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On the cover: Study-abroad students of Middle Eastern origin on the Nile, photographed by Ahmad El-Nemr

Editor's Notes

Early on a Saturday morning a few weeks before we finalized this issue, I went with Christine Assaad '98 to take pictures for our feature "Independence Day." The article focuses on alumni working with non-governmental organizations that help Egypt's underprivileged

gain financial independence. Assaad had been volunteering with the Association for the Protection of the Environment, which works with Cairo's garbage collectors in the *Zabaleen* district.

We went up a steep unpaved road, barely wide enough for two cars to squeeze past in each direction. The higher the road wound up, it seemed, the lower the living conditions. Inside the association's gates, in sharp contrast to what we had just seen, lay a spacious area once filled with mounds of garbage. Off to the side, a three-story building housed all of the association's activities.

Throughout the building, women and teenaged girls, clad in blue-stripped dress-like uniforms and clearly accustomed to regular visitors went about their work, nearly oblivious to our visit. Many of the women spent the early morning hours before reporting for work at the association sorting through the heaps of Cairo's garbage that their husbands, fathers or sons would bring home. Despite the undoubtedly grinding conditions in which they lived, the women had an air of confidence, a sense of pride perhaps. Through an impressive paper-recycling project, among many others, these women are able to find some degree of financial security.

This project is an example of the diverse organized efforts by many remarkable alumni to empower Egypt's poor. Through their work, poverty's worst victims — traditionally women and girls — find hope in an alternate future, different from the bleak fate of many around them. With the dedication and support of these alumni volunteers, some of Egypt's poorest of the poor are learning new ways to survive each day.



A quick lesson in weaving from the teenaged girls in a project supported by Omar's Box, a non-governmental organization founded by Dina Abdel Hady '90

Dina Abulfotuh

Dina Abulfotuh

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Editor in Chief

Dina Abulfotuh

Senior Designer

Inas Tohamy

Staff Writers

Dalia Al Nimr, Lamya Tawfik

Advisory Board

Ann Boudinot-Amin, annual giving office; Gretchen McCullough, English and comparative literature department; Afaf William, alumni office

Photographers

Ahmad El-Nemr, Omar Mohsen

Illustrator

Mohamed Sami

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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
PO Box 2511
Cairo 11511

Egypt

or

AUCToday

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

e-mail: auctoday@aucegypt.edu
www.aucegypt.edu

AUC Signs LE 850 Million Contract to Construct New Campus



President David Arnold (second from right) signing the new campus contract with representatives of Samsung and Samcrete, as Thomas Thomason (left), Board of Trustees member and Hussein El Sharkawy (standing), vice president for new campus development, look on

AUC has signed an LE 850 million contract for the construction of its new campus in New Cairo. The main contractor is a joint venture between Samsung, the Korean partner, and Samcrete, an Egyptian firm.

The project, which will employ local workers and use local material, will also create 2,000 jobs on site.

Samsung Corporation is best known for constructing the world's tallest building, the 92-story twin towers in Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia. The company has also gained international recognition with the completion of the 63-story royal Charoen office building in Bangkok, the 55-story PBC tower in Manila and the 50-story Ampang tower in Malaysia. The construction group was the first in Korea to obtain ISO 14001 certification for all construction operations.

"It's a pleasure to be here in Egypt, the mother of all civilizations, and to be part of building this educational establishment with our technology. We all have the same goals even if we have a different culture and language, and we promise to contribute to the mission and vision of AUC by delivering the best standards and delivering them on time," said Kye Ho Kim, executive vice president of overseas business at Samsung Engineering and Construction.

Samcrete Egypt, the local contractor and one of the oldest in the country, operates in the construction industry and production of building materials in Egypt and abroad. It started in 1963 as a small-sized contractor specialized in pavement works and concrete landscape products and has expanded to a company of more than 2,000 employees.

The new campus will be ready for occupancy in September 2007.

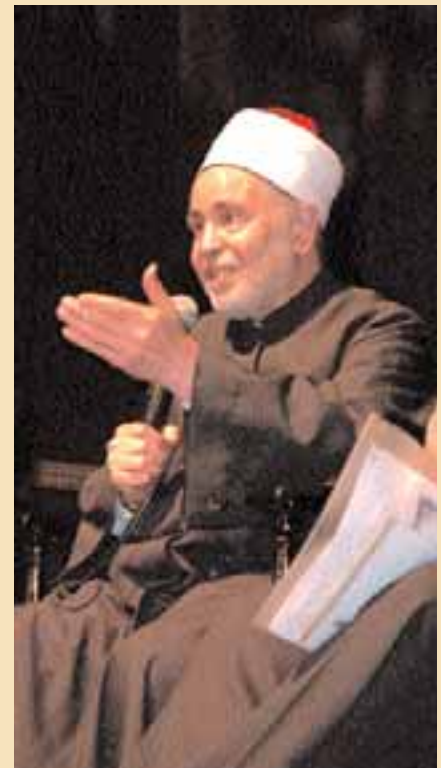
Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Preaches Tolerance During Campus Lecture

In a speech he delivered to a packed Ewart Hall audience, Mohamed Tantawi, grand sheikh of Al-Azhar, called for cooperation between people of different cultures and religions. He said that civilizations flourish only when people exhibit tolerance and understanding of one another.

"There is no such thing as a clash of civilizations," he said. "Every civilization is unique in a certain aspect, and the wise are those who cooperate together to spread modernity and progress around the world."

Addressing the AUC community a few days before the start of Ramadan, Tantawi emphasized that all monotheistic religions essentially carry the same message: worshipping one God and possessing high moral standards. Differences between the religions, he said, exist in the peripheries and not in the core.

Tantawi added that people's beliefs and mentalities are different, and only by accepting each other's differences and learning from one another will societies progress. "Our differences should not prevent us from collaborating together," he said. "God created us different so we could interact and work together for the good of mankind."



New Students to Declare Major at the Gate

Students entering AUC can now declare their major upon admission, a change designed to meet the needs of students and parents.

Previously, freshmen spent their first year undeclared, sampling courses from different majors. However, starting this fall, in an effort to accommodate students who are firmly set on entering a certain field, 50 percent of the seats in any major have been allotted to students who wish to declare "at the gate" and meet the requirements of that major.

Explaining the change in policy, President David Arnold said that there was growing concern from parents about having seats guaranteed for their children in the majors they wished to enter. "There is a rising tension between encouraging students to sample different disciplines and people having fairly defined expectations of what they want to do," he said.

Students who declare at the gate can still change majors at any time during their course of study.

Number of Incoming Students on the Rise

This fall has seen a significant rise in the number of students entering the university, compared to last fall.

According to James Glynn, director of planning and institutional research, the number of undergraduates who have enrolled at AUC this fall rose from 548 to 812, representing a 48 percent increase. Similarly, graduate students entering this fall increased by 36 percent, from 196 to 266.

The trend in increased numbers is especially high with international students.

Jan Montassir, associate vice president and dean of international student affairs, noted that the number

of study-abroad students has risen by 44 percent, from 151 last year to 218 this year. In addition, the number of students at the Arabic Language Institute, who are mostly non-Egyptian, rose by 42 percent.

Montassir attributes this to the growth of institutional agreements between AUC and other universities abroad and to the university's increased participation in educational conferences worldwide. AUC's mailing lists have also expanded to include more educational institutions and school-counseling divisions. In addition, there is currently a greater interest in the study of the Middle East and Arabic.

Mohamed Mansour Elected to AUC's Board



Mohamed Mansour, president of the Mansour Group, has been elected to AUC's Board of Trustees (BOT).

The Mansour Group, one of Egypt's top conglomerates spanning the automotive, banking, industrial,

real estate, agribusiness and tourism sectors, is also the authorized distributor for Caterpillar.

"Mansour is a long-time supporter of AUC, possesses wide and varied experience, has deep roots in Egypt and the Middle East and a passion for the values of a liberal arts education," said Paul Hannon, BOT chairman.

Mansour is also a member of George Washington University's global advisory board and a member of the advisory board of the George Washington School of Business. From 1999 to 2003, Mansour served as president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt. In addition, he is the chairman of the Lead Foundation, which specializes in providing loans to micro and small enterprises.

LEAD Program Opens AUC's Doors to Top Graduates of Egyptian Public Schools

“Coming to AUC has always been my dream. Words cannot describe how happy I am that my dream has come true.”

That is the way Nada Radwan from the governorate of Sohag expressed her delight at being chosen as one of 54 new scholarship recipients at AUC this fall.

Radwan is part of the Leadership for Education and Development (LEAD) program instituted this year, awarding public school students in Egypt a full tuition undergraduate scholarship to study at AUC. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development, the program aims to build future leaders for Egypt by instilling the knowledge, attitude and skills needed for them to become active players in their country's development.

For three consecutive years, a male and a female student from each

governorate will be chosen to represent the 27 governorates of Egypt. This year's recipients are the first batch of a total of 162 students who will benefit from the LEAD program.

“I feel confident being chosen. I like being in an atmosphere where there is freedom of thought and the chance to be exposed to different nationalities, cultures and religions,” said Sameh El Waraky from Kafr El Sheikh.

“This program is providing a world-class education to the brightest students in Egypt, who in addition to having stellar academic records, have also exhibited leadership capabilities in extracurricular activities and community service,” said President David Arnold. “AUC is honored to welcome this caliber of students into its freshman class.”

Throughout their time at AUC, each LEAD student will be required to take



First batch of LEAD program students look forward to their freshman year at AUC

part in a community service student club, attend an internship program in the summer, participate in a regional conference and help set up an annual youth conference at AUC. In parallel with their academic life, students will attend a management development program, and the outstanding among them will spend a semester abroad.

AUC Welcomes New Vice President for Planning



Paul Donoghue, the newly appointed vice president for planning and administration, comes to AUC from the University of Toronto where he served as chief administration officer.

