A

s I reflect on the 2004-2005 academic year, I am both excited by what AUC has achieved and energized by the possibilities in the future. The world has increasingly turned its attention to the Middle East, intensifying the demand for institutions and individuals who can bridge language, cultural and geographical barriers. Through its diverse outreach and research activities, AUC is meeting that demand. Its graduates in every discipline serve as representatives for the region and agents for its continued development.

Looking back at the year, we welcomed a steady stream of regional and international figures who chose AUC as a venue to discuss everything from political stability to regional development. AUC also spearheaded several important initiatives that included the Knowledge Society Symposium and the launch of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research.

AUC’s real strength, however, remains the people: the talented core of qualified, international faculty who are the driving force behind the university’s programs and the energetic student body that brings vitality and diversity to our campus. This report showcases several examples of our outstanding faculty and the impressive students on our campus. In fact, last year, we welcomed the largest freshman class and the highest number of international students in the university’s history at the time. Through tougher acceptance standards and expanded scholarship offerings, we are ensuring that AUC attracts the finest students in Egypt and the region.

Meanwhile, the progress on the new campus construction is remarkable. Achieving a major milestone this year with the signing of the contract for above-the-ground construction, we are steadily realizing the dream of a new home for AUC.

With your continued support, together we will work to ensure that AUC is stronger than ever — the region’s premier university — as it prepares to move to its new home.
Much of the work taking place at AUC is focused on ensuring that the university is positioned to meet the challenges it will face when it relocates from its present downtown campus to New Cairo. As the university prepares to make this historic move, we recognize that this will not only provide AUC with a state-of-the-art campus, but will also serve as an opportunity for all of us to re-examine and revitalize every aspect of an AUC education. Beyond providing better facilities, the university must also continue to invest in the enhancement and development of its academic programs, extracurricular activities and cultural outreach.

On the academic side, the university has expanded course offerings in new majors, introduced measures to attract and retain the most highly qualified faculty and worked to enhance the academic experience it offers students. That experience — an American-style liberal arts education, deeply embedded in the context of Egypt and the Arab world — is enriched by a lively campus that attracts prominent intellectuals and leaders from around the world. Last year, AUC was honored to host a distinguished list of high-profile visitors that included U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Al-Azhar Grand Sheikh Mohamed Tantawi.

As for the new campus, I am pleased to report that construction is moving ahead at a steady pace. We have reached an important milestone with the Comprehensive Capital Campaign, surpassing 80 percent of our $100 million target. We expect to reach our goal with the continued support of our alumni and friends.

This marks my first year as chairman, and I am grateful to Paul Hannon for his thoughtful guidance. Paul served as chairman since 1998. His devotion to AUC and determination to ensure its success make him a wonderful role model and inspiration for myself and other trustees. We all continue to benefit from his remarkable leadership.
In a pioneering step, AUC and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina held the first annual Knowledge Society Symposium — a two-day conference that brought together key international and regional players to discuss higher education and the creation of a knowledge-based society in the Arab world. The symposium’s participants included ministers from Egypt and Jordan, diplomats, presidents of major universities in the Middle East, a Nobel laureate, high-level officials from the U.S. Department of State, representatives of the various United Nations agencies and the president of the Ford Foundation.

Tackling the issue of higher education in the Arab world, the symposium focused on potential solutions and possible paths to progress. “Our intent is for this conference to be forward-thinking and action-oriented,” said AUC President David D. Arnold at the inauguration. “One of our goals for the symposium is to … discuss promising new approaches and reform initiatives geared toward knowledge-based development.”

The symposium was composed of four main sessions that covered topics ranging from capacity building and quality in higher education to policy reform. Each session included one or more major presentations by experts in the field followed by an open-format discussion.

Interspersed throughout the conference were several special addresses. In the first address, Susan Berresford, president of the Ford Foundation, called for widening access to education, especially among the developing world’s most underprivileged. She spoke about the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program, a unique initiative designed to find ways to reach new categories of students not formally in the higher education system.
“Broad and assured access to quality education is an essential ingredient in modern and successful states,” said Berresford.

Fayza Aboulnaga, Egypt’s minister of international cooperation, delivered the second special address. Stressing the importance of joint initiatives, Aboulnaga called for an expanded role for international partnerships. “We must not think of international partnerships as a means of providing knowledge from those who have it to those who don’t. Rather, the most fitting potential of international partnership lies in sharing knowledge while preserving diversity at the core of enriched scientific research,” she said.

