COVER STORY

The Legacy Continues...

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The Big Move
A TRULY GLOBAL
Celebration 2019 - 2020
CENTENNIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 9, 2019 • AUC TAHIR SQUARE
Centennial Celebration Launch
Festivities kick off on AUC’s iconic Tahrir Square campus, where it all began. Tahrir Cultural Center Inauguration (Phase One) • Centennial Festivities • Centennial Campaign Reveal

MARCH 4 • AUC NEW CAIRO
Centennial International Day
AUC is excited to celebrate and share its uniquely international identity during Centennial International Day. A hallmark of the AUC experience, this year’s International Day is open to the public.

MARCH 9 • AUC TAHIR SQUARE
Egypt’s 1919 Revolution Commemoration
Relive one of the most influential events in history at Egypt’s 1919 Revolution Commemoration on AUC’s iconic Tahrir Square campus.

MARCH 20 • AUC TAHIR SQUARE
Dame Minouche Shafik
Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture
This year’s annual Nadia Younes Memorial Lecture features Dame Minouche Shafik, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

MARCH 24 • DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Centennial Alumni Speaker Series • Don’t miss our celebrity talk with Asser Yassin ‘04, award-winning Egyptian actor, writer and film producer working to promote and support the development of performing arts in the region; and Mariam Farag ‘99, head of corporate social responsibility at MBC Group.

APRIL 11 • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
“Interdisciplinary Research and its Impact on Computer Science”
Centennial Alumni Speaker Series • Learn how advances in computer science have provided a platform to address and solve complex problems using interdisciplinary research from an expert on the topic, Magy Seif El-Nasr ’95, who was awarded $3 million in grants to support her research. Seif El-Nasr serves as associate professor at Northeastern University’s College of Computer and Information Science and College of Arts, Media and Design.

MAY 16 • NEW YORK
Centennial Benefit Dinner
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Join us at AUC’s eighth annual Benefit Dinner amid the majestic setting of The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

JUNE 11 • LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
Centennial Alumni Speaker Series • Attend a riveting discussion by Adel Beshai ’63, former AUC professor of economics and former assistant secretary-general of the UN World Food Conference, and Shima Barakat ’95, ’98, research and teaching fellow in enterprise and entrepreneurship at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge.

SEPTEMBER 12 • GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

OCTOBER 9 • AUC TAHIR SQUARE
100 Years of Community Service
AUC proudly recognizes a century in service of our greater community — work that has already made an impact and will continue to shape the future.

OCTOBER 23 • AMMAN, JORDAN
Centennial Alumni Speaker Series • Engage in conversation with Jawad Anani ’67, chairman of the board of Amman Stock Exchange and former deputy minister and foreign minister of Jordan.

NOVEMBER 6 • AUC NEW CAIRO
100 Years of Student Union
Join us in celebrating 100 years of student leadership and achievement in governance by our Student Union.

FEBRUARY 2020 • AUC NEW CAIRO
Centennial Celebration Week
Wrapping up a year of festivities, AUC closes its centennial celebration on a high note with a week of events, activities and performances. 100 Years of Fashion • Alumni Weekend • 40 Years of Presidential Associates Program and Reunion • Gala Dinner and Show
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AKHER KALAM 64
"An American Student’s Impression of the College," The AUC Review, 1930
One of the things that has always distinguished AUC is its heritage, being the oldest private University in Egypt. Today, we celebrate AUC’s 100-year legacy. Yes, it’s been a century since AUC was established.

Being part of the centennial is a privilege for so many of us who are affiliated with AUC. I mean, how many centennials do you get to see in a lifetime?

In this magazine, we bring to you all we can about AUC’s history and legacy, from its beginnings as a high school for boys in 1919 to its eminent position today as Egypt’s global University. No publication could capture everything about a legacy as rich as that of AUC, but we try to pinpoint the major highlights. “The Legacy Continues...” draws parallels between an AUC education in the past and present. Though classes have advanced and modernized ways of teaching have come into play, AUC’s educational philosophy is the same, with its focus on liberal arts (the good, old Core Curriculum), cocurriculars (not too long ago, we used to call them ‘extracurricular activities’) and public service. “Ewart Hall: A Contemporary Classic” looks at the history — and recent revamping — of Ewart Memorial Hall. For anyone who studied at AUC Tahrir Square, Ewart Hall is a precious and memorable landmark of the University. It’s where all the big events used to happen. The curtains, the inscription, the chairs — Ewart has a certain aura to it. “It Runs in the Family” talks to a three-generation alumni family. It’s already special to have a parent and child both attend AUC, but to have AUCian grandparents, and sometimes great-grandparents, is really something.

The rest of the issue is full of throwbacks, alumni memories (thanks to all those who shared their photos and reflections on the AUC100 Facebook group), fun facts and a lot more. Of course, there is also AUC’s move to its New Cairo campus — a historic milestone in and of itself. As AUC celebrates its centennial, the New Cairo campus celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Thanks to everyone who worked on this issue. We owe a special thanks to the University Archives staff members, headed by Stephen Urgola, for all their help and support with this issue. Highlighting AUC’s legacy means digging for a lot of information about the past, finding historic photos, researching and checking facts — and the University Archives team has been phenomenal in that respect.

With a yearlong centennial celebration about to begin, there are numerous preparations and events in the works. So be on the lookout for a distinguished and exciting year ahead! Wherever you are, there is bound to be an AUC centennial event in a city near you. We hope to see you there.

Historical information and photos in this issue are courtesy of the AUC University Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections Library and The American University in Cairo: 1919 - 1987 by Lawrence R. Murphy (AUC Press, 1987).
Galal Zaki ’68: “The future is not the way it used to be. Practice and academia complement each other. Innovate or evaporate.”

Cherif Ramsis ’74: “You never know where your career will take you. Fate has its way. Enjoy the ride, and don’t try to fight fate.”

Djehanne Massabky Mazhar ’75, ’79: “You are lucky to have such an institution, so make the best of it. Education stays with you forever.”

Soha Farouk Kamal ’88: “While you pursue success, don’t forget to live.”

Mona Al-Abiad ’89, ’10: “Go to all trips and events. Make more and more friends. Takes courses in music, theatre and dancing. Enjoy the experience to the maximum. Go to your professors all the time. Talk to them, and always ask for their help and advice.”

Omar G. Barazi ’92: “Follow your passion and build on it. Learn it. Make it your life. Make it your career. Do what you love, and you won’t have to work a single day.”

Nahla Mesbah ’92, ’10: “Make sure you get involved in extracurricular activities. They enrich your life and help build your character. Don’t fall into the labeling trap. Most ‘tough graders’ I have taken courses with provided the best teaching experiences I’ve had. Remember to enjoy your interactions with fellow students. [AUC] is where many of us made lifelong friends.”

Heba AbouRabia ’93, ’14: “Be proud of your learning experience at AUC. It was and still is the best in Egypt.”

Fadi Habib ’94, DPL ’99: “GPA is important, but it should be number 10 on the list:
1. Go to all trips and parties.
2. Enroll in as many clubs as you can.
3. Be active, not just a silent member of clubs and associations.
4. Make a lot of friends, and enjoy their friendship.
5. Participate in a student exchange program for a summer or semester.
6. Learn to play music.
7. Play a few sports. Choose one sport, and play lots of it.
8. Learn stuff. Don’t just go for grades.
9. Enjoy and relax. It doesn’t matter how stressful you think it is. It is your best time on Earth.
10. GPA.”

Shima Barakat ’95, ’98: “Learn to work with as many different people as you can. Truly discover what it means to be a good person to be around. Your time at AUC is when you discover yourself and sow the seeds to be a global citizen who contributes to the world rather than expect it to deliver. The world/society doesn’t owe you anything. You owe it everything.”

Doaa Bashanfar ’96: “Change is the only stable thing in life. So be agile to absorb it, move, achieve and improve.”

Sarah Badreldin ’02: “Accept and respect other cultures as you come across them.”

Maha Saleh ’02: “Enjoy the soft Core courses. You will cherish this information later on — adding up to your general knowledge, overall skills and social intelligence.”

Shady Mohamed Zayat ’04: “[Take part in] internship programs. ... If you can find a part-time job, go for it — because if you think that only being an AUCian will help you, [then] you are dreaming.”

Karim Salem ’04: “Enjoy what you are doing to the maximum. These days won’t come back. Your bachelor’s degree on its own is not enough to help you realize your dreams. The experience and hard work will. Focus on getting as much practical work experience as you can.”

Mia Malak ’11: “Enjoy your undergraduate years. Enjoy learning freely. Enjoy discovering. Enjoy making new, lasting friendships. Enjoy doing new things. Explore; find yourself; learn about yourself and all that you can do. It’s the phase where you can still be a kid with the mind and body of an adult. Be silly; be serious; be funny; be curious. Make use of what the University offers you. You can’t imagine the freedom that a liberal arts education gives you. Make use of the library. We’ve got one of the best libraries. Participate in student activities. Learn. Enjoy your classes.”

Sherine Samir ’00: “Study what you love and not what others want. Enjoy your life at AUC because the world is different outside of it.”

Thanks to all alumni who have shared their advice on the AUC100 Facebook group.
The Legacy Continues...

AUC’s educational philosophy has always centered on liberal arts, cocurriculars and public service

By Claire Davenport

Early 1900s

Charles Watson studies educational system in Egypt

1912

Charles Watson completes report outlining vision for AUC

1919

AUC officially incorporated in Washington, D.C.

1920

Student Union formed
When Charles Watson, AUC’s first president, founded The American University at Cairo 100 years ago, he originally had his sights set on a campus by the Pyramids of Giza, offering secondary and University-level education. Today, AUC has expanded into a different side of the desert, growing from 142 students when it first opened its doors in October 1920 to a thriving student body of almost 7,000 students.
Charles Watson led a life dedicated to the expansion of education and the promotion of Christian values abroad and specifically in Egypt. Born in Egypt on July 17, 1873, Watson received his early education in the country and his PhD from Princeton University's Theological Seminary in 1899. He began his career by taking charge of a mission church in Pittsburgh. Later, he worked as a teacher and pastor, promoting the works of his church at home and abroad. He was an active member of the Near East Christian Council, a special representative for the Foreign Ministry Board of North America at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, and was part of an Egyptian commission to study a program of national education for the country in the early 1930s. He studied the educational system in Egypt in the early 1900s, and in 1915, organized the Board of Trustees of The American University at Cairo. The legacy of his life and values are still felt through the University today.

Charles R. Watson

Our Institution is here to serve Egypt and the population of Egypt. ... The full recognition of this point is fundamental to any consideration of our program and plans. ... The American University at Cairo has from the beginning laid a unique emphasis on character training in education. ... Our education is directed not merely to the student's head and intellect, but also to his heart and moral character.

The Graduation Exercises, The College of Arts and Sciences June 5, 1925

We must have original and creative minds. To develop such minds is to render a supreme service to the country. Yet, this is no easy task. It calls for constant encouragement of the student to think for himself. It calls for the abandonment of the memorizing system of education. It calls for examinations and research work that will encourage independent thinking. It calls for discussions in classrooms and not mere recitations.

“The Place and Program of The American University at Cairo,” Commencement Address May 26, 1933

Charles R. Watson

1931
Old Boys Club develops into Alumni Association

Gillespie family donates $65,000 to build Oriental Hall

1937
Om Kolthoum starts performing in Ewart Hall

1938
Campus Caravan replaces The AUC Review

1940
King Abdullah of Jordan visits AUC

1941
AUC hosts concerts in Ewart Hall for allied soldiers in Egypt and classes for U.S. soldiers

1942
AUC students petition Ministry of War to allow an instructor to teach them military formations, which soon replaced acrobatics and team sports

1944
Watson decorated by King Farouk: High Decoration of the Order of Ismail — one of the highest honors conferred by the Egyptian government at the time

1950
First graduate degree awarded in Arabic language and literature

1951
Last preparatory class graduates, making AUC strictly a University-level institution

1952
Helen Keller visits AUC
Cocurriculums

No one may secure the diploma of this University without doing more than merely pass examinations on a subject matter. He must give evidence of a total development of life and character that makes him worthy of being called a college graduate. This general development we endeavor to secure by what we call our extracurricular activities.

