... Our people need to defend themselves. We need to protect our interests at home and around the world."

Aboul Magd stressed the importance of dialogue in trying to understand the other side. "When people start talking, they speak as though they monopolize wisdom for themselves and for the world," he said.

Reflecting on US foreign policies, Aboul Magd said that the mechanism of decision-making in the White House regarding the war on terror is frightening and "un-American."

"There is something seriously wrong with the American political system ... the US image is thus tarnished, and its interests around the world are being jeopardized," said Aboul Magd, adding that around the Arab world there is "a deep sense of being betrayed, let down and insulted due to these policies."



Chris Wells

ALI Alumni Wins Rhodes Scholarship

Chris Wells (ALI '03) received a Rhodes Scholarship, the oldest international fellowship awarded to undergraduate students from around the world to pursue postgraduate studies at Oxford University.

Wells, who came to AUC in 2003 to learn Arabic at the Arabic Language Institute (ALI), has a bachelor's in history from Yale University. Wells considers AUC and his time in Cairo an important milestone in his life. "It was one of the great adventures of my life so far and one in which I fell in love with Egypt and the Arabic language," he said.

Wells selected the ALI program because of "its reputation for quality instruction, its highly organized program of studying and living ... I also wanted to take advantage of its location in Cairo, one of the most exciting capitals in the Middle East."

Wells intends to pursue a two-year master's in Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University.



Remembering Edward Said

To commemorate the life of the late scholar and literary critic Edward Said, the university held a memorial service on his birthday, November 1. Typical of the days in which he came to AUC as a distinguished visiting professor, Ewart Hall was packed. After a one-hour documentary in which Said recounts his early childhood days in Cairo, his life in New York, his identity struggle and his dedication to the Palestinian cause, friends, colleagues and students paid tribute to Said.

They reflected on their personal experiences with him and the ways in which he affected them by the profundity of his thoughts and the richness of his character.

Ferial Ghazoul, AUC professor of English and comparative literature, was a graduate student at Columbia University, where Said served as a faculty member since 1963. "He was a professor and a mentor, captivating us with his vast knowledge, eloquence and humanitarian vision," she said.

To honor Said's memory, AUC is assembling an archive of all his published works in the Main Library. A second archive of manuscripts, family papers, e-mails and personal documents is being assembled in the Rare Books and Special Collections Library.

French Philosopher Shares Insight

French philosopher Bruno Latour, a distinguished visiting professor, delivered two lectures at AUC on "War and Peace: Where Naturalism Has Failed, Can Constructivism Help?" and "Why the Existence of a Society Does Not Provide Good Social Explanations?"

Latour, who was trained as a philosopher and then as an anthropologist, is specialized in the analysis of scientists and engineers at work. He has worked in the fields of philosophy, history, sociology and anthropology of science and has published 12 books, some of them translated into as many as 15 languages.

"I'm interested in the connection between science and society and the philosophy of science. Scientists often find themselves in the middle of controversies, and they tend to ignore the sociology necessary for their work. My students learn to be aware of how to go about analyzing these controversies," said Latour, who teaches at the Paris Advanced Training Institution for Mining Engineers.

AUC Alumni at Harvard Discuss Their Experience with Students

Helping to prepare current AUC students for graduate studies abroad, Basil Moftah '97 and Hysam Galal '98, both currently studying at Harvard for a master's degree in business administration, spoke on campus. Moftah, who participated in many activities as an undergraduate student, said, "AUC has more than adequately prepared me for Harvard. The program here requires a lot of spontaneous thought and discussion — something that AUC provides through many of the student-run activities on campus."

Galal, by the same token, found AUC's emphasis on critical thinking a valuable skill he acquired. "Listening to different points of views and building a constructive argument to defend your point of view is something I learned at AUC," he said.

Moftah and Galal, among a group of AUC graduates who have gone on to pursue graduate studies at prestigious Ivy League universities in the United States, would like to see more students from the region and especially AUC follow in their footsteps.



Site Preparations on AUC's New Campus Complete

By Lamiya Tawfik
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

Beneath the Surface



AUC is now prepared to begin above-the-ground construction on the new campus

On the 260-acre plot of land in New Cairo where a world-class university will one day be situated, the motion of bulldozers and scattered construction workers signals the day is nearing.

The site preparation phase, termed the “invisible stage” by Vice President for New Campus Development Hussein El Sharkawy has just ended, paving the way for above-the-ground construction to commence.

“For more than six years, we’ve been designing and planning for the new campus and finally work has started on the ground. This is an exciting stage for us,” said El Sharkawy.



Site preparation, which began last year, included the installation of the underground networks for natural gas, sewage, irrigation and fire fighting. Together they form the utilities networks that span about 14 kilometers.

Additionally, this phase included the construction of an underground service and utility tunnel that runs like a vein throughout the campus and facilitates intra-campus movement for services. The tunnel is 1.6 kilometers long and 5.5 meter wide, enough to accommodate two large electric carts side-by-side.

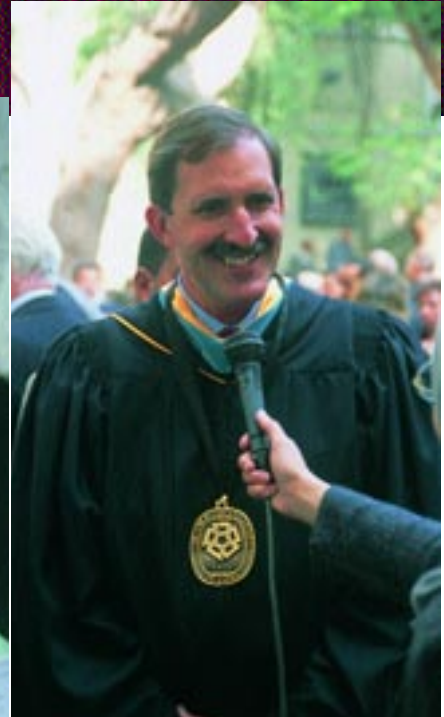
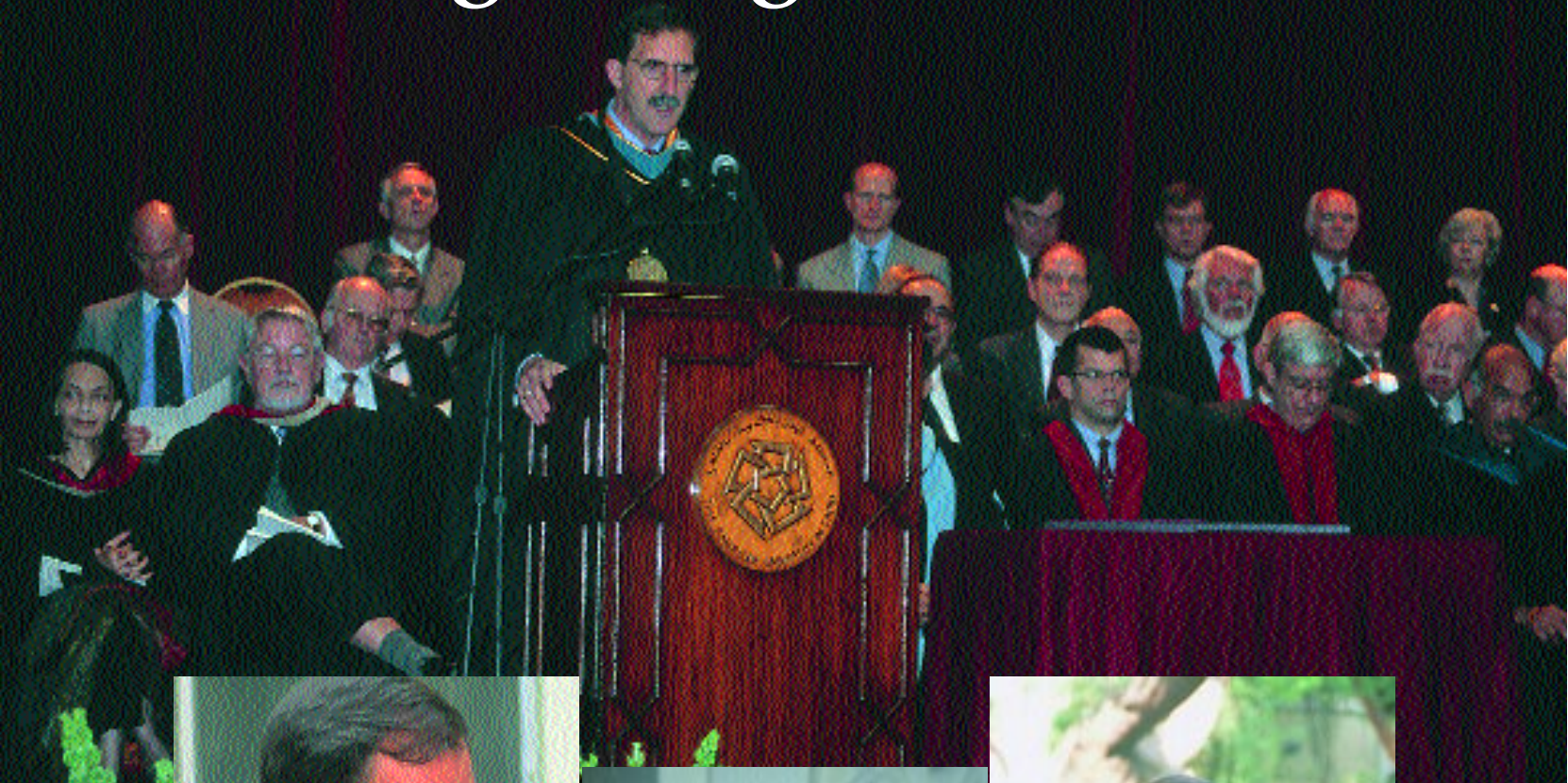
“There are service tunnels in many other projects in Egypt, but what makes this one unique is the underground interlinking between all the buildings on the new campus,” said Site Engineer Mohammed Salem, who is in charge of the service tunnel construction. Salem described the tunnel as an underground network of roads or passageways that will make it easier to transport equipment or materials from any location on campus.

