

THE 7TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Why not the Gymnasium, the size of the place does matter

The thing to remember about the graduation is that it is a moment of mixed emotions. Waking up at 7 am if ever you sleep to find students' eyes full of expectations of how that would be lived. The stress of the program starts with the breakfast, the dressing, listening through to all kinds of speeches and ends once you get your diploma. Soon afterwards, standing the whole day waiting for that very minute your name is called. The worries fade quickly as you get the diplomas. The university provides you with myriad resources to ease a better preparation for the real world.

This year a contingent of staff, nearly all the university except for some people who preferred the cosy sofa of criticism partook in a very successful event. What makes the specificity of the 7th commencement is the number of graduates who came back to AUU either from their internships or jobs to celebrate their success. Going out may open their eyes to many realities they have never imagined in those comfortable rooms and library. Now if they need a single paper, they cannot send an email. If they need a book, they have to buy it. For the swimming pool, they have to pay membership fees and the same thing goes for tennis and the gym. As for the internet, it is no longer a mystery. More importantly, they will have no advisor but themselves.

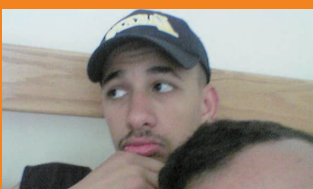


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Majda MOUTCHOU

Four out of six graduate students faced unexpected problems at the beginning of this summer, namely because they were not called by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, at least on time, to have their internship as expected. Witnesses say that the Ministry did not get students applications for internship on time. This delay, however, did not take a long time before being worked out. Hence, all of them could join their posts at the Ministry, and open the

Future Diplomats

first door of the palace of diplomacy. Internship questions need further observation, discussion and

deep study in order to avoid such kinds of problems in the future. In this respect, we would like to thank the

School, headed by Dr. Dahbi, for their gratified support to AUU graduates inside and outside AUU. (page 4)



Hail our Young Inventors



Brahim AIT OUZINEB

Research is the only epitome of a strong economy all round the world. In Morocco the development of technological innovation, the help of innovative enterprises, matching Moroccan decision makers in the domain and the Moroccan scholars who go abroad and boost the innovation in the productive sectors of our economy are the main interests of the R & D Maroc. This professional association is headed by the affluent Moroccan economist Mr Morad Cherif, the CEO of the Cherifian Office of Phosphates (OCP) and counts among its executive officers people like Hassan Chami president

of CGEM, Abdeslam Ahizoune, General Director of Maroc Telecom to name but a few. The last week of May knew the organisation of the ceremony of prizes of the Third National Competition of Innovation for young innovating minds of Morocco in Sheraton Casa. The Internship Association of Al Akhawayn was invited by its partner which won the prize of innovation in enterprises (Eclisse) for inventing a CD of the Tamazight Language Learning . The ceremony was held in the presence of Mr Mourad Cherif, Mr Rachid Talbi El Alami, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Telecommunications and Mr Omar Fassi

Fihri, the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in charge of Scientific Research. However, the minister of higher education was absent which cloaked a bit the sayings of Mr El Alami on the active involvement of the government in the process of developing Morocco (I have heard these WORDS before somewhere).

At the beginning, Mr Cherif explained the goal behind the association which started in 1997. Through its endeavors, it has found out that we have in our country a lot of potentials and this shows in the number of candidates 129. Mr Cherif took the floor to thank all the sponsors especially the CDG group for offering interesting funds for innovation projects. He went on thanking all those who made of the competition a clear success. Such competitions are brought up to concretize the efforts to get close to the university milieu and initiate a system of research. This

should ring a bell in the minds of the representatives of AUI in the ceremony as our university should have a center for promoting research in the student body. We rarely see works published by the university. The capstone projects are shelved while they could be taken into consideration and implementation.



Ms Sanae Menouni, Internship, Mr Ahmed Laaroussi, the SGA and Mr And Mrs Kamane : the AUI representatives in the ceremony



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The Spring Semester...

THE AUI NEWS EDITOR

Students have complained in this spring for the reduced number of activities. Repeated guests and same faces seen and invited again and again. It has been shown throughout the years that activities initiated by students knew success. A student told me once that fairly speaking having Nass El Ghiwan, with all their history, performing for us is something to be proud of. So this semester again Nass El Ghiwan were invited for the Job Fair. It was a good way to end that activity that did not take place on campus for a long time. Though the time was not well chosen for the activity, it helped students meet the companies in the gymnasium. This has been an occasion for us again to know that students can make of a simple idea a great event. The Minister, Mustapha Mansouri, came here to talk about the job market and the change in the traditional educational system. This change is likely to result in a more competitive market place. This should incite our students to look for more internships to acquaint themselves to the market.

We had a Tetanus campaign and immediate explanations to female students who cared to stop by the student activities. However, the virtues of this activity done by the Rotaract Club in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Health Center outweigh such vices. Though the number of beneficiaries in two campaigns is (1st=200 and 2nd 250), Dr Hicham is not happy at all with the turnout of female students. It is clear that this percentage is very low. The very night of the Tetanus Campaign and as a way to celebrate its suc-

cess, a show featuring the LYNK Anderson Quartet (Jazz Ambassadors) took place in building 17. The Lynk jazz heated up the auditorium with its fine tunes. Nearly, forty stu-

saloons in the US.

Back to AUI, we have been moving these last years from one breathtaking Rap concert to another. With El Padre's visit, the party

They often summon their talent to get the interaction of the audience. Others found their lyrics too daring but it is through talking about taboos that we get over their high cas-

at Hugo Boss ad.

A less stunning event though is the Musicorama Open Air Party who drew a little audience of those who come to see and laugh at those dancing instead of letting their stress out. The parties at AUI are a good place for testing the GAZE's edge. Nothing MORE!!

Now, the FUN RUN the major attraction of the Spring Semester. This year the organization of the night done majorly by too many students soon loses its attraction. Indeed the quality of the artists invited was cloaked by the bad spots of the night. The absence of El Guerrouj has become a habit so we never expect him anymore. Hand in Hand has surely better look into a new way of organizing the event so that it would not fade into something predictable.

Imagine a semester without a talent show whereby few students would give free reign to their talents. In a full building 17, they would try to satisfy a hectic and a demanding audience. These performances are judged instantaneously either by whistling or being heavily applauded which is the case most of the time.

This semester, no staff was there and questions always abound as to the participation of our dear staff in the events organized by the university. Apart from the usual faces, Siham Kchired excelled in emulating Maria Carey and Nadia Stoti left the university on a happy note tuning perfectly Alicia Keys' best song till now "Falling."

Our students have proven once and again that they can do well not only in fun events but also



They won Le Boulevard des Jeunes Musiciens; The Dogs



The German Carnival... nice suit



Running and nothing but running

dents walked over to the main building to see and hear this band that came all the way from the US. In fact, they performed in the 9th of March in one of the most prestigious music halls in the US i.e. The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Each of the performers has got fulltime scholarships in famous music colleges and has years of experience in major listening

heated up. With presenters in the cloak of rap, Amine and Youssef Ksiyer (toto) the Sticky GreenZ in memory of Gus and the others who left to Canada gave us a good concert. They were joined by the much admired in AUI, The Dogs. This group who happens to talk about the worries of adolescents in Morocco having to fight aged and not easily swayed parents.

w a s tles. The Dogs even tread uncharted routes in discourse to get close to the worries of the audience which is mostly young and they did so well. The Sticky GreenZ repeated the famous tunes of Dr Dre and Snoop Doggy Dog. AUI had to meet the new member of the club, Wissam whose voice promises a lot. Nevertheless, the band has to start thinking about its own songs and ponder



in organizing major events. The First International Student Conference on the Conflict of Images: Islam and the West was definitely one of the best events of last semester. Surely, the presence of students would have been enriching to the conversation. Hopefully, the exchange got a better idea of the utility of dialogue and put through the message that Islam is a religion of peace, nothing else.