“*The Place and Program of The American University at Cairo,* Commencement Address May 26, 1933

In our education here, we strive to maintain and even deepen sympathy with the outside world. Not only are our social studies organized for an examination into the problems of Egypt, but the students are taken out to visit hospitals and orphanages, villages and the poorer sections of the city, prisons and factories, so that they may possess this quality so important for every leader, namely, sympathy with the people. ... Sometimes we are criticized for the large place we give in our curriculum to character training, to studies in ethics and to extracurricular activities, but we are persuaded that no part of our training is more important or will contribute more richly to the abiding goal of an independent Egypt.


Public Access to Education

Our Division of Extension has been developed in recognition of Mr. Public and of his opinion, it not only recognizes his importance, but it also believes that he can be educated and that, if educated, he can become the greatest force in the improvement of a country. That is why this University, through its Division of Extension, has sought to affect public opinion by lectures, by the printed page, by the cinema, by radio, by general gatherings and, again, by smaller forums.

“*The Place and Program of The American University at Cairo,* Commencement Address May 26, 1933

The Department of University Extension ... has for its motto, 'Educate all the people.' In opposition to the familiar business term, ‘----- Company, Limited,’ it has been called ‘Education, Unlimited.’

The Graduation Exercises, The College of Arts and Sciences June 5, 1925

1953
Hill House formally dedicated as the first student dormitory on campus

Social Research Center founded

1954
Egyptian Presidents Gamal Abdul Nasser and Mohammed Naguib attend AUC’s Arabic Language Day Convocation

AUC engages in relief efforts for Egyptians affected by Suez Crisis

AUC Archives acquires Creswell Collection

1959
Hill House rededicated as a library

AUC’s name changes from “at Cairo” to “in Cairo”

1960
AUC Press established

Social Research Center’s Ethnographic Survey of Egyptian Nubia, supported by the Ford Foundation, launched

1961

English Language Institute opens
From the beginning, AUC was committed to implementing a new method of schooling in Egypt, broadening the definition of learning by striving to serve its host country and the greater international world. Founded in 1919 by Charles Watson, the University has continually proved its dedication to both American and Egyptian values. Born to missionary parents and raised in Egypt, Watson wanted to establish a University with Christian values based on American institutions and catered toward Egypt. Its original mission to be a gateway between the United States and the Middle East, to give back to its community and to endow generations of students with creativity, critical thinking and a well-rounded character makes AUC what it is today — Egypt’s global University.

**Liberal Arts: Reimagining the College Program**

Watson was a man who believed that good character could be learned and that freedom of discussion promotes creativity and ingenuity. Stemming from these beliefs was his desire to establish an interdisciplinary, value-oriented University that would encourage strength of character and provide quality education. Establishing a University is no small feat, especially a private international institution with AUC’s caliber.

When the University was founded, Egypt’s system of higher education consisted of professional schools with specialized programs in law, the arts and the sciences. There were also no liberal arts substitutes for the specialized schools available, so Watson’s vision to build AUC on the American concept of a four-year, undergraduate liberal arts curriculum was a deviation from the norm. As Lawrence Murphy noted in *The American University in Cairo, 1919-1987*, “What set Watson’s ideas apart from the hundreds of other foreign-run institutions in Egypt, however, was a determination that the new institution also should be a university offering advanced professional training in such fields as education, engineering, commerce, journalism, theology and law.”

An important element of the American liberal arts education Watson called for was diversified studies. In the early years of AUC’s founding, science majors took English and social science courses, and the University’s public-service-oriented curriculum ensured that students were equipped with social science skills to meet Egypt’s needs. “Specialization was, therefore, discouraged,” Murphy noted. “Students studied as many subjects as possible, familiarizing themselves with the major concepts of each discipline through required courses in science, literature, philosophy, and...
the social sciences. … At the same time, however, each pupil was required to study Arabic to remain in contact with his own society.”

The curriculum also focused on character building, including moral and religious studies, as well as physical training and athletics to develop sportsmanship, teamwork and positive health practices among students.

In the beginning, classes were kept small. Students had weekly meetings with professors, and essays were emphasized more than exams. As Watson explained in the University’s 1933 commencement address, “It [education] calls for the abandonment of the memorizing system of education.” Watson implemented these policies to ensure that students were able to get the most out of their liberal arts studies.

Hands-on curricula also distinguished AUC as an institution. As Murphy noted, “One AUC objective was to introduce new instructional techniques into the Middle East.” Instead of memorization, AUC faculty members used a variety of methods to make their classes thought-provoking, participative and hands-on. In science classes, each student was given his own apparatus to perform his own experiments and prove the validity of scientific theories — a costly initiative uncommon in Egypt at the time, when most science courses were taught through demonstrations by the professor. Science students also visited factories in Cairo and formed their own Science Club. Similarly, English professors encouraged students to speak in English through Speak English on Campus campaigns and a campus spelling bee that was sometimes broadcast on the local radio station. Desserts were also offered to those who spoke English during the lunch hour. In journalism classes, articles and pictures were first posted on a bulletin board, then students issued the first University newspaper, The AUC Review, in 1925 — a four-page paper covering AUC personalities, news for the student body, official announcements and editorials on campus issues. The AUC Review also started sponsoring the Miss AUC Contest in 1931. In addition, classes and student clubs sometimes put on programs during the daily assemblies.

These efforts have consistently paid off. In 1930, nearly 75 percent of AUC students who sat for the government examinations passed, and AUC graduates were admitted for advanced work in countries such as the United States, Britain, Switzerland, France and Germany. In addition, New York State recognized AUC’s Junior College Certificate, issued after studying for two years at the University, as being equivalent to two years of

AUC receives largest single donation at the time ($5 million) from Abdul Latif Jameel

1985

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS AUC FULL ACCREDITATION

1985

EGYPT’S FIRST UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE OPENS

1987

AIESEC AUC FOUNDED. AIESEC IS THE WORLD’S LARGEST YOUTH-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION

1988

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ WINS NOBEL PRIZE. AUC PRESS WAS HIS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHER AND WORLDWIDE AGENT

1988

LAST UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT IN EWART HALL (FEBRUARY 1988)

1989

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL BUILDING FOR MIDDLE EAST MANAGEMENT STUDIES INAUGURATED

1989

CORE CURRICULUM INTRODUCED

1989

MODEL UNITED NATIONS STARTS — FIRST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1989

AUC SIMULATES EARTH DAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

1989

AUC RECEIVES LARGEST SINGLE DONATION AT THE TIME ($5 MILLION) FROM ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL

1989

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS AUC FULL ACCREDITATION

1985

EGYPT’S FIRST UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE OPENS

1987

FIRST DOCUMENTATION OF AUC HISTORY IN *THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO, 1919-1987*, WRITTEN BY LAWRENCE R. MURPHY, FORMER AUC FACULTY MEMBER

1988

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ WINS NOBEL PRIZE. AUC PRESS WAS HIS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHER AND WORLDWIDE AGENT

1989

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL BUILDING FOR MIDDLE EAST MANAGEMENT STUDIES INAUGURATED

1989

CORE CURRICULUM INTRODUCED

1989

MODEL UNITED NATIONS STARTS — FIRST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1989

AUC SIMULATES EARTH DAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
American college work. This qualified AUC students for admission to professional schools in the United States.

Today, liberal arts remains at the heart of an AUC education. Most students earn a third of all credits outside of their major or minor requirements. Through the Core Curriculum, all students take courses in writing; language and information literacy; philosophic and scientific thinking; Arab history; literature and society; and foundational classes in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Through these diversified courses, students debate new ideas and actively participate in class discussions, helping them make connections across their studies, encouraging them to think critically and develop a creative approach to problem solving, and equipping them with lifelong skills to excel in our fast-paced world. This American-style, inquiry-based liberal arts education — emphasizing a learning-by-doing approach and teaching students not what to think, but how to think — is what Watson had laid emphasis on from the beginning. In our modern world, as was the case in the University’s early years, AUC’s alumni continue to pursue graduate studies at top universities abroad. They distinguish themselves across the world as leaders, innovators and change agents, from heads of state, ministers and philanthropists to business founders, scientists, artists and global champions.

**Cocurriculars: Beyond the Classroom**

AUC also offers its students something very distinct within the region: a cocurricular education. Participating in activities outside of the classroom was valued by the University’s first administration, and students were expected to join at least one club in the early years. Throughout its history, AUC developed a diversity of cocurricular clubs: the Student Union, AUC’s earliest organization that was mainly focused on community service as well as moral and religious issues; the Ramses and Penatur societies, which emphasized literature; the French-oriented Moliere Club in the mid-1920s; the popular Maskers Club; the International Relations Club; and the Folklore Troupe in the 1960s.

Out of all cocurricular activities, theatre especially flourished. The first play ever to be produced on campus was *Monsieur Beaucaire*, performed during the commencement exercise of 1926. Going forward, students began to see theatre as a place to feel out new perspectives and possibilities while practicing English. C. Worth Howard, the second head of AUC’s English Department and after which Howard Theater in AUC Tahrir Square has been named, promoted drama to not only improve spoken English among students, but also as a form of self-expression. “Plays were presented at assemblies in conjunction with commencement, and for the general public,” Murphy wrote. “Students took all the parts, with boys playing female roles when necessary. They also

“Specialization was, therefore, discouraged. Students studied as many subjects as possible.”
constructed the scenery, distributed tickets and handled all other aspects of the production.”

Students were also required to attend weekly assembly lectures that included anything from performances to ethical talks by distinguished visitors. An end-of-year essay contest measured what students learned from the talks, and notable speakers included Egyptian feminist Madame Bahmy Bey Wissa, boxing champion Gene Tunney and commander of the U.S. Navy Admiral Roger Welles. The assemblies also included singing, music, plays and programs by classes or student clubs. In addition, Sports Day, initiated in 1921, saw AUC students competing in drill exercises, tug-of-war, races, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, jumping, tumbling and lifting weights, as well as throwing the discus and javelin.

For AUC instructors, this was all evidence that some of the most significant learning experiences take place outside of the classroom. Indeed, faculty members began to take students on field trips. One year, Professor Erdman Harris took a group of students on weekends to areas within Egypt experiencing health and sanitation problems to study the relationship between these conditions and infant mortality, disease and dysentery. Another class taught by Harris surveyed the social agencies in Cairo. Years later, students who participated in these cocurricular activities noted that such projects “stimulated their first interest in solving their country’s many social problems,” as Murphy noted. These initiatives reflected the faculty’s desire to equip students to carry on the legacy of inquiry in the future, using their studies to improve life within Egypt.

A century later, cocurriculars remain one of the distinctive aspects of an AUC education. AUC’s 60 student-run organizations reflect the diverse interests of the student body, ranging from community service, academic, culture and special interests to student government and conferences. The University also has several student-run publications, including The Caravan newspaper and AUC Times magazine.

Emphasizing the importance of activities outside of the classroom, AUC recently launched the cocurricular transcript, the first-of-its-kind in the Middle East. A model found at U.S. universities, AUC’s cocurricular transcript formalizes and officially documents the wide array of cocurricular activities in which students participate. This includes not just student organizations, but also participation in orientation, the Undergraduate Research Program, Career Center, Academic Community Engagement courses and athletics. In conjunction with traditional academic transcripts, the cocurricular transcript is intended to give a more dynamic and holistic perspective on students.