With nearly 350 workers on the site each day, the site preparation phase was completed in March. Above-the-ground construction is scheduled to begin by June of this year. AUC will be ready to move to its state-of-the-art campus during the summer of 2007. □

To arrange a visit to the new campus or for additional information, please visit www.aucegypt.edu/ncd



The Beginning of a New Era



Inauguration ceremony marks the start of President David Arnold's leadership

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

In a ceremony that brought together members of the Board of Trustees, former AUC presidents, ministers, ambassadors, presidents of national universities, as well as faculty, staff and students, David Arnold was inaugurated as AUC's 10th president. At the ceremony — a celebration of the start of a new presidency that officially began in September — Arnold was presented with a 14-karat gold medallion bearing the university emblem.

"Today is an important milestone in my life's journey ... It is a great honor and privilege to accept the responsibilities you have bestowed on me as the 10th president of AUC ... Thank you for your confidence, your support and your dedication to the exciting work that lies ahead," Arnold said.

Emphasizing AUC's commitment to excellence, Arnold noted that quality education has always been a distinctive feature of the university. "Maintaining high standards and striving for excellence are consistent themes in all [the university's] efforts," he said. "Our trustees, faculty, staff and administrators all understand that quality is what defines AUC and makes it the special place it has become."

Speaking at the event, Egypt's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Moufid Shehab described AUC as the "lighthouse



Arnold (center) with AUC's Board of Trustees

that has been radiating knowledge and culture throughout the past decades," enriching researchers and knowledge seekers with "innovative scopes and forums." Shehab wished Arnold a successful and fruitful presidency that would "crown" AUC's efforts during the past 85 years.

On another note, Paul Hannon, the board's chairman, traced the history of the university, grouping AUC's former presidents into three "dynasties:" the founding fathers, the reign of the diplomats and the Texan ascendancy. "I find it interesting that we can group our past presidents into dynasties whose stories tell us about the development of AUC," he noted.

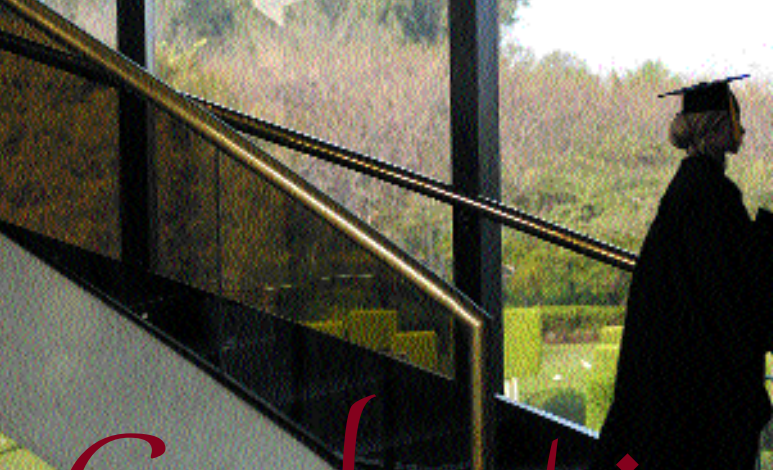
President Arnold, Hannon said, marks the beginning of a new dynasty. Addressing Arnold, Hannon stated, "... We look to you to lead us to the dream of our founding fathers — to lead us to our new campus — and to fulfill the dreams of our founders. You have started off superbly, and we are confident you will fulfill this challenge." □

By Dalia Al Nimr

"We look to you to lead us to the dream of our founding fathers — to lead us to our new campus — and to fulfill the dreams of our founders."



Galal Zaki '68, Provost Tim Sullivan and AUC parent and long-time supporter Anis Acimandos

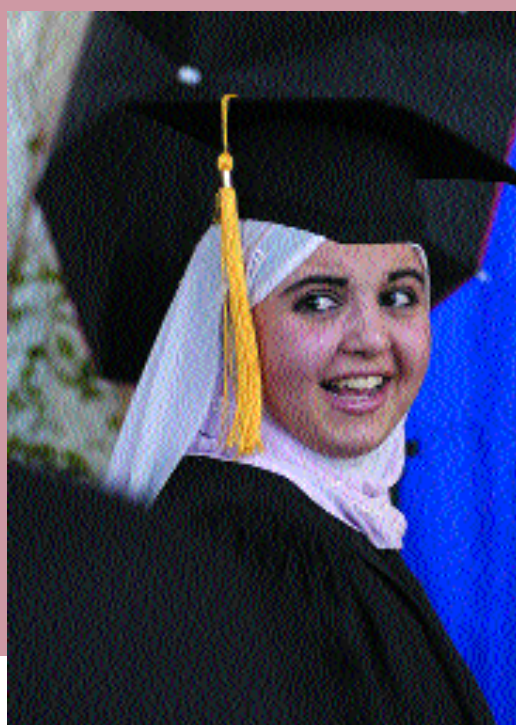


Saluting the Grad



"You will always be an AUC class that was shaped in part by the political crises around you: in particular the war in Iraq and the endless brutality in Palestine. At AUC, you sought ways of expressing yourselves as citizens and contributing what you could in money, goods and sympathy ... Yet through it all, you remained focused on what rationally at your stage in life, had to be your first responsibility — finishing your AUC studies today and preparing to play a larger role in your society tomorrow."

*AUC Trustee Thomas Bartlett,
keynote speaker at the
undergraduate commencement*





"Have courage, take decisions, compete ethically, focus on customer needs and satisfaction, don't be impatient about success, be role models, add value, promote teamwork, maintain a high level of business ethics and integrity, realize your maximum potential and never stop learning."

*Graduate commencement speaker
Mohamed Aly El-Hamamsy, vice
chairman, Vodafone Egypt*

graduates

Photos by Arnaud du Boistesselin

"I came to AUC as a study-abroad student ... From the first day, I knew I wasn't going back to my home state of Alabama ... AUC had a charisma and charm that lured me into transferring, and now here I am, after three years, wanting more. I don't know exactly when it happened, but sometime between the protest to the war in Iraq and that scientific thinking course, I fell in love with AUC."

*Yasmene-Farrah Shalaby, undergraduate
class representative*



The Path of a Pioneer

John Merrill —
professor,
journalist and
author — brings
five decades of
experience to
the classroom

Ahmad El-Nemr

Noticeably tall with a full head of gray hair and a warm “howdy,” John Merrill is AUC’s newly appointed journalism professor. An international media scholar, he has toured the world for the past 54 years covering wars, famine and political strife; teaching and lecturing in almost 90 countries worldwide; managing news bureaus and journalism schools; and writing and editing over 25 books and 100 scholarly articles on journalism.

A navy veteran of World War II, recipient of the Lifetime Service Award from the University of

Missouri’s School of Journalism and listed in *Who’s Who in the World*, *Who’s Who in America* and the *Directory of American Scholars*, it is not surprising that Merrill has been referred to as the “godfather of journalism.”

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English and history from Delta State College, a master’s degree in journalism from Louisiana State University, a second master’s degree in philosophy from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a doctorate in mass communication from the University of Iowa.





Ahmad El-Nimr

“I’ve always been interested in language and philosophy, and journalism is a way of combining the two,” he says, as he types intently on the computer located in his ground-floor office at AUC. “If you don’t like language and don’t know how to use it well, you will not be a good journalist.”

Moving steadily in his career from reporter to editor to columnist to renowned author and professor, Merrill acknowledges that the road was bumpy. “You need to work hard, write a lot and read a lot. You have to think of new ideas for articles and books that fill the gaps in the existing literature. You have to be creative and think of new ways of doing things.”

And that’s what Merrill did. When he first began teaching in the early 1950s, he noticed the dearth of material dealing with international communication. So he took the initiative and wrote the first textbook on international communication. “As an undergraduate after World War II, I realized that there were no books on international journalism, yet the world was becoming more internationalized. That’s when I decided to write *The Foreign Press*.”

Other books Merrill has authored include *The Elite Press*, *The Imperative of Freedom*, *Philosophy and Journalism*, *Media Debates*, and his latest and last book before retirement, *Global Journalism*. Many of his books have been translated into several languages, including Spanish, Russian, Malaysian, French, Italian and Portuguese.

Traveling extensively as a professional journalist, lecturer and distinguished visiting professor, Merrill has developed a new outlook on the world. “Traveling opens up the

whole world to you. It makes you understand people better — their cultures, their values. In the process, you become more tolerant and less critical. Traveling and reading go hand in hand; if you can’t travel, read.”

Being a professor, Merrill finds teaching a way to fulfill the journalistic passion inside him. Both professions, he says, entail responsibility, accountability and hard work. “A reporter researches and explains information in a credible way, and so does a teacher who hopes to have a positive influence on his or her students. A teacher does the same in class that a good reporter would do at a newspaper.”

Emphasizing the core values of proper journalistic practice, Merrill always advises his students to have integrity, a strong character and a relentless effort in pursuit of the truth. “If you do a good job professionally, if you are a trusted person of principles, and if you use language accurately, people will believe you,” he affirms.

Merrill came to AUC 10 years ago as a distinguished visiting professor and is now back for a year teaching undergraduate courses in media ethics and graduate courses in international communication. “It’s like stepping back into 1994,” he says smiling. “I have been to numerous universities worldwide, but I like the smallness of AUC, the diversity of the student body, the seriousness of the students and the friendliness of fellow faculty.”

A father of five and grandfather of eight, Merrill wishes to retire after his current teaching post at AUC. “I want to sit back and relax, work in my flower garden, watch television and visit my children and grandchildren. I’ve produced a lot, worked a lot and traveled a lot. I need to rest.” □

By Dalia Al Nimr

Top: Merrill and his wife of 54 years Dorothy;
bottom: Merrill teaching journalism students in his
media ethics class

THE THRILL OF THE CHASE

By Dalia Al Nimr

Alumni share the reward, the heartbreak and the excitement of being international correspondents

It is 4 a.m. The deafening sound of explosives and gunfire shatter the silence of a bitterly cold Baltic morning. With his flak jacket and helmet on, Yosri Fouda (MA '92) jumps down from his armored car and hides behind a bush to escape the flailing bullets. Fifteen minutes pass and the sound begins to die down. Slowly emerging from around the bush, Fouda takes his breath, holds his microphone and stands up in front of the camera to relay the events of the war in Bosnia to a BBC audience.

