

منبر الآجي

# The Aggie Platform

*News from Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Volume 3, Number 1

October/November 2006



**First  
Aggie  
Rings  
Awarded  
at  
TAMUQ**



Texas A&M University at Qatar faculty preparing for the annual Academic Convocation. For the 2006-2007 Academic Year, the first time all four years of the Engineering Program has been offered, TAMUQ now has forty-eight faculty members.

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**The Aggie Platform**  
News from Texas A&M University at Qatar

Dr. Charles Bowman, *Interim Dean and CEO*

Published by  
The Office of Public Affairs

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Texas A&M University  
at Qatar

**ENGINEERING**

جامعة تكساس إي أند إم في قطر



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## Aggies In the Middle East

Graduates of Texas A&M University who live in the Middle East and future graduates of Texas A&M at Qatar now have a way to stay connected to each other. Texas A&M's alumni organization, The Association of Former Students, has created a virtual community where Aggies living and working in the Middle East can contact each other and share news and information. The online portal, called "Aggies In the Middle East" (AIME), allows Middle East Aggies to find out about Aggie events in their area, as well as read news and updates from Texas A&M at Qatar.

The Association of Former Students has three official chartered A&M Clubs in the region; Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar. The club members are graduates of Texas A&M (called "former students") and their families, and they host social and fundraising events. The clubs help Aggies stay connected to each other and Texas A&M. Many clubs get together to watch Aggie football games and celebrate Aggie holidays.

With the establishment of Texas A&M at Qatar, Aggies in the Middle East now have their university in their own backyard despite living half-way around the globe from the main campus. Former Students of Texas A&M's main campus living in Doha were a very important part of establishing the Qatar campus. Texas A&M at Qatar has been visited by many former students in its first three years, but now there are official ways to get involved in campus programs. They can serve as mentors for current students, speakers for classes or student organizations, and liaisons to locate more Aggies in their respective areas. For some, as industry partners, they will also have access to many

research facilities in the new Engineering Building slated to open next year.

In conjunction with the official celebration ceremonies for Texas A&M's new home in Education City, former students from all over the region will be invited to attend an Aggie Summit in Doha this March. If you are a former student of Texas A&M or an Aggie at heart, contact alumni@qatar.tamu.edu for more information on how you can get involved with Texas A&M at Qatar. To join the online community for Aggies In the Middle East or to update your information, visit <https://www.aggienetwork.com/AIME>



Aggies In the Middle East virtual community currently includes the following features:

- Community Online Directory
- Friends List
- Mentoring Functionality
- Job Posts
- Job Requests
- User News and Events Alerts

**Join Aggies in the Middle East:**

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/AIME>

**Questions?:** alumni@qatar.tamu.edu

## Texas A&M University at Qatar ONLINE

Texas A&M University at Qatar has recently unveiled a new look for the campus website. It offers more content than the previous version and a full calendar of events. TAMUQ Information Technology Services and the Office of Public Affairs appreciate the continued feedback on how to improve the website and welcome all questions or comments about the site.

Check out

<http://www.qatar.tamu.edu>

to see what's new!





## Supercomputing Day 2006

On September 13, 2006, Texas A&M University at Qatar hosted its annual "Supercomputing Day" conference in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Building on the Education City Campus. This year the theme of the conference was "Celebrating Faculty Research" and was attended by 75 faculty, researchers, and industry professionals from the United States, Europe, and Qatar. The program consisted of nine papers, which were submitted by faculty researchers in the areas of Math, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Physics. Each of the presentations relied on SAQR ("Supercomputing Applications in Qatar for Research") for grid computing and advanced computational data processing.

SAQR is the product of the shared vision of Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ) and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. The platform is designed to enhance education, research, and development in the Arabian Peninsula by bringing leading-edge

*Left:* TAMU PhD candidate Mr. Kasthuri Kannan, who is conducting research in residence at TAMUQ, presented to Supercomputing Day participants how he is using SAQR to research multipole based approximation algorithms. *Right:* Faculty researchers from around the globe came together to discuss SAQR, TAMUQ's Supercomputing Applications for Research in Qatar.

computing resources to faculty and researchers in the region.

Exciting plans are currently being developed for the expansion of supercomputing resources at TAMUQ. In late 2006, Mr. Khalid Warraich will join TAMUQ as Director of Research Computing. Mr. Warraich served previously as the Associate Director for Supercomputing at Texas A&M University's main campus in College Station. He will bring a wealth of experience to Education City. Later, with the opening of the new Engineering Building, TAMUQ will unveil a new visualization facility featuring hardware and software from Silicon Graphics, Inc. Additionally in 2007, TAMUQ will also deploy an additional large shared memory supercomputer, significantly increasing the resources available to faculty and researchers in Education City.

## Explore Education City 2006

After the overwhelming attendance at the 2005 Explore Education City exhibitions, the universities in Education City are again traveling throughout the region to showcase the academic programs offered. Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar traveled with Texas A&M Admissions Officers and Qatar Foundation administrators to visit with high school principals, counselors, students and parents of students during the five-stop road show.

### Explore Education City Fall 2006 Schedule

**Manama, Bahrain – September 13**

**Doha, Qatar – September 19**

**Muscat, Oman – October 29**

**Abu Dhabi, UAE – November 1**

**Kuwait City, Kuwait – November 8**

## State of Texas Flag Flown for TAMUQ

At the annual Champe Fitzhugh, Jr. International Leadership Seminar at Texas A&M University's Santa Chiara Study Abroad Center in Italy, a group of TAMUQ freshmen represented the Qatar campus and spent a week this summer with students from the main campus developing and learning about leadership skills. Abdulla Soltani, Class of 2008, was selected to serve as the upperclassman representative for this year's seminar.



The 2006 Aggie Parents of the Year, Bruce and Patsy Nichols of Austin, Texas, also attended the seminar. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols knew they would be meeting students from the Qatar campus, so they called the Governor of the State of Texas to help with a special recognition for the campus. On July 4, Governor Rick Perry, Texas A&M Class of 1972, authorized the State of Texas flag to be flown over the State Capitol building in honor of Texas A&M University at Qatar. Abdulla received the flag and a certificate on behalf of Texas A&M at Qatar while in Italy, and he presented it to Dr. Charles Bowman, TAMUQ Interim Dean and CEO, at the 2006 Academic Convocation.

Abdulla Soltani '08 presented a Texas Flag to Dr. Charles Bowman, TAMUQ Interim Dean and CEO, during the Academic Convocation. The 2006-2007 Aggie Parents of the Year had the flag flown over the Texas State Capitol in honor of TAMUQ.

## ACT Chief Visits Education City

Qatar Foundation was recently visited by Dr. Richard Ferguson, the CEO and Chairman of the Board of the American College Testing program, or more commonly referred to as ACT, to discuss the possibility of establishing a testing center at Education City. In 1959, the ACT was offered for the first time to nearly 76,000 students in the United States and is now taken by more than one million college-bound students around the world.

Dr. Ferguson visited with Qatar Foundation Vice President for Education Dr. Abdulla Al-Thani and the admissions directors of Education City's five branch campuses. Currently, there is no ACT testing site in Qatar, so local students must travel to Dubai,

Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia or Jordan to take the exam.

"The ACT is a widely accepted college entrance exam," said Dr. Ferguson. "Many top-ranking American universities, including the branch campuses at Education City, rate ACT highly as a way of identifying prospective students' strengths, weaknesses, interests and career plans."

Similar to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT, which has been administered in Education City for several years, the ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The exam covers English, mathematics, reading and science, and has an optional writing portion.



## RasGas and TAMUQ Solidify Long-term Partnership

*“We are looking forward to building strong relations with TAMUQ to share with them valuable skills and experiences and to give the students opportunities to enhance their knowledge, which is a key element for ensuring the development of our country.”*

— Dr. Mohammed Al-Sada, RasGas Managing Director

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT QATAR has very strong ties to local industry through its research and internship programs. One of the strong supporters of Texas A&M at Qatar, RasGas Company Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TAMUQ in August. The MoU was signed by RasGas Managing Director, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sada and TAMUQ Interim Dean and CEO, Dr. Charles Bowman. Prestigious guests, senior officials from both parties, a number of faculty and students were present at the ceremony.

The MoU covers the relationship between RasGas and TAMUQ in many areas of cooperation, including the Summer Internship Program, sponsorship of senior projects, collaborative research and participation in various campus events.

Under the terms of the memorandum, RasGas will consider sponsoring various projects conducted by TAMUQ and enhancing collaborative research. The company will also

consider applications for permanent positions for students who have already undertaken an internship at RasGas.

In a short speech during the ceremony, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sada commented: “Signing the MoU today with Texas A&M University at Qatar, reflects RasGas’ ambitious commitment to support and maintain the development of education in the State of Qatar. We are looking forward to building strong relations with TAMUQ to share with them valuable skills and experiences and to give the students opportunities to enhance their knowledge, which is a key element for ensuring the development of our country.” He added, “This is yet another tangible step to further strengthening, not only the cooperation between RG and TAMUQ, but also the cooperation between Qatar industry and our educational institutions, which will add significant

*(continued on page 27)*



Top: Dr. Al-Sada, Managing Director of RasGas, presents Dr. Charles Bowman with a traditional golden door on the occasion of the signing ceremony. Above: The signing ceremony made official an already fruitful partnership.



