



Election research becomes symposium



On September 26th and 27th, representatives of major political parties and of national and international Non-Governmental Organizations participated in a symposium titled: "Political Parties and Democratization: Lessons from the 2007 Elections". (continued on page 5)

Organic Produce Sale



The Center for Environmental Issues and Regional Development organized an organic produce sale followed by a tasting of bio-pizzas in the students' game room, Aug. 30. (continued on page 3)

New executive SGA board has new plans



The Student Government Association held internal elections on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at the SGA office in building 4, following the graduation of the previous president, Imad Abdeljaouad. (continued on page 2)




On Sept. 5, five Al Akhawayn University students boarded the Scholar Ship, embarking from Athens in a 16-week odyssey around the world. (continued on page 3)

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Interview with Gad El Maleh

 **BADR BOUARICH**

The auIBridge has a scoop! For the first time ever, Gad El Maleh, the famous humorist and actor, has given an interview to a Moroccan newspaper. (continued on page 11)



Gad El Maleh ready for the 10th Commencement Ceremony.

New executive SGA board has new plans

KAOUTAR KADDOURI

(Continued from page 1)

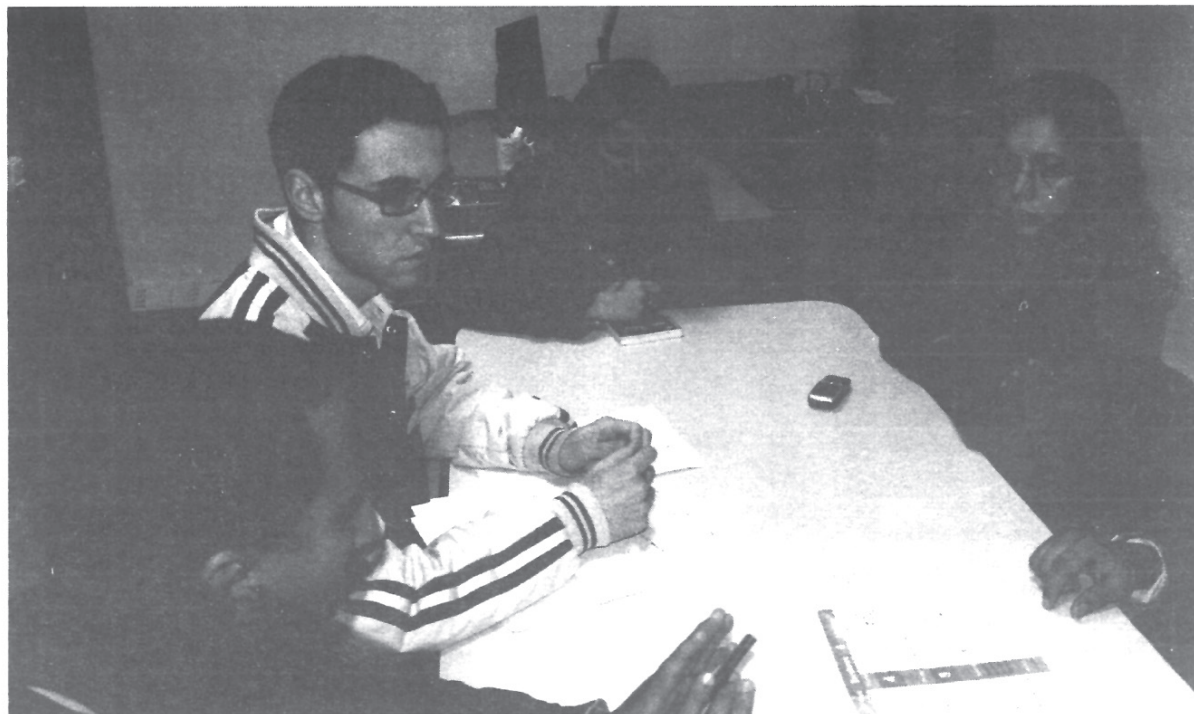
The elections were held in accordance with article 19 of the SGA constitution, which requires an extraordinary election to be organized within two weeks of a vacancy in the executive board.

The new Executive Board members are: president: Aymane Benslimane, vice president: Inass Msaidi, secretary general: Obaira Afifi, treasurer: Tahir Slaoui Andaloussi.

As representatives of the AUI student community, the freshly elected SGA executive board, welcome students' suggestions, demands, or complaints regarding academic and social life at AUI, within the boundaries of re-

spect of the university regulations and policies.

Last semester, the SGA took student concerns to the restaurant to improve service and worked on the pre-registration process; besides continuing on these projects, the SGA has other plans for this semester. "One of the things we aspire to achieve for Fall, 2007, is to establish a network between the alumni association and AUI students in order to assist them in setting goals for their careers," said Obaira Afifi, the secretary general of Al Akhawayn's Student Government Association. "We will also organize conferences to get in touch with other higher learning institutions."



The SGA board during their last meeting on October 3rd.

"This is not a Film Club" is back AUI contributes to national development

AFAF CHEKKAR



"Tokyo Story" was one of the films projected during this season.

LEILA JABRANE

The Multimedia Center in Mohamed VI Library of Al Akhawayn University is now hosting the screening of a movie at 8 p.m. every second Monday starting Monday, Sept. 10.

The object of these films is to offer the AUI community occasions for participating in cinema as a collective experience. After having offered an Italian movie theme last spring, Nicola Migliorino and Carlos Jacques, the organizers of the event, chose "The City in Film" as the theme for this Fall semester.

"Cinema is a social form of art," said Nicola Migliorino, one of the two organizers. "A movie cannot exist without a public and a public that is not just one person but a number of persons watching it together. I don't think that watching a movie on your own, on your laptop, is the same thing as going to the cinema."

"Cinema is grown out from the city, in a sense, and cinema speaks about the city in very different ways," Migliorino said. "We tried to make a selection of movies that we think

are very good and that say something, bring up particular aspects of the city. For instance, 'Modern Times' speaks in part of the city as a place of work. Another movie speaks of the city and crime, a third about the city as a place of love and so on."

Professor Jacques added, "Some of these films have marked the history of cinema. They had a political and social impact, and it is important that the audience have the opportunity to see them and to share them with people."

On Sept. 15, The Center of Information Technology Innovation for Human Development at AUI ran a workshop for middle school teachers with the theme, "Using Communication and Information Technologies in Middle School: Focus on Scientific Subjects."

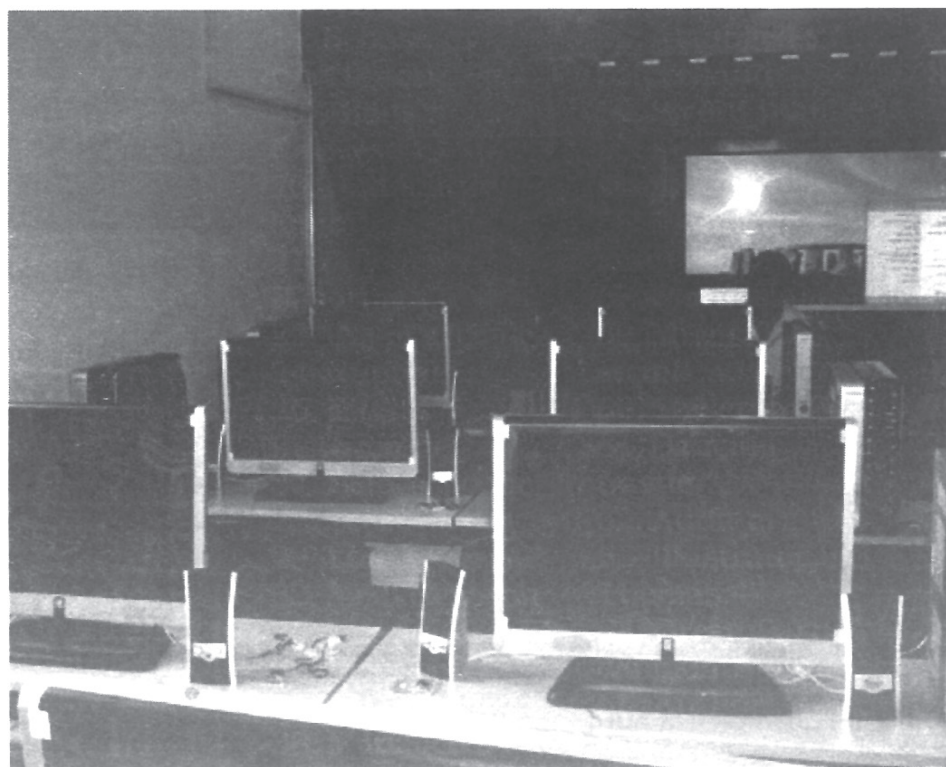
The major objectives of this initiative were to present the new platform for e-learning developed at the Center, to establish a general model for the

use of IT-based education in class, and to discuss issues related to teachers training and evaluation.

Launched at AUI in July 2007, the CITI is a project funded by the Republic of South Korea through its International Cooperation Agency. It aims at setting up a research center that targets software development to serve ordinary Moroccan citizens. It also targets improving the level of middle and high school

students through the use of IT based education for various subjects such as physics, mathematics, and natural sciences.

On Sept. 5, Rachid Benmokhtar, the AUI President, and all AUI executives visited the CITI and had the opportunity to learn about advanced technological teaching tools as well as the current work progress of the project.



CITI headquarters at Building 4 equipped with new computers

Organic Produce Sale

LEILA JABRANE

(Continued from page 1)
This sale was an opportunity for AUI community to taste the flavor of bio-products, to have a concrete example of the benefits of sustainable agriculture, and to become informed about the CEIRD's activities and progress.

"Our vegetables have been "home grown" in AUI's BioParc, and are the result of CEIRD's commitment to environmental conservation through organic, sustainable agricultural practices, without the use of pesticides or industrial fertilizers," said Bachir Raissouni, the executive director.

Launched at Al Akhawayn University in June 2006, CEIRD's BioParc is part of a larger research project which aspires to spread and optimize ecological and sustainable agricultural production in the Middle Atlas.

"The BioParc covers two thousand square meters of a field which

is 2 hectares in area," said Samir Oazir, the field coordinator. "The

field includes cedar, pine, and oak plantations in addition to

some medicinal plants; we have already started growing these plants in

a laboratory located in the basement of building 38."



AUI students, faculty, and staff supporting CEIRD Bioproject

Office of International Programs organizes Study Abroad Fair

LAILA ELATI KI ELGUENNOUNI

Al Akhawayn University students had the chance to look for education opportunities abroad during the Fall 2007 Study Abroad Fair in the student lounge on Sept. 4 and 5.

The event, held by the AUI office of International Programs, was an opportunity for AUI students to learn about exchange programs available for Spring, 2008 and inquire about acceptance criteria.

The Fair exhibit featured brochures from different universities from different countries around the world: USA, Netherlands, Finland, Italy, and France. Many students sought advice about which universities and programs.

According to Mrs. Amy Fishburn, the director of the office of International Programs here at AUI, the Exchange Program is a great opportunity for students to experience life abroad, learn about different cultures and eventually share what they have learned with the rest of AUI community.

