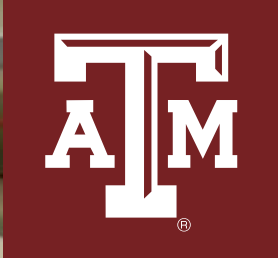


Texas A&M University at Qatar Engineering



Annual Report
2006-2007



Texas A&M University at Qatar

جامعة تكساس إى أندام فى قطر

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dean's Message	2
Admissions	4
Student Performance	8
Student Life	10
Administration, Faculty and Staff	14
Industry Partners, Research and Graduate Studies	18
Facilities	20
Next Steps	22
Engineering Building Celebration	24



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT QATAR has made great strides in improving and advancing the campus into the undergraduate, graduate and research campus we intend it to be. Since becoming Dean and CEO in January, many changes have been implemented to maintain the undergraduate engineering program, as well as steps to secure the graduate and research programs.

As the best things are often saved for the last, we will end this fiscal year with the move to the new Texas A&M at Qatar Engineering Building, which has certainly taken center stage this year. Preparations have been made all year to make the move as seamless as possible, both in the new building and in the academic and staffing areas.

Dr. James C. Holste, who has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs since the creation of the campus, was appointed Associate Dean for research and graduate programs. His leadership and experience in these areas will ensure success in these upcoming programs.

Over 20 new faculty have been recruited to support the growing undergraduate program and the forthcoming graduate program. Our faculty have been busy in the classrooms, as well as in research and program development. Many have chaired conferences and research projects aimed at contributing to the local community through knowledge sharing.

The administration, faculty and staff were very pleased to learn that our campus received the final approval from SACS in early January. This distinction is a great step forward for the campus and adds to the prestige the university already enjoys. Our continuing efforts for ABET accreditation will be supported by Dr. Stephen Gyeszly, TAMUQ faculty, who was recently appointed as ABET Campus Coordinator. We look forward to a visit from ABET officials next year.

As Dean and CEO I am entrusted with moving the campus forward, but this is a task for the entire community. As such, I have created several committees to address areas of importance to the campus, including faculty tenure and promotion, study abroad and honors opportunities, and disability services. The TAMUQ Student Body Government is also an important voice in the administrative process and I have enjoyed meeting with the SBG leadership on a monthly basis.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you see the many successes we have had this year. Through the support of Qatar Foundation, Texas A&M University at Qatar is making an impact on our students and the community, and we intend to report even more successes next year.