Our Germans also took part in the Spring events. The dress carnival was the first one to be



organized perfectly by the disciples of Dr Haddouti. The Gulf oil tycoon with his body guards won the first prize. The disguise depicts a

lustuous man who can afford anything and he even dares to buy the university. The second prize went to the beggar ironically filling

her clothes with Hand in Hand pins and insinuating to the problems of homeless people in our country. The carnival was an occasion to listen to some voices of AUI singing different tunes. We never tire of Siham's sweet voice and Sawssan's vivid team of salsa. The jury was constituted of Dr Wein, Dr Willis, Mr Fatmi and Ms Rajae Saidi and had a difficulty to choose the best costume as most disguises were so well-thought and prize worthy.

Under the supervision of Mr Kamane, a Rallye of Solidarity was organized for the first time at Al Akhawayn. Who said that AUI is a detached elite abode? three teams from AUI participated in the event and were the seventh out of . This initiative joins the donations campaign done by the solidarity clubs to help the people of Al Hoceima who still suffer from the dejection caused by the indifference of the government.

Future Diplomats

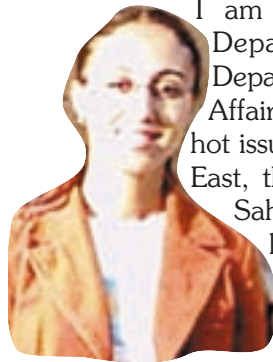
Fanou Belkhiyat

This is a very exciting and interesting experience since I am learning some important facts that occur between the American continent and Morocco. Lately, I have been working on the speech of the Ambassador of the United States in Oslo. The Ambassador dealt with important issues that concern the whole planet and that have to be taken into consideration by Morocco.



Majda Moutchou

I am working at a very critical Department, which is the Department of Arab and Islamic Affairs. We are dealing with very hot issues: the Problem of the Middle East, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Sahara issue, and so on. I am learning incredibly a lot here, putting into practice what AUI taught me. I am having contact with AUI graduates who are already working here. They could show expertise in the field. As far as the general atmosphere inside the Ministry, people are nice, and ready to lend a hand. We could easily adapt ourselves to the situation. The work we do is great and extraordinarily appealing. We are supervised by professionals. We are proud of the fact that they could see in us future diplomats. An internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is an opportunity that you can never miss!



Fahd Loubariz

I chose to do the internship, which is required as a part of our curriculum, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This choice proved to be successful, since I am learning a lot of practical things and I am having a lot of new acquaintances. In fact, I was appointed to the section of the United Nations and the International Organizations. In this Department, we are working as a team on many dossiers, especially preparing for the 59th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations that will start on September 14th, 2004. I enjoy what I am doing, but I miss you. I hope I will see you very soon.



Hasnae Minaoui

Our experience in the Ministry is both interesting and enriching. The first days were not very loaded: we were to read articles and documents about the issues dealt with in the Department where we are having our training. It is led by very approachable and friendly officials. What makes this experience even more interesting for me and Jalila Morsli, who is working with me in the same division (European Union), is the presence of AUI Alumni which put us in a very familiar atmosphere.



Jalila Morsli

I started my internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on June 3rd, 2004 and it will end on the 31st of July. I work in "la Direction des Affaires Européennes, Division of the European Union". The Team I work with are really fantastic people and very hard-working. Two ex-AUI graduate students work in my division: Habib and Nassim Toroughi in addition to me and Hasnae Minaoui who are also interns from AUI. We really feel at home here. This internship is very fruitful for me both for my thesis and my professional life in the Ministry In Shaa Allah.



Simo Elalaoui

Hello, I am currently doing my internship in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Rabat to fulfill my requirement in the program of MAISD. Since I came, I was appointed in the Multilateral Cooperation and Protocol Department, where I find myself among different international issues.



Exchange Experience Lessons

Wadia AIT HAMZA

When coming back to Morocco, I was thinking about my experience in the US, as exchange student and the difference between the two countries. I said to a friend that to go on exchange is great; to experience the culture shock is greater. I am not talking about the culture shock that you will experience the first weeks when you arrive to the

smoothly by meeting first the international program staff in the host university who take care of introducing you to their culture as they are experienced in that domain.

The first shock that you experience in Morocco is the staff at the airport. They don't have the same approach to passengers as they do in the foreign airport. I heard someone saying that he wants to go back to the host country

and try to show the affection to the other publicly which is really bad especially that we are Muslims and living in a Muslim community. I did not notice that in a non-Muslim society, so...let's behave.

I was thinking of the difference between our university and the one that hosted me during last spring. (When talking about AUI, I don't want to offend someone, but I am talking about the

The thing that shocked me a lot it's the attitude of lovers, they never show their affection publicly, not like in our small community

shower and toilet in your room, which is not the case in US universities. The price for a simple room with only a bed and a table as a desktop is around 3000\$. In AUI, it's 400\$ with better quality and services.

Studies: probably the same level (depending on which classes you take and the major) with more stress in AUI because you are always overloaded with work.

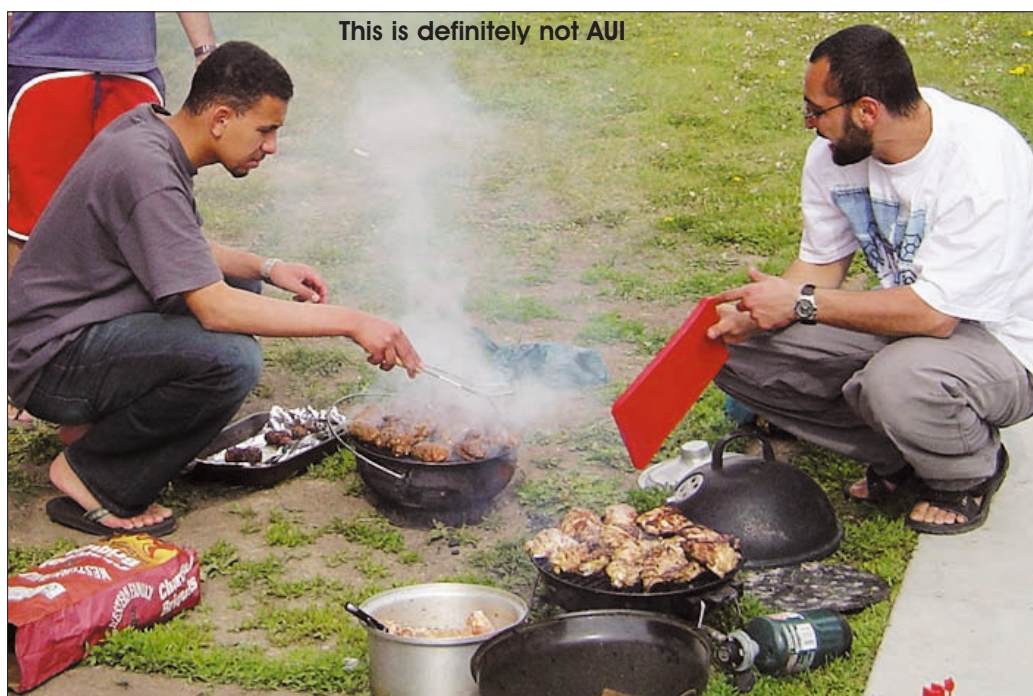
Administration: compared to AUI, they got a more helpful and easy-going administration. They are always smiling and wanting to help whatever the price is, it's like if a student is a client and you have to satisfy him/her.