## Study Abroad in College Station, Texas

By Shannon Estrada, Senior Academic Advisor, Texas A&M University at Qatar

IN THE SUMMER OF 2006, Texas A&M University at Qatar accomplished one of its missions – to organize an official Study Abroad opportunity for TAMUQ students to take courses at the main campus. While we hope this event marks the beginning of many study abroad opportunities, this event was a milestone!

TAMUQ administrators from such offices as Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Academic Advising, Admissions & Records, Finance & Administration and the Mechanical Engineering Program worked along with the TAMU administrators from the Sponsored Student Programs Office, International Student Services Office, the Qatar Support Office, the College of Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering to work out many details so that our student participants had a successful and meaningful experience.

Eleven TAMUQ students were selected to study at the main campus. Seven Mechanical Engineering majors took two courses in the College of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering – a fluid mechanics laboratory and a special topics course in materials and manufacturing design lab. Four senior students took a university core curriculum course in the College of Architecture – environmental design process. The participating students were:

Ms. Hessa Al-Missned '07  
*Chemical Engineering Major*  
Ms. Aisha Al-Wadaani '07  
*Chemical Engineering Major*

Ms. Reem Al-Mansoori '07  
*Petroleum Engineering Major*  
Ms. Nayla Al-Malki '07  
*Petroleum Engineering Major*  
Mr. Hamad bin Shamlan '07  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Mr. Nikhil Shanbhag '07  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Ms. Maya Aziz '08  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Mr. Ibrahim Zein '08  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuwari '08  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Mr. Ameer Khader '08  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*  
Mr. Mohamed Daghbag '08  
*Mechanical Engineering Major*

The selected students survived the rigorous process of obtaining a student visa that would allow them to study in the United States. The students also worked with the TAMUQ Department of Student Affairs and the TAMU Sponsored Student Programs Office to select their housing arrangements, with Mr. Mark Bell, TAMUQ Academic Advisor, in obtaining their airline tickets and with the Academic Advising Office in registering for courses. Dr. Reza Langari, TAMUQ ME Faculty,





*Left:* Ibrahim Zein '08 worked in the Mechanical Engineering Lab as part of his study abroad experience. *Middle:* Students took time off from studying to enjoy a little Texas culture in San Antonio, Texas. *Right:* The ferry ride to Galveston Island was a new experience for some of the students, but once on the island they found a very familiar site...Texas A&M at Galveston.

*“Having the opportunity to be at College Station is a true feeling of being an Aggie. Even though it was not part of the major engineering courses, I managed somehow to get an overall perception of what an engineering student life would look like across the globe. I liked the part that the campus is huge and big enough to make you lose your way! I liked the fact that when we lose our track we would have the opportunity to see other new spots that we had never passed by.”*

—Nayla Al-Malki '07 | Petroleum Engineering

was instrumental in arranging a special topics course for the Mechanical Engineering students. Dr. Langari and Mr. Bell also accompanied the students to College Station before leaving them in the capable hands of the Sponsored Student Programs Office, particularly Ms. Vi Cook and Mr. Rachid Baghdad.

In addition to attending classes, the group of eleven participated in such events as weekend trips throughout the State of Texas, learning how to do laundry, learning to use the TAMU bus system and most importantly participating in day-to-day student life activities that make up being an Aggie on the main campus.

After classes ended and final exams were taken, the participants got to experience a week of cultural events that included visiting the State Capitol, learning more about the Hispanic culture that makes up a large part of the Texas population, and of course, shopping!

Here are some quotes from the participants about their experience:

“The campus is full of people. You meet new faces everyday. Having to walk to class is very refreshing, it actually wakes you up. Squirrels and birds are all over the place. College Station is a place to study, not to have fun. I had the chance to live on both campuses, and its crazy to say this, but I enjoyed living in a very small room having to worry about everything unlike here! The people are very friendly and they never stop using the word “Howdy”!

—Ibrahim H. Zein '08 - Mechanical Engineering

“Having a summer course in College Station was a great experience for me. I really liked the student life there. Living in the dorms on the HUGE campus, interacting with thousands of Aggies from different parts of the world, having classes in the main campus with College Station Aggies was really a pleasure for me. I really appreciate the nice and welcoming treatment from Dr. David Prior and the faculty in College Station. They gave their full support and time to help us in the academic part during the summer course. Moreover, the Sponsored Student Programs Office made our trip more interesting by having weekly day trips and a full week of cultural activities. We had an unforgettable time visiting different cities in Texas and learning about its history. These, in addition to the field trip sponsored by Dr. Langari to Lockheed Martin, were the best events in the trip. I really want to thank everyone who gave us this opportunity and who participated in the success of this study abroad opportunity – especially Dr. James Holste, Dr. Reza Langari, the TAMU Sponsored Student Programs Office, the Qatar Support Office, the On-Campus Housing Office and the TAMUQ Department of Student Affairs and academic advisors.”

—Hamad bin Shamlan '07 - Mechanical Engineering

In total, the student participants were away from Qatar for six weeks. I’m happy to say they arrived back in Doha safe and sound, if a little jet lagged! TAMUQ looks forward to hosting many study abroad opportunities in the future.



## **TAMUQ Represented in The Middle East Partnership Initiative**

*The U.S. Department of State offers a program through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) for university students from the Middle East to learn about the United States. The program, United States Institute for Undergraduate Student Leaders, is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is an intensive six-week training session hosted by U.S. universities to introduce highly motivated students from the Middle East to American culture and values. Participants also receive instruction in leadership, problem-solving, entrepreneurial skills, and civic rights and responsibilities. Emad Daher '08 was selected by US Embassy officials to serve as the undergraduate student delegate from the State of Qatar at the Summer 2006 Institute at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.*

*Emad's six week stay in the US was actually his second trip to America. He previously participated in the TAMUQ-sponsored Doha/College Station Leadership Exchange Trip in 2005. This MEPI institute provided 22 students from countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa with a better understanding of the United States, using leadership as an insightful perspective. Following is Emad's reflection of his time in the U.S.*



*Emad made many new friends from around the Middle East and Africa (right). The group visited the famous sites in New York City (top left), a fun time at Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania (top right), and saw the historical Gettysburg (left).*

“ When I first went to the United States to represent Qatar in the MEPI program, I couldn't have imagined the experience I would have. The main goals I wanted to achieve during my time in the MEPI program were to represent Qatar well, improve my leadership skills, learn more about American history, politics, and economics, and visit more than five different states during six weeks.

At first, everything was different. I was at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The dorms, the food, the people and the culture were all new to me; I needed to depend on myself, which was hard at the beginning, then I realized that I had been picked because I have the leadership capabilities to succeed in such a situation.

The other institute delegates and I attended classes to study leadership, which was illustrated by a specific leader or event in the American history. The classes were about government, history, and some politics, women rights, diversity in religions, etc.

We learned about American history and the American perspectives, yet the main point this program was emphasizing on was leadership traits. During the six weeks, I learned a lot about American leaders and studied different cases where they had to make historical decisions. They put me in different situations where I had to discover my leadership strengths and weaknesses, but one of the



memorable days was when I had to be a judge in a trial. It was a big responsibility especially when the other participants were all well prepared with their arguments, but I did well and I was fair.

In addition to the studying, the other part of the experience consisted of meeting 22 new friends from 15 different Arab countries. I noticed how our languages differ from each other and how our approaches to leadership and politics in our area differ from one country to another. However, we lived as one family at the dorm, and I learned from that experience how to be tolerant and how to cope with others based on the fact that I cannot ignore their existence. I have gained self-confidence and learned how to deal with diversity. We discovered that the Arab unity is not impossible and that we must continue to hope and work for a better future.

We also visited many other places such as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New York and San Francisco. In Washington, DC, we even visited the White House and the U.S. Capitol. We had a lot of fun in all these places, but still Qatar is the closest to my heart. ”



# First Aggie Rings Awarded at TAMUQ



THE ROOM WAS PACKED with people and a little warm. There were parents, friends, local business leaders, university administrators, and former students. There was hugging, cheering, even a few tears of joy, and electricity and excitement in the air. And the most important part...a bunch of Aggies showing off their shiny new Aggie Rings.

If you have ever experienced Aggie Ring Day at the alumni association building on the main campus of Texas A&M, you will identify with the above description. However, on August 29, this was exactly the experience for six Aggies and over 300 guests present for Texas A&M at Qatar's first Aggie Ring Presentation.

During the annual Academic Convocation, Mr. Marty Holmes, Texas A&M Class of 1987 and assistant executive director of Texas A&M's alumni organization, The Association of Former Students, and Ms. Julie Scamardo, Aggie Ring Program coordinator, presented six TAMUQ students with their hard earned Aggie Rings.

