The Third Annual Undergraduate Research Conference

“Vision, Voice and Action: Creative Initiatives for the Middle East”

9 – 10 May 2007
Oriental Hall
The Third Undergraduate Research Conference
“Vision, Voice and Action: Creative Initiatives for the Middle East”

Oriental Hall, May 9-10, 2007

The Undergraduate Research Conference, supervised by both the Writing 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 Rhetoric and Composition. 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 Writing Program & The Office of Student Development
The Third Undergraduate Research Conference
“Vision, Voice and Action: Creative Initiatives for the Middle East”
Oriental Hall, May 9-10

**Wednesday May 9th**

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10:00 – 10:15
Opening
- Ali Hadi
  Introduced by Margaret Shabka

Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Dabbour

10:15 – 11:00
Keynote address
- Guest Speaker: Dina Abdel Wahab
  Ashouka Social Entrepreneur

- Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Dabbour
  Associate Dean and Director of Student Development

11:00 – 11:50
Featured Presentations
- Nora Eltahawy
- Adham Koura

Moderator: Amr Ramadan

- The Fiction of Arab America: Negotiating Identities through Short Stories
- Reviving Old Cairo’s Majesty

12:00 – 1:15
Interdisciplinary session
- Gehad Osama Abdel Khalek
- Dina Zayed
- Sarah El Guindi
- Reham Morsi and Nahla Mahgoub

Moderator: Tarek Zarad

- The Threshold of Consciousness
- Child Labor and Development in Egypt
- Cancer Awareness Campaign: Effective Health Communication
- Youth Perspectives on Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Egypt

1:30 – 2:45
Poster session
- Mohamed Toulan, Amr Samaha, Hussein Nagaty, Sherine Abdel Moneim
- Hala Zahran, Omneya Fahmy, Amira Hefnawy, Mohamed Hassan
- Adel Hosny, Yumna Kassim, Batoul Helmy, Reham Motaz
- Farah Bishoty, Rola Haroun, Marwa Mahmoud
- Mariko Kobayashi, Amira Shoukry, Sarah Toulan
- Khaled Zakaria
- Alya’a Abass
- Salma Gaafar, Amanie Hashem, Farida Dorra

Moderator: Maha Assaly

- Nubians vs. Government
- Indigenous People and Problems of Assimilation
- Global Indigenous Peoples: From Human Rights Violations to Justice Procurement
- A Cry for Help: Revealing the Revulsion of Exploitation and Colonization
- Sexual Harassment in Egypt: Causes and Coping Strategies
- The Impact of Globalization: World War II and Beyond
- Hear their Young Voices
- Wadi El Hitan – Valley of the Whales

3:00 – 4:15
Social Issues
- Dina Bedair
- Christine Shuette
- Nikolaos Padiotis
- Yasmine Mahmoud

Moderator: Maha Assaly

- Exploring Substitutes to the Overdependence on Medicinal Drugs
- The Venom of Feminized Poverty
- Motivations for Criminal Behavior in Egypt
- Vulnerable to Delinquency: Street Children of Egypt

4:30 – 6:00
Short Story Session
- Ali Atef
- Mazen Elgawhary
- Nina Fatouh, Shahira Marei

Moderator: Sarah Afifi

- Voices in Refuge
- Arab American: Who do I belong to?
- Memoirs of a Street Child
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<td>Educational Reform</td>
<td>Samer Dajani, Sarah El Kalla, Rana Hassanein</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:50</td>
<td>Education Initiatives</td>
<td>Sarah Youssef, Janan Delgado, Eman Elba</td>
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<td>1:00 – 1:50</td>
<td>Political/Social Issues</td>
<td>Ahmed Abdel Rahman, Omar Ghanem, Mai Abdelhady</td>
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<td>Short Story Session</td>
<td>Maha Khalil, Madonna Mekhail, Sally Sherif</td>
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<td>Media/Politics</td>
<td>Lina Ashour, Joseph Futa, Mahmoud Farag</td>
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<td>Educational Advancement</td>
<td>Laila Elimam, Iman Dawood, Nady El Zayaty, Mariam El Haddad, Noha Shaker</td>
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<td>Closing address, Certificates award</td>
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<td>6:15 – 7:00</td>
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**Thursday May 10th**