**Education as a Public Service: Filling the Void**

AUC has always been dedicated to improving life in Egypt. Watson once said that “AUC owes a duty to the community in which it is located,” and the expansion of education and commitment to philanthropy have only increased throughout the years. According to Watson’s address at the graduation exercises of the College of Arts and Sciences, AUC has “a duty to perform and a service to render not merely to those who are enrolled as regular students, but to the community and the public at large.” Along this line, AUC hosted a range of training programs and educational initiatives for Egyptians, mainly through its 95-year-old School of Continuing Education, which was originally called the Division of Extension.

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**AUC Archives acquires Van Leo collection**

**Egyptian Chair in Coptic Heritage established — the only such program in Egypt**

**Social Research Center’s 50th anniversary**

**2004**

**AUC signs New Cairo campus construction contract**

**AUC establishes Leadership for Education and Development program**

**2005**

**Department of Law established**

**Volunteers in Action student club holds first campus wedding for orphan brides**

**2006**

**John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement founded**

**2007**

**AUC Press publishes 1,000th book**

**2008**

**First day of class on the New Cairo campus**

**2009**

**New Cairo campus inauguration**

**AUC’s 90th anniversary**

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In 1924, the Division of Extension was established to house evening lectures and program series that would benefit society, with a particular emphasis on public health and welfare issues. From the beginning, the Division of Extension was supposed to deal with “Mr. Public,” as Watson described it, and its motto was to “educate all the people.” Hosting a range of popular public lectures and cultural events, the Division of Extension strengthened AUC’s impact on the life and culture of downtown Cairo.

First envisioned by Watson as a public service component of AUC, the Division of Extension began as a forum for lectures by well-known speakers, such as Egyptian intellectual Taha Hussein. Speakers focused on topics of “immediate concern to Egypt,” including population growth, education, and social and economic reform. In addition to lectures and film screenings, the Division of Extension worked on improving people’s well-being through village health contests and a campaign to prevent blindness.
In the 1940s, the Division of Extension was also referred to as the “evening college.” After almost two decades, it was renamed the Division of Public Service, offering noncredit programs in business, consumer education, playwriting, language studies, accounting, fine arts, family education and secretarial administration.

In the 1980s, the Division of Public Service grew tremendously under the guidance of Ralph Nelson, dean of adult and continuing education, expanding its offerings in Arabic and business; creating its own English-language curriculum, tailored to the needs of Arabic speakers; introducing one-year and two-year professional certificates, not just individual courses; and initiating evaluative techniques for faculty members, as well as English proficiency entrance exams for participants.

The Division of Public Service later became known as the Center for Adult and Continuing Education, and expanded during AUC President Richard Pedersen’s tenure to include outreach and full-time career programs in different parts of Egypt, such as Alexandria and Tanta, as well as the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. In 2006 - 2007, the center was renamed the School of Continuing Education, enrolling approximately 20,000 students per year. With its diversity of programs and offerings, the School of Continuing Education is fulfilling Watson’s vision of a University that would provide service to a wide spectrum of the Egyptian public.

The Division of Extension was not the only organization focused on delivering educational opportunities. In 1921, the School of Oriental Studies was established to offer noncredit Arabic courses to foreigners. AUC’s first graduate degree in 1950, a Master of Arts in Arabic language and literature, was offered through the School of Oriental Studies, which was incorporated in the 1960s.
2014
First PhD student graduates

AUC ranked top green campus in Africa, top third worldwide in GreenMetric Ranking

AUC Venture Lab launched as the first University incubator in Egypt, ranked by UBI Global among top in region

Architecture program first in region to receive international validation

AUC faculty join Egypt’s Presidential Specialized Council for Education and Scientific Research

AUC tops QS World University Rankings in Egypt

School of Continuing Education celebrates 90 years

First AUC Community Day celebrates campus unity, unveils eagle mascot

AUC portal lights up in blue for World Autism Day

AUC’s strategic plan completed

Triple-crown accreditation for School of Business

AUC pioneers free online courses in Arabic (MOOCs) with Edraak

The Early Days
into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as the Center for Arabic Studies. In addition, in 1926, the Education Department provided teachings in modern educational philosophy and instructional techniques. The department created the *Journal of Modern Education*, “the first magazine in the Arabic language devoted to the general discussion of modern education and the adaptation of progressive principles to the educational problems of the Near East,” as displayed on its cover in 1928. Later years saw the creation of the Management Extension Services in the 1970s for governments and companies throughout the Middle East. Management Extension Services offered custom training and courses in whatever language suited the client, “filling a significant educational void,” as Murphy noted.

**Continuing a Legacy**

Today, AUC is still a symbol of international friendship and collaboration, with students, faculty and visitors from all over the globe. But beyond this, AUC has continually set itself apart as an institution devoted to excellence in all areas.

Watson's original vision was a school where students gain not just knowledge, but also the ability to relate the things they learn to real life, as well as the motivation to pursue independent thinking and creativity. Looking back on the past 100 years, we can see how Watson's vision is still alive today and will continue to influence future generations of students. AUC will not only continue on the same track, but will keep progressing — ushering in a new century of excellence, innovation and service.
Culturally Connected

AUC to establish Tahrir Cultural Center in downtown Cairo

First AUC Research Day

First cohort of Al Ghurair STEM Scholars join AUC

Students and alumni compete in Rio 2016 Olympics

AUC receives donation of more than 5,000 books from the private library of the late Egyptian journalist Mustafa Amin

2017

AUC first University in the region to offer a blended degree, pairing with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

Udacity partnership on blended learning

AUC first in the region to host LafargeHolcim Sustainable Architecture Competition

Middle East Strategy Task Force names AUC as one of few American universities in the region that are potential “hubs of excellence”

AUC takes initiative to transfer nearly 5,000 Islamic, Coptic, Pharaonic, Greek and Roman antiquities to the protection of the Egyptian government. AUC had been in legal possession of these antiquities since the 1960s, ensuring their preservation

Eduniversal ranks 10 AUC graduate programs among top in Africa

HUSSLab launched, with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

First AUC Research Week

First University FabLab in the region, launched by AUC students

AUC Today
AUC signed an agreement with prominent businessman and investor Naguib Sawiris, chairman of Orascom Investment Holding, to support the establishment of AUC’s Tahrir Cultural Center (TCC) on its Tahrir Square campus. The agreement also entails the renovation of the buildings and spaces that host the center on campus.

TCC’s phase-one opening will take place in February 2019, with the launch of AUC’s yearlong centennial celebration. Located in the heart of Cairo, AUC’s Tahrir Cultural Center will be fully owned, operated and programmed by AUC. It will host a broad range of events, from live music, dance performances, theatrical plays and movie screenings to art exhibitions, book clubs and conferences. AUC’s Tahrir Square campus will continue to host the University’s professional education and academic arts programs, as well as lectures, seminars and public events.

President Francis Ricciardone, Sawiris and other members of the AUC community attended the signing ceremony, which was held in Oriental Hall at AUC Tahrir Square. “AUC has always been an integral part of the Egyptian community,” said Ricciardone. “The TCC will enable us to realize our shared vision of revitalizing AUC’s traditional role as the fountainhead of cultural activity in Cairo’s Khedivial era downtown. We are grateful for the generosity and vision of Engineer Sawiris in supporting a vibrant arts and cultural activity in Egypt and the region.”

Sawiris, a longtime supporter of cultural and educational institutions in Egypt and worldwide, will support AUC’s establishment and renovation of the TCC to provide outstanding cultural and educational programs for Cairo residents, visitors, as well as AUC students and alumni. “I believe in the power of arts and culture in transforming communities and creating a long-lasting, positive impact on youth and children, and I believe that we are in utmost need for this positive impact in today’s Egypt,” said Sawiris. “AUC has spearheaded great projects to serve the community since its establishment in 1919, and I’m happy to partner with [the University] on this inspirational project. I can visualize a downtown that is beautified by this wonderful building that will serve as an oasis of creativity and intellect to Egyptians.”
The center’s activities will also provide a wealth of opportunities to AUC students for real-world applications of their work. “The center will serve as an addition to AUC’s Tahrir Square campus, without affecting the current and continuous operations of the University’s programs, lectures and activities,” said Aly Mourad, TCC director. “It will be a beacon of light in the heart of Cairo, spreading culture in all forms to Egyptians and visitors. We hope that the launch of the TCC will trigger the spread of other similar centers not only in Cairo, but in all governorates.”

“I can visualize a downtown that is beautified by this wonderful building.”

Mourad added that culture is an accumulative process that starts with childhood and doesn’t have an age limit. That’s why the TCC won’t only be targeting youth — where Egypt’s greatest potential lies — but different age groups as well.

AUC’s Tahrir Square campus has been a witness to history since the early years of the past century. Inside the Historic Palace building in the Tahrir Square campus lie Oriental Hall and the newly renovated Ewart Memorial Hall, which have hosted distinguished national and international figures over the years. These include Egypt’s legendary singer Om Kolthoum; prominent literary scholars Taha Hussein and Edward Said; author and humanitarian Helen Keller; renowned linguist and philosopher Noam Chomsky; former U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton; former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Nobel laureates Naguib Mahfouz, Jimmy Carter, Kofi Annan, Al Gore and Ahmed Zewail; in addition to top dignitaries, ambassadors and intellectuals from around the world.

With the University’s move to AUC New Cairo in 2008, AUC Tahrir Square has continued to serve the University’s mission of advancing arts, education and culture.
ACROSS

3. The original name of the Alumni Association.
7. Famed Nobel Peace Prize-winning author, whose first English novel was published by AUC Press.
9. The first student dormitory on AUC's campus.
13. The initial plans for AUC campus were near this location.
14. AUC founder.
17. AUC's first female student, who enrolled in 1928.
18. Original name of the student newspaper, Campus Caravan.
19. In 2000, AUC Archives in the Rare Books and Special Collections Library acquired the _____ collection.

DOWN

1. AUC is the top _____ campus in Africa.
2. AUC is the first University in the region to offer a _____ degree, pairing with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education.
4. The first student organization at AUC.
5. The _____, with an emphasis on subjects outside students' majors, was introduced in 1989.
6. The committee charged in 1994 with recommending guidelines and priorities for the future development of the University, ultimately deciding on the relocation to the New Cairo campus.
8. The first play ever produced on campus.
10. The University mascot.
11. AUC's first _____ took place in 1923.
12. Acronym for the world's premier, full-immersion Arabic-language program that opened at AUC in 1967.
15. The leading University-based startup accelerator and incubator in Africa and the MENA region.
16. Sandstone for the walls of campus buildings is all from a single quarry in Kom Ombo, 50 kilometers north of _____.
17. AUC held its last undergraduate commencement in _____ Hall in 1988.
Ewart Hall: A Contemporary Classic

Ewart Memorial Hall, cherished by many, has been renovated to meet modern-day demands

By Nahla El Gendy
Ewart Memorial Hall has been a cultural hub of downtown Cairo since it opened its doors in 1928, serving as a gathering place for lovers of literature, cinema, music and all forms of arts and culture. “Ewart Memorial Hall is not only one of the oldest AUC facilities; it is also one of the largest, and to many in Cairo, it is the locus of cultural activity,” Lawrence Murphy noted in The American University in Cairo: 1919 – 1987.

How It All Began
When the Division of Extension (now the School of Continuing Education) was established in 1924, Charles Watson, AUC’s first and founding president, needed a large meeting hall to host public lectures and present films, but he wasn’t able to raise money for that from potential donors. It was not until 1925, when two American women visited the campus, that his vision started to become a reality.

Ruth Litt, one of Watson’s old friends who had donated a cup to honor students, was accompanied by another woman who had recently inherited a big fortune and was interested in contributing to AUC. When told that the University needed an auditorium, she offered $80,000, which later became $100,000, to pay for its construction. While she asked to remain anonymous, she requested that the auditorium be named for her grandfather, William Dana Ewart, who had previously visited Cairo to improve his ailing health. “It seems to be distinctly the hand of God opening the door,” a delighted Watson wrote in 1925 to the Board of Trustees Chairman William Bancroft Hill, after whom Hill House in AUC Tahrir Square is named.