Donoghue will be bringing his expertise to “balance longer-term strategic imperatives against the level of detail required to ensure successful implementation.”

While “a lot of work, involving a lot of people, has gone into the development of informed and considered strategic directions,” Donoghue views the next challenge as one of implementation.

“That will enable AUC to achieve its stated objective of becoming world class and position it to meet the many contextual challenges it faces over the next five-plus years,” he explained.

Donoghue held several senior positions before coming to AUC. These include a decade as assistant vice president of health sciences at McMaster University in Canada and 13 years at the Ontario Ministry of Health in posts ranging from manager of the consulting services in the fiscal resources branch to executive director of finance and administration.

Ann Lesch Joins AUC as Dean of HUSS



Coming from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, Ann Lesch, the newly-appointed dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is not new to AUC or Cairo.

“My experiences in Egypt have been quite diverse — as a student, foundation officer, researcher and professor,” she said. “Therefore, it feels like coming home to be returning to Cairo.”

Holder of a bachelor’s from Swarthmore College and a doctorate from Columbia University, Lesch’s previous posts include associate director of the Center for Arabic and Islamic Studies at Villanova, president of the Middle East Studies Association and US director of the Palestinian American Research Center. She is currently a member of the advisory committee for Human Rights Watch/Middle East.

Center to Archive Egypt’s History of Business

AUC has established a first-of-its-kind Economic and Business History Research Center (EBHRC) that serves as an archival depository of primary documents related to the social and economic history of business in Egypt and, eventually, the Middle East. The center is supported by renowned scholars of Middle East studies from Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Washington universities.

“The center will be of great help to researchers and international students who want to know more about the Middle East,” said Nagla Rizk, chair of the economics department, to which EBHRC is presently affiliated.

Conceived by Abdel Aziz Ezz El Arab, AUC associate professor of economics and EBHRC’s director, the center was established in June 2004. Its work, carried out by program officers who are top-notch AUC graduates with a solid foundation in Middle East economic history, mainly

entails the collection of primary documents on different aspects of the Egyptian business and economic sectors. The officers meet and interview figures who have played a key role in Egyptian enterprise, including former prime ministers, businessmen and public and private business executives. In the process, primary documents are collected and oral history accounts compiled.

Among the center’s far-reaching goals is the promotion of Egyptian business history as a new field of study, the establishment of a permanent collection of seminal material on Egyptian business history and a permanent exhibition of private papers of leading figures like Talaat Harb. In addition, the center aims to add to AUC academic specializations in Middle East economic history and invite senior Middle East economic historians to spend a year or semester at the university.

AUC Adds New Majors, Expands Degree Offerings

The academic face at AUC has changed over the last year with new majors being introduced across several fields.

AUC now offers a new bachelor’s degree in actuarial science, an area that is highly sought in Egypt. The major prepares students to work as actuaries, applying mathematical models to improve financial decision making by evaluating the implications of uncertain future events. Graduates often work in insurance companies, actuarial consulting firms, banks and other financial institutions, as well as government agencies such as the Egyptian Insurance Supervisory Authority.

In addition, a master’s degree is now available in international development. The program is designed for students who wish to acquire in-depth understanding and knowledge in the field of development. It is especially suited for students who seek a career with development-related institutions at the macro or micro level such as the United Nations, the World Bank or development-finance institutions.

LLM Delivers First American-Style Legal Education in the Region

With more than 25 lawyers and law school graduates from the Arab world, the Master of Laws (LLM) program in international and comparative law offers the first American-style legal education in the Arab world. Instituted this fall, the program is named in memory of the late Ibrahim Shihata, general counsel and senior vice president of the World Bank, who singled out legal education as the core obstacle to advancing the rule of law and ensuring the region's development.

Osama El Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, delivered the keynote address at the program's inauguration ceremony. Stressing the importance of studying law in an American frame of mind, El Baz asserted that the "United States does not belong to the same school of thought" as that of the Arab world and that it is important for Egyptians to understand the common law systems which the United States follows.

"I was thrilled to know that this rare specialization is in the name of Ibrahim Shihata who I've been associated with for the last four decades. He personified certain attributes such as flexibility and an open mind," said El Baz.

Samia Shihata, Shihata's widow and head of the LLM's advisory board, dubbed the inauguration of the program a "historic addition" to the legal education system in Egypt. "An addition that has the potential to galvanize a broad reform movement to upgrade and modernize legal education in Egypt and the Arab world," she said.

Courses to be offered in the program include European Union law, Islamic reform, transnational business and trade laws. In addition, the program will offer short courses by distinguished visiting professors of law and legal practitioners from the Arab world, Europe and the United States.

LLM graduates are expected to work in transnational law firms, the foreign service and international organizations, as well as government service, the judiciary and non-governmental organizations.



Budding Egyptian-Italian Author Studies Arabic at AUC

Still in her last year of high school, 17-year-old Randa Ghazy — a published author at 15 — returned to AUC last summer to study at the Arabic Language Institute.

In 2002, Ghazy basked in the limelight of her best-selling book *Dreaming of Palestine*, which she penned in Italian. After entering a short-story competition, an editor at an Italian publishing house asked her to turn her story into a novel and told her that she had only two weeks to accomplish the feat. "I wasn't thinking; I was spontaneous, and perhaps that's why people liked it," she said.

An Egyptian who has spent her life in Italy, Ghazy often spends her summers in her hometown of Alexandria. This year, however, she grabbed the opportunity to study Arabic after receiving a scholarship to AUC for the summer.

Ghazy said that she was inspired to write her book after seeing images of Muhammad Al Durra being killed on television by Israeli soldiers. "I had never met any Palestinians. I felt I could try to take an anonymous person and give him an identity, family and a name," explained Ghazy.

Eager for the next challenge, Ghazy has set her sights on writing a book about the dialogue between Arab and Western societies.



Red, White & Blue

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research takes a fresh look at the United States from a Middle Eastern lens

By Lamya Tawfik

"There is a paradox when it comes to the role that foreign policy will play in the congressional elections. On the one hand, Iraq and George Bush's so-called war on terror have become the backdrop for the whole election ... On the other hand, unlike the presidential election, congressional elections are usually decided on local issues."

Jonathan Broder
Foreign and Defense Editor, *Congressional Quarterly*

While political analysts and commentators were busy predicting the outcome of the US presidential elections, the newly launched Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) devoted its inaugural conference to the intricacies of the American electoral process and its impact on the Middle East region.

Titled "US Presidential Elections: American Democracy in Action," the conference, which marks the beginning of a series of initiatives planned by the center to educate and raise awareness about American politics, brought together political scholars from Egypt and the United States.

"The electoral process is more than an American

"Membership in labor unions has decreased dramatically over the years ... Consequently, the power of the laborers as a voting block has weakened and their interests will not be as adequately reflected in the electoral process."

Howaida Adly
Assistant Professor of Political Science, National Center for Social and Criminal Research, Egypt





"If the US's democratic condition is not intact, then democracy around the world will be negatively affected and we should be very much concerned. America is a country of democrats with no democracy."

*Heba Raouf Ezzat
Lecturer of Political Science, Cairo University*

event; it's a global event. The electoral system in the US is highly complex and many don't understand it," said Manar El Shorbagy, the center's academic director, on the importance of the conference.

President Bush's foreign policy initiatives have created particular significance for the elections to people in the Middle East, explained Glen Johnson, executive director for CASAR, adding, "the American president is arguably the most influential elected official in the world."

CASAR has the dual challenge of creating more understanding of American culture and society and dispelling misconceptions in a world that views the United States with a high degree of skepticism.

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, whose gift served as a catalyst for the establishment of the center, described it as "one pillar of a bridge connecting the divide between the United States and the Arab world."

Johnson explained: "American society and culture are almost simultaneously admired and distrusted. The challenge is to find ways to build a program that effectively addresses these sometimes contradictory impulses."

With the United States having a tremendous influence on countries around the world and the Middle East in particular, a growing need for understanding the American political mindset is needed, according to El Shorbagy. She noted that the Arab world tends to focus on policy outcomes, without understanding the political processes and domestic pressures that result in those outcomes. "This is merely half the story, which leads to miscalculations and misinterpretations," said El Shorbagy.

She cited as an example the common tendency in the Arab world to view politics through the prism of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "When the current American president was elected in the year 2000, there was a clear sense of jubilation in the Arab world," she said. "This was based on groundless intuition because he was a Republican. It was as if Ronald Reagan, who was a Republican, wasn't described by Israel as the American president most supportive of Israel ever. That's not to say that Democrats have positions more supportive to Arab issues. It is not Republicans or Democrats; there are

"The American president is arguably the most influential elected official in the world."

"The current administration is dominated by neoconservatives who believed that a democratic Iraq would become a source of spreading democracy in the region. The events of 9/11 helped turn this theory into policy."

*William Quandt
Edward Stettinius Professor of Politics, University of Virginia*





"I have no doubt that Bush will be the next president of the United States. The American voter selects the president based on what happens at home, not on what happens 6,000 miles away."

*Allan J. Lichtman
Professor of History, American University, Washington D.C.*

"The electoral process is more than an American event; it's a global event. The electoral system in the US is highly complex and many don't understand it."

many other factors."

While some Egyptians travel to the United States, the vast majority only know about American society through media outlets, and "with all of the advantages and pitfalls characteristic of those sources, their understanding is often heavily skewed," pointed out Johnson. "Still others know and understand very little. It is a special challenge to develop programs that address these varied levels of knowledge and understanding."

Given the importance of the United States to world politics and its complexity and diversity, Shorbagy added that among the center's key goals is to foster a new generation of Egyptians "who can pursue independent research to understand the United States and to encourage American Studies and the dissemination of academic information" in the field.

The center will serve as a catalyst for independent research in American studies both within the university and with the outside community through an outreach component.