- Islamic Education Reform and the Quest for Modernity
- Making the Grade: Combating Corruption within Private American Secondary Education in Egypt
- International Schools in Egypt: Is there a need for Reform
- The Battle of Creative Initiatives in the Performing and Visual Arts in Egypt
- Changing Identity and Politics among the Elite Students in Cairo
- Community Service at the AUC: History or Hope?
- Perfect Prejudice: US Version
- Private Sector Participation in Egypt’s Water: Prospects of Success
- The Effectiveness of Early Age Marriage Campaigns in Egypt
- The Silencing of Voices: Politicized Mass Media in Egypt
- Foreign Aid and Civil Society: Towards a Balanced Participation
- Politics of Egypt: Consolidation of Control or Political Reform
- Integrating Creativity in Egypt’s Educational Curriculum
- A New Look at Egypt’s Brain Drain
- The Implementation of Online Courses at AUC

**Vice President for Student Affairs**

**Conference Coordinator**

**Introduced by Amani Elshimi**

**Moderator: Reem Demeiri**
Student Presenters

11:00-11:50  Featured Presentations

Adham Khora  
**Reviving Old Cairo’s Majesty**

An analysis and critique of current and previous efforts aimed at the conservation of Islamic architectural monuments in Historic Cairo. Critique follows with a proposal of practical insights on how conservation efforts can be made more effective through a focus on sustainability.

*Adham Koura is a Business Administration major, who is interested in a variety of academic fields including business, history and biology. He is an avid guitarist, enjoys traveling, and is trilingual.*

Nora Eltahawy  
**The Fiction of Arab America: Negotiating Identities through Short Stories**

Largely ignored before the September 11 attacks, today's Arab Americans are burdened with issues of self representation. Analyzing three writers' attempts at negotiating between their American/Arab selves, the essay examines ways in which these authors create multifaceted voices for themselves within a society that has frequently homogenized them.

*Nora Eltahawy majors in English and Comparative Literature at AUC. As someone who is largely bicultural and a student of literature, her main interest lies in bridging the gap between the two sides of herself and examining narratives of writers with similar concerns.*

12:00-01:15  Interdisciplinary Session

Gehad Osama Abd El-Khalek  
**The Threshold of Consciousness**

An examination of Heidegger's philosophy of boredom put into a Sufi context, this paper argues that boredom results from the lack of feeling the Divine Presence and then suggests that this can be taken as a first step toward mystical awareness.

*Gehad Osama Abd El-Khalek is a 22-year-old Egyptian studying Philosophy at AUC.*
Dina Zayed

**Child Labor and Development in Egypt**

Surely there comes a time when the implications of child labor must be questioned, particularly within a society professing to want to make its way into a developed and more dynamic world. In Egypt, child labor remains a serious problem. Child labor is not simply a reflection of inequality and poverty; rather it is testimony to the indifference, at times even the acquiescence of wider society. It is significant to consider that child labor has deep rooted repercussions on Egypt's attempts to modernize and develop.

*Dina Zayed has spent much of her life traveling and living abroad, which has contributed to her specializing in International Law. She hopes to minor in Philosophy and History.*

Sarah El Guindi

**Cancer Awareness Campaign- Effective Health Communication**

This is a marketing campaign that calls for effective cancer awareness. Different models are used to effectively reach young adults, living in Egypt, who have unhealthy habits that can cause serious illnesses. These methods are incorporated to provide information for young adults about the consequences of certain habits that lead to cancer as well as different every-day techniques to prevent cancer. The presentation of this information as a marketing plan can effectively attract these young adults.

