

NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE

Presidential Insight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
PRESIDENTIAL INTERNS



جامعة الأخوين
AL AKHAWAYN
UNIVERSITY

Midterm Newsletter

PRESIDENTIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

November 2024 [◆]



In this newsletter you can expect:

Opening Note

Introduction to the 2024-2025 Presidential Interns: Team, Roles, and Goals

1

The Intern Diaries

Highlight of Cierra's work at the Center of Learning Excellence

2

Humans of Al Akhawayn

Get a closer look of two personal stories of Emily and Luis

2

Life Outside of the Office

Intern's activities outside of interns' projects

3

The Written Word

A space for reflection and connection through words and minds

4

Art in Focus

Spotlight on visual narratives

5



Life Outside of the Office: Trip to Fes



Humans of Al Akhawayn: Luis Felipe

Opening Note



A spotlight of our first two months at Al Akhawayn!

Welcome to the Presidential Intern newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you all the developments in our work to make positive impacts in our AUI community.

We would like to thank the university president, Dr. Amine Bensaid, Dr. Cherif Belfekih, Imad Ghomri, and Imane Faiz for all their leadership and support. Your generosity and hard work has given us the amazing opportunity to work and live at AUI.

There are nine presidential interns for the 24-25 academic year. Three interns work in the Office of Entrepreneurship and Employability, as well as one in the Language Center, Athletics Department, Center for Learning Excellence, the Vice President's Office, the Al Akhawayn School of Ifrane, the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and the Office of Accreditation.

We are more than excited to continue contributing to the important work of our offices, enhancing the ongoing internationalization of AUI, studying, and exploring Morocco!

Cohort 9 of the Presidential Interns



Luis Felipe Aguilar
Athletics Department



Farah Tolu-Honary
Vice President of Academic Affairs



Eitan Silver
Entrepreneurship and Employability



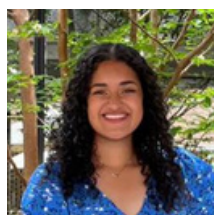
Henry Jenks
Language Center



Cierra Schreck
Center for Learning Excellence



Leiny Aguilar
Al Akhawayn School of Ifrane



Emily Reyes
Entrepreneurship and Employability



Ridho Dirgantara
OIRE and Office of Accreditation



Youssef Errihani
Entrepreneurship and Employability



The Intern Diaries

Hi, I'm Cierra, the Presidential Intern for the Center of Learning Excellence (CLE). My work with the CLE put me at the heart of our Peer Tutoring and Mentoring Programs as well as the Writing and Inclusion Centers. From our dedicated manager Oussama Er-reedy, to our enthusiastic student admins, I'm continually inspired by the commitment each team member brings to CLE's mission.

This semester, my goal is to elevate our programs by achieving higher-level certifications and accreditations for our initiatives and student workers.

Over the past month, I've been developing a Level 2 training curriculum for our peer tutors and mentors -- an immersive project! Just last week, we submitted our application, curriculum, and training materials for the *College Reading & Learning Association's IPTPC* certification, aiming for Level 2 certification. Exciting!

Once approved, I can't wait to kick off the training sessions, empowering our dedicated tutors and mentors to keep up their unwavering support for the AUI community.



Meet the Intern: Emily

I think the most defining moment in my life was when I studied abroad in Japan. It was like discovering a whole new layer to the world—and a whole new part of myself. That time sparked something in me, a drive to live and work abroad, to keep finding new places that could shape me in ways I'd never thought possible. My mother was always my compass through all this; she's everything I aspire to be—selfless, kind, strong. She's shown me how to live with integrity, to always be honest and kind, to give of myself without expectation. My dream is to live a life that truly fulfills me. I think I'm on my way by investing in real relationships with family and friends and following opportunities that feel meaningful.

HUMANS OF AL AKHAWAYN



Meet the Intern: Luis Fe

Most defining moment in my life was living abroad for the first time, in England, working and living there enriched me personally and professionally. Since then, I've always been trying to find opportunities abroad, opportunities that can expand my knowledge, opportunities to meet people from around the world, explore different cultures and dive into new worlds. After England I found these kinds of experiences in the US, Poland and now, Morocco. I have always found true inspiration in my family, on how to live my life and the paths I want to follow in the future. My dream is to work in the sports industry and I'm sure that working for AUI's Athletics Department will be key in the path I've been always meant to follow.

Life Outside the Office



Rosh Hashanah

Eitan presents at the Rosh Hashanah event hosted by the Interfaith Alliance Club. Rosh Hashanah translates to “head of the year” and celebrates the beginning of the new calendar year in the Jewish faith. This gathering highlights AUI’s commitment to promoting global perspectives and diversity.



Research Presentation

Farah presents her research “The Evolution of Judges’ Strikes: Insights From African Judiciaries” as a part of the Moroccan-Student Research Think Tank at AUI. One of her findings is that since the Arab Spring, judges’ strikes have become more frequent and have spanned more countries around the continent.