Sincerely,



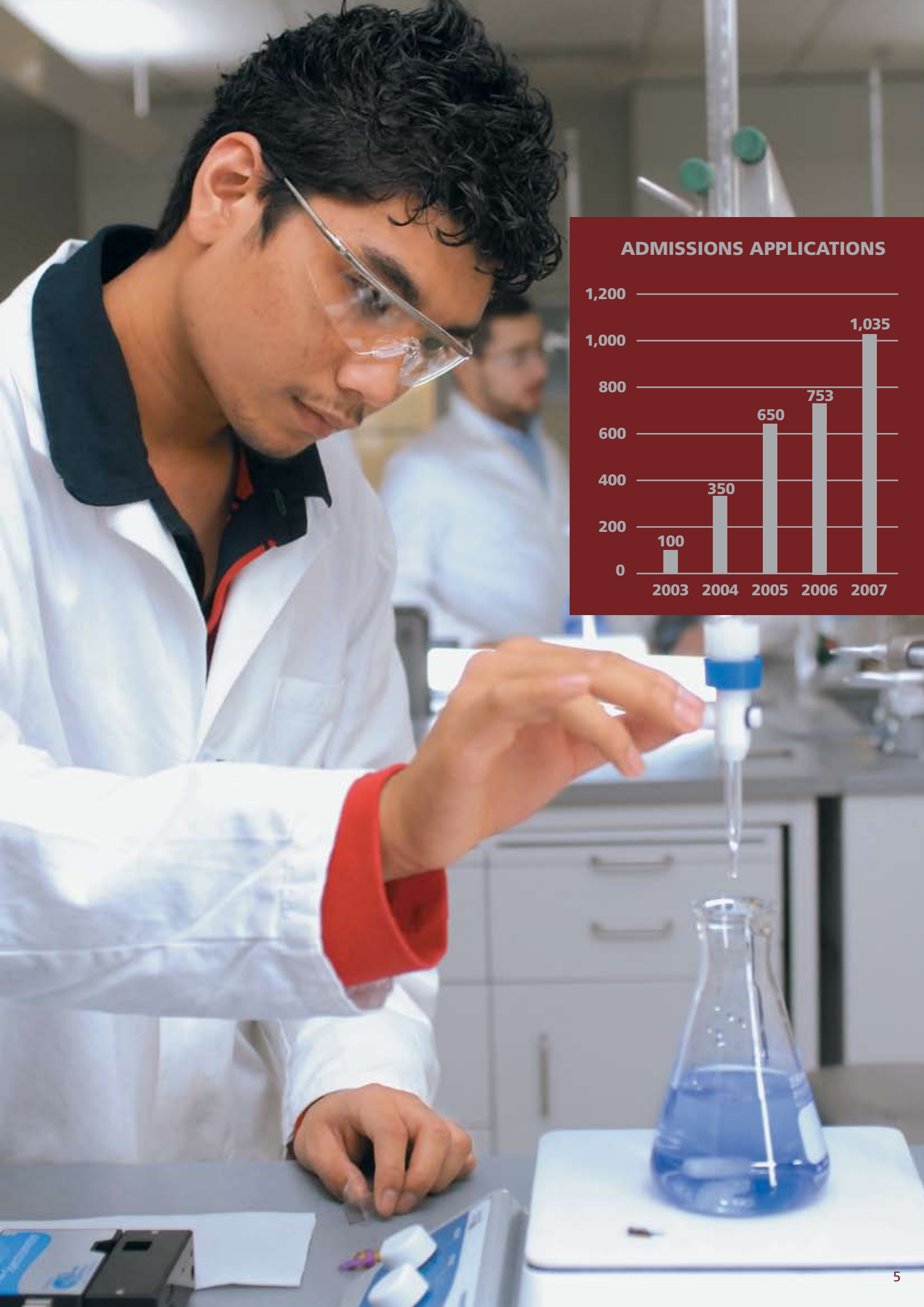
Mark H. Weichold, Ph.D.
Dean and CEO

Admissions

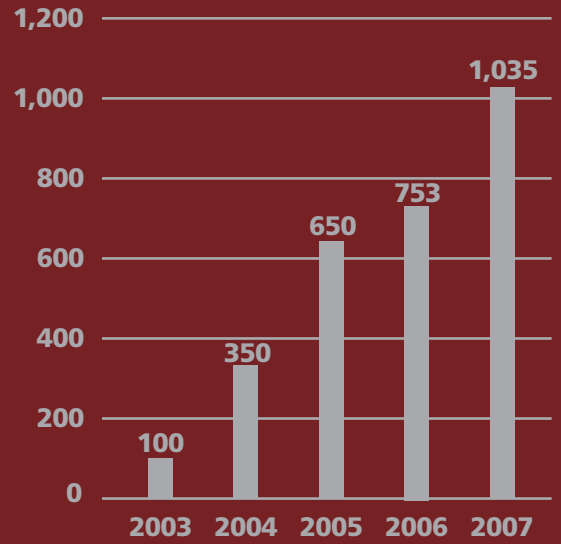
The number of applications for admission submitted to Texas A&M University at Qatar continues to increase at a rapid rate, which is an indication that the marketing and promotion of the engineering programs offered at the campus are effective and quite on target. The submissions increased by 27 percent over last year, and given the early interest that the staff is already encountering by students who will graduate next year, it is anticipated that next year's submissions will surpass this year's. The applicants continue to be a healthy mix of Qatari and international students, as well as a good mix of male and female.

The promotion of the program continues to be a joint venture with our sister institutions in Education City. The 2nd Annual Discover Education City event was held at the Four Seasons Doha in early September to an estimated audience of 800. The same program was subsequently held in other regional cities, but with the added feature of school visits before and after the respective events. Coupled with this event, high school counselors were invited to attend an "Education City Regional Counselor Institute," held in Doha, Qatar. Comprising of both regional and local counselors, this milestone event was created for the purposes of acquainting the counselors to the programs offered in Education City, and to encourage the necessary cooperation and partnerships between admissions officers and school counselors. Locally, the recruitment plan continues to focus on seeking qualified Qatari candidates, so all major recruitment efforts and events are conducted to not only encourage qualified Qatari candidates, but to assist them through the application process. The number of students visiting the campus, the majority of these being Qatari students, increased to 2500 this year, or an increase of 1,000 potential students over last.

In September of 2006 and with the initiative of officials at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Dr. Richard Ferguson, President and CEO of ACT, one of two American organizations that offer recognized and accepted college entrance examinations, was invited to and subsequently visited Education City to discuss the resolution of testing issues that Education City admissions officials faced. The outcome of that meeting was a partnership that allows Education City to provide ad hoc college entrance examinations to students interested in attending one of the Education City universities. An agreement between ACT and Qatar Foundation was signed, and a major testing problem that admission officials were encountering, including those at Texas A&M University at Qatar, was essentially resolved. Prior to this milestone agreement, students who showed an interest in one of the Education City universities but who had failed to take the necessary standardized examination within the requisite time, were deemed as ineligible. Because of that important partnership with ACT, these examinations are now provided by Qatar Foundation on a regular basis and as often



ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS





COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN 2007 APPLICANT POOL

Qatar	Cameroon	India	Netherlands	Somalia
Afghanistan	Canada	Indonesia	New Zealand	Sudan
Algeria	Egypt	Iran	Nigeria	South Africa
Angola	Ethiopia	Iraq	Oman	Syria
Australia	France	Jordan	Pakistan	Tunisia
Bangladesh	Gambia	Kuwait	Palestine	United Arab Emirates
Bahrain	Germany	Lebanon	Philippines	United States
Benin	Ghana	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	Yemen

as needed for potential candidates. The testing solution has made more candidates, particularly Qatari candidates, eligible to attend Education City universities.