*Sarah El Guindi is a marketing junior who wishes to use the skills that she has acquired at AUC to benefit the society in some way. As a Mass Communication major, she hopes to use her research skills to shine light on a crucial issue.*

Reham Morsi, Nahla Mahgoub

**Youth Perspectives on Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Egypt**

It is essential to conduct preliminary research on the concept of citizenship among youth in Egypt and also to highlight their perception of a meaningful and active participation in the civil society whether it is political, economic or social. Since the youth are the future of every country understanding the way they view these concepts will help to identify what is need in order to help better the country and develop it.

*Reham Morsi is a Broadcast journalism major. She has a lot of other interests, specifically in politics and history. But what she truly loves is to understand the psychology of human beings. She expects to graduate in 2 semesters.*

*Nahla Mahgoub is a junior Political Science student, interested in youth and refugee issues.*
Mohamed Toulan, Amr Samaha, Hussein Nagaty, Sherine Abdel Moneim

Nubians vs. Government

This poster will represent both the Nubians' point of view and the government's concerning the issue of the Nubians' displacement for the sake of building the High Dam in 1963. As a conclusion for the poster, the viewer will decide which party has the strongest position.

The presenters, students at AUC, have researched the issue of indigenous people in their Rhetoric 103 class this semester. Mohamed Toulan is an Accounting major, Amr Samaha is a Mechanical Engineering major, Hussein Nagaty is a Computer Science major, and Sherine Abdel Moneim is an Art major.

Hala Zahran, Omneya Fahmy, Amira Hefnawy, Mohamed Hassan

Indigenous People and Problems of Assimilation

Indigenous people have been neglected and denied their rights in many parts of the world for a number of years. They have been forced to assimilate in the modern world and to lose their cultural orientation and knowledge systems. This poster aims to raise the voices of different groups of indigenous people who are in a crisis due to the assimilationist policies of their government.

Hala Zahran was a member of an Amnesty International group in her high school and a participant in the Model United Nations 2005. She majors in Economics at AUC.

Omneya Fahmy is also an Economics major at AUC.

Amira Hefnawy is a Business Marketing major and a fundraising member in the International Conference of Global Economy.

Mohamed Hassan majors in Political Science at AUC.

Adel Hosny, Yumna Kassim, Batoul Helmy, Reham Motaz

Global Indigenous Peoples: From Human Rights Violations to Justice Procurement

Indigenous peoples are amongst the most victimized minorities round the globe and their basic human rights the most violated. Who are the impenitent perpetrators of these infringements and what are the extents of their subjugations? How can the international community empower these mute minorities to exercise their most basic rights?

Adel Hosny is an Electronics Engineering freshman at AUC.

Yumna Kassim is 17 years old who grew up and attended school in Egypt. This is her second semester at AUC and her second opportunity to present in a conference.
Batoul Helmy is a Mass Communication freshman, who lived in England for seven years. Her interests include reading, listening to music, and scuba diving.

Reham Motaz was born in Abu Dhabi. She attended the international school of Choueifat there and graduated in 2005. She attended the American University of Dubai for a year before transferring to AUC, where she is currently a freshman.

Farah Bishouty, Rola Haroun, Marwa Mahmoud

A Cry for Help: Revealing the Revulsion of Exploitation and Colonization

Imagine being forced out of your homeland and left to fend for yourself in a world that was alien to you. Picture, if you can, the horror of seeing your land eaten away by the globalization movement. Envisage the agony of having your choices taken away. This is the life of the Puerto Ricans and Ecuadorians. These are the issues that they, as indigenous people, are forced to face everyday. This is their struggle for survival.

Farah Bishouty is a 19-year-old Jordanian of Palestinian origin. She has lived in Greece, Abu Dhabi, and is currently a resident in Egypt. Throughout her schooling she participated in a number of activities and group projects.

Rola Haroun is an Egyptian who has lived in a number of countries throughout her life. These countries include Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. She has also worked in a number of school group projects.

Marwa Mahmoud is a freshman student interested in issues of Palestine.

Mariko Kobayashi, Amira Shoukry, Sarah Toulan

Sexual Harassment in Egypt: Causes and Coping Strategies

This poster session investigates sexual harassment against women in the streets of Egypt, from both the foreigner's perspective and the Egyptian's perspective. How does a foreign single female cope with harassment in public? Are there any practical ways for them to feel comfortable living in Cairo? And from an Egyptian's analysis, what are the social, cultural and psychological issues linked to this situation?

