

CTM tickets at AUI



Collaboration between the Student Government Association and the CTM may result in the sale of tickets on campus for all destinations and at all times.
(continued in Page 2)

Turkish Invasion?



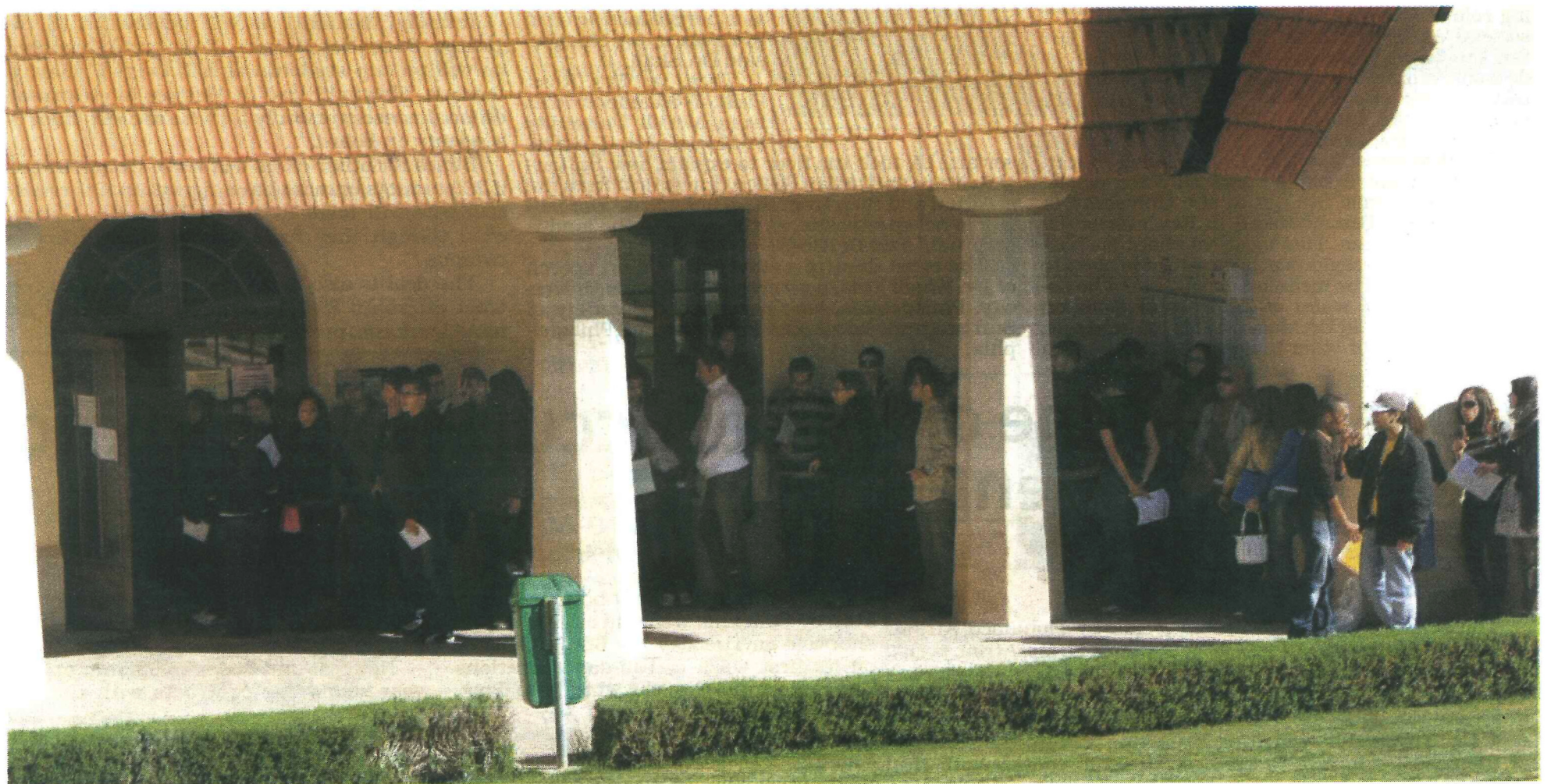
There was a strange silence; everyone is sitting in front of the magic box, no one articulated a word from the baby to the grand mother; what is the deal?...
(continued in Page 14)

Scholarships at AUI



After finishing high school, most students begin searching for a university or a higher education institution that fits their ambitions and their dreams.
(continued in Page 9)

"Fall" of Registration

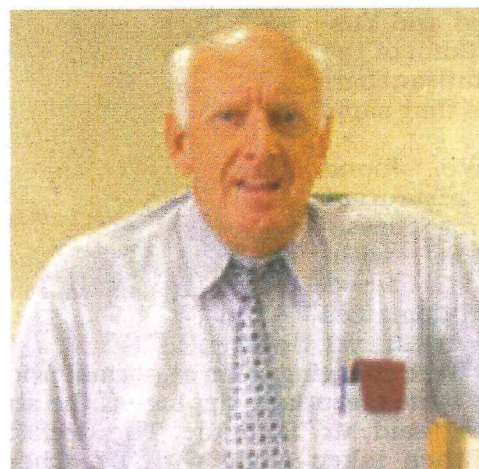


It is that time of every semester again! During this short period of time, students anxious or afraid of not getting all of the courses they selected with their advisor.
(continued in Page 8)

About Lt. Canterbury...

His vision of life is simple: "It should be a wonderful experience of all human beings." He adds "unfortunately it isn't, because we see a lot of problems in the world today, mainly because we don't view ourselves as one humanity"

(continued in Page 9)



In this issue:

- Crowded sports complex may get new building p3
- Leadership: Learning by Experience at AUI p5
- "Fall" of Registration p8
- Movie Review: Lions for Lambs p13

Third edition of the Sufi Night

NEWS STAFF

The third edition of the Sufi Night took place on the 18th of September in the middle of Ramadan as is now tradition. The event was organized by three students and an alumnus, and financed by the SAO.

"We have done tremendous progress in the organization of the event since the first installment two years ago", said Soufiane Aguida, the alumnus who orchestrated the preparations. Mr. Aguida and his collaborators Irchad Benquadi, Aouab Belkhatay and Irsal Belkhatay met at the Sufi zawiya of Sidi Hamza al Qadiri al Boutchichi in Madagh.

The coverage by the RTM and 2M testified of the importance the event has acquired.

This year's theme was "Sufism, tradition and modernity". To cover it, four speakers were successively given the floor, alongside a Samaa band.

Aguida's keynote opened on the emerging role of Morocco as a societal model and how Sufism guides this endeavor. "Morocco must play the role of a light-house for the Muslim world," said Mr. Aguida.

The first guest speaker, Dr. Abdallah Macer, Ph.D in Islamic Economy and Director of the Division of Islamic Studies at the University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdullah in Fes, started by introducing Samaa. This mystical chant is characterized by its religious meaning that is open to interpretation. "The meaning depends on who listens to it, as the water of Zamzam depends on who drinks it," said Dr. Macer. Later in the venue, Dr. Macer covered other topics, including Sufism

and Sidi Hamza, the spiritual guide of the Qadiri Boutchichi brotherhood.

The two sessions of Samaa by the group of al Qadiri al Boutchichia Sufi Brotherhood generated much response from the Sufi audience, including the spontaneous dance moves of several men, who were promptly asked to sit down by the organizers.

"I was very surprised and confused by the impulsive shouts and moves of some of the attendants," said Fatima Tchiche, 3rd year CS major.

A short clip by Fabien Coste, manager of Rap and Slam singer Abd al Malik, was then projected.

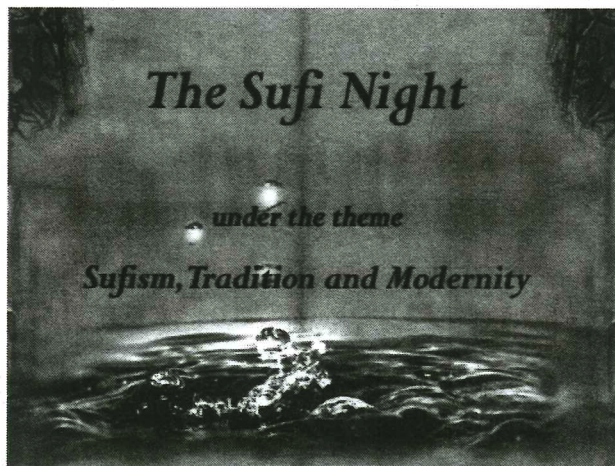
It juxtaposed pictures and quotes of the guide of the brotherhood.

The evening went on with a presentation by Dr. Faouzi Skali, founder of the World Sacred Music Festival. Dr. Skali explained how he sees Sufism as the new paradigm to think and solve the problems of the world. "Science as a perpetual source of progress is an illusion," said Dr. Skali.

Then, Dr. Eric Ross, Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from McGill University in Montréal and profes-

sor at AUI, took the floor to explain how Sufi architecture and urban design draws first from the spiritual and then from the economical. "The Sufi city is not capitalistic, as the value of the land is spiritual," said Dr. Ross.

The event drew to a close with a short speech of Dr. Khalil Yhia, a professor at Temple University, Philadelphia, who described the variety of Sufi brotherhoods in San Francisco and Philadelphia.



CTM to start selling all tickets on campus

NEWS STAFF

(Continued from p. 1)

Contrarily to the actual setup whereby students could buy tickets before breaks for Rabat and Casablanca only, this contractual agreement will turn the Student Activities Office into a CTM selling point similar to the one at the Marché. It will also allow students to pay by cash wallet instead of cash.

The collaboration was initially discussed by the SAO and finalized by the Student Activities committee of the SGA.

"This accommodation will dramatically ease the transportation of students as some buses will leave from AUI every Friday", said Souad Touil of the SA committee.

Initially, destinations will be divided in two groups. Buses for Meknes, Rabat and Casablanca will pickup students at AUI every Friday afternoon. They will stop at Meknes to pickup additional passengers only if there are less than 30 students on board.

Buses for other cities will leave from AUI only if 20 students or more have signed-up. Otherwise, students will have to depart from the Marché, even though they have bought their ticket on campus.

The deal is also beneficial to clubs. "The contract offers an 8% discount for trips," said Adnane Loukane, president of the SGA.

Mohamed Afrine on cash management

NEWS STAFF

The School of Business hosted a talk by Mohamed Afrine on Thursday the 9th of October in building 11. Mr. Afrine is Director of Project Financing. The talk, titled "Cash management: Operating versus investment cycle", was attended by about 50 students. Mohammed Derrabi, Dean of the SBA, introduced the talk. He explained how inviting Mr. Afrine fulfilled the strategy of the school, which is to keep students in contact with the professional world as much as possible.

"Cash is a central question today, even though Morocco is not hurt by the financial crisis," said Mr. Afrine.

As a cash manager himself, he explained that his job has been affected by the crisis as he is to be stricter on loan criteria now.

"Before the end of 2007, we were encouraged to push out as many loans as possible, even when required documents were missing. Around that date, things changed and we are much stricter now," said Mr. Afrine.

"Cash has become so important that there are companies specialized in the rating of other companies' cash," said Mr. Afrine. Several new cash management methods were introduced recently, such as cash-pooling and netting, two ways for members of the same holding to save cash.

