

The 3rd Job Fair: Medisat recruiting

Brahim A. OUZINEB

In the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Job Fair, Mr Ben Mokhtar made an abrupt analysis of the history of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI). It is clear that in ten years, the university has achieved major things. Now is the time for a halt to evaluate and prepare the coming ten years. The logical advance of things promises a leading position for AUI. The AUI president is filled with awe from such events as the job fair, since he wants his institution to shine through its students. What is remarkable about this edition is that alumni did the recruiting for new students. We had the impression that we're a clubs fair, though in a highly professional platform. Below is an interview with one of the alumnus who works for Medisat.



Can you first introduce yourself?

-My name is Yasmine El Kerouani. I got my BA in Communication, 2004 cohort

at AUI. After being an intern for six months in Tangiers two semesters before graduating. Once I left the university, they asked me to work with them

immediately. In fact, the training allowed me to familiarize myself with the working environment and eased my integration later on. Four months after, I found

Being on Exchange

Zaynab EL BERNOUSSI



Georgetown University, founded in 1789, is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the US. It offers the best intellectual, political, and cultural environment for students and distinguished faculties. Georgetown University was the first University in the US to develop a liberal art undergraduate program focused on international affairs and approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. Many political and public people figures graduated from Georgetown University, such as Bill Clinton, King Abdullah of Jordan.

(see page 8)

Pop Culture

Jennifer KOPKO

The "4th International Conference on Pop Culture in the Middle East and North Africa" was held at AUI April 5- 7, 2006. Many professors, students, and people from around the world attended the conference which took place in the boardroom of building one.

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Mr Peled Kobi talking about the Worship of Relics by Palestinian in Israel



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Medisat recruiting

An alumnus evaluates communication graduates

myself responsible for the morning program « Matinées Conseils »

Why did your company choose the Job Fair @ AUI?

-Medisat, the new TV channel belonging to BMCE Bank, came to AUI Job Fair simply because they have a graduate who is doing a good job. Besides as an alumnus, it is very motivating to offer students opportunities like these and bring here affluent companies in the country. In this third edition, our presence is a reaction to the absence of companies specialized in communication.

What do you think of the AUI student's profile?

-Well we got all kinds of students majoring in Marketing, Management, Communications, International Relations and even Engineering. We should not forget that a radio or TV absorbs all kinds of profiles not just communication. Throughout the interviews, we



integrate all sorts of disciplines but unfortunately we noticed that our students are not well-oriented about their career and do not know what they want. It is of course undeniable that the university, mainly the faculty, has to usher these kids. No need to say that the communication field is so vast; accordingly the students need to focus so that once they meet a recruiter, they would know how and where they are heading.

What about the organization?

-It is wonderful. I harassed

Cherif Houachmi, the vice president of the Alumni Association, three weeks and everything was great.

Do you have anything to say about the turnover of students?

-Let's be logical in a cohort of 160 students, we got the visit of 30% statistically speaking which is a good thing. What stirred their curiosity is the new intrusion of the Medisat, a new TV.

How do you feel about being back at AUI?

-Well my status has changed, though AUI still keeps a special place in my heart. When we are studying at AUI, days go by slowly but once we leave, we cherish every moment. I am happy to help these students whom I understand perfectly since I have been through the same process once hence the importance of orientation. They are completely lost and communication major students do not even know how to gather information.

What About Working in Toyota after Graduation?

Karima SAADAOU

If you were not in the Gymnasium on Saturday April 8, then you missed interesting presentations about some of the companies that were present that day in the job fair. Mrs. Sanaa Zaidane, ex AUI student graduated in 1999 with a bachelor in finance. Now, she is the manager in the HRD department of Toyota.

According to surveys that were conducted by employees of Toyota all over the world, Toyota is the second most admired and best multinational company in the world after General Tire. They market the world's best sold car in automobile "Corolla". Toyota belongs to the Chelder Group. In 1996, there were 30 employees and they produced

690 vehicles. Now, there are 350 employees and 7500 cars sold in 2005. In addition, the number has increased since its creation.

Mme Zaidane talked in her presentation about the



foundations of Toyota. The company's foundations are its vision, its mission, and its values. The Human resources

strategy of Toyota for those of you who might be interested to join it is "to be an employee of choice". Also, Toyota encourages multi-country and multi-cultural experience for their employees. "We believe that our success is in people not in technology," said Mme Zaidane.

Future Toyota employees have to be the most skilled, challenging, flexible, committed and motivated people. In

addition, Toyota emphasizes on action and result oriented people.

Editorial

DEAR AUI NEWS READERS,

FIRST OF ALL LET ME SAY THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THE SECOND EDITION OF AUI NEWS THIS SEMESTER. ALL ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THIS PAPER ARE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF THOSE WHO WRITE THEM; HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND TEDIOUS JOB TRYING TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO WRITE FOR THE PAPER. THROUGH AUI NEWS, THE INTENTIONS ARE TO EXPAND THE JOURNALISTIC CAPABILITIES OF STUDENTS AND INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THIS CAMPUS. WE ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THOUGHT ON THE EVENTS THAT AFFECT THE DAILY LIFE AND ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS AND WRITE ABOUT THEM IN ORDER TO ENGAGE AUI CAMPUS IN THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX.