Our future challenges continue to be one of ensuring that our candidates possess the English, Math and Science skills necessary to meet the academic rigors of the engineering program, as well as ensuring that all highly qualified candidates are being tested early enough so that they can re-test if the results are not competitive. Beginning this year, and with the help of Qatar Foundation, 10th and 11th grade students in Qatar independent and scientific schools will be given the ACT as a means of acquainting these students to American standardized testing. This is a first for Qatar, and again one that was initiated by officials at Education City. Providing early testing skills will go a long way in assuring our future candidates, particularly our Qatari candidates, have successfully met all of our admission requirements much earlier than in previous years.

As in the previous year, 100% of our applicants applied on-line, the only Education City university to do so. The student interview for admission, which became completely electronic last year, worked without the admissions board encountering a single problem. The capability of standardizing the high school grading systems of all applicants so that all candidates may be reviewed fairly has worked exceptionally well in that any grading system in the world is now being converted into a standardized American grading system that allows the admission board to review a student's credentials equitably across the board. The university received permission this year to generate and print official university transcripts at the Qatar campus, which will make transcript requests more convenient for our students. Finally, the main campus is transitioning into a new student information system, scheduled for implementation this coming fall, and Qatar campus officials are closely involved in this important conversion.

APPLICATION STATISTICS FOR FALL 2007

Applications Received.....	1,035	(Qatari 286)
Interviews Granted	185	(Qatari 77)
Credentials of Admitted Students:		
Mean High School GPA.....	92%	
Mean SAT Math Section	612	
Mean TOEFL scores	573	

Student Performance

The cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) for our students has improved as they matriculate through the program, mirroring the GPR pattern for College Station engineering students. The TAMUQ cumulative GPR rose from 2.790 for freshmen this year to 3.04 for the seniors — a trend one finds in College Station engineering programs. Interestingly, our cumulative freshman GPR rose from 2.65 last year to 2.79 this year. This increase illustrates our commitment to our freshmen and their success during the all-important first year. Historically, the freshman year is the most difficult for students, so we have stepped up efforts to give our first-year students all of the support — academic and otherwise — that they may require.

So far, TAMUQ retention rates are 15% higher than the TAMU College of Engineering (89% vs. 74%). This is a strong sign that the students we are admitting to our program have the requisite academic capability. Although perhaps too early for a firm conclusion, our higher retention rate, we believe, is a reflection of our capacity to mentor students individually. We can ensure this by keeping our class sizes and our teaching loads low.

The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is a factor that university officials monitor closely and one that is tracked by accrediting agencies. The retention rate is a strong indicator of institutional ability to successfully retain students through graduation, because the most formidable or most difficult academic year for most students is their freshman year.

We now have 175 students taking classes at Texas A&M University at Qatar (see chart next page). These students represent a wonderful variety of the types of students available in the Gulf region. We strive to add courses to our curriculum that will appeal to such a varied group of students. This semester we are offering 38 courses across our four degree programs, up from 27 last spring, and dramatically up from the 15 courses just two years ago. Next fall, we will register students for over 60 courses.

We have also worked with our sister institutions at Education City to give all of its students more

choice in course selection. During the last year, we had 22 of our students take a cross-registered class at one of the other Education City campuses. Likewise, we have opened up nine of our courses in which other students could cross-register. We are also working out agreements with our sister institutions to make sure the credits for these courses are transferred in a timely manner.

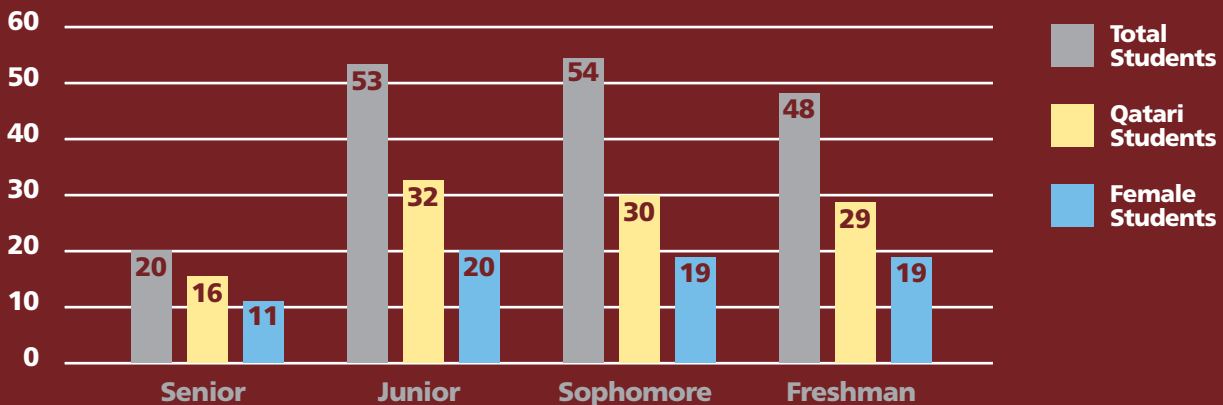
Even though we've enjoyed great success to date, we have not stopped planning for future academic programs and services to offer our students. During the coming year, we plan to create programs in the following areas:

■ **Internships and Summer Work:** As our students matriculate toward graduation, one vital part of their education is work experience. We find the work experience helps students appreciate and apply the theoretical concepts they learn in class and, in turn, the work experience motivates students to learn even more. To date, we have had 54 students participate in internships and summer work.

■ **University Honors Program:** We continue to look for new ways to recognize and motivate our best and brightest students. To this end, similar to the Honors Program on the main campus, we will offer honors opportunities, which will give students the option to work with other high-achieving



2006-2007 STUDENT DISTRIBUTION



students in special course and research endeavors. Participation in these activities will be noted on student transcripts to signal to future employers and graduate schools that these students have participated in an enriched curriculum.

■ **Aggie Honor Code:** TAMUQ prides itself on providing a complete education for students, which includes preparation for the many facets of life as a professional engineer. As Engineers-In-Training and Professional Engineers, TAMUQ graduates will

have to adhere to a code of ethics and maintain a high level of professional integrity. Just as on the main campus of Texas A&M, TAMUQ embraces the Aggie Code of Honor which urges students not to lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do. This year we have worked closely with faculty and students to help both groups understand the importance of the Aggie Code of Honor. We have also created a process for the campus to handle any violations of the Aggie Code of Honor.

Student Life

Recognized Clubs and Organizations

As of April 2007, there are a total of 17 student organizations with student representation of near 100% of the student body. This shows the commitment of our students to not only their academic endeavors but their feeling of connection to Texas A&M University at Qatar and the “Aggie Spirit.” These clubs have planned and organized numerous activities for our campus community with a very high success rate. In addition to their wonderful activities, they have raised funds with donations reaching over \$30,000 (US). The Department of Student Affairs is very interested in the continued success of our sports clubs and will work to further develop these teams to compete at a higher level. Our eventual hope is these teams will become part of an athletic program competing against other institutions in the region.

Student Exchange Trips

Exchange Trips to College Station are now planned as an annual event. During spring break ten TAMUQ students made the trip to visit the main campus. The group was escorted by two TAMUQ staff members. This year’s group consisted of four freshmen, four sophomores, and two juniors, four of whom were females. This trip included an initial stop in Houston and Galveston for visits to the branch campus in Galveston and the Galleria Mall in Houston. Highlights during the time in College Station included a Texas Aggie Baseball game, a student shadowing program, a tour of the Brayton Fire Training School and Disaster City, a tour of the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham, a presentation by the TAMUQ students about Qatar and their various home countries and tours of the four relevant engineering departments. Each exchange trip seems to get better and better as more effort is made to connect the students with each other and with the faculty in the College of Engineering.

Student Leadership Institute in Italy

In July of 2006, six TAMUQ students joined 34 students from the main campus for the Champe Fitzhugh Student Leadership Institute at the Santa Chiara Study Center in Italy. TAMUQ students will again participate in this program in July of 2007. Talha Mirza ’09 has been selected as the student leader representative this year and the five newly admitted students will be selected in early May.

Student Body Government

Student Body Government just concluded another very successful year. This year’s group had at least three elected representatives for each class.

TAMUQ Recognized Student Organizations:

1. Society of Automotive Engineers
2. Maroon Club
3. Cultural Exchange Club
4. Multimedia Club
5. Society of Women Engineers

The president of the Student Body Government this academic year was Ahmed Al-Abdullah, a junior who was elected for a second term. Ahmed resigned for personal reasons in January and another junior, Ameer Khader ’08, was elected as the new president. This year’s group met weekly as a body and the president also met weekly with the Student Affairs advisor Mike Collins. They also met once each semester with the entire student body to elicit input on desired services and programs. The Student Body Government has begun meeting once monthly with Dr. Weichold and once monthly with Dr. Langari, interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



6. TAMUQ Chess Club

7. 12 Man Student Club

8. Students for Environmental Awareness

9. IEEE – Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

10. ASME – American Society of Mechanical Engineers

11. AIChE – American Institute of Chemical Engineers

12. Society of Petroleum Engineers

13. Scuba Diving Club

14. Aggie Girls Club

15. Amazing Treble Makers

16. RC Club

17. Sports Club – Basketball and Soccer

New Student Orientation

The fall of 2006 New Student Orientation was highly successful as the new freshman class was welcomed. A student executive committee was responsible for planning and coordinating much of the program this year. Tyler Wellborn, a TAMU Yell Leader, and Julie Pelletier, President of the Society of Women Engineers, joined us as special guests and presenters. They taught the incoming students about much of the history and tradition of the main campus, including Aggie yells. A student organization fair was one of the highlights for orientation this year.

