

AUCTODAY



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

Summer 2008

A Moving Experience

A team of engineers and planners are tending to the logistics of the university's large-scale move to New Cairo



AUC ON THE MOVE



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Nagla Rizk is researching legal ways to give the Egyptian public affordable access to music without businesses losing money Page 12

FEATURES

- 8 A MOVING EXPERIENCE**
A team of engineers, planners and administrators are busy this summer carrying out the intricate logistics of the university's move to New Cairo.
- 12 COPYRIGHTS AND WRONGS**
Nagla Rizk '83, '87, associate professor of economics, is conducting research on ways to reduce music piracy, providing legal alternatives that can satisfy both producers and consumers.
- 16 COMMUNITY CLASSROOM**
Students in various classes provide services to different segments of society as part of a university-wide initiative to blend academic courses with civic engagement and social responsibility.

On the cover: The library was the first to move to New Cairo this summer, photographed by Ahmad El-Nemr

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 AUSCENES**
New provost appointed, Al Alfi Foundation offers MBA scholarships, Jimmy Carter visits AUC, President David Arnold speaks at Georgetown
- ALUMNI PROFILES**
- 7** Saleh Jallad '67 is a successful businessman, writer and publisher
- 18 AROUND THE WORLD**
Alumni meet in various countries
- 20 AKHER KALAM**
Shereen Hamed Shaw '06 talks about her AUC experience and its influence on her life in the United Kingdom as a student and lecturer

Editor's Notes

Our New Home

My 7-year-old son, who fell in love with AUC after attending the Junior Summer Program last year, asked me recently about the university's move to New Cairo, saying, "How are they going to lift buildings from one place and move them to another?" With a smile, I proceeded to explain to him the notion of real estate.

While buildings will not be lifted, computers, equipment, labs and the library's more than 400,000 volumes and periodicals will. It is overwhelming to think of the logistics behind this extraordinary move and the intricate planning that has gone into deciding when and how to relocate every office and department.

More complicated than the planning phase is the actual move. While most of us are enjoying ourselves at the beach this summer, workers, planners and administrators are on their feet throughout the night to get the job done. They must be ready for any problems that arise or issues that have to be dealt with. This is not to mention the apprehension involved in ensuring that everything arrives safely and in one piece, equipment is reassembled correctly, labs are set up properly, classrooms and offices are furnished, and — most importantly — the campus is up and running by September. No wonder that Mohamed Abdel Gawad, senior adviser for campus transition, says he is losing sleep over this (See "A Moving Experience," p. 8).

For those of us who work at AUC, the move is on everybody's minds. Questions and concerns keep popping up about transportation, parking permits, office equipment, food services — the list goes on. It's exciting to move away from the hustle and bustle of downtown to a bigger campus with fabulous facilities, but, at this stage, people have a lot of questions to ask, even about the smallest of details. It's exactly like moving to a new home and worrying about everything, from the daily commute to how the place will look. At AUC, however, the place looks extremely promising.

Having visited the new campus recently, I couldn't help but wonder how my life as a student would have been different if I had studied there. I believe today's students and future generations are very fortunate to have such a marvelous campus at their disposal. Year after year, the New Cairo campus will begin to hold special memories for them just as the downtown campus has for alumni of the past 90 years.

We look forward to having you all visit the new campus throughout the coming year. Have a relaxing summer and see you in New Cairo.



Dalia Al Nimr

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

Editor in Chief

Dalia Al Nimr

Designer

Hanan Omary

Writers

Leen Jaber and Peter Wieben

Advisory Board

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

Photography

Ahmad El-Nemr and Mahmoud Hindy

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

AUCToday

The American University in Cairo
113 Kasr El Aini Street
P.O. Box 2511
Cairo 11511

Egypt

or

AUCToday

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

tel 20.2.2797.5448 (Egypt)

e-mail auctoday@aucegypt.edu

Columbia Professor Lisa Anderson Named AUC Provost

AUC announced the appointment of Lisa Anderson, former dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and AUC trustee, as its next provost. Anderson succeeds Tim Sullivan, who has served as provost since 1998 and professor of political science since 1973.

“I am delighted to be joining AUC at a pivotal time for the university and for higher education in Egypt and the Arab world,” Anderson said. “Thanks to its history of distinguished and far-sighted leadership, AUC is uniquely positioned to play a vital role in the development of higher education for the 21st century, not only in the region, but globally. I am privileged to be a part of this venture.”

AUC President David Arnold said that the appointment of an academic leader of Anderson’s stature is a reflection of AUC’s increasing prestige internationally as an institution of higher education. “Professor Anderson has been a leader in higher education in the United States for the past several decades,” he said. “AUC is fortunate to have attracted a respected academic and experienced administrator of her caliber as we prepare to embark on a second century of leadership in higher education in Egypt and the Arab region.”

A specialist on politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Anderson is professor of international relations at Columbia University, where she previously served as chair of the political science department and director of the Middle East Institute. Before joining Columbia, she was assistant professor of government and social studies at Harvard University. A prolific author, Anderson is also chair of the board of directors of the Social Science Research Council, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an emerita member of the board of Human Rights Watch and a board member of the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs. She holds a bachelor’s from Sarah Lawrence College, a master’s in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a doctorate in political science from Columbia University.



Al Alfi MBA Fellowship Established for Science, Engineering Graduates

In an effort to equip future industrial leaders with strong business skills, the Al Alfi MBA Fellows Program was recently established between AUC and the Al Alfi Foundation, an organization focused on human and social development, and chaired by AUC Trustee Moataz Al-Alfi. The program provides a full-tuition scholarship for up to five science and engineering graduates from an accredited university to study for an MBA at AUC.

