The Second Annual
Undergraduate Research Conference
on
“Egypt and the Millennium Development Goals”

10 – 11 May 2006
Oriental Hall
The Second Undergraduate Research Conference  
“Egypt and the Millennium Development Goals”

Oriental Hall, May 10-11

The Undergraduate Research Conference, supervised by both the Rhetoric and Composition Program and the Office of Student Development, aims to promote excellence in undergraduate research and rhetoric. It is an opportunity for students to share in the social construction of knowledge, sharpen critical thinking and expression skills – written, oral and visual - and engage in interdisciplinary dialog. It is also exemplary of the effort to integrate the “curricular” and the “co-curricular” student learning experience into a holistic framework.

As an experiential learning project, the Undergraduate Research Conference has been organized and managed by three classes in the Rhetoric and Composition Program. The students have constructed the mission statement, designed the Call for Proposals, the Conference Evaluation Form and the letters of invitation to faculty guest speakers, created recruitment and promotional materials, vetted proposals and prepared their own research presentations from the different perspectives of their disciplines. The experience has been exciting and totally engaging.

Join us in celebrating their achievement,

The Writing Program
The Office of Student Development
**The Second Undergraduate Research Conference**  
**“Egypt and the Millennium Development Goals”**  
**Oriental Hall, May 10-11**

**Wednesday May 10**

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- Regaining Egyptian’s Trust in Combating Hepatitis C in Light of a New Endemic Disease  
- Assessing QIZ: the Reward of Joining Against Seeking Alternatives and Scrutinizing the Past

**Moderator: Sadeem El Nahhas**

| 11:00 – 11:50 | Society and Women and Children                    | - Women as the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow: The Role of an Egyptian NGO and Seed Money  
- Integrating Street Children into Schools: The Role of Cairo’s NGOs  
- How to Make the Reform Process of the Egyptian Primary Education Curriculum More Efficient

**Moderator: Hadayat Heikal**

| 12:00 – 12:50 | Social/Economic Development                        | - Containment of Terrorism: The Impacts of Educational Reform in Egypt  
- The Money Laundering Epidemic  
- Examining the Influence of NGO's on Cairo's Zabaleen: Organization, Work, and Sense of Autonomy

**Moderator: Sherif Mohamed Roushdy**

| 1:00 – 1:50 | Egypt and Future Vision                            | - The Grand Egyptian Museum: A Union of Globalization and Nationalism?  
- Opening Way for Egyptian Women in Parliament  
- Development in Egypt and Foreign Aid to Education: A Case Study

**Moderator: Aneesah Akbar-Uqdah**

| 2:00 – 2:50 | Egypt and Challenges                               | - The adverse effects of urban planning strategies  
- Ancient Monuments vs. Modern Economy: The Struggle between the Past and the Present  
- Women Empowerment and its Role in Promoting an Egyptian Civil Society

**Moderator: Yasser El Sayed Ebrahim**

| 3:00 – 3:50 | Health and Family                                  | - Postabortion Care: It's Every Woman's Right  
- Coverage of Avian Flu: A Content Analysis of the Al-Ahram Newspaper  
- The Impact of Family Planning Awareness Campaigns on Cultural Attitudes in Egypt

**Moderator: Hussein Marei**

| 4:00 - 4:50 | Trade and Government                               | - The Implications of EU-Egypt Relations on the Egyptian Economy  
- Is the US-Egypt Free Trade Agreement the Optimum Solution for Growth?  
- An Analysis of Egyptian Military Spending

**Moderator: Schatzi Gheita**

| 5:00 – 6:00 | Closing Address                                    | Writing Instructor and conference coordinator  
Assistant Provost and Director of the Core Curr.  
Writing Instructor, Writing Program

**Certificate awards**

**Introduced by: Viktoria Paget**
Student Presenters

Wednesday May 10
11:00-11:50  Egypt and Development

Hedayat Heikal
Unspoken Premises: A Discursive Analysis of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The MDGs are popularly perceived as the universal development regime of the early 21st century. But what is development? Few theorists agree on the definition of development let alone its form, purpose or desirability. Some dismiss the project of development altogether as a neocolonial discourse of power. Where do the MDGs fall within this overall discourse of development? There are assumptions and implications for Egypt’s choice to meet the MDGs. This research is an attempt at uncovering the unspoken premises.

Hedayat Heikal is a senior student at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She served as the Secretary-General of the Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN) in 2005. She intends to start Harvard Law School in Fall 2006.

Khalid EL-Farra
Irrigating Egypt out of a Water Crisis

None of the Millennium Development Goals for Egypt can be realized without water— the essence of all life. Egypt is on the verge of a major water crisis. Find out why changing irrigation methods in Egypt’s agricultural sector is the key to avoiding this very real crisis.

