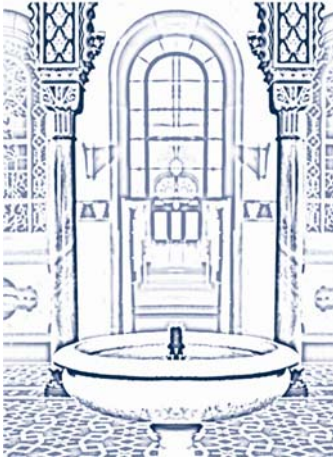




The Fountain

THE JOHN D. GERHART CENTER
FOR PHILANTHROPY
AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



The fountain – Gerhart center logo and newsletter title – in traditional Arab architecture is placed at the center of the front courtyard as a symbol of hospitality, generosity and the wealth of spirit that is the essence of community

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A Newsletter from the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 1, October 2007

What We've Been Up To

It is with pleasure that I bring you this issue of the Gerhart center newsletter. Our programs, activities and circle of friends continue to expand from the campus to the Arab region and the global arena. In this issue you will read about our new undertakings: a pan-Arab consultation on philanthropy in January 2008, an initiative to start a network of Arab universities on civic engagement, a partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity to address poverty in urban communities, a training course for young Egyptian journalists on civic responsibility and a student leadership program.

You will also read about our accomplishments over the spring and summer of 2007. We continue to push the agenda for integrating service into academic work through community-based-learning courses. Our campus-wide literacy program is thriving with volunteer teachers and learners from the AUC community. Look for information on our public events in this issue and on campus. The lecture on "Reclaiming Citizenship" by U.S. Governor Michael Dukakis last April set the bar high, and we are determined to maintain our standards.



Gerhart center staff

We have also grown in size. In April 2007, we moved to a more spacious office on the fifth floor of 5 Youssef El Guindi Street. With our own conference room and a small lounge, we are now setting up our resource center on premises for students and visitors use. Our office has expanded from three full-time staff and an intern to five full- and two part-timers. We've refurbished our Web site and will soon be adding more interactive elements for your contributions.

I hope that you find this issue rewarding. Please send your comments and ideas to gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu.

-Tagreid A. Hassabo

Communications and Outreach Manager

Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation Partners with the Gerhart Center

In September 2007, Dina Sherif, Gerhart center assistant director, and Karim Shalaby, philanthropy adviser, traveled to Dubai to meet with members of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF) to set the basis for a long-term partnership on philanthropy and development in the region. MBRF — the largest Arab philanthropic initiative to

date with an endowment of 10 billion U.S. dollars — was established last May and launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of UAE and ruler of Dubai, at the World Economic Forum in Jordan. The foundation aims to equip youth with the tools to shape their future through leadership programs and knowledge development initiatives.

The first collaboration between MBRF and the center is a regional consultation in January 2008 to present findings and recommendations from a groundbreaking study undertaken by the center mapping the state of institutionalized philanthropy in the region. Recommendations will include an action plan to promote strategic philanthropy in the region.

FEATURE ARTICLES

TALLOIRES + Two: Keeping the Promise of Civic Engagement

In September 2005 the first fully international conference on civic engagement and higher education was held at the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France, gathering 29 university presidents, rectors and vice chancellors from 23 countries. The conference was convened by Tufts University in collaboration with Innovations in Civic Participation, a Washington, D.C.-based organization. The conference focused on three central themes: mobilizing universities around civic engagement, research and scholarship in civic engagement, and identifying resources to support civic engagement activities. At the end of the conference participants signed the Talloires Network Declaration on the Civic Roles and Social Responsibilities of Higher Education committing to expanding civic engagement and social responsibility programs in higher education institutions, and fostering partnerships between universities and communities to increase mutual understanding. AUC President David Arnold was among those who signed the declaration.

Plans for establishing a center at AUC to consolidate and develop its efforts to promote civic responsibility were already in progress when the Talloires conference took place. Two years later, AUC has kept its promise. Since its inauguration in March 2006, the Gerhart center continues to develop the university's approach to civic

responsibility. As a result, the university has witnessed an increased level of activity in strategic civic engagement programs and research. Programs and activities include the revival of the Campus Literacy Project for AUC workers, promotion of community-based-learning classes, a lecture and public debates program on issues of social engagement and the role of higher education institutions, as well as training and networking functions with foundations, philanthropists and the private sector to strengthen Arab philanthropy. Research includes a preliminary study exploring the upswing in social service and volunteering among Egyptian youth and a mapping of the scope and practice of philanthropy in the Arab region.