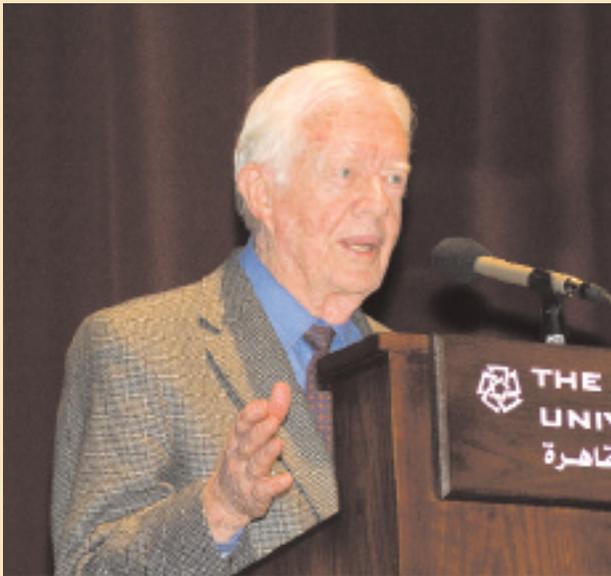
“The fellowship is one way the foundation intends to support the youth of Egypt in their endeavor to become the new cadre of entrepreneurial leaders and decision makers in industry in the future,” said Al-Alfi, who is the

chief executive officer of EK Holding Company and vice president of the Future Generation Foundation. “The American University in Cairo’s MBA program is of the highest quality; it seemed natural that the foundation’s first initiative should be housed there.”

Eligible candidates must be Egyptian nationals and have a minimum GPA of 3.25 or *gayed geddan*, at least three years of relevant work experience in the manufacturing or industrial sector, and a strong command of the English language.

For more information on graduate fellowships, visit www.aucegypt.edu/admissions/gradadmissions/finsupport.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Shares Hopes for Regional Peace



“It is my dream and hope that some day in my lifetime, and I hope in this year, that we’ll have another breakthrough for Middle East peace,” said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during a speech at AUC.

Carter was in Cairo as part of a trip to the Middle East to help ease tension in the region. He said he was not an official negotiator; rather he was holding talks “as someone who is interested to make an analysis of all the complex aspirations, desires, fears, dreams and hatreds” in the region.

“I enjoy being a former president,” Carter remarked, noting his ability to travel without restraint to many parts

of the world in need of medicine, economic aid and peace. “It is a wonderful chance to do things around the world that are innovative, exciting, challenging and sometimes successful.”

Talking about his efforts to make progress in the Middle East, Carter said that his goal was “to bring peace to Israel, and peace and justice to all of Israel’s neighbors.” He said that no agreement could be reached among the contesting parties unless the discussion involved all of the factions concerned. Specifically, Carter defended his own decision to meet with Hamas. “To have peace in the Holy Land you have to involve Hamas, who won the election in 2006,” he said.

Carter acknowledged that the United States and Israel had effectively banned such discussions, and he drew laughter from the crowd when he said that this was a rule to which he considered himself immune.

Following the speech, AUC President David Arnold presented Carter with the Presidential Medal, an honor AUC has given only seven times in its 90-year history. The honor was presented, Arnold explained, “to people who have done extraordinary things for the advancement of Egypt and for the human progress of the peoples of the world.”

To listen to Carter’s full speech, visit www1.aucegypt.edu/resources/smc/webcasts.

AUC-Wharton School Partnership Helps Women Take Lead

As part of the newly launched 10,000 Women initiative funded by the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., AUC is partnering with the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School to create a business and management certificate program specifically for women in Egypt and the region.

The global initiative provides underserved women, particularly in developing and emerging markets, with a business and management education. The program

between AUC and Wharton is the initiative’s first program in the Middle East and is expected to train more than 500 women over the next five years. The two institutions will create a five-week certificate program focused on professional leadership management and entrepreneurial skills. Participants will be selected according to financial need and proven ambition, and those who enroll will take part in a rigorous curriculum that includes fieldwork with local businesses.

Graduating Class Celebrates Last Commencement Before Move

The 85th commencement ceremony was historic in nature, marking the last graduation before AUC's move to New Cairo. The graduate commencement celebrated the success of 141 master's degree candidates, who received their degrees in Ewart Memorial Hall amidst cheers and applause from the audience of family and friends. In a similarly festive event, 362 candidates received their undergraduate degrees at the Cairo International Conference Center.

Recognizing the work of a prominent American scholar and lecturer, AUC awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to James Zogby, founder and president of the U.S.-based Arab American Institute. Delivering the keynote speech at the undergraduate commencement, Zogby invoked his view of the positive aspects of the American people. "Carry this degree from an American institution with pride," he said. "I have long been a critic of my country's policies, but there are two faces to American history."

At the graduate commencement, Taher Helmy, international lawyer and senior partner in Helmy, Hamza and Partners/Baker & McKenzie, called on the graduates to use their passion and creativity to find their full potential. "No one can predict your future," he declared. "You will look back at this day and realize that your potential is far greater than you thought."

Helmy reflected on his own experiences, recalling how he switched to studying law after spending four years in pre-medical school. "Changing majors or jobs is not a waste of time or money," he said. "How you feel about your work is a critical indication of how good you'll be at it. ... Input from your parents is important, but the choice is yours."



Top: James Zogby, undergraduate commencement speaker;
bottom: Taher Helmy, graduate commencement speaker

Prominent Speakers Share Views on Contemporary Issues

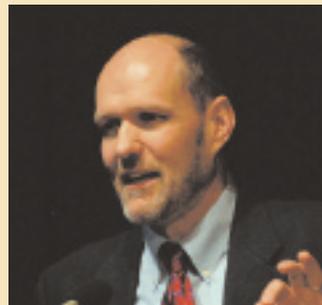
A host of distinguished visiting professors came to AUC this spring, delivering lectures on a variety of topics. Visit www1.aucegypt.edu/resources/smc/webcasts to listen to the full speeches.

John Prendergast, human rights activist and author, "The Bush Administration's War on Terror: Implications for Human Rights and Peace in Africa"



Amitav Ghosh, Indian anthropologist and author, "The Making of In An Antique Land: India, Egypt and the Cairo Geniza"

Stephen Walt, professor of international affairs at Harvard University and co-author of The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy, "The Israel Lobby in the United States"



Naomi Wallace, international playwright, screenwriter and poet, "Writing as Transgression: Thoughts on Teaching New Writers Not to Abide"

President David Arnold Speaks at Georgetown University



Speaking at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on higher education in the Middle East, AUC President David Arnold urged deeper recognition of the role of higher education in generating societal reforms in the region and welcomed the growing presence of U.S. universities in the Gulf countries. These new programs, he said, “come at the invitation of enlightened Arab leaders who recognize that higher education is the key to the future of a region where the real wealth of nations will be measured not in barrels of oil, but in the capacity of succeeding generations to meet economic and social challenges of a changing geopolitical environment.”