In addition to organizing conferences, lectures and short courses on various features of American society and culture, the center plans to expand the academic curriculum at AUC in American studies and create an information resource tool.

"The center will provide programs so that new generations of Egyptians may understand the United States more fully and examine America and American policy in a more informed way," said Johnson.

The outreach component of the center, Johnson explained, includes the education and training of coming generations of "Egyptian and Arab scholars, diplomats, journalists and citizens so that they will be better equipped to understand various facets of American society, culture and politics, to provide intellectual and information resources to support those wishing to study the United States more fully and to provide and facilitate informed, intellectual exploration of American phenomena by various groups and individuals in Egypt and the Arab world."



Board of Trustees Chairman Paul Hannon and President David Arnold present Prince Ahwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (center) with a plaque for the center

Meet the Directors

Bringing both a US and an Arab perspective into the shaping of its program, the center is co-directed by an American and an Egyptian.

With an extensive background in American studies, Glen Johnson holds the Citigroup Foundation directorship for the center. In the early 1990s, Johnson spent three years as director of the American Studies Research Center in Hyderabad, India. There, he worked on establishing American studies programs that were relevant to the Indian and Asian setting.

He is also professor emeritus of political science at Vassar College, where he held the Shirley Ecker Boskey Professorship in international relations until his retirement in 2002.

He joined the faculty at Vassar in 1964 after teaching at the University of Kentucky and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Throughout his 40-year teaching career at Vassar College — during which he served as acting president twice — Johnson said that he “prodded his students to see the world from other points of view.” He views his current position as an “extension of that career-long effort to help and encourage people to understand other people more fully, to evaluate more knowledgeably and to comprehend with greater empathy.”

He is the author of several books and a number of articles on US foreign policy, international human

rights, the foreign policy of India and ex-untouchables in India. His most recent book, co-authored with Janusz Symonides, examines the origins and development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Representing an Arab perspective, Manar El Shorbagy is the academic director of CASAR. She is a specialist in American government, with an emphasis on domestic American politics. A pioneer, El Shorbagy’s doctoral dissertation was the first to be written in Egypt about the US Congress. Her master’s was also the first to be written in Egypt on US presidential elections.

In 2003, El Shorbagy was a scholar-in-residence at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. She has published

numerous articles in scholarly journals such as *Al Mustaqbal Al Arabi*, *She’oun Arabeyya* and *Al Syassa Al Dawleyya*, as well as provided political commentaries and analyses in major Egyptian and Arab newspapers including *Al Ahram*, *Al Ahram Weekly* and *Al Hayat*.

El Shorbagy’s most recent book, *Constrained Democracy: The US Presidential Election*, is due to be published this fall.

Johnson and El Shorbagy believe that having Egyptian and American leadership for the center will enrich its perspectives and enhance its mission.

“I think it is wonderful,” said Johnson. “We can create a much stronger center reflecting perspectives that we work out together drawing on our respective national and cultural experiences.” □



TRUTH OR DARE

Illustrations by Mohamed Sami

In a 1999 survey conducted by Duke University's Center for Academic Integrity and involving 2,100 students in 21 campuses across the United States, almost one-third of the respondents admitted to serious test cheating and half admitted to one or more instances of serious cheating on written assignments.



In today's technology-driven era, plagiarism and cheating are not as difficult as they were 20 years ago. With the ease of cutting and pasting on the computer and with numerous Web sites offering ready-made term papers for students on virtually any topic, issues of academic honor and integrity have become of serious concern globally.

Two years ago, amid an internationally documented rise in plagiarism and cheating, AUC formed the Task Force on Academic Integrity with the mandate to assess and foster academic integrity across campus.

Beyond simply being a mechanism to reduce or eliminate cheating and plagiarism, the academic integrity initiative at AUC — the first of its kind in the region — symbolizes the institution's commitment to a particular ethical standard, which is not only

confined to students but extends to faculty, staff and administrators.

"Academic integrity is a collective responsibility and is a true reflection of an individual's overall integrity," said Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zeid, associate professor of construction engineering and head of AUC's academic integrity task force. "There is no clear line that defines the boundaries of academic integrity, since it melts into the larger pot of self-esteem, ethical behavior and sound values."

Nermeen Waly '04, a political science graduate, former member of the Student Judicial Board (SJB) and last year's student representative on the academic integrity task force, views academic integrity as "part of the buildup of one's personality. Academic integrity doesn't just apply to exams and assignments; it applies to all fields. It is saying 'no' in the face of wrong."

Sharing Waly's viewpoint, Sara Selim, an accounting junior, noted, "Academic integrity is a matter of being honest and respecting yourself and your professor. It's about having a conscience in everything you do."

A member of Duke University's Center for Academic Integrity, AUC defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, cheating, misconduct, copyright infringement, fabricating information and gaining unauthorized access to computer records.

Plagiarism and cheating, in particular, constitute the core of student violations, both at AUC and other universities across the United States. According to Duke University's Center for Academic Integrity, more than 75 percent of students on most campuses admit to some cheating. At AUC, plagiarism constituted 64 percent of student violations reported to the Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) last year, and cheating followed at 16 percent.

"Cheating is considered one of the most serious offenses," said Halah Mohsen, assistant to the provost for special projects, AIC secretary and member of the academic integrity task force. "It is a very purposeful act, and the AIC is working toward adopting zero tolerance for students who cheat." Penalties for students who cheat could range from an "F" in the course to suspension from the university, she said.

To curb such violations, the adoption of academic honor codes has been effective, according to the academic integrity center at Duke. Surveys conducted in 1990, 1995 and 1999, involving over 12,000 students on 48 different campuses, indicate that test cheating on campuses with honor codes is typically one-third to one-half lower than the level on campuses that do not have honor codes.



New academic integrity initiative promotes code of ethics across the university



To that end, AUC adopted a Code of Academic Ethics last year. The code, endorsed by the University Senate, serves as a statement of values, definitions, violations and penalties. Students, faculty, staff and administrators are expected to pledge to the code and adopt the standards outlined in it.

“The code is the right route to create campus-wide awareness about academic integrity. It means that all members of the AUC community exhibit integrity, respect and responsibility toward one another,” said Mohamed Selim, a journalism and mass communication graduate student, former SJB member and last year’s student representative in the AIC.

For incoming students and faculty, the code is part of their welcome package. For continuing students, the code appears as a drop-down document when they register online. For current faculty, staff and administrators, printouts of the code are available in offices and departments and may be downloaded from the university Web site.

“The idea is for everybody to read the code, comprehend, adopt and pledge to it,” said Abou-Zeid. “Academic integrity will flourish only if the whole community embraces it and connects to it. It’s a matter of commitment, not just signing. We aim

to build a culture rather than impose a code.”

To many students, the code is a very positive and important step.

Amr Moharram, a freshman who signed the code upon entering the university, said that adopting a code of academic ethics “creates discipline” and shows that the university is systemized and serious in its academic integrity efforts.

“It’s a good step for the university to adopt a code of ethics because it binds



people,” said Mahmoud El Sayed, an economics senior. “It’s not just a statement that we sign; these principles have to be inside each and every one of us. Penalties have to be harsh for those who break the code.”

Among the tools AUC has adopted as a preventive measure is Turnitin.com, an online plagiarism detection system, which scans student papers and highlights any phrases or sentences taken from the Internet without attribution. Through Turnitin.com, the university maintains a centralized database for assessing and tracking plagiarism, according to Aziza Ellozy, director of AUC’s Center for Learning and Teaching.

Beyond putting in place the systems to detect and punish violations, Abou-Zeid, who has headed the task force since its inception, stressed the role students must play in the enforcement and acceptance of academic integrity.

“Raising awareness about academic integrity is a continuous and long-term process,” said Abou-Zeid. “People have to be informed of academic integrity, endorse and foster it.”

To help gain acceptance from the student body, a weeklong campaign was organized largely by students and aimed at raising awareness and bringing the issue to the forefront. Booths were held on campus, and student campaigners spoke with members of the Student Council and the Student Union.

Moreover, as part of the campaign, the Student Union constitution was reformed to include academic integrity as a core constituent. Academic integrity, the constitution states, is not confined to the classroom but also extends to student clubs’ activities.

“The academic integrity initiative at AUC is a step to make people responsible for their actions,” said Waly. “The Code of Academic Ethics has to be alive among us, and people have to feel it’s a crime to violate academic ethics.” □

By Dalia Al Nimr





Homeward B

By Dalia Al Nimr
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr

Study abroads of Middle Eastern heritage come to Cairo to reconnect with their roots

Dina Gewaily, a Middle East studies graduate of Brown University, always thought of herself as being different from her American peers. Her parents didn't allow her to date, drink alcohol or do many of the things her friends did. She always found that confusing and, at times, frustrating. After coming to Egypt and spending a year with her relatives, it all made sense to her.

"It clarified things for me," she said. "I saw where my parents lived when

they were young and learned about their childhood and how they were raised. As a result, I got to know my family and became more appreciative of my culture and where I come from ... Egypt has now become a part of my identity and life."

"I am now able to communicate with my family better," affirmed Amir Abdallah, a graduate of international business from George Washington University who is currently studying at the Arabic Language Institute.



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Although Abdallah has visited Egypt often with his family on summer vacations, his current stay in the country has helped him understand his culture better and get more acquainted with his relatives, he said.

The experience of studying abroad is normally filled with the excitement of travel and being exposed to a new culture. But for Arab-American students like Gewaily and Abdallah, it had an additional dimension.

For them, coming to Egypt and to

AUC was a chance to discover their roots and connect with the Arab side of their identity. It exposed them to the Middle Eastern way of life, and for some, it allowed them to meet family members they hadn't seen. In the end, these students emerged with a better understanding of themselves and what they want to do in life.

"I feel more Arab now," said Samuel Bazzi, a Lebanese student studying economics and international relations at the University of Southern California. "I feel that there is such a thing as an Arab identity that holds us all together."

