

The Aggie Platform

منبر الأجي

News from Texas A&M University at Qatar

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www.qatar.tamu.edu

Virtual Canvas Project an Overwhelming Success!

Throughout the spring 2005 semester Information Technology Services (ITS) and Dr. Steven Gyszly, engineering faculty, have been conducting a pilot 'Virtual Canvas' project in the CHEN (chemical engineering) 205 course. The 'virtual canvas' ties together several technologies with the goal of increasing faculty and student interaction within the classroom. This project was successful and this technology will be provided to all faculty and students in time for the fall 2005 semester.



TAMUQ students studying together with their Tablet PC's.

For the pilot, Gateway M275X Tablet PCs loaded with Microsoft Office XP and SychronEyes classroom software from Smart Technologies were provided to students in this course. The classroom for this course was outfitted with a regular Windows XP PC, a Symposium annotating monitor, and a multimedia projector equipped with an AirProjector wireless adapter. During CHEN 205, recitation students were able to use their Tablet PCs to respond to interactive quizzes and solve complicated engineering projects by drawing on their computer screen. The AirProjector adapters allow students to

project their solutions to the class by connecting wirelessly to the multimedia projectors using the Education City wireless network (QFLink).

The goal of the 'Virtual Canvas' project is to increase student participation in classroom activities. Using these technologies a faculty member is able to monitor the students understanding of the material in real-time, and identify those students who have difficulty comprehending the material. When necessary, the faculty member can adjust their lecture as necessary to ensure that all students fully

comprehend the material. The technologies also assist in keeping the students alert and focused on the class lectures.

Students are also able to take advantage of their Tablet PC in completing their homework. Problems may be solved by drawing on the Tablet PC screen, and then sent directly to the faculty member using Microsoft Outlook and the campus Microsoft Exchange server. Faculty members may markup or annotate the students' submission using their own TabletPC, and the results may be returned to the student via email.

Dr. Steven Gyszly and Dr. Timothy Chester, Chief Information Officer for TAMUQ, presented their findings at the 2005 Teaching with Technology Conference at Texas A&M University.

ITS will be working over the Summer 2005 break to put the 'Virtual Canvas' in the hands of all TAMUQ students and faculty. This includes the purchase, configuration, and distribution of 150 Tablet PCs to TAMUQ students, the installation of Symposium monitors and AirProjector wireless adapters throughout the Liberal Arts & Science (LAS) building. Training will be presented to students as a part of the Fall 2005 student orientation sessions.

ITS Launching High Performance Computing Resource

Education City will soon join Virginia Tech, the University of Southern California, and Texas A&M University as a host site for an Apple XServe-based high performance computing cluster. Information Technology Services (ITS) at TAMUQ is working in conjunction with Apple Computer and the Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University to launch this system by mid-summer 2005.

Clustered supercomputers consist of hundreds or thousands of inexpensive computers linked together using specialized communication software, together, these groups of computers can process information at speeds similar to the world's fastest supercomputers. What makes clustered supercomputing attractive is its relatively low cost, because they can be built at a fraction of the cost of traditional supercomputers.

Apple Computer has become a leader in higher performance computing with the introduction of its G5 XServe cluster nodes and UNIX-based operating system (Mac OS X Server). Each XServe node contains two 64-bit

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TAMUQ IT staff have completed installation of 75 additional cluster nodes, bringing the total number of nodes in the cluster to 101.

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P.O. Box 5825

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Telephone: 974-4927412

E-mail: aggieplatform@qatar.tamu.edu

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Texas A&M University at Qatar is part of Education City established by the Qatar Foundation

Minister Al-Attiyah Addresses Students

Wealth of opportunities exist for TAMUQ engineers in Qatar's energy industry



Photo far left: Minister Al-Attiyah addressing the students of TAMUQ. Photo left: Minister Al-Attiyah standing with Dr. James C. Holste, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Photo below: TAMUQ students in a group photo with Minister Al-Attiyah.



On April 5, 2005, His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy and Industry and chair of Qatar Petroleum, spoke to students at Texas A&M University at Qatar.

Minister Al-Attiyah's address was the first in what is envisioned as a series of lectures that will acquaint TAMUQ students with prominent government officials and business people from Qatar and throughout the world.

The purpose of Minister Al-Attiyah's lecture was to underscore the important role that engineers trained by TAMUQ will play in helping Qatar realize the future its leaders envision for the country.

"We believe that the huge industrial oil and gas projects are creating a great demand for highly specialized engineers," he told the student audience that filled the lecture hall in the Liberal Arts & Sciences building. "Competition for young professionals is soaring in Qatar. Only highly educated graduates that have strong work ethics will make it to the top."

Minister Al-Attiyah began his lecture by checking off a list of the huge gas and oil projects in the offing: 5 million tons of LNG per year to Petronet of India; 34 million tons of LNG per year to the Belgian Zeebrugge Terminal; 3 million tons of LNG per year to Spain.

Qatargas 3, a joint venture with ConocoPhillips, is expected to supply 7.8 million tons of LNG per year to the United States. Construction began this year on the \$12.8 billion Qatargas 2 project, which will supply 15.6 million tons of LNG to the United Kingdom and European markets. A deal was signed with Royal Dutch Shell for Qatargas 4, which will further boost Qatar's LNG capacity.

In fact, LNG capacity is expected to rise from 30 million tons per year in 2007 to 77 million tons per year in 2012.

"The world never believed us when we said Qatar would be the biggest gas-to-liquids producer in the world, but we are. And we will be producing 400,000 barrels per day by 2012," he said.

The list of projects continued—and, he said,

"The world never believed us when we said Qatar would be the biggest gas-to-liquids producer in the world, but we are."

**— His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy**

the opportunities for TAMUQ engineers are growing outside the gas fields, too. "Industrial diversification in Qatar includes downstream joint ventures that use natural gas and its derivatives to produce petrochemicals, fertilizers and other value-added products," said Minister Al-Attiyah.

All of these projects in the energy industry, as well as attendant projects in other sectors throughout Qatar, would require highly trained and motivated engineers.

"In terms of national and foreign investment, these projects involve tens of billions of dollars," he continued. "However, our success story does not begin or end with financial investment."

When Qatar began this marathon of growth a decade ago, he said, the country's leadership recognized the need to improve the business climate by promoting transparency and best practices, and the need to invest in the development of human capital by improving educational opportunities. Thus, he said, Education City was conceived, as well as its partnerships with world-class institutions, including TAMUQ.

After enjoining TAMUQ students to work hard and to help Qatar's leaders in steering the country toward continued, sustainable prosperity, Minister Al-Attiyah took questions from the audience.

"A few years ago, there were questions about what to do with women engineers," he said, in response to a question about the role well educated women are playing in Qatar's

economic boom. "Some thought women should be segregated, but how can we do that? That is not logical. We have great women engineers, they help comprise the great hard working team of people we have. We all work as one team."

He explained that Qatar has embarked on a Strategic Qatarization Plan in order to achieve a 50 percent Qatari workforce in the energy sector. For Qatarization to succeed, the country would have to develop and make use of the talents of all its citizens, male and female.

In any case, he explained, Qatarization does not mean that non-Qataris will be denied opportunities to contribute to Qatar's major projects.

"More than anything else, we work in a performance-based system, so we want quality people," Minister Al-Attiyah said.

Another student asked if a degree from TAMUQ would help him find employment in Qatar's energy sector.

"Texas A&M is one of the most respected universities in the world, and if I had to choose between two equal applicants, and one of them is from Texas A&M, I would choose the student from Texas A&M," Minister Al-Attiyah replied.

"But your success depends on you. You must be ready to face challenges and know how to continuously improve yourself. You are obtaining a fine education here and that is very important. But you must also challenge yourself and push yourself to achieve success."