Mariko Kobayashi is a Japanese student at AUC majoring in Anthropology. Her presentation is the result of her observations and analysis of people in Cairo over the past two years.

Amira Shoukry is an 18-year-old Computer Science major living in Maadi. She is considering a double major at AUC in Actuarial Science and Computer Science.

Sarah Toulan is a Computer Science student at AUC. She is passionate about art. She joined CIMUN as an internal public relations member.

Khaled Zakaria

The Impact of Globalization: World War II and Beyond
The era between World War II and the end of the Soviet Union can be considered as an important preliminary period for the beginning of globalization, in which also the role of technology started to accelerate the wheel of globalization. The economical context will be elaborated.

*Khaled Zakaria is a student in the Faculty of Management at Sadat Academy.*

Alya’a Abass  
**Hear their Young Voices**

The street children of Egypt are individuals of the Egyptian society that need to be furnished with love and care. They must be saved from the harsh conditions they face on the streets. In order to aid these children we must listen to them and get to know them better. They are part of us; therefore, we must look after them.

*Alya’a Abass is a Political Science major at AUC.*

Salma Gaafar, Amanie Hashem, Farida Dorra  
**Wadi El Hitan – Valley of the Whales**

“The Whale Valley” or “Wadi Al Hitan” in the city of Fayoum has over 200 fossils of pre-historic whales that had feet. Although the area holds priceless treasures of fossils and is considered the site with the most fossils in the world, not many people know about it, especially in Egypt.

*Salma Gaafar is an AUC student majoring in Integrated Marketing and Communication and minoring in Psychology.*  
*Amanie Hashem is an Art major at AUC.*  
*Farida Dorra is a Mass Communication major at AUC.*

03:00-04:15  
**Social Issues**

Dina Bedair  
**Exploring Substitutes to the Overdependence on Medicinal Drugs**

Inspired by the overwhelming use of medicinal drugs in psychological treatment, the presenter decided to explore alternatives. The main focus of her research is employing meditation as a substitute for medicine in the treatment of some psychological illnesses.

*Dina Bedair is Irish/Egyptian and has been living in Cairo for the past 4 years. She plans to obtain a PhD in clinical psychology and hopes to eventually open her own rehab centre in Cairo.*
Christine Shuette

The Venom of Feminized Poverty

Feminized poverty is an inevitable by-product of the discrimination against women in all spheres of life. Governments and NGOs have carried out certain methods with mixed results. The time is more than ripe for governments to incorporate new methods to ensure full equality and thus eradicate feminized poverty.

Christine Schuette is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Psychology. Her interests include traveling, cultural issues, gender issues, refugees, charity work, MUN & ISLC conferences, political debates, human rights, and UN issues.

Nikolaos Padiotis

Motivations for Criminal Behavior in Egypt

This paper examines criminals' motivation in Egypt and how this is perceived by officials and the greater population. Also, it considers the present norms and what could follow in case of an increase in crime incidents as a result of those norms.

Nikolaos Padiotis is a full-time Anthropology student in the AUC. He is very interested in social issues and is fascinated by watching people.

Yasmine Mahmoud

Vulnerable to Delinquency: Street Children of Egypt

This research aims to uncover and expose the reality of the harsh living circumstances which street children in Egypt are subjected to in the streets. This paper proposes some logical and feasible solutions to control the dangers these children are subjected to and to control their increasing numbers in the streets.

Yasmine Mahmoud is an Egyptian who has lived all her life outside Egypt due to her father's job. She is in her last year at AUC, majoring in Psychology, and plans to resume her studies by obtaining a Master's and PhD in Clinical or Biological Psychology.

4:30-6:00    Short Story Session

Ali Atef

Voices in Refuge

How should oral histories reflect the appropriate voices of different individuals bound together by their dislocation, nationality, and history? Voices of Refuge attempts to collect the different modes of expression 'Sudanese refugees' have relayed to the community at large.
Ali Atef is a graduating senior majoring in anthropology and political science. He is currently interested in studying the different discourses of the women’s movement in Egypt as well as comparing Islamist and secular discourses on the ‘woman question.’