Calling the power of education “a positive agent for social and economic progress,” Arnold said, “The central role of American universities in the Middle East [is] to educate the next generation of Arab leaders.” Lasting progress, he explained, “will require more than just political leadership. It will require well-trained lawyers who understand the importance of a fair, impartial and transparent legal system; journalists who link the immediacy of new media to the values of reform-minded advocacy; teachers who return to village and urban schools to prepare the next generation; social entrepreneurs who create new institutions of civil society; engineers to build and maintain infrastructures; [and] philanthropists willing to invest in social progress.”

Universities, he said, must encourage social outreach and research programs that can create new models for reform. Arnold highlighted new forms of Arab philanthropy that invest in social change and policy research focused on creating innovative projects to alleviate urban poverty.

The “most essential role” of an American university in the Middle East, Arnold said, is to “serve as an educational and cultural bridge, a continuous link between the Arab world and the United States,” with “ideas shared in both directions.” In this role, American universities have a “very real and positive influence in shaping the region and closing ... a growing divide between East and West.”

While in Washington, Arnold met with officials from the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development, as well as editors and reporters at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. He was also interviewed by National Public Radio and on the *Viewpoint* program hosted by James Zogby, founder and president of the Arab American Institute.

BALANCING BUSINESS

Saleh Jallad '67 juggles travel, business, writing and publishing



Saleh Jallad '67 is a busy man. He is the group vice president for treasury, insurance and governmental relations at Consolidated Contractors Group, a leading construction company in the Middle East. He chairs and is the major shareholder of two Arabic and English publishing houses, and is the publisher of *Middle East Economic Survey*, a 50-year-old weekly journal covering the region's oil, gas and finance issues. Jallad also owns a controlling interest in Melisende and Rimal, publishing houses in the United Kingdom and Cyprus, and is the deputy governor of the Arab Monetary Fund for Palestine. In addition, he is a writer, translator and political theorist.

Jallad's propensity for diverse interests all started at AUC, where he was involved in a myriad of activities. An economics and political science major, Jallad was the first Student Union president to win an election in which four candidates ran in the first round. He participated in several clubs and was an avid sportsman. "I spent a lot of time in tennis shoes and shorts," he recalled.

As the right wing for AUC's varsity soccer club, Jallad still made time for variety in his life. "I could easily play soccer and basketball on the same day," he noted, remembering with a laugh that he was "the shortest basketball player at the university."

After graduation, his various interests led him to a life in which numerous careers took him around the globe. He worked as a teacher, foreman and broadcaster, and had a stint with the airlines in Kuwait. After receiving a doctorate in banking and economics from Notre Dame, he worked at the First National Bank in Chicago and New York.

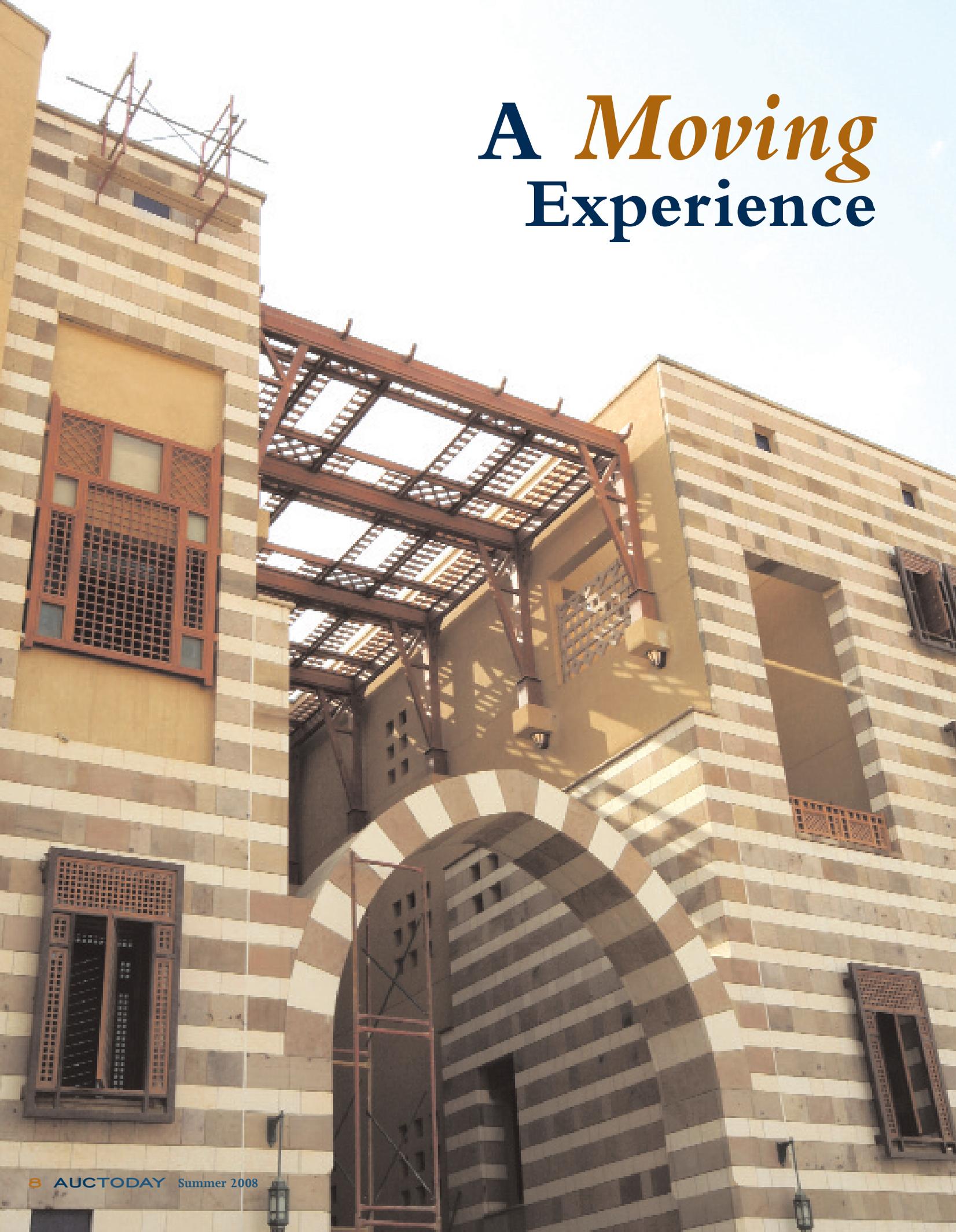
This whirlwind tour finally brought him to Greece, where he currently lives. "Since then, my main work has been to be on a 24-hour alert," he said. "All banking relations for all projects worldwide come through my office. I'm responsible for the movement of more than \$5 billion."

