

منبر الآجي

The Aggie Platform

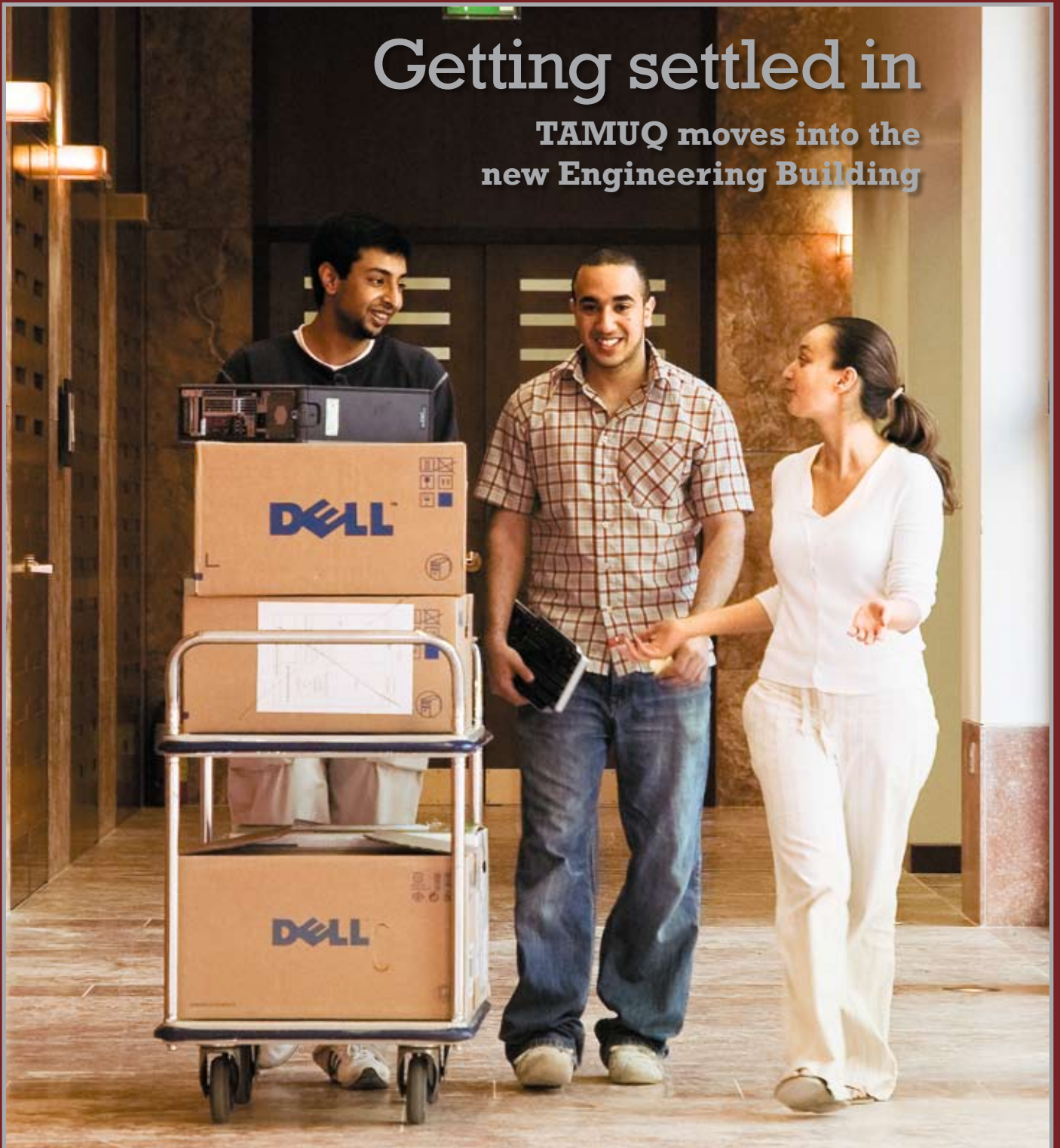
News from Texas A&M University at Qatar

Volume 3, Number 4

Summer 2007

Getting settled in

**TAMUQ moves into the
new Engineering Building**





The interior of the new TAMUQ Library offers fascinating perspectives and architecture.

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

Dr. Mark H. Weichold, Dean and CEO

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First book placed in new TAMUQ Library

On a recent trip to Doha, Dr. Colleen Cook, Texas A&M dean of libraries, placed the first book on the shelf in the new TAMUQ Library. When planning the move to the new engineering building, TAMUQ Dean Mark Weichold and Ms. Carole Thompson, director of TAMUQ Library, invited Dr. Cook to participate in this important milestone for the campus. The days following the placement of the first book were filled with readying the library for its first patrons. With most students away for the summer, visitors to the library have included local engineering and education professionals. (See more on page 4 about TAMUQ Library Services.)



Dr. Colleen Cook, dean of Texas A&M University libraries, places the first book in the new TAMUQ library during a recent trip to Doha.

During her visit, Dr. Cook received a briefing from Qatar Foundation administrators on the plans for an Education City central library. Qatar Foundation will operate the

central library for the Education City community, set to open in the next couple years, while each university will maintain a library specific to its academic program.

"Experience Aggieland" video released

TAMUQ recently released a new promotional video to showcase Aggieland in Education City. The video was cut from footage shot at TAMUQ during the spring semester and features a couple dozen Aggies who discuss their experiences at TAMUQ. The video also highlights faculty and their research — and the unique one-to-one mentorships faculty can provide their students.