IF YOU ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE WAY THE PAPER PRESENTS SPECIFIC ISSUES, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH AUI NEWS IN THE FALL SEMESTER. THIS WAY YOUR OPINION, WHICH IS VALUED EQUALLY AMONG ALL OF THE STUDENTS, CAN BE HEARD AND YOU CAN EXPAND YOUR INTELLECTUAL WELL BEING. AS ONE POPULAR MBC2 COMMERCIAL PUTS IT, ARGUMENT IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR DEMOCRACY AND TENSION FOR PASSION. ALL ARTICLES IN THE PAPER ARE TO ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSION AND FREE THOUGHT.

JENNIFER KOPKO



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The 4th International Conference on Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa

Jennifer KOPKO

The conference was originally organized by Oxford University and is held every two years. At the end of each conference, the audience is asked who would be willing to host the next conference. The 2004 conference was held in Sharjah, UAE, while the conferences slated to happen in 2008 could be in Algeria or Iran, both of which volunteered. Dr. John Shoup, who attended the conference in 2004, volunteered AUI for the 2006 conference meeting place after discussing it with the Dean of SHSS. In an interview, Dr. Shoup highlighted the goals of the conference as well as its success at AUI.

"The goal of the conference is to make people aware of dynamics pop culture brings to society, and to change the frequent thought that pop culture is unworthy of research" he said. With this conference, there are a group of people who are interested in studying pop culture as a field of research and communicating their ideas with each other. This year there were 32 papers presented and over 11 countries represented, some from Europe, the United States,



and states throughout the Middle East and North Africa. All of the papers were well received. Much interest was shown in the sessions about popular religion, specifically popular Islam, and most presentations sparked a great deal of discussion. The 4th



Mr Clive reciting the poem on Bedouin Bush

Conference was the largest of all the conferences showing the

expansion of the conference.

The highlights of the conference were the presentations by Melanie Clouser and Nadia Yaqub. Ms. Clouser's topic was "Kan Juha Wahid al-Nhar: Society and Identity in Oral and Written Juha Tales" and she spoke of the many tales of Juha in Morocco which she spent time researching in 2001, 2003, and 2004. Her presentation was both interesting and informative in relating some of the socio-economic contexts revealed in Juha stories. Common among these stories,

according to Ms. Clouser, are tales in which Juha learns that he will never be able to please everyone in society and should do what he thinks is right.

Nadia Yaqub spoke on "The Power of Arab Robes: Cultural Cross Dressing in Arabia" which was enlightening and fresh. She discussed, and frequently quoted, the travel logs of Thessenger during the 1940s while he was traveling through Arabia. The descriptions of his cultural adjustments associated with changing dress were very interesting. More interesting was the discussion that followed when many people were able to identify with the presentation due to their own experiences. Her presentation was completely new, and she had just begun the research for this project.

The conference allowed faculty and students from AUI to connect with people from around the world who are researching popular culture in our region. Hopefully it was encouraging for those who have ideas to present at the next conference as well as for those who have presented.

Tanmirt Michael Peyron

Safia EL MOUTAOUKIL

Beautiful carpets lay charmingly next to the restaurant with local vendors sitting by ready to talk about their products the whole day. From time to time, the vendor gets hold of his tambourine and taps some rhythms to attract students. In the game room, several scholars and specialists on Berber culture came to discuss Dr. Peyron's writings.

This is the Tamazight day in homage of Dr. Michael Peyron. Throughout the day, starting from morning until evening

many conferences and activities were hosted in order to display and to motivate us about the Tamazight culture, which is one of the most important and interesting characteristics of the city, Ifrane. During the conferences, professors Fatima Sadiqi, Jilali Saib, and Abdeslam Khalafi focused on the utility of the language and how Tamazight is important. Mr Mostafa El



Qadery even talked about Moroccan Arabic as a daughter of the Berber language.

In Morocco Tamazight is considered the mother tongue of the majority of people, and nowadays, everywhere you go you find that people communicate in one of the varieties of the Berber language. More than that, citizens develop their knowledge about Tamazight by

writing poetry that reflects their daily life, their way of thinking and their wonderful nature. An example of a poem is the famous "Tamdyazt Xef Tzizawt" written by Mr Michael Peyron. Furthermore, Tamazight is for some citizens a second language; therefore, tifinagh (Amazigh conventional script) must be included in the curricula step by step. Finally, Tamazight is a great and a wonderful culture full of meanings and wisdom to discover, understand and to respect.

Michael PEYRON

a committed advisor for the Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn

Safia EL MOUTAOUAKIL

What did you give to AUI and what did it give to you?

Given an increased interest in things Berber going back to King Hassan II's August 1994 speech, AUI wanted to include Amazigh courses in its program. So I was lucky to be around here at the right time (1998), thus being able to contribute to the AUI community with my special knowledge about Amazigh language and culture. This had been acquired over thirty years of living in Morocco, traveling throughout the Atlas mountains and writing a few books and numerous articles.

After teaching an "Introduction to Amazigh Oral Literature" module in the spring of 1999, I devoted my energies to setting up a history and culture course. This finally appeared on the curriculum in 2002 as HUM 1310 "Amazigh History & Culture". Usually attended by 12-15 students, both Moroccan and international (American, Finnish, French, Catalan, etc.), it has since featured regularly on the AUI syllabus. As a course designed to create and raise awareness vis-à-vis this rich culture it has, nonetheless, included an optional language component. Participation in various outings to Berber sites of historical and/or geographical interest, with or without Capstone students, together with setting up the Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn student

association, came as side-effects of these pedagogical endeavors.