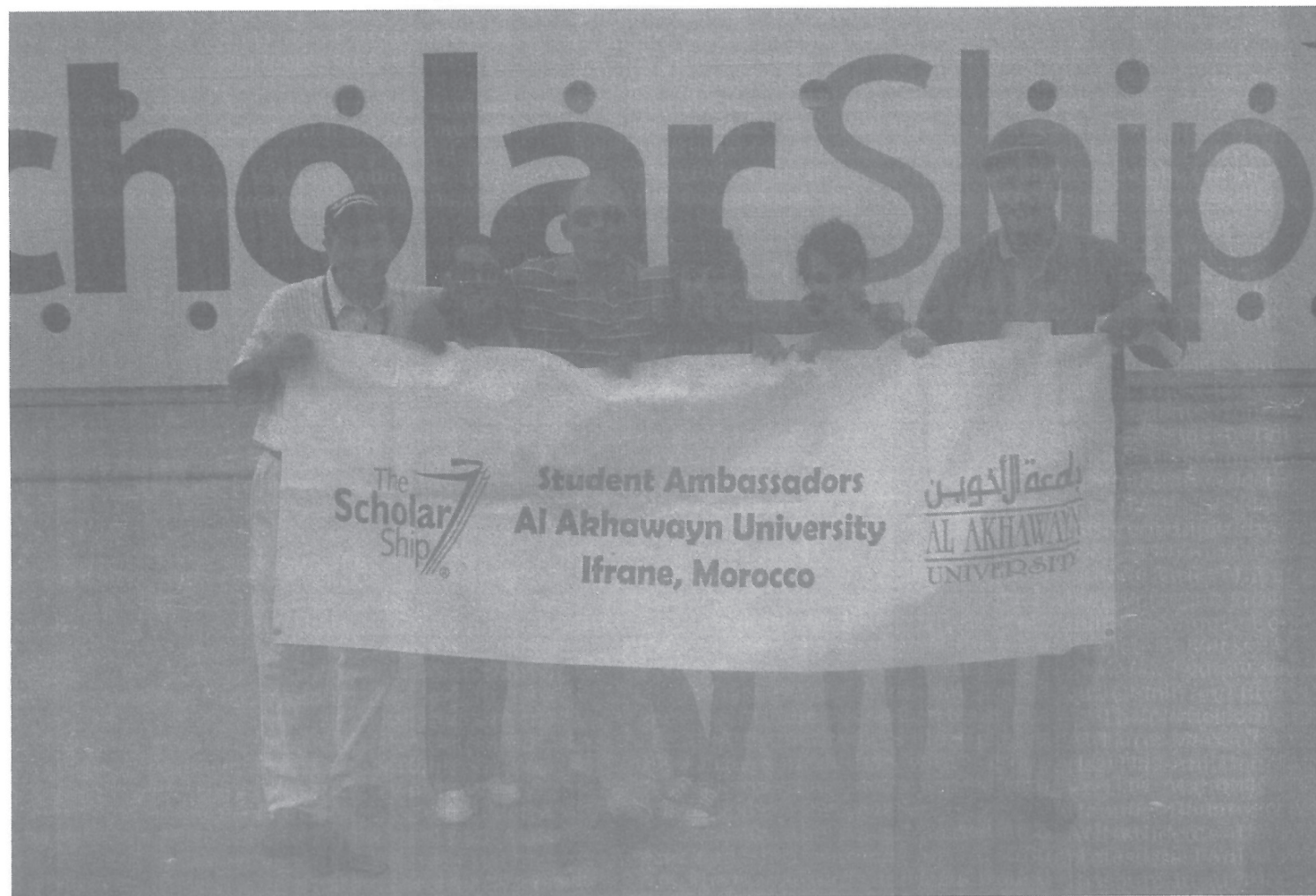
2007 Scholar Ship sets sail

LAILA ELATI KI ELGUENNOUNI

(Continued from page 1)
These students will be studying while sailing to all five continents in "a very serious academic program that would become a true experience for multicultural education," as Amy Fishburn, the director of the office of the International Programs, describes it.

The Scholar Ship is a floating university campus aboard a transformed passenger ship, hosting students from diverse cultural backgrounds and different nationalities on semester-long voyages around the world. Embarking twice a year, the Scholar Ship follows a different itinerary each time. The Fall, 2007 itinerary starts from Athens (Greece), and passes by Lisbon, Portugal; Panama City, Panama; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Papeete, French Polynesia; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; Shanghai, China; and finally Hong Kong.

The participating students from AUI are: Mariam Tahri Joutei, Idrissi Hassani, Dounia Kchiere, Abla Frej, El Mahdi El Boukhari, and Hanane Bouarourou. Along with AUI students, there are two AUI professors: Paula Pratt and Bachir Rissouni, in addition to former Vice President Driss Ouauicha.



AUI representatives will be travelling on the Scholar Ship boat for a period of 16 weeks

New programs launched on AUI Channel and Radio

 SALMA DOUIEB

This Ramadan, new TV and radio programs have been launched on the AUI mass media scene.

After the success of the previous season, students were encouraged by the Student Activities Office to come up with original ideas for new shows that will benefit the AUI community. As a result, there are three new offerings on AUI Channel and AUI Radio this season.

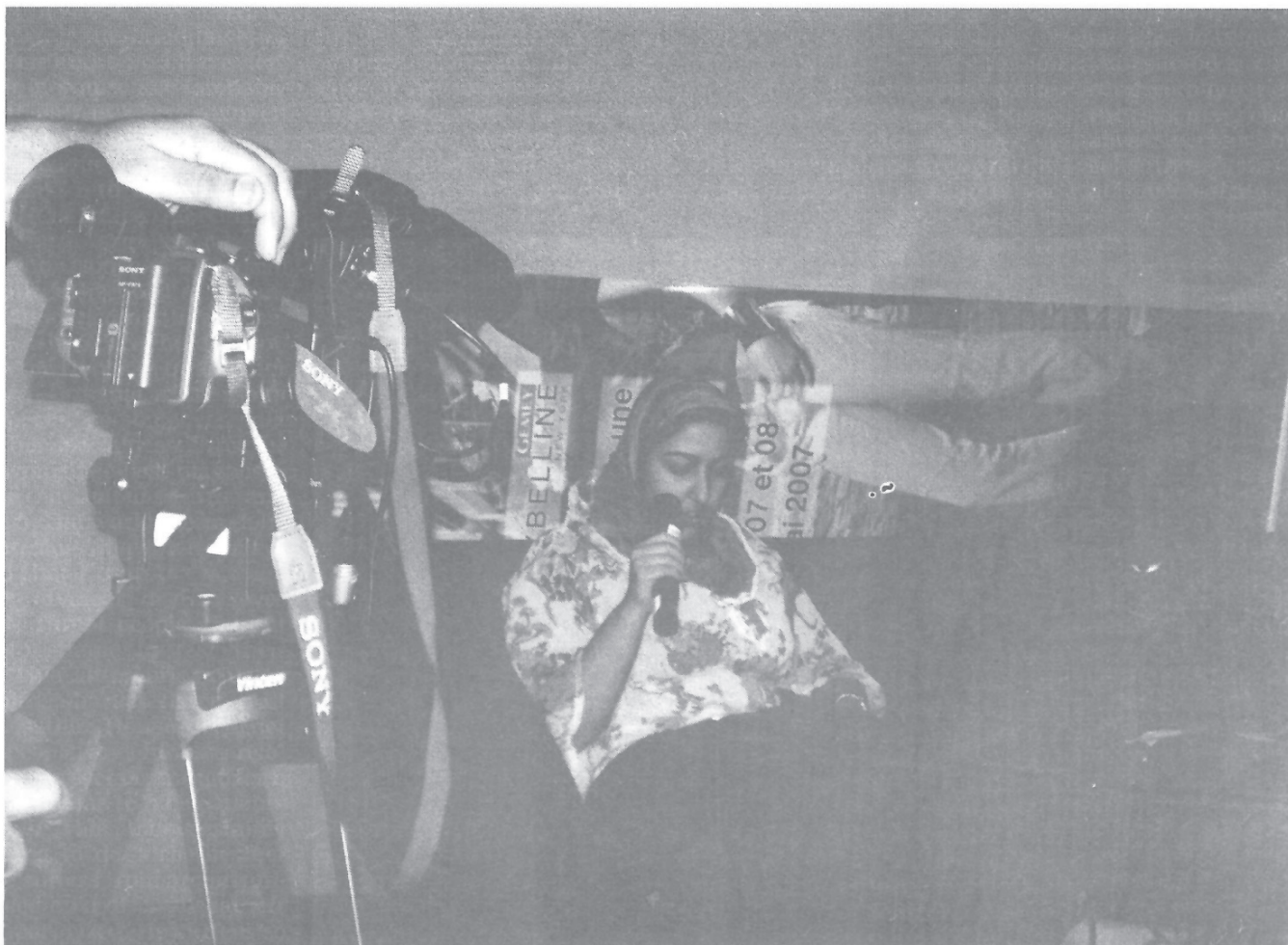
The first new TV program is called AUI Fashion House. This broadcast is about the latest clothing brands for both genders along with accessories, make-up, and tips. The program's purpose is give trendy AUI students expert fashion tips and advice. Salma Douieb, Laila Kairouani and Safaa Rahbaoui host this program in English twice a month on

Thursdays at 10 p.m.

The second show on the AUI Channel is the culinary program Chhiwat Mourad. Presented in Moroccan dialect, this program aims to help students become self-reliant in preparing easy meals in their rooms. Mourad Ghanem and the AUI chef host on Mondays at 10 p.m.

The new show on AUI Radio, the AUI Café, diffuses miscellaneous humor, jokes, and anecdotes about life at AUI, as well as music. The creators and hosts of AUI Café are Tahir Slaoui Andaloussi and Youness Balousali. They broadcast Mondays at 5 p.m.

"By launching these new programs, the SOA hopes to improve the quality of life on campus," said Brahim Ait Ouzineb, the Event Coordinator of the Student Activities Office.



AUI Fashion House team films the first show

Finance draws a crowd

 LAILA ELATI KI ELGUENNOUNI

The School of Business Administration and the AUI Finance Club organized two conferences which attracted a large audience. The boardroom was full and many students had to remain standing due to lack of seats.

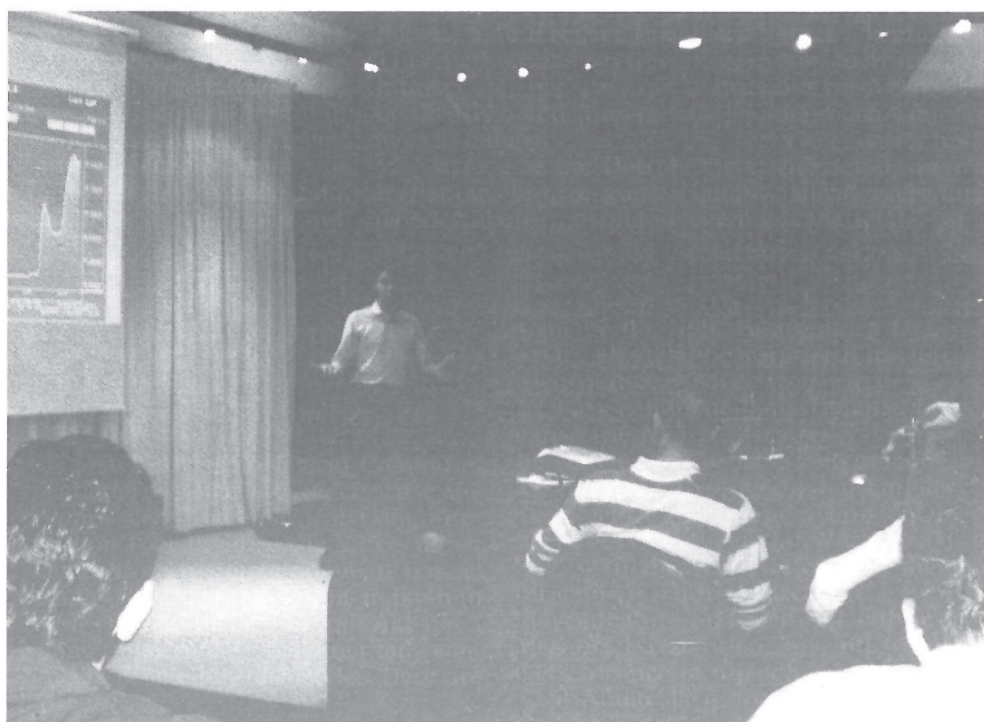
The first conference, "Mortgage Loans and the Latest Financial Crisis in Europe and U.S.A." featured

Hicham Najem, Senior Trader of Brevan Howard Asset Management, an investment management firm from London.