The plan was to create a building that would accommodate not only the auditorium, but also AUC’s needs in terms of classrooms and offices. While the building would cost approximately $150,000, the original gift was spent on the auditorium. The Board of Trustees paid the rest of the money.

A Work of Art
Architect A. St. John Diament was responsible for designing the building and auditorium. Situated on the south side of the Historic Palace, Ewart Memorial Hall was built with the “best style of arabesque architecture has been faithfully followed, outside and inside, in every possible detail, for example in decorations, doors and windows, lamps and seat standards. The inscription over the proscenium is in English but the letters have been given the Kufic form. The lines are from Tennyson’s ‘In Memoriam’ and are as follows,

LET KNOWLEDGE GROW FROM MORE TO MORE,
BUT MORE OF REVERENCE IN US DWELL.

Every effort has been made to contribute to the beauty of audience. Aisles are wide and rows set well apart; every seat has an unobstructed view of the stage; studious attention has been given to acoustics and the Auditorium has been carefully insulated against outside noises; lights give illumination without glare; a system of forced ventilation has been installed; and adequate retiring rooms have been provided on both floors. Motion pictures will be shown from the back of the stage through a translucent screen, making it unnecessary to darken the hall and so affording relief from eye strain.

“The construction of Ewart Memorial Hall earned AUC a more stable and respectful status in Egypt.”
Arabesque architecture” inside and outside the hall — on doors, windows, lamps and seats. The inscription above the stage — Let Knowledge Grow from More to More, But More of Reverence in Us Dwell — was inspired by the Kufi script and taken from the British poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s 1849 In Memoriam.

The auditorium was built to ensure the utmost comfort for the audience: a seating capacity of 1,150 people, the largest in Cairo at the time; wide rows and aisles, as well as space for extra seats in times of a packed audience; every seat having a clear view of the stage with no obstructions; a balcony; proper acoustics; insulation against external noise; non-glare lighting; a forced ventilation system; and sufficient retiring rooms located on both floors. Construction began in June 1926, the cornerstone laid in 1927 and final touches completed in April 1928.

The laying of the cornerstone was “such a remarkable day,” as Murphy described it. Hundreds of AUC friends attended this special occasion, including a personal representative of Egypt’s King Fouad; Ruth Litt, who traveled from New York as the donor representative; and William Bancroft Hill, who spoke on behalf of the trustees. President Watson explained that the Division of Extension and Ewart Memorial Hall would “place at the disposal of Egypt … the best that American experience and experimentation can afford.” As Murphy noted, the construction of Ewart Memorial Hall earned AUC a “more stable and respectful status in Egypt, where the king himself had recognized the importance of the AUC and prominent families started sending their sons there.”

In 1937, the Egyptian Broadcasting Company aired monthly radio concerts by Om Kolthoum, the legendary
Egyptian singer, from AUC’s Ewart Memorial Hall, solidifying AUC’s position as a “benevolent community agency,” as Murphy put it. “Audiences throughout Egypt and the Arab world knew that Om Kalthum’s performances came from Ewart Hall.” Egyptian scholar Taha Hussein, who advocated for modernization in Egypt, lectured at Ewart Hall. In addition, the hall was a major cinema destination. The building was filled to capacity for the screening of Cecil B. DeMille’s *King of Kings* year after year. The hall also featured performances by the French singer Édith Piaf, European and U.S. bands, the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Egyptian Musical Society. School groups used Ewart Hall to present their programs and hold commencement ceremonies.

“[Ewart Hall] turned out to be highly successful, highly satisfactory — so that within a matter of a few months, we had completely gobbled up the entertainment market in Cairo. All the recitals, all the concerts, anything of every value ... came to our hall,” said Professor Herbert W. Vandersall, who taught at AUC for more than four decades since 1920, in a 1973 oral history interview with the AUC Archives.

Since then, Ewart Hall has been witnessing history and has been a part of it. It has hosted distinguished national and international figures over the years. It continued to be the prime destination for AUC’s commencement ceremonies, from the late 1920s until February 1988, when the University had to find a bigger place to accommodate the increasing number of students and their parents. Sherif Kamel ‘88, ’90, ’13, dean of AUC’s School of Business, sees the hall as a “symbol of AUC” and feels privileged to have been among the last graduating class whose commencement ceremony was held at Ewart Hall. “We, as graduates of that class,” Kamel wrote on the AUC Memories webpage, “were extremely lucky and fortunate to be among the generations that graduated from Ewart Hall, adding more excitement and joy to the uniqueness of this lifetime experience in such a breathtaking setting located in the heart of the Main Campus of AUC.”

**The Facelift**

Today, more than 90 years after its construction, Ewart Memorial Hall has been renovated to suit modern-day demands. The hall’s original technology was only feasible for spoken words and incorporated basic lighting and sound systems. AUC has been partially maintaining the hall since its establishment, and in the early 1990s, alumni donations were used to renovate it.

In 2015, a grant by the United States Agency for International Development’s American Schools and Hospitals Abroad was used to refurbish Ewart Hall. This included changing the sound system to improve acoustic quality in the hall, updating the lighting system to be both energy-efficient and have dynamic control and quality, revamping the video and presentation equipment to meet advanced audiovisual needs, and installing an advanced control system to monitor audio-visuals anywhere inside the hall. In addition, a wireless system has enabled simultaneous translation into three languages to accommodate a multilingual audience, and a newly installed assistive listening system makes events accessible to a greater variety of people.

The renovation project is part of a larger plan to revive AUC Tahrir Square as a cultural center in downtown Cairo. These upgrades ensure that Ewart Hall continues to be a prime
Ewart Home

I cannot exactly remember the first time I set foot in Ewart Hall. Unlike new students who walk in for their English exam or orientation sessions, I walked into Ewart Hall as a small child in 1968 or 1969. Ten years after marrying at a very young age, my mother decided to go to school and get her degree. I remember being overwhelmed by Ewart Hall ... the high ceiling, the curtains, the stage and the smell.

I was at Ewart Hall when my mother’s name was called at the Honors Assembly. I was at Ewart Hall when my mother received her BA. I clapped hard when they called her up to receive the AUC President’s Cup. I was there when she received her MA. All those caps and gowns, the music, the clapping and the standing ovations. I was there, wide-eyed and in awe.

Several years later, I walked into Ewart Hall as one of the youngest AUC applicants to take my English (then called Michigan) exam. That date I remember. It was early September of 1979. I sat there, a big girl now, in one of those seats that took me in as a child. And I still looked at the high ceiling. Next to me was a young man who I got to know as Ibrahim Hegazy. I took a deep breath, held my pencil and wrote the exam.

Two weeks later, I got into AUC. Over the course of the four years of my undergraduate years, I frequented Ewart Hall constantly. There were no auditoriums then. There was Oriental Hall, of course, but Ewart was where it all happened. All those lectures, debates, concerts, talent shows, the Thursday night movies, and yes, the Honors Assembly — me this time.

In June 1983, I walked down the BA graduation procession in Ewart Hall. My mother, now teaching at AUC, was in the procession. My professors walked by, and I remember Dr. Galal Amin shaking my hand as he walked down the aisle. I was one of those capped and gowned people I gaped at in my childhood. As my name was called, I walked up the stage to receive my degree, then down again, thinking that would be my last experience with Ewart Hall.

Little did I know. Four years later, in June 1987, I was up there receiving my MA. Ten years later, I was up there, again in cap and gown, sitting among AUC faculty at the graduate commencement. I have continued to do that until this very day. In 2005 and 2006, four commencements, I hooded our graduates. I was chair of my department then, and sitting next to me was none other than Ibrahim Hegazy, my Michigan exam friend, now chair of the management department. Ibrahim and I were up there in 2005 and 2006 at the Honors Assembly, honoring our top students.

I lectured at Ewart Hall. In 2000, I sat up there and talked to freshman students about the digital economy, the internet and all that. As I spoke, I could not help drifting to the time I sat on those very chairs and listened. I kept wondering how many students had been held by those seats, how many faces had been greeted by those lights and how many lives had been embraced by those walls.

Mine is but one. I drift back and remember my first dance class as an undergraduate student on the stage of Ewart Hall, with Indji El Solh as my instructor. At that time, it was an extracurricular activity; I heard it became a credit course years later. For a whole year, every Monday afternoon, I would head to Ewart’s backstage dressing rooms, and I would stay late practicing on Ewart stage under the watchful eye of Ewart’s high ceiling.

In the spring of 1994, the curtains of Ewart Hall gently opened up to reveal Indji El Solh’s four-year-old ballet dancers. When the performance began, the stage must have recognized a familiar footstep as my daughter gently danced on that same stage that felt her mother’s steps several years ago. Later in 1999, when my daughter did a solo dance, again within Indji’s program, Ewart stage recognized her immediately.

As a birthday present to my mother, I put her name on a plaque on an Ewart Hall seat. I chose a seat close to where I had sat at my graduation ceremonies. It was the perfect spot: one that I could see from where I had been sitting there in my cap and gown in both ceremonies. I was fulfilled.

I think of Ewart Hall and wonder. How many years have passed, when did it all happen and where did the years go? How many people have I met in this very place, how many activities have I experienced and how many lives have been touched? I have lived a journey at Ewart Hall, from a child fascinated by grown-ups in caps and gowns to a department chair hooding master’s students. I have lived several experiences and several roles, indeed several lives, at Ewart Hall.

I am the small child, the student, the amateur dancer, the faculty member, the speaker on stage, the department chair and the proud mother in the audience. Ewart Hall has witnessed all this, embraced all this and understood.

I leave Ewart Hall with a lump in my throat. It has been home to many meaningful moments in my life and the lives of loved ones around me. My mother’s name is still there, and so are my cherished memories.

Nagla Rizk ‘83, ‘87 is professor of economics and founding director of AUC’s Access to Knowledge for Development Center. This article was first published as part of AUC Memories (www1.aucegypt.edu/aucmemories) before the University’s move to New Cairo in 2008.
destination for hosting various community and cultural events, for AUC and beyond, including public lectures; seminars; conferences; speeches; concerts; talent shows; musical, dance and theatrical performances; film screenings and other public events. Throughout the renovation process, the historical look and feel of the place had to be taken into consideration.

“Reviving such a cherished place as Ewart Hall while preserving its archaeological and classic identity was not easy, particularly that the place is under the accountability of the General Authority of Monuments,” noted Nader Sedhom, director of event support services at AUC’s Classroom Technologies and Media Services and co-director of the Ewart Memorial Hall renovation project. “With the help of our engineering department, we had to find a reliable team to run the raceways and cables for the new technology while preserving all the vintage wall inscriptions.”

The sound system was updated to a high-quality reputable brand, and new microphones, monitors and wires have been put in place to ensure the highest sound quality. Acoustic tiles were also added on the walls, without spoiling the vintage identity, to guarantee the purest sound and eliminate any reverberation time. Front-fills to enhance the sound quality have been added to the stage, while maintaining its unique architecture and engravings.

“To maintain the hall’s aesthetic appeal while giving it a modern touch, the stage curtains and the floor’s wall-to-wall carpet have been renewed, as well as the upholstery — keeping the original chairs untouched,” said Sedhom.

The lighting has been modernized through the installation of light fixtures; a lighting console; red, blue and green LEDs; and moving heads. A new, high-quality dimming system has replaced the old one, and fixtures above the stage facilitate professional
background lighting during theatrical performances.

In terms of equipment, an advanced projector with a perforated screen improves sound effects, and a huge LED screen highlights the entire stage area during presentations. “The screen goes back and forth to create the best vision for everyone in the hall,” said Sedhom, noting, “One of the most interesting additions are the moving video cameras, which have been placed at all corners and at the center of the hall to capture different audience reactions.”

Despite these renovations and changes, Ewart Memorial Hall will remain the same for many AUC graduates — holding a special place in their hearts and minds. As one alumna, Sophie Farag ’90, ’93, explained on the AUC Memories webpage, “Ewart is a beautiful hall that carries many memories for all AUCians.” For AUC, it will continue to serve as a cultural icon in the heart of Cairo, dedicated — as is inscribed outside the hall — to the “well-being of the people of Egypt and neighboring lands.”

