

# HUSS Awards 2020

# Celebrating Achievements and Excellence

On behalf of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you. Due to the current COVID 19 crisis, we could not have the annual Honors Ceremony to celebrate you in person. This special edition of the HUSS Newsletter is especially dedicated to you. It is very important that we express our pride in your academic excellence, extracurricular achievements, hard work and dedication. We are also grateful for your creativity and innovation, during your years at AUC, which reflect very positively on our school.

As you start a new chapter in your life, we are confident that you will have great contributions at any institution you join and in any job you take in the future.

Congratulations on your awards. May they inspire you to continue on the path of success.

Zeinab Taha, Interim Dean of HUSS

## Honors Students for 2020

### Department of Applied Linguistics

#### Sara Matlack



Sara joined the program in September 2018. Since then, she has shown outstanding academic performance as exhibited by her GPA and the feedback we have received from her professors in different classes. Sara has not only shown excellent academic performance, but also great social and professional skills while serving as a teaching fellow in the English Language Instruction Department. In addition, Sara has been active in the department and she has always participated in different program recruitment activities during the last two years, such as the AUC Graduate Open House, the AUC Graduate Study Fair, and the NILESOL Booth.

#### Wissem Abdel Kareem



Wissem is an outstanding, hardworking student as indicated by her GPA. But more importantly Wissem eagerly participated in all activities for which volunteers are needed whether it might be helping in a conference or meeting new program candidates or even helping colleagues from other programs. She is kind and well loved by all her colleagues. She has also earned the respect of all her professors.

### Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations

#### Menna Rashad



Menna is an ARIC graduate with a high GPA. She has been active in establishing and organizing the ARIC Graduate Forum. Along with her colleagues, they invite various speakers (both faculty and students) to present recent and ongoing scholarship related to Islamic Studies. The forum brings together the ARIC community of graduate students with their scholars in neighboring fields such as Anthropology, Philosophy and other HUSS disciplines.

#### Mariam Elprince



Mariam is a senior undergraduate student double-majoring in ARIC and HIST. She has maintained a high GPA while being active in various department's activities and events. She continues to take research seriously and has submitted papers to different conferences.

### Department of the Arts

#### Tamima Hafez



Tamima is a vital part of the department. She is academically gifted, not only in her high GPA, but in her eager and creative blend of theory and practice on a level that is rarely seen in an undergraduate student. She has performed in multiple plays, including Spring Awakening and Electra and she has attended the Festival of International New Drama at the Schaubuhne Theatre in Berlin as part of a special AUC Theatre production. Tamima also attended an 8 week acting course at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in the summer of 2019.

#### Ali El Shourbagy



Ali has performed in many AUC productions including Waiting for Godot, Stories About Us, and Twelve Angry Jurors. He also performed with the US theatre group, The American Theatre for the Cairo International Festival for Contemporary and Experimental Theatre at both the Opera House main theatre and in Alexandria at the Theatre Biblioteka. Ali also took part in productions of International New Drama at the Schaubuhne Theatre in Berlin. He is also a singer & has been actively involved in the AUC Music program.

### Department of English and Comparative Literature

#### Mennatallah Taher



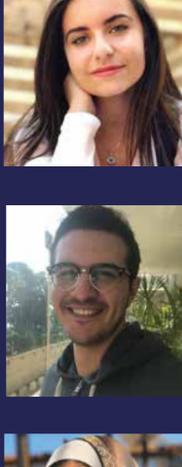
Mennatallah is multilingual and multidisciplinary working on a graduate thesis in Medical Humanities, specializing in Literature with a background in Islamic Studies. She is a multilingual editor of AlKafk, project manager of Benito Soto, Co-Director for Academics in the Department of English, and she has received a prize for a screenplay, taught special-needs children, advised Japan International Cooperation Agency, and published poems and critical essays. She works as Managing Editor for Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics.

#### Tamima Hafez



Tamima is double majoring in ECLT and Theater. She has played leading roles in several AUC plays and attended an international theater festival, and participated in different workshops in Berlin. She combines appreciation of literary texts with a talent for performance.