Another address was given by AUC Trustee Ahmed Zewail, Nobel laureate and Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Physics at the California Institute of Technology. Zewail honed in on the necessity of creating a knowledge society to bring the Arab world in line with the demands of the 21st century. “There is no way out of investing in research and development. If you buy what’s available in the market and stand still for a while, you will ultimately be in a backward situation,” he asserted.

After the concentrated discussions covering a vast array of topics, a wrap-up session adjourned the symposium and synthesized its recommendations. Concluding the symposium, Ismail Serageldin, director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and librarian of Alexandria, called the group to action: “Within this group, this emergent coalition, this nascent network and the networks that each of us have, we should be able to promote many knowledge-based initiatives. We should meet again periodically to measure our achievements, assess our shortcomings and draw strength from our shared values to redouble our efforts.”
Working to develop AUC as a premier center for scientific research in the Arab region, the newly established Science and Technology Research Center (STRC) is taking a multidisciplinary approach and fostering the transfer of knowledge through a variety of partnerships.

Established as a result of the generous support of Yousef Jameel ’68, the STRC’s interdisciplinary work is consolidated in three primary research areas: materials, micro fabrication and physical chemistry.

Fadel Assabghy, former dean of AUC’s sciences and engineering school, heads the STRC. “My ultimate goal is for the STRC to become a local, national and regional center of excellence,” said Assabghy, who joined the physics unit at AUC in 1970 and was instrumental in developing the electronics option as an applied program within the physics curriculum.

The STRC exemplifies positive collaboration in the transfer of technology through its partnership with the Nanoscience Centre at the University of Cambridge. Mark Welland, director of Cambridge’s Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration in Nanotechnology, “has been associated with the center since its inception and continues to be closely involved in all aspects of the STRC’s development,” said Assabghy. The STRC is also engaged in collaborative...
research with the Interuniversity MicroElectronics Centre of Belgium and is initiating projects with the National Research Center in Egypt.

In the future, the center is poised to venture into molecular biology and biotechnology. “We are entering an era where bacteria are genetically modified to produce pharmaceuticals, DNA fingerprinting is routine in courtrooms and genetically modified crops are producing disease-resistant fruits and vegetables,” said Hassan Azzazy, associate professor of chemistry who will soon begin his own antibody-based bioengineering research at the center. “These fields will propel AUC in the right direction.”

In addition, the STRC supports a variety of nanoscale and technology-oriented projects that make use of its state-of-the-art equipment. Assabghy insists that people, however, are the center’s key assets, adding that a priority has been placed on attracting the highest caliber researchers to join the team of internationally renowned and published Arab scientists from around the world who are working together to steer the center’s future research activities. “The human resources are as important, if not much more important than the equipment,” said Assabghy. “They bring the talent, enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation and teamwork that is essential for innovative scientific research.”
Helping to foster independent research in American studies both within AUC and the wider Cairo community, the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) was launched to create greater understanding of American culture and society.

“The center is one pillar of a bridge connecting the divide between the United States and the Arab world. … The educational process has to extend not only to policy makers and opinion molders, but to the young as well,” said Prince Alwaleed, whose gift served as a catalyst for the center’s establishment.

In addition to organizing conferences, lectures and short courses on various features of U.S. society, the center plans to expand the academic curriculum at AUC in American studies and create an information resource tool. An outreach program will also include the training and education of Egyptian and Arab scholars, diplomats, journalists and citizens so that they would be better able to understand American society, culture and politics.

At the inaugural conference, held one month before the 2004 U.S. presidential election, speakers from Egypt and the United States delved into the intricacies of the U.S. democratic and electoral process. Prominent political scholars such as William Quandt, Edward Stettinius Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, and Allan Lichtman, history professor at the American University in Washington D.C., debated the factors shaping the elections and their impact on the Middle East.
Bringing both U.S. and Arab perspectives into the shaping of its program, the center is co-directed by an American and an Egyptian. With an extensive background in American studies, Executive Director Glen Johnson holds the Citigroup Foundation directorship of the center. In the early 1990s, Johnson spent three years as director of the American Studies Research Center in Hyderabad, India. He is professor emeritus of political science at Vassar College, where he had a 40-year teaching career and served as acting president twice. He is the author of several books and a number of articles on U.S. foreign policy, international human rights and India’s foreign policy.