Bazzi's sense of Arabism evolved from his encounters with different aspects of Egyptian life. While many of his friends spent their free time scuba diving in Sharm El Sheikh, Bazzi visited traditional coffee shops, modern art galleries and low-income areas in Cairo and throughout Egypt.

"I wanted to experience Egyptian culture as a way to understand the rich Arab culture," he said. "I immediately felt connected with the people and felt closer to my Arab identity than my American one. The sense of social relations that binds people in the Arab world is very different from the fast-paced, money-driven life in the States."

But what Bazzi enjoyed most was his mingling with residents of the Shubra area and listening to their stories about life. That's the type of experience he couldn't capture in a classroom.

"As an economics student, the world is my visual laboratory," he said. "In Shubra and elsewhere throughout Egypt, I gained invaluable hands-on experience of life in a developing country. I saw how poor people live, how they struggle to put food on the table but still manage to keep a smile

on their faces. It gave me a perspective on life that I was searching for but couldn't find in the States."

Feeling a sense of obligation as an Arab, Bazzi decided to specialize in development studies to be able to help the region address global and local challenges on its own terms.

Bazzi's trips to Shubra were in the accompaniment of his friend Islam El Naggar, an Egyptian biochemistry student at Louisiana State University whose grandmother lives in the Shubra area. El Naggar, too, came to realize how much he owed his country and the region.

"When I stayed in Egypt, I realized how little I knew, in details and history, about the extent of my country's woes," he said. "In Shubra, I felt closer to the real majority of Egyptians, and their poor condition gave me impetus to do something to help. When I become a doctor, I hope to be able to contribute something to my society ... My stay in Egypt made me realize I can't ignore my connection to my country."

Also wanting to lend a hand to the needy, Eddie Saade, a Lebanese student majoring in Middle East studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, came to Egypt to find opportunities for community service and volunteer work. "I love doing humanitarian work, and I wanted to start with the Middle East because this is where I belong. In the Arab world, I feel like I'm in my element and I feel an immediate bond with the people."

Saade's aim is to network with non-governmental organizations in Egypt and ultimately volunteer with the United Nations on humanitarian missions in the region. He plans to contact Child Victims of Rape and Torture in Egypt to offer his service.

Like Saade, Ruba Batniji, a



Dahlia Shaaban

Palestinian graduate of Near East history from the University of San Diego, feels that volunteerism is essential. Through her participation in the Volunteers in Action (VIA) student club, Batniji visited orphanages and underprivileged areas in Cairo and was moved by her interaction with the poor and the needy.

"That was a really powerful experience," she said passionately. "Egypt had always been to me a place that I visit with my family on vacation, but being in VIA exposed me to a new aspect of the country that I hadn't seen before. It gave me a more grounded view of things."

When Batniji first came to Egypt as a study abroad, her main aim was to acquire knowledge about the region in order to be able to speak about it more confidently with her friends in the States, especially after 9/11 when she was constantly faced with questions she couldn't answer.

"After 9/11, many Americans became increasingly vigilant toward Arabs and Muslims, so I decided to come to Egypt to figure out the Arab half of me and be able to defend it," she said.

But through her experience, Batniji

came to not only appreciate the Middle East, but also be critical of certain aspects of it, particularly passiveness. "Fatalism is so pervasive here that people don't do anything to change matters," she said, adding that even though she is now more confident when answering her friends' queries about the Middle East, she is no longer always on the defensive.

Sharing Batniji's viewpoint was Mark Aziz, an Egyptian-American political science student at Yale University. From his interactions and what he learned in class about Middle

Eastern history and Egyptian politics, Aziz was struck by the "overwhelming sense of futility and inertia" people have about the structure of the Egyptian and Arab governments.

"This observation," he noted, "inspired me to want to contribute to the reawakening of the Arab world's potential to be a successful, free and stimulating region."

Aziz set a goal for himself to secure a diplomatic post in the Middle East, through a non-governmental organization, the United Nations or the US Foreign Service.

Batniji, too, feels she has to make a positive contribution, and for her, the first step is education. That's why when she returned to the States, she chose Arabic studies as her graduate major. "I have to educate myself on issues pertaining to the region and understand how we got to where we are today," she said. "To be ignorant is no longer acceptable for me; I have an obligation to be informed."

Also emerging with a critical outlook on the Middle East was Murat Yildiz, a Turkish student studying political science at the University of San Diego. "People



Amir Abdallah

here are afraid to question their beliefs,” he said. “They don’t realize that when you question and arrive at convincing answers, you become more firmly held to these beliefs.”

For Yildiz, the chance to interact with people from several cultures was an enriching experience. “It was the international exposure that I treasured most,” he said. “I met students from Palestine, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and that opened my eyes to new perspectives and viewpoints. It made me see the world through a different lens.”

Similarly, Gewaily wanted to expose herself to a more diverse spectrum of individuals than those she meets back home. So not only did she travel to different parts of the country during her stay in Egypt, she also went to Palestine, Jordan and Syria.

“I wanted to see Arab society as it really is,” she explained. “Experiencing a culture is very different from reading about it in a book or article. I learned a lot more during this past year about how politics plays out in the Middle East than I would have from my four years of study at Brown.”

It was the desire to see things



Eddie Saade

firsthand that motivated Dahlia Shaaban, an Egyptian student majoring in religion and political science at Colgate University, to learn more about her religion in a country where it is dominant. “I didn’t like the way Islam was taught in the States and made exotic,” she said. “I wanted to come to a place where Islam is practiced and taken seriously. I wanted to see things for myself.”

After spending Ramadan in Egypt and studying about the relationship between religion, politics and culture, Shaaban says she is now able to argue

more confidently with her friends in the States and challenge them on their preconceived ideas about Islam. “I learned how to think as a Muslim outside of America,” she noted.

President of the Colgate Muslim Student Association, Shaaban feels more equipped to lobby for the Arab-American and American-Muslim communities in the States. “I hope to be part of a constructive interfaith dialogue,” she said.

Shaaban has also become very critical of the US media. “Now that I’ve been on the ground and seen things myself, I look at it more and more as biased media,” she explained. “Americans need to visit this part of the world to realize that Arab people are not these images they see on television.”

Hoping to be part of the vehicle for change, Shaaban plans to live and work in the Middle East after graduation. “Given the current political climate, I need to be in the Middle East doing something, not in the States, reading distorted news about the region and understanding it through other people,” she said. “I can no longer remain on the sidelines of being an Arab.” □



Dina Gewaily

AUC Press Gives Voice to Arab Authors

“Translations from other languages have always served the valuable function of introducing to literary cultures fresh and strikingly new ideas and modes of expression.”

Roger Allen, Translator's Note, The Polymath (AUC Press, 2004)

Exceeding their potential for offering mere literary enjoyment, translations offer the reader an insider's view of the societies they depict that is both foreign and intriguing. Since its establishment in 1960, the AUC Press, the region's leading English-language publisher, has been presenting to the world the writings of renowned Arab authors translated to English.

What follows are brief reviews of three translated books that offer a window into the Arab experience.

The Yacoubian Building By Alaa Al Aswany Translated by Humphrey Davies AUC Press, 2004

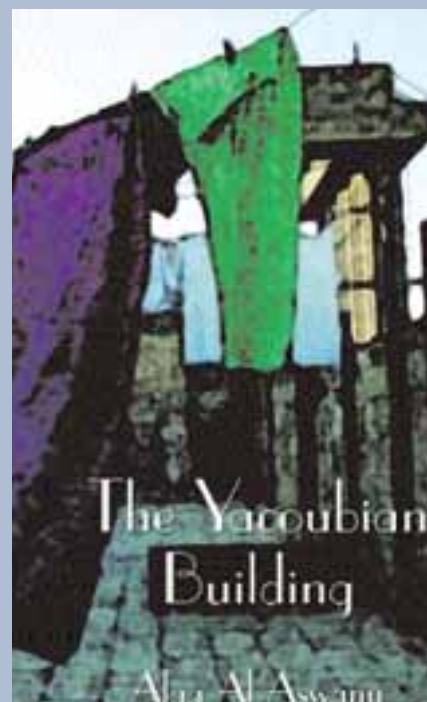
The Yacoubian Building contains all that Egypt was and has become over the 75 years since its namesake was built on one of downtown Cairo's main boulevards.

From the pious son of its doorkeeper, the tattered aristocrat and the gay intellectual in its spacious apartments to the ruthless businessman whose stores occupy its ground floor, each sharply etched character embodies a facet of modern Egypt. An Egypt where religious hypocrisy and ill-gotten wealth are natural allies, where the arrogance and defensiveness of the powerful express themselves in the exploitation and torture of the meek, where youthful idealism may quickly turn to extremism, and where maybe, just maybe, an older, less violent vision of society may yet prevail.

“The story idea came when I saw a building being demolished and was moved by the apathy of the bulldozer. Between the chaotic demolishing was a mirror, a comb and the traces of people who once lived there. This house probably saw a wedding, a fight, a new baby being born or even a successful university graduate,” said Alaa Al Aswany, the book's author.

His novel caused an unprecedented stir when first published in 2002 and has remained the world's best-selling novel in Arabic since then.

Al Aswany was born in 1937. A dentist, whose first office was in the Yacoubian Building, Al Aswany has written prolifically for Egyptian newspapers across the political spectrum on literature, politics, and social issues. *The Yacoubian Building* is his first novel.





Zaat

By Sonallah Ibrahim

Translated by Anthony Calderbank

AUC Press, 2001

Through the prism of Zaat, the heroine, the author captures glimpses of Egyptian life in three political eras under presidents Gamal Abdel Nasser, Anwar El Sadat and Hosni Mubarak. Interspersed with newspaper headlines and advertisements, the book is a slice of life lived by Zaat in a highly ironic and often extremely poignant style.