Professors: A big difference between the Americans universities and AUI. In the US, the professors are very nice and friendly, they try their best so that the student gets the most from their experience. I don't

mean here that there are no nice and quality professors at AUI, but they are some who do not deserve to be an AUIer.

Food: one of the critical issues at AUI. In AUI, we have to thank God and eat what they propose to us, because the restaurant in the university where I was, it was all run by students, so you know the quality that you can expect from that. Secondly, they have the same menu every meal; A burger, French fries and a coke, and if you are lucky they will not have pepperoni pizza, but a chicken pizza that you can enjoy even if its quality has nothing to do with what a pizza tastes like. This was a brief summary about the difference between our university and my host university in the US.

To those who read my article about the security in the US and the special registration for the Arabs will think that I am discouraging the students from doing the exchange or even study in the US, which is not true. I wrote that article in order to bring to your attention about the international problems that we have to deal with nowadays. I am encouraging every student to spend a semester overseas to acquire the experience and to know about the other, who can be your friend or your foe one day.



This is definitely not AUI

destination country, but the one that you will experience when you come back.

Before I left, some friends told me to prepare myself for a culture shock. I was thinking about how can I experience a culture shock in our country. Usually the culture shock we experienced it in the destination country not in our home country. Unfortunately, that's the reality. The Moroccan culture shock is much bigger than the American one. Reason one: we were introduced to the American culture during the orientation session that we had at the university here and also by reading some articles that tackle this issue. Reason two: you are introduced to the American culture

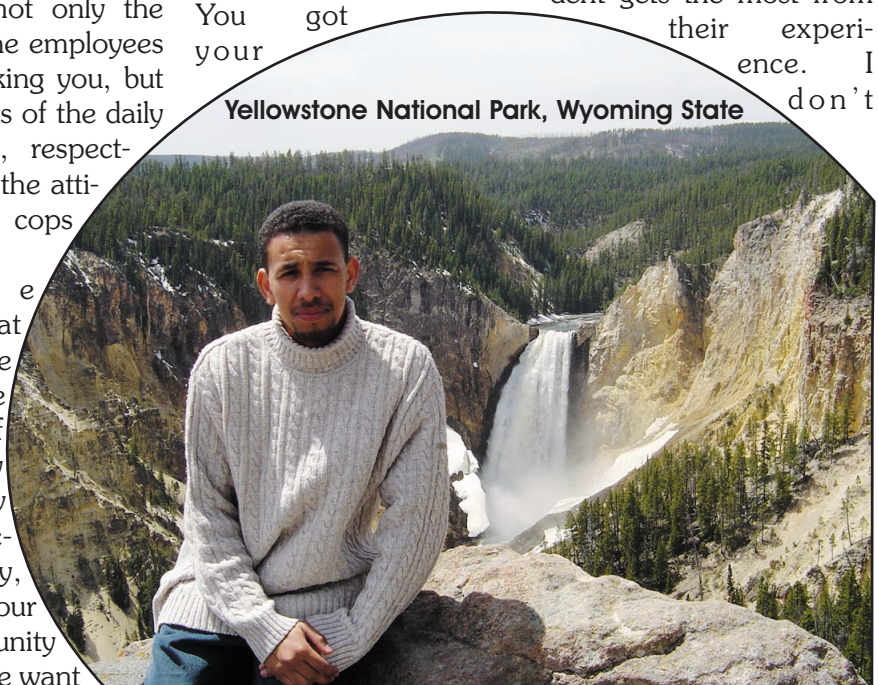
because of the behavior of the airport employee. The attitude of the employees is weird and the Moroccan government should deal with this issue if they want really to win the bid of 10 millions tourists by 2010.

It's not only the attitude of the employees that is shocking you, but many aspects of the daily life. Driving, respecting the law, the attitude of the cops and so on...

The thing that shocked me a lot is the attitude of lovers, they never show their affection publicly, not like in our small community where people want

perspective of AUI student in general and it does not mean that everything is negative)

Housing: it's one of positive points about AUI, it's cheap, and the quality of services give the students are great. You got your



Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming State

Leaders' Starting Point

Brahim AIT OUZINEB

The stonehenge has nothing to do with the 3000BC manmade mystery of the South of England. It is merely a celebration of the most successful students in our univesity. In the presence of the newly appointed University Chancellor, Mr Jaouahri, Mr President and the different school deans together with Mr Sidi Ali Maelainin, the representative of Microsoft Morocco and former teacher at AUI. He expressed his happiness to be among his family once again and congratulated those who won the prizes. The Imagine Cup organized by Microsoft this year was won by the team of INPT, then ENSIAS and third places was for Al Akhawayn. Haitof Houssam, Khenati Faycal, Amal Benzina and other students were honored in this first intiative which should be repeated. Our leaders should be encouraged more and more. As the newspaper is part of the university body that seeks all the itme giving voice to our students who excel in their domain, we thought of having an interview with two students who got prizes from Microsoft for their project.

1. Why such project? is the idea yours or the supervisor's?

Mehdi EL NAOUI: Before talking about the "why", let's talk about the

"what" and the "how". First, The project is called "e-Restaurant." Its title is self descriptive: It is a system that would allow people in a restaurant to order their meals using mobile devices (such as PDAs). It will also allow the staff working in the restaurant (cookers, waiters and managers) to have a follow up of all the restaurant activities using wireless devices. Orders can be submitted even

means)

2. What do you think should be done with such projects?

M.N.: As they are achieved for an academic purpose, these projects, depending on the value they provide and if operational, should be deployed in order to be tested against the real world requirements. This way, they can be improved, new features

a pleasure to be honored in such a ceremony.

4. Don't you think that your project can be applied at our restaurant or cafeteria?

M.N.: Well, the main purpose of our application is to eliminate the interference of the waiter in the order making process. This is mainly because some waiters make you wait a long time before they come and take your

an idea of Mr R. Abid to whom we are very thankful for his support during all stages of this competition.

Y.F. Z.: As you know we did not have time to finish this project so we did only a small part that we presented in the competition. I think that it will be good

if we find some people intersted in the idea of this project that will provide us with the appropriate support so we can finish it.

Y.F. Z.: I thank the SEE school for this gentle gesture and the Microsoft represented for their gifts. it was a great opportunity to meet friends specially the ones who are doing the summer session.

Y.F. Z.: First let's take a look of at the main idea of the project : you enter a restaurant then you command a meal using a device placed on your table when the meal is ready the waiter brings it to you. As you can see the waiter still have a role in the whole scenario and so it cannot be applied to AUI restaurant but I think with some modifications it can be done.

Y.F. Z.: I think that it is a great idea to have a competition for best capstone project as it will push students to work harder and be more creative in order to win. As you know students in the last years start to look to the capstone project as another four credits course in which they have to do projects to get their degree so they tend to make their life easy by choosing simple ones which make the quality and creativity of this project go down.