Serving as CASAR’s academic director, Manar El Shorbagy is a specialist in American government. Her master’s thesis was the first to be written in Egypt on U.S. presidential elections, and her doctoral dissertation was the first to be written in Egypt about the U.S. Congress. In 2003, El Shorbagy was a scholar-in-residence at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C.

Commenting on the importance of the center, El Shorbagy noted that there is a growing need for understanding the American political mindset, especially with the United States having a tremendous influence on countries around the world and the Middle East in particular. Sharing the same viewpoint, Johnson said, “The center will provide programs so that new generations of Egyptians may understand the United States more fully and examine America and American policy in a more informed way.”
UC’s Forced Migration and Refugee Studies (FMRS) program serves as a hub for the study and advocacy of refugee issues in the region and the world. With a graduate diploma and extensive outreach and research components, the program is designed to meet the needs of humanitarian workers, researchers and academics working on topics related to migration and the plight of refugees. Only five years into its inception, the FMRS program has grown to be the largest academic and research center dealing with refugee issues in Africa and the Middle East.

“FMRS gives the opportunity for its participants to gain hands-on experience with refugees. Students not only teach English, Arabic, computer skills and community interpretation to refugees, they also provide technical support for legal-aid projects. This helps them understand refugees’ real-life situation,” said Barbara Harrell-Bond, distinguished adjunct professor, one of the program’s initiators and a world-renowned expert on refugee issues. Harrell-Bond was recently awarded the title of Order of the British Empire in recognition of her years of service to refugees worldwide.

During the past year, the program launched a number of initiatives, offering
four FMRS graduate fellowships, as well as introducing an Arabic short course on refugee law. More than 40 students from various human rights organizations in Egypt, foreign consulates, as well as local and international organizations working with refugees, took part in the course.

Serving as director of the FMRS program, Fateh Azzam, former program officer at the Ford Foundation, brings both a local perspective and personal experience. A Palestinian refugee and human rights activist, Azzam routinely invites prominent speakers to the university and works to establish an ongoing collaboration with local, regional and international organizations that deal directly with refugees. His aim is to consolidate research on the situation of refugees and their families, and to build the capacities of human rights organizations to defend their rights.

“People should come out of the FMRS program with adequate knowledge and skills on how to build a better situation for refugees worldwide,” he said. “Refugees have long been neglected as an area of study and assistance, and the link between human rights and refugees needs to be strengthened. … This area of work has to be promoted and expanded.”
Teaching Arabic in an Arab Context

UC’s Arabic Language Institute (ALI) has enjoyed an international reputation for more than 30 years, attracting students, diplomats and business professionals from around the world. In the last academic year, ALI experienced a 42 percent increase in the number of its students, due to a growing interest in the region.

The program’s success depends in large part on its quality teachers, most of whom were trained in AUC’s Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (TAFL) program.

Mariam Attia, an AUC alumna, exemplifies ALI’s faculty. Attia graduated with a bachelor’s in international relations and had dreams of working to help bring peace to the world. “I enjoyed my studies, but toward the end I realized it’s very difficult to make a difference as an individual,” she said. Teaching Arabic to foreigners provided her with the international environment she desired. “It’s a better opportunity for peace and to make a difference as an individual,” said Attia.

She began teaching in ALI in 1995 while pursuing her master’s in TAFL, becoming a full-time teacher in 2001. Marco Vasconi, an Italian student, attests to the quality teaching. “ALI is an excellent and demanding program,” he said. “Thanks to outstanding teachers like Mariam Attia, who have a great talent for teaching, learning Arabic is so interesting.”

Through teaching Arabic, Attia is impacting not only the lives of her students, but also her own. “Many people find happiness in getting or having things, forgetting that giving is a source of pleasure too,” she said. “In the Arabic tradition, knowledge is a blessing and a trust that has to be passed on.”
Providing a multidisciplinary framework for studying the history and culture of the Middle East, AUC’s Arabic studies program is designed to instill in students an awareness and appreciation of the region’s heritage. From Arabic literature and Middle Eastern history to Islamic art and architecture, the program provides a broad perspective on Arab civilization from classic to modern times.