Mazen Elgawhary

**Arab American: Who do I belong to?**

This paper researches the effects of Arabs assimilating within American way of life. This is done in a short-story form of how a newly immigrated Arab goes on a journey of self-discovery. The story is crawling with themes of acculturation, formation of new identities and the strengthening of one's inner self and heritage.

Mazen Elgawhary was born and raised in America and is currently enrolled in Business Marketing. He has been at AUC for one year and plans on returning to the U.S. in the summer. He enjoys soccer, the beach, and traveling.

Nina Fatouh, Shahira Marei

**Memoirs of a Street Child**

This project examines the rapidly growing problem of street children in Egypt, presented in the form of a research-based short story, which examines the daily lives of the children working and/or living on the streets of Cairo, who are subject to extreme harsh conditions. It also relates current and possible future efforts to combat this issue.

Nina Fatouh, born in Switzerland, lived the first 14 years of her life in Madrid, Spain, before returning to her home country, Egypt. Currently she is studying Sociology at the American University in Cairo, and is also interested in the fields of art history and child and behavioral psychology.

Shahira Marei, born and raised in Egypt, is a graduating senior at AUC in the department of English and Comparative Literature. Apart from literature, she also has great interest for creative writing, art, and theater.

**Thursday May 10**

11:00-11:50 **Educational Reform**

Samer Dajani

**Islamic Education Reform and the Quest for Modernity**

Religious scholars exert great influence on Middle Eastern societies, especially when it comes to matters of social and political change. This study looks at religious education
reform for the creation of scholars who will shape Middle Eastern societies for the better and allow for beneficial change instead of hampering it.

Samer Dajani is a senior in the Arabic Studies Department in AUC, specializing in Middle Eastern History. His main interest is in Islamic reform movements.

Sarah El-Kalla

Making the Grade: Combating Corruption within Private, American, Secondary Education in Egypt

This study evaluates the new grading policy imposed by the Ministry of Education on American secondary schools to limit the distortion of grades. It analyses the flaws within the new policy and the reasons to why it created a cloud of controversy. The study proposes alternative means to limit corruption within private education.

Sarah El-Kalla is a junior in the American University of Egypt, majoring in Sociology. She has prior work experience in the educational field, and hopes that by studying sociology, she will help in the development of Egyptian education. She is deeply interested in social sciences, humanities and arts in general, and believes that they play a key role in education.

Rana Moustafa Hassanein

International Schools in Egypt: Is There a Need for Reform

Some Students that have graduated from International schools in Egypt lack the Arabic skills that they need to interact effectively in Egypt. The Government has tried to created new policies that would try to solve the problems. This paper examines these policies and proposes alternative policies.

Rana Moustafa Hassanein is a Cairo American College (CAC) graduate and has attended American University in Cairo for four years. She has aided teachers at CAC and Narmer American College in teaching.

12:00-12:50  Educational Initiatives

Sarah Youssef

The Battle of Creative Initiatives in the Performing and Visual Arts in Egypt

The performing and visual arts are a fundamental part of our society and our cultural heritage. Yet, the current situation, primarily governmental regulations, in Egypt presents crucial problems and obstacles for the arts to make a full contribution to society. This presentation discusses ways that artists can overcome obstacles and contribute to society.
Sarah Youssef is a transfer student from Germany, where she studied English Literature and Linguistic, Anglo - American History and Philosophy. She is intending on doing her Master's degree in Dramaturgy in Germany starting next fall.

Janan Delgado  
**Changing Identity and Politics among the Elite Students in Cairo**

This paper analyzes the views and perceptions of elite students concerning issues of democracy v. dictatorship, Islamic opposition, and attitudes towards the current political situation. The aim of the paper is to explore possible ways of positive civic involvement of the educated elite, most particularly, of AUC's student population.