Students' questions revolved mainly about young entrepreneurs' loans and the need for personal capital contribution.

"We now demand a 40% contribution from the borrower," said Mr. Afrine, explaining that personal contribution to the business' financing demonstrated dedication.

First hiccup for Sodexho

NEWS STAFF

The newly opened Club House, operated by Sodexho, went through a supply shortage on Tuesday the 6th of October, on its first week of full-day operations. The restaurant was closed for two days.

The shortage was reported to Adnane Loukane, president of the SGA, who inspected the restaurant with Hicham Hafed and Yassir Himdi of the Restaurant Services that same day.

"We found the restaurant serving cheeseburgers without cheese, salad, tomatoes and fries; yet they were charging them at normal price. They were essentially ripping-off the students," said Mr. Loukane. The decision was then taken along with Dr. Cherif

Belfekih, Vice-President of Student Affairs, to close the Club House until the supply problem was solved.

Newrest and Sodexho operate on one-year renewable contracts with the university, and the contracts allow the Restaurant Services to stop operations whenever the service is deficient, but this clause was never enforced before.

"The main advantage of having a second catering company on campus is that we can now close a restaurant that operates deficiently," said Mr. Himdi. "Until now, closing a restaurant would disturb students' lives too much," he added.



Moodle course management system launched

NEWS STAFF

The Moodle website and course management system has been deployed this semester. Though initially used by only a handful of professors, this new tool for teacher-student communication is available to all students of the university.

Located at citi.aui.ma/elearning, the site allows faculty to communicate grades, homework assignments and course material individually or to the whole class. It offers a forum for each section of each course, a good way for students to contact classmates. The site also features an event calendar and a personal blog for every user of the site.

Moodle is a free open-source system. It was implemented at AUI by Omar Ahizoun, Othmane Boulehiane, Younes



Nadir and Fatima-Zahra Zaidi, all members of the Center of IT Innovation for Human Development (CITI) hosted in building 4.

"More than 10,000 universities use it around the world, so we felt it was a necessary to offer it to AUI," said Mr. Ahizoun.

CITI is currently awaiting feedback from professors and students to improve the system and promote its use among all

faculty members by next semester.

"Apart from its main content digitalization project, CITI is working on several projects with AUI," said Dr. Hassan Daghmaoui, coordinator of CITI. These projects include a research project with the SHSS, a Flash training for students.

Crowded sports complex may get new building

NEWS STAFF

The boom in attendance that started last semester at the sports complex has kept developing this fall, according to Adil Kamane, Director of Athletics, and it may call for the construction of a new sports building.

Swimming pool turnout rose the fastest, from 200 visits per week last Spring to 350 this Ramadan. However, while the pool is large enough for even more visitors, other parts of the complex have been regularly overcrowded this semester.

"The weight room, in particular, is becoming an issue as it cannot accommodate all the students who work-out in the peak hours of the evening," said Mr. Kamane.

While last semester's room changes improved the situation, they only postponed the problem as the number of students has risen again this semester.

To remedy this issue, the athletics department is currently working on a plan for an extension. It would be located in the area behind the soccer field stands.

"Our current plan includes bigger weight rooms, a spa, and a sauna," said Mr. Kamane. The building proposal will have to be approved by the university executives and by the Board of Trustees before it is executed. For this reason, no specific timeframe is advanced yet.

AUI faculty to collaborate with European research on steel manufacturing

NEWS STAFF

Dr. Ahmed Rassili of the University of Liège in Belgium presented the process of semi-solid processing on the 29th of September in the board room. The talk, titled "Semi-solid Processing: Mascara, Ketchup, and Parts of Cars" described thixoforming, a method of producing metal parts that dramatically decreases costs. Dr. Rassili also announced the collaboration of Dr. Aziz Berrado, Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and professor at AUI, with the European Collaboration in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) in the field of mathematical modeling.

"AUI will join dozens of other universities and firms around the world in this research program. It is the first non-COST member to join," said Dr. Rassili.

Dr. Rassili is director of the Thixo Unit at the University of Liège, and chairman of the European Steel Consortium. His work focuses on the development of thixoforming for steel.

Thixoforming is an application of semi-solid processing to metal manufacture. In thixoforming, the material is first heated and stirred into a butter-like slurry. The properties of this slurry are similar to com-

mon products such as ketchup, yogurt or mascara, which have to be shaken before they can be poured from their container. The metal in this semi-solid state is then either forged or molded into the desired shape.

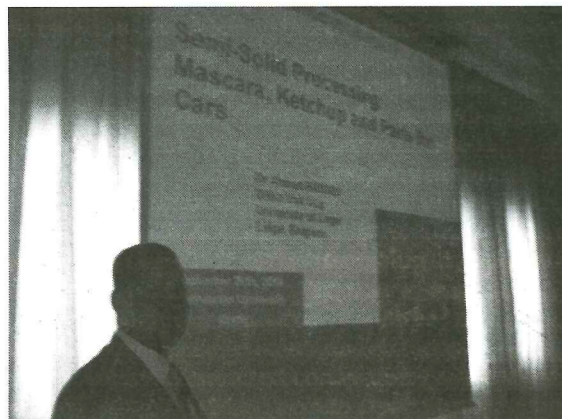
This process is used to create all kinds of metal parts, including cell-phone cases and motorcycle chassises. Since very little of the material is lost during the process, thixoforming is cheaper than traditional methods where metal is heated at lesser temperatures and never stirred.

Thixoforming is already widely used in Asia, but not yet in other parts of the world.

"There are several hundred thixoforming machines in Asia, but only a handful elsewhere," said Dr. Rassili. "I have been promoting the benefits of this process

for several years," he added.

"The talk touched on several disciplines we are studying," said Hajar Bourih, 2nd year EMS major. Dr. Berrado, who organized the talk, was satisfied by the attendance of around 50 people. "I think students of several majors took something from it, as shown by the quality of the questions that were asked," he said.



Schoolbag campaign a success

NEWS STAFF

Faithful to their mission to promote early education in the region, Hand in Hand (HiH) has conducted its yearly edition of the Schoolbag Campaign this September. Launched on Wednesday the 10th, the fundraising operation coincided with the beginning of school classes and of Ramadan.

This year's campaign was a success as we were able to serve 21 schools instead of the usual handful we regularly work with," said Mohammed Bouia, Hand in Hand and Mobile Library General Coordinator.

More than 400 first graders received a schoolbag filled with all the books and school supplies they need. More than 600 other pupils across other

levels were handed the books and supplies they needed.

"Even though we raised less money than usual from students, the total funds are comparable to what we raised in previous years", said Maria

Benmokhtar, advisor of the association. "This was mostly due to the higher than usual generosity of faculty members," she added. An estimated 95,000 DH was gathered from students, staff and faculty. HiH will release the exact results

once they are processed by the Business Office.

Overall, the association has distributed more than 1500 notebooks and 5525 books, of which 552 were given to the Ifrane's Delegation of the Ministry of Education to distribute.



Staff Editorial

With a fresh team on board and a stream of events ahead, the auiBridge is back on track, ready to serve you the best way it can: by delivering reliable insights on what life is like at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane.

Our duty as editors is to grasp any concerns from students and project them in the most constructive and influential manner. It goes without saying that we cannot do so without the contribution of students. Your input is our most treasured commodity; so if you feel that you can turn a good phrase on any issue, do not hesitate to contact us!

For this issue, variety is the motto. From news to entertainment to features, you will find an appropriate compilation of events and opinions. Academics, activities, sports, lifestyle, media... you name it, we cover it!

It is now common knowledge that among all campus issues, Registration is by far the dearest to students' hearts. Inside you will find a documented analysis on how registration went by this semester from the perspective of students, and how the latter think the process could be improved.

And who could miss it? The opening of the new fast food restaurant has generated excitement, curiousness... and problems as well. On this particular topic, you will find the answers to your what, why and how questions.

All this plus a coverage of the Ramadan Soccer tournament, a Faculty Profile, a Movie Review and much more.

Enjoy your reading!



Letters to the Editor Library

Dear editor,

I find it interesting to investigate the question of new classes that opened in AUI library during this semester. These classes constitute a new addition to the services that the library offers. I believe that the creating of these spaces show that AUI administration did not take into consideration the number of students that is increasing or, perhaps, the lack of space for courses to

be taught. I am interested in knowing more about this topic and thank you.

Houssam Bentaleb,
3rd year BA student

Dear editor,

I am a new student at AUI and do not know much about its departments and the services that it offers to students. How-

ever, it came to my knowledge that the library classes were opened just during this semester (fall 2008). I think that this initiative shows a clever use of university spaces as it offers students new rooms where they can learn. Yet, I think that a student who has a class in the library will find it hard to go back to library to review (it may be boring).

Abdelkrim Adyel
1st EMS year student

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NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Human Resources at AUI

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Write us a letter!

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!

Contact:
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AUI BRIDGE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include the 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@aui.ma. For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

Socially AUI

Leadership: Learning by Experience at AUI

REBECCA LOCKLEAR
GRADY LOCKLEAR

"In order to be a leader, sometimes one must become a follower." The man who spoke these words was not Gandhi, Winston Churchill or any other famous leader. He is a 21-year-old student at AUI—Amine Lamsili. Lamsili learned this insightful lesson on leadership because, like other Human Resource Development majors, he is required to take Leadership and Management (HRD 4303/SHSS), in order to obtain his degree.

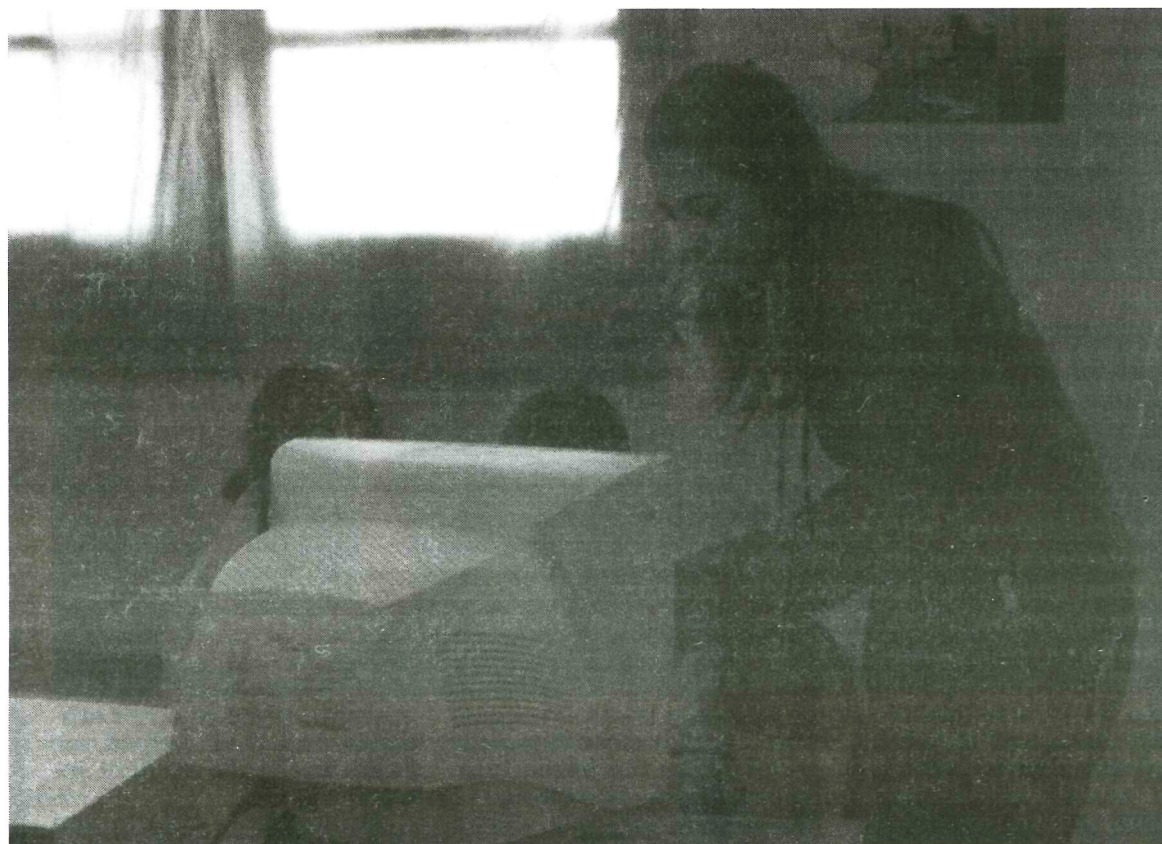
Leadership is a complicated subject for students to learn, and Dr. Duncan Rinehart, who teaches Leadership and Management, asserts that leadership is not a skill that can be learned from a book. Racecar drivers are not taught to race by reading; aircraft pilots are not simply handed a manual and expected to fly across the ocean. Those are skills that must be practiced, and leadership is no different.