“Reviving such a cherished place as Ewart Hall while preserving its archaeological and class identity was not easy.”
I joined AUC as a student in Spring 1986 and have been there ever since, first as a student doing my BA and MA, then as an English instructor in the Intensive English Program (IEP).

As a student, I was a member of the AUC Folklore dancing group from 1986 to 1991, and I enjoyed this activity very much. I made many good friends and have a lot of very special memories. Most of these memories are of practice sessions we had after our classes and at weekends, and they usually were several hours long. We would take our books and try to fit in some studying during the breaks in training, but we mainly enjoyed ourselves and had a good time. These rehearsals took place anywhere that we could reserve (it was difficult to find reservations even in those days!), including the sixth-floor Hill House Lounge, Howard Theater and classrooms, but we usually had our practice on Ewart Hall stage. Our trainer would sing us the songs while we learned the steps, then we would repeat the steps endlessly to the song played on a tape recorder. When we were not needed on stage, we would practice our moves in the aisles or watch our colleagues from the seats in the hall.

We had two formal performances every year in Ewart Hall, and on these occasions, we wore beautiful costumes. During the previous weeks, we would spend hours sitting on the stage sewing sequins on these costumes. On the big day, we would be frantically putting on our costumes, helping each other with our headscarves and practicing our steps. We’d peep out excitedly from behind the curtain to see if our families and friends had arrived in the audience yet, with our trainer constantly telling us not to let anyone see our costumes so as not to ruin the surprise. I even first met my husband at one of these performances! These are fond memories I have of wonderful times spent in Ewart Hall.

My connection to Ewart Hall is still strong even as a teacher. I am always delighted to hear that any of my students have joined the folklore group, and it’s been fun to attend their performances as a spectator. I have assigned my students the task of reading the inscription above the stage, which I puzzled over as an undergraduate. I have attended public lectures, conference keynote speeches and special events in this hall. The IEP assessments take place in Ewart Hall, and I am often required to proctor. The IEP live lecture series takes place in this hall, and since I am currently responsible for organizing these lectures, I check the set-up on stage, try out the microphones and ensure the speakers are working.

Ewart is a beautiful hall that carries many memories for all AUCians, especially for those, like me, who were lucky enough to have such varied experiences in it, and it will surely be missed. I hope the coming generations of AUCians enjoy their memories of the new campus as I have enjoyed mine of Ewart Hall.

Sophie Farag '90, '93 is senior instructor II in AUC’s Department of English Language Instruction. This article was first published as part of AUC Memories (www1.aucegypt.edu/aucmemories) before the University’s move to New Cairo in 2008.
A CENTURY OF VISITORS

Sir Magdi Yacoub
Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Imperial College London
Head of the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation

Ahmed Okasha
Psychiatrist, Professor of Psychiatry, Ain Shams University

Ahmed Kamal Abd Magd
Law Professor, Cairo University

Taha Hussein
Literary Scholar and Former Minister of Education

Richard W. Murphy
Former U.S. Ambassador

Kofi Annan
Nobel Laureate and Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations

Kofi Okai
Founder and President, American University in Cairo

James Zogby
Founder and President, Arab American Institute

Richard W. Murphy
Former U.S. Ambassador

John Casson
Former UK Ambassador to Egypt

Shibley Telhami
Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development, University of Maryland

Muhammad Tantawi
Former Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar

Omar Sharif
Iconic Egyptian Actor

Hamdy Fauzy
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

Seymour Hersh
Leading Investigative Journalist and Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author

Tarek Amer ‘80
Governor, Central Bank of Egypt

Ahmed Zewail
Nobel Laureate and AUC Trustee

Hans Kung
Swiss Theologian

Hans Kung
Swiss Theologian

Hans Kung
Swiss Theologian
A CENTURY OF VISITORS
In 1925, an anonymous donor offered AUC a gift of $100,000 for the construction of a 1,150-seat auditorium. She requested that the auditorium be named after her grandfather William Dana Ewart, who had in the past visited Egypt for health reasons. Since then, Ewart Memorial Hall has housed musical and theatrical events, including Egypt’s renowned singer Om Kolthoum and AUC’s own Osiris Singers. Egyptian presidents have attended events at the hall, and in the 1970s, when the Cairo Opera house burned down, it became one of the venues for the Egyptian opera and ballet.

Hill House was named after William Bancroft Hill and his wife Elise Weyerhaeuser Hill. William Bancroft Hill served on AUC’s Board of Trustees for almost 25 years, including 20 years as chairman. Hill House started as a student dormitory when it was first opened and later became AUC’s main library in 1959, holding 60,000 volumes at the time. It was remodeled in 1984 to house the University bookstore, classrooms, offices and meeting rooms. The Weyerhaeuser family, who donated $150,000 for the original construction of the building that opened in 1953, also financed Hill House’s remodeling, which was completed in 1986.
TAREK JUFFALI ENDOWED FELLOWS PROGRAM

Suad Juffali, AUC advisory trustee and chair of the Ahmed Juffali Foundation, established the Tarek Juffali Endowed Fellows Program in counseling psychology and community psychology and named the Tarek Juffali Professorship in Psychology, both in honor of her late son. She also established the Suad Al-Husseini Juffali Scholarship for students from Palestine and named the Serenity Room at the AUC Library and La Palmiera Lodge female student dormitory, among many of her generous contributions. She received the Global Impact Award in 2017 from AUC for her leadership in philanthropy.

BARTLETT FAMILY LEGACY

The Bartlett family has a long tradition of giving to AUC. Thomas Bartlett, who served as AUC president from 1963 to 1969 and as interim president from 2002 to 2003, has made numerous contributions to the University, most notably, establishing — with his wife, Mrs. Mary Louise Bartlett — The Bartlett Room student lounge at AUC New Cairo.

Sharing his father’s passion for education and for AUC, Richard Bartlett, chairman of the Board of Trustees, has served as a trustee since 2003. Richard Bartlett has contributed significant time and energy to the University, as well as philanthropic support for numerous programs and scholarships. In 2011, he established the Molly Bartlett Endowed Scholarship in his mother’s name to support top-performing Egyptian public school students who wish to attend AUC. He also contributed to the Access to Knowledge for Development Center. In 2018, Richard and his wife, Kerri Bartlett, gave $2 million to establish The Bartlett Fund for Critical Challenges, an endowed fund to encourage research and other projects that address defining challenges shaping Egypt and the region. Through this fund, AUC will play a leading role in developing creative responses to challenges, such as issues of sustainability, poverty, demographics, health, education, urbanization, water resources, governance and regional politics.

Richard and his brother Paul, both AUC trustees and Princeton University graduates, established the Bartlett Family Fund for Innovation and International Collaboration between AUC and their alma mater. The 150-meter-long Bartlett Plaza, a hallmark of AUC New Cairo and the principal outdoor location for AUC’s largest events, including commencement and alumni homecoming, is made possible through a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bartlett. In addition, Thomas, Richard and Paul have all provided support for the Center for Arabic Study Abroad Endowment Fund.

JAMEEL: ‘LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON’

In 1982, prominent Saudi businessman Abdul Latif Jameel donated $5 million, the largest gift that AUC had ever received at the time, to build the Abdul Latif Jameel Center for Middle East Management Studies and the Abdul Latif Jameel Chair in Entrepreneurship. Located on AUC’s Greek Campus, the building accommodated the steady growth of the student body in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as well as the increasing demand for management, engineering sciences and other professional programs.

In 2009, Yousef Jameel ’68 inaugurated the Abdul Latif Jameel Hall on the New Cairo campus in the name of his father. The building houses the School of Business and School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, in addition to the Kamal Adham Center for Television and Digital Journalism and The Photographic Gallery. A pioneer in his own right, he also established the Yousef Jameel ’68 Science and Technology Research Center in 2003.

Increasing access to quality education, Jameel launched the Yousef Jameel MBA Fellows Program in 2004. The program continued for more than a decade, with more than 150 graduates. He also funded the Yousef Jameel ’68 GAPP [Global Affairs and Public Policy] Public Leadership Program, supporting 300 fellows in 12 cohorts of 25 Egyptian graduate students per year. When AUC’s PhD program began in 2010, he initiated the Yousef Jameel ’68 PhD in Applied Sciences and Engineering Fellowships. AUC’s first PhD graduate, Yosra El Maghraby ’04, ’08, ’14, was a recipient of this doctoral fellowship, which graduated more than 40 students.
ABDALLAH JUM’AH STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

Abdallah S. Jum’ah ’65 served as president and CEO of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), the world’s largest oil-producing company, from 1995 to 2008. He established the Abdallah Jum’ah Study Abroad Scholarships in 2015 to support undergraduate AUC students seeking a study-abroad experience for one semester in order to expand their horizons and broaden their cultural perspectives. He received a Global Impact Award from AUC in 2016 for his innovative approach to business and strong interest in developing leaders.

“Before joining AUC, I hesitated on whether I wanted to join AUC or study abroad. But during my freshman year, I realized that the opportunities that AUC offers are not to be found elsewhere. ... And the study-abroad [scholarship] opportunity only adds to this rich and versatile experience. AUC is preparing future leaders who understand a world beyond their own. We know what it means to compete on local and international scales.”

Seif Hamed ’17
Business Administration

MOHAMMAD ABUGHAZALEH ’67 ENDOWED PALESTINIAN SCHOLARSHIP

Former AUC Trustee Mohammad Abughazaleh ’67 has been serving as chairman and CEO of Del Monte Fresh Produce Company in Jordan for more than two decades. In 2006, he established the Mohammad Abughazaleh ’67 Endowed Palestinian Scholarship at the University to support five deserving and talented Palestinian students. A total of 17 students have benefited from this scholarship. In 2005, Abughazaleh received the Distinguished Alumni Award from AUC.

“Thank you for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. You have helped me work toward accomplishing my goals and building my future.”

Ayah Harharah
Business Administration

JOHN AND GAIL GERHART ENDOWED PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Named in honor of AUC’s late ninth President John D. Gerhart, the John and Gail Gerhart Endowed Public School Scholarship was established in 2002 to support talented students from Egypt’s public schools. A recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUC in 2002 and the only president to hold the title of president emeritus, John Gerhart was a firm believer that an essential aim of a liberal arts education is to instill values of service and civic responsibility among students. More than 230 AUC friends have provided generous support to establish this scholarship in his name, including his wife, Gail Gerhart, who has made significant contributions to AUC.

“Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. My time at AUC has completely changed who I am. I hope to take what I have learned and work to improve both my immediate community and entire country.”

Mohamed Ibrahim
Electronics and Communications Engineering
Yousef Jameel ’68 is AUC’s single biggest supporter of education, funding research as well as master’s and PhD fellowships.

Approximately 6,000 donors since the 1970s.

Abdulhadi H. Taher Endowed Scholarship

The Abdulhadi H. Taher Endowed Scholarship supports Egyptian and Saudi Arabian students with outstanding academic performance. Currently, eight students are studying at AUC as recipients of this scholarship. Following in their father’s footsteps, Nashwa and Tarek Taher have created transformative experiences for AUC students, including the Nashwa A. H. Taher Arab Women Scholarship in 2004.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to study at the most prominent institution in my country."

Nouran Barakat
Undeclared Freshman

Mohammed Bin Abdulkarim A. Allehedan Scholarship and Scientific Research Fund

Established in 2015 by the late Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulkarim A. Allehedan, the fund aims to support talented Arab students and encourage specialized scientific research in uncommon disciplines in the Arab world. As the late Allehedan put it, “I come from a modest family, and I didn’t get the chance to be educated. After researching, I found that the best place for me to put this endowment would be at a university in Egypt, and I found that The American University in Cairo is the best University in Egypt. … I am one of the believers that Arabs would not exist without Egypt, and Egypt would not exist without Arabs. And if Arabs are not well-educated, they will not be strong.”