In the summer of 2007, the Gerhart center established an organizational committee in collaboration with Innovations for Civic Participation with the aim of creating a regional network of Arab universities dedicated to promoting civic engagement. The center will take the lead in mapping the region for universities with civic engagement programs. The network will be launched at a conference in Cairo in April 2008 on the role of Arab universities in promoting civic engagement. The objective of the network is to design effective models of civic engagement, monitor practice to maintain excellence in standards and promote civic engagement across the region.

In conclusion, at the second anniversary of the Talloires declaration, we are proud to have kept the promise and are determined to maintain the role AUC plays in promoting civic responsibility in the Arab region.



David Arnold, AUC president

An education that teaches you to understand something about the world has done only half of the assignment. The other half is to teach you to do something about making the world a better place.

-Johnnetta Cole

-Gerhart center staff



CAMPUS QUESTION

HAVE YOU LOOKED AROUND YOU LATELY ?

**Send your thoughts to:
gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu**



Photo by Farida Hammad



FEATURE ARTICLES

AUC Unites with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity and Community Groups to Alleviate Poverty

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity in Egypt, AUC and community groups are working to develop an effective social policy that aims to empower vulnerable families and break the cycle of poverty through the application of an integrated support package. This program, once tested and fine-tuned, will replace the prior situation in which subsidies and services were offered to individuals (rarely taking account of family needs) by many different public departments.

In this approach, the support package will include monthly stipends or cash transfers allowing poor families to meet their basic needs while trained advocates work with them to address existing problems such as poor health, addiction, unemployment and child labor. At the end of the initial period, targeted families will go through a phased graduation, resulting in at least one adult family member being gainfully employed and all children under 14 successfully enrolled in school.

The pilot project for this model was launched this summer in Ain El Sira, Cairo, an impoverished community, starting with a survey of family needs in the area conducted by the Social Research Center at AUC. The ministry is providing overall leadership and coordination of the project, which will also draw on the experience and presence of the community organization Alashanek Ya Balady Association for Sustainable Development.

AUC is contributing to the project through three of its units: The Social Research Center is providing research planning, data collection and analysis, and monitoring of project implementation. The Gerhart center is developing a model to augment the project's public inputs with those from the local community and the private sector. It works closely with the Office of Student Development to coordinate volunteer and NGO involvement in the pilot project.



Photo by Farida Hammad

**Coming
together is a
beginning;
working
together is
success**

-Henry Ford

Young Arab Leaders Start Dialogue with Europe

In November 2007, Barbara Ibrahim, director of the Gerhart center, and Dina Sherif, assistant director, will travel to Berlin, Germany to participate in Young Arab Leaders' Global Action Fourm: Arab and European Dialogues. The Gerhart center was invited to act as a knowledge partner for Young Arab Leaders in the forum.

Launched in 2004, Young Arab Leaders is a regional network of highly accomplished figures in business, academia, media, arts, culture and civil society, who are committed to

improving the state of the Arab world. In 2006, the network launched the Global Action Program which aims to reach out to leaders across the globe. The program's objective is to raise awareness, promote dialogue and support understating and cooperation between leaders in the Arab world and their counterparts in the United States, Europe and Asia.

In the Arab and European dialogues forum in November, leaders from the Arab world and Europe will take part in highly focused discussions and debates; the outcomes of

which will be actionable projects. The forum will have three tracks of discussion: business and innovation, science and technology, and social entrepreneurship. As knowledge partner, the Gerhart center will be responsible for developing a background paper on social responsibility and entrepreneurship, framing issues for the plenary sessions and identifying concept initiative ideas to be adopted by the participants. Barbara Ibrahim will be presenting a paper titled "Social Responsibility: A Framework for Action."