*Janan Delgado is an Ecuadorian full time student at AUC. She majors in Political Science and her interests include Political Islam, Islamic movements in the MENA region and Latin America, and political transformation in these two regions.*

Eman Elba  
**Community Service at the AUC: History or Hope?**

This research focuses on how community service in Egypt is in need of youth like AUC students. Investigating reasons why students are not as active in community service as they are expected to be, it reaches several solutions and methods that would help in this matter.

*Eman has studied at various institutes, like the American University in Paris and UCLA. Currently, she is the President of the SU’s Alashanek Ya Balady community service organization and the Chairperson of the Clubs and Conferences Committee.*

Ahmad Hamdy Abdel-Rahman  
**Perfect Prejudice: U.S. Version**

Despite having a most significant role in mediating between the Israelis and Palestinians, the United States has failed to be neutral. This paper discusses ways the US government could have impeded the peace process by showing clear bias towards Israel.

*Ahmad Hamdy Abdel-Rahman is a Mechanical Engineering student planning a Computer Science minor, which doesn't implicitly include any political science. However, politics has always been one of his interests.*

Omar Ghanem  
**Private Sector Participation in Egypt's Water: Prospects of Success**
Water provision is a fundamental concern for development, as a basic human right. Managing water effectively, in Egypt, is a challenge given water scarcity and widespread poverty. As a part Neo-liberalism, privatization is fiercely propagated as a solution to the water problem. This paper looks at prospects of private participation in water provision, bearing in mind its economic and social repercussions.

Omar Ghanem is an Egyptian, studying political science. He plans to pursue post-graduate studies in the field of political economy, and is interested topics related to development and political reform.

Mai Abdelhady
The Effectiveness of Early Age Marriage Awareness Campaigns in Egypt

This research was conducted in order to examine and analyze the effectiveness of marketing campaigns aimed to inform the public about the dangers of early age marriage in Egypt. Two campaigns were researched and compared, coming to the result that these two campaigns have been the most successful in their field to date.

Mai Abdelhady is a sophomore at the American University in Cairo, majoring in Marketing Communication. She is half Egyptian and half Canadian. She lived in Toronto, Canada for the first thirteen years of her life.

2:00-2:50 Short Story Session

Maha Tarek Mohamed Khalil
"Takers" (a short story about war in the Middle East)

This short story "Takers" is a work of fiction that depicts the difficult circumstances of life in a war-torn region, and sheds light on the role of journalism in such circumstances.

Maha Tarek Mohamed Khalil was born in 1987 and raised mostly in Cairo. She went to Farouk Islamic School, then to Oruba International School (Riyadh), and finally Egyptian Language School. She started writing at the age of 12. She is a Biology major at AUC.

Madonna Mekhail, Sally Sherif
Broadcasting Diaries

This research aims to examine the problems females face in the field of entertainment in Egyptian media. It uncovers the real problem causing the image of women to deteriorate. It assesses self perceptions and job satisfactions of these women and links these to their behavior as presenters.
Madonna Mekhail lived in Saudi Arabia until high school where she has been in contact with diverse cultures which helped shape her personality. Her interests include short story writing and reading.

Sally Sherif received British education in elementary and high school. Her interests include poetry composition and basketball. She is currently the Senior English Editor of a magazine on campus.

3:00-3:50  Media/Politics

Lina Ashour

The Silencing of Voices: Politicised Mass Media in Egypt

Mass Media in Egypt is constrained by government policies for the purpose of maintaining stability. The government is faced with a new challenge online media, because it is not very easy to control. Although it is a challenge for the state, it also provides new possibilities for individuals to come up with creative initiatives for tackling major social and political issues.

Lina Ashour is a junior in Political Science at AUC. Although very interested in politics and the current problems with Egypt, her true passion is literature and writing and she hopes to make a career out of it. Lina feels that words are very powerful and can help in bringing the region forward in more ways than one.

Joseph Futa Mbombo

Foreign Aid and Collaboration between State and the Civil Society

The object of this research paper is to identify an alternative mechanism for the allocation of foreign aid to Civil Society. This mechanism would reduce resentment from the part of the State and not only enhance citizen participation but also increase State-Civil Society collaboration in policy implementation.