In his lecture, Najem analyzed the US mortgage crisis that started in 2006 and reached critical stages in July, 2007, affecting other countries. In simple terms, he explained that



Faculty and students attended in large numbers



Mr. Hicham Najem illustrates his analysis

the causes of this global financial crisis could be attributed mainly to the overuse of leverage, bad loans, and real estate prices.

The topic of the second lecture was "Techniques d'Evaluation des Risques de Pertes dans les Marchés Financiers." Mostafa Belkhayate, the key speaker, presented technical analysis supported by detailed statistics to forecast and predict the movement of market prices, as an alternative to the traditional market analysis. He used

some examples from his own stock market placements and investments that showed extraordinary high returns to illustrate the advantages of this analytical method. President of the Moroccan Association of Technical Analysts, and Chief Executive Officer of "Belkhayate Asset Management," Belkhayate created and managed "Mansa Moussa Gold Fund," the first African hedge fund on commodities for a high standing Moroccan bank.

Election research becomes symposium

LEILA JABRANE

(Continued from page 1)

The Symposium was primarily based on the results of a survey conducted by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) prior to the elections.

In June and July 2007, some SHSS students and professors distributed a survey to 1114 respondents from the urban and rural areas of Rabat, Casablanca, Fes, and Meknes. The main purpose of this survey was to examine public opinion about the

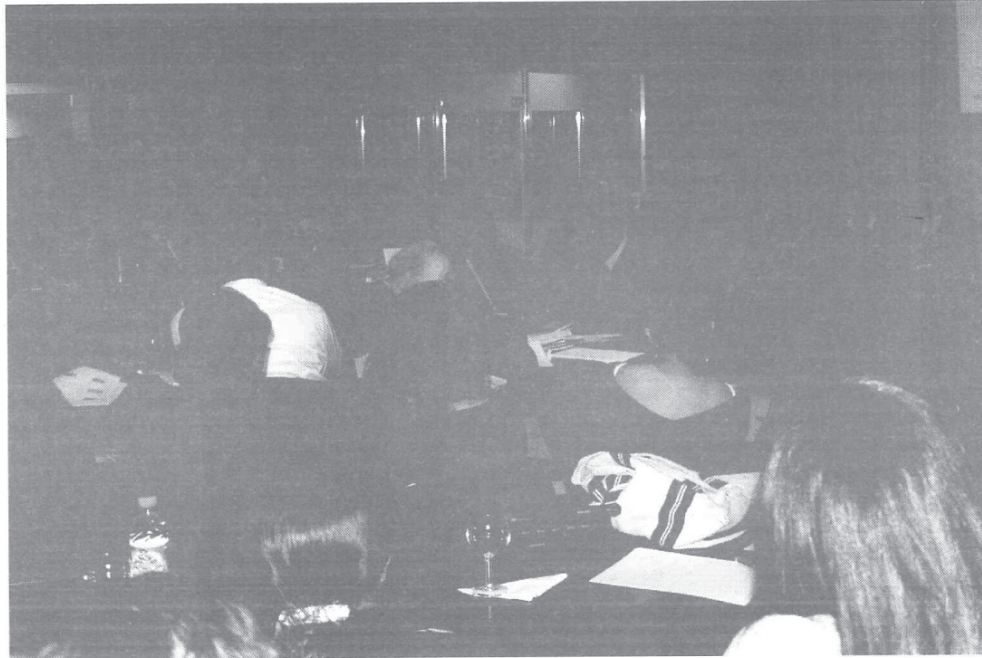
“The timing of the first part was particularly discouraging. However, the discussions were informative and really interesting, so I do not regret it.”

2007 elections, the political behaviour of Moroccans, their trust in political institutions, and the influence of political parties on citizens.

The first day, after the opening addresses of AUI President Rachid

Benmokhtar, and Dr. Mohamed Dahbi, the Dean of the SHSS, Dr. James Sater, Professor of Political Science at SHSS,

presented the key findings of the pre-election survey. Moroccans' lack of trust in political parties was at the heart of



LAILA ELATI KI ELGUENNOUNI Professor James Sater presents election survey results

the presentation and the focus of the discussion that followed. After a short break, the debate shifted to the dueling roles of political parties and NGOs in the process of democratization in Morocco.

The second day, two more panel discussions took place. While the first one concentrated on the role of the new means of communication and face to face interaction in the latest electoral campaigns, the last one addressed the implications of the September 7th elections, the lessons to retain, the solutions to adopt in order to avoid disappointing voter turnout and finally, how to regain the trust and interest of the voters.

The symposium was well attended by students, staff and faculty. The board room, which hosted the event, was full of people. Tens of additional seats were required. "Initially, I attended this symposium because it was a class requirement" said a Business Administration student. "The timing of the first part was particularly discouraging. However, the discussions were informative and really interesting, so I do not regret it."

Former Under-Secretary-General of U. N. lectures at AUI

LEILA JABRANE

Sir Murrack Goulding, the head of U.N. peace-keeping operations, gave three speeches at Al Akhawayn University, Sept. 13, 14, and 15.

Goulding, who was invited by the AUI School of Humanities and Social Sciences, spoke on "UNIFIL: its History, Achievement, and Prospects," "United Nations Peace Building: How to Deal with the Root Causes of Conflict," and

"The Invasion of Iraq: What Consequences for the United States."

Goulding succeeded Brian Urquhart at the head of U.N. peacekeeping operations in 1986. Before becoming Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, the British diplomat represented his country in Kuwait, Tripoli, Cairo, Lisbon, New York, Luanda, the Security Council and the General Assem-

bly. He had also been in charge of the Trusteeship Council for a year.

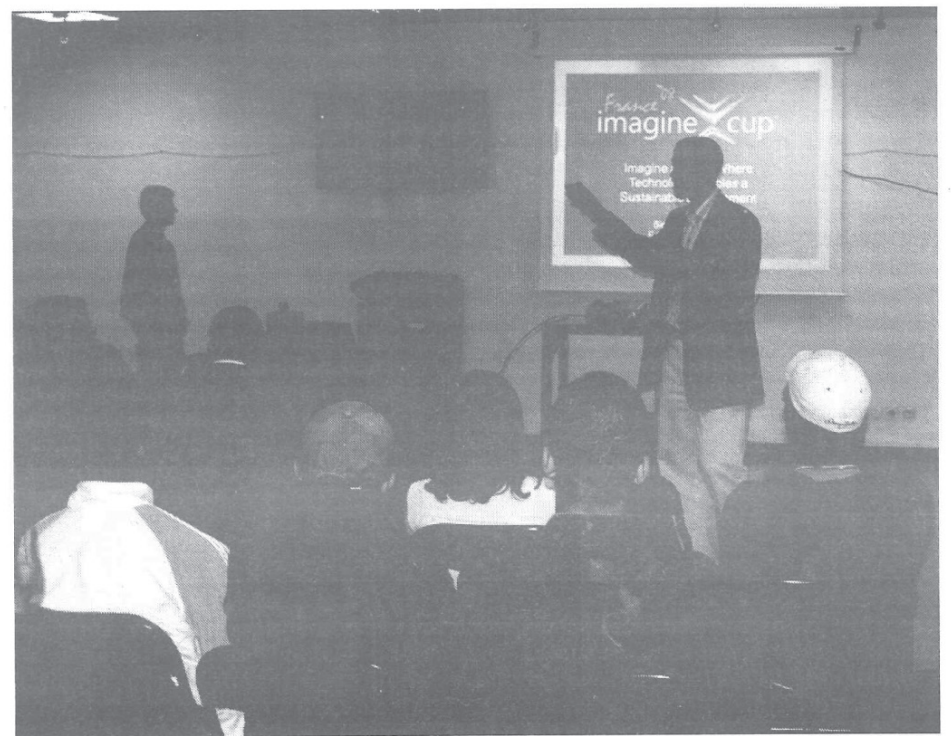
After giving his talks which were imbued with anecdotes from his own experience, Sir Goulding addressed the audience's questions and comments about the effectiveness and credibility of U.N. peace-keeping missions in the light of the superpowers' influences and sovereignty issues.



Sir Murrack Goulding promotes values of peace

Imagine Cup 2008 presentation

LAILA ELATI KI ELGUENNOUNI



Mr. Mae Alainain distributes UBS flash-drivers to participants

Sidi Ali Mae Alainain, an Al Akhawayn University alumni and head of the education department at Microsoft North Africa, gave a presentation at AUI on Oct. 1.

The Association for Computing Machinery invited Mae Alainain to give a presentation about the Imagine Cup 2008, with an emphasis on the general framework of this competition and its different categories.

This year's Imagine Cup will revolve about the environment as a theme, and teams or individuals will be competing by entering one of nine categories: software design, embedded development, game development, Project Hoshimi,

IT challenge, algorithm, photography, short film, interface design.

The national competition will be organized at AUI March 29, 2008. The final rounds will take place in Paris, France.

In the 2005 Imagine Cup, an AUI team was selected to participate in the world finals in Tokyo, Japan, on the theme "Technology Dissolves Boundaries" In the end, the team ranked third world wide. The ACM Club is very optimistic about this year's participation of AUI representative, especially after seeing the presentation attracting a large number of students and faculty.

Editorial aiuBridge fosters communication among AUI students:

INASS MSAIDI



With a new energy, the auiBridge editorial board has decided to provide the Al Akhawayn University community with the first issue in the current semester, Fall 2007. Last spring, the auiBridge editorial team was heartened to know they had gained the trust of the AUI community. The encouraging letters received from the student body has motivated them to continue learning to improve their management and reporting skills. The auiBridge team continues to strive toward professional standards.

The issues that auiBridge explores gives students, staff and faculty the chance to discover what is happening on campus and to foster communication among all members of the community.

In order to meet the expectations of all students, the auiBridge covers a variety of topics in a variety of ways to meet different interests. The newspaper has adopted a participatory approach by allowing students give their opinions about a specific topic. For example, in each issue, the Features Desk does a regular feature which includes a survey about a specific topic that interests students. These features include statistics that demonstrate how we gather information about the topic chosen. This is usually done by sending a survey to all the students asking them to reply objectively to all the questions. Another way we include the readership is to solicit Letters to the Editor regarding a specific topic. We print these letters in the Op Ed section of the newspaper. This issue, the chosen topic is the SGA. This topic was chosen last issue so that students could respond.

I would like to take the opportunity to call for the help and assistance of all the university departments to facilitating the task of auiBridge reporters by providing them with appropriate information. One of the objectives of auiBridge is to provide accurate news through balanced reporting. This is aim cannot be reached without the participation of all members of the community in the joint venture of news creation.

On behalf of auiBridge editorial team, I wish you good luck in your mid-term exams and hope you will enjoy the topics of this issue.

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Information Technology Systems (ITS) at AUI

Have something to say?
Get it off your chest!
Write us a letter!

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!

Contact: bridge@aiu.ma



Letters to the Editor Student Government Association

Dear editor:

The Student Government Association is supposed to represent AUI students. I should say that they are making an effort to approach students and find out about their needs. However, it is not enough in my opinion. In order for SGA to fulfil its role and for students to trust it, they should show that they represent students and not the administration. To improve the role of SGA, I suggest that the members should be in their office when the students need them. Also, if they address an issue and are rejected by the administration, the reasons should be communicated to students. Another point is that they should address minor requests and disclose more about the problems they face to give us an idea about what they have to deal with. Finally, I can say that SGA members are doing a great job.

Kawtar Chriyaa

Dear editor:

I think that the Student Government Association members do their best to help improve our life in AUI. However, they are not really listened to, and

we don't always get what we want. That was the case of the "prayer call." I suggest that the administration should listen more to the SGA and give them more power. Concerning the representation of students, they should think of organizing some discussions and focus groups.