“As both a student and a member of the research community at AUC, I would like to thank [Sheikh Allehedan] for his support of innovative research. That support will allow us to have strong academic careers and give us opportunities to develop our skills.”

Ahmed El Sayed ’15 ’17
Pursuing a PhD in Applied Sciences at AUC

Al Ghurair STEM Scholars

Supported by Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education, one of the largest privately funded philanthropic education initiatives in the world, the Al Ghurair STEM Scholars program creates opportunities for underserved, high-achieving Arab students to pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree at leading universities in the region, including AUC. Launched in 2016, the program has supported more than 150 students at the University, helping them pursue their dreams of a high-quality STEM education. With a Master of Science in nanotechnology, Menna Hasan (MSc ’18) is the first AUC alum of Al Ghurair STEM Scholars Program.

"This scholarship has been a dream, getting a chance to travel outside of Yemen to receive a proper education. Getting a scholarship, what can I say, it’s like a passport in my life. I can never thank the foundation enough. Never."

Mohammed Al-Sabri
Mechanical Engineering
Diversity has always been a cornerstone of AUC since its founding. Students of all backgrounds cherish the intercultural exchange and social interaction at the University, not just in the classroom, but in every part of campus.
The AUC Library started off as a small reading room in 1922. In the 1950s, upon the recommendation of then President Raymond F. McClain and with consent from the Weyerhaeuser family, Hill House no longer served as a student dormitory and was renovated to become a modern library. In 1982, the Greek Campus Library was completed. Today, the library is at the center of AUC’s 260-acre campus in New Cairo and houses the largest English-language academic collection in Egypt.
The Miss AUC competition, which began in the early 1930s, was an annual campus tradition crowning the “all-round campus girl.” At the beginning, the winner was chosen solely based on the amount of votes she collected, but by the 1970s, academic achievement and campus activities were considered too. The coronation ceremony, performed by the previous year’s winner, was traditionally followed by a party in the Fountain Area, where the president had the first dance with Miss AUC.

Initially, AUC was intended to be both a preparatory school and a University. The preparatory school opened in October 1920 with 142 students in two classes that were equivalent to the last two years of an American high school. The first diplomas issued were junior college-level certificates given to 20 students in 1923.

AUC enrolled its first female student in 1928, the same year in which the first class graduated, with one Bachelor of Science and two Bachelor of Arts degrees awarded. The first master’s degree was awarded in 1950.
Since its early years, AUC placed an emphasis on athletics and physical training as part of the curriculum to enhance student personalities by building sportsmanship and teamwork. This was uncommon in the Middle East at the time, since people did not correlate sports with a college or university. Despite criticism, students, all males in the early 1920s, were required to take two hours of athletics per week. As they became more skilled, they created a pyramid by standing on each other’s shoulders — an AUC landmark. Each athletic season ended with Sports Day, which began in 1921.
The earliest discussion of the need for a new campus, exclusively built for the purpose of higher education, began just two years after the University was founded in the city center in 1919.

Those discussions were put into motion shortly after the University’s 75th anniversary, with the establishment of the Century Committee in 1994 to begin looking toward AUC’s centennial. Consisting of trustees, faculty, alumni and friends of the University, the committee was charged with recommending guidelines and priorities for AUC’s future development — with particular attention to its educational philosophy and long-term mission.

There was concern among the committee regarding congestion on the Tahrir Square campus due to the fact that some faculty members had to have their offices in rented apartments. In general, there was a need for more space. The consensus was that postponing relocation to some future time might become prohibitively expensive and unaffordable for AUC. It was time to act.

Jehane Ragai ‘66, ‘68, professor emerita of chemistry, served as the School of Sciences and Engineering representative on the committee. She was also chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education in Egypt and the Middle East, which was tasked — among other things — with determining whether or not AUC’s campus should remain in downtown Cairo or consider moving some or all of its activities to a suburban area in the future. The subcommittee determined there was no further room for growth in its downtown location and recommended relocation. Though the Century Committee “reluctantly” agreed to the principle, Ragai said she is “strongly convinced that it was a timely and wise decision.”
While AUC is celebrating its centennial, another important University birthday is happening this year — the 10-year anniversary of the New Cairo campus.

In 2008, AUC made history with the establishment of a new campus, designed from scratch, in New Cairo. After the decision to move from AUC Tahrir Square was made, the University purchased 260 acres of land in 1997 for its new home at the center of New Cairo. An international team of architects and planners made up of seven firms from three countries designed the campus.

Throughout the planning phase, it became increasingly obvious that this would not be a process of simply moving the old campus to a new location. The New Cairo campus — despite following the roots of AUC Tahrir Square — would have its own unique identity and would continue to evolve and mature over time.

In designing the campus, the team sought to capture the international identity of the AUC community as well as the multidimensionality of the liberal arts curriculum in an architecturally diverse space. Inspired by Egypt’s history of advanced engineering practices, they revived traditional processes for cutting stone and sourced materials from Upper Egypt to build up the walls, bolstering the campus with the strength of a brilliant past. In 2009, one year after the relocation, the University received a special award from the Urban Land Institute for the design and construction of AUC New Cairo, now ranked as the top green campus in Africa.

Built using 24,000 tons of reinforcing steel, as well as 115,000 square meters of stone, marble, granite cladding and flooring, the campus weaves Egyptian urban and architectural traditions into a modern campus and is designed to be accessible to people with disabilities. Sandstone for the walls of campus buildings is all from a single quarry in Kom Ombo, 50 kilometers north of Aswan. The stone arrived by truck in giant multi-ton blocks, which were cut and shaped for walls, arches and other uses at a stone-cutting plant built on the site.

The new campus launched a wave of growth in New Cairo. What was once a slowly developing suburb flourished into a lively community with public performances, plays, exhibitions and special events, extending Cairo’s rich arts scene to the area and
115,000 square meters of stone, marble and granite were used in the campus construction — the most stone used in a single project since the Pyramids of Giza.

80% of the external walls are made of sandstone, mostly sourced from Upper Egypt, keeping rooms cool during the day and warm at night.

“I think the campus is now entering its maturity. It has already evolved and will continue to do so.”

making AUC a cultural hub. The growing campus life sparked the surge of a bustling urban landscape in the area, attracting the numerous businesses, restaurants, cafés, shopping centers and residences that now populate the city, and in turn, contributing to the economic development of the New Cairo district.

Abdelhalim Ibrahim Abdelhalim, principal of Abdel-Halim Community Design Collaborative, led the international team in executing the master plan and architecture principles for the design and construction of AUC’s New Cairo campus. He said in his first encounter with the campus being used that he was worried his team “lost the way.”

“[Now], the campus is realizing itself,” Abdelhalim noted. “A community is being created, and I’m not sure that it’s the same community that was in downtown Cairo. It’s different, and I’m glad to hear that. During the planning process, we assumed that it is a must to follow the roots of the old campus, but we discovered that the new campus is actually much more complex than just simply moving the old campus. I think the campus is now entering its maturity. It has already evolved and will continue to do so.”

In its relocation, AUC foresaw an opportunity to foster increased engagement with its surrounding community and trigger the positive development of the New Cairo area. The historic move created a new frontier for AUC to continue to lead as Egypt’s global University.
NEW CAIRO

An international team of architects, seven firms from three countries, designed AUC New Cairo, ranked as the top green campus in Africa.

In 2009, AUC received a special award from the Urban Land Institute for the design and construction of its New Cairo campus.

Thanks to the generosity of our New Cairo campus supporters, whose names can be found all around campus.

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*Deceased
Hon LHD Honorary Degree
SP Special Program Alumni
The first building secured for AUC was Khairy Pasha’s Old Palace Residence. The same building at one time housed the Egyptian University, now Cairo University.

AUC used to host a traditional tug of war contest between sophomores and freshmen. As reported by the Caravan on November 2, 1951, “The traditional tug of war between sophomores and freshmen will take place on Saturday, January 6 during Assembly time. There will be a ditch filled with mud between the two teams, and the winning team will be the one who can tug the other team into the mud.”
AUC owned land near the Giza Pyramids until 1959 and originally had planned to have the campus be by the pyramids.

In its early days, AUC’s Arabic classes assigned students both a “SHEIKH” and an “EFFENDI.” The sheikh was someone who did not speak English, and the effendi was someone who did.

— Alan Horton, student, written in 1947

Through the years, AUC students have hosted a range of informal contests, notably including a yelling contest in 1945 and a beard-growing contest in 1956.

Below is an excerpt about the yelling contest in the January 5, 1945 Caravan edition:

“Leila Shukri beat all other co-eds who took part in a yelling contest last week in the girls' room. The aim of the contest was to see who could reach the highest pitch. Leila Shukri reached the highest Mi note on tiptoes and so scored the highest. Ida Chalvarjian could not yell at all. Every time she tried yelling, she produced a discordant sound.”
LIFELONG LEARNING

“I am a proud AUCian because the kind and quality of education we get prepares us for life like no other place. The life skills we learned have shaped our personalities.”

— Doha Shawki ’95, ’98

PERFORMANCES

“Every performance, every song, every corner of Ewart Hall speak so many memories. So many precious moments with very special individuals whom I call friends for life. No matter how near or rather how far, you are all engraved in my heart. RIP Larry, our mentor and our music keeper. You will never be forgotten! Miss you all so much. Osiris Singers forever.”

— Mariam Farag ’99
ALUMNI

“AUC makes us proud everywhere, all the time. Every penny was worth it. We pose as pearls of a necklace, scattered yet united by everything genuine.”

— Lamya Ramadan ’87, ’01

GROUPS

“Thick and thin applies to friendship, not only to marriage. We studied together, stood by each other during heartaches, were together at graduation, attended each other’s weddings, watched our kids grow and play with each other, stood by each other during difficult times, attended our children’s weddings and will grow old together.”

— Hanan Shahin ’87, ’97

Thanks to all alumni who have shared their photos and memories on the AUC100 Facebook group.
Remember the Time?

AUC COUPLES

“Mohamed Safwat and I met on campus as freshmen in the fall of 1994. He proposed to me one beautiful summer day at the Falaki building. We got engaged in 1998, a few months after our June 1998 commencement, and we got married in July 2000. We are blessed to be best friends, lovers and parents to two crazy kids and two even crazier cats.”

— Aliaa M. Abaza ’98

MEMORABILIA

“AUC used the Channel, a paper for circulation that included all important information for students. We did not have emails.”

— Mona Al-Abiad ’89, ’10
TRIPS
“One of the most famous trips at the University was the Luxor and Aswan trip, which always took place between the two-semester recess. Taking the train for 12 hours and trying to visit all the attractions in Luxor and Aswan in five days. Always fun, and memories to hold forever.”
— Nabil Arar ‘86

SPORTS
“Madame Azhar was a fighter with a huge heart. She always used to encourage us to train when we were at the changing rooms. ... May she rest in peace.”
— Merit Al-Sayed ‘01
University accreditation by National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education

School of Continuing Education accreditation by International Association for Continuing Education and Training

FinTech graduate program — among first worldwide

University spinoff: D-Kmia, develops novel and affordable diagnostic solutions to detect a broad range of diseases, including hepatitis C and cancer

University-based startup accelerator and incubator: AUC Venture Lab, accelerated more than 120 startups and created more than 500 jobs

Egyptian Chair in Coptic Heritage professorship

MBA program

Certified medical technology professional training program

Canadian Society for Chemistry's international accreditation of undergraduate chemistry program

Food chemistry graduate program

El-Khazindar Business Research and Case Center

Desert Development Center's introduction of new citrus varieties, promoting a thriving export industry

First farm fully powered by solar energy (Desert Development Center)

Implementation of solar powered, village-scale drinking water solutions and chicken incubators in remote areas of Egypt (Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment)

3MT PhD thesis competition

Neighborhood Initiative: AUC working to create a livable, just and sustainable neighborhood around its campuses

Yousef Jameel Science and Technology Research Center: first research facility to develop micro/nano devices. The center includes Egypt's first Clean Room, equipped with full-scale fabrication tools

University-based business and economics knowledge portal: BusinessForwardAUC.com

Association for Information Systems student chapter

Whether expanding its educational offerings or taking the lead in pioneering initiatives, AUC has many firsts. These are just a few of them.