Since his time at AUC, Jallad said that one of the secrets to success has been his ability to learn by reading. "At AUC, I read anything I could get a hold of. At the company today, if I do not know something and it's a matter of discussion, I go out and research it genuinely and intelligently, and then share it with others," he said.

This sort of research has led him to broaden his interests even further, publishing a literary work titled *Kalilah and Dimnah*, which he translated from an eighth century Arabic text with an introduction that he presented at Georgetown University immediately after 9/11. He is working on a second translation called *Pedagogy of Leadership*, which will be published soon. It will contain an in-depth analysis and logical alterations of the old Arabic manuscript, and will also be published in Arabic. For those wondering where he finds the time to write with all of his other commitments, Jallad has a ready answer: "I do that on the plane."

With his accomplishments piling up, Jallad said he wouldn't trade his story for any other, especially when it comes to his alma mater. "AUC had a lot of influence on my thought and development," he explained. "It is a multiethnic environment. Everyone at AUC, from the doorman to the people from overseas, taught me important lessons. It is a small place, but extremely potent." □

By Peter Wieben

A photograph of a building under construction. The building features a large, arched entrance with a striped pattern of light and dark stone or concrete. Above the arch, a wooden trellis structure is visible, supported by beams. The building's facade is composed of horizontal bands of light and dark stone or concrete. Several windows with decorative wooden frames are visible. Scaffolding is present on the roof and around the archway, indicating ongoing construction. The sky is clear and blue.

A *Moving* Experience



Workers load books onto trucks during the late night hours to be transported to the new campus

A team of engineers and planners are tending to the logistics of the university's large-scale move to New Cairo

By Leen Jaber and Peter Wieben
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

With approximately 40,000 cartons, 5,000 computers and 500 boxes of lab supplies, AUC is bustling with excitement as it relocates to New Cairo this summer.

“Before the move started, I didn’t sleep very well at night because I was always thinking about how to deal with issues with maximum efficiency and flexibility, and a minimum of problems,” said Mohamed Abdel Gawad, senior adviser for campus transition. “Now, I sleep very late at night to monitor the move and make sure everything is working properly, as there are many parties involved and a lot of preparation needed in the actual process. There are at least 60 people taking part in planning the facilitation of the move and hundreds working to physically move the campus.”

Besides simply hiring carriers and drivers to move boxes from one campus to the other, the university brought specialized people to transport valuable electronic equipment such as computers, printers, scanners, and photocopy and fax machines to ensure that everything is disassembled and reassembled properly and without damage. “One of the biggest challenges is relocating the Main Library and all the labs that need to be carefully packed, moved and hooked up,” explained Abdel Gawad, adding that the library was the first to move.

Due to city regulations, large trucks are not allowed in the greater Cairo area during the day, so the entire move is taking place during late night hours. “We have a very small window of time to move,” said Abdel Gawad. “The schedule is very intricate. There is a specific time to move each building, each department, each floor and even each room.” Luckily, he noted, furniture is not moved to the new campus, as it is newly furnished.

To facilitate the transition, approximately 50 move captains have been selected



Left: Periodicals packed in wooden carts at the ground floor of the Main Library; right: Periodicals shelved at the new campus

from the various schools, departments and offices to act as liaisons between the administration and their respective units. For the past months, move captains have been attending regular meetings with the facilities and services staff to understand the procedures involved in the actual move, and to relay space-allocation needs for their area. The move captains are also in charge of arranging for office belongings to be packed and labeled, and ensuring that everything is delivered to its designated location at the new campus.

Sherif Sedky, physics professor, is the move captain for the physics department and the Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center (STRC). “The STRC is, of course, different. It is more complicated than a normal department,” Sedky said.

Within the STRC are millions of dollars worth of equipment, including

powerful electron microscopes and laser etching devices as large as a car. To pack them up, AUC has enlisted the help of experts who will fly in to dismantle and rebuild it. “The sensitive components will be specially packed and shipped,” Sedky explained.

He added that elements within the Clean Room, the university’s dust-free lab for experimenting on the microscopic scale, would need special attention, as the materials within cannot be exposed to Cairo’s dust and smog. “For the Clean Room, we’re going to have to pack everything inside the clean environment and unpack it similarly at the new campus,” he said.

While Sedky’s work requires careful scrutiny and care, Mamdouh Philip’s is an exercise in daunting logistics. Philip, head of circulation services, is one of five move captains in charge of transferring the library’s more than 400,000 volumes and periodicals to the

new campus. “The challenge is to keep them organized,” Philip said. “We have to move them in sequence and not miss anything.”

Moving an entire library, however, requires intimate knowledge of the system by which books are organized, which means that all staff members involved in the move must be trained. “No one can complete a task like this unless they have a lot of experience in libraries,” Philip noted.

To facilitate the move, AUC ordered 170 custom-designed carts. The carts — tall wooden boxes about the size of a bedroom dresser — had to be big enough to hold a substantial number of books, but small enough to roll between shelves. They had to be secure, mobile, and most of all, provide safe transit for AUC’s valuable collection, including priceless volumes at the Rare Books and Special Collections Library.

Teams of four are in charge of loading the carts, each team working on an assigned section of the library. “We have each floor divided into four sections, so our teams will work simultaneously. One team can load a cart in about 10 to 15 minutes,” Philip explained.