GERHART NEWS

Networking and Partnerships

- The Gerhart center and the Institute for Philanthropy in London launched the Arab Forum for Social Innovation, an initiative aimed at creating an active network of philanthropists with the skills, commitment and imagination to make a significant contribution to the Arab region and its diaspora communities. The forum meetings will deepen the understanding of critical social issues in Arab communities and propose effective models for tackling them. The first forum took place in September 2007 in London and was attended by key philanthropists from Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon and Palestine. The second forum will be held in Dubai in January 2008 following the regional consultation on Arab philanthropy.
- In June 2007, the Gerhart center hosted the fourth meeting of the Arab Foundations Forum (AFF), a membership organization of foundations representing five Arab countries. To capitalize on the presence of this consortium of foundations at AUC, the Gerhart center also organized a panel discussion titled Arab Philanthropy: Innovations and Challenges. The meeting brought leading figures from Egyptian foundations and the private sector with members of the AFF.

Training and Consultation

- The Gerhart center's first country level consultation on philanthropy will be held on October 31, 2007. The purpose of this consultation will be to bring in key Egyptian philanthropists for a one-day meeting that will combine a skills-building session on venture philanthropy and the return on social investment, with a highly interactive peer-consultation session that will highlight core challenges facing Egyptian philanthropy.
- The Gerhart center and the Egyptian Civil Society Project at the Center for Electronic Journalism at AUC are co-sponsoring a tuition-free four-day training for journalists in Egypt on covering civic responsibility. The course Strengthening Civic Journalism is taught by the internationally renowned award-winning Egyptian journalist Mona Eltahawy. The course will run from October 25 to 29, 2007.
- The Gerhart center and the Center for Learning and Teaching at AUC are conducting a training session on community-based learning (CBL) for faculty interested in integrating community service in the course work. The training will explore CBL as a teaching and learning pedagogy and present models of assessment and reflection. The session is planned for the first half of November 2007, exact date to be announced.

Public Events

- "Violence Against Women: Pop Culture and Public Debate in Egypt" is the title of a public lecture by Mona Eltahawy on how community organizations, media and the public at large handle issues of violence against women. Eltahawy will highlight examples from popular television series, print media and the Internet. The event will be held on October 30, from 6 to 8 pm in Oriental Hall on the Main Campus at AUC.
- "Her Space, Our Space: Girls and Women Pushing the Boundaries of Cyberspace" is the title of the Gerhart center campus conversation to be held on November 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the Blue Room on the Greek Campus at AUC. Distinguished New York-based journalist Mona Eltahawy will lead a discussion on the experiences of girls and women who use blogging, Facebook, e-mail and other Internet modes to advance themselves and gain the space for self expression that may not be available outside of cyberspace.
- Pro bono Law in Egypt is the theme for a round-table discussion co-sponsored by the Gerhart center and the Law Students Association (LSA) at the law department at AUC. The event is planned for early Spring 2008, exact date and place to be announced later. The event will mark the first collaboration between the center and LSA. A roundtable discussion is also planned for the spring semester on Foundation Law in Egypt.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Community-based Learning at AUC

The Gerhart center continues to be the focal point for faculty engaged in developing CBL components in their courses, conducting faculty trainings and facilitating periodical reflection meetings to exchange experience and refine assessment tools for their courses. Partnering with the Center for Learning and Teaching at AUC, assessment materials for CBL courses were developed and professors are already implementing them. Coordinating with 12 different community partners, the center helped design and facilitate 14 CBL courses in seven departments at AUC.

CBL guidelines are currently being drafted and will be submitted to the

university Senate for approval. This will enable CBL courses to be officially labeled within the course catalog and on student transcripts. An online resource center for students and faculty engaged in CBL is being developed as part of the center's Web site.

“Even though my input was minimal, I just feel relieved that I was able to facilitate or offer a better service or product for those in need. That gave a lot of meaning to my life and to me as a person.”

-CBL student

International CBL

To promote cross-cultural understanding and diversity, the center hosted a group of international students from Northeastern University in Boston in June 2007. The students spent four weeks working in a poor urban neighborhood in Cairo, Ain El Sira, with a community organization Alashanek Ya Balady Association for Sustainable Development, which works on overall development of the community. The organization is a Gerhart center community partner.

Campus-wide Literacy Project for AUC Workers

Our campus-wide volunteer literacy program for AUC workers continues to mobilize an average of 40 volunteer teachers and trainers, and service approximately 150 beneficiaries per semester. A ceremony was held at the close of the spring semester for the teachers and learners who received certificates awarded by Tim Sullivan, AUC provost; Mushira El Baradai, executive director of human resources; and Barbara Ibrahim, director of the Gerhart center. Classes for the fall semester were postponed for after the holy month of Ramadan which coincided with the beginning of the semester.