To receive an Aggie Ring, a Texas A&M undergraduate student must attain 95 credits hours, which roughly translates to completion of three years, as well as have a 2.0 Grade Point Ratio and be in good standing with the

university. Needless to say, with five of the six students being on the Dean's Honor List and all of them being involved in student organizations, they had more than earned this prized symbol of Texas A&M.

While Texas A&M boasts hundreds of traditions, many of which have been adopted at the Qatar campus, undoubtedly, Texas A&M at Qatar students have been looking forward to being a part of this Aggie tradition for quite some time.

The tradition of the Aggie Ring started in 1889, when the first known Aggie Ring was created. The ring changed designs four times until E.C. Jonas, Texas A&M Class of 1894, designed a ring for his class. This design has remained since that time except for one change in 1963 that updated the name of the university on top of the ring from "A&M College of Texas" to "Texas A&M University". The ring worn by all Aggies is the same except for the class year, and this serves as a special connection between Aggies all over the world.

Mr. Holmes explained how the Aggie Ring illustrates the connection Aggies have to each other and Texas A&M. "For each person it represents a different memory or experience,



Left: Nour Cheikh Ali '07 (opp. Page), Ali Al-Medaihki '07 (left) and Megha Mohan '07 (below), as well as Hessa Al-Missned, Aisha Al-Waadani and Yousef Murad '07 (next page) were the first students at Texas A&M at Qatar to receive the prized Aggie Ring.



while at the same time recalling similar, unifying experiences for us all. Every time you look down at your ring and the class year on its face, you'll remember that all Aggies in the past have worn the same ring for more than a century and that Aggies in the years to come will believe in the same core values of Texas A&M – Integrity – Loyalty – Excellence – Leadership and Selfless Service – the same way as we do," he said.

The actual design of the ring is very deep in symbolism and resonates with Aggies of all generations, past, present and future.



#### Front View

- The eagle connotes agility and power, and ability to reach great heights.
- The shield illustrates protection of the good reputation of the alma mater.
- The five stars on the shield signify the five phases of development of the Aggie student: mind or intellect, body, spiritual attainment, emotional poise, and integrity of character.
- The thirteen stripes symbolize the thirteen original states of America and Aggies' intense patriotism.

(continued on page 12)





### Side View — Star

- The star represents the Seal of the State of Texas.
- The Olive and Laurel branches encircle the star signifying achievement and a desire for peace.
- The ribbon joining the leaves symbolizes the necessity of joining traits to accomplish one's ambition to serve.
- Live Oak leaves surrounding the star signify strength to fight.



### Side View — Saber

- The ancient cannon, saber, and rifle symbolize Texans' fight for their land and determination to defend their homeland.
- The rifle and cannon illustrate preparedness and defense.
- The saber signifies valor and confidence.
- The crossed flags are a reminder of dual allegiance to nation and state.

## History of Aggie Ring — *Compiled by The Association of Former Students*

**1876** The A&M College of Texas opens.

**1889** Oldest known Aggie Ring made this year.

**1894** Edward C. Jonas '94 chosen to design a new Aggie Ring (he had designed the 1891-1894 Commencement programs).

**1894** The Ring committee awards contract to a Bryan, Texas, jeweler. The resulting Rings are inspected by Professor P.S. Tilson '89, who discovered they were weighted with lead.

**1899** R.J. Poulter is chosen as chairman of a committee to select the 1899 Class Ring.

- Linz Brothers Jewelry Company of Dallas, Texas, submits design sketches for the Ring.

- A meeting is held by Poulter's committee in J.B. Sterns' room to discuss the designs. During this meeting the suggestion is made to have the Classes of '00, '01, and '02 adopt the design to perpetuate the tradition.

- Linz Brothers quotes a lower price for Rings if junior, sophomore and freshman classes would vote to use the same design.

- The classes agree to perpetuate the design.

**1900** The Class of '00 buy their Rings from Linz Brothers for \$10.50, after testing a Ring proved their metallic purity.

- The Classes of '01 and '02 did not all buy

rings from Linz Brothers; they could not hold a monopoly over the manufacture of the Ring.

**1912** The state seal and crossed weapons changes sides.

**1926** The state seal and crossed weapons again change sides.

**1930-1935** Rings made during this period were primarily manufactured by Herff Jones Company.

**1933** Officers of the Class of '31 petition the A&M faculty to restrict purchase of the Aggie Ring to students who have attained at least the second semester of their junior year.

- Texas A&M President T.O. Walton appoints an Official Senior Ring Committee to standardize the Ring design, create more control for Ring distribution and manufacture, and eliminate some of the undesirable practices connected with handling class Ring orders. The committee was to consider proposals for rings for the Classes of '35-'39. No stones (diamonds, rubies) were considered. Rings would average 12 pennyweight. Their goal was modernization of the old design while retaining essential features. The words "Texas A&M College – 1876" were added around the crown.

**1933** The Star Engraving Company of Houston, Texas, is awarded a 5 year contract. Distributors in the Bryan/College Station area that were chosen were John S. Caldwell and Sankey Park.

After many long hours of classes and studying, and many more hours of learning through Texas A&M's "Other Education", meaning all the opportunities for participation in student organizations, Ali Al-Medaihki, Hessa Al-Missned, Aisha Al-Wadaani, Nour El Cheikh Ali, Megha Mohan, Yousef Murad, all Texas A&M Class of 2007, made history as the first TAMUQ students to receive their Aggie Rings. Following the presentation, Yousef Murad (*right*) spoke on behalf of these newest Aggie Ring owners.



"Today is a very exciting day. Along with five of my colleagues, I have received my Aggie Ring. This will be a day never forgotten. But there is also a bit of sadness. Possession of this ring means that my days as a Texas A&M student are numbered. After many years of being nurtured in the Aggie nest, I and my colleagues will soon be asked to spread our wings and fly. A bittersweet day. But on our wing will be the ring, and with voices proud we yet will sing *The Spirit of Aggieland*," he said.

With his Aggie Ring lightly tapping the podium as he spoke,

Yousef continued, "The Aggie Ring is like the rings of a great tree. Each represents a year. And as each new set of rings is formed, it adds to the growing magnificence of the tree. Moreover, like the rings of the tree, the older rings remain the center of life, and the new rings embrace the old. Whenever an Aggie sees this ring on another hand, spontaneous reunions occur. A flood of memories come to mind, and thoughts of past seasons of joy. Indeed, a tear or two might water the ground, refreshing the roots of yesterdays remembered." Spoken like the true Aggie he is.

From the very first Aggie Ring in 1889, Texas Aggies have worn them with pride. As the design of the Aggie ring progressed through the years, the deep symbolism stayed the same. The design of today's Aggie Ring dates back to 1963 when the name of the university was changed.



**1934** Star Engraving files for a patent on the Ring designed by John Boehme.

**1935** The Texas and United States flags were added behind the crossed cannon, rifle and saber. Wording was changed to "A&M College of Texas - 1876" (this design will not change again until 1963).

- April - Star Engraving secures a seven year patent of Ring design.

- April 23 - Star Engraving transfers rights of patent #95172 to Texas A&M College.

**1937** C.W. Varner is added as a distributor of Rings.

**1939** Registrar's Office begins distributing Rings with the Class of '39, to exercise tighter control.

- Josten Company of Owatonna, Minnesota, is awarded a contract to supply rings for the Classes of '40-42.

**1942** Josten Company's contract is extended to 1948.

- Ring patent is allowed to expire.

**1948** L.G. Balfour Company of Attelboro, Massachusetts, is awarded a three year contract to supply Rings.

**1963** Texas Legislature changes name of the school to Texas A&M University. The Ring lettering is correspondingly changed.

**1963-1966** These class years have an option of "College" or "University".

**1963** J.B. "Josh" Sterns, Texas A&M Class of 1899, conceives idea of a permanent Aggie Ring collection, now on display at the Clayton Williams, Jr. Alumni Center at Texas A&M.

**1967** All students of this class year and forward are required to have Texas A&M University lettering on their Rings.

**1998** Rings are manufactured, still by Balfour but in Texas, in a solid one piece design instead of separate base and crest.

**2006** Six Texas A&M University at Qatar students awarded Aggie Rings.



Above: Dr. Bazzi and Mr. Adel Said, Technical Lab Coordinator, looking at an NMR spectrum collected on new 400MHz Bruker magnet. Right: Dr. Bazzi inserting an NMR tube to start the first experiment on the newly installed NMR instrument.



## NMR Attracts Attention as First in Qatar

THE CHEMISTRY PROGRAM AT TAMUQ, an extension of the Texas A&M College of Science, serves as an important part of the foundation for the Chemical Engineering program at TAMUQ. Although TAMUQ does not offer a degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering majors qualify for a minor in Chemistry after completing the required courses. The Chemistry program at TAMUQ was established in September 2004 to provide the necessary chemistry courses for Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering majors. It supports the Chemical Engineering program with both theoretical and experimental Chemistry courses, including General, Organic, Analytical, Physical, and Polymer Chemistry. The Chemistry program at TAMUQ is supported by three Chemistry Faculty, two staff, and four student workers.