Mexican Embassy Visit

Emily and Luis Felipe had the opportunity to celebrate alongside the Mexican community in Morocco the “Grito De Independencia” remembering Mexican heroes that gave them homeland and freedom.



Trip to Fes

Cierra, Emily, Leiny, and Rid had an amazing trip with the Urbanization in Africa class, where they learned more about the city’s urban fabric. During the trip they learned about the influence of Islamic law on Fes’s architecture, while also learning how the social dynamics change throughout the time.



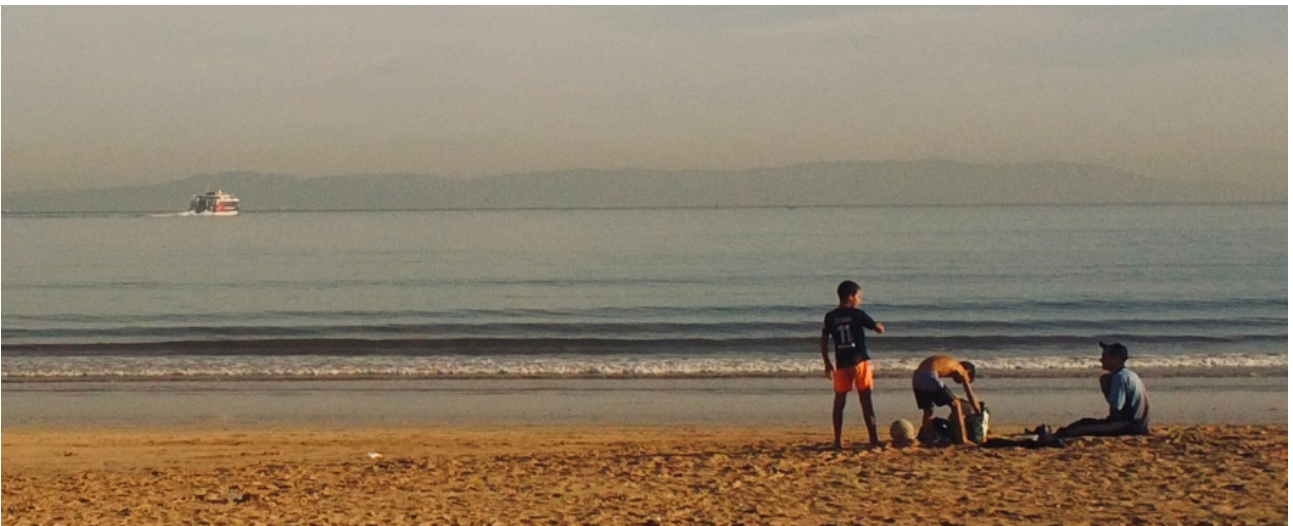
Letters from the Horizon

*Dear Ma,
All water is connected, and so are memories. As I stood by the steel gate overlooking the misty sea in Tangier, waves of stories somehow brought me back to you. Here, I lost my gaze on the horizon, carefully examining the clouds of memories, while witnessing the boys' laughter racing with the ripple of waters. Several years ago, at the port in our hometown, "what comes after" meant a future I couldn't yet see. Now in Tangier, the "future" seems to rest within the present moment, breathing alongside my existence.*

"It's a different world, Ma." This has become the ritual at the beginning of our conversations. Sometimes I wish I could show you this place – the bustling harbor, the changing light on the distant hills, or even the souk with its narrow alleys, colors, sounds, and scents, and the rhythmic tone rising and falling, inviting me to come, to visit the best saffron, cumin, and mint, echoing from one corner to another – but words fall short. So much has passed since I left, and I've reached a place where the world is constructed by a language that feels distant, far from what I can comprehend. Yet, I believe in the language you utter to God at 3 a.m. when I couldn't reach out to Him myself is the one universally understood for its kindness; In exchange, let my sadness, my loneliness, and my longing be new forms of "I am happy, and I am doing well here." Even if we are separated by miles and words, know that water is connected, and so are our stories.

Still, I want you to know that I am surrounded by amazing people here. I have friends who understand the language of longing and the ache of distant places. I wish I could share these moments with you – the stories we reencounter, the comfort we give every time longing transforms into tears – I am here, held by friendships as warm as the sunlight on Tangier's hills.

Dear Ma, imagining you here gives me a strange joy, because perhaps you would reminisce about your youth – how you'd point out the school you once attended, the navy air statue by the road, and my promise to stay awake, so I could absorb the stories you shared. Now, I find myself staring out over Tangier's blue horizon, closely watching the seagulls flying over the hills, wishing for wings to fly. Perhaps then I could see falling stars often, so I might make several wishes, all for you to be here.



NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE



جامعة الأخوين
AL AKHAWAYN
UNIVERSITY