AUI has also given me the opportunity to participate in poetry evenings and organize Amazigh-related events each year since 2001. I also greatly value the encouragement I obtained from AUI officials, during my time here, to publish several books such as *Women as Brave as Men*, *Paving the Way for Tifinagh*, *Sites de Mémoire & tradion orale amzighe*, and *The Amazigh Studies Reader*.

Since you are one of the most active advisors, how do you think clubs are managed at the university?

Clubs are established by dedicated students; unfortunately it is difficult for them to get full cooperation from their peers. In organizing big events like conferences, personal commitment is required and this often clashes with their own academic work and midterm exams. Somehow, students should understand that they have to try and compromise between personal requirement and conference preparation. Such exposure to decision-making processes (however humble), and to operating under mild stress, would somehow prepare them for the rough-and-tumble of the real world that awaits them out there, beyond the Main Gate.

What is Michael Peyron's contribution to Amazigh culture?

I suppose that if I have, in fact, contributed

to Amazigh culture, it has been through reading papers on topics related to Amazigh or all literature, history and geography, at international conferences (England, France, Germany, Holland, etc.); giving various presentations in this country on Berber poetry, for example, both

and useful relationship with the very generous local people.

As to my decision to specialize in Middle Atlas Tamazight, rather than in the Tashelhit of south-west Morocco, I was probably guided by physical proximity. Although I was operating out of Casablanca in

walking venues were obviously either the Middle Atlas (and especially the Boulblane area), or Tounfit and the Eastern High Atlas. Simultaneously, access to better pedagogical material, and increased receptivity on my part to these diverse eastern strains of Tamazight, not



Dr Peyron with specialists in Berber culture Dr Jilali Saib and Dr Sbai: such a precious combination enjoying Amarg at a cold night

on the AUI campus and at many other venues (Beni Mellal, Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech, Rabat, Safi, Tetouan, etc.).

Why did you choose Tamazight?

As some of my ancestors came from mountainous country like Scotland and Switzerland, I was probably destined, anyway, to show interest in and sympathy for hill-dwelling peoples. Besides I have developed a liking for Imazighen. You'll find that it's better to learn Amazigh if you want to visit Amazigh places; even knowing a few words and simple sentences will allow you to establish a friendly

the direction of the I also greatly value the encouragement I obtained from AUI officials, during my time here, to publish several books



Marrakech High Atlas (1964-1972) and being exposed to Tashelhit, at the time, my limited comprehension of the vernacular thwarted any significant progress on my part. By the time I was Rabat-based (1973-1988), however, the closest mountain-

to mention invaluable help from Jilali Saib, Ayyad Kerouach, Rkia Montassir and Rachida Yoummour, among others, enabled me to obtain a smattering of Tamazight.

The Amazigh issue under the scope of Mr. Abdeslam Khalafi

A former professor at AUI and a researcher in IRCAM

Siham EL BOUAYCHI

Mr. Abdeslam Khalafi is a former professor at Al Akhawayn University, who is now a researcher in the Royal Institute for Moroccan Amazigh Culture (IRCAM).

The first question for Mr. Khalafi was about whether Amazigh consider themselves as a separate ethnic group or as an integrated group in the Moroccan society. The answer was that this issue is very complex, if we go back to Amazigh history before Islam, we find that they were firmly embracing the concept of "Umma" or community. In the period of the fourteenth century, before Islam, Amazigh used to have a "sultan" or "Aglid" under whom the community was gathered. In North Africa, Amazigh formed a united community that gathers Imazighen (Plu. Amazigh) from different North African countries. Although the tendency of each region to think that it is better locally, there is still a strong loyalty to "Aglid" among all Imazighen. When creating a state, was it by the Murabidine, Muwahhidine, or Adarissa, there was no separation between ethnic groups, but the focus was on the creation of a Moroccan state that gathers all these people rather than separating them. He gave the example of Rif even if they are not the ruling group, they do obey the rulings of the sultan as he an Arab, Amazigh, or Rifi. Moreover, when talking to foreigners, Imazighen tend to identify themselves primarily as Moroccans and secondly as Imazighen.

When he was asked about the political and economic situation of Imazighen in Morocco, Mr. Khalafi said that politically, the

"Arab elites" from cities such as Fes, Rabat and Casablanca tend to have more political power

Amazigh identity and pride for this identity.

In spite of these advantages



Mr Khalafi : a fervent defender of Tamazight cause

than the Amazigh. In other words, they tend to hold better official and political position and take part of the government.

Economically, people from a Fassi origin tend to have again more economic power. The Sussis, on the other hand tend to be more predominantly present in the army, while the Rifis tend to immigrate abroad. In general, Mr. Khalafi states that Imazighen are still living in the most rural and poorer neighborhoods and therefore they have less advanced educational and economic opportunities.

According to him, while Arabization had a tremendous effect in officially putting aside the Amazigh language, some Amazigh do willingly change their language into Arabic as a means to economically, socially, and politically mobilize and attain better opportunities.

After the King's Dahir or speech, Mr. Khalafi sees that more integration and tolerance had occurred in the Moroccan society due to recovering the

of their integration of Amazigh into Moroccan society, and though the royal initiative for establishing the Royal Institute for Amazigh-Moroccan culture (IRCAM), Mr. Khalafi sees that many obstacles have been faced in applying and practicing Amazigh rights for language and identity recovery. For example, the lack of trained Amazigh professors able to academically teach the Amazigh language was a major problem faced by the IRCAM. Another problem is that although Amazigh is taught during the first educational years, the fact that it is not taught later on due to a lack in professors prevents the continuation of Amazigh education.