Covering wars and political strife is how Fouda and many others began their careers as international correspondents. Filled with excitement, danger, risk and emotional turmoil, such a career is not for everyone. It requires patience, commitment and a special skill of being able to handle the fast-paced and many times stressful events that the world throws at you.

"Being an international correspondent, you see life at its very essence," Fouda said. "You gain a wealth of experience and come close to the

real meaning of life, seeing things firsthand and interacting with people of different backgrounds and conditions. More importantly, you play a role in telling your own people the truth."

After graduating from AUC with a master's degree in television journalism from the Adham Center, Fouda — a top-ranking student — taught mass communication at AUC and at Cairo University before moving to London to begin his doctoral studies. During his stay there, he read in the *Guardian* newspaper about the establishment of the BBC Arabia service. Keen to pursue a career in journalism, he quit his Ph.D. and joined BBC Arabia in 1994. There, he gained valuable field experience covering the war in Bosnia, the Middle East peace process and conflicts in Africa. Today, he is Al-Jazeera's London bureau chief, award-winning investigative reporter and host of the popular TV documentary series, "Top Secret," which he researches, edits and presents.

Reflecting on his first assignment, the war in Bosnia, Fouda remembers a



Above: El Batout sees endless windows of learning through his camera; right: His documentary in Iraq, earned him one of the most prestigious awards in the field



13-year-old Bosnian girl taking him to her kitchen where the wall was riddled with bullets and missiles. The girl, a pianist, played her music as the bullets kept coming through the kitchen. She gave Fouda one of the bullets, which he still keeps until this day.

"Covering the war in Bosnia was amazing and exciting, and that's why I chose to continue in this career," Fouda affirmed. "Sure I was afraid, but you



Almud El-Nimr

Fouda at AUC's Adham Center for TV Journalism, where he graduated 12 years ago



Award-winning documentary filmmaker sees life through his work

With a compassionate lens Ibrahim El Batout '85 has traveled to nearly every war zone in the world, where the lives of people have been struck with tragedy or destruction.

Recently, a documentary he filmed in May 2003 in the Iraqi village of Musayab for the German ZDF station earned him one of the most prestigious filmmaker awards in the world: the Rory Peck Award, under the Sony International Impact Award category.

In this documentary titled "Mass Graves in the Desert," El Batout filmed the mass graves in a *Shiaa* village allegedly dug under former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime. "The villagers were once told that a demonstration was being organized in support of the president and that anyone who doesn't come will be considered a traitor. The men went into trucks to the demonstration and never came back," he said.

Stories like that are difficult for El Batout to come to terms with. "Filming in war zones is a very traumatic experience, very destructive for your soul and body. I fail to switch back to normal life after that," he reflected. "I'm learning to do it right now, to go out have a coffee with a friend and be able to hear him and be able to say I'm weak, to cry, to even go to therapy."

Through filming, El Batout sees endless windows of learning. "Everything is magnified. You see the courage, the will to survive despite all the hard conditions, the tenderness of people when they meet and when they're in the same situation together."

In each of his assignments, El Batout finds characters and lessons that he takes with him. "They live inside me, and sometimes I need to live without that and push them outside," he explained, "but I always cherish the moments that I was with them."

El Batout won the German Axel Springer in 1994 for a film on female circumcision in Ethiopia and in 2000 for a film about the life of an ambulance driver in Ramallah, Palestine. He also won an Echo award in 1995 for a documentary on the war in Bosnia.

By Lamyia Taufik

take calculated risks and off you go. You do your best, try hard to be careful and make sure you have a good story to tell ... After my first assignment as a roving reporter, I knew I was destined to be a field man."

The war in Bosnia may have been Fouda's initial spark, but perhaps the milestone in his career was his exclusive interview with members of Al Qaeda. Invited by Al Qaeda leaders, Fouda

traveled to Pakistan, where he was escorted from his hotel, blindfolded and taken to meet Khaled Al-Sheikh Mohammed, head of the organization's military committee.

"While blindfolded, I was wondering where I was being led to and who I was going to meet. I flirted with the idea of meeting Osama bin Laden," Fouda said smiling. "I was a little afraid, but I knew I was going to be safe

because they wanted me to go back and tell the story."

Gaining international recognition and widespread media coverage after his Al Qaeda interview and the publication of his award-winning book *Masterminds of Terror* that recounted the experience, Fouda was even more determined to continue on his path of uncovering the truth. "The appreciation I get is always a motivation for me to go on," he admitted. "The amount of love I see in the eyes of people who stop me in the streets of Europe and the Arab world makes me feel it's all worth it."

Rewarding as it may be, the profession is not without its pitfalls. Covering the "horrendous" shelling of a marketplace in Sarajevo and the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo were distressing events for Fouda. Equally distressing and painful was the loss of colleagues in the field.

"You think to yourself that it could have been you," Fouda said sadly as he remembered the loss of a fellow cameraman. "You take calculated risks, but you can never be 100 percent sure. Journalists lose their lives and so do thousands of people in Iraq and Palestine ... Sometimes I go back home depressed and think to myself that I am not going to do this anymore, but the love of my profession wins over."

Single at the age of 39 and living alone in London for the past 12 years, Fouda does not regret his professional choice. "I like what I do, and I enjoy traveling to meet new people and cover new events," he said.

Sharing Fouda's vision is Youssef Ibrahim '68, a man with almost 25 years of experience as *The New York Times* regional Middle East correspondent. "Being an international correspondent is not dangerous but

fun,” Ibrahim said. “The variety of people and subjects you encounter and the range of human interest is without limits. You cover an array of topics and get to see a lot of people — some living under terrible conditions. You get an incredible exposure to life, and in the process, become more intelligent, humble and appreciative of how lucky you are.”

At the age of 13, Ibrahim was inspired to be an international correspondent like the hero in the movie *Love is a Many Splendored Thing*. “It was a magnificent love story about a foreign correspondent covering the Korean War in the 1950s,” Ibrahim said.

“The hero lived a very exotic life, though he was killed at the end of the movie.”

Adamant to become an international correspondent himself, Ibrahim joined AUC’s newly established journalism and mass communication department in 1963 and helped set up the university’s student newspaper,

“You get an incredible exposure to life, and in the process, become more intelligent, humble and appreciative of how lucky you are.”

Caravan. He then moved to Columbia University for his graduate studies in journalism, after which he worked as a reporter for *The New York Times*. In 1978, four months before the Iranian Revolution broke out, Ibrahim became the newspaper’s international correspondent in Iran.

“By the time the revolution started, I had already developed sources and contacts,” Ibrahim noted. “Iran had always been the least important country, but when one of the biggest revolutions of the century broke out, I ended up on the front page every single day. I was very lucky.”

Lucky he was, but he was also a very young man facing a huge challenge in a strange and dangerous country. “I was afraid to fail and afraid of the shootings in the street, especially when a dear

colleague of mine was shot before my eyes,” Ibrahim said. “The first few years require a lot of learning and pushing yourself to continue, but you have to really want this career path.”

Remembering his experiences covering the Iranian-Iraqi war, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the civil war in Lebanon, Ibrahim recounted some of the life-threatening situations he faced. “During the Iran-Iraq war, my colleague and I crossed the border from Kuwait into Iraq. Suddenly, we found Iranian tanks coming our way and saw all the Iraqi soldiers jumping into their bunkers. We didn’t have a bunker, so we jumped into a hole in the ground and stayed there for the entire four hours of shooting.”

Similarly, during the Iranian Revolution, Ibrahim and his colleague had to hide under a car for one hour



Above: Abou El Magd standing near the presidential complex in central Baghdad, where helmets of 5,000 Iranian soldiers killed during the Iran-Iraq war are held; right: Abou El Magd with her son Youssef during a summer vacation in Lebanon



Ibrahim (bottom-right) and two reporters in Algeria leaving the hijacked Kuwait Airways plane, after interviewing one of the hijackers in 1988

when the Iranian army attacked a university campus in which they were reporting. “My colleague quit after that incident,” he said.

So what motivates Ibrahim to continue?

“Reporting is a wonderful experience; you learn, see and absorb so much and get the satisfaction of being to places that are at the edge. Not only that, but when you have 30



Keeping the Balance: A Mother's Struggle

Rising early to dress her 7-year-old for school and to escort him to the bus, Nadia Abou El Magd '87, '92, regional reporter for the Associated Press (AP) news agency, maintains a delicate balance between a career on the run and her role as a mother.

"I treat my son Youssef with respect and let him make his own decisions," she said proudly. "I take him with me on some of my trips, and I explain to him the nature of my work and why I like it. He understands, and now he wants to be a journalist himself."

Having just returned from Iraq, Abou El Magd was invited to her son's school to talk about her work. During her talk, Abou El Magd paid tribute to her son, telling his second-grade class how she is grateful to Youssef for letting her do what she wants to do and making it easy on her. This loving relationship is also evident with Youssef, who was asked by one of his classmates why his mother keeps traveling a lot. Youssef simply remarked, "My mother is important."

But why did Abou El Magd, a political science graduate, choose a career in journalism? The answer is twofold: traveling and writing.

"Traveling opens up new worlds to you," she said with enthusiasm. "You keep learning and writing about different things and meeting new people. It's very intriguing; it's even more intriguing when it becomes a part of your job."

As a woman in the field, Abou El Magd acknowledges that there are obstacles. "You pay a very high price and have to put extra effort to convince people that you are serious ... but I like the challenge."

Considering her latest assignment in Iraq as the "mother of all assignments," Abou El Magd was moved by the experience. "I saw coffins, wounded people, sick children and families drenched in poverty ... it was an experience I would never forget."

Determined to return to Iraq, Abou El Magd finds the experience transforming. "You see a lot of suffering and you interact with an array of people. In the process, you become more compassionate and understanding of life ... there is an addiction to this job that you just can't resist, and I can't imagine myself doing anything else."

By Dalia Al Nimr

"You attend the funeral, the memorial, see the wife and kids. You usually need to talk with your editor about it in order to feel better."

years, something kicks in and you develop an insulation wall — like the doctor who cares for terminally ill cancer patients. You get used to it."

But Ibrahim admits that the loss of colleagues is always difficult. "It is very personal," he said with a cracking voice. "You attend the funeral, the memorial, see the wife and kids. You usually need to talk with your editor about it in order to feel better."