TAMUQ Year End Celebration

The celebration sponsored by the Department of Student Affairs was held in May just after the last final exam. All students, faculty, staff and their

families were invited to the awards ceremony at The Ritz Carlton Doha. Awards were presented to faculty, staff and students for service, leadership and significant contributions to the campus. As on the College Station and Galveston campuses, The Association of Former Students funded awards new to the Qatar campus this year. The Buck Weirus Spirit Award, which was established to honor a student's contribution to the Aggie community through involvement in student life, was presented to Bashar Hasnah '07. The TAMUQ STAR (Service, Team spirit, Attitude, Responsibility) Award was created to honor TAMUQ staff who contribute beyond their job responsibility. Abir Raslan, Senior Administrative Coordinator for Academic Affairs, and Shannon Estrada, Senior Academic Advisor, were the 2007 recipients.



Dean's Honor List, Aggie Rings,
Sports Competitions...
Aggies celebrated many successes this year.



Student Wellness and Counseling Program

The Student Wellness program continues to develop and expand providing essential counseling services and health education to all TAMUQ students.

There was some doubt about how quickly the local students would recognize the need and begin to use this counseling service. Coordinator Patti Collins continues to report these very promising statistics. Included are some very detailed statistics that will show the overall effectiveness of the Wellness and Counseling Program. In this culture, counseling is not generally accepted; however with exposure of



this program, our students are seeking counseling assistance at a much higher percentage than the College Station campus. The new Wellness Wednesday program has proved very successful in reaching students with some very important health topics including dental hygiene, driver safety, healthy eating and exercise, etc. Mrs. Collins has also introduced biofeedback training to our students with some very positive results. All students who had regular appointments and sought assistance from our staff counselor are in good academic standing with the university.

Fall Statistics

Counseling: 18 students seen (8 males, 10 females)
5 Freshmen, 10 Sophomores, 1 Junior, 2 Seniors
8 faculty/staff referrals, 10 self referrals
20 walk-in appointments, 72 scheduled
(55 show, 9 no show, 8 canceled for a 73% show rate)
25 academic counseling appointments
24 biofeedback appointments
26 personal counseling appointments

Consultations: 4 staff/faculty consultations about students/programs

Workshops: 7 academic workshops offered, 5 topics and 37 students attended

Summer School in College Station

TAMUQ arranged for nine students to attend summer school in College Station. A summer school committee chaired by Shannon McNulty worked very closely with the Sponsored Students Program Office at the main campus and the nine students to ensure that the planning for the trip was well coordinated. The group of students includes five Qatari females and two Qatari males.

Critical Incident Response Team "CIRT"

The TAMUQ Critical Incident Response Team was planned and approved during the 2005-06 academic year and was implemented this year. The initial five member team includes Mike Collins, Dennis Busch, Mark Bell, Shannon Estrada and Maha Ayyash. The purpose of the "CIRT" is to respond to critical incidents involving TAMUQ students in Qatar, and serve as the University contact when students are involved in critical incidents away from the Texas A&M at Qatar campus. A different team member is on call each week and they rotate throughout the semester. Mike Collins developed the program for the TAMUQ campus and provides the ongoing training for the team members. A few minor incidents were handled this year but nothing major or serious.

Aggie Rings

This has been a historic year for Aggie Rings ... the first internationally awarded Aggie Rings came to TAMUQ this year. The first six students received their rings during the Academic Convocation in August. Marty Holmes and Julie Scamardo from The Association of Former Students brought the rings from College Station and presented them to the students. In March as part of the Dean's Investiture, another fifteen students received their rings. The rings presented in March were personally brought to Doha by Porter Garner, the Executive Director of The Association of Former Students, and Mr. Bill Flores, 2007 President of The Association.

Administration, Faculty and Staff

Executive Administration

Dr. Mark H. Weichold, Texas A&M University's Dean of undergraduate studies and associate provost for academic services, became Dean and CEO of Texas A&M University at Qatar in January 2007. Dr. Weichold succeeded Dr. Charles C. Bowman, who served on an interim basis as TAMUQ's Dean and CEO, was recently named Dean Emeritus of TAMUQ and continues to serve on the TAMUQ Joint Advisory Board.

Another senior leadership change occurred when Dr. James C. Holste was appointed as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and his previous position at TAMUQ as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is being held currently on an interim basis by Dr. Reza Langari.

Also, Ms. Lallah Howard, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration has been appointed as the new Associate Vice President of Business Affairs at Texas A&M University. Ms. Lallah Howard will assume the leadership responsibilities for the Business Affairs within the Division of Finance on the main campus. A search is being conducted to fill her position at TAMUQ.