That is why Rinehart introduced Leadership Learning Experiences (LLEs).

These projects require students in his class to gain at least 45 hours of leadership experience by working in the community during the semester. "To be an effective leader," Rinehart explained, "you need real experience and you also need knowledge of theory and research." When students begin their LLE term projects, they are challenged to take the theories they have learned in class and try them in the real world.

Students approach their LLEs in a variety of ways. Some teach English, French and computer skills, while others have chosen to work with local associations on economic development projects. In order to complete their LLE projects, students recruit community members to help. The students have no authority over the volunteers, many of whom have been active in their profession for years. In order to succeed, the students have to find creative ways to inspire and motivate their followers.

Amine Lamsili chose to



Inass Msaidi assisting students of Bir Anzarane Primary School while working on computers to teach French to a group of adults in Ifrane for his LLE. As the term progressed he began to find out that leadership is not always about giving orders and enforcing them. Instead, a good leader should listen to the needs of the community, and use that knowledge to become a stronger leader.

Inass Msaidi, 21 (Communications graduate), was also enrolled in Rinehart's class. Leading a team of nine people, she provided staff development for the teachers at Bir Anzarane Primary School in Ifrane. In addition to leading the team, Msaidi taught computer skills to the teachers. At first, she felt frustrated because she had no authority to tell people what to do, but she began to learn that inspiration can be a more powerful tool than authority. Soon, she gained "a sense of enjoyment and pleasure" from helping her community and learned about what

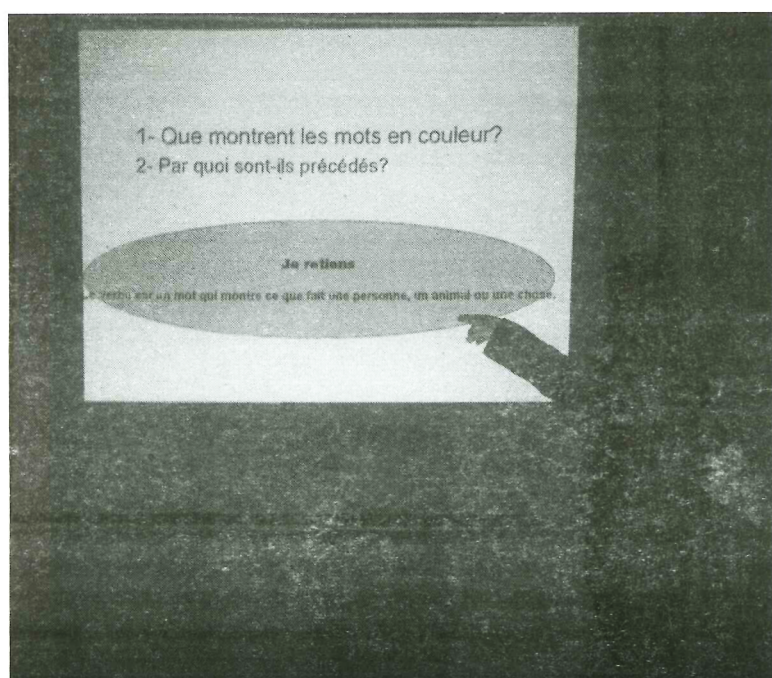
it means to be a leader. "This initiative helped me build up my personality, develop my communication skills and feel the pleasure of serving my community," she explained.

Rinehart's LLE assignments have been a source of personal development for his students, as well as a helpful influence on the community. "The students are learning leadership and the community groups are getting the knowledge and energy of AUI's best. This is a true win-win," Rinehart said.

The work Rinehart's students have accomplished has had a lasting effect. Thanks to Msaidi's efforts at Bir Anzarane, teachers now use the school's multimedia room to teach students how to use Microsoft Office computer programs and navigate the Internet, and the librarian is cataloguing books on the computer. Another LLE result-

ed in Cyber Cedre in Azrou turning a spare room into a community school. Even though the students' LLEs last only one semester, they attempt to build programs that will continue to run when the students have moved on.

Rinehart hopes that this approach to leadership will attract more students and will become an established means by which AUI contributes to the development of Ifrane and neighboring communities. "Many people think that leadership is telling others what to do. It is not. Leadership is motivating others to work with you to accomplish what you cannot do alone," Rinehart said. Amine Lamsili, Inass Msaidi and other students in Rinehart's class began the semester without knowing what it takes to bring people together, but their LLEs gave them the experience they needed to become community leaders.



Inass Msaidi teaching students of Bir Anzarane Primary School

Exchange at AUI

Exchange Experience at AUI

KENJIRO MATSUMOTO

It was a cold night of January, I landed at Fez airport from Frankfurt by a low-cost European carrier, Ryanair. On the way to Fez, from the sky, I saw arid land and confirmed my idea about Morocco: a dry, desert country. The university car that picked me up was a Skoda, Czech Republican

night to earn money for my travel.

Studying at AUI is a part of my life journey which is driven by curiosity. Right before I quit my job, I was working in the Middle East investment sector and travelled to UAE and Egypt sometimes. In those Muslim countries, the driving force

got warmer and I got happier.

My first few weeks here were eased thanks to some AUI students in charge of taking care of exchange students. When you come to a new environment and don't know people there, you can get isolated easily, but these students said "hi" to me and

roccan interpersonal communication were foreign to me too. For example, many Japanese don't look at your eyes when you talk. Looking at someone's eyes is not polite traditionally in Japan and makes people feel uncomfortable.

The Japanese culture is a high-context culture. We understand many things without talking much thanks to the homogeneity of society. This can often cause misunderstanding between people who have a different mode of communication. The Moroccan culture is closer to a low-context culture, but still these two cultures have many things in common, such as not saying "NO" directly and showing respect to people. These common points made me feel comfortable communicating with AUI students.

During my stay at AUI, I was teaching Japanese in Japanese club which is the most active club I believe! It gave me the opportunity to meet great people. Here again I confirmed that Moroccans are linguistic geniuses. The moment I taught some new grammar, they were already able to apply it, while most Japanese cannot speak English even after studying it 6 years in a row. The Japanese Club organized a Japanese Day in April and invited her excellency the ambassador of Japan in Morocco in addition to representatives from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The day involved speeches and distribution of Sushi for free. During this event, club members worked excellent-

ly and impressed me a lot in terms of efficiency and organization.

Another issue that kept my attention at AUI concerned the sex segregated dorms; it was something I liked though many students are against it. However, it was interesting to me to see that some bathrooms are unisex while dorms are strictly segregated. Once I met a female student in a bathroom and I got so embarrassed. Fortunately, and compared to outside Morocco, AUI students are well educated in terms of gender issues and I felt like I was experiencing the bright future of Morocco.

I know that Japanese are famous for their punctuality, but I'm a very bad example of it actually, because I'm always late for appointments, so I wish people don't think that I'm the standard. On the other hand, most AUI students are punctual, especially for classes which was different from what I had imagined. Not only this but many things betrayed what I had thought before coming to Morocco such as similarity in terms of culture, the existence of many Arabic dialects. Also, the level of education here is higher than I expected.

After this semester, I'm planning to participate in volunteer work in Morocco for some time before resuming my graduate study back home. I greatly appreciated being given the opportunity to study at AUI and meet excellent people. I'm even planning to visit AUI from time to time.



car maker, which gave me a strong flashback of what I was doing before coming to AUI.

I was in the Czech Republic for a business trip when I first saw Skoda cars. Building cars requires fairly skilled labor and quality management systems which are often dominated by developed countries. Therefore I was impressed that this car maker survived for 100 years in the Czech Republic despite competitors from neighboring EU countries. I was even more surprised to find this car in Morocco; I thought it was a nice encounter.

After graduating from Keio University (Japan) in 2004, I worked in Tokyo for a few years. My position, as an investment manager for global portfolios in an investment company, involved lots of travels around the world and gave me the opportunity to meet people from the investment and other fields. Talking to people from different countries often gives us new insights and I got a bit addicted to that.

Actually, my addiction to travels started when I was in junior high school. I traveled by bicycle every weekend, and naturally the distance of travel got greater and greater. By the time I was in university, I travelled abroad every break. Unlike in Morocco, it's easy to get a part-time job in Japan, so I worked twice a week at

of society is Islam, a religion about which most Japanese people have not much idea. In Japan, the percentage of Muslims is very low. Japan is unique when it comes to religions because most of us are non-practitioners, while many don't have a specific religion. For example, it's common to hold the first half of a wedding party in Christian style and the second half in Shinto style. Also, when you die, the funeral ceremony is conducted in Buddhist style. For Japanese people, understanding Muslim countries is difficult, but essential under increasing human and business interactions.

By the time I quit my job, I was interested in the Middle East and North Africa partly because few Japanese understand the issues going on here despite recent active economies in these regions. I started looking for study programs in Egypt, Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries but most of them were one year programs and required minimum Arabic skills. It was not the case for AUI programs. AUI exchange program for international students is more flexible and open compared to other schools.

My first impression of AUI was cold. It was still the break and no one was in my building so I felt the whole building was cold. Finally, after a few days, my room

introduced me to other students and thus helped me as an exchange student integrating.

Strangely, at AUI, you can easily meet the same person three times a day or more. At first I found this difficult. In Japan, we don't hug nor kiss. Actually, we don't even shake hands often. So communication in Morocco which is more intimate makes some people feel uncomfortable at first, but of course, the beauty of it can be appreciated later on.

Other aspects of the Mo-



Kenjiro-san presenting different Japanese items during Japanese Day

Exchange from AUI

A Summer of Inter-Faith Dialogue and Understanding

LAMIAE MEJJANE

"Perhaps these twenty one days spent in the Summer University have taught us what we could not learn from books in one year." I think that I couldn't agree more with Mr. Nauman Asghar, a student of Law from Pakistan I met during the First Vienna International Christian-Islamic Summer School of 2008.