The Aggie Spirit in Admissions and Records

If you were to ask Joe Estrada, Director of Admissions and Records at TAMUQ, how the campus' engineering program has generated an impressive increase in regional and global interest in such a short time, he would start by telling you about his staff.

"During one of our student interviews, the candidate was asked why she had chosen Texas A&M University at Qatar as the place to further her education, and she informed the committee that she had selected us because of how we interacted as a staff," Estrada said of the girl's response. "She said that the whole time she was in the office inquiring about the university she felt like she was in the middle of a family, one that loved and cared about each other and anyone else with whom they came into contact. She noted that it was then that she knew TAMUQ was for her."

"I work with a phenomenal group of caring, hardworking, and extraordinary people," Estrada said. "Building an office from barren ground involves more than simply establishing processes and policies. It involves thought, vision, and momentum. The Aggie Spirit embodies all these things, and I'm surrounded by a staff of people who are full of the Aggie Spirit."

This year Estrada's staff has processed more than 600 applications from 30 different countries, a dramatic increase from the 100 applicants only two years ago. This increase, he explained, is due in large part to recent technological advances and TAMUQ's strategic marketing plan.

Estrada credits the creation of an online admission application as a major reason for the increase in applications. This initiative, led by Gail Chester, the key records person, and Danna Gianforte, TAMUQ's lead software applications developer, has certainly made it easier and faster for students to complete their applications. Applicants even receive SMS updates regarding the status of their application. To better serve the students, the records area is also employing new technology. Online class registration and the ability to check grades online are now available—both services that have become very popular with the students.

"The addition of Norma Haddad, our Director of Public Affairs, has been vital to our success in marketing the engineering program quite broadly. Norma's keen experience has proven invaluable,"



“ We are a family that cares about one another, and we pay attention to and respect every single person who enters our offices to inquire about the university, regardless of their chances of admission. ”

—Joe Estrada, Director of Admissions
Texas A&M University at Qatar

Estrada said. "She knows the region, knows the market, and hence has helped us tremendously in dispensing news and information about our program both locally and regionally."

"Marketing involves us all," he said. "Every single person employed here and every student enrolled is a potential message ready to be given to someone, somewhere. If the message is positive and heartfelt, and truly reflects the spirit of the campus, the by-product is a widespread and successful campaign." Estrada said the marketing campaign includes print and electronic news, recruitment trips, contact with people

who influence students' university choice, and promoting the environment that is true to the foundation of the Aggie Spirit: family, friendship, and collegiality.

"To me," Estrada elaborated, "the girl's response about our office is a reflection of the environment we have created. We are a family that cares about one another, and we pay attention to and respect every single person who enters our offices to inquire about the university, regardless of their chances of admission. I think that the Aggie Spirit is quite alive in the Office of Admissions and Records."

Delegation from TAMUQ explores educational and research relationships in Jordan



Admissions representatives from Education City and conference guests at the 8th Jordan Education and Training Exhibition and Conference in Amman, Jordan.

The Admissions team at Texas A&M at Qatar (TAMUQ) has been participating along with Admissions representatives from the other universities in Education City in different educational exhibitions, conferences and fairs in the region in an effort to spread awareness of the programs offered in Qatar and to recruit qualified students. On December 2, 2004, a delegation from TAMUQ headed by Dr. W. Michael Kemp, Dean and

CEO, joined the Admissions team in Jordan during their participation in the 8th Jordan Education and Training Exhibition and Conference. As part of the planned activities during the conference, Dr. Kemp and Dr. Jim Holste, associate dean for academic affairs met with H.E. Dr. Zaabalawi, the minister of Higher Education of Jordan and heads and representatives of Universities in Jordan to discuss issues of common interest in the field



Dr. W. Michael Kemp meeting with H.E. Dr. Zaabalawi, minister of Higher Education of Jordan and a group of presidents from Jordanian Universities.

of Engineering, promote future collaboration in research and encourage an exchange of ideas for setting up a sabbatical program and potential scholarships. Dr. Kemp said, "We are most pleased to be here at the Jordan Education and Training Exhibition and Conference meeting new colleagues and exploring potential educational and research relationships with other regional universities'."

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS

Friends Forever and Forever Changed: A Transatlantic Exchange of More Than Just Students



by Shannon McNulty

Since the inception of Texas A&M University at Qatar in September of 2003, students from the College Station campus have traversed approximately 8,000 miles, one way, to visit Doha, Qatar. They have come to both meet the students of (TAMUQ) and to share some of the Aggie culture and traditions with them. As early as December of 2003, student delegations from Doha, Qatar have also had the opportunity to experience the main campus in College Station – to learn something about life in America, Texas, and as a student at TAMU.

A group of 10 students from College Station arrived at Doha International Airport late in the evening on March 12, 2005. The next day, the students toured all of Education City, participated in a “get-to-know-you” presentation conducted by both TAMU and TAMUQ students, had their first lunch with the students of TAMUQ, and, that evening, explored the traditional souks, their first of many shopping ventures in Qatar. The second day commenced with a city tour of Doha, and ended with an outdoor meal at Palm Tree Island, surrounded by the crystal blue waters of the Arabian Gulf.

The rest of the week’s highlights included trips to three unique museums, a tour of Shahaniyah (including stops at the national oryx farm and camel race tracks), and attendance at the first SPE student chapter meeting in Qatar. This was in addition to the daily dinners and lunches with the TAMUQ students, TAMUQ VIP’s, and Aggie Club members in Doha. On the last day, the female students from TAMU had a chance to get their hands painted with henna by a very artistic member of the TAMUQ sophomore class, Nayla Al-Malki.

Shortly following the TAMU students’ tearful departure on March 17, 2005, 10 students from TAMUQ embarked on an event-filled journey to the United States. After 44 hours, the final student

member and chaperone of the delegation arrived in Houston, TX on the morning of Saturday, March 26. The TAMUQ students’ first stop in Texas was the Houston Space Center, where the delegation was greeted and briefed by one of the Center’s astronauts, Mike Foreman. That day also included a shopping trip to the Post Oak Mall of Sugarland, TX and dinner at the home of one of the TAMU students, Nathan Ball.

The schedule for the five days to follow was packed! First, the students went on academically-relevant tours of the Zachry Engineering Center, the petroleum, mechanical, chemical, and electrical engineering departments, and the chemistry labs. Other TAMU facility tours included Kyle Field, the Association of Former Students, and Reed Arena. Meal events were at the homes of the President of the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Dawna Rosencranz of the Engineering Department, and Ed Solymosy. The students attended classes, an Aggie baseball game, and went shopping both on and off campus with a mission to purchase “Aggiewear.” Finally, a bowling tournament, breakfast with the Qatar campus’s Dean and CEO, and lunch with the Dean of the College of Engineering, completed the list of scheduled activities.

The students also spent time together informally in both Qatar and in the US, playing late-night soccer games, going out for ice cream, chatting during shopping trips, and just hanging out to get to know each other. However brief their visits may have been, each traveling student made a lasting impression on everyone he/she

came into contact with in the receiving country. The students from both campuses said that not only were their experiences in the host country unforgettable, but the friends they made on this trip are some of the best they have ever had.

List of students who participated:

TAMU students:

Nathan Ball
Tyler Giles
Katie Liddell
Samantha Markham
Parker Brenton
Hallie Pendleton
Micah Roehr
Sherry Spacek
Stephanie Wetch
Tice Parker

TAMUQ students:

Ali Dashti
Emad Daher
Maya Aziz
Zuhaib Abdin
Ahmed El-Sanadedy
Ahmed Al-Bikri
Saoud Al-Mannai
Nikhil Shanbhag
Nour El Cheikh Ali
Dina Nicola

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



Above left: Khalid and me in front of the Palace. Above right: Arabian Nights – Future Models! From left there is: me; Ameila – a theology major from Arizona, United States; Olya – from Russia; Simon – a business major studying in Germany; our local OSA and major saviour – Ibrahim; Roberto – from Ecuador.

e-education 2005 – An Experience of a Lifetime

by Megha Mohan

One day in the middle of last fall's semester, our English teacher, Ms. Leticia Salter, announced the option of writing a "real conference paper" in lieu of our assigned research paper. Writing a paper for a conference sounded intriguing, and there were some immediate synergies, but the immediate disadvantage was that of time constraints. Having a paper accepted to the **E-education Without Borders Conference** meant not only a good grade in English, but it also presented a fabulous opportunity for an all-expenses-paid trip to Abu Dhabi. With barely four weeks to research and draft a scholarly paper, **Khalid Al-Jufairi, Nikhil Shanbhag, Lama Al-Orieibi**, and I took on the challenge Ms. Salter presented.