With such intricate details being planned in each department in preparation for the move, it would be nearly impossible to hold the process together were it not for regular communication between staff, faculty and the administration. To promote the flow of information, AUC has launched the *On the Move* e-newsletter, as well as multiple Web sites. These include the main Web site for the move with frequently asked questions, news bulletins and move schedules, and the transportation Web site that details the bus schedules and allows people to sign up for bus passes and parking permits. In addition, there

will soon be a Web site for food services at the new campus, providing full menus and contact information for all restaurants in the area.

Also in preparation for the move, the university’s Academic Computing Services provided a series of training sessions for faculty and staff members on how to back up the data stored on their office computers. The sessions were designed to assist users in safeguarding their data onto external hardware as a precautionary measure before the packing and relocation of their computers.

At the new campus, AUC will be moving into 136 classrooms, 145 science and engineering labs, 55 non-science labs and studios, and 727 faculty offices, in addition to staff offices. “Few universities have the opportunity to build a campus from scratch,” said AUC President David Arnold. “This is an extraordinary chance, but at the same time a huge task.” □

Staff shelf journals at the new campus library



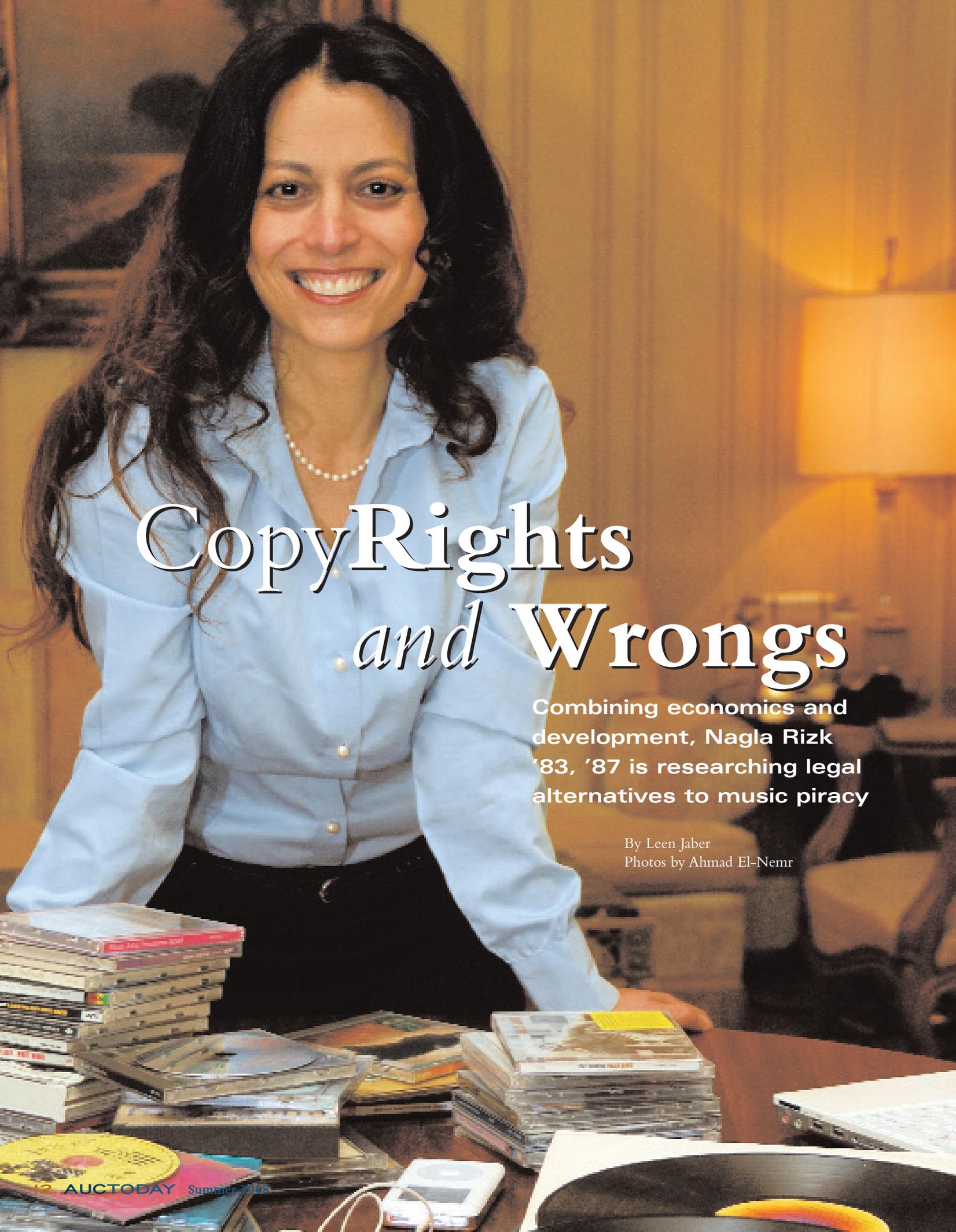
Man Behind the Move



Ensuring that AUC’s relocation to the new campus runs smoothly has been his primary concern for the past three years. Mohamed Abdel Gawad, senior adviser for campus transition, has been overseeing and managing the university’s relocation since 2005.

A graduate of Ain Shams University’s Faculty of Engineering, Abdel Gawad started with AUC as a contractor in 1966. He was appointed assistant chief engineer in 1973, and was later promoted to chief engineer. Prior to AUC, he worked for the General Organization for Industrialization, a major governmental body overseeing the building of industrial projects.

Over the past 35 years with AUC, Abdel Gawad headed or participated in the construction of the old and new Falaki buildings, Abdul Latif Jameel Management Center, Main Library and Zamalek Dormitory. He is happy to be a major contributor to AUC’s relocation plan. “I really feel very challenged and proud to be responsible for this huge endeavor,” he said. “It made me utilize all the different experiences I have gained throughout my professional career inside and outside AUC.”



CopyRights *and* Wrongs

Combining economics and development, Nagla Rizk '83, '87 is researching legal alternatives to music piracy

By Leen Jaber
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

With the proliferation of digital technology, particularly the Internet, music piracy has become a global concern. Videos and songs are downloaded from the Internet without payment, friends copy CDs for one another and people use online file-sharing programs to exchange songs. In Egypt, a country that has long been at the forefront of the music industry in the Arab world, domestic piracy rates are estimated at approximately 50 percent, despite the existence of copyright laws and intellectual property rights legislation.