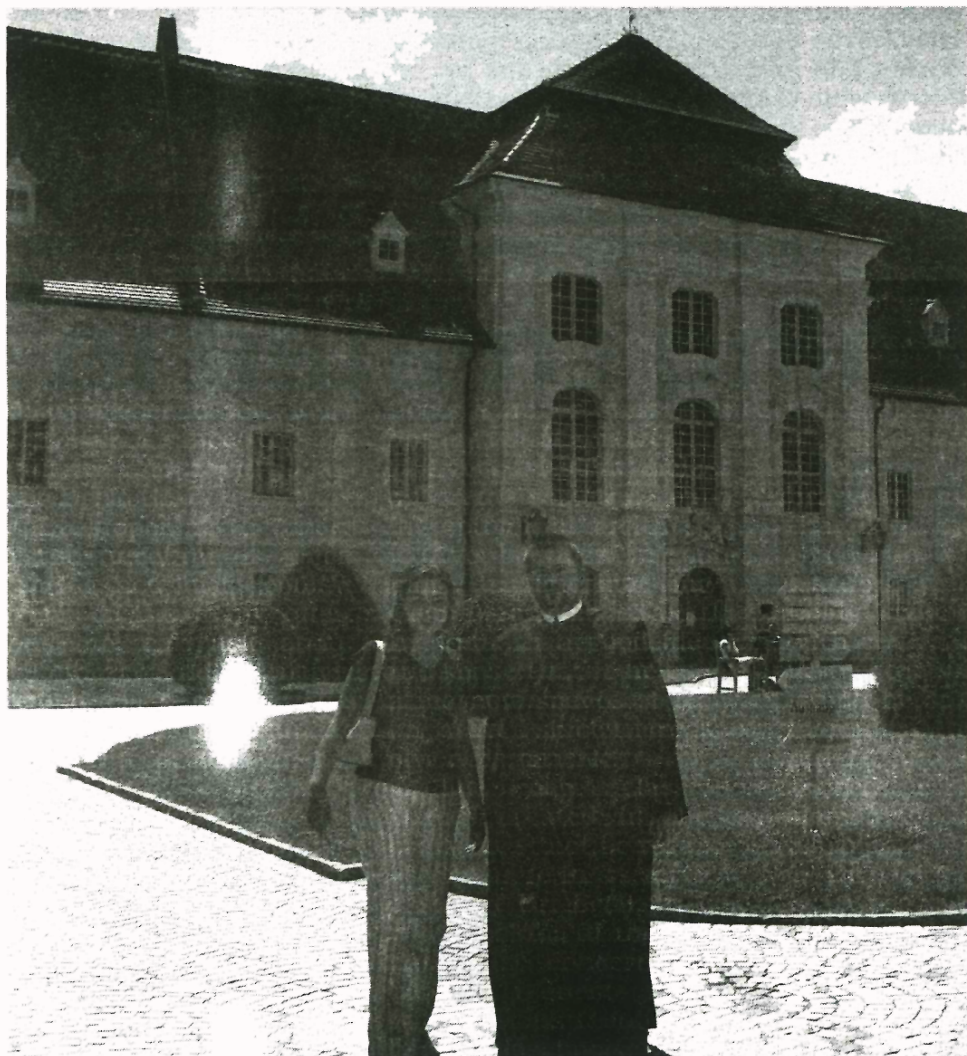
The least I would say about that Summer School is that it was amazing and exceptional. The lectures and the interaction between students from all over the world has taught us more than we can learn from reading books. My expectations of what I would learn from the program were lower than what I really experienced.

The idea of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue really attracted me; that is why I applied to participate in the program. I wanted to meet people from all around the world and share with them my beliefs and thinking. Once I was selected to participate in the program, I felt glad waiting to receive the

readings we would be discussing. Those readings revealed to be covering main topics in understanding others' religions and cultures in an interesting way.

Actually, before attending the Summer School Program, I had basic notions about Christianity but now I know that my assumptions were wrong. I thought for example that what matters most for Christians was progress and socioeconomic development. I thought the Bible was a sacred text for the Christians but that it did not matter a lot in their daily lives since it was replaced by reason and scientific thinking. After attending the Summer School Program, I realized that religion still plays an important role in the lives of Christians. In Christianity as in Islam, the individual should always believe properly and consider the other in all his/her actions. I realized then that I was the victim of the stereotypes the media presents us about the Western World and Westerners.

Discussions with lecturers and



Lamiae At Stift Altenburg



Lamiae given a Certificate of Participation in the Summer University Program

other participants comforted me in my belief that my religion was not a religion promoting violence and hatred as it was presented in Western media. It was heart-warming to see that other people believed that my religion promoted peaceful teachings and respect of others as fundamental rules of conduct.

There were also Shi'i people participating in the program. I had the opportunity to ask them questions related to their religious beliefs in order to understand the differences but still focus on similarities between our two religious doctrines. At first, our interaction was one-on-one. However, through our discussions, a friendship was built and all our religious differences were set aside. We began to understand the way each one of us thinks and behaves. Flow of thoughts that seemed strange at first became normal without being a major issue restraining any form of interaction.

Another amazing experience I had during my stay at Stift Altenburg, a monastery in Austria was attending the Holy Friday Prayer.

During the first Friday Prayer, the Muezzin (person calling for prayer) was a Shi'i from Iran. This practice is forbidden in Iran since Sunni people should pray alone without gathering with Shi'i people. Although it may never be repeated, that was a marvelous experience for me.

It was also interesting for me to see the reaction of others towards wearing a veil. Actually, not wearing the veil led some students at the Summer University Program to wonder about my religious affiliation. They even asked if I used to wear the veil in my country but took it off when coming to Austria.

This experience was also the opportunity for me to talk about my country, its culture, and religion, especially that some of the students participating in the program did not even know where Morocco was.

More importantly, the time spent in this Summer School taught me that communication and open dialogue are crucial for understanding and peaceful cohabitation, and that is the kind of world I hope for.

"Fall" of Registration

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

(continued from Page 1)

For some, it is an important phase of studies they regard as ordinary. For others, especially those who had late pre registration, it is a nightmare they have lived - even if that is for one or more days.

In the past, the registration operation used to take place in building 4. With the increasing number of students and the time consumption this procedure requires, it is now done in the gymnasium. Three days are the time period assigned to complete the registration of all university students. A few more days are added for students who, for various reasons, have to do late registration. Also, this late period allows many students to add some courses and also drop others. Year after year, changes occur on the registration procedure. However, problems seem to persist and push some students to wonder whether efforts are made or not in order to overcome them.

During fall 2008 registration, one could notice the long queuing lines in the gymnasium areas. In spite of the assigned date and time that each student receives, queuing appeared to be a feature for which the registration period is known.

Brahim Wissar, a third year Computer Science student explains that "the queue was too long. I had to wait too long before I got to do my registration".

They are many who had to encounter such problems. Also, one can clearly see that there were some students who simply did not respect the queue. Instead, they just jumped over their colleagues' turns.

"Some students did not respect the queuing line" emphasized Hassan Hijazi Hajouj, a fourth year EMS student.

Such problems make the students view the registration process as a failure and waste of time. Moreover, there are students who find

this process tiring as they have to wait for a long time before they get to do registration that only requires a few minutes of paper work and a minimum of communication between the student and the staff.

"I think it wasn't well organized. During lunch time, a student has either to wait to ensure his turn is respected or go out then come back to take the queue from the start" explained Hassan, the senior student.

However, there seems to be two sides of the story. Despite the fact that some students complained about registration problems, there are other students who clearly expressed their satisfaction with the process. Some randomly selected students around campus provided the following opinions about this topic.

The VPSA, Dr Cherif Belfekih, insured the SGA that the pre-registration problems that the community encountered during the previous semesters will not happen again.

"many students had to be late or even be absent in some of their courses during add and drop period as they could not effectively do their registration"

Otmane Tidrarine, a second year MBA student pointed out that when he came for his registration, "there were three students before me, then came my turn. The registration was quick. I am very satisfied with it"

Zineb Raji, a fourth year student majoring in International Studies. "I haven't found any difficulties. I actually think this year's registration was much better than the previous ones".

While talking about his experience with the last registration, Brahim Wissar clarifies that "many students had to be late or even be absent in some of their courses during add and drop period as they could not effectively do their registration. Also, since the queue line is long, they were unable to leave and comeback another time as they would simply waste the same time."

Compared to other issues, queuing seems to be a minor issue. It is known that AUI gradually

attracts more and more students to apply for joining it. On the one hand, this is good as it shows the good reputation which it has as well as the high level of education it offers to its students. On the other hand, the limited number of classes, faculty members and housing rooms make it hard for AUI to accept more students.

"I believe this is a combination of staff, faculty, teaching space and resources' issue" explains Wiam Mahmoudi, a second year finance major student. "More classrooms, auditoriums and residential dorms are likely to help solving the problems we find during the registration at the beginning of each semester" adds the student.

To find out more about this issue, it was important to contact the student representative body at AUI; the Student Government Association. When asked about what they did regarding the issue, they informed us that the Vice-President of Student Affairs, Dr. Cherif Bel Fekih, assured the SGA that the pre-registration problems that the community encountered during the previous semesters would not happen again. In fact, the enrollment services are currently implementing a new management system that aims at making the process go smoothly without any noticeable problems.

Moreover, the SGA indicated that they have helped several students who had problems during the registration period and complained about it (closed sections, assisting students during the process). Nevertheless, one would hope to solve these problems in the long term instead of finding instantaneous resolution for them.

Last but not least, finding a tangible and quick solution for such persistent problems at AUI will definitely ease the suffering through which students go through every semester. Also, it will provide a better atmosphere of learning as students will be able to select courses without encountering the already mentioned problems.

New spaces of learning created in Mohamed VI Library

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

It is that space of teaching that gathers the instructor with students to seek knowledge and share ideas; the classroom. With the beginning of a new semester at AUI, new classrooms have been introduced. What is different about them is that they are located inside Mohamed VI Library. Speaking about a library would suggest speaking about a space of studying, reviewing lessons, doing homework, discussing ideas and reading periodicals. Instead,

AUI added another aspect; teaching. This new change makes the students wonder whether they were made based on a study of teaching needs and its goals or just created to have the necessary spaces for courses to take place.

It is taken for granted that teaching cannot take place in any place. That is why teaching has its own places; academic institutions. Inside them, there are classes that were built for the purpose of gather-

ing students and teachers for the purpose of teaching. Any classroom created outside such spaces - called classrooms must take into consideration many criteria in order to make the teaching process convenient.

Created a few years ago, Mohamed VI Library has been designed to be a space for students to seek knowledge and take advantage of its wide variety of resources. However, it is clear that the library was not planned to encompass classrooms for

various reasons. Perhaps, if this was not the case, classrooms would have been introduced inside it since its opening.

One of the most important aspects of higher education is the involvement of an instructor in a discussion and talking with students (or groups of students) to improve the understanding of a material. When talking about classrooms and their use in the developing a student academic skills and enriching their knowledge,

one has to consider more than one criterion.