Fatima Zahra Daraoui

Dear editor:

Compared to the importance the SGA should have, I barely notice its impact on the students or the administration. It is hard to know anything about what they are doing if you do not take the time to stop by their office and ask. We hear about all they do only during the election period. I see that SGA members should interact more with the students by making available the minutes of their meetings. Also, I think that they should reveal their action plan to everyone so that students can comment on it. Added to that, SGA members should organize a seminar at the beginning of the semester in order to introduce themselves and explain their roles to students.

Hind Rabah

Letters to the Editor Policy

AUI BRIDGE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include writer's name. Editors have the right to edit letters for length, grammar and spelling. Letters may be delivered to the

newsroom in the Student Activities Office or emailed to bridge@aiu.ma. For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

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Our special thanks to Dr. Said Malki who offered us his help through a presentation on Team Management.

A Muslim in a Buddhist Temple

ESSAKHI HAMZA

In the ASAN international program that was organized by Ulsan University in South Korea, Essakhi Hamza, the AUI ambassador in this event represented proudly our university. He was rewarded two prizes: the first one was a



prize as the friendliest participant, and the second one was a prize for his essay that was chosen as the second best essay among 48 participants. Hamza's essay reflects his ideas and thoughts about the exceptional experience that he lived during two days in a Buddhist temple, so in order to share his experience with AUI students, we are publishing the salient points of his essay.

My visit to the Buddhist temple in South Korea was one of the strangest experiences in my life; this visit was my first contact with Buddhism. Being

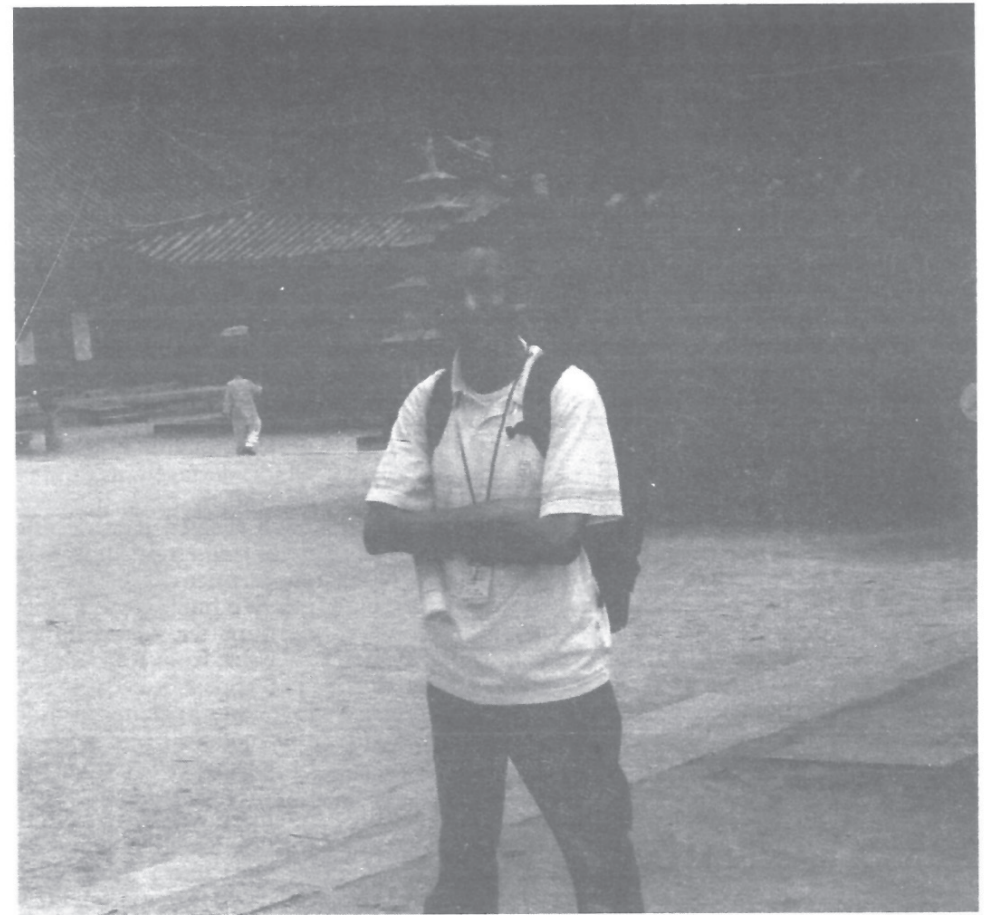
there as a Muslim brought many questions to my mind. When I was told that Buddhism is based on aspects of human morality and on escaping from the suffering of this world, my curiosity about Buddhism increased.

As I was walking at the temple I saw some people bowing, which is the same thing that we, Muslims, do, but I wondered about the meaning of bowing in the Buddhism. Are they bowing to the same God that Muslims bow to? What is the meaning of bowing in Buddhism?

To satisfy my curiosity, I tried to ask Korean students for answers to some of the questions that I had about Buddhism, but only few of them were Buddhist and even those who claimed that they were Buddhist did not seem to know anything about Buddhism. I could not understand why those young people were not interested in their religion.

I did not give up. I found a person with whom I really had an interesting discussion about Buddhism. In addition, I asked the monk about some issues; he answered some questions, but he did not answer all my questions. Frankly, the answers that I received did not convince me, but still I thought that maybe because of my religious background I was not ready to understand the monk's explanations and Buddhist philosophy, especially the Buddhist idea and belief that human beings are continually re-born into this world, and that their future lives are shaped by their behavior in their previous ones, so I went on a temple retreat.

In this temple we had to wear specific clothing, and we had to stick to some



strict rules. For example, we were not allowed to use electronic devices, and we could only eat vegetables and rice as food for the two days of our stay. Honestly, I did not like that because: First, if the purpose of religions is to worship God and to fill out the human being spirituality, it does not make sense to choose a uniform and worship God wearing it, because God looks to our faith not to our special clothes. Second, to stick to some strict rules was for me a kind of enslaving. I was able to stick to these rules for two days, but I thought that it would be impossible for me to follow them for more than that.

Anyway my first impressions did not make me give up. Even if Buddhism was confusing, I continued to ask questions and I even did some research. I found that Buddhism has been passed down from generation to generation, without even being questioned or logically explained. It seems that no Buddhist scripture considers the existence of a Creator, or how the world and living things came to existence; however, I found also that Buddhism contains many positive moral principles. Buddhist scriptures warn people against stealing, encourages them to be helpful to one another and cleanse themselves of selfishness and worldly ambitions. All of this suggests that Buddhism possibly began as a religion founded on God's revelation, only to become corrupted later. Muslim scholars think that human followers have debased these religious truths.

As a Muslim, I strongly believe in unity and diversity. I have learned, from all the experiences that people should be respected for being different because we are all different, so it is important to accept people for who they are. But, when it comes to worshipping God, I think people should verify well the rightness of their way to worship God.

I want to say that being in Korea, and participating in this program was a great pleasure for me, first because it allowed me to meet new people, and second, because was an opportunity for me to be an ambassador of my country, my culture and my religion. I know that people hear a little about my religion, maybe only through the wars that are happening around the world. I want to clarify that my religion has nothing to do with that. "Islam" is a word in Arabic that means peace. And I do not think that a religion named peace will call for war. Looking upon your understanding—I mean by "your" everyone who reads this essay—I hope that I have contributed positively in the success of AIP, and I wish good luck for Ulsan University.



Ramadan: an outsider's view

SPENCER CASE

The observance of Ramadan might be centuries old, but for us exchange students at Al Akhawayn University, seeing this tradition unfold for the first time is a new and enlightening experience.

Many of the fellow U.S. exchange students I have talked to have expressed fascination with Ramadan and quite a few have opted to observe the fast along with their Moroccan roommates.

Their interest is understandable, as Ramadan has no equivalent in the United States or, to my knowledge, non-Muslim Europe.

In the US, most of our holidays can be described as one-day commercial extravaganzas of one form or another. At Thanksgiving, we get together with our families and stuff ourselves with good food. At Christmas we spoil our kids with gifts—often incurring credit card debt in the process—and usually have another big feast.

I'm not suggesting that there are not deeper meanings to these and other American holidays, only that asceticism—the practice of denying physical pleasures to oneself for the sake of spiritual gain—never caught on in the larger American culture.

It is worth noting that some Christians fast during Lent and at other times during the year. However, by and large, we in the U.S. observe important religious and social occasions by indulging ourselves.

Clearly, the Islamic world has a very different approach. Able Muslims are expected to demonstrate their obedience to God by fasting during the daylight

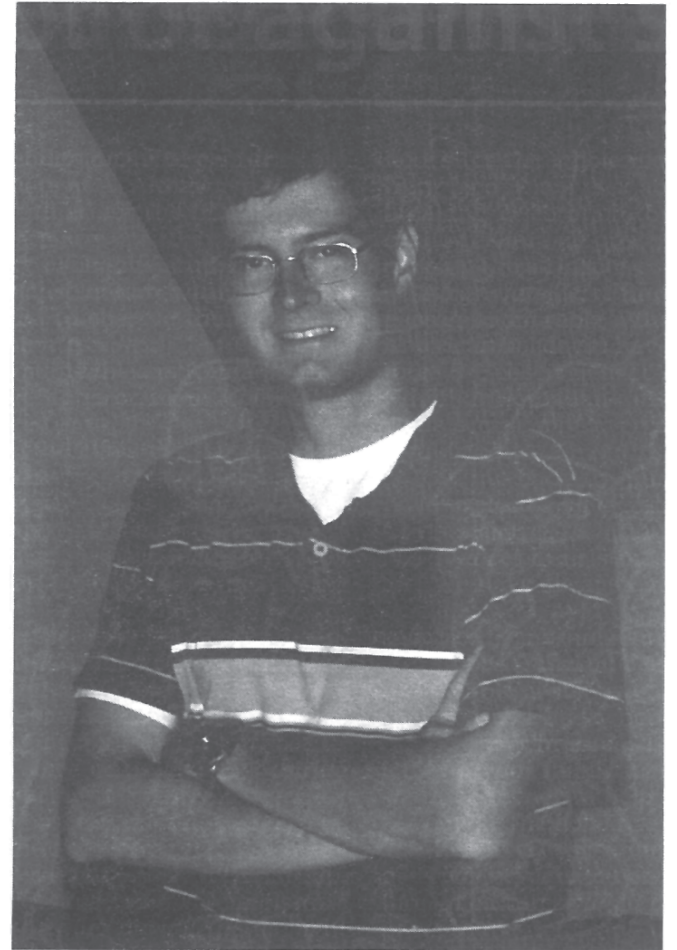
hours for the whole month of Ramadan, abstaining from food, water, sex, and cigarettes. There is a fast breaking celebration, but this does not come until each Muslim has proven himself—as it were—by exercising the stringent conditions of the fast.

As an outsider, I find this yearly spiritual rite of passage admirable. Whatever might be said for the American holidays I have grown up with, none of them force the observer to re-examine his or her life in the way that Ramadan must. Anyone can observe a religious occasion by overeating, but only a true believer would endure a month's worth of self deprivation.

Getting back to American holidays, note that all have evolved considerably since their inception. The Christmas tree—a quintessential part of an American observance of Christmas—is actually Germanic in origin. We have always borrowed from other traditions; perhaps we would do well to take some of the self sacrifice from Ramadan as well.

Suppose it became a tradition to fast that day before Thanksgiving—wouldn't you be more grateful for the food you had when it finally came time to eat? Suppose on Christmas the rule was you could not buy gifts for your family members until you had donated so much money to help those truly in need. Wouldn't that make the holiday all the more meaningful?

Most likely these modifications of American holidays will never catch on. Nevertheless, observers from foreign cultures would do well to understand and appreciate the rich traditions of their host culture.