What's most difficult for Ibrahim, however, is family separation. After 20 years of marriage, Ibrahim and his American wife Suzan divorced. "Of the 40 correspondents I knew at *The New York Times*, only two had marriages that survived ... The hardest thing is separation from the person you love," Ibrahim said.

Having left *The New York Times* three years ago, Ibrahim became a fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York and is now a columnist in US newspapers and magazines. He believes an international correspondent carries a noble mission: "At the end of the day, somebody will remember that for 20 years, you told them the truth and were part of documenting history."

Agreeing with Ibrahim, Fouda affirmed, "I have devoted my life to bringing stories out in the open, reporting to people in the Arab world so that they would become better informed, make knowledgeable decisions and participate positively in their own affairs. If I have contributed a bit to the Arab concept of TV journalism, then I would be proud." □

million people reading your name on the front page, you definitely feel inclined to go on."

With such a long time in the field, Ibrahim has become better able to adapt to seeing dead people around him. Ibrahim recounted how in 1978, during the Iranian Revolution, he and his colleague hid in a building to escape the shootings in the street. When the sound of the bullets died

down, his colleague looked up the window and was immediately shot in the head. "His blood spurted on my clothes. It was a complete shock for me. I was depressed and questioned if I wanted to continue in this profession."

Thirteen years later, during the 1990 Gulf War, Ibrahim witnessed a 35-mile line of dead Iraqi soldiers charcoaled in their cars. "It was an incredible sight, but I didn't feel anything. Over the

Red Sea Explorers



By Dina Abulfotuh
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

Students learn about Egypt's magnificent coral reefs and emerge with a new respect for the environment, their abilities and lessons on life

Day nine. The bus pulls up about 30 meters away from the beach and all the passengers disembark only to find themselves accosted by stinging sand from all directions. With the wind blowing any chance for cover and the sea hardly inviting, the instructors signal the group back onto the bus. After a brief consultation and as the students' grumbling dies down, the instructor announces the plan: Pending the improvement in weather conditions, today's snorkeling may be cancelled. Until then, the students are to break up into pairs and practice on the ground what they would be expected to complete in the water. Seeking shelter

behind a large nearby boulder, the students, still grumbling and noticeably apprehensive, begin the task at hand.

By all accounts the worst weather faced by the group, it is nonetheless a part of what for many students would be an unforgettable experience and the beginning of an unexpected transformation.

During AUC's winter session, 25 students registered for "Environmental Biology of the Red Sea," a 21-day intensive course covering a range of topics including marine biology, ecology, geology, paleontology and oceanography. The heart of the course, however, was conservation and sustainable development. In the end,



students survived the grueling workdays and emerged with unanticipated realizations about themselves, the environment and the country they call home.

The course, co-taught by AUC biology Professor Moshira Hassan and Visiting Professor Guy Jobbins, offered a rare opportunity for both science and non-science majors to witness firsthand the magnificent coral reefs in Egypt and learn about the impact of various activities on the environment.

“I see the course as a way to educate and influence a group of students who would not otherwise walk into my classroom,” said Jobbins, who just completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at University College in England. “What is particularly rewarding is to watch a process where people’s attitudes and perceptions change,” he said.

Hassan, whose decision to join AUC in 2002 was largely based on the belief that she would be in a position to influence future decision makers, views the course as a vehicle for affecting change. “AUC graduates will be decision makers of various kinds, and we hope that when they

are in a position to review a project, they would be able to evaluate the EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment] and ask the right questions,” she explained.

Clearly comfortable among her students, Hassan delivers high-impact lectures with a level of passion that is contagious. Having devoted the majority of her career to saving coral reefs throughout the world, Hassan naturally believes that conservation and sustainable development are key objectives of the course. However, she is adamant that her students draw their own conclusions. “That is the most essential aspect of the course — see it, experience it and learn it — as opposed to me telling them,” said Hassan. “I feel that the only truly informed opinion on the necessity of reef conservation can come only after physically, mentally and emotionally experiencing coral reefs.”

Jobbins, an environmental consultant and researcher specialized in the Middle East, explained the approach: “We don’t dwell on the details of conservation ecology; we really try to tailor it to their professions and make it relevant. We

“That is the most essential aspect of the course — see it, experience it and learn it — as opposed to me telling them.”





spend time on relationships between human activities and the environment, looking at things like the impact of fisheries, tourism, environmental law and policies.”

Hassan wished her students would leave the course “with a belief that they can make a difference. That is maybe more than I can expect, but that’s what I wish.” Jobbins, equally as optimistic, hoped his students would “feel that they’ve connected with something ... in this case, the conservation of the environment and sustainable development.”

On day one of the course, students arrived at 9 a.m. at the classroom on the fourth floor of Hill House. Anyone who entertained thoughts of a breezy four-credit course would be thinking again before the end of the first seven-hour day. After four days in Cairo, the students, prepared with the basic understanding of the sciences, were ready for the field portion of the course. For the next 11 days, the group would be stationed at the training center of the National Parks of Egypt in Sharm El Sheikh.

Each day, after a breakfast promptly served at 7:00 a.m., the students headed to Ras Mohammad National Park, where they would be divided into two groups, either conducting a snorkeling activity or lab work before switching after lunch. Once both groups had completed both activities, the students returned to the park’s training center. After dinner, it was time for a lecture delivered by one of the instructors or a guest speaker from the Egyptian Environmental Agency.

The demanding pace of the course was for many the most difficult part. “The most challenging aspect for both students and instructors is the sheer intensity of it,” said Jobbins. “Some students think that it’s an elective and that it won’t be tough, but it’s fierce. If everybody is there, on time and well-rested, you can do a good day’s work; you really need that level of participation and that’s very hard.”

Despite the mental and physical stress of the course, Jobbins found that most students did well, “even though they are coming into a course unlike anything they’ve done before

with an environment outside their comfort zone.”

With non-stop activities from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and constant interaction among the students and instructors, the boot-camp-like atmosphere only magnified the impact of the experience. Students frequently joked about feeling as though they were part of the popular reality-based television show “Survivor.” Beyond the critical issues of conservation in the course, its sheer intensity, coupled with the concentrated level of group interaction, taught many students about group work and their capabilities.

Lama Elhatow, construction engineering senior, admitted the course had a dramatic impact on her view of conservation. “When it comes down to environmental protection, my perception was always ‘let’s close the tap when we brush our teeth to conserve water,’ but after taking this course, I realized how much more we need to do,” she said with excitement.

“The value of a coral reef in Sharm El Sheikh is \$300 per square meter; that is baffling ... I’m actually losing more by damaging it.” Eager to share what she has learned, Elhatow is quick to point out the benefits of coral reefs. “They are one of the most amazing, highly diverse ecosystems; the importance of coral reefs on so many levels is unbelievable — tourism, the pharmaceutical industry, marine life; the list goes on.”

Elhatow enrolled in the course to achieve a more balanced opinion. “I’m a construction engineering major, and typically people tend to think that engineers are the ones who damage and the biologists conserve. This course has given me background so I can go into my career knowing that there are ways to go about my job without harming the environment; it gave me a balanced view,” she said.

Kalid Manie, an international student from Yemen, also found career applications in the course. “Because I’m a broadcasting student, I feel that I have a role to play,” he asserted. “Although there are other more important issues — like poverty — that need to be addressed, I can still support environmental awareness programs, especially for children.”

The 23-year-old was struck by how much there is to be done. “We always hear about pollution and the ozone, but now I understand that there are



“This course has given me background so I can go into my career knowing that there are ways to go about my job without harming the environment; it gave me a balanced view.”



things that we are doing that affect the environment directly ... If every individual checked his car and did his part, we can for sure be better off today," Manie said. "On the beach one day, I found myself — although it was optional — wanting to collect garbage with everyone; it was very rewarding because I could see the instructors' viewpoint and their passion about conservation."

For some students like Shereif Rostom, the most dramatic lesson was much broader than conservation and involved an examination of his entire lifestyle. "I was amazed at how much we were able to accomplish from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.," he said. "It made me look closely at my lifestyle, which seems boring in comparison." As a construction engineering senior, Rostom rarely has time to go out or engage in other extracurricular activities. But after the course, "I think of my day in an entirely different way. I will start taking diving lessons and will learn how to play the guitar," resolved Rostom. "I learned that there is so much I can get out of a day."

A rather unexpected outcome of the course for May Sabry, a biology sophomore, was a newly found respect for her country. "I had always thought that Egypt is very corrupt and messed up, but to realize how well managed our land is and how well the system is running overall; that is pretty impressive," she exclaimed.

Before returning to Cairo, the students visited several sites along the coast of the Red Sea that demonstrate the impact of human activities on the environment. In his early 30s with a distinctive British accent that gives away his nationality, Jobbins has remarkable insight into the minds of his Egyptian students. "One of the most important things we do is to take them to an ecotourism project in Basata, 30 miles before Taba, where they see non-governmental organizations that were thought up by Egyptians and are run by Egyptians. It demonstrates that things can happen in Egypt — all you need is the right attitude and a sense of purpose," emphasized Jobbins.

Hassan, keenly attuned to the

"They see non-governmental organizations that were thought up by Egyptians and are run by Egyptians. It demonstrates that things can happen in Egypt — all you need is the right attitude and a sense of purpose."



misperceptions of her students and determined to challenge them, deliberately planned the course in a way that would maximize the students' contact with the Egyptian staff at the national park. "I find it important to conduct the course entirely on the premises of the park," asserted Hassan. "I think it's important for the students to know that there are Egyptians doing good things; there are people who are motivated, even if they are not paid a lot of money. Teaching the course would have been possible to do in a resort, but it was essential for them to be submerged there."

Conversely, Hassan felt that the course would also be an opportunity to dispel misconceptions of AUCians. "AUC students sometimes have a reputation of being spoiled rotten, and I found it equally important for people at the park to see that they are not like that," she said.

But perhaps the overwhelming feeling of accomplishing a feat thought impossible was the most valuable lesson of all. An 18-year-old biology sophomore, Sabry found herself on the brink of complete exhaustion. "The weather was so incredibly horrible this particular day. We were sitting under the flap of the luggage compartment on the bus listening to the instructor," explained Sabry. "I didn't want to be a wimp, so I was thinking I hope this thing falls on me or I get hurt so I don't have to go in the water today."