As a starting point, one has to make a difference between the process of designing a learning space and the fact of using that space. In other words, it is very easy to create a space of learning; chairs, a table for the teacher and a black board (or white as well) will be the main elements that make any space a learning space called the classroom.

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Faculty Profile

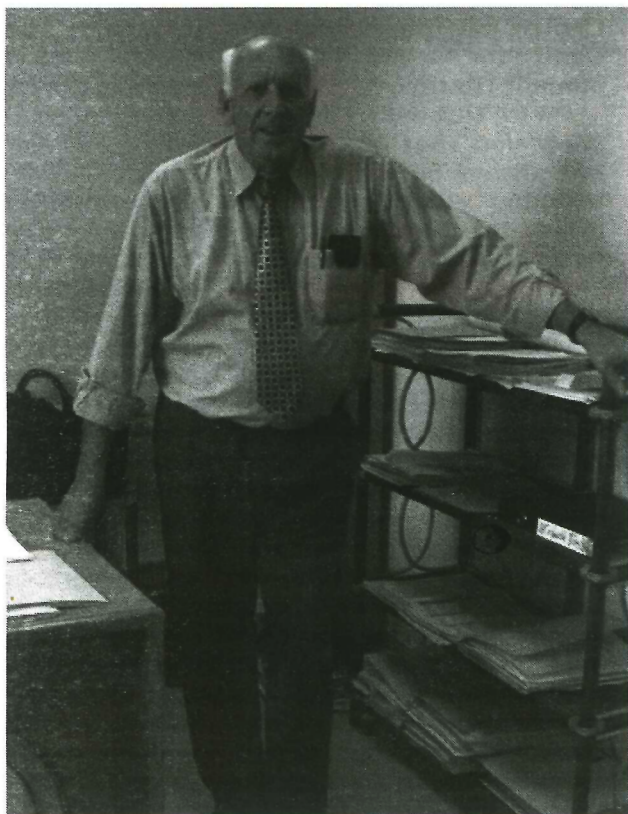
About Lt. Canterbury...

FATIMA ZAHRA BENNOUNA

(Continued from page 1)

"if we did, we would be dealing with each other very respectfully and we would be trying to raise the well being of humanity at all times. And that is why I teach; it gives me the satisfaction of seeing that happen every day"

Dr. Andrew Canterbury has been working at AUI as a senior lecturer for about eight years and is proud to say that he has enjoyed his life here both as a lecturer and a faculty mentor. He says that he likes the lifestyle at the university; a young and small university where he can have more personal contact with



students. He appreciates life in a small town within a small community. In comparison with other universities where he had taught before, Al Akhawayn is very young and needs time to reach the point where it can run smoothly. However, he believes that over the eight years he has been here, he has witnessed

a great improvement of the student body and is feeling optimistic about the future of this university.

All students who take business classes know Dr. Andrew Canterbury. Some know him because they fear him and some know him because they love him. For those who fear him, they think that he is a

tough professor who does not give good grades easily and does not smile to his students. The fact is that Canterbury is a fair professor who has a full understanding of how to treat people and make them grasp the importance of what they're doing. He is one of the few professors at

AUI, and perhaps in all other educational institutions, who can keep his class quite, awake, and concentrated for whole class period; more than anything thanks to his loud voice and good humor. In class, he likes to go by Andrew but generally, nobody dares call him by his first name.

"Moroccan people are lovely", he

declares. However, he thinks, that the Morocco's economy depends heavily on the way the Moroccans will develop their human resources. Indeed; since the country has not been blessed with heavy natural resources, it must develop the human asset, which represents big challenges. When coming to Morocco, Andrew did not face a big cultural shock since he was used to living in different countries as he has traveled a lot around the world. He has lived in Russia, Germany and many other European countries; as for his travels, he has been to more than 100 countries. Perhaps the only aspect about Morocco that he had to adapt to is that it is a practicing Islamic country. When asked about what he has gained from all his travels he said "I gained the conviction that my vision about life is accurate because when you travel a lot and you see the unevenness of the world, you see that you are not understanding how to make the world pleasant for everyone."

Prior to his current position; Dr. Canterbury had worked in many businesses and lectured in numerous universities, such as Texas State University, for different subjects under the general theme of International Business. Also, he had held some positions within the American Government and the military. He lived most his life in the United States and especially in the south; more precisely, Atlanta. He got his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and International Affairs from Emory University; then a Graduate Bachelor's in Foreign Trade. He obtained two master's degrees in Inter-

national Management and Business Administration. Now, in his teachings, Andrew stresses always the Human Behavior and Human Relationships. He states as a definition for International Business: "It is people relationships worldwide agreeing to do a necessary thing which is to contract and buy and sell products and services." He sees humans as the only actors in the big stage play that is life. About the world crisis, he says that it is because of the fearful behavior of humans.

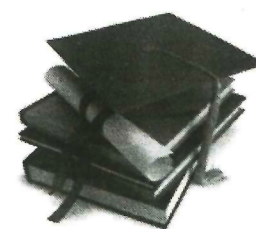
Some people are curious about the reason why Andrew has stayed single all his life. In fact, according to him, he holds strong spiritual convictions that all humans are created as full individuals. So, in life, it should be an individual decision

if people want to marry in order to complete this individuality or if they do not want to because they are just wonderfully happy in their fullness by remaining single. He declares that he has been so happy single and has been very busy in life. He also adds that if he wanted family and friends, then he can just be with other human beings. "After all, I belong to the human family".

After he retires he has great plans for living a peaceful life in the country. He belongs to a family of entrepreneurs in building and construction and he has himself an artistic side. Andrew would like to design a house in the countryside in the US and have it built. "I like music, so I would play Jazz and Classical music very loudly in my house. I would have an organic garden, cook and invite friends to eat. I love animals, so I will have one dog and two cats."

"Moroccan people are lovely"

What you need to know about scholarships at AUI



KHADIJA IRAQUI

(Continued from page 1)

If staying in Morocco is one of students' alternatives, they may consider studying at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI). As a matter of fact, given its quality of education that is based on the

North American system of education, good reputation, and diversity of professors' nationalities, AUI offers many advantages to students. However, the relatively high tuition fees as well as other expenses related to university services may represent an

obstacle that may make these students drop this alternative despite its attractive elements.

Compared to many academic institutions across the country, either public or private, AUI remains one of the most expensive ones. For such reasons

and others, the university administrations made efforts to help get more students, especially those coming from families with limited income, through providing scholarships.

These scholarships are available for every student who succeeds in meeting a

certain number of criteria. One of these criteria requires the student to have a good score in the General Admission Test (GAT). Another criterion concerns passing the admission interview successfully.

(Continued in page 11)

New spaces of learning created in Mohamed VI Library (continued)

GHASSAN ESSALFHI

(Continued from page 8)

However, one has to think beyond these minor physical features and discuss the norms that can make such learning space suitable for its purpose.

Othmane Taoudi Benkiran is a freshman student majoring in Computer Science. He is one of the new students who joined AUI and are taking one or some of their courses in the new classes in the library. When asked about his opinion about the class he is taking in the library, Othmane clearly showed the negative view he holds about this topic.

Othmane adds that the library classrooms are not well equipped. "One of the rooms was for master students (room 201). In fact, the administration did not make any changes in the rooms except that they added chairs" included Othmane.

"I think that by studying in the library is very bad. First, we are isolated from other students around campus, so our integration is difficult. Secondly, we pass all the day in the library so we feel bored to return to it in the evening to do our homework" explained Othmane.

To provide a further exploration of this topic, it was important to contact AUI Mohamed VI Library, Dr Abdelhamid Lotfi. Regardless of the many questions he was asked to answer, Dr Lotfi insisted on the fact that Mohamed VI Library has long been dedicated to serving AUI students' needs through various ways. Providing physical and online resources are just one aspect of such services provided by the library.

"We lent the university two classroom spaces" clearly states Dr Lotfi. From the beginning of the interview, the director clarifies the fact that only two classrooms were created inside the library instead of four. "There were already two classroom spaces available in the EEC (first floor)" explained Dr. Lotfi.

Throughout the interview, Mohamed VI Library director explains the vari-

ous changes that many libraries around the world knew during the last years. In fact, Dr. Lotfi declared that the question of adaptation to the changing environment of education has been a major factor in changing the aspect of services provided by many of today's libraries.

"AUI Mohamed VI Library is one of those academic libraries that underwent changes" pointed out Dr. Lotfi. "For a long time, Mohamed VI Library has been limited to being a resource and support centre for university community.

courses. The director adds that the Multimedia Learning Centre (MLC), for example, is one of the points where students and faculty meet to discuss their course material and find out more about it.

"Knowledge is a social activity that cancels time and space" said Dr. Lotfi. For him, a library is today faced with the necessity of changing and providing new services that can best satisfy students' needs in terms of learning and enriching their knowledge. Moreover, the new class spaces created inside the library re-

For example, during fall 2007, AUI Mohamed VI Library received 41 requests concerning training workshops. Moreover, 122 booking of training facilities were made by AUI faculty. Also, The School of Humanities and Social Sciences booked the MLC 48 times, followed by the Language Centre (25 times) and the Centre for Academic Development (18 times).

"With this data, I want to show you that our library has always been a place of teaching" elucidates the library director. The library has also been providing

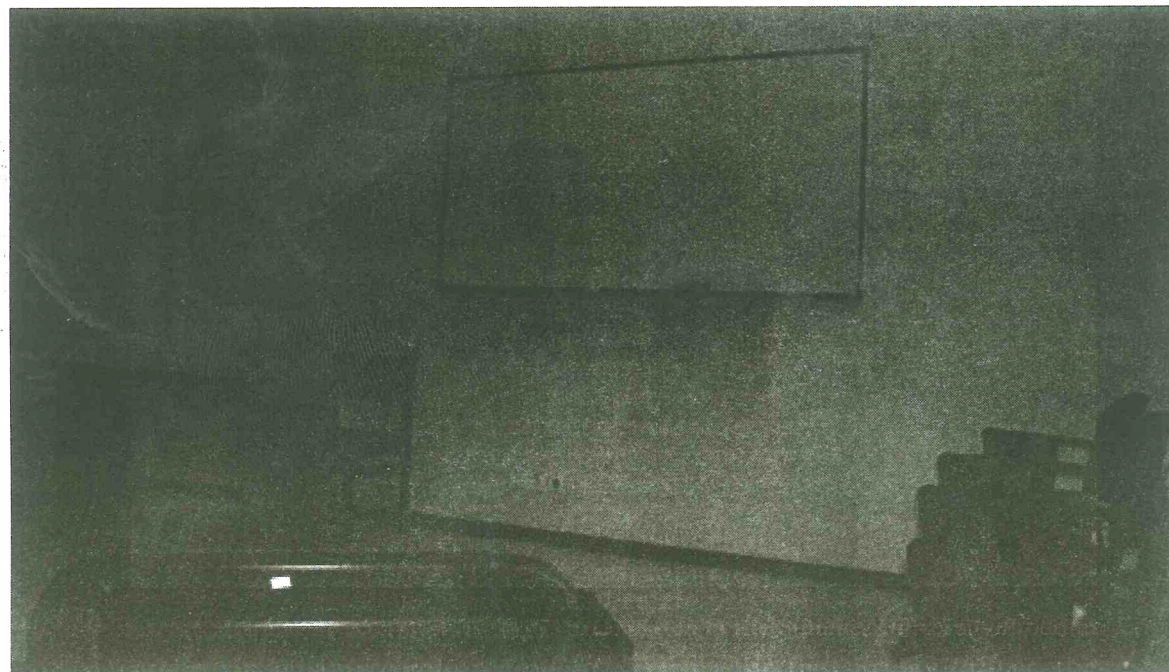
material. Shifting from a plenary format to small group discussions can also be done. For these reasons and others, Mohamed VI Library always attracts faculty to book its resources and make the best use of its resources.