“At AUC, we teach more courses in English on Islamic art and architecture than any other university worldwide. This provides local students with a great opportunity to learn more about their cultural heritage and enables foreign students to appreciate one of the world’s great artistic traditions,” said Bernard O’Kane, Arabic studies professor and head of the Islamic art and architecture unit. O’Kane recently won the World Prize for the Book of the Year from Iran for his most recent publication, Early Persian Painting: Kalila and Dimna Manuscripts of the Late Fourteenth Century.

Helping to galvanize student research, the Annual History Seminar is a key element of the university’s Arabic studies program. For 10 years, the seminar has addressed topics of local and regional interest. Under the title “Uses of Waqf: Pious Endowments, Founders and Beneficiaries,” last year’s seminar brought presenters from different parts of the globe.

“Waqf is an important historical concept that has impacted Arab and Islamic society on various fronts. It is important to see what historical factors shaped the meaning of waqf across time,” said Nelly Hanna, Arabic studies professor and the event’s coordinator.
Having had the opportunity to attend a year at AUC as part of the Leadership for Education and Development (LEAD) program, Amira Hassanein considers herself privileged. “I feel different from the rest of the AUC students,” she said. “The program has helped me develop my leadership skills and has made me more aware of my country’s problems. I not only have a desire to make a change, but I am getting expert opinions on the way to make it happen. … I am confident I will be able to help Egypt in the future.”

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Egyptian Ministry for International Cooperation, LEAD is an outreach program that awards top Arabic public school students in Egypt a full undergraduate scholarship to study at AUC. It aims to build future leaders for Egypt by instilling in its recipients the knowledge, attitude and skills to become active players in their country’s development.

For three consecutive years, a male and a female student from each of Egypt’s 27 governorates will be selected after a rigorous process. The admission criteria are based on academic standing, participation in extracurricular activities, performance on AUC’s entrance examination and personal interviews.

As part of the program, each LEAD student is required to take part in a community service club, hold a summer internship, help set up a regional conference and organize an annual youth conference at AUC. Alongside their academic life, students attend a management development program.

“LEAD is a golden opportunity,” said Hassanein.
I used to believe that textbooks were everything in life. I used to think that academic achievements are the only achievements worth working for. If I had continued on that trend, I’m sure I would have been a successful engineer, but I’m not sure I would have been as happy a person as I am now,” said Ameen Roshdy ’05.

A mechanical engineering graduate and recipient of the John and Gail Gerhart Public School Scholarship, Roshdy looks back at his university years with passion and appreciation. “AUC is a great place to learn,” he said. “That’s not only because of what we take in class; AUC’s greatest influence is on the personality — on the way its students think.”

With a demanding career ahead of him as a technical engineer at British Petroleum, Roshdy believes that his years as an undergraduate shaped his outlook. “My experience expanded my view of things and helped me define my goals. I now have dreams bigger than just being successful at work,” he said. “I want to be able to contribute in different areas of life. … I want to have a positive effect on my community at home, at work and in my country as a whole.”

Roshdy is among 72 students who have graduated under AUC’s Public School Scholarship Fund. Established in 1990, the fund expanded in 2000 under the leadership of AUC’s late former President John Gerhart. Today, thanks to the contributions of alumni, friends and corporations, the fund grants full scholarships to 20 of Egypt’s most outstanding public school students. More than 70 percent of its recipients have graduated with high or highest honors.
Graduating at the top of her class from the German high school she attended in Egypt, Farida Makar found doors open at many universities in Egypt and abroad, some offering full tuition scholarships to lure the young scholar. Makar, however, decided not to accept any scholarships to other schools; her heart was set on AUC.

With aspirations to become a diplomat, either in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or in the United Nations, she realized that four years as an undergraduate student at AUC would prove invaluable.

“I decided a long time ago to come to AUC,” said Makar. “For political science, this is the place to study. The scholarship was great, but I wanted to stay in Egypt to learn more about politics here. I chose AUC over other universities because of its good reputation in political science.”

Makar is among the growing pool of highly qualified applicants who are selecting AUC. The 2004-2005 incoming class was the largest in AUC history at the time. The number of undergraduates who enrolled at AUC rose from 548 to 812, representing a 48 percent increase. Similarly, graduate students increased by 36 percent, from 196 to 266.