Imbued with an Egyptian sense of humor and deeply rooted in the culture and politics of the modern period, the novel takes a humorous, but often black look at the changes that have occurred in Egypt over the past few decades. Zaat's life experiences and relationships are set against economic and social upheavals in a style that is both sophisticated and bawdy.

Born in 1937, Ibrahim studied law and drama at Cairo University and became a journalist in Cairo until his arrest and imprisonment in 1959. After his release in 1964, he briefly returned to journalism in Egypt before moving to Berlin and Moscow. He devoted himself entirely to writing after returning to Egypt in 1976. *Zaat* was published in Arabic in 1992.

"Conversation, chitchat, gossip, argument and friendly banter flow incessantly from the mouths of the characters, creating a heaving sea of verbiage. Zaat would love to swim through it like a fish, but at best often struggles merely to stay afloat and keep her tender sanity intact," says Anthony Calderbank, the book's translator.

The Polymath

By Bensalem Himmich

Translated by Roger Allen

AUC Press, 2004

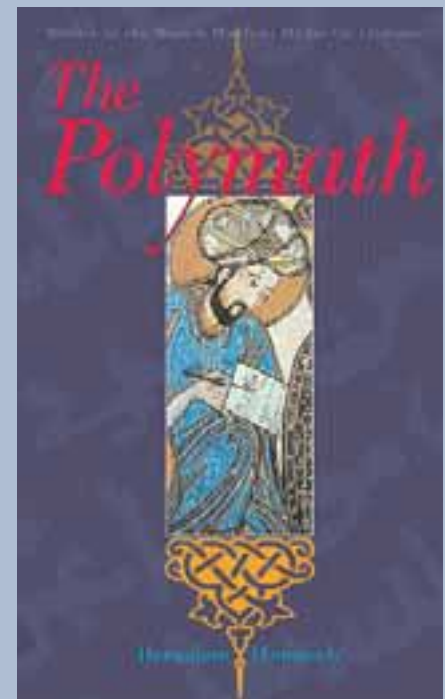
Recipient of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2002 from AUC Press, the novel aims to construct the personal and intellectual universe of the life of 14th century Arab philosopher Ibn Khaldun through a myriad of sources, historical material and through his own work.

The dominant concern of the novel — the uneasy relationship between intellectuals and political power, between scholars and authority — addresses our times through the transparent veil of history.

The novel goes through the different stages of Ibn Khaldun's life: his intellectual career, the impact of the tragic drowning of his family at sea, the turmoil of losing his post as *qadi* (judge), his political activism and spending his last years lonely and destitute.

The *Polymath* received the Grand Atlas Award in Rabat. The author, Bensalem Himmich, has written a number of philosophical works, as well as several novels and collections of poems.

Himmich describes Abd al-Rahman Ibn Khaldun as "a world-renowned historian who was often affected by the ups and downs of politics, events that, more often than not, were triggered or terminated by a deterioration in the relationship between himself and the ruling authorities."

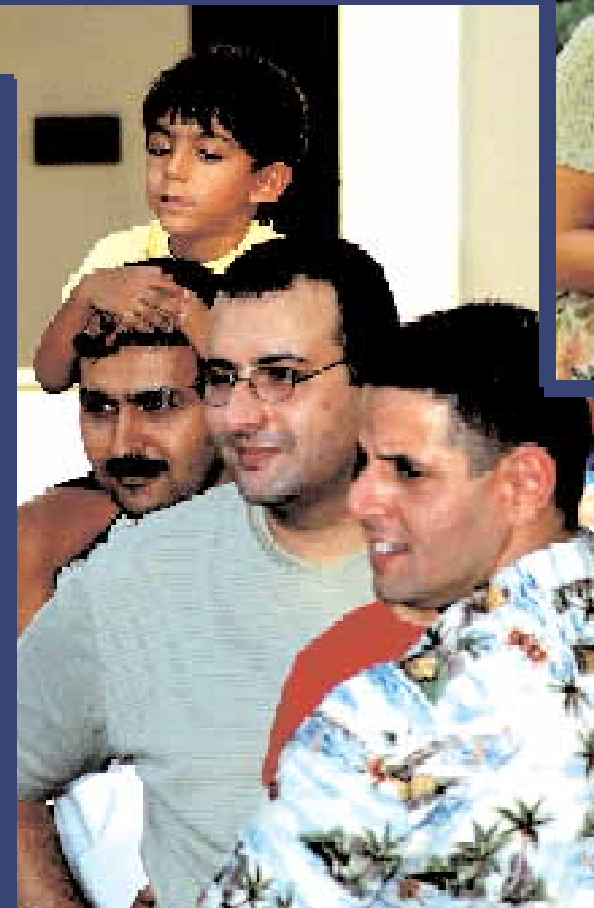
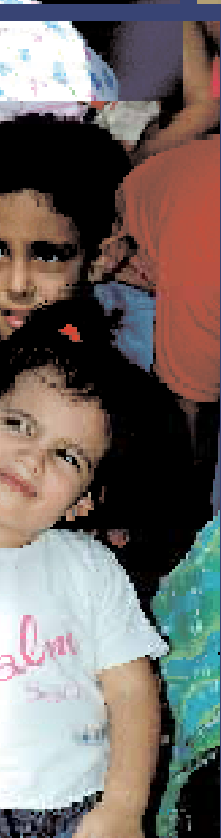
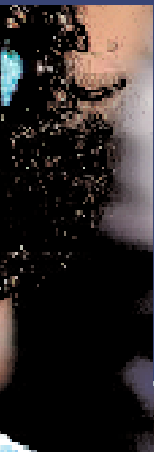


Caught on Camera

Alumni come together for the 2004 homecoming

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr







Independence Day

Alumni in Egyptian non-governmental organizations are working with the country's underprivileged and impoverished to help them gain financial independence and break free from the circle of poverty

By Dalia Al Nimr
Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr



Christine Assaad '98

When Christine Assaad '98 was 10 years old, she went with her uncle to the *Zabaleen* (garbage collectors) community in Manshiyet Nasser, where she saw poor people living in shacks surrounded by heaps of pungent-smelling garbage. Swarms of flies circled the men, women and children, who were covered in dirt and refuse. Men collected garbage from all over Cairo and dumped it in this area, and the women and children sat sifting through the garbage searching for items that they could reuse and sell.

"I was shocked to see people living this way and decided that when I grow up, I must do something to help them lead a decent life," she said.

Today, Assaad volunteers with the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE), helping women and children in the *Zabaleen* area make a living through projects such as weaving rugs and tapestries. Finding the time to serve others, Assaad chose to

make community service a key part of her life.

"If I live my whole life within the confines of the corporate world and my own social circle, I will not know about the world outside," said Assaad. "There are things that can't be done for profit and volunteerism is one of them."

Not alone in her discovery, Assaad is in the company of many fellow alumni who share her vision. Volunteering their time and resources in non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which some of them have founded themselves, these graduates have come to realize the importance of what Albert Einstein said hundreds of years ago — that "only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

While the reflection on the outside community and society as a whole may be an integral motivating force for these volunteers, Nazek Nosseir, associate professor of sociology at AUC, pointed to internal motivators as a stronger element. "There is always a

sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that develops inside those who help others; they are not after any material gains," she said. "It's the act of giving, not getting, that causes self-fulfillment."

And giving is not just about charity; it's about empowerment. Many NGOs focus on personal development and self-sustenance for the poor, educating them and helping them set up income-generating projects so that they don't have to hold out their hands for charity.

"Charity is good, but it provides only immediate gratification. Helping the poor lead independent lives is the real road to development," said Ehaab Abdou '97, co-founder of Fat'het Kheir and Nahdet El Mahroussa NGOs, which work to empower youth and the poor in Egypt.

Abdou started off like a typical business graduate, joining a multinational corporation after graduation and putting his marketing skills to work. But something inside



Ehaab Abdou '97

him didn't feel right. "I felt detached from the problems of my society and knew that this is not where I belong."

Abdou quit his corporate job and joined the Near East Foundation, an American development agency. Through his work, he traveled to different parts of the Arab world and networked with NGOs there.

In 1999, along with four other AUC graduates, he co-founded Fat'het Kheir, the first all-Egyptian NGO to offer small and micro loans to needy people without assistance from foreign sources and with the sole work of volunteers. So far, more than 500 families have benefited from the NGO's initiatives.

"If the gap between the rich and the poor keeps widening," commented Nosseir, "people won't be living safely. The rich need to feel their obligation toward society, and the poor need to feel that the rich care for them."

Three years after the launch of Fat'het Kheir, Abdou went on to acquire a master's degree in

international development, specialized in NGOs, from the University of Pittsburgh. During that time, he co-founded a second NGO, Nahdet El Mahroussa or Egypt's Renaissance.

"We want to transform our country, and the only way to do that is by engaging youth, making them feel like agents of change. We want them to overcome their feeling of apathy," said Abdou, who is a fellow in Ashoka, a global organization that invests in social entrepreneurs who have new ideas for change in their communities.

Nahdet El Mahroussa serves as an incubator for creative ideas to develop Egypt and empower its youth. The organization boasts a membership of 150 young Egyptians in and outside of Egypt. It aims to empower youth by supporting their development-project ideas for Egypt and providing the funds, volunteers and resources needed to put each idea into practice.

Serving others can also be through education. Motaz Attalla '03 felt that

the way he could make a positive contribution to society is by looking into the problems of education in Egypt and how to combat them. "A good education can empower citizens," he said.

Hoping to play a role in upgrading the level of education in Egypt, Attalla volunteered with the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development upon graduation. A 60-year-old NGO, the association has several primary schools and literacy classes throughout Upper Egypt, taking a progressive community-development approach to education. Attalla was assigned the role of researcher, sitting in on some of the classes and interviewing teachers, students and administrators. There, he saw how community-based education echoes well among students.