Parents and teachers have reasons to be proud

from outside the restaurant. Concerning the technology used, this project was implemented using .net compact framework from Microsoft.

Concerning the idea, it was the result of a brainstorming session that we had with our advisor Mr. Abid Reduan. I should recall that we had to find a project that can be done within the relatively short period of time we were given. In addition, the deadline was the week end before the final exams week...(you know what it

can be added, and bugs can be corrected. Please note that there added value in term of experience is very considerable. That's why, such contests that involve projects should be organized more frequently, even at the level of our university.

3. What do you think of the ceremony done in honor of you?

M.N.: We were not among the winners and that was unpleasant, but the ceremony did provide us with the confidence that next time we will make it inchaallah. It was

order, or sometimes they are really in a hurry so they make you submit your order within giving you time to think about it! That's actually the major problem that our application solves. If we want to apply it to our restaurant, it wouldn't make any difference as it is a self service restaurant. The same thing applies for the cafeteria

5. Do you think that our university encourages research like yours?

M.N.: The university is implicitly encouraging such research by providing us with all the resources needed (Computers, Internet Connection, Library materials...). It would be explicit by organizing local contests where students can engage in projects to be presented.

Yassine Faouzi Zizi: It was



Yassine Fouzi Zizi



El Mehdi Naoui

Excellence scholarship : hand in hand with AUI Moto

Q: This year, AUI was particularly attractive to prospective students. The number of applicants nearly doubled compared to previous years. Could you give us more figures and what is the secret behind that?

DR BELFEKIH: This year the University decided to offer a number of scholarships to attract good students for as you know, financing is a major obstacle. The result is that we received over 760 undergraduate applications. It is true that most of them will require financial assistance, but we hope that by offering 65 full or partial scholarship, we will be able to attract top

Semester applied for	received	Attended the GAT
Fall 2002	276	222
Spring 2003	141	91
Fall 2003	301	217
Spring 2004	86	63
Fall 2004	764	575

quality students. The table shows the large increase in the number of new applicants.

Q: How different was this year in terms of quality of the applicants?

DR BELFEKIH: This year the quality of applicants is very high both in statistical terms and as reported by faculty conducting admission interviews. Over one third of the applicants had either Bien or Très Bien distinction compared with 10 to 15% in previous semesters. Of

course this percentage increased for admitted students. I just hope we will be able to convince a large proportion of them to join AUI

Q: Could you guide us step by step into the selection procedures of both normal applicants and grant seekers.

DR BELFEKIH: For scholarship applicants, a condition to compete is to have an overall grade average of 14/20 (Bien distinction or better) for Moroccan system students and 12/20 (Assez Bien distinction or better) for French system students, or 90% or higher for Middle East systems. We also allowed students with SAT scores of 1100 or higher to compete. After the GAT, students over a cut off point were pre-selected for the interview. The final decision will be based on a composite score made up of Baccalauréat, GAT and interview rating.

Q: What motivated the decision of an excellence scholarship at this specific time? Is it some kind of conclusion that you came to after specific studies, or was it a last minute inspiration?

DR BELFEKIH: The University's search for excellence begins with good students. It is noticed in top universities that there is a small minority of bright students who pull standards up and we hope to raise the general level by attracting excellent students. In addition to this objective, the University



has another objective, which is that of providing opportunities for deserving students to get quality education who would not otherwise be able to join AUI..

Q: What is the source of funding for these scholarships?

DR BELFEKIH: The Board of Trustees recently appointed by His Majesty the King has decided to undertake a major task of raising money to provide grants to academically deserving students. They will provide a little over half the amount needed while the rest will come from the University's own funds mainly proceeds of the Trust Fund.

Q: What do the grant holders have to honor and demonstrate in order to keep their scholarships?

DR BELFEKIH: Grants awarded on the basis of academic excellence will obvi-

ously be maintained as long as the grantee is performing adequately. The grant probation or grant suspension cut off points will be higher than for regular financial aid beneficiaries. In addition, beneficiaries will have to perform a number of hours of community service and general student activities.

Q: Have you by now gathered any data that demonstrates the credibility of AUI GAT test?

DR BELFEKIH: Comparing achievement tests with aptitude tests is a little risky. A validity test is faculty impression of quality of intake before and after the GAT. In this respect, faculty have reported a general improvement. I am also gathering data on pre-GAT and post-GAT grades in the same course. One problem we have is the lack of a reliability figure for the Baccalauréat grades and we are disturbed by the wide gap between the continuous assessment and the national exam grades as well as by reports of cheating.

Q: Knowing that our institution values active students as much as it values academically sound students, How can you make sure that the "excellent" students will also become "active"

students, contributing to community and social causes?

DR BELFEKIH: We expect scholarship beneficiaries to be leaders in all aspects of university life, academically as well as in terms of student activities. Generally though, students who perform well tend to be well rounded so I am sure you will have a lot of good clients next semester, you just have to make good use of their enthusiasm and readiness to learn.

Q: Any last comment, clarification or message you would like to make?

DR BELFEKIH: A lot of time and effort has gone into preparing and implementing this campaign and I would like to thank all my staff for putting it together and making it a success especially coming after commencement, which required everyone's assistance. Many students also helped through taking part in student fairs in Casablanca, Rabat, Oujda, Agadir and Fes. I had excellent reports about their performance from parents of prospective students and I am really proud of them. I would also like to thank faculty who interviewed over 300 applicants. I wish new students well and urge them to make the most of their time at AUI.

Semester applied for	Très Bien	%	Bien	%	Assez Bien	%	Passable	%	Other systems	%	N/A	total
Fall 2002	1	0.45	33	14.86	82	36.94	60	27.03	3	1.35	43	222
Spring 2003	1	0.71	13	9.22	29	20.57	47	33.33	4	2.84	2	141
Fall 2003	4	1.33	24	7.97	56	18.60	89	29.57	3	1.00	41	301
Spring 2004	0	0.00	8	9.30	18	20.93	35	40.70	1	1.16	1	86
Fall 2004	56	7.33	195	25.52	182	23.82	106	13.87	3	0.39	33	764



7th
Commencement
in Photos



Undergraduates

Alaoui-Ismaïli Youssef	Bouali Youssef	Hernafi Jihane	Rebbane Inas
Aabik Mohammed	Boughaba Khadija	Hilia Asmae	Roudies Lalla Meryem
Abbad Mohammed	Bougroug Tarek	Ider Mohammed Aous	Sahim Merouane
Abdellaoui Khaoula	Bouhlal Omar	Idrissi Janati Khadija	Sebki Adil
Abouabdallah Mohamed Kamal	Boussaoula Mnina	Ittobane Youssef	Sebti Houda
Aiouche Karim	Boutaarit Siham	Izelmaden Mouna	Sebti Mohamed
Aït Ahmed Youssef	Channane Abdelali	Jaddaïni Boutaïna	Seffar Mohammed
	Cherti Tazi Mehdi	Jermoumi Nawal	Serbouti Houda
	Chraïbi Zineb	Kadiri Hassani Amine	Slaoui Kawtar
	Damdarn Nissrin	Kamal Hanane	Slaoui Rkia