Somehow, Sabry — in part not wanting to succumb to defeat — mustered the courage to go into the water for the coral survey transect. "It was probably the most difficult thing I've had to do in my life; my partner was injured and I was having problems with my fins, but when I finally came out, the feeling was incredible ... I've never tried so hard to accomplish something in my life, and it felt so great," said a proud Sabry.

Day twenty-one. Early on a Saturday morning, the students gather for one last time to take the final exam. After two hours and a lot of writing, they begin to trickle out of the room. Just outside Hill House, a small huddle of visibly delighted students begins to form, with smiles beaming in every direction. The warm goodbyes and unexpected feelings of nostalgia mark a group of people who have shared a challenge, experienced a triumph and emerged all the stronger for it. □

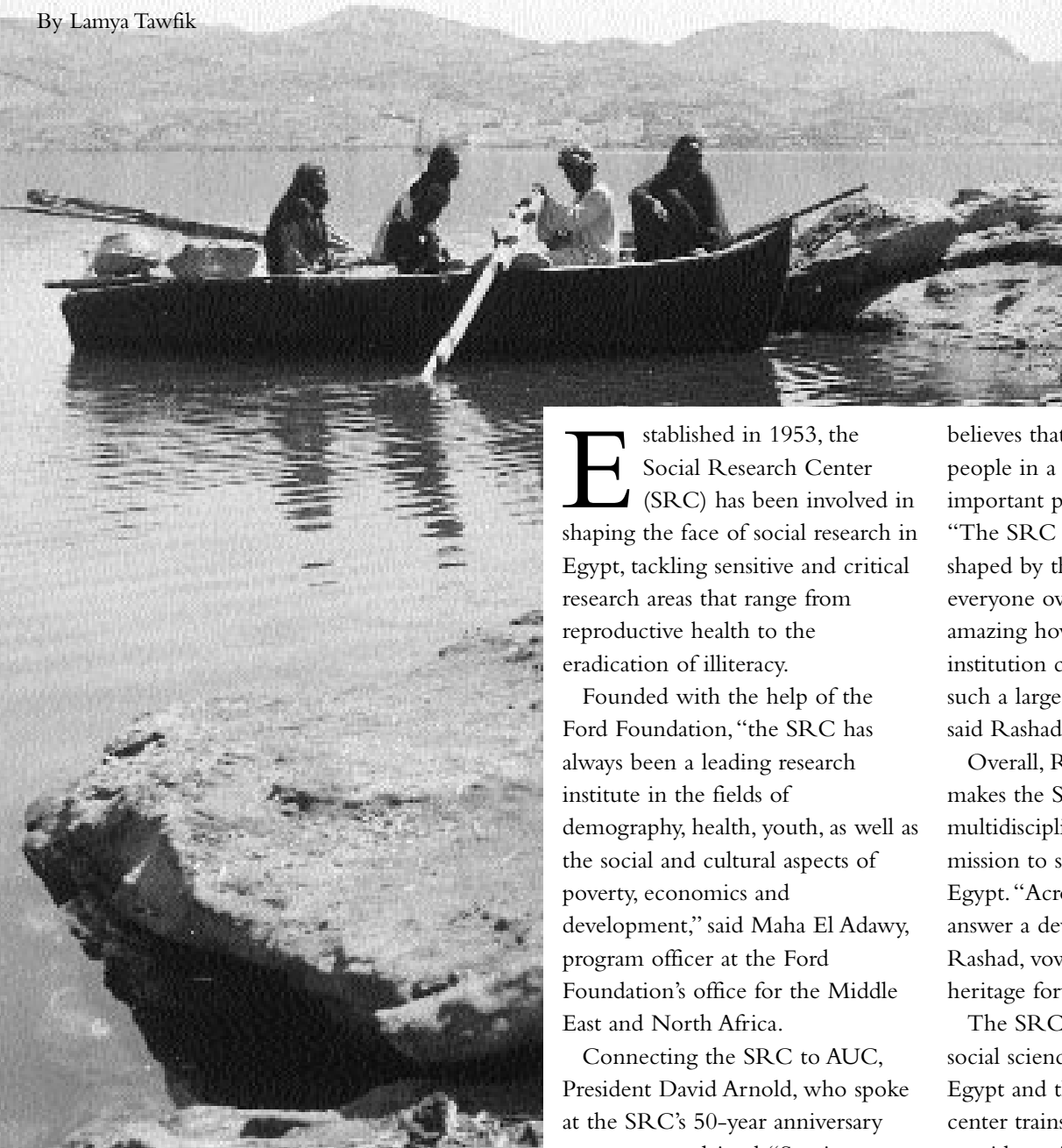


"It was probably the most difficult thing I've had to do in my life; my partner was injured and I was having problems with my fins, but when I finally came out, the feeling was incredible ... I've never tried so hard to accomplish something in my life, and it felt so great."

Marking 50 Years of Development Assistance

A Look at AUC's Social Research Center

By Lamya Tawfik



The SRC's ethnographic work in Nubian villages in the early '60s, was the first of its kind

Established in 1953, the Social Research Center (SRC) has been involved in shaping the face of social research in Egypt, tackling sensitive and critical research areas that range from reproductive health to the eradication of illiteracy.

Founded with the help of the Ford Foundation, "the SRC has always been a leading research institute in the fields of demography, health, youth, as well as the social and cultural aspects of poverty, economics and development," said Maha El Adawy, program officer at the Ford Foundation's office for the Middle East and North Africa.

Connecting the SRC to AUC, President David Arnold, who spoke at the SRC's 50-year anniversary ceremony, explained, "Service to Egypt continues to be an essential part of who we are and what we do, and the work that the SRC does is key to our ability to fulfill that very critical part of AUC's mission."

SRC Director Hoda Rashad

believes that impacting the lives of people in a meaningful way is an important part of the SRC's work. "The SRC has a history that is shaped by the contributions of everyone over the last few years. It's amazing how such a small institution can touch the lives of such a large number of individuals," said Rashad.

Overall, Rashad stressed that what makes the SRC special is its multidisciplinary approach in its mission to serve development in Egypt. "Across the years we tried to answer a developmental need," said Rashad, vowing to carry this heritage forward.

The SRC conducts and supports social science research programs in Egypt and the Middle East. The center trains researchers and provides guidance and assistance to graduate students, scholars and organizations in the region. The following is an overview of some of the projects the SRC has been engaged in over the past five decades.

“A person who is literate knows how to follow good health practices and to read drug leaflets. How could a person who is illiterate know his rights and run for elections?”

Eradicating Illiteracy Among Egyptian Villagers

Among the SRC's most important activities, in cooperation with the National Council for Women, the governors of Fayoum and Qalyubiyya, and the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education (GALAE), was the adoption of a systematic approach to illiteracy eradication. The project, which took place in Fayoum and Qalyubiyya, included a census of illiterates, sample survey studies on illiteracy eradication and the design of a Geographic Information System.

The SRC helped in training GALAE staff and finding accurate statistics about the number of illiterates, which in some governorates is as high as 60 percent of the population. “When studying the issue of illiteracy in Egypt, we realized that a major problem was the unavailability of specific information on the number of illiterates. In the governorate of Fayoum, the SRC developed a database of the names of the illiterates and this helped the GALAE implement a successful program in the area. The same was then duplicated in Qalyubiyya,” said

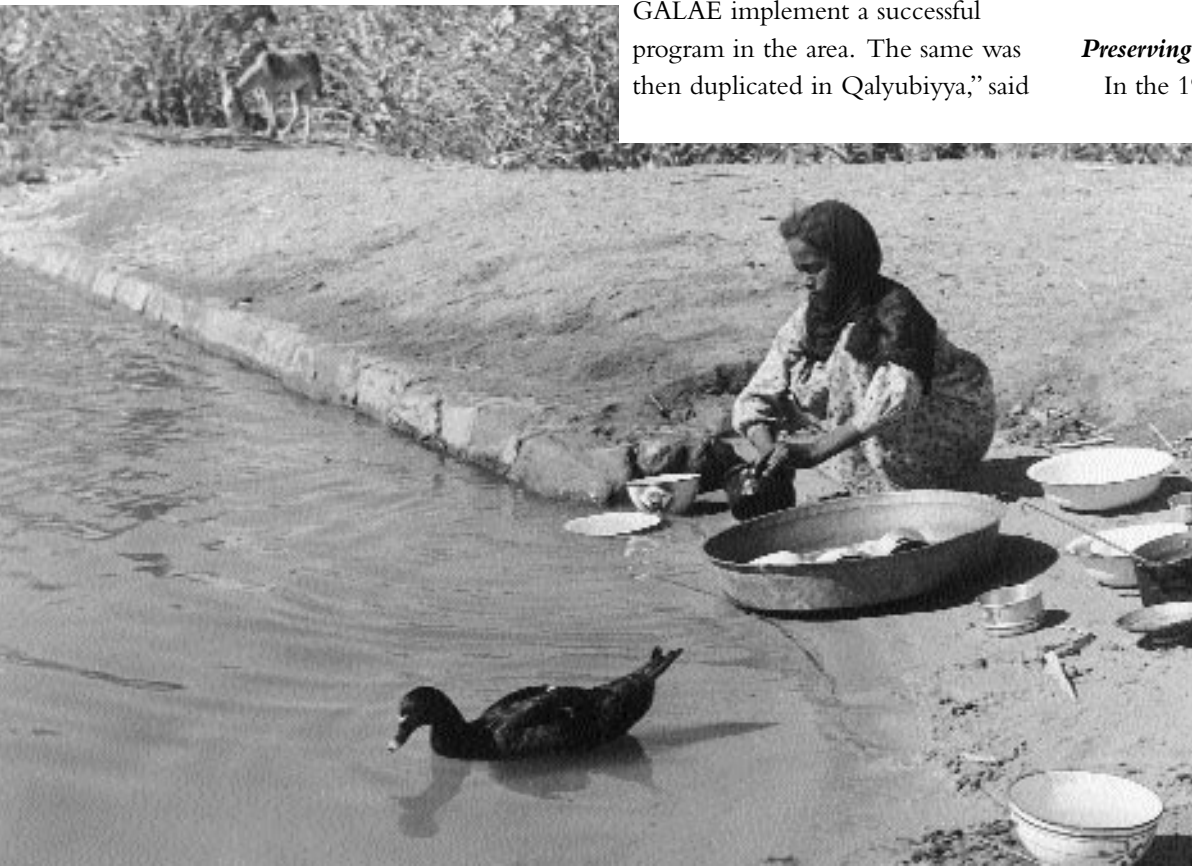
Ramadan Hamed, the SRC faculty member who guided the project.