The topic of this year's conference was to be how education via electronic media can be used to bridge the widening digital economic divide becoming so apparent in our world. It was easy to see how e-education would be a perfect tool to address the challenges of an obvious lack of top-notch professional programs available for students in developing countries, which was the basic topic of my paper. Each of the three of us, however, approached the topic differently, as did, as we found out, 500 other students. One of the most interesting discoveries was the limitless number of great ideas for using this developing medium.

Once our papers were accepted, we revised them based on constructive criticism provided by the conference staff and supplied a finished manuscript. On February 18, we all flew to Abu Dhabi.

Being held under the patronage of HRH Sheikh Nahyan, the Minister of Education, the E-education Without Borders Conference was literally without any borders. There were people from all walks of life and over 500 student participants from every

corner of the earth. Held in the newly opened Palace Hotel, this conference was truly a melting pot for culture. We all had roommates from different parts of the world and had the opportunity to mix with people from Indonesia to France, from Peru to Australia, from US to Ghana.

One of the ways the students got to learn more about each other was by separating the students into groups. Each group would have an average of 17 people from 17 different countries. The group would be headed by one of the international students from WSOC (World Student Organising Committee) and to support them would be one of the male students from the Higher College of Technology in Abu Dhabi. For three days these OSAs were like our parents, making sure everything ran smoothly and nobody was left behind in our group.

It was fascinating to see the cross-cultural commonalities we shared in exploring and, in some cases, stretching further the boundaries of this new pedagogy. We discussed not only the opportunities, but also the limitations and precautions a society must take with e-education. Angela Engel, this year's prizewinner, gave an interesting presentation about how e-education needs to be adapted for people who have disabilities affecting their reading abilities such as dyslexia. During her presentation, we were stunned to find that she was completely blind.

We participated in debates, discussions, and listened to speeches from distinguished people such as the manager of Intel and former ministers in the British and Indian governments.

This year's conference was an especially emotional one as the founder of the conference, HRH Sheikh Zayed, had passed away just a few weeks prior to the conference. Considered the

father of the modern Abu Dhabi emirate, the people and youth of Abu Dhabi paid tribute to him with a song and a speech.

In addition to the more serious aspects of e-education, there were plenty of activities that allowed us to unwind and just have fun! One of the most memorable events we experienced was a presentation of authentic Emirati culture with an Arabian desert night. All the girls were given *jalabiyas* and the boys the emirate style of *thoubes* and, in keeping with what you might expect in an Arabian night, everyone got a chance to wear henna or ride a camel. We even spoke with local Bedouin tribes. Another event where we saw the true diversity of the conference attendees was during the gala dinner where all delegates dressed in their national dresses. It made an interesting sight to see an elegant hall filled with people dressed in their national dresses, which ranged from kimonos to the traditional Spanish dresses complete with lace mantillas.

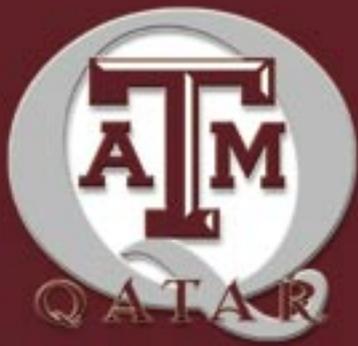
After staying in the conference for over three days, we all parted our ways and promised to keep in touch. When asked for his impression of the conference, my classmate, Nikhil Shanbhag, quickly said it "was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life." This year's E-education conference was a tremendous forum for students to meet and, considering that e-education will become more and more prevalent and necessary in our society, it is vital that we have more meetings like this one where we, the coming generation entering the work force, can exchange our own lessons about e-education. I hope more of our Texas Aggies will participate in the next E-education biennial conference in 2007 and see for themselves the one-world we really are.



Smile please! From left: Olha – studying medicine in Ukraine, Oksana – Ukraine.



Khalid and Nikhil with new friends.



Texas A&M University at Qatar End of Year Celebration 2005

End of Year Awards Highlight Ceremony Pages 9 and 10



Greg Klein and a group of TAMUQ Class of 2008 students.



Nicole Parker and Larry Potts.

Reception Overview *by Sinéad Mangan-McHale*

The culmination of an academic year of growth, development, achievement, and hard work on behalf of the Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMUQ) students, faculty members, and staff was the relaxed and well-deserved "End of Year Celebration" held in the Diplomatic Club on May 18, 2005.

There was, as with all Texas A&M events, a strong feeling of family and community. Students, parents, professors, and administrative staff greeted each other with genuine affection at the pre-dinner reception.

For members of TAMUQ, there were no huddled groups at the edge of the room. This multi-national group of friends, old and new, mingled and delighted in each other's company.

The students were relaxed, having completed their exams, and there was an air of anticipation and excitement about the awards following the dinner ceremony. The smiling faces, chattering in a multitude of languages and laughing, together contributed to a

wonderful party atmosphere.

Students were proud to introduce their parents to the faculty and put faces to names parents would have only heard about during the past year. Faculty members were pleased to be able to praise a son or daughter's achievements during the year.

It was also an opportunity to thank the spouses of all staff members for their patience and understanding for the long hours put in by their partners. It was a chance for these spouses to see the rewarding results of the hard work and effort of their partners.

It was amazing to be part of this group, watching the future leaders of Qatar's growth and development as they enjoyed themselves with enthusiasm.

Dean Dr. W. Michael Kemp, and his wife welcomed every guest and made them feel at home. This is, of course, an exhibition of the Aggie Spirit which was truly alive and well at the second annual End of Year Celebration for Texas A&M University at Qatar.

End of Year Ceremony

Following a wonderful dinner, the program of the evening began.

There was little formality in the friendly and heartening speeches or the joyful applause and cheering they all received. All the speakers greeted the guests with the ubiquitous 'Howdy', demonstrating the warm and friendly nature of the Texas A&M spirit.

After Dean Kemp's warm welcome and state of TAMUQ address, two students took the stage. Both students should be commended for their excellent presentation, especially Ameer Khader who spoke impromptu on behalf of the freshmen. Ameer only found out that he was speaking an hour before the dinner and despite this short notice, he gave a wonderful overview of life as a freshman. He thanked the sophomores for being so helpful to his fellow students during their first year and for giving them an excellent basis to start from and build on. His lasting impression

of this year was of a group of individuals working together as one student body and doing it well!

Representing the sophomore year, Miaad Al Boloshi, expressed her pride in having the opportunity to address all of the guests and to congratulate the students for finishing the year. She encouraged all the students to work hard and to learn from their mistakes quoting Thomas Edison, "I have not failed; I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work". She encouraged all the students to remember that they are Aggies and that makes them one of the best. Her lasting impression of this year was a blend of tears and laughter as well as many things that she will never forget combined with the relief and satisfaction that she has finally made it. She concluded her speech by motivating one and all - "Learn from yesterday, live for today and work for tomorrow".