Dr. Timothy Chester, who served as TAMUQ CIO since the creation of the campus in 2003, departed TAMUQ in February to serve as the CIO of Pepperdine University. After a search was conducted, Mr. Khalid Warraich was recently selected to serve as the new TAMUQ CIO. Mr. Warraich previously served as Associate Director for Supercomputing at College Station and joined TAMUQ in fall 2006 as Director of Supercomputing.

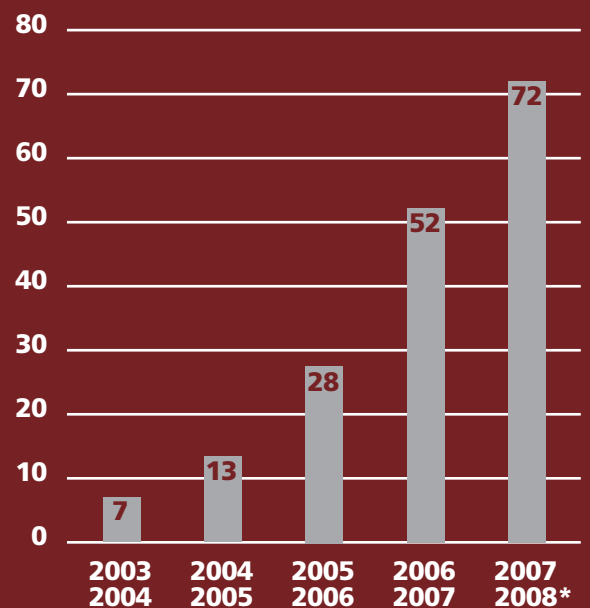
Mr. Joseph Estrada, Director of Admissions and Records, has also served TAMUQ since the creation of the campus. He will leave TAMUQ at the end of this Academic Year. Through a search, Dr. Robert Hensley was selected as the new Director of Admissions and Records. Dr. Hensley previously served as Director of Admissions at the University of New Orleans.

Faculty

In our fourth academic year, 24 faculty members joined the existing group of our teaching staff, bringing our total to 52. For the coming year, the first in which all four levels of the undergraduate program will be taught, we are recruiting an additional 20 faculty members to join us in August, bringing our faculty level to 72 members. The majority of these additions are engineering faculty.

The faculty mix is a combination of TAMU faculty who have agreed to spend 1-3 years at TAMUQ, as well as faculty who have accepted permanent employment with TAMUQ. The latter group is selected through a rigorous search process and from among the best candidates in the field. The prospective candidates are interviewed in College Station and in Doha and chosen for their competence in teaching and research. The mix of faculty provides us with a combination of TAMU experience and quality assurance plus the continuity that is essential in our educational process.

FACULTY GROWTH



*Estimated figures for 2007-08.



TAMU University at Qatar

At present TAMUQ is exploring the possibility of establishing a tenure process, similar in nature to the process in College Station. The intent of the tenure system would be to ensure that TAMUQ faculty develop the sense of connectedness with the University in ways that go beyond being short or long term employees. The possibility of a tenure process also enhances the ability of TAMUQ to attract and retain high quality faculty and may also encourage TAMU faculty to transition to Qatar on a long term basis, in ways that would meet Qatar Foundation’s objective of ensuring that the quality of education at TAMUQ is on par with that on the main campus.

Training

As faculty and staff grow at TAMUQ, so do the challenges of training on university procedures. There have been several outside training sessions offered for faculty and staff as well as internal training on processes and procedures. These training opportunities provide resources that allow faculty and staff to develop and grow as well as offering opportunities to use some of

the innovations being provided on the main campus, such as the use of the travel cards and procurement card program. Use of these efficiencies provide better services for all involved.

Finance

As student enrollment grows, the expenditures related to the operations of this campus have also grown. The following provides the statement of costs for the past three years:

Statement of Costs for Year ending:

June 30, 2004	\$14,366,969
June 30, 2005 (restated)	\$16,306,874
June 30, 2006	\$25,180,356

Human Resources

The growth of the university has also increased staff requirements. Current administrative, professional and support staff number 85, which is a 23% increase over last fiscal year. We have 36 locally-hired staff members, and the remaining staff members are expatriates.



The total faculty and staff population is 138. We anticipate an increase of 20 faculty and 20 staff prior to the fall 2007 semester. TAMUQ hired 46 new employees during the fiscal year, and assisted in relocating their 49 dependents. We have hosted 165 visitors during the year, not counting the 130 visitors attending the March Building Celebration.

Employee training (professional and personal) and positioning human resource services to provide enhanced employee services is our current focus. The Human Resource Services department was restructured to allow more efficient service delivery. Another focus is collaborating with Qatar Foundation and other Education City universities on professional development events.

Information Technology Services

Information Technology Services (ITS) has had another great year supporting the growing campus. ITS continues to support the campus administrative and academic computing, communication and instructional technology needs. Some highlights are:

- A new website was launched in the Fall semester with its contents managed by the RedDot content management system that lets the various

departments manage their portion of the website themselves.