Although it is an ongoing process, the Chemistry labs at TAMUQ are now equipped with a variety of state-of-the-art instruments to help support the teaching and research needs of the program. Dr. Hassan S. Bazzi serves as the Science Program Coordinator and Chemistry Faculty, and he is supervising the setup of the teaching and research

labs. In two year's time, Dr. Bazzi's effort has transformed a few empty rooms into fully-equipped Chemistry laboratories. "The Chemistry program now is up and running with excellent infrastructure and resources. We have a variety of instruments, a big library of chemicals and laboratory supplies (glassware, analytical balances, hot plates/stirrers, melting point testers, multi-purpose probes, computer interfaces, tools, glass-drying ovens, refrigerators, pH-meters, conductivity meters, rotary evaporators, vacuum pumps, water circulating baths, UV lamps, water distillation system, and others) needed for our day-to-day operation in the teaching labs and later for the research labs," Dr. Bazzi said.

The Chemistry labs occupy around 10,000 square feet in the Liberal Arts and Science Building, the temporary location of TAMUQ. Following the completion of the Engineering Building in Education City, the Chemistry program will have space for teaching labs, research labs, instrumentation rooms, chemical storage rooms, NMR facility room and more. Dr. Bazzi says that although there are no chemistry degrees offered at TAMUQ, all faculty





Above: Lacey Martin '05, Lab Technician, running a gas chromatograph in the TAMUQ Chemistry Lab.

are aggressively setting up their research projects and looking forward to collaborations with the Chemistry Department on the main campus in College Station. Dr. Bazzi added, "Qatar is booming now with all the construction and the development taking place. We have here many opportunities to establish research connections with other universities and the industry. Qatar Science and Technology Park that is under construction now will host leading international companies and research institutes who have already expressed interest in collaborating with many of the programs at TAMUQ."

The most recent addition to the Chemistry Lab was a 400MHz Bruker Biospin Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). Dr. Bazzi reports this is the first instrument with this level of resolution in the State of Qatar. "NMR is an essential tool for the characterization of organic and organometallic compounds. It provides us with an enormous amount of information about the structure of the molecule we are analyzing," he said. "It works simply by putting the nuclei of certain atoms, Hydrogen for example, in a static magnetic field and exposing them to another oscillating field. Different atoms respond differently, and we can obtain lots of information by looking at a regular NMR spectrum."

"In addition, the instrument is equipped with accessories that allow us to run experiments at temperatures varying from -80°C to 100°C, and with our broadband probe we can collect spectra for Hydrogen, Carbon, Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Fluorine nuclei," he added.

With the latest addition of the NMR, the Chemistry Instrument Lab has been significantly enhanced and will greatly serve TAMUQ and Education city researchers.

## CHEMISTRY LAB INSTRUMENTS:

- Perkin Elmer Clarus 500 gas chromatography (GC)
- Perkin Elmer Clarus 500 gas chromatography (GC) coupled with Perkin Elmer mass spectrophotometer (MS)
- Perkin Elmer Spectrum One V B FTIR spectrophotometer
- Perkin Elmer Double Beam Lambda 950 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer System
- Perkin Elmer series 200 LC based GPC system (Size Exclusion Chromatography)
- Varian Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer
- Beckman Coulter DU520 general purpose UV-Vis spectrophotometer
- Chemat Technology KW-4A Spin coater
- Precision Centrifuge Durafuge 100
- MBraun Lab master glove box
- Total organic Carbon analyzer
- YSI 9100 Water Analysis System
- Perkin Elmer ICP-MS (ordered)
- Dionex Dx2000 Ion Chromatograph (ordered)
- Bruker Biospin Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) 400 MHz

# TAMUQ Opens Technical Communications Center

By Ms. Cecelia Hawkins, Senior Lecturer and TCC Director, Texas A&M University at Qatar

STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY engineering because they love math and science. Much to their surprise when they enter Texas A&M University at Qatar, they discover that they must also write. . .and write a lot!

In Professor John Bryant's Introduction to Engineering course, for example, freshmen students have been busy trying to find the volume of concrete contained in exterior panels on a campus building. While they must use their math and science knowledge to find the answer, the final result of their work is a technical report. They must not only report their results in writing, but they must also provide insight into their methods and explain their results in terms a lay person can understand. Dr. Bryant says he is much more interested in the way that these students write up their results than in their "answers." The students find this an unexpected challenge.

To help students meet this kind of challenge, the Technical Communications Center (TCC) opened in the Fall of 2006. The mission of the TCC is to help students improve their written and oral communication skills by providing a number of opportunities:

- Individual tutoring/writing consultation: Students can make an appointment with one of three writing consultants to discuss a writing assignment at any stage. The consultants do not provide editing or proofreading, but instead guide the students to discover for themselves the ways in which they can improve an individual paper and their overall writing skills.
- English language practice: All courses at TAMUQ are taught in English, and almost all TAMUQ students are writing and speaking in English as a foreign language. In addition they must learn the special language of engineering. To help them meet these challenges, two English as a Foreign Language specialists are now on faculty and working as writing consultants in the TCC. The TCC also has a 10-station computer language lab with software that will assist students in identifying and correcting grammar problems, sharpening their vocabulary skills, and improving reading comprehension.
- The Writing Studio: When space is available, students are invited to come to the TCC at their leisure to work independently on writing assignments. They may treat this as a studio situation where they can ask for advice as they work, taking advantage of writing consultants' help in a more informal setting than the traditional tutoring appointment.
- Workshops: TCC staff will be offering workshops periodically

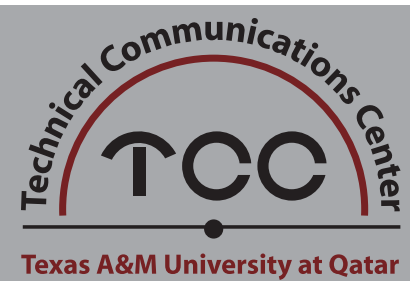


Ms. Cecelia Hawkins works with students in the TCC to improve their writing skills, which is an important skill for today's engineer.

cally on selected writing/presentation topics, designed to reinforce and enrich what faculty are providing in class. These will be hands-on workshops on such subjects as writing good resumes, preparing PowerPoint slides for oral presentations, and professional e-mail etiquette.

In all these endeavors, the TCC staff strives to create a comfortable and welcoming environment where students can practice and perfect the communications skills they'll need to be successful students and, eventually, working engineers.

About the importance of writing, Dr. Bryant says, "Countless numbers of corporate engineers have told me that engineers who can write well will move up rapidly in their company in terms of both responsibility and financial compensation. That is why I am very pleased that we have a resource like the TCC here at TAMUQ. I am now requiring my students to use the TCC on their first several engineering/writing assignments. I hope they will see the benefits that come from working with the TCC staff and that will translate into better writing and, importantly to the students, better grades in my class!"





## Dean's Honor List

At the beginning of every Fall semester students with a GPR of 3.0 or higher are named to the Dean's Honor List. These students are among the best students in the university. Not only do they excel in academics but they are also active in various university-sponsored extracurricular activities.

Hazem Abdel-Moati '09  
 Khaldoon Abdulrazak '09  
 Laith Abuhantash '09  
 Tausif Ahmed '09  
 Ali Ahmed '08  
 Ahmed Al-Bikri '08  
 Abdulla Al-Fehani '07  
 Abdulrahman Al-Kaabi '08  
 Nayla Al-Malki '07  
 Saoud Al-Mannai '08  
 Lulwa Al-Maslamani '07  
 Ali Al-Medaihki '07

Khalid Al-Meer '07  
 Hessa Al-Missned '07  
 Mohammed Al-Mulla '09  
 Nasser Al-Neama '08  
 Sabla Alnouri '08  
 Ahmad Al-Qatami '09  
 Sara Al-Saadi '07  
 Abdulhameed Al-Siddiqi '08  
 Maha Al-Sulaiti '09  
 Suha Al-Sulaiti '07  
 Aisha Al-Wadaani '07  
 Sajidul Amin '09

Aly Anany '08  
 Maya Aziz '08  
 Emad Daher '08  
 Ali Dashti '08  
 Nour El Cheikh Ali '07  
 Ahmed El Sanadedy '08  
 Amr Eltahawy '09  
 Karim Farhat '09  
 Ali Hasiri '09  
 Khaled Hassiba '09  
 Ameer Khader '08  
 Mohammed Laram '08

Fatima Mahmoud '08  
 Yousef Murad '07  
 Safa Naufal '08  
 Dina Nicola '08  
 Issa Odehahmed '09  
 Amira Redissi '09  
 Mehrnoosh Saneifar '09  
 Nikhil Shanbhag '07  
 Ahmad Talfat '08  
 Abtesam Yousuf '08  
 Mohammad Zaid '09

## Student Body Elections

Student Body Elections at TAMUQ are one of the highlights of the year. Along with voting for the President and Class Representatives, each student votes for student leadership awards for their class, the Best Student Organization and for the Aggie Spirit Award. An overwhelming 87% of the student body chose to cast their ballots on Election Day.