Two heartfelt, funny, yet emotional farewell speeches brought a tear to many eyes. TAMUQ, while
(continued on page 8)

Photo Highlights of the TAMUQ



End of Year Ceremony *(continued from page 7)*

sad at the thought of losing two colleagues, Larry Potts, Human Resources Director, and Greg Klein, math faculty, took pride in celebrating their hard work, sense of community, team spirit and love of life. There was no shortage of accolades from colleagues, students and co-workers, comments were read and greeted with loud applause, cheers of agreement, and a spontaneous standing ovation. Larry and Greg were presented with traditional gifts from students and colleagues to remember their days at TAMUQ. We wish them all the best in their future and they are ensured the full and continuing support and friendship of the Aggie family.

The much-anticipated Award Ceremony followed. Students, faculty members, staff and families took pride in recognizing and publicly rewarding the hard work and effort put forth by the students. All of the students, not just the recipients of the awards, shared the sense of pride for the achievements.



This fantastic evening concluded with a brilliant and comprehensive visual review of the year, prepared by the TAMUQ Multi-Media Club. An array of pictures, accompanied by heart stirring music, beautifully captured and shared the wonderful academic, sporting, cultural and community moments and achievements of the TAMUQ 2004-2005 academic year.

Excerpts from Dean Kemp's Speech

Our 24 inaugural students have completed their sophomore year and it is these students that I would like to particularly commend. You are an amazing group of accomplished young men and women. You did not have upper classmen to help you, you had to set your own standards and traditions. You are living the Aggie Code without example and you have done it to the highest measure. We are very proud of you!

To our freshmen class, I entrust you to the guidance of your seniors but you too have responsibility to the new students joining us in the autumn. You must endeavor to provide these students with the framework to adjust to the expectations, standards, academic rigors, and social community of Texas A&M at Qatar.

To the parents here, I thank you for entrusting your son or daughter into our care. We assure you of our commitment to providing the best education in a safe and friendly environment. We do not apologize for working your children hard and always expecting the best results from them, we know and recognize their amazing potential. Together, you as parents and we as educators, along with their commitment and hard work will ensure their future success.

The university has experienced an exciting year of success and growth. I have never seen before students waiting at tutors doors at 6:30 a.m. That is unheard of at College Station, but at TAMUQ, it simply confirms the dedication and determination you have to successfully complete your studies. There is no doubt that TAMUQ is developing its own unique personality and that we, the faculty, the students and staff, are coming together as a family. Additionally, the university achieved full SACS accreditation. This is a remarkable milestone in our growth and development. SACS accreditation is a recognized endorsement of quality

Q End of Year Celebration 2005



End of Year Award Ceremony 2005



TAMUQ students proudly receive the Dean's Award from TAMUQ Dean, Dr. Michael Kemp: Ali Dashti, Class of 2008; Abdulla Al-Fehani, Class of 2007; Ameer Khader, Class of 2008

An essential and extremely popular ingredient of the 2005 TAMUQ End of Year Celebration was the Students Award Ceremony. While the two departing faculty members were warmly applauded, there was no question that the students were the real stars of the evening. In an educational and social environment, which proudly recognizes and acknowledges people as its most important asset, TAMUQ makes every effort to continually reward achievements. This night was all about reward, recognition and celebration.

Dean's Award

The first accolade to be awarded was the highly acclaimed Dean's Award. The purpose of this annually-presented award is to recognize the students citizenship and leadership skills in addition to academic excellence during the year.

Texas A&M has gained a worldwide reputation for producing graduates who possess not only the best education and technical skills but, equally important, leadership ability and a sense of community. The Dean's Award is a public acknowledgement of the students

who have worked hard to meet the institution's high standards. There is no definite number of awards given each year. It is a testament to the high caliber of students in TAMUQ that 11 students earned the award in 2005.

The dean who recognized awardees as "an exceptional group of students" presented the awards to rapturous applause. The proud students were called to the podium to collect their certificates of achievement and to have their photograph taken with the dean.

Dean's Award for Freshman Class of 2008

- ◆ Ali Dashti
- ◆ Safa Naufal
- ◆ Ahmed El Sanadedy
- ◆ Ameer Khader
- ◆ Sabla Al-Nouri
- ◆ Saoud Al-Mannai

Dean's Award for Sophomore Class of 2007

- ◆ Khalid Al-Meer
- ◆ Sara Al-Saadi
- ◆ Hessa Al-Missned
- ◆ Abdulla Al-Fehani
- ◆ Yousef Murad

Through their academic efforts,
(continued on page 10)

End of Year Award Ceremony 2005 (continued from page 9)

these students are developing their leadership skills and sense of community. They will set standards and expectations for the underclassmen, which will form the history of this evolving branch campus.



Aggie Spirit Award – Lama Al-Oreibi, Class of 2008, Petroleum Engineering Major

Living and honoring the Aggie Spirit is what makes TAMU students and graduates distinctive. The Aggie Spirit is about education, character, leadership, integrity, honor, and citizenship. It requires an Aggie to take responsibility for his/her own actions, life and community. Accepting and living this responsibility is a prerequisite to true leadership.

Selecting just one student who embodied this essence of commitment, dedication, and friendship – the Aggie Spirit – was a challenge. “All of you have these attributes and it was difficult to choose just one student” according to Dennis Busch, Director of Student Affairs. Faculty, staff and students voted for the student who exemplifies this spirit. It was immediately obvious by the spontaneous roars of jubilation, cheers, clapping, laughter and stamping of feet, that the choice of Lama Al-Oreibi was the right decision. This flamboyant, cheerful and positive young woman is living and enjoying the Aggie Spirit. Lama, who hails from Lebanon, told us,

“The unmatched Aggie spirit was one of the factors which drew me to Texas A&M University’s engineering program. The fun that we have here and the precious lifetime friendships that we have made so far are truly unforgettable.”

Each student, faculty member and staff member live the Aggie Spirit in the wonderfully multi-cultural environment of TAMUQ. Each one of them contributes to making the campus a welcoming place for all.

Lama Al-Oreibi was also a member of the team (**Khalid Al-Jufairi**, **Nikhil Shanbhag**, and **Megha Mohan**), which proudly represented TAMUQ at the ‘Education Without Borders Conference 2005’, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

(clockwise from top left): Dean’s Award recipient, **Ahmed El-Sanadedy**, Class of 2008; Dean’s Award recipient, **Khalid Al-Meer**, Class of 2007; **Bashar Hassna**, President of the Culture Exchange Club, accepts the Student Organization of the Year award from **Douglas Thornton**; **Lama Al-Oreibi** receives the Aggie Spirit Award from Academic Advisor, **Shannon Estrada**; Dean’s Award recipient, **Sabla Al-Nouri**, Class of 2008.

Leadership Awards

TAMUQ’s vision is to empower its students with not only academic qualifications, but also with the ability to contribute positively to their future work environment. One of the key attributes is leadership skills. Leadership is the ability to lead and to inspire others in a shared vision. The leaders of the future will need to foster an environment within their workplace that encourages risk taking, recognitions and rewards, and empowerment allowing other leaders to emerge.

The TAMUQ Leadership Award recognizes and honors a leader from both the freshman and sophomore classes who has demonstrated the above skills in their behavior and attitude to fellow students, faculty members, and staff. This award is made more significant because the students themselves vote for the recipients.

It was with great pride that the Freshman Leadership Award was awarded to **Ahmed Al Abdulla** – and the Sophomore Leadership Award to **Yousef Murad** – Yousef Murad could not attend the ceremony because he was representing Qatari students at the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan. Ahmed Al Abdalla expressed his joy and gratitude after receiving the award by saying, “It was a great moment when I received the trophy. I think it is an achievement for me and for all my brothers and sisters at TAMUQ for whom I hold all the love in my heart. I would like to thank all students, faculty and staff members who helped us and gave us the opportunity to discover our talents and expend our energy. Actually, I’m very lucky to be at TAMUQ because I think this experience will shape my leadership ability more and more and will help

me become a productive person in the future’.