Some of the schools, he explained, provided excellent primary education that developed students' personalities and helped them have a say in their community affairs. For instance,



Dina Abdel Hady '90

classmates whose parents had long-existing feuds got together and with the school's support demanded an end to this tradition of hostility. In the end the parents succumbed.

"I was charmed and moved by the experience," he said. "I became optimistic about the future of education in Egypt and knew that any career for me had to be in this field."

Months later, Attalla volunteered with the Salama Moussa Foundation for Education and Development. Also based in Upper Egypt, this NGO is implementing a reform program for public schools to improve their effectiveness and make them more community oriented, as well as having an innovative literacy program in which participants themselves choose what they want to learn.

Charged with energy and optimism, Attalla plans on pursuing graduate studies abroad in education and development. "I want to actively address the challenges facing education in

Egypt," he said, adding that "everybody should be a teacher and a student — a teacher giving skills to others and a student learning and acquiring skills from others. It's all part of a process to better our society."

Also taking a grassroots approach to development is Dina Abdel Hady '90, founder of Omar's Box. Named after the Islamic caliph Omar bin al-Khattab for his achievements as a leader who selflessly served his society, the organization's mission is to "connect the haves with the have-nots," as Abdel Hady put it.

"Everybody has to have something to give to others, whether that be money, material, skills or time," she said. "God gave many of us a good education and a decent standard of living for a reason. We owe it to our society to give something back."

Run entirely by women, Omar's Box has consolidated a list of "givers" who have something to donate to society. "It could be a doctor or a teacher

volunteering his time or someone who has money to buy furniture, wheelchairs, school uniforms or even to pay for a poor person's medical operation," said Abdel Hady.

When the need arises, these givers are contacted for funds, resources or any other contribution they can make to needy "receivers." The receivers, in turn, are ultimately integrated back into the society as givers.

"It doesn't have to be money that they give back. It could be a skill that they've learned or even helping in coordinating some of our donation campaigns," said Abdel Hady. "The idea is to instill in them a sense of selflessness and sharing."

Praising the Omar's Box initiative, Nosseir said, "Spreading an atmosphere of sharing is a very healthy phenomenon. After all, the well-to-do cannot live in a planet of their own."

In addition to its giver-receiver links, Omar's Box provides other services to the underprivileged, including classes in



Motaz Attalla '03

hygiene, culture, religion and basic literacy; arts and crafts workshops; medical facilities and the setting up of projects that would help them become financially independent.

A mother of two, Abdel Hady feels that volunteerism is a top priority in her life, just as important as raising her children. "I believe in my responsibility toward society, and at the same time, I am setting a role model for my children," she said, adding that her 7-year-old son has already started taking an interest and assisting in some of the NGO's events.

Proving that a culture of giving is passed down from one generation to the next, Sara Soliman '04 grew up seeing her father volunteer with Rotary International for years. "I saw how Rotary was very important to him and how he made the time to take part in volunteer work," she said.

When youth are exposed to a culture of volunteerism from an early age, at school or within the family, it "implants

in them the love of charity and makes them realize that there are others less fortunate than themselves who need help. It sends to them a strong message and makes them develop the right attitude," affirmed Nosseir.

Inspired by her father's commitment, Soliman became an active member of Resala AUC, an affiliate of Resala Egypt NGO which works with Egypt's orphans and underprivileged.

Soliman and other members of Resala AUC collected money, clothes, food and other material from AUC students and distributed it among poor people in the Shubak area in Helwan.

"They don't have sewage, water or electricity; their children are without clothes; and cows and goats share with them the same living space," she said.

Like Soliman, Assaad grew up in a family of volunteers and thus felt that community service is core. "I've seen my grandmother and uncle do charity work and grew up listening to all the stories they had to say. Once I got into

it myself, I enjoyed it," she said.

Assaad chose to volunteer with the APE, helping women and children in the garbage collectors' communities in Cairo sustain themselves through projects such as weaving rags into rugs and making cards, calendars and bags out of recycled paper.

"I was teaching them and they were teaching me," she said. "I saw how poor people, despite their poverty, are happy and humble. My friends used to think I am strange having graduated from an American university and immersing myself in a garbage collectors' community, but I strongly feel that making a difference in people's lives is a very special and rewarding experience."

Community service, Nosseir affirmed, makes people realize how blessed they are. "It energizes you to give more," she said. "Volunteerism can be done in so many different ways, but the important thing is to keep the candle burning." □



Fun, Play & Clay

Photos by Ahmad El-Nemr



The Junior Summer Program brings youngsters to campus for the summer

You know it's summer at AUC when the Greek Campus is largely empty of students and the Jameel Center Cafeteria is swarming with children in colorful outfits licking their ice cream and munching on pizza and potato chips.

The children, aged 6-16, are members of AUC's Junior Summer Program. Coming from different schools in Cairo, the students spend an

educational and recreational month at AUC during which they play sports, perform plays, learn how to conduct an Internet search and even hold a Model United Nations (MUN) simulation session.

"The idea of the program is to instill in its young members creative thinking skills and to create a balance between education and fun," said Suzanne Sidhom, director of the Special Studies Division at AUC's Center for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE), which sponsors the program.

It all started 18 years ago when Waguida El Bakary, head of the CACE's Educational Cooperation Unit, decided to establish a program that would give AUC staff members a place to bring their children during

the summer. Over the years, the program expanded to include children of alumni and those from outside the AUC community. Today, the Junior Summer Program hosts 1,700 children and teenagers who are taught by part-time instructors and supervised by 180 high school and college students from across Cairo.

"It is enticing, educational and entertaining; the children keep asking to come back every year," said Dalia Issa, manager of cultural programs at AUC's student development office whose son and daughter are enrolled in the program.

"I like children, and this program gives me a chance to be responsible for different age groups; it's a dynamic job that can never be boring," said Zeinab Adel, an AUC economics sophomore who works as head supervisor in the program and is herself among its graduates.

"This program gave me a job during the summer and ensured that my time is not wasted during this long vacation," said 20-year-old Mohammad Al-Gammal, a Cairo University engineering student who works as a sports teacher.

Moataz Nashaat, a management sophomore at the German University in Cairo who works as a supervisor in the program, also feels the same way. "It makes my summer day more active and meaningful," he said. "The job has taught me how to be responsible, how to use my time wisely and how to interact with people younger than I am. It is definitely a beneficial and fun experience."

It is the fun that draws the children, year after year.

"All the activities here are enjoyable," said 9-year-old Farid Rashwan from Hayah International



“MUN is one of the most interesting activities in the program. It’s something you don’t do at school. It enriches you as a person and develops your research, communication and presentation skills.”

Academy as he sprinkled glitter on his cardboard crown. “I like the movies we see and the stories we read. I also learned typing and how to search for things on the Internet.”

Nesma Deghadi, a 9-year-old at the Modern English School who has been enrolling in the program for the past three years, chooses to come back because of the new friends she makes every summer. “It’s very nice here,” she said. “We do arts and crafts ourselves and meet new and old friends. It’s better than staying bored at home, and it’s a lot more fun than school since we don’t have homework and exams to worry about.”

There aren’t any exams, but the day is saturated with activities. Starting from an early morning sports match, the day brings consecutive elective sessions all conducted in English and covering an array of educational and creative fields: arts and crafts, folklore, research and debate, Web site development, values and etiquette. Movies and field trips are also part of the program, and the MUN sessions prove to be a favorite for many of the teenagers.

“I like the program because it taught me a lot of computer skills like how to develop my own Web site. As for



MUN, it helped me learn to do research and convince others of my ideas,” said 16-year-old Osama Hamza from Dar Jenna School in Saudi Arabia.

“MUN is one of the most interesting activities in the program. It’s something you don’t do at school. It enriches you as a person and develops your research, communication and presentation skills,” said 18-year-old Sara Mostafa who has been attending the program annually since she was 6 and has now become a supervisor. “The program opened up my eyes to different people, strengthened my language skills and enhanced my creativity.”

For Amany Shehata, human resources manager at Pfizer Egypt and a parent of two boys, the program “helped build character” in her children. “It improved my children’s English, enhanced their research and

presentation skills and developed in them a sense of competence,” she said. “I feel safe because I know my children are in a proper place getting proper information from qualified people.”


In addition, the program has introduced this year a new course named “Living Values.” The course is taught in several countries worldwide and aims at offering children and young adults an opportunity to explore and develop 12 universal values such as love, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, peace and respect.

“The value of the course is that it helps individuals to think about and reflect on the different values and the implications of expressing them in relation to themselves, others and the community at large,” said Sidhom. □

By Dalia Al Nimr

Law Matters

Studying law in a local and regional context, Seton Hall Law School's summer program brings future lawyers to AUC



Over the last couple of years, news headlines around the world have buzzed with words that were formerly unfamiliar to the Western world. Words like *fatwa*, *jihad* and other Islamic terms have created a curiosity toward the region, its people and its laws.

In 1996, Seton Hall Law School

Professor Bernard Freamon came to AUC's Arabic Language Institute (ALI).

"I felt that the ALI model could be transferable to a law program that could be instituted in the region. I was interested in having American law students gain knowledge and experience in the Middle East," explained Freamon. This idea gave birth to the Seton Hall Law School Summer Program for the Study of Law in the Middle East, which was established shortly after Freamon's visit.

It is the only study-abroad program in the Arab world approved by the

American Bar Association. The program, despite being too short as some of its students vehemently proclaim, has nourished the minds of budding lawyers with a taste of legal matters related to the region.

The program is held entirely on AUC premises and was discontinued after the September 11 deadly attacks due to security concerns. It was resumed this summer with 44 students from law schools in the United States, Europe and Australia.

Topics covered include Islamic jurisprudence, international criminal law, comparative constitutional law, international trade and international oil and gas law. In addition, the students visited Egyptian legal institutions and took part in roundtable discussions with international lawyers, judges, and scholars who are familiar with cutting-edge issues in international law practice in the Middle East.