A learning space must be well designed in order to provide the best atmosphere that can support learning through sound and activity of students and the instructor. Moreover, the electrical system, furniture, décor, and internet connectivity are major elements that have to be taken into consideration when introducing a classroom in an academic institution.

Kawtar Chriyaa, a senior student majoring in Human Resource Development provided her opinion concerning this topic. On the one hand, Kawtar showed a satisfaction about a clever use of library resources. On the other hand, she expressed her disagreement about such initiatives as they reflect a weak planning policy in terms of satisfying university needs.

"I think this is a good use of the resources of the library. However, I am afraid this also has a negative side. In fact, it means that the university does not think about allocating resources before taking decisions" clarified Kawtar, who is also a member of Academic Committee in SGA.

Faculty and students remain the ultimate users of learning spaces. Listening to their needs, satisfying them, as well as providing them with the most suitable, relevant and cutting-edge environment will definitely enhance their learning and improve their interaction. As a result, a better understanding of course material and smooth interaction between students and the instructor will be encouraged and easier to achieve. A good learning process is more likely to be achieved in a well designed and equipped class room. The new classrooms created in Mohamed VI library at AUI remain a case whose efficiency in the long term ought to be considered.



One of the EEC rooms was converted to a class

Today, it opened new doors to provide a space for both students and faculty" argues Dr. Lotfi.

"Does opening the doors to students of faculty mean creating new classrooms?" is one of the many questions one can ask about AUI library and its newly created class rooms. This question has been put to Dr. Lotfi to provide an answer to it.

The library director pointed out the fact that learning theory carries many meanings that go beyond the common teaching philosophy of students being taught by an instructor. As a matter of fact, Dr. Lotfi said that Mohamed VI Library has already known many occasions of providing class spaces for many

flects a minor shift in the library usual services.

Every student holds a different- sometime opposing opinion about this topic. Ayoub Andam, a sophomore student majoring in Computer Science said that he "finds it a good idea in the sense that it helps creating new spaces of teaching at AUI since there is no other alternative".

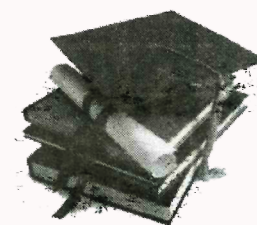
"The new classroom spaces created in the library must not be regarded as a change in its services" asserted Dr. Lotfi. In fact, when looking at the library data base concerning the booking requests received from various faculty members and schools, one can clearly see that it represents a popular attraction for learning seekers.

space for executive MBA students to study in it.

When visiting the library, it can be observed that it has many facilities that aim at help attain learning. In fact, a class is not only about a space filled with chairs, a desk for the instructor and a board on which he or she can write. In reality, the use of computers, audio and video resources constitute major elements in today's modern learning strategies.

On a wider scale, AUI's library provides facilities and characteristics of a space of interaction between students and the instructor when this is needed. Also, it enables students to hear and speak freely in its MLC to increase their understanding of the course

What you need to know about scholarships at AUI (Continued)



BY KHADIJA IRA

(Continued from page 9)

Based on such criteria, the university may sometimes end up with students granted merit scholarships without being the right students to merit them. To make sure of this claim, one can look at the number of scholarships suspended during a semester. For example, in the current semester of fall 2008, nine scholarships are in suspension, and three of them were suspended as well for fall 2007 students. This might raise suspicion since, for a student, the two first semesters are supposed to be the easiest ones compared to those that follow.

The process of awarding scholarships at AUI raises more than one question. When a student gets awarded a scholarship to study at AUI, he is supposed to make every effort in order to keep it. However, when there are students who fail in doing so by getting less than 3.0 in their GPA, one wonders how they could get a scholarship in the first place? On the other hand, there is another question that can intrigue as well. The fact that students reach the President's and Dean's Lists without having scholarships in the first place can be worrying; they score well in their GPA but cannot get a scholarship as the university administration may find some of them not meeting the established requirements.

Data from the Office of Financial Aid demonstrates that a minority of the brilliant students on the President's list and Dean's list actually have scholarships. Also, only 10 of 147 have scholarships in the Dean list of 071 semester as well as 12 other students of a total of 48 from the President's list of the same semester are scholarship holders. This data makes one believe that students who succeed in reaching a

GPA total of 4 ought to be more eligible to be granted scholarships or at least some kind of reward that would encourage them. However, the reality is quite the opposite. In fact, what the administration does to encourage them is limited to inviting them to a dinner with the university president and other university officials. They also have their photos "exposed" next to the student lounge (commonly known as the game room) next to a coffee machine.

These situations raise

reasons why AUI still takes these grades as condition for a student to receive a scholarship. Supposing that the high school grades reflect the level of the student, how come AUI requires the same grades from students of different branches (mathematics, literature and economics, for example)?

In addition, the second criterion of passing the GAT is good in the sense that it helps selecting the students who score the best in it. However, the GAT may not be the best way to

to sit for the same test version of the GAT. It is important to point out here that after awarding scholarships, General Engineering School tends to have the highest rate of students who receive them with a total that reaches 70% of available scholarships. The other criterion of sitting for the interview can also be questioned.

As a matter of fact, it can be hard for the faculty and administration to select the best students to deserve scholarships based on their ability to follow the

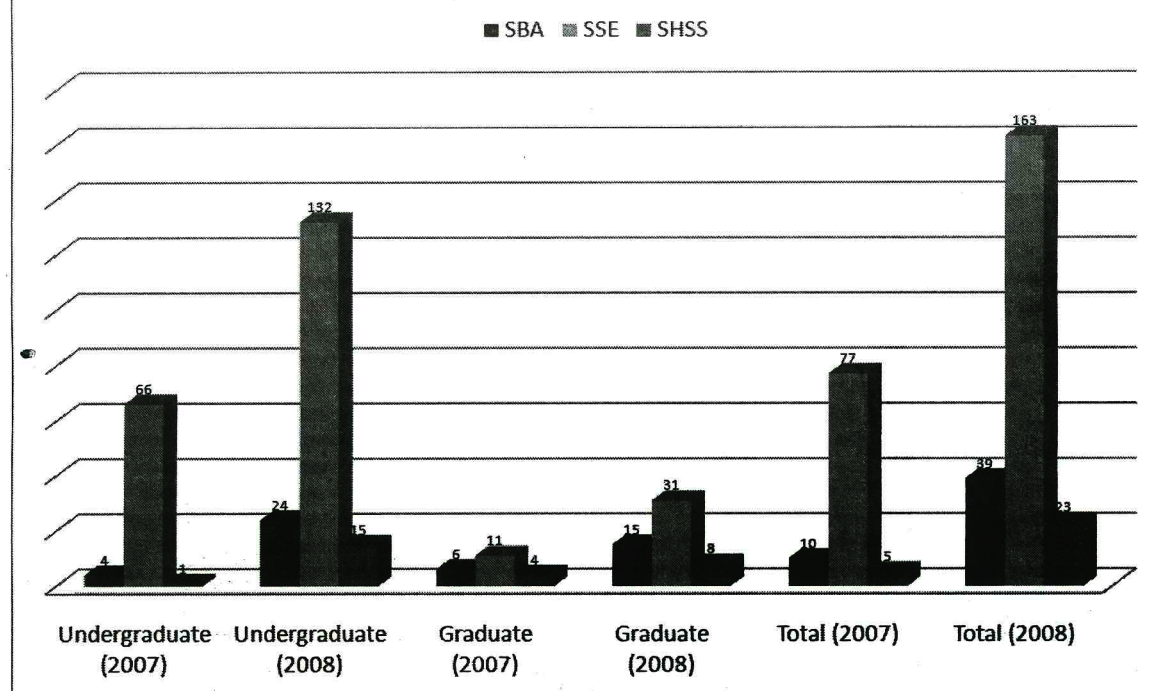
ones added for the current semester of fall 2008. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) comes in the third row with 23 scholarships of which 5 are assigned to the current semester. (Financial Aid Office, 2008).

The huge difference between the numbers of scholarships assigned to each school at AUI can be due to the fact that the Moroccan government is sponsoring the SSE. The reason behind this is to prepare competent engineers who can become catalysts of the country's development in the future. Decision-makers who can supervise these engineers or communication experts who can work with them are obviously a minor worry for the country as of today.

In order to get the administration answers to all these questions and listen to its understanding of the issue, it was important to contact Dr. Cherif Bel Fekih, the Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA). Unfortunately, it was impossible to reach him due to his commitments and time constraints. However, the next issue shall depict answers to the scholarship questions at AUI. Finding out why the number of scholarships is not fairly distributed among the three schools of AUI and the criteria of granting them will be among the questions to answer.

Such an issue is very complex and thus needs further exploration. Gaining a clear insight on it requires further research. However, it is clear that not all the criteria used in selecting students to get a scholarship and/or keeping it are irrelevant. One can only expect - and hope - that the administration makes efforts to ensure that the best selections are made and that the students who best deserve the scholarships can get them.

Scholarships during Fall 2007 and Fall 2008



the question of reconsidering the criteria based on which a student can be awarded a scholarship. One can argue that no criteria exist. The Moroccan high school final grade can be misleading and not reflective of the student's potential of getting a scholarship. Also, the proponents of this argument say that the use of this criterion is widespread in many regions of the country especially in private high schools. However, there may be exceptions that should not be disregarded either.

Being aware of this complex issue, it is important to ask about the

select students who are in need of being awarded a scholarship. There is a difference between a student who is very good at studying and one who is quite good, good or very good in studying but needs a scholarship to join a university such as AUI. Getting an idea about what makes the difference about these two kinds of students may depend on other factors rather than basic geometric questions, logical and mathematical problems and other general knowledge questions.

Also, students who apply for different majors at AUI are all required

news and their knowledge of geography (or other fields). More interestingly, the university sometimes can allocate scholarships based on one condition; passing the interview successfully.

Getting an insight about the scholarships' distribution across AUI's three schools is important to understand this topic. In numbers, 163 scholarships were allocated for the School of Science and Engineering (SSE) from which 77 are new ones. For the School of Business Administration (SBA), 39 scholarships were allocated of which 4 new

Who said it would be an improvement?!

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Many students held high expectations for the opening of the long waited new restaurant outlet. Yet, criticism of students could not make the new restaurant outlet an exception.

A few days after its opening, many students criticized the low service speed and long queuing line. Undoubtedly, this is a major challenge for the new restaurant that has to be solved in the short term.

"Just before the Eid holiday, I had to queue for an hour or so before finding out that almost nothing is left to be served" explained Amal Alahkam, a fifth year student affiliated with the School of Business Administration, majoring in Finance. "Besides, I always have food smell sticking on my clothes after I get out of the restaurant outlet" added the student. Amal is not the only student who complains about food smell that sticks to their clothes, especially for students who have classes and have to bear with the smell until the evening.