Nagla Rizk '83, '87, associate professor of economics at AUC, is researching viable legal alternatives to give the general public in Egypt affordable access to music without businesses losing money. Collecting data on the dynamics of the music industry in Egypt, Rizk conducted extensive interviews with musicians and others involved in the field. Her research, a work in progress, has revealed culturally sensitive models that might help reduce music piracy rates in Egypt and, at the same time, widen the public's exposure to products that may be deemed expensive.

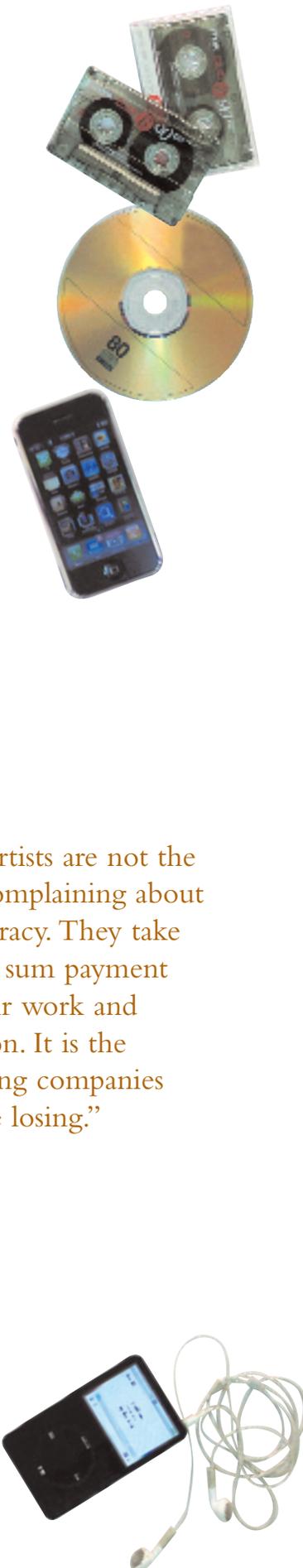
"You want people to have access as cheaply as possible without the production companies losing money. It is a difficult balance to strike," she said.

Rizk was initially given a grant by AUC to start preliminary research on the topic, which she presented at the annual Access to Knowledge (A2K) conference in the United States, organized by Yale Law School's Information Society Project. A2K is an initiative that aims to give people access to knowledge in an affordable and legal way through different means than the current choices available. This,

explained Rizk, is the backbone of her research. "I am interested in the impact of technology and knowledge on human development in its wider sense," she said. Currently, Rizk is working under a grant from the MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with Yale Law School on research exploring access to knowledge and development in seven countries, including Egypt.

What makes Rizk's research unique is her examination of the music industry in Egypt from an economic standpoint. Record companies, she explained, copyright the music they produce for all artists. However, with the dawn of digital outlets and the availability of pirated music, the average citizen in Egypt has been able to get all the music he or she wants without spending more than a few Egyptian pounds, if anything at all. "Like other knowledge goods in the digital age, creating music involves a high cost of production, but hardly any cost for reproduction and distribution over digital channels," she said. This is why, she asserted, record companies and big-name labels are losing money and complaining about bootleg music and file-sharing programs online.

For Arab singers, however, having their songs available online for free helps spread their work and increases their popularity. "The artists are not the ones complaining about such piracy. They take a lump sum payment for their work and move on. It is the recording companies that are losing," Rizk said, explaining that for Arab artists, live performances such as concerts or wedding parties constitute the biggest share of their income. For star artists, she noted, revenue can reach up to \$40,000 (LE 220,000) per wedding and an average of \$1,000



"The artists are not the ones complaining about such piracy. They take a lump sum payment for their work and move on. It is the recording companies that are losing."

“With the dominance of strong social and family ties, people generally do not refuse to copy a CD for a friend or relative. In that way, copyright laws could be perceived as disruptive to social norms.”



(LE 5,500) for less famous singers.

In addition, Egypt has what Rizk calls a strong gift culture. “With the dominance of strong social and family ties, people generally do not refuse to copy a CD for a friend or relative,” Rizk explained. “In that way, copyright laws could be perceived as disruptive to social norms.”

For Rizk, her main focus is not just finding alternatives, but ones that are culturally appropriate for Egyptian society. “There are new models coming out everyday,” she said. “We have to look at those models and decide what is suitable for our culture.”

One of these alternatives is versioning. This is where the buyer pays

a reduced price for a product that is a little different than the higher-priced item. For example, a consumer can pay less for a downloaded version of a CD, but will not receive the printed album cover with the liner notes and may get slightly lower digital quality. “This can work very well because the buyer has the choice of having just the music with or without all the fancy things that come with it,” said Rizk.

Another alternative Rizk is researching is a subscription-based model, where buyers may pay a fixed, reduced price per month that will grant them access to an unlimited amount of music or CDs. Advertisement-supported models that offer free



Internet music downloads are also explored by Rizk in her research.

In addition, Rizk is looking for ways to help underground artists find their way onto the formal music scene in Egypt. Creative Commons, an online nonprofit organization developed in 2001, helps artists do just that. Through specific licensing agreements, it enables copyright holders to grant some of their rights to the public, thereby expanding the range of intellectual and artistic work available online. Rizk aims to promote a similar project in the Arab world, where artists and intellectuals would make their work accessible to the public under flexible copyright terms. "There have to be

reasonable intellectual property rights policies that provide an alternative to traditional models," she said, noting that some bands in Egypt have a commons that is similar to Brazil's technobrega music scene, where copying is seen as a marketing tool and not a violation of copyright laws. She added that sites like www.100copies.com would like to make free music accessible online. "In effect, there is an Arab commons initiative," she said.

Although the bulk of Rizk's research is focused on music, she is also examining the ecosystem of the software industry to find affordable and easy ways for people in Egypt,

particularly the lower-middle class, to have access to software at a reduced price. "The more access there is for the average person, the greater the potential impact of using software for upgrading human capital in Egypt," she said.