With more students and student organizations, the SBG, under the leadership of the returning president Ahmed Al-Abdulla '08, plans to increase their active role in the student-related operations of the campus. Student lounges were the hot topic of the 2005-2006 Academic Year, and the new year started off with two new student lounges. This progress will no doubt be seen in other areas of student life as well.

### 2005-2006 Best Student Organization

The Maroon Club

### Aggie Spirit Award

Lama Al-Oreibi '08

### 2006-2007 Student Body Government President

Ahmed Al-Abdulla '08

### Class of 2007 Representatives

Bashar Hassna  
 Yousef Murad  
 Sara Al-Saadi

### Class of 2008 Representatives

Ameer Khader  
 Abtesam Yousuf  
 Saoud Al-Mannai

### Class of 2009 Representatives

Noof Abdalla  
 Mohamad Sheikh Alsouk  
 Mohammed Al-Tamimi



## Students Host End of Year Celebration

After a long year of quizzes, homework and exams, TAMUQ students decided to unwind with an end of year celebration at the Diplomatic Club, a luxurious facility located in the beautiful West Bay Lagoon area outside of Doha. The celebration was a wonderful end to the third academic year at TAMUQ, and students used it as a chance to see each other one last time before the summer vacation. One of the highlights of the event was the musical performance by students.

The event was attended by over 350 faculty, staff, students and guests. Dr. James Holste, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, welcomed students, faculty, staff and families and introduced the Interim Dean, Dr. Charles Bowman. The accomplishments of the faculty and students were also acknowledged by Dr. Holste. Every class had something to say about the past year they had spent at TAMUQ. Ayah Al-Rashdan '09, Ali Dashti '08, and Abdulla Al-Fehani '07 each represented their respective classes with words of praise for a successful year and encouragement for the upcoming school year.

The awards ceremony was the much anticipated part of the evening. Mr. Joe Estrada, Director of Admissions and Records, presented three students with the Leadership Award for the 2005-2006 academic year.

- Yousef Murad – *Class of 2007*
- Ahmed Al-Abdullah – *Class of 2008*
- Noof Abdalla – *Class of 2009*

Six juniors, eight sophomores and ten juniors were presented with the Dean's Award, which is awarded to outstanding students selected by the faculty. Lama Al-Oreibi '08, who was chosen by her fellow Aggies for the Aggie Spirit Award, received her Award from Dennis Busch, Director of Student Affairs. The Maroon Club earned the Best Student Organization of the Year Award.

### List of Dean's Award Recipients:

#### Class of 2007:

Sara Al-Saadi	Khalid Al-Meer
Hessa Al-Missned	Hamad Bin Shamlan
Abdulla Al-Fehani	Suha Al-Sulaiti

#### Class of 2008:

Safa Naufal	Fatima Mahmoud
Ali Dashti	Abtesam Yousuf
Sabla Alnouri	Aly Anany
Ameer Khader	Ahmed Al-Abdulla

#### Class of 2009:

Mehrnoosh Saneifar	Ahmad Al-Qatami
Khaled Hassiba	Ali Hasiri
Hazem Abdel-Moati	Maha Al-Sulaiti
Karim Farhat	Amira Redissi
Tausif Ahmed	Mohammad Zaid

## Education Excellence Day

Under the auspices of His Highness the Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Supreme Education Council recently hosted Education Excellence Day. Students who graduated with honors from local high schools and universities last academic year were honored for their superior academic performance. Nine TAMUQ freshmen were honored for their achievements at local high schools.

### Students honored:

Omar Al-Qatami '10	Jawaher Al-Ajmy '10
Abdulla Al-Naama '10	Aisha Saleh '10
Bader Al-Madhadi '10	Muna Al-Mohannad '10
Mashaal Al-Obaidli '10	Nejoud Al-Malki '10
Maha Kafod '10	



## Chess Tournament

Chess is one of the most popular board games in the world. It's played both competitively and recreationally all around the world. The Chess Challenge Club, founded by President Khaled Hassiba '09 last spring, aims to provide a forum for students, faculty and staff to play chess both competitively and recreationally at Texas A&M University at Qatar.

The club held its first tournament over the summer break and was open only to the students, faculty and staff of TAMUQ. The competition had 16 competitors, five rounds, and was played in accordance with the Swiss System. The Swiss System is a combination of all-play-all and knockout. All the participants play in every round; but in each round, players with equal (or similar) point totals meet each other.

The Chess Challenge Club also started its Girls' Branch this fall under the leadership of Ayah Al-Rashdan '09.

### Summer 2006 Chess Tournament Results

1. Ali Al-Medaihki '07 – First Place Winner
2. Khaled Hassiba '09 – Second Place Winner
3. Amr Eltahawy '09 – Third Place Winner
4. Hamad Al-Meer
5. Raid Hassiba '10
6. Khalid Al-Meer '07
7. Mohamed Daghbag '08
8. Bassel Babi '08
9. Salman Al-Boainain '08
10. Abdallah AlMardawi – TAMUQ Staff
11. Karim Farhat '09
12. Ibrahim Zein '08
13. Tausif Ahmed '09
14. Mark Ridgway – TAMUQ Staff
15. Hussein Jichi '09

## TAMUQ Student Organizations on Display



The first annual TAMUQ student organization "Club Fair" was held during New Student Orientation, with approximately 16 TAMUQ clubs participating. Students learned more about some of the exciting opportunities to get involved on campus, including academic groups, such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and Society of Petroleum Engineers. Social groups like the Aggie Girls Club and Chess Club were also on hand, along with the Aggie Sports Club, showing the wide variety of opportunities available to TAMUQ students.



## World Cup 2006

The World Cup fever did not miss Doha and definitely infected many at TAMUQ. The MultiMedia Club hosted match watching parties during the FIFA World Cup 2006 from June 9 through July 9. Under the sponsorship of the TAMUQ Department of Student Affairs, the MultiMedia Club purchased the AWAIEL satellite card that broadcasted the World Cup 2006. During the soccer matches, students from other Education City universities interested in watching the games joined the Aggies in the LAS lecture hall. The audiences were enthused and motivated by the hot matches like Germany vs. Argentina and France against Italy. The sound of cheering and yelling was heard throughout the entire building.

To make things even more interesting, MultiMedia Club also introduced "Guess the Winner" draw. To enter the draw

the audience members had to guess the winners with the right score. The draw continued with each game from the quarter finals until the final match. Only nine could enter the draw, and the winner was Yasser Assami. Also, after the final match of the semi-finals, a cup was presented to Mr. Naguib Ktiri, the supervisor of MultiMedia Club, in appreciation of his support of the event.

World Cup watchers enjoyed the atmosphere, and one Aggie commented, "I was truly impressed by the service provided by the MultiMedia Club and the effort put in by Abdulla Al Fehani to host this huge event. Well done guys!"



## Yell Leaders in the Making



As the success of TAMUQ's sports teams grows, so does the fan base. Aggie teams are always supported by a large crowd of students, faculty and staff. On a recent visit from the main campus,

Texas A&M Head Yell Leader Tyler Wellborn '07, helped TAMUQ students learn how to lead traditional Aggie yells to help fans support the Aggies on the court and playing field.

## Texas A&M Sports

### 2005-2006 Soccer Results:

- ▶ TAMUQ vs. Qatar National Team (indoor)  
4-5 (Orientation 2005)
- ▶ TAMUQ vs. Carnegie Mellon University (indoor)  
3-0 (Fall 2005)
- ▶ TAMUQ vs. College of the North Atlantic (indoor)  
6 -3 (Fall 2005)
- ▶ Al-Khor Sports Club Soccer Tournament (indoor)  
3rd place (January 2006)
- ▶ TAMUQ vs. Academic Bridge Program (indoor)  
7-7 (Spring 2006)
- ▶ TAMUQ vs. Weill Cornell Medical College (outdoor)  
3-2 (Spring 2006)
- ▶ Charity Soccer Tournament (indoor)  
3rd place (Spring 2006)

### 2005-2006 Basketball Results

#### FRIENDLY GAMES:

- TAMUQ vs. Weill Cornell Medical College . . . . . Won
- TAMUQ vs. CHN . . . . . Lost  
(but by 1 point!)
- TAMUQ vs. Weill Cornell Medical College . . . . . Won

#### FRIENDLY TOURNAMENTS:

- TAMUQ vs. Four Seasons Hotel Staff . . . . . Won
- TAMUQ vs. Qatar Academy Staff . . . . . Lost
- TAMUQ vs. Education City Team . . . . . Lost

#### EDUCATION CITY TOURNAMENT:

- TAMUQ vs. Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar . . . Lost
- TAMUQ vs. American School of Doha . . . . . Lost
- TAMUQ vs. CHN . . . . . Lost
- TAMUQ vs. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar . . . Won





## My Experience on the Rig

By Bashar Hassna '07

THIS SUMMER, as a part of my internship with RasGas, I had the chance to visit two different land drilling rigs. It was a great opportunity, and I learned many things during the time I spent there. In addition, I met many people with years of experience in both drilling and completion.