#### Malak Abdelkhalek



Malak is double majoring in ECLT and IMCM, excelling in both literature and marketing. She is a member of the Student Society of Environmental Studies (SES), and she has been active in various environmental issues. She has raised awareness related to gender and mental illness in the context of HEVA, the feminist initiative at AUC, and has taught underprivileged children.

#### Laila Ghoneim



Laila is ECLT representative in the Student Senate, Editor and contributor to AUC Times and Avant Garde. She has contributed creatively to Art & Ink literary magazine. She has acted in plays at AUC and at the Jesuit theater. She co-founded the environmental club known as Green Revolution and was the co-director of the Waste Reduction Committee.

#### Mahmoud Elhakim



Mahmoud is double majoring in ECLT and Economics where he excels in the creativity of literature and the rigor of economics. He has done research on global economy as an intern in a consulting firm and contributed to Spiral Magazine and Teemsuff Magazine. He was awarded honorable mention for his role as Delegate of Brazil in MUN.

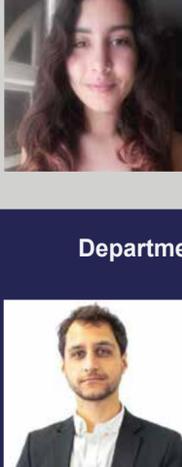
#### Engy Abaza



Engy is a member in the Common Reading Experience Committee and has led a series of weekly focus groups with students. She has been active in discussions related to engaging first-year students.

### Department of History

#### Nada Farag



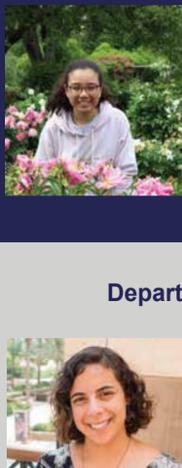
Nada has had a very impressive record of intellectual engagements on various fronts since summer of 2015, both individually and through various institutions: as Writer and participant in "Autours Challenge Competition" in short-story writing, and in Journalism at the Center for Studies in Egyptology, the Arts Committee & Gender Education Program of "Heya", The Feminist Initiative, and listed in EURECA for a paper on the American intervention in the Egyptian institution of slavery.

#### Yasmine Haggag



Yasmine is an outstanding example of graduating seniors with a record of academic excellence and a very diverse record of activity that reveals a broad scope of interests and an impressive intellectual energy. She holds a double major in History and Political Science, with a GPA of 3.9 in her History Major. Her record of activities extends from studies in the field, as VP of PSSA, to organized service activities as VP of Student Action for Refugees, to simulation models in CIMALS's secretariat, and to the Arts & Theatre both as Actor in 4 plays and as Director. Over and above all of this, Yasmine has been listed in this year's EURECA as presenter of two papers.

#### Mohammad Youssef



Mohammad's decision to take History as a second major shortly after he declared his intent to major in History as a sole major, was the result of his deep interest in the history of Islam. This semester, his depth in his professional training and preparation. This semester, his high in History, he was listed for the second time as the EURECA participant. Mohammad was the Editor of The Caravan Issue Fall.

#### Sarah Sharaf Al-Din



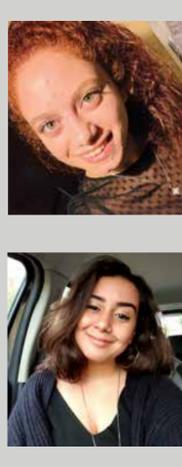
Sarah is double majoring in Political Science and History, she will have completed seven semesters and 12 courses in the History Department by the time she graduates this semester. She has completed an internship with Thomas Reuters News Agency in Rome, and this semester she became an engaged in community-based learning as a teacher of English to public universities' students.

#### Donna Emam



Donna's record of activities reveals a special interest in student government functions and simulation models (CIMUN & CIMAL) for more than three years, involving some Student Government Exchange Activity with AUC. Recently, Donna started to explore the field of working with the Rome Bookstore at AUC as Research & Exhibition Assistant in the Princess Fawziyya Exhibition and later she took a directing course in the department of the Arts.