MOUNIA TAGMA: the spokeswoman of the cohort



Alaoui Belghiti Ghita	Darâoui El Mehdi	Karrakchou Med	Benmoussa Amine
Alaoui Medarhri Rachid	Dardikh Anas	Adnane	Bouayad Mehdi
Alaoui Siham	Dinia Mohammed	Kettani Mouna	Bouhamidi Lalla Soumia
Alaoui Yazidi El Yazid	Doghmi Youssef	Khaldoun Siham	Bouzoubaa Marouane
Alaoui-Moustain Houssine	El Alaoui El Rhoul Tayeb	Khaless Anass	Chakiri Houda
Amajoud Khalid	El Andaloussi Housna	Khalil Lamyâ	Cheraki Anissa
Amghouz Fadoua	El Bezzari Nazih	Kinani Fatima	Dandoune Lamia
Amrani El Mehdi	El Eulj Lamiae	Zohra	Darid Abdelhakim
Aounzou Ilham	El Filali Maria	Krabatou Youssef	El Boukhari Nabila
Arima Adnane	El Ghani Soumia	Lahlou Hind	El Ghailani Maher
Assade Rajaâ	El Habach Oussama	Lahlou Othmane	El Hanafi Widad
Ayouch Meryem	El Harras Mehdi	Lahlou Zineb	El Kourdi Mohamed
Bachir El-Bouhali Zineb	El Hazoui Ilias	Lahmil Omar	Enechar Ikram
Badis Myriam	El Kadiri Brahim	Lakhsassi Mohammed Amine	Fatmi Abdessamad
Bakkar Badr	El Kandri Mohammed	Laraïchi Houda	Ghanjaoui Yacine
Bamous Zineb	El Kerouani Yasmine	Lazrak Meriem	Maaroufi Linda
Bari Nîma	El Khalifa Lalla Roukia	Lembarki-Kadiry Sanaa	Ouahhabi-Laroussi Mohamed
Bekkali Amine	El Khenati Fayçal	Mahani Narimane	Pariante Moshe Mike
Bel Mamoun Ahmed	El Kiram Saïda	Malki Siham	Rifai Ilham
Belâaziz Hicham	El Mahdi Asmae	Marjane Yassine	Serrar Âlae Eddin
Ben Houmman Amal	El Ouadghiri Houcine	Massaoudi Chorouq	Skalli Habiba
Ben Zerouk Kamal	El Ougli Imane	Mellouk Leila	Tagrit Ghizlane
Benaddi Doha	El Ouilani Lamia	Mernissi Wadie	Talouh Abdelmouhcine
Benamghar Mustapha	El Radouani Souhaïla		Youssefi Badra
Benchaïb Salah-Eddine	El Youssoufi Kaltoum		
Bendoudouch Mehdi	Erraoui Hicham		
Benkirane Ilham	Ettazi Samia		
Benkirane Saâdi Yasmine	Faouzi Salma		
Bennouna Louridi Majid	Fassi Fehri Al Mahdi		
Bensaïh Ihsane	Fathi Imane		
Bensalah Salima	Gacim Ghizlane		
Bentaleb Amine	Gada Abdessamad		
Benthami Ouissam	Gazzaz Bakr Eman		
Benyahya Loubna	Ghandour Imane		
Benzina Amal	Haitami Mohamed Adil		
Berrada Gouzi Oussama	Hajji Siham		
Biougnach Hassan	Hammane Naoual		
Bouabid Leïla	Harraïda Abdellatif		

Graduates

Meziane-Mtalsi Abdelkarim	Benmoussa Amine
Meziani Houda	Bouayad Mehdi
Mguired Imane	Bouhamidi Lalla Soumia
Mniaï Ayoub	Bouzoubaa Marouane
Moursli Tarik	Chakiri Houda
Naqouri Ghassan	Cheraki Anissa
Nouas Nadia	Dandoune Lamia
Ouazza Mohamed	Darid Abdelhakim
Ouharda Reda	El Boukhari Nabila
Outana Imane	El Ghailani Maher
Ouzzine Younes	El Hanafi Widad
Rahmoun Fatima Zohra	El Kourdi Mohamed

The 7th Commencement



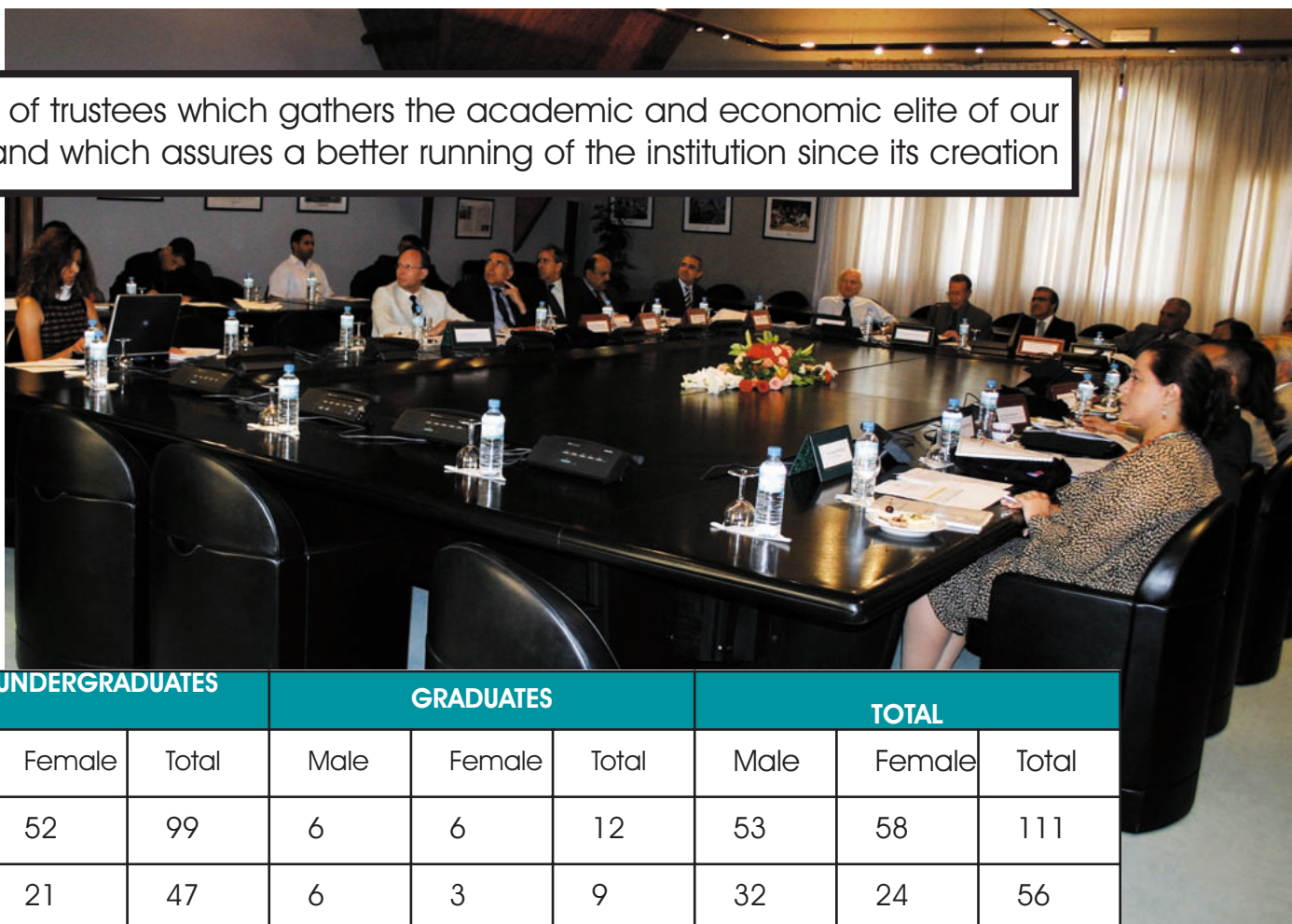
« I am sure that as you leave this place and engage in a new experience, you will remember the moments of joy and satisfaction you had at this very environment, the friendships you made and the academic and life lessons you learned. These are the moments that will stick to your memories to accompany you in your way on to the future. »

« You have lived in an environment whose main concern is to cultivate and foster the values of dialogue, tolerance and understanding, and to prepare its students to be good citizens of their country while being able to coexist with the other, regardless of his culture and beliefs.»