When I was on the rig, I realized that the most important concern there is the safety of the people. Because of this, I had to follow many safety regulations. I attended the safety orientation that is held for everyone who has not been on a rig for six months. I also had Hydrogen Sulphide ( $H_2S$ ) training and learned to locate a lifeboat. Additionally, one of the safety personnel gave us a tour of the rig and described the safety precautions taken at different sections of the rig. I attended all the safety meetings and wrote two reports every day. I also tried to learn the names of most people by reading the POB list. On my second hitch – a hitch being the time spent on a rig – I actually had a chance to participate in an  $H_2S$  and fire drill.

The time I spent during my two hitches on the rig helped greatly in improving my understanding of its workings. I began with a tour of the whole rig with the Tool Pusher. A Tool Pusher is a person responsible for all operations on a land drilling rig. He explained to me the different parts of the rig and its functions. I also got to sit with the drilling panel (composed of members with knowledge and experience of drilling) while they made connections. I familiarized myself

with the processes involved and with the dials and gauges they used. In addition to that, I saw the  $12\frac{1}{4}$  sweep and how they get the mud weight (mass per unit volume of a drilling fluid) in the shaker room. I had the chance to meet the directional driller who explained to me the different parts on BHA (Bottom Hole drilling Assembly) and the kinds of data they get in each survey. Then, the MWD (Measurements While Drilling) engineer explained the working of the unit and the data they collect.

During my first hitch, I got a chance to meet the mud engineer, responsible for measuring mud at a rig. He explained to me the different parts of a mud unit and different mud tests. I also got the opportunity to meet the cementing engineer who explained the different parts of his units. In addition to that, I met the geo-science staff and the mud logging unit. Finally, I reviewed the rig contract to see if I could recognize the equipment that was listed. I was able to ask and learn about the ones I did not recognize.

In my second hitch, I focused on getting information about my main project (Execution Excellence taker). I learned about the process and the layout of the tracker. I also toured the rig by myself and tried to find all the units and the equipment that I learned about in my first hitch.

I learned a lot from these two hitches, and not only can I now participate more in discussions in the RasGas Doha office, I can apply what I learned to my studies at TAMUQ.



## RasGas sponsors first TAMUQ SPE Student Chapter meeting

As part of its continued efforts to support educational institutions RasGas Company Limited recently sponsored the first Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ) Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter meeting.

The students, especially freshman, had the opportunity to get first-hand information from Mr. Khalid Al Rumaihi, RasGas Petroleum Engineering Manager. Mr. Al Rumaihi introduced RasGas to the students and detailed the process by which Liquefied Natural Gas is produced from the reservoir to the point of delivery and the important role the Petroleum Engineering Department plays in this process. Mr. Al Rumaihi also presented the SPE Student Chapter with starting funds to establish the chapter.

Because of the support from RasGas, students will be able to combine their classroom knowledge with the leadership experience gained in a student organization.



Dr. Mahmood Amani, Petroleum Engineering faculty, accepts the donation from RasGas on behalf of the SPE Student Chapter.

*"This is an excellent opportunity for us to interact with professionals from the industry, especially since its a company as reputed as RasGas. The lectures offer you a chance to see how your textbook knowledge is applied to real world solutions. The sponsorship will allow us to invite other eminent scholars from the field and hold a variety of both fun and informative events for the benefits of the students."* — Megha Mohan, '07

## SEA Making an Impact on the TAMUQ Environment

The first class of engineers from Texas A&M University at Qatar are still about three semesters from graduation, and though Environmental Engineering is not offered as a degree program at TAMUQ, the students here know that the industry they will be working in will have a tremendous effect on the environment. For that reason, as students of engineering they have a great responsibility to learn about ways to protect the environment.

Keeping this objective in mind, Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA) was created at the end of the spring semester. SEA plans to have monthly themes and host events related to the theme of the month. In August, SEA students focused on Global Warming and held a lunch time screening of a documentary titled "Global Warming: the Signs and the Science", hosted and narrated by singer Alanis Morissette.

The members of the club took turns selling tickets at various stations around the LAS Building. The money earned from tickets will be donated to UNESCO to sponsor the building of a water well in Africa. TAMUQ SEA raised over QR1500 (over \$400 USD) to donate to UNESCO's program. In addition to TAMUQ students, the event was attended by members of the different institutions in Education City.

The new organization has ambitious plans that support their efforts to protect the environment, starting with local environmental issues. SEA has planned field trips to clean beaches near Doha and lectures by professionals from the local Oil and Gas industry. It is evident from the students' enthusiasm that SEA members are determined to make a change for the environment of Qatar.

### *In the loving memory of our dear friend and brother Fahad Al-Jefairi*

In Education City we are one big family... sharing common experiences and participating in the same events. Though we go to school at different universities and might get a little competitive on the soccer field or basketball court, we are still friends at the end of the day. Fahad Al-Jefairi, a sophomore at



Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, was one such student who had a lot of friends and acquaintances at TAMUQ. Fahad was a model for others to follow, an identity that will live in our hearts forever. He was a visionary, a determined spirit, and a lovable guider who strived for a greater good for his family, friends, and country. May God rest his soul in peace. He will be missed by CMU-Q, as well as many at Texas A&M University at Qatar.



*“When you look at the major research programs that are being planned by the universities at Education City, and the fact that QSTP is building a world-class business incubator across the road, they obviously fit very neatly together. The Proof of Concept Fund will boost both university-based innovation and the rate at which start-up tech companies are created in Qatar.”*

— Paul Field, QSTP Technology Transfer Manager

## QSTP Collaborating with University Researchers

*By Ben Figgis, Marketing Director, Qatar Science and Technology Park*

AS THE UNIVERSITIES at Education City gear up for doing research in Qatar, the Qatar Science & Technology Park is forging tools that will help transform the fruits of that research into commercial success. QSTP’s “Proof of Concept Fund” was launched this September, providing grants for university researchers to explore the market potential of their discoveries.

Early-stage funding for nascent technologies is often a missing rung on the innovation ladder. This is the critical point when a technology has moved beyond the realm of research grants, but is not mature enough to attract venture capitalists. Qatar Foundation has seized the initiative and established the Proof of Concept Fund, smoothing the path between university lab benches and QSTP’s business incubator.

As its name suggests the Proof of Concept Fund is designed to “prove out” the technical viability and market potential of innovations. It provides grants to institutes and small-to-medium companies in Qatar to build prototypes, identify routes to market and prepare a business plan. It has been budgeted with \$12 million over its first five years, and if the pilot proves successful it may be scaled up.

Manning the controls of the fund is Paul Field, QSTP Technology Transfer Manager. “When you look at the major research programs that are being planned by the universities at Education City, and the fact that QSTP is building a world-class business incubator across the road, they obviously fit very neatly together,” explains Paul. “The Proof of Concept Fund will boost both university-based innovation and the rate at which start-up tech companies are created in Qatar.”

Paul has been jump-starting the program by visiting the technology transfer offices of Carnegie Mellon, Texas A&M and Weill Cornell in the US, to see if they have any existing intellectual property that could be commercialized over here. QSTP is interested not only in their intellectual property, but also their budding entrepreneurs. “If the Proof of Concept Fund shows an innovation has legs, a possibility is for the faculty and students who developed it to become managers of the new company.”

So what will happen with all these “proven” technologies and business plans? That’s where the next stage of QSTP’s

*(continued on page 27)*



## ***Atfalouna — Our Children Campaign Raises QR39,000 in 6 Days***

*Contributed by Reach Out to Asia*

REACH OUT TO ASIA (ROTA) is a Qatari Non Governmental Organization founded in 2005 and is a part of Qatar Foundation. ROTA's primary focus is on community development projects in Asia with the mandate of helping to protect educational access at all times. ROTA places specific emphasis on promoting global responsibility for basic, quality primary education to children and adults and targets helping Asia achieve its educational goals by 2015. In response to the recent conflict in Lebanon, ROTA responded with a campaign to raise funds to improve the lives of children in the effected areas.

In a vibrant atmosphere, children from all over Qatar came together and participated in various fun activities fully aware that they were doing so to help other less fortunate children. The drawings, poems, messages and art work produced by these children reflected feelings of eagerness to put a smile on the face of children of Lebanon and Palestine. Knowing that the war has caused so much pain and suffering to countless children like them, they were all determined to Reach Out.

The name of the campaign, "ATFALOUNA-Our Children" reflects in both Arabic and English the focus of

the fundraiser. Organized by Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) in partnership with Al Jazeera Children's Channel (JCC), both organizations within Qatar Foundation, the campaign ran for one week at the City Center Mall in Doha and saw hundreds of children and families contributing to the cause. Although a fundraising event, the campaign has also been very successful at raising awareness among the community.

ATFALOUNA- Our Children campaign was established to respond to the crisis in Lebanon and Palestine. Its aim is to aid war affected children by providing them with a safe return to their schools. ROTA and JCC want to ensure that children in war affected areas do not miss out on the 2006/07 academic year. The efforts of the campaign will range from supplying temporary schools to rebuilding the educational infrastructure in damaged schools. ROTA has already identified the projects it will adopt in the field.