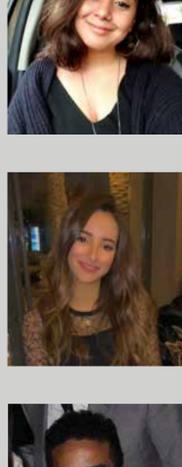
#### Nour Affifi



Even though Nour is one of the few high-ranking senior students in HIST, who will graduate with History as a sole major, it was the theatre that seems to have absorbed all of her intellectual activity as an undergraduate. Nour has contributed to 12 theatrical productions during her time at AUC. She worked in costume design in four of these productions, and in various other roles in the ECLT.

### Department of Philosophy

#### Mae Saafan



Mae joined AUC as a Philosophy graduate student in Fall 2017. Since then she has maintained an outstanding academic record (as evidenced by her GPA) and has distinguished herself with her patient and persevering penetration of some of the most difficult and demanding texts in the history of philosophy. She is currently conducting fascinating research into Kant's conception of the Postulates of Pure Practical Reason for her MA thesis. Her research is animated by the desire to explore the possibility of a fundamental unity of faith and reason. She has worked for CLT and also as a Teaching Assistant in the department, and has very much impressed all the faculty who she has worked alongside in these capacities by means of her organizational skills and utmost reliability.

#### Yasser Moawad



Yasser joined AUC in Fall 2015, double majoring in Philosophy and Mathematics, and achieved an outstanding GPA. He has impressed faculty with his research in Kant's conception of the Postulates of Pure Practical Reason for his MA thesis. He has very much impressed all the faculty who he has worked alongside in these capacities by means of his organizational skills and utmost reliability.

#### Maisara Marzouk



Maisara joined AUC in Fall 2016, double majoring in Philosophy and Political Science, and achieved an outstanding GPA. She has impressed faculty with her rare capacity for nuanced reflection and articulation, her talent for independent thought, and her ability to recognize non-obvious relations between the components of phenomena and philosophical theories.

### Department of Political Science

#### Thomas Patrick Hinkel



Thomas is the Doss Award Recipient for the best thesis over the period of 2017/18 and 2018/19 under the supervision of Associate Professor Marco Pirani. His thesis "The Political Economy of Migrant Smuggling: The Case of Conflict in Mali" develops an original and convincing argument about how smuggling as a source of financing impacted on the organization of militias and rebel groups, and as a result shaped the nature of the ongoing conflict in Mali. His in-depth research and extensive fieldwork in Mali show his commitment to academic excellence. Thomas is now pursuing his PhD in St. Andrews in Scotland.

#### Mariam Salem



Mariam is a graduating senior double majoring in Political Science and Psychology. She played pivotal roles in the department notably her contribution as Former President of AUC Political Science Association (PSSA) and currently as Graduate Advisor to Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN). She also serves as Political Science Students' Senator. While being active in the department's life, Mariam continues to be a serious researcher who won the International Women Day Essay Competition in 2019 and worked as a research assistant at al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

#### Farh El-Wishi



Farh is an active senior Political Science Student whose contribution to the Model United Nations is quite commendable. Farh assumed the position of the Secretary-General of the 32nd Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN). She has helped garner a number of awards by the AUC team. She was also the recipient of the Best Position Paper Award and Delegate in the 2019 National Model United Nations. In addition, Farh has been integral to the success of the department's first Open Day.

#### Lina Gado



Lina is a graduating senior student in the Political Science Honors Program. She demonstrated high academic performance as manifested by her very high GPA, as well as being actively engaged in promoting environmental sustainability and beyond. She is the President of Gaia movement which advocates for the protection of the environment. She also volunteered in the "Sustain It: Initiative for Sustainability and Climate Protection" held at Freix University in Berlin. Lina was also the winner of the International Women Day Essay competition for 2020.

### Department of Psychology

#### Nashwa Rasnad



Nashwa was nominated for her never-ending passion and enthusiasm for building projects and her involvement in the department. She has taken initiatives in challenging situations across the field of psychology and develop a graduate diploma in inclusive education, as well as to develop the program for a regional community psychology conference and as a course teaching assistant. This is alongside her constant dedication to counseling psychology including serving as an intern and teaching assistant for the psychology training clinic.

#### Salma Elsaedy



Salma was nominated for her professionalism and insightful contributions to strengthening the infrastructure and operations of the community psychology program at AUC. This includes serving on faculty hiring committees, organizing student meetings, working on a proposal for a nonprofit consultation center, and volunteering on the community psychology regional conference, she has moreover offered flawless support as a teaching assistant for multiple courses and in editing the department's strategic plan.