Similar to the music industry, there are alternatives that can satisfy both producers and consumers. One of these alternatives is offering propriety software at a reduced price for teachers and students. This would be a type of versioning because users would not be able to upgrade the software to a newer version, but would still be able to benefit from the program. Another alternative is the use of open-source software, which initially costs less to use but is also subject to peer collaboration in production, which allows people throughout the world to share information in the same way that Wikipedia does. "Peer collaboration," Rizk explained, "has really made a huge difference in the way people gain and contribute to knowledge and information."

Rizk's research is still a work in progress, expected to be published by September 2008. However, part of her music research was presented at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and will be coming out as a chapter in a book being published by Oxford University Press later this year.

Emphasizing the importance of such a project, she said, "The Internet, information technology and other communication tools have been revolutionary, and have created a fantastic platform for networking and instantaneous sharing of knowledge. It is important to find ways to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to benefit from these media." □

Community CLASSROOM

Photos by Mahmoud Hindy

Laughing along with his peers with dark blue paint splattered on his face and hands, Mahmoud Bizzari '08, political science major, spent a spring afternoon painting beds in one of the psychiatric wards at the Abbasiya hospital as part of a psychology course. For him and many of his classmates, the experience was transforming.

“Working for the community, you find meaning for your existence; you become a good citizen,” he said. “This is the essence of the meaning of personal growth.”

As part of an initiative to blend service activities with academic courses, the university incorporated community-based learning as part of its curriculum in 2003. The program has been implemented in various courses spanning different disciplines, from English and history to biology and political science. The courses involve students working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or providing services to different segments of society, including orphans, cancer patients, refugees and marginalized groups. In the process, the students learn about challenges facing their community and the importance of taking an active stance.

Volunteering in the psychiatric ward of the Abbasiya hospital, Bizzari and his classmates viewed the unsanitary conditions there and prioritized what

Students from the Grant Writing class entering a deserted fortress in Establ Antar

Through academic courses, students bring change to marginalized communities

Top left: Students watch children work at a carpet weaving workshop in Establ Antar; top right: Students collect garbage with children in Establ Antar; bottom left: A student cleans up an open space to create a soccer court; bottom right: Students paint beds in one of the psychiatric wards at the Abbassiya hospital



needed to be done. They contacted outside donors to help fund their project, choosing to remodel the bathrooms, paint the hospital beds and order 140 new medical mattresses. “We were all working together for a common goal,” said Bizzari. “It was very different from other classes where we would compete for good grades; we built friendships.”

Hala Hak, adjunct psychology professor and course instructor, noted that the journals students kept throughout the course showed that they were becoming better human beings from the inside. “They learned how they can develop their inner self by helping others,” she said.

Experiencing a different type of community service, students taking the Technical Communication and Grant Writing courses were given the chance to work in an underprivileged area in Cairo called Establ Antar. Amani Elshimi, rhetoric and composition instructor who taught both courses, believes that integrating community service into writing courses makes the latter more meaningful for students. “Community-based learning is a methodology that helps make the writing authentic, purposeful and engaging, and is ultimately useful for

the community,” she said.

Working with various NGOs, each class took up a different project to improve conditions in the community, utilizing the technical writing skills they learned in class. Students in the Grant Writing course came up with projects to build a community center in Establ Antar and to use children’s artwork and photography to create awareness by publishing their work as stationery, wrapping paper, greeting cards, calendars and bookmarks. They then wrote grant proposals that were submitted to donors to help fund the projects. Similarly, focusing on the problem of sewage and solid waste management, students in the Technical Communication course came up with projects for dealing with these issues and also wrote proposals that were submitted to an NGO for implementation. In addition, students from both courses engaged in community clean-ups and house painting to reward women in the area who completed literacy courses.

“I have done a lot of extracurricular activities before, but I have never done development work,” said electronics engineering junior Rana Alaa, who completed the Technical Communication course. “This class was

a great introduction on how to plan and join development programs.”

Examining gender issues, students in the History and Gender course visited male and female *islahiyas* (juvenile penitentiaries) in Egypt to compare and contrast the difference in conditions. From their experiences at the penitentiaries and using what they learned about gender theory, students were exposed to gender differences in Egyptian society. They saw that the conditions at the female penitentiaries were more deteriorated than the males, and the girls were given less opportunity for education and skill building. “This was an eye-opening course,” said Soha Rashed ’07. “Through this, we gained a new perspective about the society we live in and definitely learned more about the civil status in Egypt.”

Also finding the course useful, Heather Graney, political science and psychology junior, noted, “Community-based learning is so much better than traditional classroom learning. It gives you a chance to apply what you learned, which in turn allows you to remember it longer. It brings you closer to the subject and closer to the world.” □

By Leen Jaber

Around the World

United States



Marcelle Wahba '67, the U.S. State Department's foreign policy adviser to the chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, received AUC's Distinguished Alumni Award during a reception held at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C. in March 2008.

After graduating from a British school in Cairo at age 15, Wahba joined AUC where her father, Michel Wahba '50, was a member of the registrar, director of admissions and professor of psychology.

She spent two years at the university before her family immigrated to the United States.

Wahba studied political science and international relations at Western College for Women in Ohio. After graduation, she moved to Seattle, Washington, and then relocated to Cairo where she worked as grants and projects officer at AUC's development office. In 1986, she joined the U.S. diplomatic corps. Two years later, she was posted in Cairo as the U.S. spokesperson. It was in Cairo that she met and married her husband Derek Farwagi. Wahba also served as U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates from 2001 to 2004.



Google employees Ahmed Gaballah '05 (second from right) and Rania Hadi (YAB '01) (left) in front of the company's headquarters in May 2008



Alumni attended a lecture by President David Arnold titled "Higher Education and the Next Generation of Middle East Leaders" at the World Affairs Council in San Francisco in May 2008



An alumni gathering was held in Houston, Texas in May 2008

Saudi Arabia



Alumni, parents and friends of AUC meet in Jeddah in April 2008; Family of Engineer Zouheir Al-Azem, president of Civil Engineering Project Company, hosts a reception at their home in Jeddah



Abdul Karim Assad Abu Alnaser (MA '89), chief executive officer of the National Commercial Bank in Saudi Arabia, received a Distinguished Alumni Award in Jeddah.

Holder of an MBA from AUC, Abu Alnaser has made valuable contributions in applying solid banking strategies that were laid out in the 1990s. During his tenure, he held various posts, including general manager and manager for personal banking services.