- The Library, Technical Communications Center, and some Engineering departments have used the RedDot system to grow their web pages to customized websites and communicate more effectively across the campus and the world.
- A new Human Resources (HR) information system that automates several HR functions is launching in the summer.
- ITS has started a project to support TAMUQ's ABET accreditation that uses our existing WebCT Vista system with collaboration software to conduct the various surveys and provide data tracking needed for the accreditation process.
- The Library is increasing its use of technology, initially by ITS providing a system for collecting and tracking information about requested items.
- We have piloted the use of DyKnow and VNet as two technologies to enhance the teaching effectiveness. DyKnow is used to record and replay classroom notes and VNet allows access to recorded lectures in various formats for asynchronous or distance learning.

ITS has created a Research Computing group to help TAMUQ provide the world class computing

resources that enables the research activities in Education City. SAQR, our 200 processor Apple Xserve based supercomputer cluster, has completed its second year of service. We are taking delivery of an immersive visualization facility to help visualize their complex scientific data, whether from computational or experimental sources. This will be backed up with a new supercomputer in the winter next academic year. The immersive visualization facility and the new supercomputer will provide our faculty and students with state of the art research tools unparalleled in the region.

Moving into the new engineering building represents ITS with a challenge and an opportunity to greatly enhance the capability and capacity of our computing infrastructure. ITS is working with the project managers, consultants, and contractors to ensure that the great number of communication (wired and wireless networking), audio/video, and video conferencing systems are completed and operation well ahead of start of classes in the Fall 2007 semester. To get an idea of the scope of the work involved, consider that the new engineering building has:

- Approximately 35 rooms that have audio/video equipment;
- Thirteen class/lecture rooms, 7 with distance learning capabilities;
- Four general purpose computing labs, approximately 7 special purpose computing labs for various engineering and science disciplines;
- Sixty-one thousand wired network ports for computers, telephones, data acquisition equipment;
- Approximately 175 wireless access points;

- A spacious new data center that will house our next supercomputer; and
- Several labs that house experimental equipment that is either computer controlled or utilizes a computer for data acquisition.

Public Affairs

This year Public Affairs helped further propel TAMUQ to new levels of success by building awareness and brand recognition for TAMUQ, supporting student, faculty and staff recruitment efforts, expanding on the existing engagements with the external community and leading and managing the execution of high level institutional events. Key activities undertaken by Public Affairs this year are:

- Print and online ad campaign in Qatar and the region;
- University publications: Aggie Platform Magazine, Annual Report, TAMUQ Brochure and Faculty Recruitment Publication;
- Website redesign phase I, content development and management;
- TAMUQ Promotional video to be released to the public in FY 07-08;
- TAMUQ Engineering Building Celebration, March 18-20, 2007; and
- Database of Aggies living and working in Qatar and the region.

Market research to be conducted in 2007- 2008 will provide direction for future marketing and communications initiatives, based on satisfaction levels and general feedback on current initiatives, publications and campaigns.



Industry Partners, Research and Graduate Studies

Some TAMUQ faculty are actively engaged in research efforts even though we have not yet completed a formal agreement with Qatar Foundation. We are optimistic that a sustainable program can be developed, substantially funded from external sources, and providing opportunity for all faculty. We are keen to develop this program, but have been hindered to date by the absence of research space and of equipment with which to perform the work. Moving to the new building this summer and pending execution of a formal agreement with Qatar Foundation are elements essential to development of the research program.

Two externally funded research agreements already have been executed. The first is with Qatar Telecommunications to explore issues related to wireless communication and deployment and operation of sophisticated mobile phone networks. The second is with Suncor Corporation of Alberta, Canada, to explore techniques for water treatment in the processing of oil sands. Because of the lack of experimental facilities to date in Qatar, there are substantial collaborative activities for each of these projects on the Texas A&M University home campus. We actively are working with other potential partners to identify additional research topics of mutual interest for future projects.

TAMUQ has signed a general memorandum of understanding with RasGas Company, Limited, that serves as an enabling umbrella for a wide range of cooperation ranging from scholarship support for undergraduate students to research support in a variety of forms. We currently are in the final stages of negotiating the first research agreement to be funded by RasGas. RasGas also has provided significant resources to assist TAMUQ with establishing student chapters of engineering societies such as the American

Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO) provided partial sponsorship of the first annual TAMUQ Chemistry Conference held in January 2007. QAFCO since has executed a Memorandum of Agreement with TAMUQ to become the exclusive sponsor for the next five years of the QAFCO-TAMUQ Chemistry Conference.