At the institutional level, Mr. Khalafi sees that the government does not put any obstacles on the application of the Royal Dahir, although some officials sometimes refuse to provide help, but he thinks that this is probably due to personal attitudes and positions.

Generally, according to Mr.

Khalafi, the Amazigh issue has created a kind of perturbation in Moroccan thinking. He explains that by claiming that in the Moroccan history textbooks; for example, there is no reference to the Amazigh history and thus Moroccans thought of themselves as being Moroccans, and nothing else. He thinks that this is unfair and that we have to give "everyone his rights" and "write the history of the nation rather than writing the history of a race". Therefore, Tamazight as a language and culture should be institutionalized in media, education, and schools in order to make it possible for people in Morocco to advance and develop. The first thing to start with according to him is to omit the use of "Berbers", which has a reference to savagery and barbarism and rather use "Amazigh" which is a more representative term.

Imazighen are still living in the most rural and poorer neighborhoods and therefore they have less advanced educational and economic opportunities.

Fun run show

Sarah Cherrabi EL ALAOUI

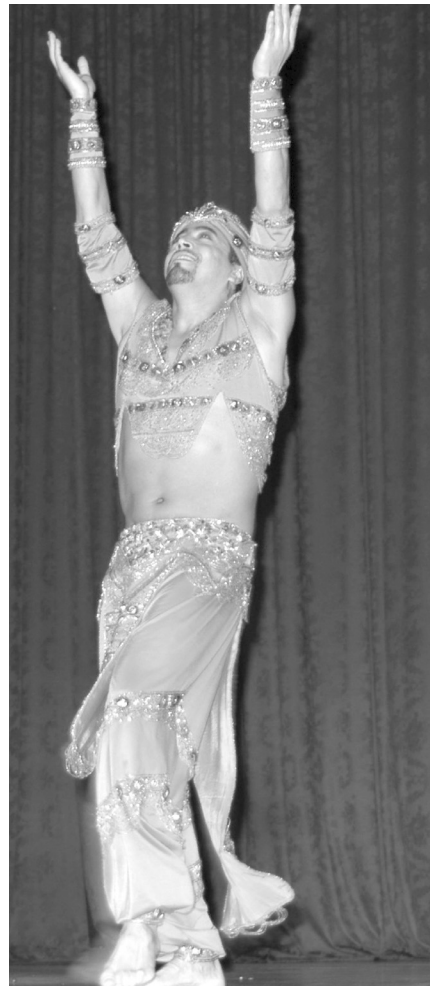
Under the honorary presidency of his royal highness the Prince Moulay Ismail, the solidarity association Hand in Hand became engaged since its creation in 1996 in the improvement of the living conditions of Ifrane's needy population. Through the Hand in Hand association, students, staffs, faculty, and national and international sponsors have the opportunity to help those who are financially burdened. Successful projects such as Madrast, Lhila, Dar Talib, Big Brother, and Big Sister have allowed many children in Ifrane to have a better life. The main goal of Hand in Hand is education. Because of the importance of the development of education, many projects are organized to help the developments such as school bag distribution, construction of libraries, provision of water and electricity to schools and the mobility of the library. Future projects consist of the improvement of the conditions

of "Tirbula" and "Adghagh". For further details about the association please visit the website www.handinhand.aui.org

This year's Fun Run was a success! First, students, faculty and guests enjoyed the run with Hicham El Guerrouj and ran together for a noble cause. After the run, parents, students and guests had lunch in the gymnasium decorated with the theme "Les mille et une nuits". Children and adults both had fun during the afternoon in the Kermesse that contained many news games and surprises. Finally, the Gala party contained various artists who came from Europe just for the pleasure of Hand in Hand's supporters.

Between contacting artists, receiving negative answers, waiting for calls, it is difficult to comprehend how much work was done to have such a variety of artists. The Gala featured Joudiya, Hatim Ammor for singing, and Hamidou for comedy, Youssef Jazouli for magic tricks and Mayodi for

dancing. Mayodi, contrary to popular belief, is not Nour. Nour was a different artist that Hand in Hand invited for to a



PH. Said Belhaj

previous Fun Run Gala several years ago. Each year, Hand in Hand's members work very

diligently to provide its faithful audiences an enjoyable show, and try to bring something different and more beautiful than the previous year. For Fun Run 2006 Mayodi, an artist who came from France and offered us his wonderful show for free was chosen to impress and dazzle the audiences. In Moroccan culture, men dancing can be admired, and even a haïdus group that come to AUI are usually composed of men. I still do not see the strange part of the show; the only strange thing was the magician, Youssef Jazouli's, tricks. Many found Mayodi's show very pleasant and the audience quickly became involved and enjoyed the show. Even parents and their children had a great time.

Medi 1 Sat : a good sign of the new Morocco

Inass MSAIDI

The government is launching a new "independent" TV channel, Medi 1 Sat. It seems to hold promise but one wonders whether its independence will be more from the people or the King?

The station is to be under the control of the radio station Medi 1. Its headquarters will be in Tangier. So, this becomes another independent channel after "Ar-rabiaa" and "Attarbawiya", but what will be fresh or innovative? And what are we to expect from a joint venture with French investors?