Triple crown accreditation in public affairs education for Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Policy at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

Master's in migration and refugee studies: first worldwide to combine migration and refugee studies with a focus on the Middle East and Africa
Blended degree, in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

University Career Center
Cocurricular transcript
Academic integrity initiative
Carbon Footprint Report
Cairo International Model United Nations
Cairo International Model Arab League
School of Business Financial Service Center
First University FabLab
Partnership with Udacity online educational platform

Validation of undergraduate architecture program, with no reservations, from the joint UNESCO and International Union of Architects Council for Architectural Education

Cosmos Radio, first science radio station in the Arab world, launched by Society of Physics Students

School of Business: Triple crown accreditation; joining The Global Alliance in Management Education

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants accreditation for the undergraduate accounting program, with maximum exemptions

First and only department-based counseling psychology training clinic

Master of Arts in community psychology — first and only in Africa

Master of Arts in international human rights law

Master of Science and graduate diploma in sustainable development

Concentration in precision health, Master of Global Public Health

LLM in international and comparative law, first American-style legal education in the Arab world

Solar energy specialization, Bachelor of Science in physics

Petrochemical specialization, Bachelor of Science in chemistry

Principals' Academy, enhancing expertise of school leaders, Graduate School of Education

Public policy and public administration master's programs first in the Middle East and third outside the United States to receive accreditation from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration

ABET accreditation for computer science and engineering program

American Association of University Professors global chapter

Then & Now

Library

Food Outlets

Students on Campus
Then & Now
Swimming Platform
Gym

Platform

Gym
The Egyptian government has minted AUC’s centennial coin, designed by five AUC students. This accomplishment was the culmination of a summer of work, research and brainstorming for graphic design students Ahmad Khalil, Ingy Fawzy, Lana Kurdi, Mariam Ibrahim and Mariem Abutaleb. Aiming to highlight the impact of the University’s architecture on AUCians past and present, the minting of the coin finally made the group’s vision a reality.

To create a coin for AUC’s centennial, the five students took part in a mentored workshop supervised by Nagla Samir, associate professor in the Department of the Arts and co-chair of the Materials and Collateral Taskforce for the centennial, and Ghalia ElSrakbi, instructor in the Department of the Arts. “They are the dream team,” Samir exclaimed. “Ahmad and Mariam are seniors, Lana and Ingy are juniors and Mariem is a sophomore, so the team brought three-generation perspectives to the design.”

The team conducted extensive research before beginning the design process. Over the summer, they administered an online survey to determine what the campus meant to old and new AUCians. They then held multiple focus groups, narrowing down their designs until the two finalists were shown to President Francis Ricciardone. The final selection embodied what AUCians had expressed in the survey: that everyone related to AUC’s architecture, specifically its idiosyncratic arches and portals. “We worked throughout the summer, mainly on research,” explained Khalil, one of the student designers. “We went to the library and the archives, and this is where the design stemmed from. We wanted to base our design on AUC’s architecture, so we looked at books about that and studied photos of the campus.”

For the students, it was very important that the coin would resonate with the AUC community. “This wasn’t just a theoretical project; it was something that was going to be made,” said Ibrahim, another student designer. “Your eyes and your professor’s eyes are not the only ones that will see this. Everyone has to understand it, and it has to be of value for all. Architecture is the connecting dot between all the generations.”

Explaining what he hopes people would envision when they look at the coin, Khalil noted, “I hope they get a feel of the heritage of this institution and realize that’s it’s been there for a very long time.”

The final coin features two striped arches on one side, one slightly smaller than the other, bowing together to create an impossible bridge where they alluringly meet in the middle. “We picked the old and the new arches and morphed them together,” Ibrahim said, explaining how they used a rendition of AUC’s classic arch to connect the old with the new. It seemed fitting to ElSrakbi that the campus would be the inspiration behind the coin’s design. “The campus is where everything happens, where people meet, where people study, and where faculty and students spend time together. The campus itself is a kind of time capsule,” she said.

Besides reflecting the values and history of AUC, the coin’s design also carries symbolic weight. “The arches connect the past to the future, and the portals take on another meaning. They become a portal to the past, where 100 years ago, people walked through the first arched portal to AUC,” Samir explained.

Beyond the design, the five students who worked on the centennial coin also got exposure to the technical side of the design process. They had to make sure the coin’s design — including logo size, spacing and lettering — all conformed to government standards. “Working on a coin is not something you get to do every day. It was cool because we got to see the technical part of it,” said Kurdi, a student on the design team. Samir and ElSrakbi both believe that creating the coin and going
through the minting process gave the students valuable real-world work experience. “It was the first time I produced something that would go out into the world; it’s very meaningful,” Khalil expressed.

The students also designed a unique packaging for the coin. While it has not been finalized, the essential concept was to make the package interactive, with fold-out flaps containing information about AUC and 100 years of its events. “It’s not designed to go into a drawer. It’s designed to stand,” Samir explained proudly.

There will be both a silver and a gold coin for sale. The silver coins will be available for sale at the AUC Bookstores, while some of the gold coins will be given as gifts to donors and trustees. The rest will potentially be auctioned off. AUC ordered 1,000 silver coins and 20 gold coins. The coins will be sold for a bank set value. Samir hopes that AUC will always keep one gold coin, “perhaps in a time capsule or in the University Archives,” she said.

The coin is ultimately a celebration of AUC’s 100 years of learning, growth and service in and outside of the University walls. “As well as commemorating this important occasion, these coins will help raise money for student-related causes and scholarships,” explained Lamia Eid ’82, ’92, head of the Materials and Collateral Taskforce for the centennial.

“One hundred years is a big thing, so commemorating this event is really important,” added Fawzy, a student on the team.

As ElSrakbi explained, the coin is a perfect vehicle because it withstands time. “The coin, as a medium, has been there for so long, as an object to preserve the memory of an event that happens,” speculated ElSrakbi. “By collecting it, you preserve this event for the future, but you are also trying to talk about the past.”
For Farkhonda Hassan (MSc ‘67), the phrase “mother knows best” takes on an entirely new meaning. Hassan, professor emerita in the School of Sciences and Engineering, has been teaching at AUC for 55 years. Her extensive list of students includes Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan ‘91 and Nabil Fahmy ‘74, ‘77, Egypt’s former foreign minister and founding dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Yet, she has some particular students she especially enjoyed teaching at AUC — her children and grandchildren.

Hassan’s daughter, Wegdan Lotfi ’79, ’91, was previously an adjunct faculty member at AUC’s Department of Chemistry and had taught her own children as well, including Omar Khalifa ‘08. “He got a B minus in my class,” Lotfi said jokingly.

Khalifa also reflected, laughing, “Most of the people I meet say, ‘Oh, your mother is Wegdan; your grandmother is Farkhonda. She taught me; she taught me!’”

As AUC’s centennial approaches, Hassan, Lotfi and Khalifa sat together in the living room of Hassan’s home, surrounded by photographs and family mementos, and reflected on what this centennial means to them as a multigenerational family of AUCians.

Hassan, who was present for the University’s 75th anniversary in 1994, said she can’t believe the centennial is this year. “I have been at AUC for more than half a century.”
a century. I never imagined that I would make it to the centennial, but I really feel happy to be here,” Hassan said. “I feel like I am part of AUC and AUC is part of me.”

**The Start of A Legacy**

Hassan, who first joined AUC as a graduate student to study solid-state science in the Department of Chemistry, still finds herself happiest when she is teaching. “I’m a little bit tired of walking across the new campus between classes,” she said with a smile. “But still, I find myself in the classroom.”

In 1964, only a year into graduate school, Hassan was appointed assistant instructor. “Maybe I was a good teacher or something. Omar knows,” she laughed, gesturing to Khalifa.

When she graduated two years later, Hassan left Egypt to earn her PhD in geology from the University of Pittsburg, after which she returned to teach geology at AUC. In addition to being a celebrated scientist and prominent professor, Hassan is also co-chair of the Gender Advisory Board of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as well as secretary-general of the Suzanne Mubarak International Economic Forum, of Egypt’s International Economic Forum, and a member of Egypt’s National Council on Human Development and Local Administration in parliament. She was also named an honorary life member of the International Parliamentary Union.

Hassan’s years of teaching, she has not only taught her own children and grandchildren, but her friends’ children and grandchildren as well. She recounted with amusement the number of times students in her class, who were children and grandchildren of her friends, were too shy to introduce themselves as relatives of her friends. “I feel very happy when I teach the generations of my students,” said Hassan. “I’m very proud of them.”

Hassan said having her grandchildren in class taught her things she didn’t previously know about them. “Like Omar, for example, he’s very independent. I didn’t know that before,” Hassan said. “I learned that when he gets an idea, he will do it no matter what. He perseveres.”

Hassan recalled a time when Lotfi was in her class. She raised her hand and asked Hassan why she had received an incorrect mark on an exam when she believed she had answered every question correctly.

“She came up to the podium and asked me to show her what was wrong on her exam,” said Hassan. I told her, ‘You see this? I couldn’t read it.’ When she turned to sit down, she said something, and the entire class laughed. Mother’s Day was two days away, and, apparently, she mouthed to the class, ‘I’m not getting her a Mother’s Day gift.'”

**Learning from the Best**

After graduating from AUC’s Department of Chemistry in 1979 and having her four grandchildren, Lotfi earned her master’s in solid-state physics in 1991. A former member of the Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement and a former member of Egypt’s International Economic Forum, Lotfi prides her family in their “respect for hard work.”

“I love teaching because it’s in my blood,” said Lotfi. “My kids appreciate work — all of them. They all took courses with me, but they knew that they had to study.”

Lotfi tributes everything she learned about being a faculty member to her previous professors at AUC. “I remember any advice I was given,” she reflected. “In all my life stages, I’ve had these beautiful professors. Everyone who taught me in the department helped me build character,” said Lotfi. “I was shaped at AUC.”

Unlike their mother and grandmother, neither Omar Khalifa nor his two brothers, Khaled ’04 and Youssef ’17 chose the science route at AUC. At first, Lotfi insisted that her eldest son, Khaled, take science courses. To convince him, she arranged for him to meet with a particularly persuasive professor.

“I left them together in her office for nearly an hour. When he came out, he told me, ‘She’s so kind. She convinced me to do what I want.’” Lotfi said, recalling her shock.

“I asked him, ‘What do you want?’ and he said, ‘I want to go into political science.’ And that’s what he did, and he started getting better grades and was happy.”

From that moment on, Lotfi decided to step back from her children’s studies. “When it was Omar’s turn, I told him, ‘You do what you want,’” Lotfi said.

As an active member of AUC’s student body, Khalifa founded the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa organization, was a member of the Student Union, served as the Master of Ceremonies and a member of Egypt’s National Council for Women since 2000.

Elected to the Egyptian Parliament in 1979 and serving there until 1984, Hassan is currently chair of the Commission on Human Development and Local Administration in parliament. She was also named an honorary life member of the International Parliamentary Union.

In Hassan’s years of teaching, she has not only taught her own children and grandchildren, but her friends’ children and grandchildren as well. She recounted with amusement the number of times students in her class, who were children and grandchildren of her friends, were too shy to introduce themselves as relatives of her friends. “I feel very happy when I teach the generations of my students,” said Hassan. “I’m very proud of them.”

Hassan said having her grandchildren in class taught her things she didn’t previously know about them. “Like Omar, for example, he’s very independent. I didn’t know that before,” Hassan said. “I learned that when he gets an idea, he will do it no matter what. He perseveres.”