Doug Thornton, Liberal Arts faculty, announced other student achievements and presented the Student Organization of the Year Award.

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

The MEPI is a USA Presidential initiative, founded to support economic, political, and educational reform efforts in the Middle East and to champion opportunity for all people of the region, especially women and young people.

Qualifying students must demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in both academic and social environments. Two students were selected to represent Qatar, including TAMUQ Sophomore, **Khalid Al-Meer**. While extremely proud to represent Qatar and TAMUQ, Khalid unfortunately had to decline due to other personal commitments.

Organization of the Year Award

The award ceremony progressed from individual achievements to recognizing the efforts of students working together to achieve a single purpose. In only two years, the students of TAMUQ have established several popular student organizations. The selection of the Student Organization of the Year Award was a well-fought battle. In the end, the students’ votes were tallied and a clear winner emerged, the **Cultural Exchange Club**. The President, **Bashar Hassna**, proudly accepted this award on behalf of his colleagues and was greeted with cheers of support.

The club’s mission is two-fold:
1) Its members seek to educate

students not only about Qatari culture and traditions, but also about other cultures, particularly those reflecting the multi-national students at TAMUQ. 2) the members want to work with fellow students to “improve their energy for life and study through competitions and challenges”. Competitions such as the Metallic-Brain (the club’s second semester kick-off activity) are a blend of physical and mental challenges, encouraging both individual achievement and team spirit.

One of the club’s key objectives for the forthcoming academic year is to foster the parents’ relationship with the university and to consolidate TAMUQ’s relationship with other universities in Education City. As Bashar Hassna succinctly stated, “to work as one hand”.

The Cultural Exchange Club is keen on demonstrating the history and development of Qatar from its culture and traditions of fishing and pearl diving to today’s fast growing LNG and technological industries.

Dennis Busch concluded the award ceremony with one final award.

Student Worker of the Year Award

The final award of the evening was a last minute addition to a wonderful celebration and was chosen by the Library Department. The staff selected one student as “Student Worker of the Year”. The winner of this new award was **Megha Mohan**, sophomore, petroleum engineering major.

The prize-giving celebration concluded with a well-deserved standing ovation for the students of TAMUQ, in recognition of their hard work and pioneering spirit.

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS

The student body elected the Student Council representatives for the 2005-2006 academic year as follows:

President: Ahmed Al-Abdullah

Sophomore Representatives: Mohammed Al-Kuwari, Sara Al-Saadi, Yousef Murad

Freshman Representatives: Ali Ahmed, Saoud Al-Mannai, Samah Mansoor, Ebtesam Yousuf

Congratulations to these students!

Four freshmen representatives will be elected during the fall semester.



The basketball and soccer teams of the TAMUQ Sports Club performed exceptionally well this year! The basketball team won 2 out of 3 games, securing victories against both Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) and the Four Seasons Hotel. The soccer team went undefeated, with a 4-1 score against the Aeronautical Institute, a 4-1 score against WCMC-Q, 25-1 against CMU-Q, and 4-2 against the ABP. Both teams expect to play against other Education City institutions during the next academic year. Supporter turnout at the games was especially instrumental in helping to boost the morale of the players, especially for the soccer team. Gig 'em Aggies!



Texas A&M students study hard and play hard.

Chemical Engineering major, **Mohammed Rajaa**, enjoyed demonstrating his driving skills to his peers and the rest of Qatar 'where the rubber meets the road' when he was placed third out of 60 contestants in a recent 3 km grand prix style race at nearby Losail Race Track. Asked when he began racing cars, his reply was simply: "when they were my toys." Like all boys and their toys, Mohammed grew up and so did his toys. His first real car was his mother's small Pontiac Firefly, but, today, his weekday campus vehicle and weekend race-car is an apple-red Chevrolet Lumina. After this trip down victory lane, however, he says he's eyeing "something a little better, a little faster."

'Schway, shway' (slowly, slowly) out on the streets of Doha, okay Mohammed?

The Aggie Platform Roving Reporter: "Can you tell us something about yourself?"



Maida Skorupan Class of '08:

My name is Maida Skorupan. I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the junction of monotheistic religions. Working in a multicultural environment has helped me not only to understand better subjects being taught, but also to understand how other people perceive the world, three years ago my life took a sudden change of course. I was one of only a few Bosnian students who were offered the opportunity to continue their studies at Qatar Academy here in Doha. I was excited and afraid of disappointment at the same time. I was not aware of the society: the only thing I knew was that Qatar was a Muslim country. However, coming to Doha made me realize how tradition, culture and religion can be closely related. I met so many people coming from so many different backgrounds and realized that we are all the same. We laugh the same way, we cry the same way

and we love the same way. After I finished my International Baccalaureate at Qatar Academy, I realized that I was part of this environment and culture so I decided to stay and get my university degree here in Doha. At first I was not sure what I wanted to be so I started talking to people in the different universities in Education City. Every university I visited could be placed on one side and Texas A&M University on the other. It was just not the matter of university itself but also it was a matter of people. At TAMUQ, it felt like being part of a big family. This was what I was looking for and it was obvious to me that it was Texas A&M at Qatar where I wanted to be. At the end, there is no day when I do not think how strange God's ways are, and with His help and guidance, my hard work and strong will, I will be able to complete one of my journeys. It is not only the degree that I am getting but also a family that I will never forget – Aggie family.

Khalid Al-Meer Class of '07:

"I didn't choose to join Texas A&M University, but I did choose to continue my life under the name of Aggie!" My name is Khalid Al-Meer. I was born in March, 1984 in the wonderful city of Doha. I acquired a good education in the schools of Qatar until I graduated from Ahmed Bin Hanbal Secondary School in 2002, with a cumulative percentage of 94.8%. It was time then to decide which field of studies I wanted to choose. I did not have any specific plan in my mind, but the most important thing for me was to continue my education abroad. I wanted to leave Qatar, and start an independent life far away from my parents' control over my life. After spending a whole year at the Academic Bridge Program, Qatar Petroleum, my sponsor corporation, decided that I should study Petroleum Engineering in an American university that would soon open in Qatar. "Will I study here in Qatar? No way!" This was



my first reaction towards Qatar Petroleum's decision. I did not even bother to ask about the name of the university that shattered my dream. As days harshly passed, I started to ask more about this university. I discovered that Texas A&M University, the coming institution, is considered to be one of the best engineering institutions in the United States. Furthermore, more than 45,000 students study at the main campus in College Station. These facts encouraged me to start my new life, the Aggie life! The two years that I spent at Texas A&M University at Qatar proved to me that the Aggie life is different than all periods of life I had experienced. In addition to the high quality education I am getting, I feel that I'm making new friends every semester. As time passes, these friends become very close to me. Actually, it feels like we are all a part of one big family, the Aggie family!

TAMUQ CAMPUS EVENTS



H.E. Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamad bin Ali Al-Thani, Cultural Advisor, Qatar Foundation (QF) (center) opening the exhibition with Mrs. Diana Untermeyer on the right and Dr. Saif Al Hajari, Vice-chair, QF.



An Evening of Art and Poetry

On the evening of Wednesday, March 16, the Maroon Club at Texas A&M University at Qatar, in collaboration with TAMUQ Library, had the pleasure of hosting an evening of art and poetry. Called Foonon Wa Mwaheb – “Creativity and Talent” – the event showcased some of the artwork and poetry created by several up-and-coming student artists from TAMUQ and the neighbouring campuses in Education City.

Foonon Wa Mwaheb was conceived as a light-hearted and fun competition, providing both amateur and professional artists a chance to compete in separate categories to win a variety of prizes donated by local businesses.

A professional Jury selected from among renowned local and expatriate artists, poets and art experts evaluated all entries. Three awards were presented in each category (Arts and poetry). Additionally, on the day of the ceremony, the attendees voted for their preferred displayed art and poem and the winners were presented with the People's Choice Award.