Alumni Column

Al Akhawayn students participate in 2007 GSEC

NAZIH BEZZARI

I was among the Al Akhawayn students who put their knowledge to the test at the 2007 Global Social Entrepreneurship Competition, which takes place annually at the University of Washington, Seattle.

The GSEC is based on the concept of business competition in which students from around the world find creative and commercially sustainable ways to address the problem of poverty in developing coun-

tries. All the business plans are evaluated based on three criteria: effects on the quality of life and poverty alleviation in the developing world, financial sustainability, and feasibility of implementation.

The project of our team, "Moroccan Spirit," was to alleviate poverty in the region of "Souss" especially in the village of "Tamanar." Realizing that this local community does not benefit from the abundance of

the unique argan tree which grows only in Morocco, we planned to create "Tanmiya" cooperation for the production of argan oil in order to enhance this community's the social and economic status.

Besides AUI, a number of prestigious universities attended the competition, including University of Washington, Georgia State University, Bharathidasan University (India), ICFAI Business School (India), Peking

University (China), Bang College of Business (Kazakhstan) Centre for Human Education (Ghana), John Hopkins University, and Thunderbird & Kellogg.

Two weeks after the submission and the approval of our business plan, we were assigned a mentor, a Moroccan named Fauzi Sefriou, who was working as a real estate developer in the state of Washington. For almost a month, he worked with us on our business plan and provided us with valuable remarks. With his resourcefulness, he helped us overcome weaknesses of some parts of the project, especially regarding financial feasibility.

On Feb. 25, the competition started with a presentation of all the participating teams and projection of their project flyers. The following day each team was allocated 15 minutes to present his project in front of a jury and get the preliminary feed back before the official presentation in the following day.

Unfortunately we were not selected to pass to the final round since, the judges did not find the financial feasibility convincing. However, the jury of business men and professionals declared that our plan was both well structured and innovative.

Additionally, we received proposals from our mentor and some other business men. They

were willing to help fund the business in Morocco and encourage the entry of our products into the US market via the African Chamber of Commerce.

Apart from the official competition, we had the chance to visit the "Boeing Headquarters" and the African Chamber of Commerce, where we had been received by the president and other members.

Overall, all of us enjoyed this experience since it was beneficial not only in terms of "professional" outcomes, but also in terms of social, cultural aspects. It was a unique opportunity to leave in an entrepreneurial environment and to get in touch with many professionals and academicians.

Since it was our first international entrepreneurship experience, we learned many important lessons. I will try, personally, to incorporate them when I participate during the period of Feb. 25-29, 2008. The subject will involve dealing with health care services in Morocco.

I would like to take this occasion to express our sincere thanks the university's executives for their Financial and Moral support: The President, Dr Belfekih (VPSA), Dr Kamal (VPFA), Dr Driss Ouaouicha (VPAA) and Dr Derrabi (Dean of the SBA).



Security at AUI: For or against students?

ALAOUI ABDELAZIZ.
BOUZOUBAA WALID.

Students at Al Akhawayn University may have noticed new video cameras in strategic locations on campus this semester. Some may be wondering about their purpose: are they really there to protect students from harm or does their presence represent a needless loss of freedom?

For the Safety & Security Department director, Rachid Lagnimi, their purpose is clear. Security is not about watching students, it is mainly about "protecting their life and property, as well as those of professors, and staff". Other tasks of security are "to fight against drug consumption", "to provide

"The disciplinary committee has expelled three students for being involved in the theft of two laptops and a mobile phone."

first aid", and also "to prevent fire." In order to accomplish all these tasks, AUI security department owns sophisticated equipment. Over a dozen video cameras and "highly trained dogs" help dig up drugs and arrest intruders. Good security plays a main role for many of students for feelings of safety and comfort. Karim, a former student who recently majored in business administration, said that AUI security has "nothing to envy to any other highly secured area in Morocco".

Recent events have demonstrated AUI's security effectiveness. As Vice President of Students Affairs Dr. Belfekih stated, "The disciplinary committee has expelled three students for being involved in the theft of two laptops and a mobile phone." These crimes were solved thanks to the investigation conducted by the Department of Security. AUI Security also deserves credit for the arrest of an alumnus with 400 grams of narcotics on him.

Despite these successes, some students feel harassed by what they call "heavy surveillance." M'hamed, a student in the School of Business Administration, explains what he means by "harassment". While on campus, he was approached by a security agent who ordered him to let go of his girlfriend's hand. M'hamed tried to argue, but was stunned when the agent informed him that he had been "filmed by a surveillance camera."

M'hamed is only one of a number

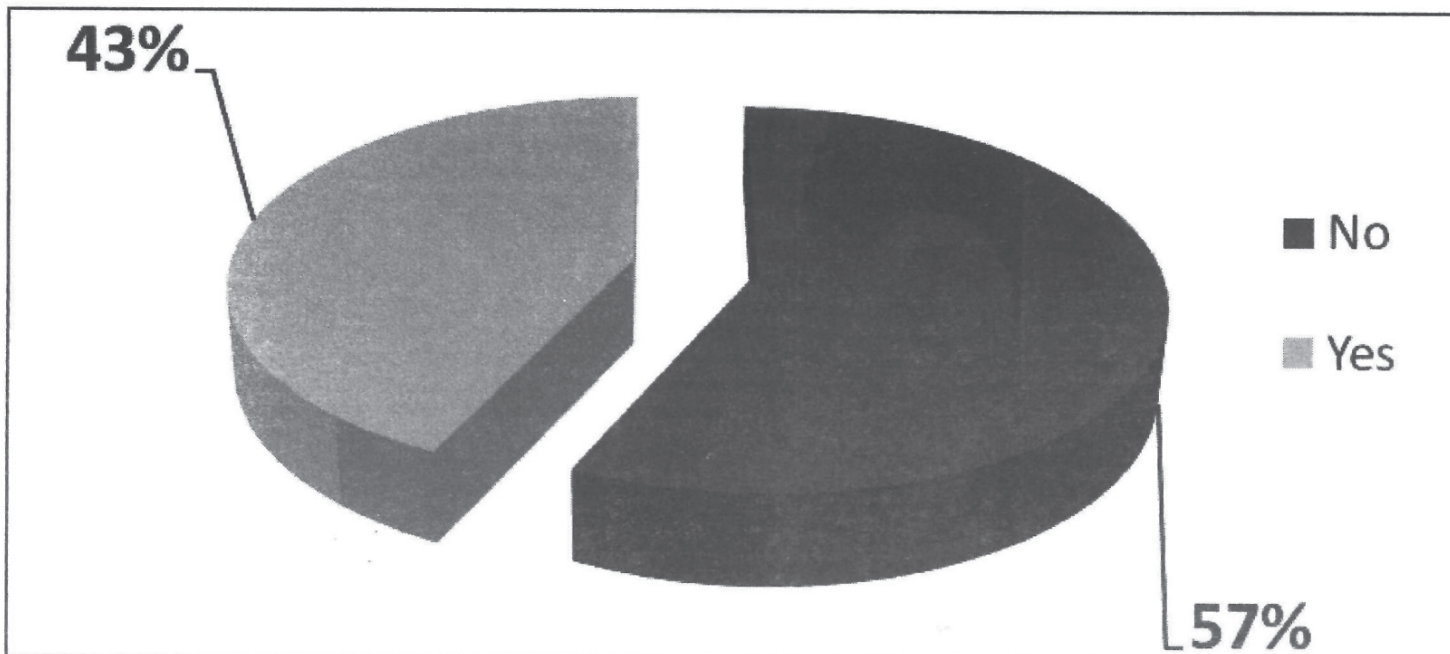


of students who feel oppressed by this "excessive" amount of security. He compares life on campus to a "reality show". M'hamed concluded that he is not against the use of technology for security, as long as "it is not used against him".

A small survey was conducted on campus to see if M'hamed's case was representative of AUI student feelings on the matter. Our survey shows that even if 77% of AUI students feel secure on campus, 43% still think that surveillance is disturbing. When asked

what, specifically, they felt as harassment, we learned that it is mostly the presence of video cameras that disturbed them.

"Our survey shows that even if 77% of AUI students feel secure on campus, 43% still think that surveillance is disturbing."



Percentage of students who feel disturbed by surveillance cameras

When confronted with complaints about excessive surveillance, one security agent stated: "Students have to understand that all these effort and money that the university spends is for their own good". Mister Lagnimi claims: "Video cameras are used within strict guidelines of respect of the personal life of students". In addition, these cameras are "...only placed in hot spots, such as the main gate and behind the gymnasium". Surveillance tapes can be used against students "...if and only if they violate the rules."

The disturbing events that occurred on campus and subsequent expulsions are reminders that security is not only there just to open the gates, but to serve and protect the AUI community in many different ways.

Fall 2007 Registration, still a painful process

ALI BENSEDDIK

Students have been quick to discuss and criticize the AUI registration process, particularly this semester.

Various factors have changed the way that the registration is conducted, among them the growth of AUI community, new enrollment procedures and the introduction of "Jenzabar", an enrollment management software application.

Some students have complained about the registration process, thinking the problem may lie in the "pre pre-registration" part of the process. Some of the goals of the pre pre-registration procedure are to predict and offer enough sections for reasonable number of students in any one particular class, and to satisfy all student courses requests.

Some students think that the added step in the registration process is "useless" and does not fulfill the goals put forth by Enrollment Services. In addition, as one student stated: "It makes the process more complicated." Enrollment Services, on the other hand, claims that students forget that this is the first time that the registration office is putting this plan into action. Coupled with Jenzabar, a new software application that has the aim of streamlining registration management, the pre pre-registration process needs time to prove its efficiency.

Some students we talked to thought that students were not treated as students but as customers.

Whereas some students perceive that the increasing number of students does

not fit with the number of sections and professors available, and that the university thinks only about making a profit. Staff members, on the other hand, claim that a considerable number of students do not follow all the registration steps, and that this gives rise to problems for

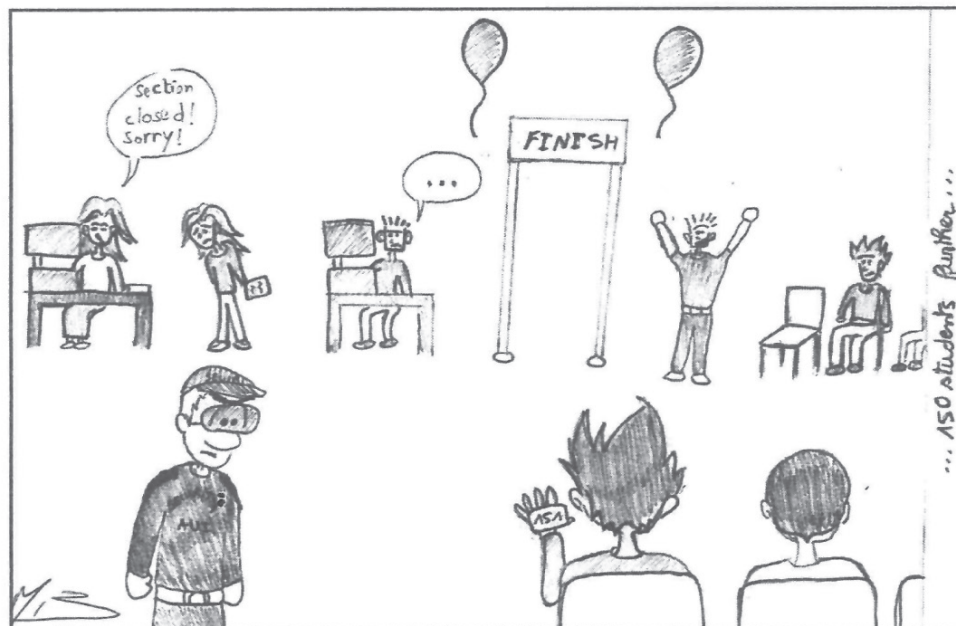
Students also complain about the add-and-drop period. The huge number of students in relation to the registration staff makes students wait for long periods for changes to be registered. Consequently, students suggest either increasing the number of registration

official change). These facts, according to the students we talked to, show the lack of organization during the add-and-drop period.