Not solving such a common problem at AUI dining services, students would eventually find new alternatives to satisfy their hunger. Yet, some of these alternatives waste time as they require

going off campus to get food. Also, cooking in residential building's common kitchens is not always doable due to class schedules and other reasons. However, the point is that if dining services at AUI could make its work better and

appreciated by the majority, if not all of the students, they would have certainly achieved a level of satisfying students' needs and getting rid of their complaints. After all, a good

quality of service and a satisfaction of the customer are two major elements of a successful company.

"People in charge should look for a solution for this problem and try to provide at least a good quality of service for students" stated Wafa Hariz, a second year student from Business Administration school. "After all, we are asking for what we pay for" added the student.

It is true that the food is more delicious and appreciated than food offered in the other cafeteria or restaurant. "[...] however, managing a restaurant requires offering good food quality as well as valuable services. This outlet,

unfortunately, lacks this last element" reported Yassine Aouni, a third year student majoring in Business Administration. "If students could make a food reservation through phone to have their order ready, they could save time by just stopping by and collecting it" suggested Yassine. Such suggestion has to be taken into consideration if a solution is sought in the near future.

To gain an insight over this issue, it was important to contact the manager of this new restaurant outlet- Mr. Khalid Laababid. When asked about the kind of problems that he faced in the beginning, Mr. Laababid acknowledges the existence of more than one problem. However, he insisted on the fact that his company and AUI's administration greatly share

the responsibility behind all the problems. Interestingly, I asked Mr. Laababi to list the problems he observed or those reported to him by his employees and the students.

"There isn't only one problem" he answered. The limited surface of the restaurant makes it hard for Mr. Laababid to hire two cashiers that can help shortening the queuing line. Also, the manager described the kitchen sections where they have to prepare food as "small and inadequate for the employees to prepare enough food". Moreover,

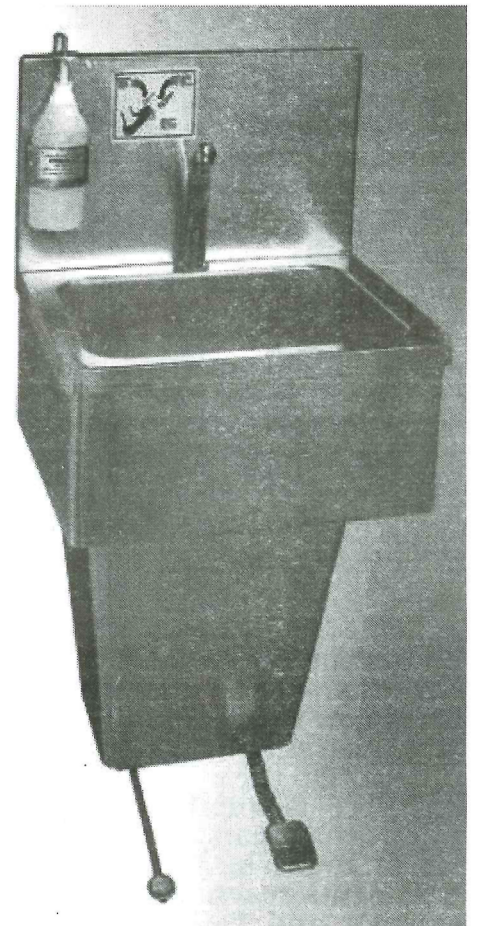
Problems which the new restaurant is facing do not seem to be limited to queuing lines or space constraints. One can clearly notice the absence of a toilet in the outlet. Besides, the absence of tap for students to use raises the question of cleanliness. "It is known that restaurants and very often snacks provide their customers with tap to wash their hands before and after eating" said Mr. Laababid. For this and other reasons, Mr. Laababid calls AUI's administration to equip the outlet with a toilet

or- at least, a foot pedal sink for students to use easily. This will undoubtedly prevent many illnesses that can result from the lack of hygiene and thus increase students' satisfaction of the new outlet services.

"Our company- Sodexo should not have signed the contract with AUI under such conditions" stated the manager. This latter explained that serving AUI's relatively large

"Our company- Sodexo should not have signed the contract with AUI under such conditions"

"Our aim is to satisfy our customers regardless of the problems we may be facing"



A pedal sink such as this one can be provided for cleanliness



A cooker hood is needed to capture the smells and grease in the kitchen and around the outlet


number of students in a short period of time is almost impossible to achieve.

When asked about the measures that his company is going to take in order to face these problems, Mr. Laababid mentioned increasing the number of employees as well as providing them with training in terms of cleanliness and service quality. "Our aim is to satisfy our customers regardless of the problems we may be facing" revealed Mr. Laababid.

While these problems seem to take time in order to be solved, AUI students would probably need to be more patient and hope that the service improves. This point remains the ultimate question that the dining services, the new restaurant manager, as well as the administration have to solve for the sake of their reputation as well as students' service quality.

Spotlight

Lions for Lambs: What it takes to make a mess...and fix it

 ZOUHAIR MAZOUZ

With much of the world's public opinion focused on the exciting US presidential campaign, the issues involved vary dramatically depending on one's standpoint. For non-Americans all over the world, the central question remains whether the American foreign policy will be any different from what it has been in the past 7 years; Afghanistan, the War on Terror and Iraq have pretty much shaped how the world views America today. Nonetheless, what we usually fail to acknowledge is that if any change is to come in the US foreign policy, it is supposed to come from inside the United States and be led by its people. In this regard, media has proved to be quite a powerful tool in shaping new opinions and challenging archaic ones. Forget about news channels and political analyses; I am talking about an increasingly influential trend of video entertainment: Hollywood movies. Because they have the potential of attracting rather large amounts of public and targeting all sorts of audience, Hollywood movies have for long been used for spreading all kinds of political wisdom. Robert Redford's *Lions for Lambs* (2007) falls directly into such category of movies that aim mainly at pointing out what is wrong, and suggesting how it could be repaired.

ity. Yet a young brand of republican politicians, represented by Senator Jasper Irving (Tom Cruise), is willing to use its energy and creativity to reverse the situation. Irving, a brilliant Harvard-graduate-turned-senator, has brainstormed a sophisticated plan in order to divert the American public opinion from the numerous failures in Iraq. He calls in reporter Janine Roth (Meryl Streep) and tells her about a new strategy in the Middle East, one that opens up new military fronts in Afghanistan and assumes a new "axis of evil" crossing Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Director Redford's sarcasm begins at that particular moment of the movie: politicians are ready to make up anything, as long as the stakes are appealing enough. After hearing the enthusiastic Senator, Janine remains sceptical and asks rather embarrassing questions. Her looks toward Irving reveal astonishment and disgust. Senator Irving had called in a pre-emptive strike on Afghan mountains 10 minutes before talking to the reporter. He did so while sitting comfortably on a leather chair, sipping on a cup of coffee. Simultaneously, the soldiers executing the order thousands of miles away are experiencing anything but comfort. Robert Redford is in fact using Irving's character to demonstrate that

cannot resist anymore, they prefer to stand up and die with dignity instead of being taken down lying on the ground. "Not like this, not lying down!" says one of them. It took a single phone call from Washington to cause all that rush. Robert Redford's message is clear: invasion never comes without resistance. Faulty decisions can lead to awful repercussions.

In parallel, an old Political Science professor, played by Robert Redford himself, is sitting in his office, waiting for a gifted student to visit him. The student gets in, and discovers that the reason he was called in was his several absences. The professor cannot understand how such a talented student can lose interest in class attendance. The student's reply is quite brutal: "Political Science, doc. What's scientific about it outside of maybe the psychology behind how much s*** voters will swallow before they notice? The science part, it's really about how to win! Not how to govern, not how to make anybody any better; just how to win. I don't wanna become like those t*** in D.C. I'm just gonna pay my taxes and obey traffic light." The professor sees in that student a hope for a better future leadership, but it's hard to revive hope in somebody who has completely lost it.



Directed by the very charismatic Robert Redford and starring himself as well as Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep, *Lions for Lambs* (2007) is a movie of which the fiction does not go beyond the story itself; all the remaining details are copycat replicas of the contemporary political landscape. It is as if the director had skimmed a newspaper's headlines and decided to make a movie out of them. The story evolves in parallel in three different settings: the office of a young, newly elected Illinois republican Senator, a mountainous battlefield in Afghanistan, and the office of a university professor. The choice of these three settings is very symbolic: they respectively refer to the attitude of decision-makers, the struggle of US troops in risky lands and the future of American leadership.

It is the end of the second term of George W. Bush. The Presidents' approval ratings are plummeting and his party, the GOP, has lost a great deal of its popular-

even in the greatest democracies, the figures of leadership are very likely to be emotionally detached from the people who have put them in office.

Within the movie's second setting, Afghanistan, US troops are working up the tactical plan of the strike order mentioned above. A general, colonels, lieutenants and officers are all up late, brainstorming the final steps of their invasion of a Taliban camp. Blacks, Latinos, Asians and Caucasians; yet bearing the same Stars and Stripes flag on the right side of their uniforms. All of them are young, and have joined the US army for what they believe are the right reasons. Their helicopter takes off, flies over Taliban-populated mountains, and is hit by heavy artillery in a matter of minutes. Some of them are killed, some injured, and two fall off the helicopter. The two latter US rangers are seriously injured and cannot walk, but still resist a handful of Taliban with their remaining ammunition. When they understand that they

Then, he offers him a very provoking deal: getting a B for not showing up at all, or an A for getting involved in class, participating in debates and taking action. All of a sudden, the student's attitude changes. Robert Redford seems to be using this conversation to emphasize that constructive change can be rooted in the younger, even if the older resist it or do not get it at all. In other words, "If you can't change the present, focus on the future".

Lions for Lambs (2007) provides a comprehensive and balanced overview of the American society's moral standing with respect to the world, but also with respect to itself. A nation can have many enemies, but its worst enemy can also reside in itself: prejudice, bias, fear and lack of involvement. This thought-provoking movie not only holds suspense till the end, it also speaks to the viewer's mind and spirit. The editorial team highly recommends watching it!

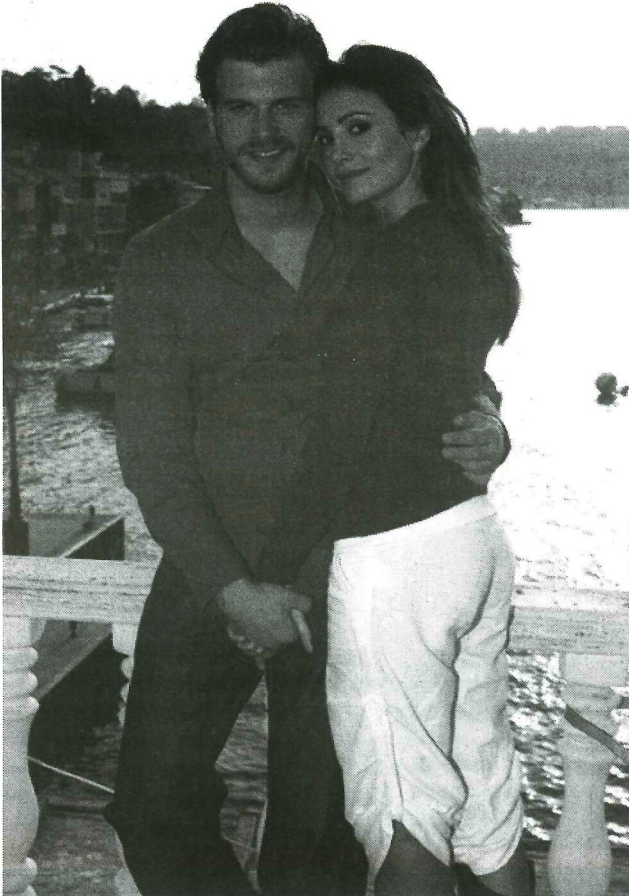
Turkish Invasion?