Not all of us perhaps, but most of us might agree that every

Moroccan citizen wants a self-governing, a self-determining media. Three years ago, we were hearing of the privatization of the domain of communication and information in Morocco in order to open the door for foreign investments and give the opportunity to young journalists to realize their dreams. However, the issue of freedom of the press is still a factor in so many occasions. After all our disappointments, we have come to mistrust the notion of "independent". Neither Ar-rabiaa nor Attarbawiya seem to have succeeded in becoming independent. They offer little more than a quick look

at government activities, but there are few live programs or interviews.

Moroccan journalists have long realized the need for a genuinely independent source of information, especially in a country seeking democratic reform and economic development. And perhaps, Medi 1 Sat will be a step in that direction—if only because of a partnership with France. Also, the fact that the station is in Tangier is significant. That is the perfect place to symbolize the changing of the guard, from the domination of Rabat and Casa.

The underlying problem

is that the modest Moroccan citizen has never tried to demand an independent media since he/she assumes what is in the news to be fiction. In addition, there is the perception that the Moroccan media always presents a fake picture of reality.

Privatizing the Moroccan media sector and opening the door for foreign investment can be considered a good sign of the new Morocco. However, the question of freedom of expression will be raised till the day where we have access to live programs and feel the effects of truly free expression.

The Total Eclipse in Egypt

Hassan BOURHROUS

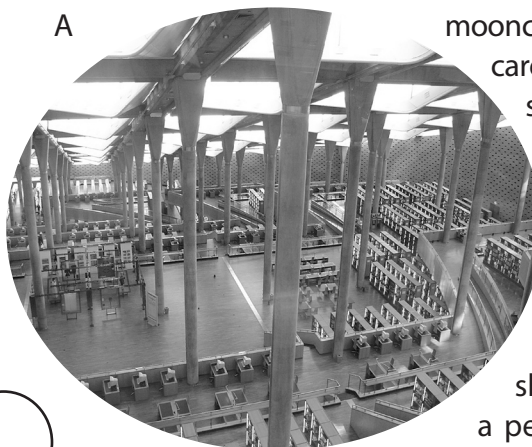
The school/workshop "Frontiers of Astronomy" that took place from the 22nd of March through the 6th of April 2006 in Alexandria – Egypt was quite the same as the "International School for Young Astronomers" held at AUI in summer 2004. Quality professors, from prestigious universities and research laboratories, lectured about cosmology and other topics in physics and astronomy. They

participants from the School of Science and Engineering: Dr. Hassane Darhmaoui, Solid State Physicist, CS student Afaf Chekkar, and GE student Hassan Bourhrous.

"Frontiers of Astronomy" was organized, in parallel with other workshops, at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, a modern version of the old and famous Library of Alexandria. It was built out of international funds and has a treasure of some 400,000

site was already set up for the group of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

A



total

eclipse happens when the moon falls between the earth and sun – all the three on one line- with the proportions of distances and the volumes being equal (an eclipse can be annular at other ratios of the distances and sizes). The sun is 400 times bigger than the moon but it happens also to be 400 times further. That is why they appear to occupy the same area on the surface of the sky. A narrow spot of shadow, whose diameter is around 183 km, sweeps a curved line, whose width is obviously 183 km too, on the surface of the earth. During an eclipse, observers can watch the moon covering a part of the sun for about an hour and half during which the

shadows of objects deform due to the angles at which sun rays hit. A few seconds before the moon completely covers the sun, careful people can notice the shadow approaching at a speed of 600m/s. The sun remains hidden for barely 230 seconds at the center of the path. Total eclipses are a burst of beauty in a very short time. When totality, a person can look directly, with the bare eye, at the moon and see the sun's corona around it. There is dusk in the horizon in every direction, the temperature drops a few degrees, bees seem confused and birds go to sleep. When the sun starts showing again, a diamond ring forms and disappears after 10 seconds.

Curious people who do not have the necessary equipment can use a welding glass of grade 14 for spaced periods of 10 seconds to look at the sun. Extended exposure can cause permanent damage to the eyes.

For more information about the workshop or the eclipse of March 29th, 2006, refer to the following URL: <http://www.bibalex.org/eclipse2006/>

Pictures are available too.

Many subjects were treated. Examples are "General Relativity", "The Early Universe", and "Galaxy and Star Formation".



marveled the audience with the wonders of space-time and the last secrets revealed by the universe in which we live. Many subjects were treated. Examples are "General Relativity", "The Early Universe", and "Galaxy and Star Formation". The participants were mainly from Egyptian universities but there were also people from Canada, France, India, Lebanon, and USA as well as three

library. Bibliotheca Alexandrina has also a planetarium, museums (antiques and old manuscripts) and a conference center with nice rooms and auditoriums.

Salloum, an Egyptian small town on the Libyan border, experienced on the 28th of March 2006 a lot of visitors (tourists and researchers) who came to observe the total eclipse that was about to happen the following day. A camp at the observation

Jihad BENSLIMANE

I admit that my bad behavior toward the University staff during room inspection is in violation of University regulations. I pledge not to behave in such a manner and I apologize for any harm that this act has caused to staff members. My tip for all students is to remain in control in

dealing with different situations and show respect to University staff and faculty.

Al Akhawayn University exchange students Travel to New Haven

Global Warming Conference, Develop Plans for Clean Energy Campaign on Campus

Zaynab EL BERNOUSSI
Washington, DC.

When most students are beginning to crunch for finals, two Al Akhawayn University exchange students at Georgetown University students took a 10 hour drive to Yale for the 3rd annual Student Climate Conference to learn more about the biggest test of this century: global warming. Over 300 students attended the conference (which runs April 7th to 9th) to strategize new ways to push their colleges to become leaders in fighting global warming.