The lack of advising for Language Center students poses another problem. Some students of that group are protesting for their "right to choose," just like other students, their regular courses with the agreement of an advisor. It is pointless according to them that enrollment services are responsible for something that "is not part of their basic role." Some of them believe that they are enrolled in Language Center whatever courses are available for the sole purpose of minimizing registration problems, which sometimes results in less than appropriate course options. Enrollment Services believes that offering special course enrollment on an individual basis is a solution to this problem.

We also encountered optimistic students who view the registration difficulties as negligible since the AUI system is one of the rare Moroccan academic systems which offers relative freedom in term of choosing courses and scheduling section time.

While enrollment staff tries to enhance their management efficiency and effectiveness through the adoption of new procedures and the use of new software applications for enrollment, it seems that more and more students are complaining about the way the registration is conducted.



"innocent" students. Students counter that the growth of the student population in the last semesters would not disturb anybody if the university managed the growth responsibly.

employees or lengthening the add-and-drop period. Another complaint is the lack of communication between faculty members (agreement for a course change), and registration workers (of-

Spotlight

Salah dishes up food and cheer

YASSINE MAJDI

Salah Ahbou is one of the veterans of the cafeteria staff. This 29 year-old single man has been a member of the cafeteria staff since 2004 and has become one of the most popular figures among cafeteria patrons.

Salah was born and spent all his life in Ifrane where he got his high school degree, and earned a diploma in management. His first job was for the city, then he was unemployed for a while, and finally, when he joined the AUI staff, he found his calling.

Salah started working at the AUI cafeteria on the 30th of October 2004. But, his studies and work experience did not prepare him to work in a cafeteria full of students in need of their morning coffee to wake them up. He revealed that he had difficulties at first handling the machines correctly, and was "drenched in milk" several times.

After a few years, Salah found his groove and no longer

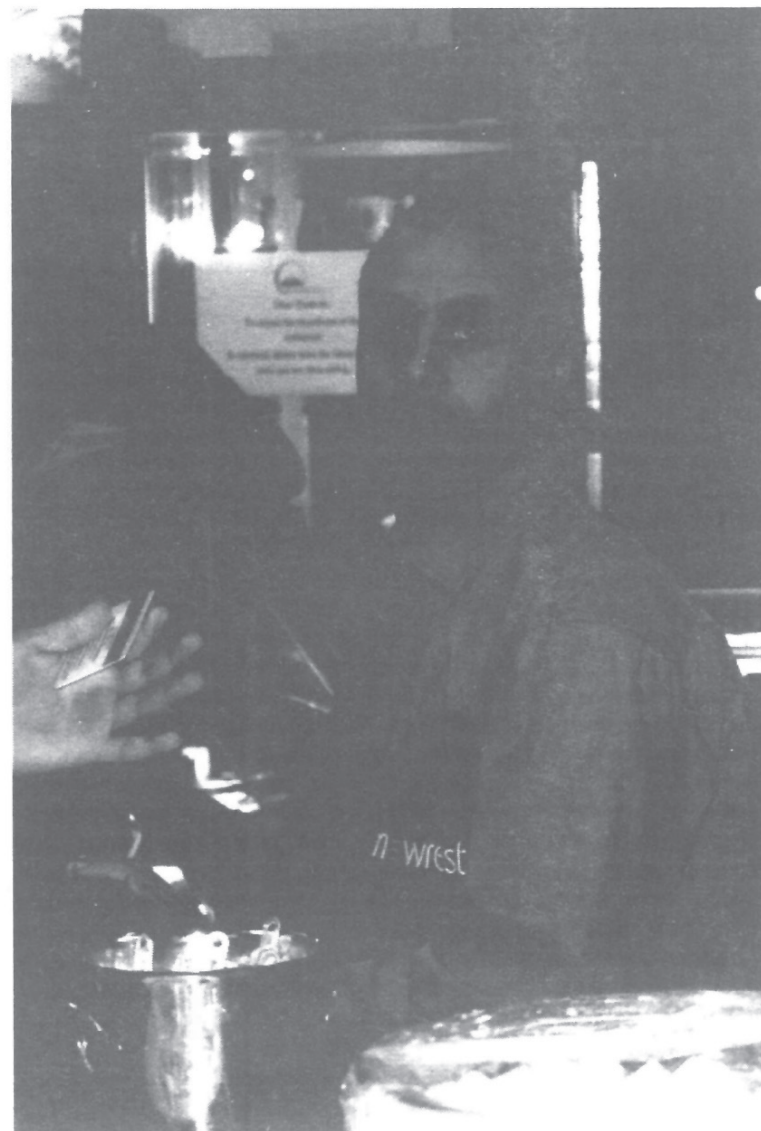
considered himself a "newbie." He found his own unique approach to his job: in his opinion, his job consists not only in serving drinks and food, but also being in a good mood. His relationship with the students he serves is based on jokes and laughter. He considers this approach to be the basis of his work. But he is quick to say that there is no way his relationship with students oversteps the limits of respect and he never forgets that, "students are before all customers."

Jokes and laughter are also shared with his co-workers. One of them declared: "There is always a cheerful atmosphere among the staff, we have fun every day." Salah is also seen by his peers as a model and a mentor as he has helped many of the new cafeteria workers settle into Al Akhawayn.

His humor notwithstanding, Salah acknowledges that his job is not easy. A good example is during rush hours. According to him, students lack discipline

when they all crowd in front of him, demanding food. He, and his colleagues, see this time of the day as a nightmare. Fortunately, this problem was alleviated at the beginning of summer, 2007 when railings were placed in the cafeteria in order to regulate the crowd. Other difficult times occurred when his former co-workers were dismissed one by one. He felt sad "seeing people with whom he has worked and shared so much being let go."

Because of his consistent good humor and his dedication to providing good service in difficult circumstances, Salah is appreciated both by students and co-workers. Last year, in recognition of Salah's commitment to his job and the contribution to the working environment at the AUI cafeteria, Salah was proud to receive the Staff Member of the Year Award. Nourredine, a co-worker, stated: "Salah has a big heart. He really is golden."



Salah: always eager to help customers

Interview with Gad EL Maleh

BADR BOUARICH

The auBridge has a scoop! For the first time ever, Gad El Maleh, the famous humorist and actor, has given an interview to a Moroccan newspaper. Indeed, auBridge, with the help of Mrs Belmokhtar, seized the opportunity interviewed him at the VIP Club in the presence of many other personalities (Mr Belmokhtar, Mr Andre Azoulay, Mr Jacques Chancel, etc.). After seeing him during the 10th commencement ceremony and hearing his speech back then, now you are finally going to know more about him.

Hello Gad, we know that this is your first visit to AUI, what are your impressions after having spent this day among us?

Well, it was a very emotional day for me especially because my mother never expected me to graduate! So, when I talked with Mom on the phone, she was so proud that she started crying... Actually, I, too, felt like "my eyes were sweating"! Concerning the [graduation] ceremony, I found it very well organized, and I had the impression that all the details were really under control thanks to the dedication of the master: Dr Belfekih.

Gad, we have heard that you studied political science in Canada. What can you tell us about your experience as a student?

I was the radio animator at that university, organized

the year's end show, and taught theater to my professors' children. Actually, I

was involved in all activities but I was not really interested in political science. Honestly, I went there only because it was the only place where I could study

“ It may be hard, people may not have enough confidence in you, but one should have the mental power to go his way, do what he loves to and be different. ”

law. It was not because I wanted to be a lawyer, but because I loved the way they dress. Anyway, now that I am an actor I can even dress like a surgeon... "ouakha makari oualou". ["even if I did not study anything"]

Today, you have attended the graduation of a group of motivated young people, willing to meet success. What advice can you give them?

It would be pretentious of me to advise people that have studied and worked so hard, but the only thing that I can say from my experience is that they should follow their instinct. It may be hard, people may not have enough confidence in you, but one should have the mental power to



Thumbs up for you guys!

inner voice that tells us: "I want to do this". I listened to that voice and I would advise you to take it into consideration in your choices.

front of the camera. Everything else is going to be a surprise!

To conclude, when are we going to see a Gad El Maleh show at AUI?

I may be coming for the "Fun Run", where I will try to defeat Hicham El Guerrouj! At the night show, we would see the girls singing, and you playing guitar. But seriously, I've heard a lot about "Hand in Hand" Association, and it would be a real honor to participate in the Run for a good cause.

Since "Chouchou", we are waiting to see you again in a movie. When will you have the courage to do it?

Very soon I hope. Right now, I am in the process of writing a movie script, and, for the first time, I will be both behind and in

go his way, do what he loves to and be different. We all have this



Gad, an AUI alumnus

Laila Lalami: a Moroccan voice in Oregon

ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

After the worldwide success that her amazing book *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* has encountered since its publication in 2005, the Moroccan writer Laila Lalami honored the AUI community by her presence on campus last summer. As usual, the auiBridge didn't miss such an opportunity and managed to get an interesting interview with this active ambassador of Moroccan culture.

Good afternoon, Mrs Lalami. Welcome to AUI.

Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

First things first. We would like to know a little bit more about your background.

I was born and raised in Rabat. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in English at Mohamed 5th University. Then I moved to London where I earned a Master of Arts and finally to the United States where I earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Southern California.

As a Moroccan writer, you also speak Arabic and French. What was then the reason behind your choice of English as a language of study and writing?

During my experience as a student from primary to high school, I noticed that French was really emphasized in programs and in the learning process. This somehow implied that speaking French fluently was a prerequisite for success in Morocco. Back in the 1970s, I read Moroccan writers who were famous essentially because they wrote in French; so I started to write in French, too. But when I got into college, the nature of my degree program made me think and write in English, and I really enjoyed it.

Thus, you can understand that my relationship with French is conflictual (smiles). Concerning Arabic, I don't write much in it because I am more fluent in Darija than classic Arabic. Overall, I prefer writing in English simply because I master it more than the other languages I am familiar with.

What are the values that you think your experience abroad has taught you? Did it reinforce your attachment to Morocco or made you question it?

You're raising an interesting question. I think that any writer who travels a lot and experiences new environment sees her/his country from a different perspective. In other words, distance makes you view where you come from with a more critical eye; so when you return home and notice new things, they really do affect you in a way that they wouldn't have if you have stayed home instead of being abroad. From a writer's

point of view, absence can be seen as a source of strength because it sharpens one's observation. However, being far away from home can also be harmful for a writer. When you miss your hometown, you tend to let your feelings act on you in a way that you focus on expressing them rather than revealing and illustrating truths, which, in my opinion, is the main function of a writer. I personally have experienced both circumstances. I frequently do miss Morocco, but when I write about it, I just do my best not to let my feelings bias the objective conception that I have developed so far.

What is the role that an Arab writer can play in America, especially in this critical period characterized by media stereotypes on Arab and Muslim culture?

L.L. (thinks for a while): Because of the stereotypes you just mentioned, nowadays, in America and all over the world, people can say anything about you unless they really know you. Because it is yours, no one can know your culture better than you. Thus, it is your responsibility to clarify its features to people whenever there is a need for that. We, writers, usually try to know the "other" and to make him know us. My origins make me directly involved in defending my culture when I see that its image is threatened. You are right when you say that the media is being violent toward Arab and Muslim culture. The best way then for an Arab writer to contradict this tendency is to fully reflect the richness, the diversity and the tolerance of his/her culture of origin through his/her writings, interviews and seminars.