"The faculty is very diverse, as is the student group, and both have been responsible for my intellectual and spiritual growth. While my law school colleagues back home have been shuffling papers in a law office, my mind and spirit have been revitalized by my experience in Cairo and I am overjoyed at having made the decision to study here in Egypt," said Marvin Bowser from the Rutgers Newark Law School.

Studying in Cairo

For some students, the appeal of the program was the unique chance to

study in Cairo. “If you’re going to study Islamic jurisprudence and you have the opportunity to study that in Cairo, how could you pass that up? Studying in the culture here is a unique experience. It’s really interesting to learn something about Islamic jurisprudence and then go out and talk to taxi drivers or Muslim students about it,” said Reid Simmons from the Seton Hall Law School in New Jersey.

Erik Sayler from Florida State University’s College of Law came to Egypt seven years ago and it was that experience that prompted him to return. “There’s something about being in the Middle East. They say that you’ll cry if you get here and you’ll cry when you leave. Cairo has a big place in my heart, and when I found out about the program I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to come back and see old friends,” he said.

Bowser appreciated the chance to be

a curious traveler, not a provincial tourist with preconceived notions.”

Simmons, like many of his peers, felt that joining the program would be an asset to his career. “I’m going to be pursuing a job in the federal government ultimately and Americans are becoming more aware of the cultures and people in the region. To study here is invaluable; it certainly looks better on a resume when most people are going to Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy,” he said.

Challenging Stereotypes

For many of the students, the experience was a chance to challenge their stereotypes and misconceptions about the region and to understand the Arab perspective on current issues.

“The best way to grow mentally and spiritually ... is to live in a country whose approach to law, politics and

religion is different from America’s,” said Bowser.

Likewise, Sayler felt that after 9/11 there were many misconceptions in the United States about Islam and the Middle East. “The impression that many Americans have is that all Muslims are fundamentalists, but through studying the intellectual heart of Islam, I understand that this is very far from the truth. Hopefully since restarting this program after two years, we can be ambassadors back home to our friends, families and our universities,” he said.

“The positive aspect of studying Islamic jurisprudence in a Muslim society is for students not to feel that Islamic law is abstract and has nothing to do with the lives of people,” said Sherman Jackson, Islamic jurisprudence professor at the University of Michigan. □

By Lamya Tawfik



Around the World

Jordan



Meeting with the alumni club in Jordan



Wasef Jabseh '67, Sherry Arnold, President David Arnold, Hana Jabseh, Mohammad Abughazaleh '67



Queen Rania Al Abdallah '91 (center), honorary patron of the campaign committee in Jordan, Mary Iskander, President and Mrs. Arnold and In'am Mufti '56, chair of the Jordan alumni club



President David Arnold with Adel Dajani '52 and his family

Switzerland



Alumni reception in Divonne



Sherry and David Arnold with Samira Hussein Dabbagh '51 and Ambassador Hassan Dabbagh

England



Alumni reception in London



Sherry Arnold, David Arnold, Ramzi Dalloul '59, Salim Nassar '60, Kenneth Manotti, Izdihar Afghani and Renee Nassar



Ashraf Marwan, Ramzi Dalloul '59, Charles Riachy, Mary Iskander and Mutaz Ghandour

Australia



Alumni meeting in Melbourne at the Country Women's Association organized by Malak Edgar '81



Alumni meeting in Sydney organized by Magda Cassis Smith '86

Alumni Honor Roll

Alumni Achievement Awards

After Fatma Hamza '55 obtained her bachelor's degree from AUC, she went on to Columbia University to obtain a master's in education through a fellowship from the American Association of University Women. Hamza started her career as a substitute teacher at the Ramses College for Girls and worked her way up to teacher, then administrator and today is still working with the school as a consultant. Hamza worked closely with the social-education staff on student activities, student personality and character development. In 2002, she received the distinguished Shield of Education from the Minister of Education as the Ideal Teacher. Hamza received the Alumni Achievement Award for her years of dedication to the cause of education.



The second recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award is Salah Eldin Faiq '54. His commitment to education earned him a one-year Fulbright scholarship to AUC, where he became the first student to receive a bachelor's degree in two years. In 1957, Faiq became the fundamental education fieldwork expert at UNESCO, where he served for 17 years.

In 1976 he was invited by the Arab League Education, Science and Culture Organization to help establish and serve as director of a center for training and eradicating illiteracy in Bahrain. "I'm so proud to receive this award," said Faiq. Remembering his days at AUC, he said. "We were only 35 in our entire class. AUC has surely come a long way since then."

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Educated in a small village in Yemen and later traveling to London to study, Hayel Saeed '68, a man who epitomizes initiative and determination, successfully moved up the ladder to become a leading businessman in the Middle East. After graduating from AUC, Saeed returned to Yemen and began working in sales and marketing. With his family's support, he ventured into diverse business operations in the 1970s that included the first mineral water company in Yemen.

Determined to advance further, Saeed traveled to the United Arab Emirates in 1974 and set up the first family business outside of Yemen. Under his leadership, family operations extended to offices in London, Saudi Arabia and different parts of the Arab world. Today, Saeed is the chairman and managing director of the Hayel Saeed Anam

Group, a board member of Al Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture and a member of the Trustees Council for the Hayel Saeed Anam Prize for Sciences and Arts.





Recognized for his success in a diverse career that has spanned academia, government and business, Jawad Anani '67 holds a bachelor's in economics from AUC, a master's from Vanderbilt University and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. Anani's career includes a series of ministerial positions in Jordan, including minister of state for prime ministry affairs, minister of information, economic adviser to Prince Hassan Bin Talal, deputy prime minister for development affairs, minister of foreign affairs and chief of the Jordanian Royal Court. Currently, Anani is living in Dubai, where he owns Baseera, a regional media consulting firm. "I was tired of working in the political field," said Anani. "I felt that it was time to move on."

Only three years after graduating and joining Kuwait Insurance Company, Wasef Jabsheh '67 was relocated to Abu Dhabi, where he would later serve as general manager. Returning to his home in Jordan, Jabsheh founded the Middle East Insurance Brokers and the International Marine and General Insurance Company. He also developed a partnership with RMC Group, one of the largest ready mix concrete companies and eventually acquired a 100 percent stake in the company, renaming it Al Quds Ready Mix. Jabsheh later established two more insurance companies in Jordan and co-founded Albawaba.com, a leading provider of Internet and advertising services in the Middle East. Jabsheh is currently working on building a financial services and clearing firm that would provide the region with access to global markets through the latest in technology and clearing facilities.



Holding his first job with his father at the age of 16, Tarek Amer '79, deputy governor of Egypt's Central Bank, has come to appreciate challenges. With a bachelor's in management from AUC and a diploma with honors from Harvard Business School, Amer has worked in the banking sector in more than 10 countries in the Middle East.

Positions he held include vice chairman of the board of Banque Misr in Egypt, the general manager of the banks of Bahrain and Kuwait, as well as managerial positions in Citibank, the Egyptian American Bank, Bank of America and Bank of Credit and Commerce Misr.

A representative of the London alumni chapter since 1994, Tarek Rouchdy '76 received the Distinguished Alumni Volunteer Award in recognition of his leadership role in organizing alumni activities and maintaining a close link between alumni. Rouchdy holds a bachelor's degree in economics, is a fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and an associate of both the Chartered Institute of Bankers and the Association of Corporate Treasurers. After graduating, Rouchdy joined the Bank of Nova Scotia. He went on to work in a number of London-based financial institutions until he joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, where he is now head of internal audit.



Marking the *50th* Reunion



When members of the class of '55 took the coveted walk across the Ewart Hall stage and received their degrees, Egypt's revolution was successful, King Farouk had been overthrown and Gamal Abdel Nasser became the country's first president. Inside AUC, where the women wore poodle skirts and the men sported suits to class, the university graduated only 103 students across its handful of majors.

Last summer, alumni from the 1950s returned to AUC to celebrate their 50th reunion. With more than 5,200 students and spread across four campus locations, today's AUC is a very different university from the one they knew. Gathering in Oriental Hall and the Fountain Area, the group swapped stories, reminisced of days gone and spoke about today's AUC.



Class Notes

'65

Noha Khalil-Harb, after years of hard work and a process of trial and error, has succeeded in developing a project for quality management. She would like to share her experience with her colleagues to show them how to change to a different management system that can be applied in public or private sector organizations.

'77

John McHugo published a legal analysis of the United Nations Security Council resolution no. 242 titled "A Legal Reappraisal of the Right-Wing Israeli Interpretation of the Withdrawal Phrase with Special Reference to the Conflict Between Israel and the Palestinians." It appeared in the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, October 2002 and it is also available at: www.nad-plo.org/pdf/McHugo.pdf

'87

Dina Mostafa has three boys, Kamal, 12, Ahmad, 11, and Mahmoud, 8. She often assists her husband with the accounting for his construction company and plans to pursue a master's in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language.

'92

Hania Moheeb (MA '96) joined CNBC Arabia in September 2003 as a business correspondent, covering economic news and events in Egypt.

'95

Belete Jember Bobe (MA) moved from England to Australia at the beginning of this year. He is a member of the ACCA association and is now working at RMIT university in

Master of All Trades: Mother, Philanthropist and Wife



Seated in a classic French antique-style reception in her home inside the British Embassy compound, **Nadia Gohar** '77, '81, is the quintessential ambassador's wife and your typical Egyptian working mother all at the same time.

The wife of Sir Derek Plumbly, the British ambassador to Egypt, Gohar moves with seamless ease between her role as a diplomat's wife, a career woman and full-time mother.

It all started 24 years ago when she went to the Pyramids with friends to watch Shakespeare's *Hamlet* acted out by British performers. There, she met her husband, who was the British Embassy's first secretary at the time. Giving up her plans to pursue doctorate studies, Gohar married the young diplomat. Since then, she has been leading a very mobile life, moving with her husband on diplomatic missions to England, the United States, Saudi Arabia and currently Egypt.