As admission to the university becomes more selective every year, AUC is accepting the brightest students like Makar. Cut-off scores for acceptance into the university have become higher, including everything from eligibility for achievement scholarships to acceptance to the various majors.

Last year, AUC also began allowing incoming students to declare their major upon admission, a change designed to meet the needs of students and parents.
From Comoros to Cameroon, and Sierra Leone to Sudan, top students from the African continent are attracted to AUC’s African Graduate Fellowship program, which accepts on average 10 new students each year. The fellowship began in 1987 with support from the Ford Foundation, and AUC took responsibility for all funding during the 1990s. Since its inception, the program has produced more than 120 graduates in a variety of fields. Many of the fellowship recipients, who arrive from any country in Africa excluding Egypt, are playing an active role in the development of their countries.

Mbeh Kevin Tabe was a student in his native Cameroon when he visited AUC in 2002 for the African Human Rights Moot Court competition that AUC hosted. He was impressed by the international human rights law program and saw the fellowship as an opportunity to pursue the degree. “Human rights is an area that is really under development in Cameroon,” he said. While some fellows may choose to enter doctoral programs abroad after graduating, Tabe is determined to return to Cameroon. “When I’m done, I want to go back and put what I’ve studied in practice,” he asserted.

Tabe also added that the fellowship, which provides full tuition and a monthly stipend for two years, is not just about covering the costs of education, but provides a support network. “It’s not limited to the money; it ensures a healthy social and cultural environment for graduate studies,” he said. In September 2005, Tabe revisited the moot court competition that originally brought him to AUC. This time, however, Tabe was representing AUC in South Africa, where his team placed second.
Creating a Path to Understanding the Middle East

Situated in Cairo, in the heart of Egypt and at the crossroads of the Middle East, AUC has long served as a prime destination for Westerners seeking to gain an inside perspective on Arab culture, Islamic tradition and Middle Eastern politics. Amid mounting interest in the region, the number of international students choosing to study at AUC has been rapidly growing.

In the 2004-2005 academic year, the number of study-abroad students rose from 151 to 218, a 44 percent increase from the previous year. Beyond the increased numbers, AUC also boasts a diverse student population that represents nearly 100 nationalities from around the world, making it a unique base for cultural exchange that can build bridges and foster mutual respect.

In search of a buzzing metropolis in which to spend her undergraduate years, Egyptology major Meredith Brand discovered AUC and Cairo. “The students here have opinions that I wouldn’t have gotten elsewhere, like the United States and Egypt having this weird love/hate relationship,” she said. “They see the United States as a place that they could benefit from, but they don’t want to be American. Being here has shown me both the good and bad in my own culture.”

Brand took to life in Cairo eagerly. “I was looking for an engaging, busy, noisy lifestyle, and I enjoy that about Egypt. I knew I would have a great time here after just a week,” she said.

In addition to feeling a sense of safety living in Cairo, Brand loves its central location as a hub for traveling across the region. “From here I can easily travel to Europe, East Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa,” she explained. “Being able to travel has encouraged my growth as a person.”
Combining technical backgrounds with sharp management skills, AUC’s Jameel MBA Fellowship Program’s graduates are the region’s next generation of industrial leaders. Heba Al-Mahdy, who joined the program in 2004, is crossing new frontiers as a woman. “I was once the youngest female group product manager in a marketing department dominated by older men. My job required me to lead, train and interact with an army of men from a totally different cultural and educational background. They weren’t used to being led by a woman, nor were they overcoming their perceptions of female leadership. It was a tough job, but eventually I gained their trust, confidence and respect. ... I believed in myself first and refused to accept the stereotyping of females,” she said.

Al-Mahdy saw the program as an opportunity to build on her work experience. “I come from a scientific background, so business to me was a world of mysteries that I was solving gradually, but I needed more knowledge to understand the core functions of doing business effectively and efficiently,” she said.

The highly competitive program, named after and financially supported by Yousef Jameel ’68, grants full tuition, a stipend for books and supplies, and covers living expenses for students who are not from Cairo. It was awarded to a total of 26 Egyptian and Palestinian students last year from a pool of more than 125 applicants.

Set to finish the program in Spring ’06, Al-Mahdy has learned an important lesson: “I believe my greatest challenge is to keep thinking outside of the box. I want to help others realize that a total change in the way we do things is only feasible when everyone is willing to accept and be a part of that change.”