« As you leave this university you will continue to carry the real meaning of these values and the importance of commitment to them. Let them be the candle that enlightens your path to the future to explore the wide and promising prospects awaiting you as you spread AUI's message around you. »

Quotes from the President Speech in the 6th Commencement

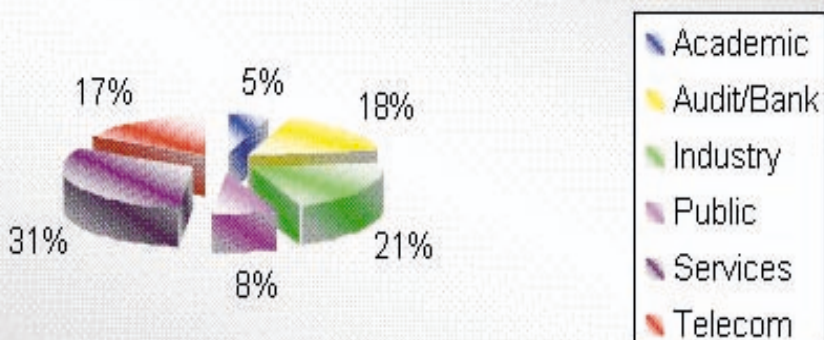
The Board of trustees which gathers the academic and economic elite of our country and which assures a better running of the institution since its creation



7th Commencement Statistics

School	UNDERGRADUATES			GRADUATES			TOTAL		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SBA	47	52	99	6	6	12	53	58	111
SSE	26	21	47	6	3	9	32	24	56
SHSS	1	10	11	3	5	8	4	15	19
EEC / EX-MBA				7	2	9	7	2	9
TOTAL	74	83	157	22	16	38	96	99	195

AUI Graduates' Career Orientations*
Fall '98—Spring '03



AUI Graduates' Career Situation
Fall '98—Spring '03



The Commencement Review

THE BEGINNING:

The Ritual celebration of the graduates named as commencement deserves its name. This occasion is a beginning of fear of the future and what is awaiting the cohort. Tomorrow, we would hear that Mr, Ms X is abroad another one is here or there fighting life's ups and downs. A new adjustment of one's priorities and privileges is to be done. When we leave AUI, many things change of course. The celebration is a commencement of a new era of the unknown for students who have fought their daily life to get a diploma and be the pride of their parents and teachers. These celebration rituals date back to the 12th century and are known as such for the robes scholastic monks used to wear and it evolved to what it is nowadays. The major change that occurred however is that the speech used to be done as a farewell by the monk now it is done mostly by a famous guest.

What makes the commencement day special is the renewed meeting of friends from whom we have not heard for a long time. Passing by the same places which once were the source of anguish or extreme happiness that takes back to an aura of cool music and a stroll in the wonderful green meadows in

view on the town.

One way to keep good record and kick off a memorable day is through photos. In the two last years, the parents services prepared a brochure containing all the photos of the cohort in case students would like to associate the faces with the names later on. However, it takes always time to get hold of all the photos taken that day. Seeking a better organization, this year the administration decided to launch an offer and sell the day's pictures to the best bidder.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Since the first commencement, the administration has managed to invite distinguished guests to give a speech which bores tired graduates despite its value. It is normal after a whole day full of all kinds of emotions. The speeches of the keynote speakers center mostly on inciting the cohort to get ready for a world totally different from the one they grew in up to now. Sir David Walker in the fifth commencement talked about intolerance and

the external forces that influences one's career and end up exerting an interaction between the individual and the nation state.

NUMBERS:

The Commencement has been an occasion to honor the 195 students who have had good marks. For those who love statistics, the school of Business is the school which offers largest graduates followed by the school of General Engineering. It may translate the expansion of the business life in Morocco. It shows also that the school of business has all the pressure and holds the image of the univer-

"The Worst of stupidities of the Youth is Their Desire to Become Adults"

Louis Celine cited by Mr President in the sixth Commencement

...I have come to the sombre but emphatic conclusion that, at the level of the individual, will is the one of the core drivers of our lives - often more potent as a force in business and politics than knowledge, intelligence, ability or ideology. Without will, an individual is likely to fail, sooner or later. With will, it is extraordinary how far a determined individual can go, even when weighty forces are lined up on the other side.

Sir David Walker, Manager Director, Morgan Stanley

Ifrane rather than listening to a guest speaker. The university has to think seriously of a group forest walk or a barbecue near the lake of Ifrane. Luckily, this year at least the ceremony will be held in the gymnasium which gives a nice

New ideas nowadays do not come from the leaders but from the bottom. Leadership is based on innovation and initiative.

Mr. González Márquez



The 7th Commencement Special

The success of the 7th Commencement



No two can object to the idea that the commencement ceremony of this year is one of the best if not the best. The majestic setting and the gratitude of the graduates to get chairs for the first time is thanks to the good yet late organization. It proved gratifying for students who fought four years standing in the queue of the restaurant, cafeteria, labs and registration to rest the day of their graduation. The preparation of all that platform "is filled with long hours of work and frequent frustrations;" Mr Salah Zekri would modestly claim.

Mr Salah ZEKRI: Last minute measures have characterized the graduation ceremony. To avoid that, a meeting of the different committees to identify the problems and suggest solutions to them. This year we did not start the preparation early enough because we had only three weeks. Accordingly, I prepared an action plan with the tasks of the different committees in which I made estimations of the number of guests. As for building 17, it has a lot advantages but its size is the main stumbling-block. We have 525 and adding chairs it makes 604 so for this year it was un-conceivable to contain 1000. However, the profile of the keynote speaker this semester and the inconvenience of putting people in building 4 compelled us to look for a bigger place. I had to choose between the soccer field or the gym. I left the decision in the hands of Dr Belfekih and after ten days, he said that the President consents to the idea of the gym. Then, I had to work quickly sketching the process from the main gate to the gym having to deal with parking, parents and VIP. In addition, the gym is not equipped and we had to deal with problems of light, heat and decorating the place with external supplies.

Once decided upon

relying on out-sourcing, we discussed this with Rahal Traiteur many times but we never heard of them. At last, Mr Bendkia and I contacted l'Evenementiel to prepare the setting which they did in two days. This was not easy as I was obliged to sleep in Mr Kamane's office to keep an eye on the workers.

To avoid redoing the same procedures each year in a different way, every part of the preparation was recorded using a camera and pictures were taken. I will not only write a report about the graduation preparations but I will develop a manual that would guide the coming people through the different steps to have a successful graduation. The only thing I regret is not recording the meeting prior to the Dday. One of the problems I noticed is the communication flaw between the different committees.

We did not think of involving the student in the organization of such events because the majority of the heads of committees prefer to supervise staff members as they are more reliable and accountable. This does not mean that students were totally excluded because some of them helped and did really well.