"I'm attending the conference because I want Al Akhawayn and Georgetown to join the hundreds of other schools taking action on global warming," said Zaynab El Bernoussi AUI and GU student. "There are simple, cost-effective

steps we can take, such as purchasing wind energy, which can have a huge impact."

The conference was organized by a coalition of organizations, including Chesapeake

lectures on global warming, workshops on various techniques to reduce global warming pollution on campus, and several keynote speakers including Laurie David and Gus Speth (Dean

"College students are serious about global warming because they understand that their future is at stake. They are frustrated by federal inaction and are ready to take matters into their

Hundreds of schools are already taking steps to reduce their impact on the climate by purchasing clean energy, building more sustainable facilities, encouraging efficiency and conservation, and improving public transportation. Specific examples can be found at www.energyaction.net/documents/new_energy.pdf.

"Students are agents of change in this country," added Zineb Benalla. "From the civil rights movement in the 1960's to the anti-apartheid movement in the 1980's, young people have served as the conscience of America. Now, we are turning our attention to global warming, one of the most important issues for our generation. It's time to for our schools to take action." By Matt Stern (CCAN)



Climate Action Network (CCAN), which focuses on solutions to global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and DC. The conference featured

of Yale Universities School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and co-founder of Natural Resources Defense Council).

own hands, at their own schools," said CCAN's Matt Stern, who helped organize the student delegation from the region.

Lisa Gordinier, Resource Center Advisor & Exchange Student Coordinator

Zineb BENALLA & Zaynab EL
BERNOUSSI

Z&Z: What does an exchange bring to students most importantly?

L.G.: Exchange programs bring a personal growth. There is also an important growth in the academic and social levels because students are experiencing a different learning style and meeting new people. In fact, they are seeing a new part of the world and they are making new friends almost every day. Here in Georgetown University, the academic aspect is so strong and



there are very good professors.

Z&Z: Why Georgetown University is so concerned about

exchange programs? We noticed that it is not the case of all American universities.

L.G.: It is a commitment. Georgetown University attracts a lot of international students and scholars and it encourages its students to go abroad. International relations are very important for Georgetown University especially because of the fact it is located in Washington, DC. In a little town, it is not the same for sure.

Z&Z: Does Georgetown University require its students to study abroad?

L.G.: Language majors and International Studies major high-

ly recommend students to go abroad and generally all deans recommend their students to do an exchange for all the benefits it brings them. They go in most cases in their junior year for one semester or a full year and most of the time they do many summer programs abroad.

Z&Z: What do you think exchange programs bring to the world?

L.G.: It brings future leaders. Gabriel (an exchange student from

Mexico who is known to be very sociable) is maybe the next president of Mexico. Laughing. Moreover, international students are meeting together and building future relations that can be very important in their working lives.

Z&Z: Why Georgetown University is so international?

L.G.: Again, it is a commitment. Georgetown University is really concerned about having a diversified body. About 10% of

Georgetown University students are internationals which is very significant. Knowledge is to learn from each others.

Z&Z: What are Georgetown University students' preferences when going abroad?

L.G.: Arabic speaking destinations are very popular now mostly because of the world's events. Spanish speaking destinations are also very popular because it is very useful to speak Spanish in the United States.

Z&Z: What are the programs offered to international students at Georgetown University?

L.G.: They come in most cases for a 4 years degree program and they go back to their country. Also, lots of international students come as a part of official exchange agreement between their home universities and Georgetown University.

ZINEB'S TESTIMONY:

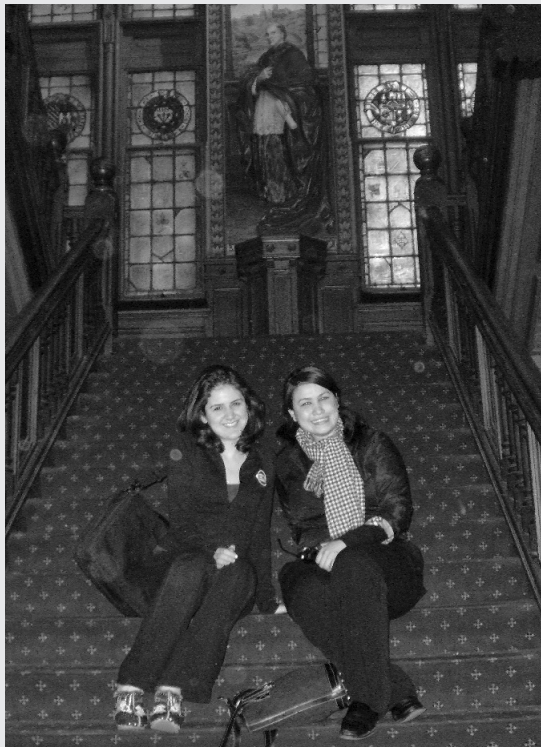
"It is a pleasure to be an ambassador for Al Akhawayn University in one of the most competitive schools in Washington DC and in the United States.

Georgetown University is a center of knowledge where distinguished faculty and qualified students interact in everyday life.

The campus, as you see in the pictures, is amazing. Students are highly qualified and you get a chance to learn from their experience.

Learning is an everyday achievement at Georgetown; I feel I grow up not only intellectually but also socially in a daily basis.

Spending a year at Georgetown was one of the best and challenging experiences. I would encourage all AUI students to



live the experience of being an AUI student at Georgetown University."