Training Future Business Leaders
Part of AUC’s impressive library system, the Rare Books and Special Collections Library houses more than 50,000 items on the material culture of Egypt and the surrounding region during ancient, medieval and modern times.
The 2004-2005 academic year witnessed monumental progress on AUC’s new campus project. After the signing of an LE 850 million contract with the general contractor, a joint venture between the Korean partner Samsung and the Egyptian firm Samcrete, one of Egypt’s largest construction projects entered a new phase.

Rapidly bringing the designs to life, the new campus above-the-ground construction has transformed the site from an empty desert
to a noticeable addition in the New Cairo skyline. Throughout the construction site, cranes, pumps and bulldozers are humming away as the overlapping of various stages of construction work allows for greater efficiency in the project.

Given the complexity and scale of the project, the level of safety and quality control that has been achieved is exceptional. “We recently celebrated a fantastic milestone of 1,500,000 safe hours,” said civil engineer and site inspector Tamer Nasser in March 2005. This is also remarkable considering that “this is one of the biggest construction projects in the country, alongside the new Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh airports,” he added.

The campus is being built over a total area of 165,000 square meters and will use 24,000 tons of reinforcing steel, as well as 115,000 square meters of stone, marble, granite cladding and flooring. In addition to utilizing local materials, the site employs thousands of local construction workers and operates on a 10-hour shift each day. The current construction is designed to accommodate 5,500 full-time students and 1,500 faculty and staff members with plenty of room for expansion.

Once completed, AUC’s new campus will provide a learning space unlike any other in the region, fully equipped with modern classrooms, the latest in information technology, state-of-the-art laboratories and cutting-edge sports facilities.
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice chose AUC as her speaking venue during her visit to Egypt. In her speech, Rice addressed the Egyptian government, the elections and the emergency law, within the context of democracy in the Middle East.

During the Board of Trustees meeting in New York, Kofi Annan, United Nations secretary-general, spoke in memory of Nadia Younes. The Nadia Younes Memorial Fund was established at AUC in the name of the UN administrator who died during the August 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Iraq.

Working to foster collaboration between educational institutions in the region, AUC welcomed Sheikh Sultan Bin Muhammad Al-Qassimi, ruler of Sharjah, for a meeting with President David D. Arnold, AUC Trustee Moataz Al-Alfi, AUC Advisory Trustee Esmat Abdel Meguid and top university administrators.
Addressing the AUC community a few days before the start of Ramadan, Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Mohamed Tantawi, called for cooperation between people of different cultures and religions, adding that civilizations flourish only when people exhibit tolerance and understanding of one another.

Egypt’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Aboul Gheit served as keynote speaker and guest of honor at a special reunion on AUC’s Main Campus that brought together more than 50 alumni working in the foreign service and diplomatic fields.

AUC’s computer science team became regional programming champions after placing first at the seventh Association for Computing and Machinery contest. The team competed against 35 other teams representing 26 universities from 11 countries in the Arab world and North Africa.

Iraqi novelist and short-story writer Alia Mamdouh was awarded the 2004 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature for her novel Al-Mahbubat. Mamdouh is the 11th recipient of the award, which includes the translation and publication of her novel by AUC Press.
Watergate expert John Dean, who served as counsel to former U.S. President Richard Nixon, delivered two lectures on campus: “The Secret Presidency of George W. Bush” and “The Nixon White House During Watergate.”

In its first production of the year, the performing and visual arts department staged William Shakespeare’s classic Macbeth. Directed by Lars Tatam, assistant professor of performing and visual arts, and performed by AUC students, the production was a huge success.

Oliver Miles, Cleveland Dodge distinguished visiting professor at AUC and former British ambassador, told a campus audience why he — along with 51 former British diplomats as signatories — wrote a letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair protesting Britain’s policies in the Palestinian-Israeli crisis and the war in Iraq.

Mohamed Bassiouni, former Egyptian ambassador to Israel and member of the Shura Council, addressed the delegates of the 15th Cairo International Model Arab League during the opening ceremony. Bassiouni recounted the history of the Middle East peace process starting from the 1973 War against Israel until today.
Recognizing their contributions, AUC awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science to Rushdi Said, one of Egypt’s best known geologists, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Zahi Hawass, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, at the undergraduate commencement ceremony.