At City Center, children got involved with many activities by paying a small fee; arts and crafts, poetry, face painting and writing on the 'graffiti' wall. This proved to be very popular for all age groups. The event gathered many ROTA volunteers in their colorful ROTA and JCC T-shirts which

*(continued on page 26)*

(continued from page 25)



Local children painted pictures of hope and friendship to send to children affected by the recent conflict in Lebanon.

helped to inform the public about the campaign. Funds were also raised by selling ROTA merchandise, a DVD containing a song produced by JCC especially for this occasion, and crafts produced by blind children from Al Nour Institute, which has supported the campaign.

The area was active all week but the weekend clearly had the highest participation. On Friday, the last day of the campaign, about 600 people joined hands around the ice skating rink as a symbol of unity and sympathy for the ATFALOUNA-Our Children's cause. It was a remarkable moment that many will remember. The week long campaign raised a total of QR39,000 (over \$10,500 USD) but over all it has empowered children in knowing they can make a difference.

ROTA is grateful to its volunteers whose enthusiasm contributed to making this campaign the great success that it was. ROTA relies greatly on its volunteer network and continues to encourage people to become a part of ROTA's family. For more information on how to become a ROTA volunteer contact Patricia Lynch, Volunteer Programs Specialist, at [plynch@qf.org.qa](mailto:plynch@qf.org.qa), or Lisa Bseiso, Volunteer Programs Coordinator, at [lbseiso@qf.org.qa](mailto:lbseiso@qf.org.qa).

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*“We’re currently working on setting up a ‘seed’ fund and a venture capital fund in Qatar. These are designed to finally move the technologies into the marketplace by providing capital to growing businesses. The long term vision is for these new companies to form the base of a knowledge economy in Qatar.” — Paul Field, QSTP Technology Transfer Manager*

commercialization funds will come in. “We’re currently working on setting up a ‘seed’ fund and a venture capital fund in Qatar,” says Paul. “These are designed to finally move the technologies into the marketplace by providing capital to growing businesses. The long term vision is for these new companies to form the base of a knowledge economy in Qatar.”

To see how important early-stage grants can be, look to Google. The venerable search engine started off in 1996 as a research project at Stanford University between PhD students Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Its first \$100,000 of funding came after it had a working concept but before it existed as a company. This June Google was valued at \$117 billion.

Qatar Science & Technology Park is a location for companies

from around the world to develop and commercialise their technology. It provides premises, services and support programs to technology-based companies, and has a business incubator in which entrepreneurs launch new technology ventures. The science park is a free-trade zone, allowing its members to be foreign owned and free from tax. EADS, ExxonMobil, Gartner Lee, GE, Microsoft, Rolls-Royce, Shell and Total have already joined Qatar Science & Technology Park. As part of the renowned Qatar Foundation, it connects its members with universities such as Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. QSTP’s first building will open in mid-2007.

## **RasGas and TAMUQ Solidify Long-term Partnership**

(continued from page 5)

value to Qatar’s future prosperity and growth.”

On behalf of TAMUQ, Dr. Bowman thanked Dr. Al-Sada for his remarks and for the commitment of RasGas to strengthen and support the cause of education and research in Qatar. He said “TAMUQ looks forward to a long and fruitful partnership with RasGas. This sort of partnership between universities and industries is essential to providing the highest quality academic and practical education.” He also assured Dr. Al-Sada that, in addition to their engineering knowledge, TAMUQ students are instilled with values of service, tradition, integrity, excellence, loyalty and leadership, all of which will sustain and support them throughout their careers.

The signing comes as a result of continuous cooperation between TAMUQ and RasGas through the University Advisory Committee, which was created recently by RasGas to be the focal point between the company and Qatar’s educational institutes and to play a key roll in strengthening this relationship.

RasGas Company Limited is owned by Qatar Petroleum



Dr. Bowman presented a traditional box inscribed with the Texas A&M at Qatar logo to Dr. A-Sada, who praised Texas A&M for the quality of its students and noted most of the summer interns came from TAMUQ.

and ExxonMobil. RasGas operates production facilities to produce gas, treat, liquefy and export LNG to countries across Asia, Europe and USA. Based in Ras Laffan, Qatar, it currently produces 16 million metric tons per year (Mta) with four trains in operation. It is expected that this production will be 37 Mta by 2009 with the completion of seven trains in operation.

*“TAMUQ looks forward to a long and fruitful partnership with RasGas. This sort of partnership between universities and industries is essential to providing the highest quality academic and practical education.” — Dr. Charles Bowman, Interim Dean and CEO, TAMUQ*

# The Bridge to TAMUQ



By Magdalena Rostron  
Student Development Specialist  
Academic Bridge Program

BRIGHT-EYED, SELF-CONFIDENT and excited, a bunch of last year's Academic Bridge Program's (ABP) alumni are beginning their freshman year at TAMUQ.

Exactly a year ago, they were sitting timidly in segregated groups of boys and girls, all new graduates from local high schools, unsure of themselves, unaware of what was awaiting them, and unprepared for the challenges ahead. The stunning difference in their behavior and attitude has been achieved through their work and activities during the two semesters they spent in the ABP.

"Without the ABP I would definitely struggle now," admits one of the ABP alumni, Khalid Al Adba '10, now at TAMUQ. His friend, Abdalla Annany '10, also a new TAMUQ student, nods in agreement. "The Program gave us very good foundations for our studies here at Texas A&M," he adds.

The connection between TAMUQ and the Academic Bridge Program of Qatar Foundation has always been constructive and successful. The ABP has been preparing students for entry to TAMUQ for 4 years now.

"The very first time we sent students to TAMUQ was after the ABP Intensive Summer Foundation Program in 2003," says Dr. Juliana Mrabet, the ABP Acting Director. "That program, offered as an addition to the usual ABP syllabus, was comprised of advanced writing, reading, physics and pre-calculus courses, and the idea was that if our students did well



The preparation in the Academic Bridge Program helps students, like Abdulla Al-Kuwari '08, to be more competitive in the university application process, as well as helping them succeed once admitted to university.

in the courses and met the entrance requirements they would be able to succeed at TAMUQ."

Since then, the number of ABP students admitted into Texas A&M has grown steadily. Altogether, the Program has sent 65 students to TAMUQ, including a batch of 12 from last year's ABP class, according to TAMUQ Office of Admissions.

What exactly is the Academic Bridge Program and how does it go about preparing its students for the demanding course regime of a university like Texas A&M?

*During the two semesters in the ABP, priority is given to academic performance, but great emphasis is also placed on developing communication, interpersonal and social skills. Students are strongly encouraged to engage in team work opportunities and participate in various student activities, including student debates and Model United Nations (MUN) conferences. Many of the Program's alumni – particularly those studying at Texas A&M where student life is teeming with events – build on those skills while at university.*

The ABP is a pre-university program offering two-semester courses in English, math, computers, science, and study skills for university success to recent high-school graduates. Most of the students are Qatari, but nationals of several other countries – including Iraq, Oman, Afghanistan, and the UAE – have also studied in the ABP and some have ended up at TAMUQ. The courses are designed to bring their academic skills and results in TOEFL and SATs up to the standards required by English-medium, world-class universities, such as Texas A&M.

“I look back at my year in the ABP as very successful,” Abdulrahman Al Kawari '10 tells me. He is studying at Texas A&M and stresses that his reading and writing skills improved considerably after taking ABP courses last year. “I really need those skills now because we are reading a lot and have to write many essays at TAMUQ.”

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Mariam Al Raisi '10, another ABP alumnus, now at TAMUQ, participated in the MUN and the ABP student debate last year. “I learned a lot from both activities,” she remarks. “Thanks to my participation in them, I can express myself a lot better now. I am also much more self-confident and on top of that, if I don't know something, I know how to approach it and how to research it.”

What is equally important is that the Program offers a co-educational system of learning, with young men and women studying together and jointly participating in numerous

co-curricular activities. This is a dramatic change from the traditional model of education predominant in Qatar, but very much in line with both foreign college and local employment policies as it prepares young people of both genders for future academic and professional cooperation.

“Studying in the ABP definitely changed my social attitude for the better,” says Abdulrahman. In fact, most of the former ABP students, both male and female, who are now studying at TAMUQ, emphasize that they feel a lot more comfortable now working in a co-educational setting. Many say that when they first arrived in the ABP they did not even know how to interact with the opposite gender as they all came from segregated schools.

The ABP provides a crucial, bridging step between different educational systems, making it easier for local students to adapt to demands of western colleges. In this respect, the Program is a unique institution not just in the country, but also in the entire Gulf. Students learn how to participate in, take advantage of, and appreciate western academic culture. Those accepted into the Academic Bridge Program have an exceptional opportunity to develop and master their academic, personal and social skills, thereby paving the way for future university success.

The ABP alumni interviewed for this article are happy to be studying at TAMUQ now, but all remember the ABP fondly. “It was a wonderful experience!” exclaims Muneera Al Shriem '10. “The ABP was truly like a bridge for the mind – it changed my thinking.”