Hassan recalled a time when Lotfi was in her class. She raised her hand and asked Hassan why she had received an incorrect mark on an exam when she believed she had answered every question correctly.

“She came up to the podium and asked me to show her what was wrong on her exam,” said Hassan. I told her, ‘You see this? I couldn’t read it.’ When she turned to sit down, she said something, and the entire class laughed. Mother’s Day was two days away, and, apparently, she mouthed to the class, ‘I’m not getting her a Mother’s Day gift.’”

**Learning from the Best**

After graduating from AUC’s Department of Chemistry in 1979 and having her four children, Lotfi earned her master’s in solid-state physics in 1991. A former member of the Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement and a former member of Egypt’s International Economic Forum, Lotfi prides her family in their “respect for hard work.”

“I love teaching because it’s in my blood,” said Lotfi. “My kids appreciate work — all of them. They all took courses with me, but they knew that they had to study.”

Lotfi tributes everything she learned about being a faculty member to her previous professors at AUC. “I remember any advice I was given,” she reflected. “In all my life stages, I’ve had these beautiful professors. Everyone who taught me in the department helped me build character,” said Lotfi. “I was shaped at AUC.”

Unlike their mother and grandmother, neither Omar Khalifa nor his two brothers, Khaled ’04 and Youssef ’17 chose the science route at AUC. At first, Lotfi insisted that her eldest son, Khaled, take science courses. To convince him, she arranged for him to meet with a particularly persuasive professor.

“I left them together in her office for nearly an hour. When he came out, he told me, ‘She’s so kind. She convinced me to do what I want.’” Lotfi said, recalling her shock.

“I asked him, ‘What do you want?’ and he said, ‘I want to go into political science.’ And that’s what he did, and he started getting better grades and was happy.”

From that moment on, Lotfi decided to step back from her children’s studies. “When it was Omar’s turn, I told him, ‘You do what you want,’” Lotfi said.

As an active member of AUC’s student body, Khalifa founded the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa organization, was a member of the Student Union, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Student Union Talk Show at Ewart Memorial Hall and was a top player for the University’s water polo team.

After graduating with a bachelor’s in political science, specializing in international relations, Khalifa founded his own publishing and advertising company, Omedia, in 2009. Inspired by the employment fairs at AUC, Khalifa launched Shaghalni.com in 2015. He had a five-minute meeting to pitch the idea to the person who he says inspired him the most, Naguib Sawiris. The pitch resulted in Sawiris investing in the company.

Though Khalifa describes himself as more business-oriented, he still took a
class with his mother. He recalled in one of Lotfi’s assignments, there was the option to either give a presentation on something small, write a paper or create a drawing.

“I draw very well, so naturally, I picked drawing,” said Khalifa. “I woke up in the morning before class, and in minutes, I drew a perfect solar eclipse. When I went to class and gave it to my mother, my friend told her, ‘He just made that 10 minutes ago.’ She knows I’m a good artist and told me I had to do the presentation instead. He ruined the plan,” Khalifa said, as his mother laughed.

Khalifa said the most important lesson learned after taking his grandmother’s class was the meaning of integrity. “During lunch at her house, she wouldn’t answer any of my questions regarding the course,” Khalifa recalled. “Instead, she would tell me to visit her during office hours so I don’t receive any extra treatment.”

A member of the Alumni Council and the AUC Fund committee, Khalifa hosts yearly employment fairs on the Tahrir Square campus as his way of “giving back” to AUC for fueling his ambition. “All of my ideas and dreams were created while studying at AUC,” he said.

Making it Count
As a faculty member, Hassan is most proud of her students because they learn how to navigate life while studying at AUC. “It is not just a degree. It is a way of thinking and living,” said Hassan.

Khalifa said AUC’s impact on its students is evident throughout Egypt. “This is one of the oldest, most well-established universities in Egypt,” he said. “Everywhere you go, even in the biggest companies you’ll always find an AUCian on the decision-making team.”

“The University gives space for students to think out of the box,” Lotfi agreed. “It encourages self-development and learning to the utmost.”

Khalifa added that not everyone knows his family’s relationship to AUC. “But when they know,” chimed in Hassan, “They link everything,” Khalifa finished.

“Having a family of AUCians — my son, my daughter, my in-laws and my grandchildren — is really great. I think we belong to the AUC culture. All of us.”

AUC is in us. I mean, we are all AUCians,” said Lotfi, while Carla steadied herself against her great-grandmother.

As Lotfi spoke, Khalifa’s 2-year-old daughter Carla wobbled from one chair to the next. “The fourth generation of AUCians!” Khalifa said jokingly, as everyone laughed.

Professor Emerita Farkhonda Hassan (MSc ’67) with her daughter Wegdan Lotfi ’79, ’91; Lotfi with her father at her graduation; Omar Khalifa ’09 at his graduation; Khalifa with his daughter Carla, the fourth generation of AUCians in the family
“We are a Jordanian-Saudi family that is proud of its AUCian roots, which go back to the year 1928, when our great uncle joined AUC. There are many more AUCian aunts, uncles and cousins in our family. It is the fond memories at AUC that our family takes back when we travel to our countries.”
— Rania Jabr (MA ‘90)
AUC Professor Blase Donadio

decided on the spur of the moment to buy a car during his three-day stopover in Rome, managing to bring it back to AUC with him. When he arrived, he described the students’ excitement: “The students were all agog to see the miracle car that was brought from Rome in six days. They immediately baptized her Zarifa, an all-inclusive name meaning anything from hellish to angelic. Decals were made by an art student to adorn the window and a woven red Zarifa doll to sit primly on the instrument panel.”

Chonchette Youssef Rizkalla ’63

“I remember a very funny [and] mischievous incident which took place during my sophomore year. It was a history class, and the teacher had some prejudice. She liked some students more than others, and I was among the unlucky ones. It was during winter, and it was a dreary afternoon and most of the students as well as the teacher were half drowsy. We had a report to prepare from some outside readings, which was to be read in the class. I was the first to be summoned to deliver my report. I spoke for 10 minutes. I was told that my report was not full and does not deserve more than a C. I sat with a scowl on my face, dissatisfied with the grade.

After two more reports, a friend of mine was called to deliver her report, which she did not prepare. She snatched my report, and audaciously, she began reading it. A few of the students who saw her take my report began smiling peevishly. Everyone was in suspense, wondering whether the teacher would discover the trick. Amidst the suspense, we fretfully giggled. We were scolded for our misbehavior. I was reprimanded for being so irresponsible as to laugh when my grade was C, instead of listening attentively to the report, which was graded A. Such is luck, fellow students. My report, the one I wrote, was twice-graded: once C for Miss ‘Unlucky’ and once A for Miss ‘Lucky.”

Pierre Cachia ’42

“Dr. Howard taught me English. I can still remember his particular technique. Whenever I submitted a paper, if there was one word that wasn’t quite right, he would just put a tiny little tick with his pencil underneath it. There was no indication of what the right word ought to be, just a little tick. And I would go home, puzzle over it and spend a couple of hours searching through the dictionaries until I found the right word to replace it by. Well, I think I still do this when I’m working on an article or book. If I put down a word that isn’t quite right, I almost see Dr. Howard’s little tick underneath it, and I still spend a couple hours searching through the dictionaries until I find the right one.”

The 1987 Caravan posted a piece titled “Cats! Cats! Cats!” about how the sixth-floor lounge of the Falaki girls’ hostel had been filled with cats, who "seem to have mistaken the place for a shelter.”
John Badeau, AUC president (1945-1953)

“Naguib Rihany, the great popular playwright of social significance, died suddenly in Egypt. That year, one of our girls had made Naguib Rihany and the social objectives of his plays the subject of her senior thesis, and she spent a year on this. She talked to Rihany and she read all his plays, and when he died, this really was the only account available about his philosophy of acting, a list of his works and how he went about it. It became very valuable. We sent one copy to the Library of Congress. The Egyptian government had a copy. And the girl who did it had a type of education that she just wouldn’t get out of a book.”

James Quay, worked at AUC, report from the 1920s:

“Dr. Robert S. McClenahan was the Dean of the American University in Cairo. He was quite an able man, of big stature and fine presence. He was nearly blind by the time he died. The last time I saw him, he told me about standing on the street, on the corner, on the edge of 5th Avenue, New York, alone waiting for the traffic to stop so that he could get across with safety. As he stood there waiting, a friendly hand took him by the arm and gave him a little push, and the two of them went across the street in perfect safety to the other side. This stranger turned to McClenahan and thanked him very much. And McClenahan said, ‘What are you thanking me for?’ ‘Why, for getting me across the street,’ the stranger responded. ‘You see, I’m blind.’”

James Quay, worked at AUC, report from the 1920s:

“Dr. Watson loved to entertain, and at his house, they would set a table and everything would be arranged. During dinner, Dr. Watson would break in with a new subject all set in his mind that would make a good conversation piece. In fact, I believe he had a whole string of topics for conversation scribbled on the inside of his cuff to assure that the table conversation would be kept on the rails and not run off into small matters that weren’t pertinent.”

P.J Vatikiotis, 1944-1948

“General AUC characters in those days were the Zabit, a sort of discipline officer, who, when he was not prowling about, sat at a desk on the right-hand side beneath the central stairway of the main building. He made certain people went to class, did not lie about smoking on campus or cavorting with the odd female, and wrote the list of the day’s post on a blackboard precariously hung against the iron railing fence on the main gate.”
To a student coming fresh from an American college to A.U.C.,
the change is not so tremendous as it might seem. Especially do the
outward things; athletics on the field, assembly every morning, the
extra-curricular activities of the Review, clubs and orchestra, make
one feel at home.

But among the greatest differences which I find between A.U.C. and
my college at home is the feeling of unusual co-operation between
student and teacher. With a small number enrolled in the school, the
classes are small enough for each student to feel himself an individual.
In contrast to some lecture courses given to one hundred and seventy
five students in my home college, to be in a class where each one of
the six is doing independent, individual work, is stimulating.

The advantages which every student in A.U.C. has, in coming in
contact with students of other races and creeds, is to me, marvelous.
For in my college, with a comparatively small enrollment of sixteen
hundred, we are most of us from American homes of the same type.

Cairo in itself is proving to be so fascinating a place just in which
to live, that I regret that there is not more time to see things and go
various places. To a Westerner new to the near east, there is an ever
present thrill in strolling into a darkened Coptic Church, exploring odd
corners of the Mouski, seeing strange sight near the tombs of the
Mamelukes, visiting in an Egyptian home, or perhaps just trying to get
about town, and getting consistently lost, because the only two Arabic
words to one's credit are "malesh" and "saida," which certainly are
not helpful in getting home.

After only three weeks of school, I'm more than ever convinced that
if more students would make as a part of their education a transfer
into the schools or educational systems of another country, there
would be as a result, a marvelous decrease in some of the most
stupid of race prejudice. We Americans, who are here in Egypt, a
foreign country to us, and the Egyptian students who are studying
here under a system foreign to their own, are both gaining this sort of
exchange education. It seems to me that there is unusual value in it.

I can only add that the extreme courtesy and friendliness with which
all of us co-eds have been treated is another thing which makes going
to school in the A.U.C. a profit and a pleasure to me. — I.W.

This article was published by Imogene Ward in The AUC Review, the University's first student
newspaper, on Friday, October 31, 1930.
Did You Know? AUC’s first commencement was held in June 1923, with diplomas awarded to 20 graduates. The valedictorian at the first commencement was Salah Ed Din Hafiz Awad, who went on to enter Oberlin College in the United States as a junior. In June 1928, the first University-level bachelor’s degrees were awarded to three students: Abdel Kader Namani, Edmund Alexander and Edmund Abdel Noor. All three joined the AUC faculty in September 1928. Namani, professor of mathematics, went on to become undergraduate dean in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The first three University graduates also established AUC’s Alumni Association in 1931. The first AUC graduate degree was awarded in June 1950 — a Master of Arts in Arabic language and literature.