Khalid is a graduating senior at AUC, majoring in broadcast journalism. He is also a freelance journalist at Al-Ahram Weekly, Enigma magazine, and AdLife magazine.

12:00-01:15  Health and Sanitation

Schatzi Gheita and Nagwa El Saadani
HIV/AIDS: What is Egypt doing about it?

The sixth UN Millennium Development Goals is it to “halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS” by the year 2015. HIV/AIDS is one of the hazardous future health
risks in Egypt, which highlights the importance of scrutinizing the government’s efforts to help reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS in Egypt.

Schatzi graduated from the German School in Cairo (DEO) with the German Abitur. She has a passion for mass communication and publicity, and wishes to pursue a career in political communication.

Nagwa graduated from the German School in Cairo (DEO) with the German Abitur. She is passionate about women’s rights.

David Johnston and Nesmah Elkestawi

HIV/AIDS Current Surveillance Systems: Egypt

Current HIV/AIDS surveillance systems in Egypt are considered weak by organizations such as the WHO and UNAIDS. It is important that vast improvements of the systems are carried out. We will be presenting our findings of an analysis of the current HIV/AIDS surveillance systems in Egypt, and our suggestions for improvement.

David is a graduating senior from the biology department.

Nesmah is a senior from the biology department.

Aneesah Akbar-Uqdah

Drinking Water in Egypt: The Effects of Water on Egyptians' Health

The Nile River has long been a crucial component of both the identity and the vitality of Egypt. Issues of water use have become more prevalent. More water is being taken from the Nile and more and more waste is being added. Victims and perpetrators as well as causes and solutions are not always easily discerned. All of these factors and people’s perceptions of drinking water and their health are important.

Aneesah is a junior at Bryn Mawr College majoring in Anthropology with a concentration in the subfield of Medical Anthropology. Her main interest is research on disparities in health care. She is aspiring to get a Masters degree in Public Health and a PhD in Medical Anthropology.

Hussein Marei and Yosra El Lozy and Ola Kubbara

Water Sanitation in Rural Egypt: A Focus on the Sewage Problem
Water supply and sanitation affects, among other things, people's health, life conditions, life expectancy, infant mortality and overall well-being. Hence, it influences people’s ability to attain proper education as well as their chances for good employment, productivity, income, standard of living, and overall contribution to the country's growth.

_Hussein is double majoring in History and Political Science. History has always been a passion of his and he hopes to continue his studies in this field in the future._

_Yosra is majoring in Political Science (International Law) and minoring in Theatre. She hopes to pursue a degree in Refugee Law. She has acted in Youssef Chahine's latest film "Alexandria...New York" as well as in many AUC theatre productions._

_Ola is a graduate student and majoring in Comparative Politics. In her undergraduate studies she specialized in political economy. She intends to pursue a career in academia, and wishes to obtain a PHD in Political Science after her MA._

01:30-02:45 Educational/Social Development

_Yasser El Sayed Ebrahim
Adult Literacy Programs in Egypt: The Case of Nekla Village

Although the Egyptian government and NGOs have exerted great efforts in the field of illiteracy, world statistics still show high rates of illiteracy in Egypt. This paper analyzes some of the efforts, obstacles, and success stories in the field of illiteracy in Egypt with Nekal village as a case study.

_Yasser Ebrahim is a computer science sophomore at AUC and hopes his research in the field of illiteracy in Egypt makes a difference._

_Sara Hamad Kalfan
Community Schools Pilot Project

Community Schools Project is molded in a way that would allow students to leave school with the ability to think critically and to be creative. It helps students to apply what they have learnt in school to real life, which forms a good model for the Ministry of Education to follow in its educational reform process.

_Sara Hamad is majoring ECLT and expected to graduate in Spring 2006. Her interests are in the area of educational reform._
Bassel El Toukhy  
**The Effectiveness of the NCCM in Fighting FGM and Child Marriage**

FGM and Child Marriage are issues that involve a huge sector of Egyptian society. Their vitality forced the NCCM in targeting most of their efforts towards solving these two problems. The presentation will include an analysis and evaluation of the different programs sponsored by the NCCM.

*Bassel graduated on June 2005 from the American International School in Egypt and has been involved in many extra curricular activities such as MUN, the Student Council and soccer team.*

Sherif Mohamed Roushdy  
**Nile Development Projects: Cooperation and Conflict in the Nile Basin**

This presentation will highlight the most significant developmental projects, related to the use of Nile water, that have taken place in the Nile Basin. It will underline the political, economic and geographical factors involved in promoting and inhibiting the establishment of cooperative initiatives between the Nile Basin states.