"I followed my husband around the world and made him and my children my priorities," she said. "It's an interesting life being the wife of a diplomat. You spend around four years in a post, learn your way around, settle the children in their new schools, make friends, build yourself a

niche and start fooling yourself that you are well established just when it is time to settle your accounts, pack and move on ... It's a very enriching experience, and you face exciting new prospects in every country you go to."

But Gohar did not just settle for being an ambassador's wife and a mother of three, with all the work those entail. In every country she went to, she was keen on making the most out of her stay, taking up jobs as teacher, translator and editor, as well as lecturer at museums and universities.

A philanthropist, Gohar also actively fundraised for local charity organizations, helping disabled children, cancer patients and the elderly. She takes great interest in Egypt's National Council for Women, which advocates women's issues and follows closely the work of private corporations and non-governmental organizations in preserving and protecting the country's heritage and ancient buildings.

"Social work makes you feel close to the fabric of society and helps you understand what people's needs are," she said. "No matter how much time and energy you put in to serve others, you always get back more than what you give."

Reflecting on the most important lesson she learned throughout her diplomatic journey, Gohar noted, "To be integrated into a different culture does not necessarily mean having to give up one's own identity. Wherever we went, I remained the same Egyptian I had always been and found out that the easiest way to overcome obstacles is to maintain one's integrity."

Melbourne. He is married to Emebet Tadesse Wubie and they have a 3-year-old son, Kale-Ab Belete. He would like to stay in touch with his classmates via e-mail belete.bobe@rmit.edu.au

'98

Eseraa Ezeldine is the general manager of the British International Trading company in Cairo. She will celebrate the company's fifth anniversary in its new branch in Hurghada. Ezeldine got married this year to Hisham Abdelaziz. The couple is currently expecting their first baby.

'01

Karim Naguib traveled abroad in September 2004 as a participant in the international staff of the AP Moller Group at Maersk and has successfully completed the company's MISE program.

Moataz Attallah (MS '03) has started his second year of study toward a doctorate at the Department of Materials, University of Birmingham, UK. During the previous year, Attallah met many of his AUC classmates studying in the UK and presented the results of his research at an international conference in France for the first time.

Globetrotter

Ever since he joined the Peace Corps, **Jim Herbolich** '76 was destined to the life of a globetrotter, intrigued by the diverse array of cultures he was to explore.

His first chance to travel came in the form of a post as an English teacher at the Al Qaraween University in Morocco. This was his first contact with the Middle East, where he would spend more than 12 years.

Earning a master's in teaching English as a foreign language at AUC, Herbolich went on to teach at Kuwait University. Convinced it was time to move on, Herbolich was ready to try yet another continent and culture. In 1983, he moved to Spain, where he started a language program at the ESADE business school and eventually taught management courses. While at ESADE, he also worked on a European Union educational project in Kazakhstan for three years and completed another master's degree.

For a native of the United States,

He would like to help any AUCian looking for postgraduate study opportunities in the UK and can be reached at: MMA343@bham.ac.uk



who has lived on three continents and now resides in Brussels, where is home? Herbolich considers Barcelona home, where he plans to return.

This fall, Herbolich returned to Cairo and AUC after nearly three decades. "It's true that a lot of things did change here at AUC, but some things are still the same," he reflected. "I was really pleased to sit in the garden again. They should never change the chairs or the garden; I think it really captures the essence of being here at AUC: a peacefulness based on cultural understanding."

'02

Elie Losleben is now living and writing in East Africa. She is published widely in the Middle East and East

Weddings



Marwa Shehata '00, administrative assistant at the American Research Center in Egypt, Egyptian Antiquities Project was married to Moustafa Helmy, project engineer at Leoni Wiring Systems on September 20, 2003 at Movenpick Heliopolis

Nelly El-Zayat '98, '00, senior educational adviser at AMIDEAST, was married to Alsherif Wahdan, civil engineer at Dar Al-Handasah, on Friday, May 7, 2004 at the Grand Hyatt



Ahmed Lotfy '02, credit and marketing officer at the Arab African International Bank, and **Amber Acosta** (YAB '01), an elementary education graduate student, were married on June 5, 2004 at Al-Bahariyya Club. They will be residing in the United States

Sherif Amin '95 and Reham Abdel Wahab were married on October 4, 2003 at the Mena House Oberoi. The couple honeymooned in the Far East before Amin joined Orascom Telecom as strategic planning manager



Africa. She has authored two educational children's books about the Arab world — *Bedouin of the Middle East* and *Libya*. Losleben has also finished working on *The Swahili Experience*, a series of coffee table books about Swahili architecture and design. She has also co-founded the region's first copywriting firm and is currently working on her first novel.

Hanan Thabet is moving back to New York to apply for the Near Eastern Studies master's program at New York University. Last April, she was granted a foreign language and area studies fellowship. Thabet has been teaching at Choueifat International School in Cairo for a year and a half.

Special Programs

Suzette Gamal (YAB '96) returned to Texas, where she studied management information systems at the University of Houston. In 2001, she married Khaled Shami, a patent attorney, and relocated to Silicon Valley. She joined Siebel Systems Inc., a customer relationship management software provider and is currently a senior program manager. She has a 1-year-old son, Hisham. She would love to stay in touch with her colleagues via e-mail: suzette_gamal@yahoo.com

Alexandra Jerome (YAB '02) recently completed her master's degree exams in Islamic societies and cultures at the school of Oriental and African Studies. In the fall, she will be joining the first class of candidates for the new master's degree in gender and identity in the Middle East at the University of Exeter.

In Memoriam

Harriet McConnell '33 died on Friday, September 3, 2004 at Lakeside Nursing Home in Trumansburg, New York at the age of 93. She was born in Shaoxing, China on January 5, 1911. She was educated at Shanghai American School. In 1928, she returned with her family to the United States where she finished high school. She joined AUC when the family relocated to Egypt. McConnell and her elder sister were among the first female graduates of the university. In 1933, she married John McConnell, a former economics instructor at AUC. She earned a degree in practical nursing at the age of 60 and worked in the office of Trumansburg's general practitioner. In 1997, she grieved deeply after the loss of her husband. McConnell is survived by her youngest sister, Elizabeth Davids; her children, Janet Alexander, Kathleen Mervin, Grace Clark, Judith Sondheimer and John McConnell; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Krikor Selian '43 died on May 17, 2004. He was a professor of organic chemistry at AUC. In 1955,

he left AUC to become the general manager for Karnak Travel. Selian and his family immigrated to the United States in 1964 and settled in New York, where he started and ran a successful business, Shureway Travel Corporation. He is survived by his wife Hilda and his daughters Mary, Grace and Christina. He has two grandsons, Maximilian and Augustus.

Mervat Koch-Farid (MA '85) died in Switzerland on July 2, 2003. After receiving her bachelor's in English literature from Cairo University in 1978, she received a master's in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from AUC and completed her studies at the Royal British Philosophic Institution. She worked as an English teacher at the American Aid Organization's Project Hope, created to build medical centers throughout Egypt and at the High Institute of Nursing in Assuit University. She went on to teach English in private schools in Switzerland, where she moved after getting married in 1984. She is survived by her husband Ernst and her two children, Oliver and Melani.

Got News?

A new job, move, promotion, wedding or other news? Please send your class notes to alumni@aucegypt.edu or fax 797.5737 or 792.3383. You can also send class notes through the alumni Web page at www.aucegypt.edu/alumni

Lessons for Darfur

Wandering in Khartoum last summer, after almost a decade of absence, was an exciting yet moving experience. The city population has now reached over seven million and the physical space has tripled, producing a mammoth entity of multi-layered urbanities.

My old tranquil Khartoum is nowhere to be found. I remember how, as a child, I would walk a few meters away from home and ride the tram to school. Now the tram is no longer there because it hampers traffic. The town center, which was once a fancy commercial place for the affluent, has become rambling with activity and millions of people moving around, mostly street vendors and the impoverished. Forty years of civil wars, droughts, desertification and massive population exodus in and out of the urban space have produced the new chaotic Khartoum.

That makes me wonder about Darfur, where complex factors have come into play and produced the current human tragedy. Ethnicity alone does not produce conflict, but limited resources and political actors trying to exploit the ethnic situation do. In Darfur, deforestation and desertification have tipped the ecological balance in the area and led to a scarcity of grazing land, which in turn caused fierce competition for resources. This, coupled with the politicization of ethnicity, has caused the current turmoil.

Wars typically accelerate and intensify rural influx into cities, with total or significant loss of assets. In severe conditions, the majority in Khartoum lost almost all their assets. Migration involved the whole family, mostly female

headed. And because war-induced displacement involves a tradeoff between skills acquisition and an urgency to ensure food security, these females have gone out into the public space selling anything they could lay their hands on to put food on the table for their distressed families. War has taught them a lesson in life: To survive, one has to adapt.

In Darfur, the situation is even more saddening. Women and children, who lost their husbands and fathers in battle, have fled conflict and unrest only to face a slow death from sickness and hunger.

In an attempt to contribute to a reawakening of Darfur, an area that has for long been marginalized, I networked with 200 Sudanese professionals, academics and political activists and started an electronic workshop to discuss the mounting situation and address the imbalances created by man, politicians and nature. Our goal is to develop a national consensus leading the way out of the current crisis.

Ultimately, the solution for Darfur and Khartoum lies in sustainable peace. By understanding and accepting diversity, we would come to appreciate the differences that make us special as human beings. Such reform is a long-term process, and Sudan is still at the beginning of the road. □

Ibrahim Elnur is associate professor of political science and director of the Office of African Studies at AUC. He holds a doctorate in economic science from Sussex University, a bachelor of science in pure theory from the University of Khartoum and another bachelor of science in economics from Cairo University.

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.