Joseph Futa Mbombo is a political science major at the American University in Cairo. He is originally from Congo (DRC) and has been involved in some political activities in his country.

Mahmoud Farag

Politics of Egypt: Consolidation of Control or Political Reform

The constitutional amendments that took place in Egypt recently gave rise to the question of political change in Egypt. This paper examines challenges to the Egyptian regime and the potential for political reforms in the near future.
Mahmoud Farag is a Political Science Senior at AUC specializing in International Law and minoring in History. Mainly, his interests are related to politics and human rights in Egypt.

4:00-4:50  Educational Advancement

Laila Elimam

**Integrating Creativity in Egypt's Educational Curriculum**

It is imperative for children in Egypt to receive adequate education, but this seldom occurs. Public schools provide passive education, in which students are discouraged from being creative. This paper focuses on the necessity of integrating creativity in the Egyptian educational curriculum in order to improve a child's critical skills and aid in later stages of their life.

*Laila Elimam is a Political Science Sophomore who moved from California to Cairo three years ago. She is interested in social services and development in Egypt. She also participates in MAL and MUN.*

Iman Dawood

**A New Look at Egypt's Brain Drain**

The emigration of highly skilled and educated Egyptian citizens has been going on for decades and has had a relatively negative effect on Egypt’s development. Focusing on the AUC community, this research hopes to better understand the Egyptian brain drain and focuses on new ways in which the brain drain can be reversed in present-day Egypt.

*Iman Dawood is a political science sophomore at the American University in Cairo. She grew up in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and moved to Cairo two years ago. She is particularly interested in development issues.*

Nady El-Zayaty, Mariam El Haddad, Noha Shaker

**The Implementation of On-line Courses at the AUC**

Many hardships such as excessive traffic, crowded classrooms, inconvenient schedules, and a large travel distance to the physical campus are currently plaguing the AUC community. The implementation of online courses at the AUC is an excellent means by which many of these difficulties can be remedied.

*Nady El-Zayaty is Senior double majoring in Philosophy and Marketing. He believes the diversity of skills each major provides will be of great use in life and his future career.*
Moderators
*Maha Assaly*, is a Palestinian-born Accounting senior and a member in Al-Quds Club. She plans to pursue a graduate MBA.

*Tarek Zarad* is a Construction Engineering senior who grew up in Saudi Arabia. He combines academic interest with extracurricular membership on the CIMUN.

*Dina Zikry* is a Business Administration major. She studied at The University of Guelph, Canada for a year, then moved to AUC. She plans a career in Human Resources.

*Sara Valenzia* majors in Journalism and Mass Communication and minors in Theater. She enjoyed participating in the production of the recent play – Al Maghmatis.

*Sarah Afifi* is a Mass Communication major with an IMC specialization, and a keen interest in art. She has spent a year-abroad at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

*Amr Ramadan*, an Economics major, is particularly interested in social work and development. He is active in community service clubs and is chair of the Economic Society.

*Reem Dmeiri* majors in Accounting and minors in Computer Science and Economics. She grew up in Palestine and, now, plans to pursue an MBA after graduation.

*Ibrahim Abo Tira* is a Philosophy student who minors in Political Science. He has work experience in the leather industry and career interests in teaching.

*Noha El Badawy* is a political science senior with a double specialization in Public and International Law and Middle East Politics.

*Marain Riskalla* is a senior in Mass Communication with a concentration in Marketing and a minor in Psychology.

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Acknowledgments

The Conference Organizing committee would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals and supporting units:

The AUC Cafeteria - for sponsoring the Opening Reception and the Closing Dinner.

The Office of Student Development – Dr. Mohamed Dabbour and Ms. Aida Maged – for their continued support, management and sponsorship of the conference.

The Student Union - for offering assistance and expertise in planning publications, promotion and welcome packages.

Sarah Abdel Razek – for a wonderful musical performance.

Conference Organizing Committee

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