ZAYNAB'S TESTIMONY:

"Representing my beloved country and university at such a great university is a great honor."

"One of the things I most appreciate about Georgetown University is its multicultural aspect and its excellence in studies."

"Every morning, I am prepared to live a new experience. Being here is so enriching and we have the chance to meet people from all horizons and very eminent professors."

"My advice: Do an exchange because you will build your personality and you will build your future career."

AUI's Decade of Dereliction

Jennifer KOPKO

Just down the road, several kilometers, you will find the American School of Ifrane, faculty residences, the Navy's unfinished retreat center and a fully equipped hospital that has never been used. It was built at the same time as the University, but never opened leaving many students, residents and others wondering why. While it remains a sensitive subject among the administration, Dr. Kamal, Vice President of Financial Affairs, was very cooperative and open as he answered questions about the hospital. Inherited from past administrators who held his post, Dr. Kamal was hesitant to criticize any past

administration. However, the hospital is currently derelict.

There are several reasons the hospital remains unopened, one being that at the time of its completion there was no business plan. AUI saw a lack of clients and therefore a lack of business within the region and no reason to open the hospital. Although it was meant to continue the international space that the University brings to Ifrane, even this population would not be enough to sustain operation.

Yet over the past 5 years, many companies have approached the university about opening the hospital. More recently, two institutions have been in contact with the VP's

office competing for a contract. An American foundation, Gateway Medical Alliance, has worked for a contract on a human rights basis. The foundation has worked with public hospitals for years, and their plan includes raising funds to run the hospital from donors worldwide. They would also use the facility to service not only the local population but also the underprivileged and children in the region. The other company is French, Cormaline, and they would open the hospital bringing in international doctors. The opening would function as a time share, and doctors who came would be specialists, such as cardiologists and sports medicine experts. They would

bring their clientele with them. The hospital would then offer these services in addition to the normal operating modes. Yet if either company were to receive the contract, there is a large amount of investment that needs to be completed as all of the equipment is outdated by at least 10 years.

But obtaining the contract is not as simple as investing and replacing all of the equipment; it also requires implementation of a clear set of demands made by AUI. The administration is not necessarily concerned with bringing in a profit, but more with upholding the high standards set by AUI, serving the AUI community, serving the Ifrane community and not

requiring any more funding from the University. AUI expects the institution to fund at least the first and second years of operation, and is still searching for an institution which shares their vision and meets their demands.

It has been suggested that the delay in opening the hospital is a greater reflection of the amount of time it takes to complete any project on

campus, specifically the new Café also known as the Club House. Yet Dr. Kamal expects the Club House to be completed by the end of summer and the new dorms by September 1, 2006. He attributes the delays in the projects to the difficulty of building in Ifrane in general, stating that the weather, distance from major cities, and lack of skilled artisans in the region all contribute to the delays of these



projects.

The hospital still waiting to operate

Cigarettes & AUI Campus: an ugly fit

Allan PETERSON

Truth: At least 440,000 people die each year by diseases caused by cigarette/tobacco use.

Do you want to live healthy? The simple truth is that cigarettes will kill you and you will die.

At Akhawayn University (AUI) anti-cigarette activists work hard to help smokers be healthier. Health Awareness Day is organized, for example. However, the best way can be students encouraging each other in groups. For example, a former smoker who stopped smoking can tell a smoker that he feels so much better.

An additional solution is having restricted areas. There is good news for non-smoking

AUI students! A non-smoking building will hopefully be finished by end of May '06 & ready for student-use by fall '06 semester.

When AUI students were interviewed, student A said that smoking is for style. Student B postponed the stop-smoking mission until the summer. Student C postponed the mission until when the time comes to



have children. Smoking cigarettes may have been sexy 50 years ago, but right now, cigarettes are UGLY. They are unhealthy. When asked if they wanted to stop smoking, each & every AUI student-smoker responded yes.

Be considerate of your peers and respect non-smokers' right to clean air. Secondary smoke is smoke inhaled indirectly (when a non-smoker inhales cigarette toxins from somebody nearby with a cigarette). Secondary smoke inhalation can be more dangerous than primary smoke inhalation!

The cigarette industry earns lots of profit from smokers. Marketers can be imagined sitting in their offices thinking about how to sell their product

and make young people addicted to inhaling such cigarette ingredients as rat poison. Surely, they don't care about the health of those who purchase their product. Do the taxi drivers who bring cigarette packets to AUI students care about their health any more or less than a marketer?

Know the truth and do something about it. The AUI medical staff will surely be more than happy to help AUI student-smokers fight their addiction. There are special nicotine patches in existence and many ways to stop. You can do it! Control your mind and improve your heart's health. STOP smoking cigarettes. They are one of the worst drugs that there is.

-AP

I dont care

Imane EL FECHTANI

The more that learn to read the less learn how to make a living. That's one thing about a little education. It spoils you for actual work. The more you know the more you think somebody owes you a living.
~Will Rogers

I don't care if you bring me special people from all around the world to give me valuable information and give me their experience on a golden plate.