Literacy awards ceremony, May 2007



Student Leaders For Service

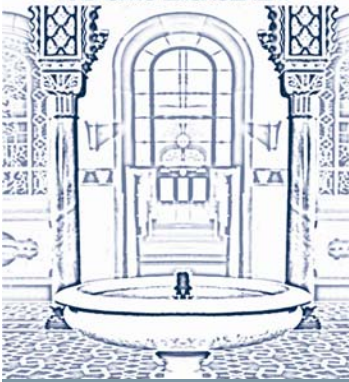
Student Leaders for Service is a new program for undergraduate students designed to enhance leadership skills through a combination of ongoing hands-on work, lectures and seminars, peer discussions and training, as well as exposure to leading figures from civil society, philanthropy and media. Participants in this program will be undergraduate students with a background in community service. In addition, student leaders will work on ongoing Gerhart center activities on projects related to social change and community development.

Staff Updates

Farewell and good luck to Catherine Baylin, our presidential intern, and Malak Hammad, the center's part-time literacy project coordinator since 2006. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Go on, do your magic.

A warm welcome to Karim Shalaby who joined the Gerhart team to fill the newly created post of philanthropy adviser. Welcome to Nora Eltahawy, program assistant and Fauzia Dawood, presidential intern. Beware, this place is addictive.





GERHART REFLECTION

Learning To Serve Through Education

Since the launching of the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement in March 2006, I have been witness to youth who display feelings of extreme apathy with no hope for any form of social change, and I have been witness to youth who spend every free moment they have trying to make a difference and, in fact, making a difference. What is perhaps most interesting, is seeing the apathetic convert to not only believing that social change is possible, but to becoming a change-maker themselves. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Although social change cannot come overnight, we must always work as though it were a possibility in the morning." This is exactly what the American University in Cairo is now trying to teach its students by being an institution that combines learning with service.



Dina Sherif

In the ever-increasing globalization of our world, with a strong focus on economic growth and prosperity, the voices of those left out continue to be lost in the global winds. What is needed for those voices to be heard are global structures that will add a moral and caring dimension to the harsh winds of globalization. Higher education institutions, which have bases in every nation and adopt similar roles, are perhaps the only kind of institution capable of assuming this role. Colleges and universities are in a strategic position to shape the thinking and values of future leaders: to shape them into responsible citizens with a will to continuously give back to their communities and work for social change.

Gerhart Center Mission

To promote social change in the Arab region through building a culture of effective giving and civic responsibility

When the Greeks said that "Man is a *polis* (political animal)" it was not meant to be in support of politicians.

For the Greeks, the *polis* was everything; it is what defined one's humanity. Man did not exist to live in solitude. The solitary individual was either a god or a demon, but to be human inherently meant to interact within a community. This is at the core of why the Greeks took so much pride in citizenship. Those who willingly chose not to participate were labeled by the Greeks as being "idiots," for surely they had no idea what they were doing. (See *Knowing and Doing: The Theory and Practice of Service-Learning*; Ed. Linda A. Chisholm, IPSL Press, New York 2005).

Through the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, we are trying to rekindle this love for citizenship that is both moral and caring. As we support AUC in becoming that model "global structure" that will teach its youth to protect and fight for those without a voice, over the upcoming months we will also begin to support other Arab universities to assume that same and much needed role. The time has come for higher education institutions to act as catalysts for increased civic engagement and good citizenship — in fact, that time is indeed overdue!

Dina H. Sherif
Assistant Director

IMPORTANT DATES

October 25-29, 5:00-7:30 pm
Strengthening Civic Journalism
A short training course for journalists
Gerhart Center, 5 Youssef El Guindi St. Fifth Floor, Apt 51

October 30, 6-8 pm
Violence Against Women: Pop Culture and Public Debate in Egypt
Oriental Hall, Main Campus

November 5, 5:30-7:30 pm
Her Space, Our Space: Girls and women pushing the boundaries of cyberspace
Blue Room, Greek Campus

January 20-21, 2008
Regional Consultation on Arab Philanthropy
Dubai, UAE

April 2008
The Role of Arab Universities in Promoting Civic Engagement.
AUC
(Exact date and time to be announced)

Spring 2008
Pro Bono Law in Egypt:
A Round Table Discussion
(Exact date to be announced)



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