Underscoring the importance of literacy to other aspects of life, Hamed highlighted the National Council for Women's sponsorship of the program. “A person who is literate knows how to follow good health practices and to read drug leaflets. How could a person who is illiterate know his rights and run for elections?” he said, adding that one of the United Nations Development Program's indicators for development is the literacy rate of a nation. The other two indicators are health and income.

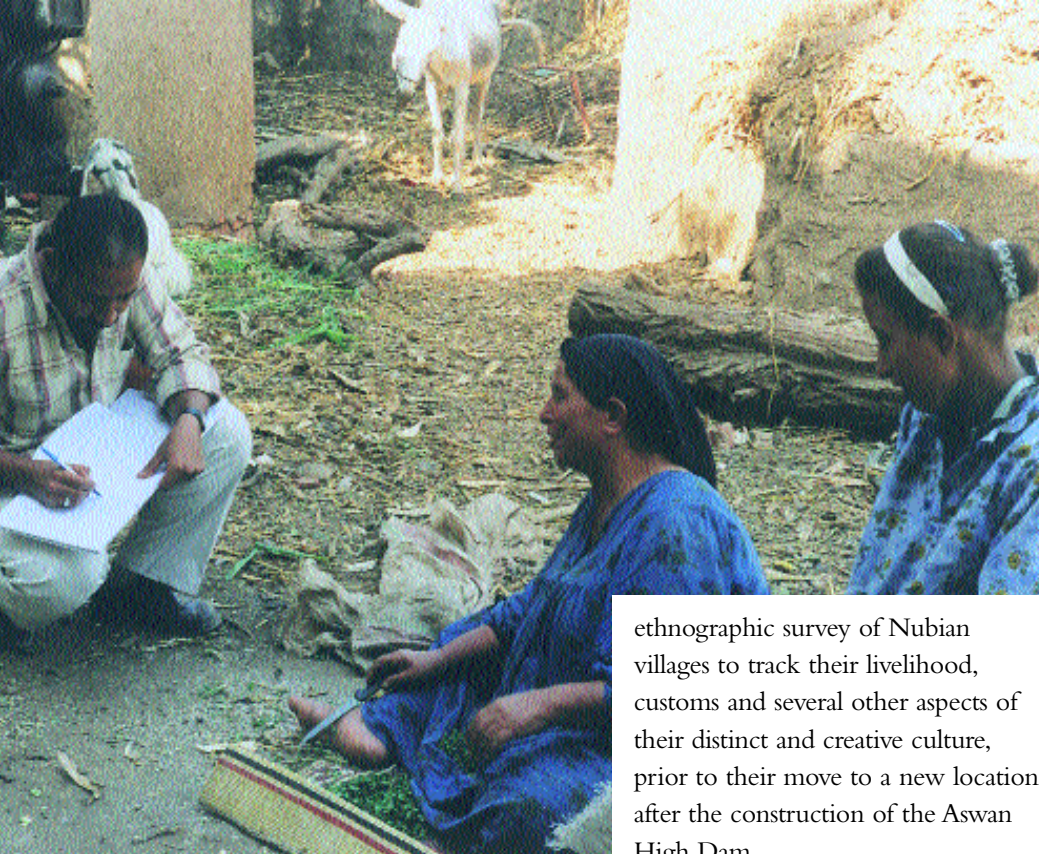
A key research project the SRC carried out on illiteracy aimed to identify obstacles facing literacy in these villages. “We discovered that one of the main obstacles was the lack of innovative methods to attract the illiterates to the programs and keep them in it. Also, many of them, after being educated, returned to illiteracy because there were no follow-up education programs, and the lack of practice means that they forget what they learn,” said Hamed.

Preserving Nubian Heritage

In the 1960s, the SRC pioneered an



Documenting Nubian culture and traditions, the SRC developed an ethnographic survey



Top: GALAE officer interviewing villagers in Qalyubiyya, as part of a survey on illiteracy in collaboration with the SRC; bottom: GALAE staff member interviewing a woman in Fayoum, in a similar illiteracy eradication project



“We discovered that one of the main obstacles was the lack of innovative methods to attract the illiterates to the programs and keep them in it.”

ethnographic survey of Nubian villages to track their livelihood, customs and several other aspects of their distinct and creative culture, prior to their move to a new location after the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

Fikry Abdel Wahab, a Nubian who has worked at the SRC since the early 1960s, contemplated with nostalgia the Nubian project, priding himself for being part of the survey. “There are many customs that were stopped after the relocation of their villages. For example, in weddings, the groom used to walk in a procession from his house to the Nile. Now they are so far away after the dam has been built and so this no longer takes place,” he said. The SRC was able to capture and record unique aspects of Nubian culture that have been forever changed added Abdel Wahab.

Creating International Awareness

Helping promote an understanding of Egyptian culture abroad, the SRC held an ethnographic exhibition titled “The Nile: Jewel of Egypt” at the Moesgaard Museum in Aarhus, Denmark. The exhibition was on social and cultural life in Upper Egypt and was the culmination of over a decade of research collaboration between the SRC and several Danish institutions.

The exhibition presented life in Upper Egypt through a large range of artifacts, covering various aspects of social and cultural life in the region. For example, it included manual agricultural machinery used for irrigation like the Archimedean screw that illustrated the enduring significance of traditional implements.

“Many items were transported to Denmark such as water wheels, pottery and visual materials that depicted life in Upper Egypt. The exhibition was very well received and triggered many visitors to ask questions and to challenge the misconceptions that they have regarding the region,” said Reem Saad, who was a member of the organizing team.

In addition to the Ford Foundation, the SRC has had many donor partners over the years including the Mellon Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the Hewlett Foundation, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)/ENRECA, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Development and Research Center (IDRC) in Canada, GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), UNICEF, UNDP and ILO. □

Iman Bibars '81, '88 is not one to give a three-page resume. Hers is a whopping 13-pager, font size 10. Whether its teaching, practicing law or organizing a campaign of some sort, the one theme common among everything she has done, written or researched is that she's only interested in the real issues.

Throughout her 20-year career, Bibars has worked with marginalized groups in society such as garbage collectors, street vendors, street children and women. Among the accomplishments she is most proud of is her role in the establishment of the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW) nearly 17 years ago.

It was ADEW that spearheaded one of the most energetic campaigns calling for the revival of an old decree dormant since 1975 that would allow Egyptian women to pass their nationality on to their children. In September 2003, ADEW along with thousands of Egyptian women, celebrated victory when President Hosni Mubarak announced that women can apply for the Egyptian citizenship for their children at the Ministry of Interior — if they have been living in Egypt for 10 years and if their children are healthy and can speak Arabic.

Like a proud parent, Bibars described the innovative approach ADEW adopted in its campaign. Instead of engaging in a legal discourse on the rights of women, the organization shifted its emphasis to documenting and publicizing cases that illustrate the hardships women ensure as a result of the law.

"We started working in development among garbage collectors and identified female heads of households as the poorest

of the poor, most marginalized and voiceless," she said, describing their work in Mansheyet Nasr, where they found that many women were without legal papers, birth certificates or identity cards for themselves or their children.

It was through the documentation of thousands of cases that she understood the depth of the nationality issue. "We found that many of the women we have been working with for five years don't send their kids to school because the fees for foreign children are extremely high."

This was a eureka moment for Bibars, who realized that the nationality issue was more than just a rights discourse, but one of protection and survival. "For these women, if their kids don't go to school, they could become juvenile delinquents. In order for decision makers to change their minds, the public had to change its mind," said Bibars.

Diligently, she spoke to parliament, governors and the media, in addition to organizing a conference to raise awareness. For Bibars, the effort was worth it, especially when she heard the president's speech and realized that change was finally happening. □

By Lamyia Tawfik

Making Change

How Iman Bibars '81, '88 spearheaded the campaign to grant women the right to pass on the Egyptian citizenship to their children



A Lesson in Service

Service learning courses blend community service and academics

By Dalia Al Nimr

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

“I became more appreciative of the things I have in life, and I understood that charity is more than just donating money — it is all about sharing, caring and interacting with people,” said Hala Mahmoud, a psychology senior, of her experience in one of AUC’s newly introduced service learning courses.

Making community service an integral part of each student’s learning experience, AUC has begun offering courses with service components built into their curricula — a process referred to as service learning. It all started in 2001 when a task force made up of faculty, staff, alumni and students traveled to the United States to collect information on community service initiatives and student volunteerism from renowned universities such as Harvard, Brown and Georgetown. Among the task force’s recommendations was the need to blend community service with academic courses. As Provost Tim Sullivan explained, “we want our graduates to not only do well in their life when they graduate, we want them to do good to their society.”

This fall semester, AUC offered two courses — one in the School of Sciences and Engineering and the second in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences — that involved students



Top-center: Hala Mahmoud and Sara Sherif standing outside the National Cancer Institute, where they provided psychosocial support to the families there; top-right: Sara Yassin (left) discussing health issues with MES students; bottom: Maya Joukhadar (right) with an MES biology student



“Sharing our knowledge with youth to counter any misconceptions they have makes me feel that we are making a difference in society.”

fruitful because the school students saw AUCians as their peers, not as authoritative teachers.”

Choosing MES, Main explained, stemmed from the idea of starting the project with English-speaking schools. “We need to build a reputation first before tackling public schools,” he said.

And MES proved to be an extremely successful experience, setting the stage for

working in a field setting to provide service to different segments of society.

The science course, titled “Current Health Issues,” had AUC students assisting and educating high-school students about public and personal health issues in order to raise their awareness of community health problems. The social science course was titled “Psychosocial Interventions for Childhood Cancer” and created a chance for psychology majors to engage in closely supervised psychosocial work with families whose children are being treated at the National Cancer Institute in Cairo (NCI).

Andrew Main, chair of the biology department and the professor handing the service-learning component, noted that the science course was designed to explore public and personal health infrastructures, with a focus on Egypt.