*Sherif believes that the AUC has allowed him to enhance his knowledge of the mechanisms of Middle Eastern and Egyptian politics. This knowledge has enticed him to undertake his current topic.*

**03:00-04:15  Political/Economic Development**

Krista Fisher  
**Reexamining the Muslim Brotherhood**

This paper is an analysis of the organizational structure of the Muslim Brotherhood and the effects of membership control problems on the organization's history of political violence, with particular emphasis given to placing the acts of violence in context and explaining how they occurred.

*Krista Fisher is a senior study abroad student from Austin College. She is spending her last two years at ALI preparing for a graduate program in Middle East Studies.*

Mohamed Yassin Hammady  
**The Role of Political Participation in the Development of Egypt**
During the last presidential elections, only seven million Egyptians voted to choose their leader. This incident raised important questions, such as why is there a lack of political participation? What can be done to enhance political participation? What is the relationship between political participation and development? Did the ineffective political participation in Egypt lead to the undeveloped economic and social conditions Egyptians are experiencing today?

*Mohamed is 23 years old and interested in politics and sports. He plays water polo at Heliopolis sporting club and also for the national team.*

Nadine Wafa and Reham Baasher  
**The Popular Market Project: Domesticating Development**

Acknowledging the high incidence of poverty in the densely populated areas in Cairo, UNDP Egypt and the Social Fund for Development are acting as major donors in the unique-first of its kind in Egypt-initiative known as the "Popular Markets for Local Consumption". This project was previously implemented in Venezuela and has proven to be a success. What is the popular markets project and how is it operating in Egypt? Is it contributing to the reduction of poverty n Egypt? Can Venezuela’s experience be replicated in Egypt?

*After having completed her BA in international law this semester, Nadine plans to go abroad and pursue a degree in criminology, a field she find very interesting.*

*Reham is Sudanese and interested in the study of culture in general but with a special interest in developmental issues and aspects of developing societies, which includes all kind of humanitarian work.*

Suad Hany ElAasar  
**Egyptian Hosts: The Egyptian perspective of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt**

Much research has been conducted on the nature of Sudanese refugee life in Egypt, but very little if any information is available on the perspective of Egyptians of their Sudanese guests. This research has taken up the challenge of seeking out the way Egyptians view Sudanese refugees and the impact this has on Sudanese life.

*Suad is an Egyptian-American who is a student of International Relations and economics.*

*Thursday May 11*  
10:00-10:50   Environmental and Economic Issues
Bassem Wahib Wahba  
**Egypt and Air Pollution (CNG) Compressed Natural Gas Project**

The research is about the natural gas vehicle project (CNG) which was primarily introduced by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). This project called for using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an eco-friendly fuel in vehicle operation as emissions produced from burning natural gas are lower than those from liquid fuel. The focus of this paper is to evaluate and analyze the efficiency of the natural gas cars (CNG) project and the technical procedures needed to implement it.

Dina Kafafi  
**Regaining the Egyptian's Trust in Combating Hepatitis C in the Light of a new Endemic Disease**

It is vital for Egyptian community's health that sterile habits throughout any implemented health actions are insured. Past measures taken to combat the endemic disease schistosomaisis influenced the spread of Hepatitis C. Henceforth, the society's youth must be informed of the disease's prevalence and the lethal results of careless healthcare.

*Dina Kafafi, a junior at the American University of Cairo, is majoring in Integrated Marketing and Communication and minoring in Art. She's been a curatorial intern in the Falaki Gallery since spring semester 2005 to help her delve into the art world.*

Ibrahim Youssef  
**Assessing QIZ: the Reward of Joining Against Seeking Alternatives and Scrutinizing the Past**

QIZ agreement provoked many controversies due to the participation of Israel. However, normalization can be used in Egypt’s benefit by signing this agreement. Thus, the question is: Does QIZ constitute an economic drive for the growth of the Egyptian economy or was the government pushed to sign it for political reasons?

*Ibrahim Youssef is a senior undergraduate student at the American University in Cairo studying economics. He studies the subject of macroeconomic policies, and his interests are in the areas of money and banking, macroeconomic theory and quantitative economics.*

11:00-11:50  Society and Women and Children
Maha Madkour

**Women as the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow: The Role of an Egyptian NGO and Seed Money**

Women, women’s rights, equality and empowerment have recently been openly discussed in numerous forums. Subsequent to the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, the matter became more resonant among various policy-makers and individuals. NGOs in developing countries provide seed money that aids women start their entrepreneurial careers. Will these attempts be successful in solving the millennia-old problem of women and their empowerment?