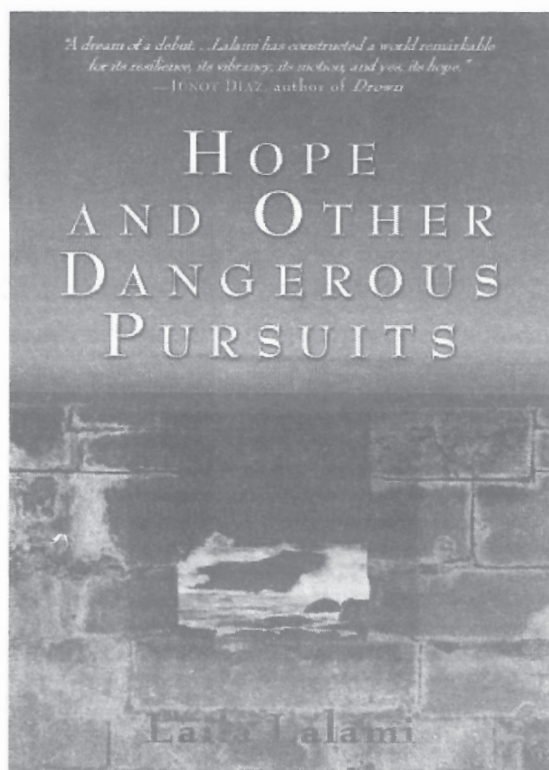
What is your main motivation for writing? Is it that you want to change things to what you think is better? Or is it that you feel the need to express yourself? Or maybe is it a source of relief and satisfaction?

Let me first make a distinction. There is a huge difference between writing and being a writer. Writing can occur at any time, from anybody, and does not necessarily imply a personal involvement. Being a writer is different because when you decide to follow such a path, you make a big sacrifice: it is not really lucrative as a profession. I have chosen to be a writer simply because I have always liked to tell stories; and as I was getting proficient in writing, I discovered that telling stories could be a very efficient and artistic way of revealing my vision of the world. So yes, my aim is to reflect what I see as being the truth. However, I do not aim to change things. It would be very pretentious of a writer to claim that s/he is able to make the world per-



fect. In fact, even if a writer had such an intention, would people really listen to her/him? To answer the last part of your question, I definitely feel comfort and satisfaction each time I write, and I guess it is the key to success in every profession. If you like what you are do-

ing, you generally do it well. To answer the last part of your question, I definitely feel comfort and satisfaction each time I write, and I guess it is the key to success in every profession. If you like what you are doing, you generally do it well.



Laila Lalami's blog and website are extremely popular

Doctor House: an atypical doctor

HAMZA FOIH BERRADA

You may all have already heard about the famous series Dr. House and if you have never seen it, you would probably think that it is a series which features a doctor in a hospital with some type of love relationship mixed into it; well guess what? It is much more than that!

Gregory House is a medical genius and the head of the diagnostic service of the Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital. Doctor House is famous for many reasons that make him a very special person. Let's talk about his specialness. First, he is known as the best diagnostician in the United States, and maybe in the world. Second, he is known as maverick and a cynical one at that.

Our atypical doctor loves to make fun of people and put them to shame to test their limits. This latter brings us to his third character trait which is that House does not value people and human relationships. It seems strange for a Doctor who has to face patients everyday. This has certainly something to do with the fact that he suffers from an infirmity caused by a disease that left his leg paralyzed. He suffers so much from leg pain that to concentrate on his work he abuses Vicodin, a strong pain killer.

This brings us to Dr. House's fourth trait: he is a junkie. This atypical doctor presents a yet a fifth character trait and perhaps the strangest: he never sees his patients and that forces him to delegate his authority to his three collaborators. Even his collaborators are chosen according to special character traits that make them cases for him to study.

Cameron is a beautiful woman with dark-brown hair that is 'very emotional'. House has chosen her because she 'married a dying man' suffering from cancer three months before his death. Chase is a 'handsome blond' guy who is, according to

because he has suffered to be where he is today. House never trusts anyone, according to him 'everybody lies' whereas 'symptoms never do'. Based on these principles he often asks one of his team members to go and dig into the patients' lives and their

getting close to Dr House. But one should be aware that House (as everybody calls him in the series) is a great doctor that has the singular characteristic of always being right. He is able to solve the trickiest and unsolvable medical mystery cases that

you what it means: His method consists in brainstorming and targeting all the possible causes of the symptoms. The diseases that are always checked first are Cancers, Infections, Lupus, or Sarcoidosis.

To check those diseases, House asks his team to put the patients on a large number of drugs that most of the time cause further complications. Of course this is harmful for the patient, but House sees it as the only way to understand the evolution of the disease leading to a cure.

House's theory is that the more tests the team performs the more the patient's chances to be cured increase - no matter the suffering they cause. The thing is that House never does the tests himself and always tries to skip his mandatory walk-in clinic duty.

During his free time he tries to concentrate and figure out what his patients suffer from by doing some admittedly strange things. House often watches medical series on TV, plays with a ball that he bounces on the wall, or plays video games close to someone in a comma. It is clear that this character is not what one is used to seeing in hospitals. House may seem rude, and his behavior may seem irrational, especially when he yells: "Anyway the patient will die!"

David Shore, the creator and executive producer of this series, can be proud of his work. This series is a mix of comedy and medical drama that differs from the other medical series due to its wink to the essence of human nature. My last word is that Dr. House is a series everyone 'must see'.



Dr House, a bootlicker. House chose him because Chase comes from a 'rich family' and does not need to work at the hospital. Foreman is an 'African American' guy who comes from the ghetto. House has chosen him because he of his black skin and

homes or to discover their lies. This method has saved a huge number of his patients who prefer to lie and thus put their lives in danger.

Because of the Doctor's behavior is bizarre, one could wonder about trusting or even

other diagnosticians are not able to crack. He is not lucky but rather, has an exceptional approach that works for him.

To solve his cases, House chooses to do a differential diagnosis involving the members of his team. Let me explain to

You Got Style

SOFIA HASNAOUI CHAOUI

You Want To Be Fancy? You Want To Look Good? You Want To Have Style? You Want To Be Smarter? You Want The Recent N95?

The N95 (Nokia 95) will satisfy all of your stylish desires because it

is just THE Technological Communication Tool that is GREAT. I use the expression 'Technological Communication Tool' because the N95 is much more than a simple phone; it has so many characteristics that make him the ONE to have this fall and for a long time. In fact, Nokia not only connects people but also styles. Here are

some of the N95 technicalities to be aware of; you'll be surprised how far the technology goes.

They call it the "Smart phone" because the N95 gathers several functionalities and the list is long: a phone, a computer with different applications such as PDF reader and Microsoft Office, accessibility to the World Wide Web with the WIFI function, a digital camera, both videos with a Real Player feature and pictures with a 5 Megapixel resolution, an integrated GPS, a range of music players (MP3, Real Audio, True tones and others). For more details check the "card-index".

Thanks to this phone, you will be able to take the most beautiful pictures ever and crazy videos you will be able to make. Instead of carrying three items (phone, camera, music player) in your two pockets or in your bag heavy with textbooks, you will take your beautiful N95 which will answer to your needs anytime, anywhere. The N95 is an "all in one" communication tool and as the company have promoted "It's what computers have become".

Not only this phone is practical, it is STYLISH, it is BIG and Beautiful, you AUI community all deserve it, well work for it!!!

Screen	TFT Type, 16 Million Colors, 240 * 320 pixels
Memory	128 Mb RAM, 8 Gb Flash, Slot for Micro SD card (previous version)
Camera	Frontal for Video Calls (3G), Rear of 5 Mega pixels + Auto focus
Video	640 * 480 MPEG and VGA types
Connections	Bluetooth 2.0, Infrared, Wi-Fi with wireless LAN (802.11)
Entertainment	Music (3D audio) and Video players, Radio (FM and Visual), Java technologies
Autonomy	215 hours in standby, 240 min in GSM communications, 160 min in 3G communications (for the previous version)
Aspect	Two way Slider, Dimensions of 99 * 53 * 21 mm, Weight of 120 g
Special	Internet Connection and Email, GPS, Quick Office Suite, Voice Dialing
Features	Offline Mode, MMS, Push to Talk



Another champion at AUI

BADR BOUARICH

Modest, optimistic, and cha3bi (popular) are the words used by his friends to describe Nizar Harakat, this swimming champion, who joined our university last year. Born in Sale, he moved to Rabat where he grew up and joined his first swimming club. The oldest of three brothers, he is the pride of his family.

We heard that you are a swimming champion, is that true?

Yes, it is true. I am a swimming champion in breast stroke. I won the gold medals in the 50 meter, 100 meter, and 200 meter breast stroke events in the national competition while swimming with my first club, "L'Olympique Marocain" (OM). Now, I swim with the "Justice Club" of Rabat where I have won many personal and collective titles.

How and why did you start swimming?

When I was 8 years old, my mother got me involved with my first swimming club, the Olympique Marocain Club near the beach of Rabat. Her intentions were to help me find an activity that would stimulate my physical fitness and promote good health. She did not expect that one day I would become a swimming champion.

During my first training session with that club I was really shocked when I realized that I was the youngest swimmer. I was not sure I could follow the rhythm of their trainings. However, due to my persistence and the encouragement of my coach Abdelali Hanchi, to whom I owe a lot of my success, I overcame this.

I trained with the Olympique Marocain Club in Rabat during the summers, and at the

Belle Vue Swimming Pool in Agdal during the winters.

At the age of 13, I had beaten all of my competitors in breast stroke. For that, I was selected to participate with the national team in a competition in Le havre, France. After I returned from France, the Justice Club of Rabat, one of the

most popular swimming clubs in Morocco, signed me in. It conflicts with the administrative committee of my first and former club, the Olympique Marocain Club that prevented me from signing with the Justice Club. As a result, I had to wait one year in order to be free to sign with a new club. This was the only event that influenced me a little bit. It hurt my per-

formance, but my hard work has allowed me to overcome this setback and helped me return to the podium. skills. I am even increasing the intensity of my training sessions so as to progress and win more competitions.

ing especially concerning the schedule which allows any athlete to perform in his field. Moreover, AUI provides students with a fantastic Olympic size swimming pool that is well organized, maintained, and equipped. Concerning my swimming career, I am training hard to further develop my

delkader Didouh who is also a great champion in backstroke; he won gold medals in backstroke during the national competition last summer. Both of us are helping other swimmers with their training and physical fitness. We are doing our best to get good results and thanks to the support and encouragement of Mr. Adil Kamane the club is doing well.

What is the most memorable event of your career?

That was when I won the silver medal in the Arab Championship Competition in 50 meter and 100 meter breast stroke in Tunis, Tunisia. It was really a challenging course because of the presence of many severe competitors. There was also the win of the golden medal with the Moroccan water polo team in 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you in your swimming career?