Attempting to bring health issues to life, Main and biology Professor Suher Zada invited specialists from different health fields to discuss with students issues such as HIV and AIDS, genetic manipulations and stress management. These specialists gave talks in class and engaged with AUC students in an interactive discussion on the topic at hand, answering their queries and opening up new lines of thought. During the semester, AUC students would then disseminate the knowledge they gained to high-school students at the Modern English School (MES) and Misr Language School.

“This way, students get a chance to take part in open discussions, express themselves and form opinions on a variety of topics, some of which may be controversial,” said Main. “Rather than chalk and talk and plain lecturing, students discussed the topics freely, developed their own ideas about various issues and communicated the information they learned to other students. This communication was especially

more to come. In coordination with the school’s biology teacher, Barbara Rogers, the students conducted classes with 11th graders, discussing with them health issues of interest, answering their inquiries and assigning them presentations and reports.

One of the major topics discussed was AIDS. The 16-year-olds at MES had many questions about how this disease is transmitted, what to do to prevent it, whether or not it is infectious and how widespread it is in Egypt. The AUC students confidently answered these queries, using documented material and real-life examples.

“These youth are at a critical age,” said Sara Yassin, an AUC student involved in the MES project. “They need people to talk to them about relevant and sensitive health issues so that they can make their own decisions and communicate these ideas to others.”

Maya Joukhar, another AUC student, believed that the service-learning course enabled her to serve others, thus helping to induce change. “Sharing our knowledge with youth to counter any misconceptions they have makes me feel that we are making a difference in society. We are expanding youth’s understanding of issues and opening up their eyes to things happening in the world. It was an education for us and for them,” she said.

Meanwhile, students in the psychology course experienced a different type of community service by regularly visiting the National Cancer Institute and providing psychosocial support for families whose children are being treated there. Taught by AUC psychology Professor Nancy Peterson, the course provided students with a chance to put psychological theory into practice, by listening to families and learning how to respond to their concerns in a supportive way.



Top: Peterson provides feedback to her students in class about their experience at the NCI; right: Enas Abdul Sattar helping an MES student

“It also provided an opportunity to groom the best psychology students for graduate training in the field, which would enable them to provide even more meaningful service to their community in the future.”

Highlighting the importance of the course, Peterson, who is also a licensed clinical psychologist, noted, “By providing psychosocial support for families at NCI, students had a chance to compare the health psychology concepts presented in class with the reality for children and families at NCI. It also provided an opportunity to groom the best psychology students for graduate training in the field, which would enable them to provide even more meaningful service to their community in the future.”

Students who wished to register for the course had to write a letter of interest to Peterson, explaining why they wanted to take the course and relaying any personal or professional experience they had with children or with people who have life-threatening illnesses. “Not everyone is prepared to handle the emotional intensity of the experience,” said Peterson, explaining why enrollment was so selective. “I needed to be sure that I was choosing the most ethical and responsible psychology students, because they would set the stage for future classes visiting NCI.”

The selected students underwent intensive training on topics that included ethical conduct, psychosocial issues for families facing life-threatening illness, therapeutic relations with parents and children, as well as basic behavior management and play therapy skills. After that, they paid weekly visits to families at the NCI, providing psychosocial support to the parents and play therapy for the children.

“It is important to distinguish between the brief emotional or financial support provided by most volunteers and the supervised therapeutic work provided by the students,” Peterson explained. Families need both kinds of support, but the two approaches are totally different. “By visiting the families on multiple occasions and truly listening to them,” she said, “they developed a



trusting relationship which led parents to share some of their deepest concerns, frustrations and worries.”

After each visit to the NCI, students had to submit a detailed transcript of the session. They would then receive from Peterson immediate and detailed feedback on what they’ve done and how they can improve their skills to move on to the next level. “That way, they gain practical experience and develop their therapeutic skills under close supervision,” Peterson said.

For the students, the benefit wasn’t just the practical experience; it was also the wider lens with which they came to view the world. “I feel like I grew 20 years older,” said Hala Mahmoud. “At first, it was very scary and painful. I saw children die and was exposed to things I hadn’t seen before.” Mahmoud learned from the experience the importance of service to the community and the difference one person could make in the lives of others.

“I began to realize that the world is bigger than the nutshell we live in,” said Sara Sherif, another student in the course. “Sitting with the families and listening to all their problems and concerns made my own problems seem very small and trivial.” □



Ayman Khoury

Changing the Face of Telecom Egypt

Akil Beshir (MA '79) and the story of his success

Chairman of Telecom Egypt, Akil Beshir '79 believes that the telecommunications industry in Egypt is one of the most vibrant in the country, growing at a rate unrivaled by other industries. "It is booming, not just growing!" Beshir said enthusiastically. "That's what makes my job more challenging and interesting. With the industry growing in size and changing in nature, there is something new to tackle everyday."

When he became chairman in June 2000, Beshir set out on a mission to restructure the company. New departments were put in place, professionals from various disciplines were brought in and the quality of service refined and improved. "In the past couple of years, the productivity of our workers has doubled, reaching international rates, and the number of subscribers has also increased twofold," he said.

Beshir's career began in 1966, when he worked as an assistant professor at Cairo University's engineering department. Three years later, he joined Al Ahram Management and Computer Center as programmer and systems analyst. In 1974, he established with a group of friends what he referred to as the first private sector computer company in Egypt, Giza Systems Engineering.

He started as manager of the computer science division there, and in three years' time became the managing director. During his chairmanship of Giza Systems Engineering, Beshir also headed another company named Egyptian Computer Systems. Today, Beshir is chairman of Telecom Egypt, the country's largest telecommunications service provider.

Throughout his career, Beshir drew on the managerial skills he learned at AUC. "The management courses I took at the university proved extremely useful for me," he said, adding that the most memorable moment for him at AUC was the day he received his master's degree in management. "It was a feeling of achievement," he said with pride. To Beshir, AUC is also the place where he met his wife Gihan Bakir (MA '78) and where his daughter Nadine '97 graduated with a bachelor's degree in business.

A member of Rotary International, Beshir believes in the value of service. "Rotary gives me a chance to give back to society and to meet people from various professional backgrounds," he said. "It's an excellent venue to serve one's community." □

By Dalia Al Nimr



Tahany Faragalla '82 and Antranig Sarkissian '57

AUC Alumni Meet Around the World

United States

New York

In conjunction with the AUC Board of Trustees November meeting, alumni gathered at two Ramadan *iftars* to meet President David Arnold. Arnold presented distinguished alumni awards that are given internationally, in addition to the awards given in Egypt each year. Lyutha Al-Mughairy '69, chief of the Information Centers Service for the United Nations, received her award during an event held at the Harvard Club in New York on November 12, 2003.



Alumni at the iftar in New York

Communication Specialist Recognized for International Contributions

Lyutha Al-Mughairy '69, who has carved a distinctive career in communications, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions to the field.

A Fulbright scholar, Al-Mughairy launched the first Women's Society in Abu Dhabi, established the English Radio and Television Services in both Abu Dhabi and her home country of Oman and hosted her own television program.

Al-Mughairy served as the United Nations (UN) Information Officer during the International Year of Disabled Persons. The first

Omani to join the UN, Al-Mughairy initiated a wide range of activities and projects, as well as raising \$1.3 million.

Rising quickly at the UN, Al-Mughairy became chief of the News Distribution Section and then moved to the Electoral Assistance Division, where she undertook electoral missions in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and Mexico. Currently, she is chief of the UN Information Centers Service, a network of UN information offices around the world.

She is also chairperson of the UN Joint Appeals Board and an observer on the board of the UN International School in New York, where she raised the funds to establish an endowment to support students of various nationalities who wish to study Arabic.



Lyutha Al-Mughairy '69 (center) with Sherry Arnold and President David Arnold

Washington, D.C.

At the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., alumni gathered for an *iftar*. At the event, President David Arnold presented Nabil Fahmy '74, '77, Egypt's ambassador to the United States, with a Distinguished Alumni Award.



Mary Iskander '76, Tawhida El-Askary '96, Nermine Abdel Nabi '75 (Mrs. Nabil Fahmy '74, '77), Sherry and David Arnold, Mrs. and Dr. Walid Abdel Nasser '83, '85



President David Arnold, Ambassador Nabil Fahmy '74, '77, Board of Trustees Chairman Paul Hannon and Senator Robert Kasten

Top Diplomat Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Nabil Fahmy '74, '77, one of Egypt's premier diplomats and the Egyptian ambassador to the United States since 1999, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for his leading role in bringing peace and stability to the Middle East and his active involvement in international and regional disarmament.

Fahmy has served as Egypt's ambassador to Japan; political adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister; member of the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and New

York; and senior disarmament official at the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Fahmy headed the Egyptian delegation to the Middle East Peace Process Steering Committee in 1993 and the Egyptian delegation to the Multilateral Working Group on Regional Security and Arms Control, which emanated from the Madrid Peace Conference in December 1991.

In 1986, Fahmy was elected vice chairman of the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security Affairs for the 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is a member of the United Nations Security Council Advisory Board of Disarmament Matters and was its chairman in 2001.

Boston

Rania '96, '99 and Raghdha '99 Hassan hosted a Ramadan *iftar* at their Cambridge apartment for Boston-area alums, primarily students at MIT, Harvard and Boston University. The event was a success and was received enthusiastically by all attendees, who took the opportunity to remember AUC and share their current experiences. Most of all, they appreciated the feeling of Ramadan and the sense of being part of a family away from home. A truly cooperative effort, the alumni made it happen and have resolved to continue organizing meetings on a regular basis.



United Kingdom

London

Several meetings, luncheons and dinners were held in honor of an AUC delegation visiting London, as well as a dinner for the alumni living in the United Kingdom.

President David Arnold and Mary Iskander, special advisor to the president and director of alumni and trustee affairs, attended the MBI gala dinner hosted by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, chairman of the MBI Foundation.



Alumni gathered at the luncheon hosted by Abdallah Jum'ah '65 at ARAMCO



Abdallah Jum'ah '65 (center) receiving an AUC gift from AUC Trustee Paul Corddry, as President David Arnold looks on

Saudi Arabia

Dhahran

Abdallah Jum'ah '65, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabian Oil Company (ARAMCO), hosted a wonderful luncheon at the company's guesthouse to which all alumni in the eastern province were invited. Another dinner was organized by Khalid Al Zamil, director of Hamed Al Zamil & Brothers, at his residence.