TAMUQ also has benefited from contributions from the following commercial partners:

- Qatar Real Estate – scholarships
- ConocoPhillips – unrestricted funds
- RasGas Company, Limited – support of student chapters of engineering societies and other student activities
- ExxonMobil – scholarship funds, support of Petroleum Engineering Student Paper Contest
- Halliburton – donation of Landmark® software to Department of Petroleum Engineering
- Qtel – donation to provide laboratory equipment to support research and graduate education in wireless communication

TAMUQ will offer a graduate studies program slated to begin during the upcoming academic year. The graduate studies program will offer Master of Science (both research and non-research options) and Master of Engineering degrees in all four of the engineering disciplines we teach, plus a potential fifth option in industrial systems and project management. Courses will be offered in formats designed to facilitate attendance by part-time students holding full-time employment. Having the Research and Graduate Studies Agreement in place will be a strong attractor for senior faculty at College Station.



Both TAMUQ students and the sponsoring industries benefit from work experiences provided to our students by our industrial partners. Our students learn how their “book learning” relates to actual industry practice, and the industrial partner has the opportunity to observe our students in action before entering a long-term employment commitment.



Facilities

Texas A&M at Qatar’s temporary home for the past few years in Education City has been the Liberal Arts and Science Building. The facility has been shared with Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and the Academic Bridge Program. With each program continuing to grow the available space has been reconfigured to address a set of priority needs as defined by the three groups. This has created a challenging environment.

To use the spaces available more efficiently, during the past year many of the building’s classrooms were upgraded to include wired network connections for each student. Additionally, each of the classroom multimedia systems was upgraded to allow for “wireless presentations” by anyone connected to the campus network. This has facilitated the use of the student Tablet PCs in the classroom during lectures. This technology has been adopted by several of our faculty, and their work was featured in a vendor case study by SMART Technologies this past April.

Student study and lounge space is also at a premium. Air-conditioned tents have been

commissioned in two of the courtyards to serve in this capacity. Additional lounge furniture and study tables were also placed in some of the open public areas of the building.

Although lab space has been limited, our solution has been a combination of repositioning courses within the curriculum, where feasible, and in some cases, simulating the laboratory experience with data from a College Station laboratory. This, however, was a short term solution to our space limitations. The Chemical Engineering students will be visiting College Station this summer for two of their laboratory courses. With all TAMUQ classes being held in



Top: One of two 75 seat lecture halls with distance learning technology. The Engineering Building also features a 150-seat lecture hall. Above left and opposite page: This large atrium links together the academic and research areas of the building, for a combined 55,000 square meters. Above right and next page: One of four courtyards found within the academic portion of the building.

the new building this fall, all laboratory courses are available at the Doha campus.

Texas A&M University at Qatar relocated from its temporary home into the new engineering building in mid-May. The summer months will be spent going through the final commissioning stages of the building and familiarizing the staff with the new facilities. The physical size of the new building will create new challenges in the way TAMUQ teaches its courses and provides support to the faculty. Shortly after moving into the new facilities we will have to begin addressing the need to design and construct additional facilities within

the shell space. These new facilities will support our Liberal Arts and Science Program. The space will be predominately devoted to offices and meeting rooms. However, the need for additional laboratories will be part of the design process. Currently, the chemistry laboratories will remain in the LAS until the new facilities are finished. The target date for the completion of our first renovation project is January 2008. At that time the facilities should be operating at 80% of its capacity from an infrastructure point of view. TAMUQ will also be assisting Qatar Foundation by providing temporary facilities for Northwestern University.



Next Steps

The Dean's Perspective

I HOPE YOU AGREE that the information provided in this report shows the wonderful progress made over the past year. It is my intent to take the progress to date and further build on it to ensure that the mission of TAMUQ is fulfilled. My aim in the coming years is for TAMUQ to:

1. Craft its student body from the most talented, capable students from Qatar and from around the world, producing engineers able to solve the most challenging problems in any place, in any culture, and under any conditions;
2. Engage the best faculty members from around the world to direct the learning process and to conduct scholarly activity in fields important to Qatar and the world; and
3. Be a community partner locally and globally using the creation and dissemination of knowledge to bridge cultures.

It is my objective, whether we are students, faculty, staff, or administrators, that all of our efforts should be focused on the complete education of our students to prepare them with the technical expertise, the leadership skills and the broad world view so that they will serve as tomorrow's leaders in business, government, or academia and to so serve upholding the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and integrity.

Engineering Building Opening Ceremony

Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M University celebrated the TAMUQ Engineering Building in Education City on March 19, 2007. Guests from different parts of the world including the 41st President of the United States, Mr. George H.W. Bush, Qatar's Energy Minister, H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Texas A&M University Interim President Eddie J. Davis and scores of other dignitaries participated in the Celebration Ceremony of TAMUQ's new engineering building complex – believed to be among the largest and most technologically-advanced facilities of its kind in the world.

The 55,000 square-meter facility, designed by world-famous architect Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico, becomes a centerpiece for Education City, the multi-institutional campus established and fully funded by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

The purpose-built facility provides classrooms and research laboratories that will be equipped with the finest tools and technologies available, rivaling the top education and industry facilities currently operating worldwide.







Texas A&M University at Qatar

Education City • Doha, Qatar

+974 492 7369

www.qatar.tamu.edu

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