Students, professors, and guests flocked to the displays as the evening began, appreciating and discussing the artwork with one another. Many in attendance were impressed by the calibre of paintings, designs and poems.

Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamad bin Ali Al-Thani, the cultural affairs

advisor at Qatar Foundation and an artist himself said: “This is a great way for me to see the kind of work our youth are creating and also gives me a glimpse as to what our future artists are capable of doing.” He also said that he was encouraged by the quality of artwork. So were many of the students in attendance: TAMUQ students Amna al-Motawa and Aeysha al-Khuleifi were stunned by what they saw.

“This was an amazing evening, it was great to see the talent and potential talent of our peers,” Amna said.

Dr. Saif Ali Al-Hajari, vice chair of Qatar Foundation, concurred, saying events like this serve great purposes. “It is very important to host programs like this,” he said. “Not only does it encourage students to appreciate the artistic

side of life, but it also gives a chance for them to appreciate the importance of balancing the science and art world together.”

Dr. Al-Hajari was impressed by the various pieces and said he hoped this event would promote more people to take an interest in art.

“Art is an important part of life and has many links with science,” he added.

“Softly call the Muster, let comrade answer ‘Here’...”

On April 21, 2005, students of Texas A&M University at Qatar participated with Aggies throughout the world in celebrating the 122nd anniversary of Aggie Muster. On June 26, 1883, some of the first graduates of Texas A&M (then called the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas) held a class reunion and sports field day to meet old college friends. Because Texas A&M was then an all-male military college, it was natural for these annual gatherings to be called *musters*: a word which means “to gather soldiers together”. Soldiers may be “mustered” for inspection by their superior officers or to collectively receive news/orders or, in a less formal sense, to enjoy one another’s company.

In 1903 this annual reunion was held in College Station on April 21st: “Texas Independence Day”. It was on that day in 1836 that Texans won their freedom from Mexico in the famous Battle of San Jacinto. From that time forward, the date had a special significance for all Texans. In 1922 the tradition became an official Aggie celebration, with the date of Muster permanently fixed as April 21st.



Muster speaker, Dr. Curtis Elliot Farmer.

Beginning in 1923, former students began holding Muster throughout Texas, the nation and numerous other parts of the world. Although the largest Muster celebration occurs each year on the main campus in Texas and may draw as many as 20,000 participants, any group of Aggies may hold a Muster wherever they happen to be. Thus, members of the Aggie Club of Doha (many A&M graduates are working in the Qatar oil industry) met with students, faculty, and staff in Doha this year for the second annual TAMUQ Muster.

Because of the military history of the university, a tradition evolved

from early reunions where all Aggies were to “report in,” as if a soldier reporting for duty. As graduates began to age and pass away, and particularly after Aggie soldiers died in World War I, the tradition further evolved to allow a living person to answer “here” when the name of a deceased Aggie was called, so that all Aggies could be said to be “present”. In time, the annual “muster roll” became a list of Aggies who had died since the previous Muster. Often a friend or relative would speak the word “here” on behalf of their departed loved one, making it an emotional moment for all.



Closing remarks delivered by Ahmed El Sanadedy, freshman class.

Muster consists of speeches, a traditional Aggie poem, the school song (The Spirit of Aggieland), the roll call, lighting of a candle for each Aggie whose name appears on the annual muster roll, and the playing of taps (a short music piece played on a trumpet or bugle symbolizing both the ending of a day and respect for a soldier who has died). TAMUQ students who participated in the 2005 ceremony called it both beautiful and moving. The tradition of Aggie Muster is just one part of what makes Texas A&M University such a special place.

by C. Elliott Farmer

QSO

QATAR SUPPORT OFFICE

Your Link To Qatar



QSO staff, visiting TAMUQ students, and former TAMUQ faculty Mark Bell pause for a group photo at the house of Brig. General Edmond Solymosy in College Station, TX.



Susan Mathews

Relocating Faculty and Staff

One of the many duties of the Qatar Support Office is relocation of new faculty and staff to the Qatar campus. For the fall semester we will relocate approximately eight new faculty members and five new staff members. QSO will work with these faculty and staff members from various locations to make their relocation transition as smooth as possible.

New Staff Joining the Qatar Support Office

The Qatar Support Office (QSO) welcomes two new staff members to their office, Susan Mathews and Mark Bell. Susan Mathews joined the QSO team on April 1st, as the new Assistant to the Director, Susan Williamson. Although Susan Mathews is new to our office, she has been with International Programs for one year in the Institute for Pacific Asia, and with Texas A&M University for four additional years at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. Susan brings to the office many excellent skills and she is a great addition to the team.

Mark Bell returned to the main campus from TAMUQ in January of 2005. Mark is currently teaching in the Center for Academic Enhancement. In addition to teaching, Mark is working with QSO as a Program Assistant. Mark is assisting with the various student programs related to the Qatar campus, he helped make the Doha/College Station Student Leadership Exchange program that took place in March 2005 a successful experience for all involved. QSO is pleased to have Mark as part of the team. Welcome to QSO, Mark and Susan!

Arabic Language Program

The Qatar Support Office is working with the College of Engineering on a pilot program for Arabic Language. This program will be offered in coordination with Montana State University. The program will be offered to faculty and staff, as well as their families relocating to the campus as well as students interested in the Spring Leadership Exchange Program. This is a non-credit bearing course for the students. The program will start on August 29, 2005.

Student Programs

QSO will again be working with the TAMUQ Student Affairs Office to plan another Spring Leadership Exchange program. The importance of this leadership program was demonstrated this past Spring as the first exchange program took place. Ten students from TAMU spent one week in Doha, Qatar, and ten students from TAMUQ spent one week in College Station, Texas, both sets of students agreed the experience was life changing. These students made life-long friends and experienced two very different cultures.

7th Annual Boot Scoot is a huge success



Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice President and Provost, TAMU (center), with Dr. W. Michael Kemp, Dean and CEO, TAMUQ (right) and Larry Potts, retiring Director of Human Resources Services, TAMUQ (left).

On February 11, 2005, the Doha A&M Club held the seventh annual Boot Scoot in the Doha Sheraton Hotel ballroom. What started out seven years ago as a "small dinner" for Aggies living and working in Qatar has rapidly become one of THE social events of the year for the expatriates in the area. This year's Boot Scoot, organized by Doha Club president, Rusty Martin, along with Elizabeth and Carter Crites, enjoyed an attendance of over 350 A&M

graduates, family members, friends, and TAMU-Qatar branch campus faculty and staff members. Also present was H.E. Chase Untermeyer, the United States Ambassador to Qatar, his wife Diana and a delegation headed by Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice President and Provost of Texas A&M.

"Every penny we make is given to charity," said Cynthia Crites. "This year, through the addition of a great silent auction



Guests enjoying line dancing.

and raffle, we were able to contribute over \$15,000 to local charities." When they were not dancing to the lively country and western music provided by a local DJ or table-hopping, the attendees fiercely vied for elegant oriental carpets generously donated by Ghassan Furnishings and Reshi Interiors of Doha, framed prints by College Station artist, Benjamin Knox, handcrafted furnishings, and airline tickets donated by

Continental Airlines.

The real winners, however, were the beneficiaries: The American School of Doha and the Doha English Speaking School. The students of both these schools will long-enjoy the fruits of this increasingly popular event, further proving the Spirit of Aggieland is still strong even in this far away land.

The date for next year's Boot Scoot has been set for February 24, 2006.

The Right Stuff

When it comes to developing new technologies and improving old ones, it's all material

From superconductors to cell phone displays, from industrial vinyls to nanotechnology, advancements in materials science are the bases for most great intersections between technology, business and society.

Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), with its commitment to innovation and practical problem-solving, saw fit to co-host with Qatar University the International Conference on Materials Research and Education: Future Trends and Opportunities, held April 4-6.