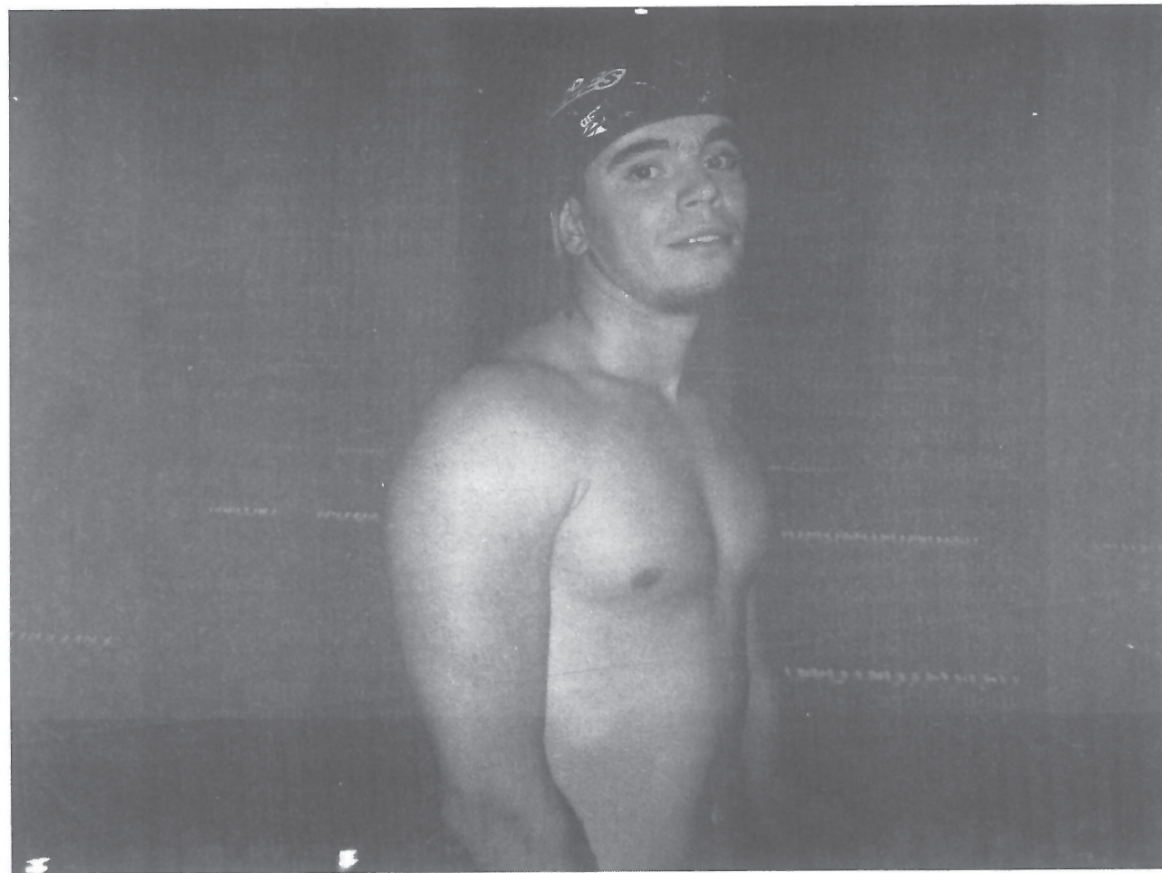
The funniest thing that happened to me was when I felt off from the starting block into the pool before the start of the race and all others swimming followed me, so we were all disqualified from the race.

It is a tradition now, please describe the following in few words: Branden Hansen: My idole in swimming

Alexander Popov: a legend in swimming

Didouh: (another swimming champion at AUI): A brother despite all

Adil Kamane: A very active person with an athletic mind
auiBridge: huge
AUI: An infinite universe



most popular swimming clubs in Morocco, signed me in.

Did you have to face any difficulty during your career? (Infrastructure, coach, studies, parents, etc.)

Thank God, I have not faced any real difficulties during my swimming career. I have only experienced some small con-

formance, but my hard work has allowed me to overcome this setback and helped me return to the podium.

How does your family feel about your studies at AUI and your swimming career?

My family is happy with the system that AUI is follow-

ing especially concerning the schedule which allows any athlete to perform in his field. Moreover, AUI provides students with a fantastic Olympic size swimming pool that is well organized, maintained, and equipped. Concerning my swimming career, I am training hard to further develop my

We know that there is a swimming club at AUI. Are you involved in it?

Yes, of course. It was founded by myself and Mr. Ab-

The football selections

MOHAMMED HASSOUNI

Students at Al Akhawayn University who have dreamt of soccer since childhood now have the opportunity to become members of the AUI Lions soccer team.

In order to become a member of that team, students have to take a serious test at the beginning of every semester. Newcomers and some old students have to play a match against the team B, the second soccer team of AUI.

The new players must play a good game against the established team. The fact that the newcomers must play at 1600 meters in altitude, with a group of people they have not practiced with before, adds to their challenges.

Generally, the players arrive at 5 p.m. and start warming up. At 5:30 p.m., the match starts and lasts around an hour. Often, the match ends with a clear victory of the team B, however some surprises already happened espe-

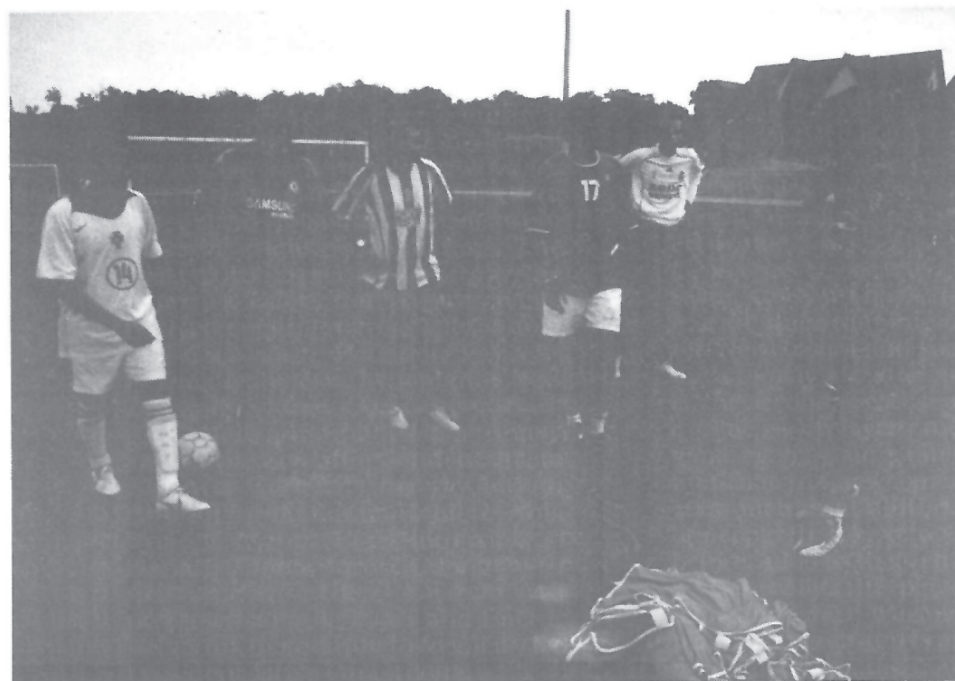
cially during the fall 2006, where 6 new comers were directly admitted to the team A, the official AUI soccer team.

The best players are admitted to the team A trained by Kamane Adil, while others that are technically good but have a lack of experience are admitted to the team B, where they can improve their skills.

At the end of the match, a student who tried out for the team confessed, "I was really proud to be able to participate in the selection match, but now I am even more happy since I became an official member of the team."

The new comers will have to practice two times a week (Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.) under sun, rain and snow.

Being an AUI lion does not necessitate only technique, it needs also discipline, hard work, and team spirit...



Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

8			1					
	7					8	2	6
	3		8	6				9
	2	4	6					7
	1	7	9		3	2	8	
9					1	3	6	
	6			5	9		4	
7	8	5					3	
					8			2

Level: Easy

	6			9	7	5	4	
	3				8	9		
1				4				3
				8	3			5
5								2
	4		2	6				
9				2				8
		4	8					9
	8	1	4	3				6

Level: Medium

	9				5		6	
			1			5		
8	1			7	4			
4		1						
	7	6		9		1	5	
						8		6
			9	8			3	2
		3			6			
	2		3					1

Level: Difficult

Crosswords

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21					22	23				
24			25					26						
			27				28					29	30	31
32	33	34				35					36			
37					38						39			
40					41					42				
43				44					45					
		46	47					48				49	50	51
52	53						54					55		
56					57	58					59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

ACROSS

- 1. Icy-sidewalk stuff
- 5. Waned, as tides
- 10. Pack in
- 14. Jazz group, often
- 15. Christopher of "Superman"
- 16. Possess
- 17. Actress Russo
- 18. Sebastian Coe, for one
- 19. Plains Natives
- 20. Had a little lamb?
- 21. Julep flavoring
- 22. Egypt's locale
- 24. Nuptials
- 26. Elton's instrument
- 27. Before: poetic
- 28. Sect
- 29. Yule beverage
- 32. Mr. Television
- 35. Unadulterated
- 36. Identical
- 37. Tel —
- 38. Managed
- 39. Big family

DOWN

- 40. Go ballistic
- 41. Seine tributary
- 42. Yonder
- 43. Comic Kabibble
- 44. Sandy hill
- 45. Do a tugboat task
- 46. Ridicule
- 48. Wondrous event
- 52. Arranged beforehand
- 54. Sword handle
- 55. Felon's flight: slang
- 56. Vientiane's land
- 57. Coral island
- 59. Musical sound
- 60. Shivering fit
- 61. Dancing Castle
- 62. Adult cygnet
- 63. Illustrator, Thomas —
- 64. Green Party candidate
- 65. Author Bagnold

ACROSS

- 1. Basket fiber
- 2. Mountain crest
- 3. Like looseleaf paper
- 4. Foot digit
- 5. Regal fur
- 6. Existence
- 7. Sing like Liza
- 8. First lady?
- 9. Went off track
- 10. Butter maker
- 11. Explanation of reasons
- 12. With: French
- 13. Southwestern tableland
- 21. Bog
- 23. No-no for Jack Sprat
- 25. Probe
- 26. Thick soup
- 28. Put a hex on
- 30. Mr. Sharif
- 31. Chromosome component
- 32. Italian seaport
- 33. Gabor and Perón
- 34. Fair and just

- 35. Artist's need
- 36. Diacritic symbol
- 38. Water source
- 42. Wrongful act, in law
- 44. Payable
- 45. Farm machine
- 47. Thing of value
- 48. Pooh creator
- 49. Circus sight
- 50. Oahu veranda
- 51. Improve, as text
- 52. Arrangement
- 53. Hindu melody
- 54. Turned the beds?
- 58. La-la lead-in
- 59. Literary monogram

Al Akhawayn University 10th Commencement Ceremony



Congratulations to all AUI graduating students

BADR BOUARICHE
ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

“Before talking about this 10th commencement, I would like to express my pride as a Moroccan of Al Akhawayn University, and to applaud the successful initiative of the late King Hassan II who founded it. Over the years, this prestigious university was able to prove its worth as an institution that aims at promoting excellence and noble values. The best proof for that is the thriving performance of its graduates in the Moroccan and international professional and academic fields. Our country needs brains for a better decision-making, and the best way to provide such an asset is through constructive education. My son is graduating today, and I would like to address my gratitude to the university’s professors and to congratulate them for the achievement of

their students, which is a direct result of their devotion in teaching.”

Mr. Abbas El Fassi,
Moroccan Prime Minister
and student’s parent

“Although nowadays, earning a degree is only the first step toward success in life, I do strongly feel that I have achieved an important performance by graduating. My years as a student were definitely the best in my life. I have learned here a considerable amount of values which, in my opinion, I wouldn’t have learned if I studied somewhere else: the pleasure behind seeking for knowledge, the spirit of effort and sacrifice, the necessity of

community service and the beauty of sincere and constructive friendship. I am certainly confident that wherever I go, I will leave a very positive impression because of the values I just mentioned.”

Student graduating

“No single word is enough to describe what I am feeling at this moment. By graduating today, my son has made me the happiest father in the world. I finally see that all the sacrifices I made in order to raise him were fruitful. On behalf of all the parents, I sincerely thank Al Akhawayn University, faculty, and staff for the knowledge and the values they have transmitted to our children during

their years of studies at Al Akhawayn University.”

A student’s parent

“I am truly honored to attend this ceremony which has become, over the years, an important event in Moroccan actuality. Since this is not the first time I attend AUI’s commencement, I have noticed a lot of improvements have been made, especially in terms of organization. I can only expect that there more to come in the following ceremonies which will undoubtedly confirm the prestige of this university, as they have always done.”

Mr. André Azoulay,
Royal Advisor