*Maha Madkour is majoring in Political Science and specializes in International Relations; she also minors in English Literature. She graduated with High Honors from the American International School in Egypt with a Full IB Diploma and was member of the National Honor Society.*

Nourhane Ghorab

**Integrating Street Children into Schools: The Role of Cairo’s NGOs**

This research evaluates the efforts pursued by specific local Non Governmental Organizations in Cairo to integrate street children into appropriate schooling communities. Field work is included in order to highlight the importance of this developmental issue. The proposed improvements will secure a safer haven for these children in the future.

*Nourhane likes reading, traveling and meeting new people. She would like to pursue post-graduate studies in the field of development. She speaks Arabic, French and Spanish and would love to learn Chinese.*

Mohamed El Zanaty

**How to Make the Reform Process of the Egyptian Primary Education Curriculum more Efficient?**

The Egyptian government is always working on the reform of the educational curriculum in schools. Despite all these efforts there are still many complaints about the inefficiency of the Egyptian curriculum. Therefore, what are the problems that should be addressed to have an efficient reform process of the curriculum in Egypt?

*Mohamed Riad El Zanaty is graduating this semester. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.*
12:00-12:50  Social/Economic Development

Sadeem El Nahhas

Containment of Terrorism: The Impacts of Educational Reform in Egypt

Most Egyptian people are resentful of American interference in the policies of their government. However, what some of the people fail to realize is the overlapping of some of the American and the Egyptian governments’ political agendas. Some of this overlapping could be seen in the changes proposed in the Egyptian Millennium Development Goals for education.

Sadeem El Nahhas is a graduating senior at the American University in Cairo. She is a Philosophy major and an English Literature minor. She plans to continue studying English Literature at AUC after she graduates.

Sara Selim

The Money Laundering Epidemic

Money Laundering is a world wide concern. Due to its negative effect, efforts were made to prevent it. When it comes to Egypt, what efforts have been made to stop money laundering? Did they make any significant change? Does the world perceive Egypt as a fighter against money laundering?

Sara is an undergraduate student in AUC. This is her first experience in presenting a paper at a conference.

Mayan Zawawy

Examining the Influence of NGO's on Cairo's Zabaleen: Organization, Work, and Sense of Autonomy

Garbage collectors have proven to be large contributors to the cleanliness of Cairo. Yet with new contracts signed between the government and foreign cleaning agencies, the zabaleen’s plight has been brought to light. With true images and in-depth research, the role of the government through different NGO’s will prove to intellectuals and students alike how it has contributed to bettering the zabaleen’s way of life and chances of preserving work and maintaining its community.

Mayan Zawawy is a senior at the American University in Cairo with a major in Sociology and a minor in Philosophy. With a keen interest in demography and population
studies, her future goal is to further her understanding of growth patterns amongst the Saudi population as it has been estimated to have the largest birth rate worldwide.

01:00-01:50  Egypt and Future Vision

Meredith Brand

The Grand Egyptian Museum: A Union of Globalization and Nationalism?

The Grand Egyptian museum is in many ways an international project reflecting Egyptian heritage. 550 million dollars of funding for the construction for this museum is currently being collected from all over the world. This paper will examine to what extent this museum in terms of funds, exhibits, and architecture reflects the seemingly contradictory notions of globalization and nationalism involving Egypt’s cultural heritage.

Meredith Brand is a graduating senior at AUC. She is majoring in Egyptology and her minor is Anthropology. Her main interest is in ancient Nubia and its interactions with ancient Egypt.

Amira Ahmed Taha

Opening Way for Egyptian Women in Parliament

The Egyptian government recognizes the problem of low female parliamentary representation, which leads to a diminished female political role in general. However, it has not offered a clear strategy for removing the obstacles Egyptian women face. This study explores the reasons behind the problem, as well as tries to come up with recommendations to improve the situation.

Amira Taha is a senior student in the Political Science Department in AUC and the cultural coordinator of the NGO ”Nahdet El Mahrousaa”. Her interests are in the areas of human development and cultural awareness.

Maissan Hassan

Development in Egypt and Foreign Aid to Education: A Case Study

Foreign aid is essential for Egypt to achieve the MDGs, and foreign aid to higher education is perceived as a requirement to development in Egypt. The LEAD program at AUC is a scholarship program funded by USAID to help Egyptian students to receive a better education and to gain leadership skills. What are the advantages and disadvantages of foreign aid to education in Egypt? Are INGOs funding a valuable alternative to governmental foreign aid?
Maissan is a Sociology junior with a Film minor.