#### Bahi Shukry



Bahi was nominated for his fearless leadership in reinstating the Psychology Association and serving as its Vice-President, co-leading the department's Research and Extension Committee, Psi Chi Honors Society, and representing students as Psychology Senator. He has also contributed to numerous departmental committees focused on faculty hiring, quality of education, environment management, advising, and academic proposals. He will continue to leave a special, tangible, and memorable touch on psychology at AUC.

#### Salma Seyam



Salma was nominated for her impressive ability to balance an exceptionally high GPA with numerous extra-curricular activities, while also collaborating with the department on improving academics and major declaration for students. Salma has worked as a research assistant in the field of psychology and has also held positions at local mental health centers. She has held numerous leadership positions in student organizations including the Psychology Association.

#### Georgenia Bassily



Georgenia was nominated for her incredibly mature and compelling efforts to improve academics for psychology students through her leadership as Vice President of the Psychology Association, and through her astute representation on a department faculty hiring committee and coordinating research assistantship opportunities to meet both faculty and student needs. She is a natural born leader, expert orator, and matches her confidence with wisdom.

#### Nadya Reda



Nadya was nominated for having the energy and dedication to oversee the multiple arms of the Psychology Association as its elected President, and for advocating for student needs. This comes at the heels of many other activities and internships aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and cross-cultural tolerance in CIVIL, AIESSEC, and Enactus. Nadya cares about making the world a better place, and this shows in her curricular and extracurricular commitments.

#### Donia Darwish



Donia was nominated for creatively mixing her passions in communications and psychology together to produce outcomes that improve the work of all. This was shown as a work study administrative assistant and graphic designer for the Hub for Action and Research in Psychology, as well as her energy in heading up human resources for the Psychology Association. She has also volunteered for other organizations and delivered workshops for the Center for Studies in Egyptology.

#### Ahmed Ismail



Ahmed was nominated for his endless enthusiasm and dedication to the fields of psychology and behavioral neurosciences. This was seen when contributing to the department newsletter, taking initiative on many projects as work study at the Hub for Action and Research in Psychology, serving as Logistics Head in the Psychology Association. Beyond formal positions he also takes the initiative to attend public lectures and network with scholars, showing his high level in lifelong learning.

#### Remaz Mosaad



Remaz was nominated for balancing an exceptionally high GPA with an exceptionally high commitment to civic service. She has volunteered through several organizations as an English teacher for Syrian and African refugees, as a camp counselor for young children, and in micro-programs for lower-income families. She has facilitated volunteer opportunities for others as a head in Masrouta Theater. This is alongside her constant dedication to counseling activities. She is a role model with the highest GPA and a big heart.

#### Christina Beshay



Christina was nominated for maintaining the highest GPA across diverse course topics while cultivating knowledge and skills across diverse extra-curricular activities. These activities include leading the Psychology Association projects committee, heading the marketing committee for the AUC Scouts Team, and volunteering for a youth camp, the AUC first-year experience program, community service projects, freelance student magazine writing, and at a counseling private practice.

### Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology

#### Mariam Fouad



Mariam is deeply committed to social justice. This commitment is obvious in how she conducts her life and the everyday choices she makes. Academically, this commitment has inspired her to conduct research on often challenging and demanding topics and transform our times and the lives of people in Egypt and beyond. She is also an excellent researcher in the field of Egyptology. This is also reflected in her graduate thesis, which engages critical theory and practice in a meaningful and inspiring manner. Mariam has done extensive fieldwork with Cairo's most abandoned communities in challenging situations across different neighborhoods in her thesis on children in street situations in Cairo. Mariam's academic excellence, which is organically tied to her commitment to the community and to social justice makes her an outstanding candidate for the HUSS Awards.

#### Sarah Nady



Sarah is being recognized for achieving the highest GPA among the Anthropology Major. In discussing academic excellence among the Anthropology faculty, there was a consensus that Sarah has been a pivotal contributor and facilitator of peer learning at her classes. She has also produced outstanding research and writing. Sarah is a consistent and committed student of Anthropology and is demonstrably among our most notable students.

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