The conference was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation and sponsorship by the Materials Research Institute at Northwestern University, Texas A&M University at Qatar, the University of Qatar, the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and Qatar's Science and Technology Park.

The conference drew more than 70 of the world's leading materials science researchers and educators to discuss near-and long-term strategies for cooperation and development in the region and around the world.

"The mission of this particular conference fits in well with a number of things we do," said Dr. James C. Holste, associate dean for academic affairs at TAMUQ. "In addition to the academic aspects of the conference, especially regarding research trends and educational ideas, there is the idea of becoming a focal point for generating partnerships. That's how the organizers of this conference see themselves, and that's how we see ourselves as well."

The conference was the sixth in a series organized by Dr. R. P.H. Chang, director of the Materials Research Institute at Northwestern University. Previous conferences, all sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation, have been held in Belgium, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and the U.S. This was the first in the series to be held in the Middle East, and it drew representatives from research universities throughout the Gulf and the Middle East – Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates – as well as from institutions in the United States.

"There are a lot of people and organizations in this region who are doing interesting work, and addressing fascinating problems," said Dr. Paras N. Prasad, professor of chemistry, physics and electrical engineering at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Prasad gave a presentation on nanotechnology on the conference's opening day. "What we hope to do at this conference is open lines of communication between these people."

Materials science research finds commercial applications in any industry one cares to name. The applications in the energy and medical industries are of special interest to Qatar, according to Dr. Holste. But materials science is also uniquely valuable as a teaching tool, according to



Dr. Chang, because it draws on so many fields of knowledge – chemistry, physics, biology, engineering disciplines – and addresses such a diverse array of practical problems.

"Materials science has vast potential for improving overall science literacy," said Dr. Chang. "It helps students acquire the complex interdisciplinary ideas that are the basis for all science and technology."

The first two days of the conference took place in the Liberal Arts and Sciences building at Education City, TAMUQ's temporary home. The first day's programming consisted of plenary sessions, in which all the invitees

listened to presentations and discussed common issues of interest and avenues for collaboration and partnership. On the second day the invitees broke into groups according to their fields and special interests.

Topics included energy materials, advanced materials, infrastructure, preserving cultural heritage and materials education.

The third day of programming was hosted by Qatar University, where the discussion turned specifically to education. In the afternoon of the third day, the attendees worked toward producing reports of recommended strategies to serve as a planning resource for administrators, funding agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders.

"I think the report that comes out of this conference will prove it to have been quite a success," said Dr. Chang, who added that the final document might take a month or two to be completed. "There were some fascinating and fruitful conversations."

It is hoped that researchers and educators in the region who attended the conference will join the Materials World Network (MWN), a related project of the Materials Research Institute. The MWN, which already has partners on every continent and will celebrate its tenth anniversary this August, is an interdisciplinary organization that aims to encourage global collaboration on materials science research and applications.

"The conversations that took place here will be regarded as a huge success if several long-term cooperative efforts result – between regional institutions, with the private and public sectors and with partners outside the region," says Dr. Holste. In any case, he continued, "This will not be the last conference like this we will host. This is what we do – it's one of the benefits we bring to Education City and to Qatar."

TAMUQ students were invited to lunch to meet the participants at the conference.



Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Wahab, TAMUQ engineering faculty presented a project, 4 years in the making, with Dr. Bill Batchelor entitled "An Innovative Technology for Recycled Industrial Wastewater Treatment". This project was selected with another project out of 15 funded by the Texas Hazardous Waste Research Center (THWRC) to be included in the Center's 2004 newsletter. THWRC operates under the authority of the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System. The Mission of THWRC is to coordinate integrated research programs and innovative technologies to provide protection for human health and the environment at a reasonable cost. The project focused on studying multi-component removal such as chloride, sulfate, and silica in addition to the major scalants from re-circulating cooling water by precipitation using ultra-high lime with aluminum (UHLA) process.



UHLA is a new technology that was developed in this project and it is not limited to treatment of recycled industrial cooling water, but could be applied to many different water treatment systems such as treatment of brines prior to evaporation/crystallization, and pretreatment before desalination in order to improve water recoveries and membrane life."

Dr. Timothy M. Chester, CIO/Computer Science Faculty, published an article "Working Overseas: Implementing Technology for an International Branch Campus" in Educause Quarterly. The article covers the experiences of the technology team as they prepared for the start of TAMUQ classes in September of 2003. It can be accessed at <http://www.educause.edu/pub/eq/eqm05/eqm0528.asp?bhcp=1>



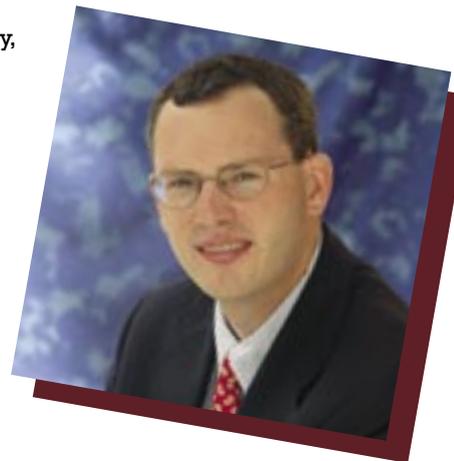
Dr. Khalid Qaraq, Engineering faculty, participated in the Second IFIP International Conference on Wireless and Optical Communications Networks WOCN 2005, March 6 - 8, 2005 in Dubai. His speech focused on aspects, such as 3G applications, 3G standard releases, business models industry structure and some of the key issues of the handover from 2G to 3G services. 3G were envisioned as the technology that would help wireless carriers reduce their dependence on voice services, and transition to a new data-centric world. Deploying successful wireless high-speed services has been proved much more challenging than anticipated. The evolution of mobile communications beyond today's second generation raises a host of issues, technical as



well as commercial. Additionally, Dr. Qaraq presented an optimization model for 3G deployments that is applicable for the pre deployments and in service optimization to enhance the network capacity and its performance.

Dr. David Work, history faculty, published an article this spring "The Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont, 1909-1913," Vermont History 73 (Winter/Spring 2005): 63-75.

The article describes the activities of the Tenth US Cavalry regiment, an African American unit, in the state of Vermont. The regiment's assignment to Burlington, Vermont, brought a wave of hysteria, as many Vermonter's did not want this black army regiment assigned to their state, and there were even some demands to impose Jim Crow segregation. In the end, no such segregation was imposed and the local white community



accepted the regiment. While in Vermont, the Tenth Cavalry participated in local parades and fairs, field maneuvers, and a variety of social activities.

ITS Launching High Performance Computing Resource *(continued from page 2)*

2.3 GHz IBM PowerPC 970 processors. In 2003, Virginia Tech launched the world's first G5 based cluster, dubbed System X. System X consisted of 1100 nodes (that's 2200 processors) capable of processing information at a speed of 17.6 teraflops, or 17.6 trillion floating point calculations per second. When introduced, System X was briefly ranked as the world's fastest supercomputer. Virginia Tech is now working to upgrade their system so that it is capable of 50 teraflops (System L) and, ultimately, 100 teraflops (System C).

The system in Education City, dubbed SAQR (Supercomputing Applications in Qatar for Research), consists of 100 XServe nodes located in the Liberal Arts & Science (LAS) building. SAQR will be linked to a separate 100 node

What makes clustered supercomputing attractive is its relatively low cost. Because clusters consist of hundreds of less expensive computers, they can be built at a fraction of the cost of traditional supercomputers.

XServe cluster residing at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. The systems will be connected using Internet2 and the Education City network. The clusters will be used primarily for fluid research by faculty in Texas A&M's College of Engineering, including faculty residing in Qatar. Both clusters will be continually upgraded in order to increase processing power and to take advantage of the latest technology.