I don't care if you tell me days before about the pre

registration period, I will still leave it until the last minute

I don't care if you make me different clubs and activities within the university, I will still attend places where I can enjoy fighting while I'm drunk

I don't care if you have an attendance policy, I can miss classes and still get a false medical certificate

I don't care if I don't understand what the professor says who cares since s/he will give me good grades to please me so that I do not complain

I don't care if smoke harms me, or kills me, I will die anyway

I don't care if others get harmed by my smoke, I will still stand in front of the doors of the cafeteria, and the academic buildings

I don't care if there are policies of PDA, I will still act shamelessly since no one talks to me about it (seems security men are very nice and shy)

I don't care if I stand in front of the building making funny noises and bothering others,

I AM FREE and no one complains

I don't care if I put on loud music at 11pm and prevent others from studying, I AM FREE

I don't care if there are career talks, I am not yet thinking about job market even though I'm graduating this semester

To close this: I don't care if you feel targeted; I collected the worst cases of students that we see everyday

Countdown to midterms...

(memories of Saida Bensaid, Computer science student..)

Houda OUGADDOUM

D day -7 till D day -2: one week before the first midterms; everybody is hustling between the library and the lab, I can't find a place in the library. Sounds crazy? Let's give it some thought:

Talking room: whole compartment (initially, there are only four in the "whole" talking room) has been transformed to a copy center, so students are left with three workspaces, we can still manage to find a place where to work. Two compartments don't have "wall sockets" where to plug laptops... Ok there is still one "cabin" in the talking room that has sockets for laptops and internet cables (because I still can't figure out how to use the wireless). Hopefully, if none from the other 1400 students at AUI thinks of coming to the talking room before me, I would get the place. Yes! I got it. Now, where is the light switch? It is in the other cabin that was transformed into a copy center, but there is nobody inside and it is locked. Ok then, let's try another place with decent lighting: The periodicals. After finishing reading the third magazine, and chatting a bit with all the friends that happened to stop by to read a newspaper, I start being convinced that this isn't the best place to study...

I can't stand those closed places where students need to sit inside a wooden "box" to work, these help students get some privacy when working but I just feel like I am a prisoner. All the big tables have been assaulted by teams, I have the feeling that these people relay each other to keep the tables busy because no

matter what time of the day you stop by, you will find a backbag and two books lagging on the table even if the students went to have lunch two hours ago...

I finally found a spot and I am ready to work... but I feel a bit hungry, let's go to the "cafet" for 10 minutes no more. Half an hour later, I start working on the first chapter of that course which I still didn't figure out



what it is about. Three hours and a half later, I pick up my laptop, my backbag containing all the books for the semester (though I intended to study for exactly two courses). I go to the "resto" where hundreds of other students decided to enjoy a peaceful meal after a tiring day...

The queue is too long, let's go to my room till things get quieter, I would certainly get the leftovers of the grill but it's better than waiting all this time...

D day -1: Oh

my God! I am not ready. Why does it always happen to me, what on earth have I done wrong to have two midterms per day... After whining about the divine fatality that cursed me the day I came to AUI, I hurry to the shop; buy four "power horse", two liters of juice and three tablets of chocolate.

Now that I have all what is needed for my "jihad", I drink one power horse, eat some chocolate and go to the library, find myself a place "sehha" and start cramming. Four hours later, I have a headache and decide to go eat something at the resto. After lunch, black coffee from the cafet, this sentence is magical: whenever you go to cafet before exams and ask for "wahed qehwa kehla", you can see the empathy in everybody's eyes, some people say "I midterms yak?" others just go "how are you doing with the exams?" or "kayen shi harf?".

Back to the library, your teammate is there, let's get rid of the project due tonight. Two hours later, that *?%/!!!*

runtime error doesn't disappear; SOS call uncle Ahmad (a senior student who knows everything). He comes when we are at the edge of tears, the problem is solved (we had put a semicolon after the "if" statement) and we come to the conclusion that my teammate and I are stupid. That's the best recipe to boost yourself-confidence before the midterms. Anyway we've got to keep working the whole night. It's 15 minutes before midnight, the library would close, so we pack our stuff and go to building four, let's drink the second power horse and get a panini from the cafet.

D day: I didn't sleep that much (three hours), I have class at 8am and I still have one chapter and a half to finish. After class I still have two hours. I am done, so I go have breakfast at 11. I get into the classroom. Badi3a as usual tries to make me stress before starting the exam, at this very moment I really hate her, but when you slept only three hours you lose the capacity to panic or get angry. The midterm is over, I go drink a power horse and back to the library to prepare my next midterm...



Les 5 Ballons in Paris: another perspective

Oussama Lakhdar GHAZAL
AUI Lions went to an international university tournament in Paris (Les 5 Ballons) where they represented Al Akhawayn University. The tournament comprised 18 different nations for a total of 37 universities. At that stage of the year, such a tournament was an opportunity for some players to prove their talent particularly



anywhere would do for Sba3 to rest

Ztot Youssef and Irchad who was undoubtedly the Best AUI player in the tournament.

The first day, our AUI Lions



The team that played the tournament: they know now the quality of equipments that they have at AUI

played a very tough match against a Lebanese team. The game took much of us because our players were not used to the earth soccer pitch, which

is much different from grass. Also, the team was negatively affected by injuries of



(the organising school) team and won by 1-0 in the morning and won their second match against a Croatian team 2-0 in the afternoon. Unfortunately, these two games exhausted our team which lost in the quarter finals to an Algerian team. Eventually, the tournament was won by the San Pittsburg University of Russia. All in all, it was a good occasion to compete against other football styles.

May in Photos



Members of the Jury for AUI Challengers Contest



Sahraoui traditional handicrafts exhibited for the HASSANI DAY



students voting for the Best Employee (HR Club)



Mr Merzouki talking about his suffering in Tazmamart