OMAR BENABDELLAH
MAISSOUR MOHAMMED AMINE

(Continued from page 1)

It was just Noor and Mohanad, or from its original name "Gumus", a Turkish TV show which is part of the new wave of "al moussalssalate al moudablaja" (dubbed TV shows), taking the torch from the South American series. It presents various sources of problems between husbands and wives, sons and daughters, parents and grand parents. This particular show invaded all the houses in the Arab world without forgetting anyone.

Wherever I went, I heard people relating stories from the show; "Chti noor achnou daret! ... Wa lakine riham testahel..." (You saw what Noor did!!! I think Riham deserved that...) it was annoying! During my holiday in the north, I was expecting people to have a lot of fun and entertainment, and I was planning to watch a lot of soccer games. But unfortunately, the usual "real vs barça" discussions that were heard in the markets and the coffee shops have let the floor to Noor's (the girl in the show) and Mohanad (the guy) passionate love story. From Saturday to Wednesday, when eight o'clock struck all activities switched to stand by mode, every one was in front of the TV, it drove me crazy. The coffee shops were delighted to find another way to attract more clients and raise their benefits by zapping to MBC Channel 4 at this hour, and it costs less than soccer games, without pré-



cising there was no quarrels between the audience since the silence covered the atmosphere and everyone is absorbed by the show. It has become a real addiction; some crazy rumors say that some couples have got divorced because of that show.... The funny side of this phenomena is that everyone can start following the show at any time (my mother started at the episode 110) and understand the whole story, you can also miss episodes whenever you don't feel like watching this, it doesn't matter you won't miss anything.

When I first arrived at AUI (as a new comer), I had a feeling that I had left Noor's story behind; people here do not have time to waste watching Turkish shows. But one night I was going to visit a friend in building 38, I heard two girls crying from the window of the common kitchen... "They must have a real problem, they are probably homesick..." But to my surprise as I came closer to the window I heard the theme song that comes with the ending credits of the TV show noor!! "Noormania" proliferated even here!

Fortunately, I only had to stand a few days after coming to AUI to see this TV show ending its story (the show directors have had enough apparently), after 140 episodes full of love and hate, truth and lies, jealousy and acceptance. Turkish TV shows have certainly achieved their notoriety in the Arab world households, and there is no doubt that more of them are coming soon!

You Got Style

SAMSUNG OMNIA i900 Everything You Wish for a Mobile

MOHAMMED REDOUANE KHRIFI

Launched June 9, 2008 In Korea, Samsung Omnia i900 brings together high performance, business content, top of the range style and a fun, dynamic multi-media experience, to ensure consumers are always connected both at home and at work. OMNIA, meaning 'everything' in Latin and 'wish' in Arabic, goes beyond the current top-of-the-line features available in today's mobile phones.

PC Environment in Your Mobile
Based on the most up to date Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional operating system, Samsung OMNIA gives users a mobile extension to their PC experience, with access to MS Office documents such as PowerPoint, Excel and Word. Users can also send and receive email and manage their appointments in Outlook while on the go. The Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional operating system means users can download additional programs as they would on their PC and customize it for their individual needs. For ease of navigation an optical mouse similar to those on laptop computers offers improved usability and one-handed control.

Rich Multimedia Experience

Samsung OMNIA delivers the ultimate in digital entertainment thanks to a wide 3.2-inch WQVGA LCD screen for viewing videos and slide shows in high-resolution and advanced audio capabilities. Multi-Codec support for DivX, Xvid and other video formats eliminates the hassle of file format conversions. Users also have the assurance of a long-life detachable battery for extended playback.

Samsung OMNIA also comes with a five-megapixel CMOS camera with the latest value-added features, which include auto-focus (AF), face and smile detection and auto-panorama shot.

The phone internal memory (available in 8GB or 16 GB capacity options and extendable SD memory card slot for additional space) ensures a sufficient storage space for digital assets. Samsung OMNIA also offers GPS, including navigation and geo-tagging capabilities, so users can get their bearings wherever work or life takes them.

Keep Everything in Touch

Samsung's patented TouchWiz user interface makes entering data and text simple. Users can customize and personalize the way they

use their phone. The Samsung OMNIA's high resolution touch-sensitive screen uses intuitive tap, sweep, drag and drop operations as well as an on-screen keyboard. It also facilitates easy and convenient calling and texting with a dedicated dome key for controlling communications.

Design perfection

with maxi-phone capabilities, Samsung Omnia boasts a slender, chic form, so users can step out in style. It features an ultra-slim 12.5-mm profile and a platinum-look finish that fits snugly in the palm of the user's hand.

SAMSUNG OMNIA is a mobile device that truly delivers the best possible features for today's busy, connected consumer. Samsung OMNIA provides premium services for users who desire functionality, style, usability and entertainment. The OMNIA mobile range will help users to be at the forefront of work and play and at the same time, to stay connected anytime, anywhere. (Geesung Choi, President of Samsung Telecommunication Business, 2008)



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.

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

Level: Easy

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

Level: Medium

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

Level: Difficult

Last issue's Sudoku solutions

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

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

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

Level: Easy

Level: Medium

Level: Difficult

Crosswords

ACROSS

1. Is beholden to
5. Wild guess
9. Yams, for one
14. Pipe problem
15. Sea eagle
16. Administer ointment
17. Choose, in a way
19. Words of clarification
20. Shade of blue
21. "Way cool!"
22. Covered the walls
24. Choral work
26. For each one
27. Glacial period
30. Like some pianos
35. Bobby and athletic
36. Wynken, Blynken and Nod, e.g.
37. Fishing rod attachment
38. Up to the task
39. Arcade coin
40. Estimator's phrase
41. Show horse
42. Regrets
43. 100 kopecks
44. Class
46. Topeka is the capital
47. Baseball's Brock
48. Composed
50. Jersey
54. Take the gold
55. Sculler's need
58. Like visiting teams, often
59. Incidental, maybe

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						66					67			

Software © 2007 crossword-compiler.com

62. Sudden outburst
63. Top-of-the-line
64. Stay fresh
65. Spruce up
66. Waterfront walk
67. Storm centers

DOWN

1. Cutlass or Delta 88
2. Half a fortnight
3. Like this puzzle
4. Hit the slopes
5. Upper US house
6. Swap
7. Tiny toiler
8. Page
9. Chiang Kai-shek's capital
10. Subway
11. Oktoberfest serving
12. "If all __ fails ..."
13. Abbr. after many a general's name
18. Rum drinks
23. Cook's covering
24. Pretend
25. Large fowls
27. Violinist Stern
28. Snake charmer's snake
29. Plaudit
31. Bakers' wares
32. Basil and thyme
33. Inventor Nikola

34. Blackthorn fruits
36. See the sights
39. Rainbow fish
43. Pours down
45. Black-and-tan setter
46. Wilhelm II
49. Bale binder
50. Recipe abbr.
51. Shoot up
52. Pocket problem
53. Daytime TV offering
55. Do as directed
56. Sheltered, at sea
57. Sales force
60. "Who, me?"
61. White House nickname

Ramadan Soccer Tournament : Feast of Senses

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

The Ramadan soccer tournament! No need to present this famous tournament full of competition and challenge, or to specify that it makes from the gym the crossroads of soccer lovers and teams supporters. Indeed, this year's edition drew the attention of everyone that had some free time to spend enjoying the much disputed matches that took place, although we have seen people bringing their work to the gym in order to ally work to fun. The 16 teams that participated were divided into 4 groups and the 2 first teams had the right to advance to the quarter-finals. The first round did not captivate much attention, especially in the games that were played late in the evening, ending in some cases until 2:00 am, although games, like (Outsiders Vs Orania) and (Khikhiz vs Agraw), were important enough to make the show worth the "trip". In the quarter and semi-finals the spectators' affluence arose considerably, probably because of the importance of the games and a little marketing help from the SAO. Then came the long awaited game, the

final! It was considered a major event of the last week of Ramadan and the Gym was already bounded

cer team, who delighted the audience by a sympathetic match and was an example to follow of fair play

at the level of the expectations of the spectators. All the ingredients were present: Suspense in a large

team accused me of adding 20 mns! I only added 5 mns due to the several necessary stops that happened during the game" said Med Amine Azahhaf, the referee of the game. But this small compromise did not prevent the game from continuing, animated by the voice of Youssef Ztot the commentator and organizer of the tournament. Finally, the team of the "outsiders" won the cup thanks to 2 saves from Anouar the goal keeper during the penalty kicks session.

Yassine, Omar, M'hammed, Jader, Ousama, Hicham and Anouar were not outsiders any more after their brilliant journey in the tournament, and let us hope that the next year tournament will be as fun as this year's. But, and I say but, the problem that rises itself is the following: Ramadan of next year will be 11 days earlier than this year, meaning in around August the 20th, threatening AUI of not having its Ramadan soccer tournament! Beginning the fall session one week earlier will certainly not be an effective solution...so stay tuned!!



Congratulations to the winning team

more than 30 mns before the beginning of the game. The first part of this evening was assured by an exhibition game between members of the AUI cats, the university female soc-

and team spirit. Another contest was held right before the game, which was the "AUI best comentator" won by the new comer Saad Bahri. The highly anticipated final game was

dose with extraordinary rise and falls, quality and quantity regarding the goals, and fair play despite the small incident that happened at the end of the regular time. "The Security

Ramadan Soccer: a Virtual Tournament?

MOHAMMED AMINE MAISSOUR

ACM Club (Association for Computing Machinery) organized its first edition of the Ramadan's PES Tournament on the 23rd & 24th of September. A total of 68 players participated in this gaming contest that costed them a sign up fee of 45 MAD. "The fees served to rent material (Playstations, Cds, joysticks ...) and buy the prizes for the finalists" said Badraoui Ismail, treasurer of the club. The first day matches took place at the entrance of the building 38, in a nice friendly setting, under the comments of the virtual speakers, and the encouragements of real supporters. Only 32 players advanced to the next round after 3h of rude competition. In the following day were played the rounds of 16, 8 and the quar-

ter finals and took place in the game room. This time the competition was tougher than before with only the best gamers advancing to the next rounds. The rhythmic music played in front of the restaurant that night by "abidat rma" added to the competition a convivial mood and helped the players release their stress. The quarterfinals ended right before midnight on that Wednesday, October 24th resulting in 4 players remaining who are skilled and motivated enough to deserve competing in the semi finals that will be played later in the semester. Wael, Ayoub, Mohamed and Badr will certainly do their best to obtain the title of "Best PES player" and win an amazing prize which is ... kept secret until now!