Texas A&M University is working with the

Qatar Foundation to locate SAQR in a permanent home in the new national data center to be located in the Education City Science & Technology Park. It is expected that SAQR will become one of the first resources to occupy the national center. Once there, SAQR will be available to support research by Education City faculty members and organizations residing in the research park.

Due to popular demand the following training courses were offered again during the spring semester:

Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 Intermediate
Working with tables, word art, graphs and organization charts.

Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 Advanced
Working with Multimedia (sound, video) other programs and the Internet.

Microsoft Frontpage 2003 Foundation
Learning the fundamentals, creating web pages and web sites, formatting web pages and working with images.

Microsoft Frontpage 2003 Intermediate
Working with links, navigation viewing, tables, and frames, creating forms, and learning to use cascading style sheets and dynamic web templates.

Microsoft Excel 2003 Intermediate
Learning more functions and formulas, working with lists and other programs and automating tasks with macros.

Microsoft Excel 2003 Advanced
Using Excel with the Internet, data analysis and pivot tables.

Microsoft Outlook 2003 Intermediate
Using the calendar, the tasks list, the journal and advanced e-mail features.

Microsoft Outlook 2003 Advanced
Organizing and finding information and collaborating with other users.

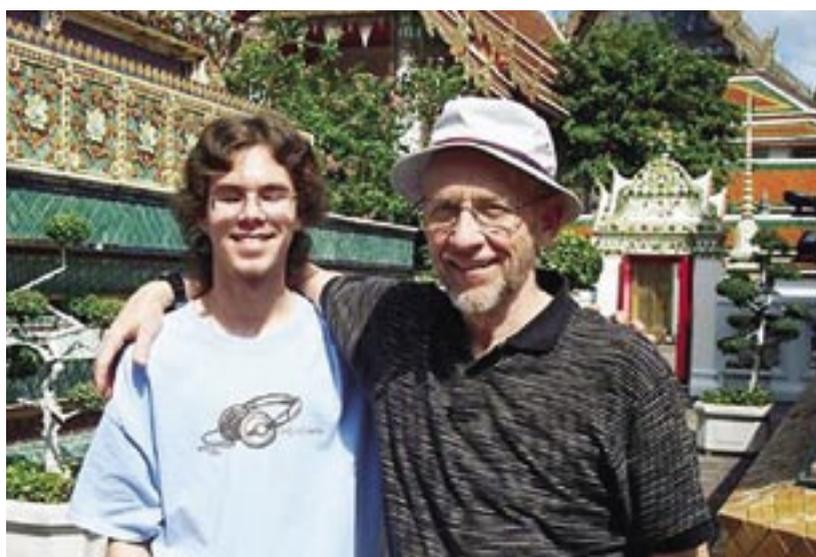
Contact the ITS department at 492-7493 or send an e-mail to nashwa.fahmy@qatar.tamu.edu for information on upcoming training courses.

25 Years of Service

When TAMUQ Director of Human Resources Services Larry Potts retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force, he could have never known that his next job would also span decades and continents. Colonel Potts' twenty-four year military career as a human resources officer included stints in Germany, Italy, the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and, his last duty station before retirement, San Antonio, Texas.

His retirement would begin only a couple hundred miles from San Antonio in College Station, Texas, where he had accepted a position with Texas A&M's Department of Family and Community Medicine to be Texas A&M's first ever Academic Business Administrator. It was the summer of 1980 and there were 33,499 students at TAMU's College Station campus, more than double the student population of only ten years earlier. Because of this quick growth, the university was trying to proportionately balance the number of faculty and staff to the needs of the student body. The expansion that created Larry's first position at Texas A&M would also give him the opportunity to again use his human resources experience only eleven months after coming to Texas A&M.

Larry was appointed the Compensation Manager in the Human Resources Department in June of 1981. Just as in his military career, Larry would rise in rank through the years and ultimately serve as Associate Director of Human Resources. He was responsible for developing the pay plan for all university employees and classifying university jobs. Later, he assumed management of the University Employment Office in addition to acting as the university's Affirmative Action Officer, ensuring the university was in compliance with federal regulations that guarantee fair hiring practices. In 1999, Larry received the Division of



Larry and grandson Court who lives in Qatar with him on a trip to Bangkok.



Court's Court of Honor.

Administration's A+ Service Award for his dedication and service to the TAMU Office of Human Resources.

With more than twenty years of experience at Texas A&M, Larry was the perfect candidate for the Director of Human Resource Services of TAMUQ. He was looking forward to the challenge of building the TAMUQ staff from the ground up. And build he has. When he was hired in the summer of 2003, TAMUQ had fewer than ten employees and now has over 50 faculty and staff. Add to that the number of student workers now employed by TAMUQ and Larry has seen a 500% employee growth rate in his two year stay at TAMUQ.

"TAMUQ is a great enterprise. It is destined to become a significant force in the Arabian Gulf area. The students are eager to prepare themselves for service to their country," Larry said. "The opportunity to participate in this worthy endeavor has been rewarding, gratifying and downright fun. It's a great way to wrap up my fifty years in human resource management."

Larry's expertise and guidance have laid a strong foundation to support the future of TAMUQ's human resources. Part of his lasting impact on TAMUQ was the hiring of Gloria Schwind as the new Director of Human Resources. Interestingly, she started in the

“ TAMUQ is a great enterprise. It is destined to become a significant force in the Arabian Gulf area. ”

— Larry Potts, Retiring Director of Human Resource Services Texas A&M University at Qatar

TAMU Office of Human Resources on the same day in 1981 as Larry Potts. She most recently served as Assistant Director of Human Resources for Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, a research organization associated with Texas A&M. Gloria is a welcomed addition to TAMUQ, and her experience in human resources will greatly benefit the staff.

"It goes without saying that Larry Potts will be sorely missed at TAMUQ. Although I had known and worked with Larry on the Main Campus for over 20 years, I really did not have a perspective on the

depth of his knowledge, wisdom and professionalism until we worked together in Qatar. He has been a critical player in the establishment of TAMUQ and getting it started on the proper HR footing. We wish him God Speed with his future endeavors," said TAMUQ Dean and CEO Dr. Michael Kemp.

So, on June 15, 2005, Larry will shut down his computer and end a career that began in the age of paper and pen. His retirement will again bring him to College Station, Texas, but this time relaxation and time with his family are his only assignments.

The new staff who have joined the Texas A&M at Qatar Community in recent months:

Welcoming

Gloria Schwind, Director of Human Resources Services
Corey Wengreen, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration
Leigh Hausman, Senior Lead Systems Engineer

In February TAMUQ hosted two librarians from College Station

Charles Gilreath, Executive Associate Dean of Libraries, and Jeannie Miller, Director of Science/Engineering Services. Their visit was aimed at assessing issues related to library support for TAMUQ both in Doha and as those services are made available through the College Station campus. In addition, this visit provided an opportunity for TAMU Libraries administrators to learn more about the evolving library environment within Education City. During their stay Gilreath and Miller were able to meet with other librarians in Education City as well as library leaders and faculty at Qatar University and committee members of the Qatar National Library.

Mr. Gilreath also led a seminar titled "Challenges Facing Libraries in the Digital Age," focusing on opportunities for growth of library services in Education City, Qatar, and the Gulf



Suzanne Gyeszly, Director of Library (center) with Charles Gilreath, TAMU Executive Associate Dean of Libraries (right) and Jeannie Miller, Director of Science/Engineering Services (left).

Region. He noted that the work that is being done by the Education City Central Library planning committee would greatly benefit the overall future of Education City and local Qatari users. It will enhance collections, services, access and procedures. He remarked as well that the upcoming Education City Central Library is far more than simply a new building and adequate staff. The broader roles envisioned for the new library point to a new level of inter-institutional cooperation not only among Education City partner institutions but also potentially with libraries across Doha and throughout the region. "Now is not too early," he said, "to begin the difficult and complex work of establishing those organizational relationships which the new library can serve once it is built."