In a presentation on campus, Nabil Fahmy, Egyptian ambassador to the United States, reflected on U.S.-Egyptian relations over the last 30 years. The United States and Egypt may disagree on some issues, publicly and privately, but they continue to have a strong relationship, Fahmy asserted.

A plaque of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Hall on the new campus was presented to Alwaleed (center) at a dinner held in his honor. AUC Trustee Paul Hannon (left) and President David D. Arnold presented the plaque.

Nikla, a small village on the Cairo-Alexandria road, became the first in Egypt to receive a library through the Village Library project organized by AUC’s student club Alashanek Ya Balady. The project, which provides villagers outside of Cairo with access to libraries, donated 3,000 books and 15 computer stations.
The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) reports that AUC received $3,545,428 from outside sponsors for fiscal year 2004-2005 in support of research, training and public service projects. OSP represents the university in its dealings with governments, foundations and companies that sponsor projects, and is responsible for submitting all project proposals. OSP helps the faculty write proposals, identifies potential funding sources, negotiates the terms of grants and contracts, and ensures that AUC complies with those terms.

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<td>Support of Cairo to Camps Program</td>
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<td>Seminar: Supporting Gender Women Studies</td>
<td>UC Davies (IDRC)</td>
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<td>A Civic Journalism Approach to Elections Coverage and Media Training</td>
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<td>Investigation: MicroElectroMechanical Technology for Advance Application</td>
<td>IMEC</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
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<td>Poor Women Access to Agricultural Resource: Implications for Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Preparation: Existing Condition Report on Valley of the Kings Tomb</td>
<td>USAID/ARCE</td>
<td>Theban Mapping</td>
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<td>Additional Funds for the On-going Valley of the Kings Project</td>
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* Deceased
Financials

Fiscal 2005 was a successful year for AUC with student enrollment stronger than anticipated. After a decline for a number of years, the Egyptian pound staged a recovery against the dollar, and a diversified investment portfolio produced strong results for the university’s endowments. Buoyed by these positive trends, revenues from current operations rose by almost 19 percent to reach $81.1 million.

On the operating revenues side, academic tuition income at $45.6 million (net of scholarships) continued to be the largest source of operating revenue, accounting for about 60 percent of the total. In addition to attracting more international students, AUC welcomed more Egyptian students through the Leadership for Education and Development program, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation. This increase in the number of students contributed to a higher rate of room occupancy in the Zamalek Dormitory and stronger financial performance. The university’s adult and continuing education programs also enjoyed dynamic growth, with substantial revenue increases recorded for the Management Center and the Engineering Services programs.

While AUC Press and Bookstores experienced slower progress during the final quarter of the fiscal year, net sales still advanced by almost 8 percent to reach $4.4 million.

Fundraising during the year amounted to $14.6 million, mostly restricted for capital purposes, in particular the construction of the new campus.

AUC’s endowments enjoyed a marked recovery this year. By August 31, 2005, the university’s long-term investments amounted to $475 million, an increase of $70 million over the 12-month period, due in part to the outstanding performance of the Egyptian stock market during the fiscal year. Current support for operations from endowments totaled $10.3 million.

New campus project expenditures through the 2005 fiscal year totaled $86.7 million. During the fiscal year the university drew the second installment of LE 200 million of a grant of LE 600 million from USAID to assist in the financing of the project.

Looking ahead, the new fiscal year has started strongly with enrollment of a record number of freshmen for the fall semester; the number of international nondegree students has also risen again. The progress of the Egyptian economy continues to be encouraging, and barring any external shocks, we are confident that AUC should be in a position to report good results at the end of August 2006.

Andrew W. Snaith
Vice President for Finance
Operating Revenues

Total Operating Revenues: $69.3 million

Operating Expenses

* $14.9 million in financial aid and scholarships was given to students in the form of tuition reductions. This amount is deducted from gross tuition income.

** Gifts of $30.1 million for capital projects and new campus development are excluded from operating revenues.

This information is interpreted by IPART based on the “Actual FY 2005 (pre-audit) Consolidated Operating Budget Expressed in Dollars” report from AUC’s Budget and Financial Planning Office, January 2006.
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Students discover their creative side through the productions of the performing and visual arts department. Theatre major Amina Khalil in her first performance at AUC in Lanford Wilson's Redwood Curtain.