Riyadh

H.E. Muhammed Bin Ahmed Al-Rasheed, minister of education and HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud, chairman of the board of Kingdom Holding Company, graciously received President David Arnold and the accompanying delegation at their offices. Hamza Al-Kholi, chairman of Al-Kholi group, hosted a dinner in honor of the AUC delegation at his residence.

Jeddah

Thanks to the generous hospitality of alumni, friends and supporters, the AUC delegation was warmly welcomed at a variety of luncheons, dinners and events in Jeddah.



Mary Iskander '76, AUC Trustee Paul Corddry, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Hayel Saeed '68, AUC Trustee Moataz Al-Alfi and President David Arnold at a luncheon hosted by Saeed at his residence



Alumni gathered at the residence of Seifallah Sharbatly '96 in Jeddah

**Across Saudi Arabia,
alumni and friends
welcomed the chance
to meet with the AUC
delegation**

Egypt



Hany Khalifa, Tamer Habib, Khaled Abu El Naga '89, President David Arnold, Gihan Fadel '93, Sherry Arnold, Mary Iskander '76, Karima Ammar '95 and Mourad Makram

Graduating Class Celebrates With the Stars

In honor of the graduating class, an *iftar* was organized on campus and attended by nearly 200 students. Actors of the popular movie “Sahar El Laialy” Khaled Abu El Naga '89, Gihan Fadel '93, Director Hany Khalifa and script-writer Tamer Habib were guests of honor. Master of ceremonies Mourad Makram conducted an interview with each of the stars during the event.

Media Alums Meet on Campus

More than 100 AUC alumni working in journalism and communications met on campus in December. Designed to connect alumni working in the same field, similar events are planned for other disciplines.

“Sometimes I get very tired teaching the same thing for 17 years, but one recurring satisfaction is a moment when a student comes back and they say that the years they spent at the Adham Center made a difference,” said Abdullah Schlieffer, director of the Adham Center and mass communication distinguished lecturer, who has worked at AUC for the last 20 years.

Alumna Laila Rustom, former television-show host and representative of the *International Herald Tribune* in Egypt said: “Whenever I meet an AUCian around the world, I immediately know that he or she is a graduate of AUC, even if we’ve never met before. There’s some sort of assertiveness and motivation among AUCians that is there generation after generation. They have a certain style.”



Alumni at the media panel sharing views on the state of the industry



Louis Greiss '55



Alumna Laila Rustom speaking at the event

Class Notes

'60

Mona Megahed is a film critic for *Hawaa*, an Egyptian weekly magazine. Previously, she worked at a documentary film center for thirty years before her retirement.



'72

Nabila El Assiouty (MA '78) received the CASA Excellence in Language Teaching Award from the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA). The award — based on nominations of CASA fellows from the past five years and course evaluations from the past 10 years — was presented to her in recognition of outstanding teaching and commitment to the program and its students. El Assiouty has taught colloquial Arabic for more than twenty years.



'75

Mona Makram-Ebeid (MA), former member of the Egyptian parliament and professor of political science at AUC, has been selected by the University of the Middle East Project to give two lectures on "Assessment of the Arab Human Development Report" and "Governance and Civil Society." The University of the Middle East Project brought together students and professionals from Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Israel, Palestine, Syria and Morocco for a week-long summer course focused on designing academic training programs that encourage participants from diverse backgrounds to work together toward reconciliation, tolerance and human dignity.



'77

Dina Britain is a senior bibliographic specialist at the rare books and special collections department of the Firestone Library at Princeton University.

'84

Safaa Moussa (MA '89) is a counselor at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an IT steering policy expert on the Arab regional level. Working to promote local development on the global level, Moussa takes part in seminars and e-forums that allow for the exchange of views and reinforce development objectives.

'92

Farid Haddad is a training and development consultant and a part-time instructor at the Institute of Management Development at AUC. He received a doctorate in management from the American University of London in July 2003 and a master's in business administration from Sheffield Hallam University in June 2002. He has recently been added to the International *Who's Who of Professional Management*.



'93

Ashraf Naguib (MSc '99) has become a chartered financial analyst. Naguib has worked in the financial industry for eight years and is the managing director of Profit Securities Brokerage.



Naguib received his bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering.

'97

Lamya Tawfik (MA '04) received her master's in journalism and mass communication. Her thesis was an exploratory study of media literacy issues among Egyptian primary school children. She works as a staff writer



at AUC and is a part-time lecturer at the Modern Sciences and Arts University.

'01

Moataz Attallah (MSc '03) always wanted to know how grade-21 will be like! So after finishing grade-18 (M.Sc.) last June at AUC,

he started his Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham in England. He hopes he can be reunited with any of his classmates, or any AUCians in the United Kingdom. His e-mail is MMA343@bham.ac.uk

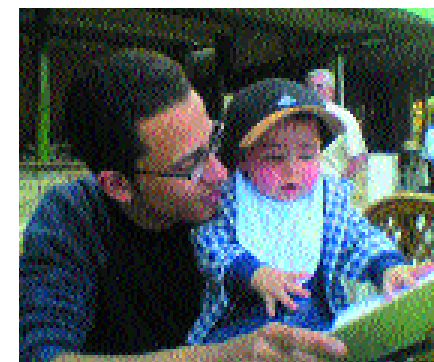
'02

Kiros Tadesse (MA) has served as country director of EriTree Ecological Support Group, a Canadian non-governmental (NGO) organization, in Eritrea. In 1996, Tadesse received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Asmara in Eritrea. After working for three years at the Commercial Bank of Eritrea, he joined AUC as an African Fellow and earned a master's in professional development. He is grateful to his professors: William Demars, Ibrahim El Nur, Elizabeth Bishop, Hayat Alvi and Gail Gerhart. Upon returning to Eritrea, he worked with the World Bank Group of Researchers and then moved to Movimondo, an Italian NGO, as a consultant for an agricultural credit project funded by the European union.



'03

Mahmoud Younes is currently the managing director of ITAC and enjoys spending time with his son Omar, 1.



Special Programs

Martin Mayerchak (YAB '97) is a recruitment specialist at Chemonics International in Washington. He recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies with a master's degree in International Finance and Middle East Studies.

Weddings



Mizuho Kajiware '94, staff writer at the political news department in Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo, was married to Makoto Sasaki, political journalist on August 16, 2003 in Japan. Kajiware would like to stay in touch with her classmates via e-mail: kajiware@tokyo.email.ne.jp

Amir Faragalla '97 and Aingy Mourad Zaky were married at El-Malak Mikhail Church in Heliopolis, followed by a reception at The Garden in Giza. Faragalla is pursuing his master's degree in management science and engineering at Stanford University



Ihab Mostafa '97, an associate with Commercial International Investment Company, and Suzanne Halim Saba, who works at Vodafone Egypt, were married on August 29, 2003 at Salah El Din Banquet Hall at the Cairo Sheraton

Amal Saweris '98, '04, quality assurance analyst at Arab Banking Corporation-Egypt and Victor Saad Faheem, senior application developer at Prima Soft, were married at St. Mary's Church on August 5, 2002. A reception followed at Le Meridien in Heliopolis



Shereen Assal '01, project manager at Cisco Systems International, was married to Amr Essawy on September 26, 2003 at the Hilton Pyramids Golf Resort poolside



Radwa El Sweify '01, '03 and **Ahmed Farag** '95, '02 were married on September 2, 2003 at the Cairo Marriott. They are now living in Washington, D.C.



Sally Sherif Saleh '03 was married to Dr. Ahmed Soliman on June 25, 2003 at the Cairo Marriott hotel



Nancy Nassar '00 was married to Farid Kandil on December 28, 2002 at Le Meridien Pyramids. They spent their honeymoon in Paris, where they currently reside



The Other Side of The Story

I spent two weeks in the West Bank and Gaza this January, working as a journalist for the first time. Some days were spent in Nablus at the funerals of children, others were wasted at checkpoints watching bored soldiers refuse to allow people to move, and one day I went to a Jewish settlement in Hebron.

I was going to meet David Wilder, spokesman for the Jewish settlers of Hebron. I had resolved and arranged, prior to leaving Egypt, to interview some of these settlers, considered the most radical and intransigent anywhere in Israeli society. Upon my arrival in Kiryat Arba, the hilltop settlement just outside of Hebron, I wondered if I might just have made a mistake. I felt deeply uncomfortable in this model town, where the only cracks in the fantasy were the enormous machine guns slung over the shoulders of passing residents.

But sitting in Wilder's office, I quickly reminded myself why I was there. I put aside emotions and thoughts, which ranged from horror and anger to confusion and disbelief, and remembered that this was to be the test of whether I could be a good journalist or not.

I believe that journalism, at best, can be a model for how we should all be, and how we should all behave. Good journalists learn how to distinguish between objectivity and dehumanization; they can listen to both sides carefully enough to understand and fairly represent them both. They know that to attempt to distance oneself from emotion altogether makes it impossible to write about human

emotions, but to become engulfed by other people's emotions, or one's own, makes it equally impossible.

More than anything, good journalists respect the power they have to transmit the story of a mother whose child has been killed to other mothers all around the world. They recognize the power that they have to shape the opinions of publics everywhere.

Of course, journalists are not without opinions; to suggest one is capable of complete objectivity is to have already failed. Instead, one is required to identify one's biases and to learn to listen to others, as you would have them listen to you.

I met the settlers as much to test my own ability to set aside personal views and practice what I so regularly preach as to write an article. I came away with those views unchanged, but the knowledge that it is possible for human beings to sit and talk about the most controversial of issues in a reasonable manner.

Amidst the horror and despair that mar the "Holy Land," this was perhaps the only experience that gave me momentary hope. It will be a long time before a Palestinian will be able to do what I did, indeed Wilder noted I might have been in danger if I was identified as Arab by the settlers. But perhaps that "long time" will not be forever, in which case there may still be hope for the peace that is so desperately needed.

Sara Hussein, a journalism senior, is the editor-in-chief of the Caravan, AUC's student newspaper.

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.