### **The Academic Bridge Programs Goals:**

1. To provide the necessary knowledge and skills for students to meet the acceptance criteria of prestigious universities in the country and abroad,
2. To provide the opportunities for students to develop and practice all the necessary skills to be successful in their university studies.



## Welcome New Faculty

TAMUQ welcomed two new science faculty, three liberal arts faculty and twelve engineering faculty this semester. To learn more about these faculty members, visit [www.qatar.tamu.edu/currentfaculty.aspx](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/currentfaculty.aspx)

Haithem Abu-Rub – Electrical Engineering  
 Ashfaq Bengali – Chemistry  
 Roy Cornwell – Mechanical Engineering  
 Mashhad Fahes – Petroleum Engineering  
 Earl Hoskins – Petroleum Engineering  
 Raffie Hossein – Petroleum Engineering  
 Todd Kent – Political Science  
 Douglas McPherson – English  
 Krzysztof Michalski – Electrical Engineering

Hadi Nasrabadi – Petroleum Engineering  
 Mohamad Nounou – Chemical Engineering  
 Michael Pilant – Mathematics  
 Ghada Salama – Chemical Engineering  
 Dejan Skala – Chemical Engineering  
 Robert Smith – Chemical Engineering  
 Reza Tafreshi – Mechanical Engineering  
 Joseph Williams – English

## Academic Program Coordinators Named

Dr. Charles Bowman, Interim Dean and CEO of TAMUQ, recently named program coordinators for each Texas A&M University academic program represented at TAMUQ. The program coordinators will be responsible for liaising with the respective department on the main

campus, assisting with curriculum development, teaching assignments and scheduling, faculty recruitment, and student advising, as well as the development of graduate programs, teaching laboratories and research programs for some the programs.

Dr. Dragomir Bukur – Chemical Engineering  
 Dr. Mohamed-Slim Alouini – Electrical & Computer Engineering  
 Dr. Reza Langari – Mechanical Engineering  
 Dr. Mahmood Amani – Petroleum Engineering  
 Mr. James Hannah – Liberal Arts  
 Dr. Hassan Bazzi – Science (Chemistry, Physics)  
 Dr. Michael Pilant – Science (Mathematics)



**Dr. Dragomir B. Bukur**, Chemical Engineering faculty, was recently appointed holder of the Joe M. Nesbitt Professorship in Chemical Engineering by Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, Vice chancellor and dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Having served as a faculty member in the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University since 1981, Dr. Bukur is currently serving a two-year appointment at TAMUQ. He was previously an assistant professor at the University of Novi Sad (Yugoslavia), a research associate in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Houston and a senior research engineer for the Mobil Research and Development Co.

Dr. Bukur's research interests are in the areas of chemical reaction engineering; applied catalysis; and coal and natural gas conversion to liquids. He is recognized internationally as one of

the leading researchers in the area of CTL (coal-to-liquids) technology.

Among his awards at Texas A&M are Senior TEES Fellow Award in 1991, the Halliburton Award of Excellence in 1993, the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Research in 1994 and the Halliburton Professorship in 2003. Dr. Bukur is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and a member of the American Chemical Society. He has more than 100 publications to his credit.



**Ms. Suzanne Gyeszly**, Principal Public Services Librarian at the TAMUQ Library, was recently reappointed to the Mary and James Crawley '47 Endowed Professorship in International Librarianship by TAMU Dean of Libraries Colleen Cook. This endowed professorship will help Professor Gyeszly's research and service activities in international librarianship. A former Fulbright Fellow at the National Library of Hungary, Professor Gyeszly has published extensively on aspects of collection development and on international librarianship. In addition she serves on the American Library Association International Relations

Committee and the Collection Development Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations. She is now engaged in a multi-year research effort to document the collections of national libraries throughout the world.



**Dr. Marvin Rowe**, Chemistry faculty, attended the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology held in San Juan, Puerto Rico late last spring. Dr. Rowe participated in two presentations. One entitled, "Radiocarbon Dating of Rock Paintings: Where Do We Stand?" in the Symposium, Advances in Rock Art Methodologies, with Dr. Karen Steelman, and the other "Dating the Rock Art and the Archaeology of La Casa de las Golondrinas, Guatemala", in the Symposium, Caribbean and Latin American Rock Art with Drs. Eugenia Robinson and Ruth Ann Armitage. At the annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association, held in Bluff, UT, May 19-21, 2006, Dr. Rowe gave a presentation titled, "Rock Art in a Land without Rocks: Qatar Rock Carvings".

In addition to his recent presentations, Dr. Rowe has published two papers, "Rock painting depicting the re-

invasion of bison onto the south Texas plains: Painted Indian Cave, Pedernales River, Blanco County, Texas", published in *Plains Anthropology*, which was co-authored with Emily Brock, a Texas A&M University undergraduate student, et al. (2006), and "Lower Pecos and Coahuila peyote: new radiocarbon dates", published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, co-authored with Martin Terry and Karen Steelman, both Texas A&M University graduate students at the time of submission, et al. (2006).





### **QSO Participates in Engineering Welcome Day**

The Qatar Support Office participated in a welcoming event targeting TAMU freshman engineers on September 5, 2006. The event gave QSO a chance to show off TAMUQ and make the new freshman aware of the branch campus. Most students were not aware of the campus and were excited to know that there might be opportunities for them to participate in exchange programs or even study abroad. "This event is a great opportunity for QSO and the Dwight Look College of Engineering to highlight the campus and give students the opportunity to see what programs are available at TAMUQ," said Susan Williamson, director of the QSO.

### **QSO Relocates 19 faculty and 6 staff to TAMUQ for Fall 2006**

QSO spent the summer assisting 19 faculty members, 6 staff members and their families relocating to Qatar. Although

### **Arabic Language and Culture Program Kicked Off on September 19**

Again this year, the Qatar Support Office is offering the Arabic Language and Culture Class to Texas A&M faculty, staff and students. However, the program accommodates two levels of proficiency. Two courses will be offered concurrently: a Beginner I and a Beginner II, with the Beginner II taking participants farther into the language and culture. "There has been an overwhelming response to both classes and I am looking forward to teaching these students," said Mrs. Amal El-Halwagi, instructor. The classes are intended to introduce the students to basic conversational Arabic, as well as reading and writing skills. Cultural topics are also covered during the class to compliment the language skills.

relocation can be a lengthy and sometimes stressful process, they all seem to have adapted to life in Qatar very quickly!

## **Education for a New Era**

ALTHOUGH TEXAS A&M University at Qatar is still three semesters away from its first graduation, Texas A&M faculty recently participated in a graduation ceremony for 23 students who completed the Primary Educator Preparation Program at the University of Qatar. The program is co-taught by faculty from Texas A&M's College of Education and Human Development and University of Qatar faculty and is separate from the Engineering Program offered at TAMUQ.

"This project is part of a broader Qatar educational reform initiative called "Education for a New Era," and is graduating master teachers prepared to teach Qatari students in Arabic and English who will meet international achievement standards," said Dr. Douglas Palmer, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M in College Station and director of the collaborative program. "It is exciting to work in this important area of the world and to develop quality educational programs for future generations of Qatari children."

"This is our first experience in collaborating with a distinguished international university. It is a great opportunity for our faculty to cooperate with others from a different academic culture and to exchange experiences regarding good instruction for our students," said Dr. Hissa Sideq, dean of the College of Education at the University of Qatar. "This program serves as a model for educational reform in Qatari society, and we are relying on our graduates to lead this reform initiative."

Patricia Lynch, a clinical professor of educational psychology, is part of the seven-member team from Texas



A&M working with the University of Qatar.

"The students who have graduated and those who are currently enrolled are highly motivated students who work hard to master new material and to learn a new way of teaching and learning," says Lynch. "We expect them to become leaders – some in their schools and others in Qatar University and other education offices."

Latifa Al Kuwari is one of the graduates and said the faculty's friendliness and generosity is amazing, and everyone involved achieved a greater understanding of and appreciation for each other's culture.

"This program helped my dream come true – to be a classroom teacher, my dream since 1999," continues Kuwari. "I have learned a great deal and improved my professional skills. I have learned how to help other people, something I enjoy so much."

This academic year welcomed 14 new future teachers into the program. Also, the faculty are working with the University of Qatar's new independent school, Al Shaqab, to develop a model teacher training program coordinated with this school in a Professional Development School model.



## TAMUQ Engineering Building Update

The recent progress on the Engineering Building construction has brought significant visible changes, and preparations are beginning for the move to the building.

- ▶ Exterior pre-cast cladding is being applied to the north and south side of the Academic portion of the building.
- ▶ Exterior façade (light and dark rosette travertine imported from Turkey) is being applied to both Research and Academic portions of the building.
- ▶ Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work is progressing throughout the building with main focus on the lower levels.
- ▶ Interior corridors are having travertine (same color as exterior) applied

To track the progress of the construction, visit <http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/webcam/> for an up-to-the-minute photo or <http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/newbuilding/> for monthly photos around the building.





Texas A&M University  
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**ENGINEERING**

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