AUC Trustee Moataz Al-Alfi, Sheikh Mohammed Wajih Sharbatly '89, chief executive officer of SAMACO Group, and AUC President David Arnold

The Courage to Go Far

AUC was my lucky card. As a school student, I was not happy with my teachers or the type of education I was receiving, but in college, the situation was different. Thanks to my loving mother who is a staff member at AUC, I was granted the privilege of joining the university under the staff scholarship. It was an amazing opportunity that I feel no one should miss.

AUC is not just a good university to attend; it is a transforming experience that shapes your personality and thought. It makes you the person you are. At AUC, you are bound to make choices all the time, whether choice of major, courses, career routes, friends or a simple choice of joining a club that gives you joy with every mission successfully accomplished. It is daunting to look back at those days and think to myself, “What if I did not have such a chance? What would have become of me?”

As a freshman, you enter the university expecting so much, and guess what? You get all that you expected: the good education, good professors, and obviously, good future. It is a choice that parents think so much about, but in the end, they always seem to know that it is the best they can do for their children.

My years at AUC were full of excitement. Joining the English and comparative literature department was a dream come true, but joining the philosophy department was simply a blast. I was in love with the subject, professors, books — everything. It was an addiction that studying literature simply complemented. One could just say that literature was my pen, and philosophy was the active mind behind the pen.

When my undergraduate years came to an end, I did not know if I should be happy for successfully finishing two of the most enjoyable majors with high honors, or upset that the journey came to an end so fast. I felt like my four years were weeks, even a few days!

Luckily, the joy of graduation and the love you receive from family and friends are overwhelming, but after everything is over, you start trying to answer the biggest question of all: “What next?” In my case, I knew that my addiction to literature and philosophy would carry on, so I traveled to the United Kingdom to earn a master’s in literature and philosophy from the University of East

Anglia, Norwich. In a glimpse, I was there on my own, in a new campus, leading a new life. If AUC had not made me the person I am and given me enough knowledge to be confident and take such a huge step in my life, I would have still been home wondering what was next. AUC made it all happen.

In grad school, I stood out among my classmates, who were much older than me at times. Some of them had studied for only two years for their undergraduate major, choosing a focused set of courses. At AUC, I spent a little over four years exploring various subjects to complement my two majors. This has shown so much in my graduate classes and made me different from the others. Professors have acknowledged more than once after my presentations or papers that I have a wide range of knowledge, thanks to AUC of course.

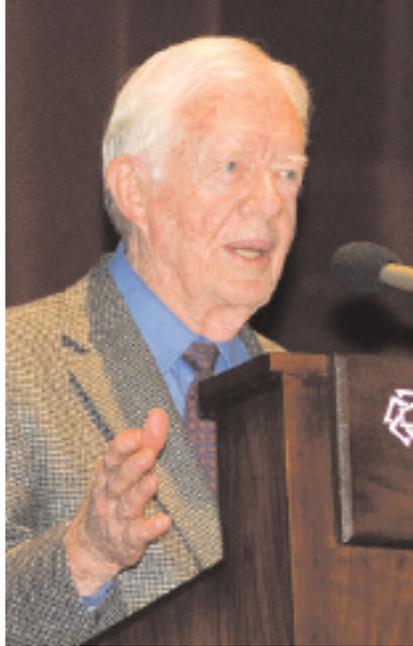
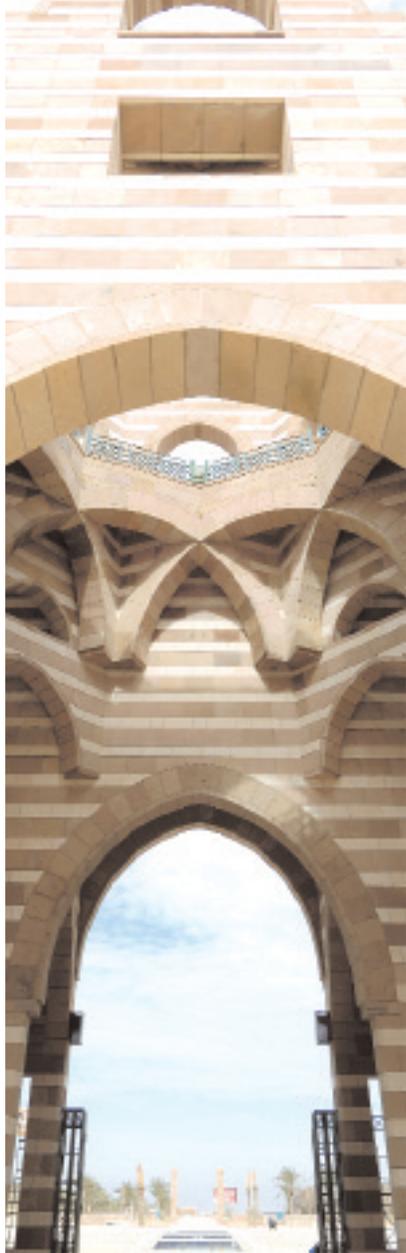
In addition, because the literature and philosophy departments at AUC are full of students from different countries, I found myself adapting to and understanding various cultures easily. In my graduation ceremony, we were a bunch of international students: Palestinians, Americans, Indians and others. This enhanced my communication skills and ability to express myself, and it helped me make friends with people who do not share my ideas, beliefs or culture.

If only I had known that AUC would have such a great impact on me, I would have shaken hands with everyone I met, kissed all and said a million thanks for everything that was done. It is a sense of appreciation that I will always feel no matter how fast time passes. AUC has prepared me, not just for my master’s, but for life. As I live in the United Kingdom now, I have encountered a different culture and way of life that I would have been scared of before. AUC gave me the courage to go far.

Shereen Hamed Shaw '06 is a lecturer at Coleg Menai in North Wales and is preparing for a doctorate in literature and philosophy from the University of East Anglia, Norwich.



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.



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Students on the last day of class at the downtown campus, photographed by Ahmad El-Nemr

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EGYPT
113 KASR EL AINI STREET
P.O. BOX 2511
CAIRO 11511

UNITED STATES
420 FIFTH AVENUE, THIRD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10018