What matters to me now is a good evaluation of this ceremony through a meeting which takes place in June. Then, we must really buy our own equipment in order to be autonomous and why not sell this know-how to external clients.

Yasmine BAHAJI: This year compared to the previous years, the keynote speaker was great as he personalized the speech and made it interesting to follow for the cohort despite some complaints from parents as they did not understand. The students were seated which allows them to concentrate more on

the speeches. Everybody agreed that the organization was great yet we need to make it better.

A graduation in and out, we notice that the quality of students is the same setting apart the first cohort whose profile was really different. We always miss about 40% of them with whom we shared nice moments. We are and, I believe, they are happy to return. We are proud of them and would love to see them now and again.

As for the housing service in all that, I would say that students check in but we never control their movement. Yet one has to admit that that night has to be special so not staying inside the place where they spent four or five years is understandable to me. All of those who come to get their keys state their missing Ifrane despite their previous complaints when they were students. The problems faced during the graduation maybe hosting different events at the same time, the alumni association, the parents or family members and the VIP. In the previous graduations, students had the problem of deposit but now they have to pay the charges immediately. As for the students who check out at the same time to get their diplomas, we cannot do anything about it.

The good memories center on the load of emotions at play that very day. It is magical. It is not about the diploma, it is the aura of the event itself. I do recommend comfortable shoes not new shoes like the ones I had that hurt really bad. The fact of having the whole audience chanting the national anthem or the AUI is intense emotionally and translates to a large extent that sense of an Al Akhawayn Identity. We should not forget to thank the GM help who have always been there to build up the place from scratch.

The D day impressions

Different students were asked to give their point of view about the graduation and other issues:

Mehdi El Daraoui

1) The bad side of my souvenirs in AUI are the kind of treatment of some people in the business school where the behavior of some people is slowing the planned development of the university. For example, I would never forget the effort I put in preparing my presentations in two distinguished courses "Organizational



Behavior" and the "Capstone" classes with a teacher who favors the other sex. Unfortunately, there are no grades for others "majority of males" and by the end I got a "C" that made me have the diploma without a distinction "3.23". I would never forget also the way the students are treated in the BA school. Besides, I would criticize the capstone projects and studies overall that are relatively far from the real market we are stuck with the american system, there are no adaptations.

The good side is that the university is offering many many clubs that contribute more in the personality making and the good friendship relations I made in there that will surely last forever. Overall, it is also offering a very good environment for students.

N.B. the existence of some bad examples of the professors does not mean that there are no good or even very good teachers. there are many good teachers in AUI but the

problem as well is that the good professors are not treated as they should and it makes them leave for "better places"!

Another thing that they need to work on is the international image of the university. For example, I tried to enter some French universities and they said that I do not have enough education (insufficient training) and they need to have more partnership with known universities in France like (Paris Dauphine and others).

2) Eventhough I learned a lot, I would say that is not marketable, as I stated before there are still things to work on before marketing the product like changing the people that are slowing the development and add more Moroccan teachers that are very knowledgeable about the moroccan market and add more obligatory internships to have more related students to the Moroccan market.

3) my message to the continuing students is that they need to join the university clubs because they would learn a lot from them. And that they need to work on projects related to the Moroccan market and have as many internships as possible.

Mohamed El Kandri

In each stage of life, students can face many bad and good souvenirs. The bad sovenirs we had in AUI were related to the academic life. (the stressful professors who do so without objectives). Also we had a bad souvenir with the registration but I can say now that most of the administrative problems are solved. The good souvenirs were the activities we were involved with and the warm friendships we built.

Actually, I can say

that AUI in general is good institution in terms of providing students with good conditions for study. But they must improve the quality of the profes-



sors in SBA. I appreciate the SSE and SSE's dean for all his efforts to improve the quality of studies in SSE.

For all continuing students, I can say that they should focus on improving the quality of the academic life of AUI not the restaurant and I swear that all the materials and the good conditions for study in AUI will not be available elsewhere after finishing school. "Use life in AUI, Don't let life use you".

Alae Eddin Serrar

1- To tell the truth, I don't have many bad souvenirs about AUI. The only thing I could say was negative is the fact that I had sometimes to stay up very late at night to finish some paper or project. Everything else is in fact a

phere, eating with friends at the restaurant, discussing different issues with exchange students, my room in building 25 and other things. If you



asked me the same question just a few weeks before, I think my answer could have been different. Now that I'm done, I see things from a totally different perspective.

2- oh yeah definitely! I would say that AUI graduates have a positive image in the job market and that they are viewed positively more than any other Moroccan graduates be they from public or private institutions.

3- I think students shouldn't be solely immersed in the academic life in AUI, which is unfortunately what most students here tend to do, for there are many things that AUI and only AUI offers and that students need to take advantage of. I'm here referring to the social

aspect of AUI like sports facilities, club activities, getting new friends and most importantly meeting people from other cultures and learning how to be more tolerant. By the way these extracurricular activities are increasingly emphasized by

Laila Bouabid & Mouna Izelmaden

There is a bad orientation towards the different options that exist in the university once we came here. By the end, there is no professional assistance to students whatsoever, i.e. no one teaches us how to write a resumé or a letter of motivation. So once out there, we are shocked by another reality to which we have never been prepared. As for the subjects, they have nothing to do with the outside world. We are filled up and then let out to fend for ourselves. Despite all



this, we try to mix with a world strange to us and



believe it is not easy at all. Our recommendations is to oblige students during their studies to look not for internship but numerous ones so as to get a good idea of the market place. Students should profit from the university as much as possible. They should not stay behind doors studying. They should rather mix with the community and do as many activities as possible. It is when you finish and you're leaving the university that you regret many things and see the positive sides of your university.



good souvenir for me including class atmosphere for me employers.

The AUI Stage in a Journey

Zineb CHRAIBI

It is really a special day. A day that all students were waiting for impatiently. We have all studied so hard to finally get the diploma and make our relatives especially our parents happy. Our parents who made such sacrifices for us and gave us the opportunity to study in one of the best universities in Morocco and in fact the most expensive one. A chance that most of them did not have. The day finally came after the intensive work, the sleepless nights and the stressful projects and exams. All the graduates were so elegant wearing their black suits and putting their ties with the name of their

At that moment the professors were going on their way to the Gymnasium, we applauded them strongly remembering all what we shared with many of them.

Then, we all lined up to be ready to enter the gymnasium. At that moment the professors were going on their way to the Gymnasium, we applauded them strongly remembering all what we shared with many of them. No hatred was in today's program, just a feeling of gratefulness towards those persons who made great efforts to teach us a lot.

This year's ceremony is, for me, really special than ever. First, because I was part of it.

Second, because it was arranged in the Gymnasium instead of the famous Auditorium 17. I appreciated the organization of the place and more the way we, graduates, entered the gymnasium under the applause of the audience and the Andalusian music. Once I saw the big audience and especially my relatives who were deeply proud, I forgot the ache of my uncomfortable shoes.

After the long speeches of some of the board members, came the so much awaited moment. Finally, the diplomas or just the diplomas' folders will be handed. I was feeling uncomfortable like most of the graduates and also afraid to make a wrong move. It is all about some seconds where we have to walk gracefully, greet the school's Dean and take our empty folders and especially not forget to smile to the photographer to get a good picture. Then, we had to go back to the departure point and it is over.