02:00-02:50  Egypt and Challenges

Deena Mohamad Ameen Gendoo
**The Adverse Effects of Urban Planning Strategies**

Ask a street vendor, beggar, or garbage collector what problems he faces on a daily basis, and you would hear these frequent complaints: a crowded house, meager facilities, a fight to settle in one place, and a struggle to survive. Why is the government's development plans for a 'modern and centralized Cairo' negatively affecting these poor and needy?

*Deena Gendoo is a Biology major and double minor in Computer Science & Chemistry. She was on the Dean's Honor Roll for the years 2004-2006, and a recipient of awards by the Royal Schools of Music in London for numerous piano performances.*

Shahrazad K. Elfar
**Women Empowerment and its role in promoting an Egyptian civil society**

This paper discusses how women's political empowerment can change their attitudes towards political issues - on the national and international levels alike - , and encourages political awareness and participation as well as political leadership, all of which contribute in promoting civil society.

*I am a Palestinian born and raised in Ramallah/ West Bank-Palestine. I am interested in Literature/ poetry, philosophy, comparative religions, mysticism, and politics.*

Arto Onnig Arto Belekdanian
**Ancient Monuments vs. Modern Economy: The Struggle between the Past and the Present**

The ancient Egyptian temple of Karnak is slowly disintegrating due to the rising underground water tables in the area. This is caused by the planting of crops like sugar cane, which require substantial amounts of water for cultivation. Is the planting of crops such as sugar cane in the area important enough to allow the destruction of such a site as Karnak temple? What possible solutions are there to the problem?
Arto Belekdianian is a graduating senior majoring in Egyptology and minoring in Business Administration. His main interests include ancient religions and languages. His plan for the future is to pursue a degree in ancient Near Eastern studies.

03:00-03:50   Health and Family

Noor El Deeb
Postabortion Care: It's Every Woman's Right

This is not a paper about abortion. Abortion is a decision ultimately made by the woman herself. It is what happens after the abortion that should be investigated. It is every woman’s right to receive medical care and counseling, even when it comes to abortion.

Noor was born in Egypt, and grew up in Kuwait. She studies Art because she loves being creative and plans on doing graduate studies in Fashion Design or Photography.

Murray Alber Sabet Fahim
Coverage of Avian Flu: A Content Analysis of Al-Ahram Newspaper

This study analyzes stories of Avian Flu in Al Ahram. The purpose of this research is to create understanding of how Al Ahram "framed" stories on Avian Flu in its first week in Egypt. Stories will be classified under "health" and "socio-economic" frames in order to discover reoccurring themes.

Mirray is an Egyptian who lived in Dubai but came to Egypt for college. She hopes to do her graduate studies as soon as she graduates from AUC. She is interested in English literature and history.

Maha El-Swais
The Impact of Family Planning Awareness Campaigns on Cultural Attitudes in Egypt

The Health Communication Partnership is a non-governmental organization in Egypt that is working on implementing family planning awareness campaigns targeting the lower class section of society. Through TV and radio programs, they aim to reach Egyptian newlyweds and influence their cultural attitudes regarding family planning and their power in impacting overpopulation.
Maha El-Swais is a Jordanian student at the American University of Cairo specializing in Broadcasting. Her interests are painting, music, traveling, and the pursuit of gender equality in the Arab world.

04:00-04:50  Trade and Government

Sarah Mohamed Emad Attawia
**The Implications of EU-Egypt Relations on the Egyptian Economy**

Egypt has major economic problems which hinder plans of economic reform and development. To what extent does the relation between the EU and Egypt have an influence on the Egyptian economy? Is this influence direct or indirect? How can both achieve better understanding to reap the fruits of co-operation?

Sarah is interested in studying problems of the Egyptian economy and looking forward to be in a position in the future where she can help improve some of the current devastating conditions.

Nouran Kashef
**Is the US-Egypt Free Trade Agreement the Optimum Solution for Growth?**

Concluding the US-Egypt free trade agreement seems unattainable in the near future, as there remain points of dispute between both parties. How does this agreement impact the Egyptian economy in the first place? How, if at all, will it improve trade performance? Is this FTA needed to achieve economic growth?

Nouran is a student double-majoring in Economics and Political Science. She has always been interested in these fields, and therefore has participated in on-campus activities related to them.

Amr Nasr el-Din
**An Analysis of Egyptian Military Spending**

Why does Egypt devote large sums of its national income, needed for development, to security instead? First, it is due to the Egyptian army's major role in internal Egyptian politics; second, it is due to defense against foreign threat. This paper more fully explores the reasons why Egypt needs to maintain its large standing army and police forces.

Amr is an AUC student, interested in politics, consciousness-raising and awareness for young persons.