The last part was full of emotions where some certificates were handed by the VIP's and the graduates' representative gave a moving speech that let tears in my eyes. Then, all present people recited the national anthem. And finally the Andalusian music gave us sign to quit the Gymnasium as we entered it. The Ceremony was over. It was lunch time. I did not want to waste time eating. All I was interested in is to take as many photos as possible for the

beloved University "Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane." Even after many previous misunderstandings and problems among each other, the graduates were all feeling happy for themselves and the others. I was feeling that all the graduates were my friends even if I did not know many of them. We were all sharing this feeling of joy and release but unaware of the future and its secrets. I have tried to hide my worries and sadness. It is hard to leave a place and a lifestyle I have deeply enjoyed tough and wonderful moments. Furthermore, the hardest is to be separated from my closest friends with whom I have shared every single moment during my study.

The day started at 8 am where all the graduates met to take a collective breakfast that maybe the last one for them all gathered. It was a good opportunity to remember the memories, but no one had really the appetite to eat especially that the breakfast was not what we were expecting. Afterwards, we dressed up. Then, it was pictures time, where we took both individual and collective pictures.

Finally, the semester is over but can we breathe fresh air after being released from the stress of the finals? Not yet! We still need to know our grades. But if it is our last semester, it is really another story. I already miss my friends, my room, the swimming pool, the mosque and of course Ifrane's fresh air and peace. AUI is now part of me and my life, how can I just forget about four great years along with problems and obstacles. The white nights are now part of my wonderful memories. Currently, I feel another kind of stress waiting the response of the companies. Most of my relatives are trying to find out what will be the best thing for me. Hopefully, it is not staying joblessness. But it is time to make my own choices and to take my responsibilities. It is time to show our capacities and to make into practice the theories we have learnt. We will finally experience if our comprehensive education really suits the job market!

memories of such a special day. Then came the time that I disliked most, farewell time.



Word Problems

1 Of those numbers whose English representation in capital letters consists only of straight lines, only one number has a value equal to the number of straight line segments required to write it out. What number is this?

2 Two people are talking on the phone long distance. One is in an East Coast state of the U.S., the

other is in a West Coast state of the U.S. The first asks the other, "What time is it?" He hears the answer and says, "That's funny. It's the same time here!" Neither one of them were mistaken about the time. How is this possible?

3 Can you find the word "dog" in the following word search puzzle?

dgooddodgooddo
odoogggdodgogg
ogogdoodgooddd
dgdooooggoogdgo
ogdgogdgoggogd
dddgdodoogdoo
odgoggdooggood

4 What word is pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized?

5 Punctuate the following so it makes sense:
"That that is is that that is not is not is not that it it is."

6 What word begins with 'h', ends with 'n', contains six letters, and contains eight words besides itself without transposing a single letter?

Dear Readers,
your comments and suggestions are valuable to us. Remember ... The AUI News is to, for and by you, students.

Fruits And Personality

Imane EL FECHTANI

Pick your favourite fruit!

Orange	Mango
Apple	Cherry
Banana	Black Grapes
Coconut	Peach
Pineapple	Custard Apple
Papaya	Pear

Orange
If orange is your favourite fruit; it speaks of a person who has enduring patience and willpower. You like to do things slowly; but very thoroughly and are completely undaunted by hard work. You tend to be shy; but are a reliable and trustworthy friend. You have an aesthetic bent of mind. You select your partner with care and you love with all your heart, and are not in for just a fling. You avoid conflict at all costs.

Apple
If Apple is your favourite fruit, you are an extravagant, impulsive and outspoken person; often with bit of a temper. While you may not be the best organiser yourself, you make a good team leader; and are good at taking things forward. You can take quick action in most situations. You enjoy travel immensely. You ooze with charm when you are with your partner. You have an enthusiasm for life, unmatched by most.

Banana
You are a softie! Loving, gentle, warm and sympathetic by nature is the banana lover. You often lack in self-confidence and are quite timid by nature. People often take advantage of your sweet temperedness, and sheer vulnerability to a situation. You adore your partner in every way, both or their mental and physical beauty! Because of the way you are, your relationship

is always, very much in harmony!

Coconut
The coconut lover is a serious, very thoughtful and contemplative person. Though you enjoy socialising, you are particular about the company you keep. You tend to be stubborn but not necessarily foolhardy. Shrewd, quick-witted and alert, you ensure that you are right on top of any given scenario, especially at work. You need a partner with brains, and while passion is important it certainly isn't everything for you.

Pineapple
You are quick to decide and even quicker to act. You are brave in making career changes; if that is what is to your advantage. You have exceptional organising abilities and are undaunted by the size of the task at hand. You tend to be self reliant, sincere and honest in your dealings with others. Though you are not given to making friends very quickly, but once you do, it is for life. You rarely, if ever, make romantic overtures. Your partner is often impressed with your sterling qualities but disappointed in your ability to show affection.

Papaya
You are truly fearless (WOW!!) and take much that happens in life in your stride. You give considerable thought to things you do. You have a sense of humour that along with your generous nature keeps you in most people's good books. You are a go-getter in your professional life, and have a knack for being in the right place at the right time. You enjoy meeting new people and seeing new sights whenever you can. Your sense of humour is what attracts members of the opposite sex to you more than anything

else. It is simply charming.

Mango
A mango lover is a personality to be reckoned with; quite often you are a person who has quite fixed ideas, and influencing you is no easy task. You tend to be an extremist with strong likes and dislikes; and at times even like to control a situation. You enjoy getting involved in something that presents mental challenge. Strong as you may be, you are like a kitten when you are with your partner. You accommodate the love of your life, and make up for all the strong will elsewhere!

Cherry
If cherry is your favourite fruit, life isn't always as sweet for you. You often face ups and downs, particularly professionally; and find that you make small sums of \$\$\$, instead of a lump sum. You have a fertile imagination and are often involved in creative pursuits. You are a very sincere and loyal partner; but find that expressing your feelings is not very easy. Your home is your haven, and you love nothing more than being surrounded by close family and your beloved partner.

Black grapes
You are a polite person in general, but do have quick flare-ups of temper that cool down just as quickly. You enjoy beauty in all forms, including beautiful people. You are very popular because of your warm, gregarious nature. You have a zest for life; you enjoy every thing you do, right from the way you dress, to your style and in your day-to-day life. Your partner must share your zeal and zing for life to enjoy all you have to offer!

Peach
Like a peach, you enjoy the juice of life it all its lush ripeness! You are the friendly sort, and are quite frank and outspoken, which adds to your charm. You are quick to forgive and forget; and value your friendships highly. You have an independent and ambitious streak in you, that makes you a real go-getter. You are the ideal lover, fiery and passionate but sincere and faithful in love. You don't however like to display all that passion in public.

Custard Apple
You are a modest and conservative person; who can be quite sensitive at times. You tend to be thoughtful and contemplative, and therefore are rarely rash in doing things. You are quite ambitious; and are good at anything that requires much detailing or working with numbers. You are quick at finding fault with others. While looking for a partner, you value a person's intellect far above their looks or good old passion. U are quite shy and not very comfortable demonstrating affection.

Pear
If you put your mind to something you can do it successfully, but by and large you tend to be fickle and have trouble completing a task with the enthusiasm you started it with. You need to know the results of your efforts almost immediately. You enjoy mental stimulation and love to get into a good discussion. You tend to be a restless and high-strung person, and are easily excitable. While you are quick to strike up a friendship with someone, maintaining it does not seem to be easy for you.