The video is available in QuickTime and RealPlayer formats at http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/about_video.aspx.

TAMUQ student, staff and faculty awards

Awards were presented to students, staff and faculty at the annual end-of-year ceremony held at The Ritz-Carlton Doha. The STAR staff award and the Buck Weirus Spirit Award were new additions to the presentations this year. Congratulations to all the recipients!

TAMUQ Service, Team work, Attitude and Responsibility (STAR) Award

Shannon Estrada, Senior Academic Advisor
Abir Raslan, Senior Administrative Coordinator,
Academic Affairs

Dean's Meritorious Service Award

Desi Burns Porter, Assistant Director of Public Affairs
Norma Haddad, Director of Public Affairs
Gwen Lucas, Project Development Coordinator
Carol Nader, Public Affairs Assistant
Susan Williamson, Qatar Support Office Director

Dean's Award

Class of 2007

Lulwa Al-Maslamani
Hessa Al-Missned
Sara Al-Saadi
Suha Al-Sulaiti
Aisha Al-Wadaani
Hamad Bin Shamlan
Megha Mohan
Yousef Murad

Class of 2008

Saoud Al-Mannai
Nasser Al-Neama
Aly Anyan
Amine Bouras
Ali Dashti
Ameer Khader
Safa Naufal
Dina Nicola
Ahmad Talfat

Class of 2009

Hazem Abdel-Moati
Laith Abuhantash
Tausif Ahmed
Karim Farhat
Ali Hasiri
Khaled Hassiba
Amira Redissi
Mehrnoosh Saneifar

Class of 2010

Mahmudul Alam
Mohammed Al-Khori
Hasnaa Al-Qahtani
Talal El Awar
Wajih Idriess
Misam Jaffer
Sally Nicola
Marwa Qaraqe

Student Writer Awards *Sponsored by Liberal Arts Program*

English 104 Quill Award, Composition and Rhetoric
Abdalla Anyan '10

English 210 Quill Award, Technical Communication
Ahmed El-Sanadedy '08

SBG Dedicated Faculty Award

Dr. Mashaad Fahes, Petroleum Engineering

SBG Staff Appreciation Award

Desi Burns Porter, Assistant Director of Public Affairs



Bashar Hasna '07 received the inaugural Buck Weirus Spirit Award at TAMUQ for making a positive impact on the Aggie community. The award has been presented on the main campus since 1982.



Emily Yates, who works closely with all the student organizations at TAMUQ, presented this year's Student Organization of the Year to the 12th Man Club President Hussein Jichi '09 (left) and Vice President Omar AlAref '09 (right).

Buck Weirus Spirit Award

Sponsored by The Association of Former Students
Bashar Hassna '07

12th Man Award

Hussein Jichi '09

Leadership Awards

Class of 2007: Bashar Hassna

Class of 2008: Ameer Khader

Class of 2009: Hussein Jichi

Class of 2010: Sally Nicola

Student Organization of the Year Award

12th Man Club



Library reaches out to the community

Library Services:

After the Texas A&M University at Qatar Library opened in September 2003 as one of the first academic libraries in Education City, its reputation for service grew steadily. Fulfilling its strong commitment and mission to support teaching, research and community needs, the library has attracted nearly 200 into the library seeking information for professional and personal interests. Aggies living in Qatar, faculty and students from other Education City programs, researchers from Qatar University and scientists from local industries draw on the services of the library and its staff of information professionals. While community members can browse and check out the collection of print resources on engineering topics, the majority of interest is in the many electronic resources licensed through the University Libraries System. Two local schools stand out as special friends of the library.

Seniors get a head start at Al Bayyan Educational Complex for Girls

The Al Bayyan School for Girls requested use of the library for its junior and senior students to learn research skills for special projects. A very successful relationship was created between Principal Public Services Librarian Suzanne D. Gyszly, and the teachers and girls, resulting in Mrs. Gyszly visiting the school several times and in turn, hosted visits by students during their senior year. Perhaps it's no coincidence that nineteen of those senior girls are starting as freshmen in August as members of the Class of 2011.

Assistance to researchers, teachers and scientists of the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs

Teachers from the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs use the Texas A&M University at

Qatar Library to find the latest tools and techniques for improving the quality of care and education for the children at the Center. Research Director and Former Fulbright Scholar, Brenda Lazarus sought help after the Shafallah Center's Research Department opened in Fall 2006 to use specialized online databases until the Center is able to expand its own collections. All community members are welcome to use the resources in TAMUQ library. After an initial visit and tour last fall, Shafallah Center staff have become regulars in the library, often stopping by after class hours and calling on the TAMUQ librarians for assistance with research. "TAMUQ Library has been a great help to our staff as they conduct their advanced degree study in Qatar," said Dr. Lazarus. "Many of them have come back from the library saying how helpful the staff was to them. We are a predominately Arabic speaking school, and our staff has not had much experience with doing research in English. We thank you for opening your doors to the community."

The TAMUQ Library community user privilege policy allows in-library browsing and

reading of all materials, borrowing of up to five books for two weeks without renewal, and assisted reference and research services by professional librarians. Access to most electronic books, databases and journals is available in the library only; a temporary network login and password will be provided with verified identification.



Although the library has been unusually quiet this summer, librarians are looking forward to having students in the new library.

Community member access to resources at the Texas A&M University at Qatar Library

Print resources

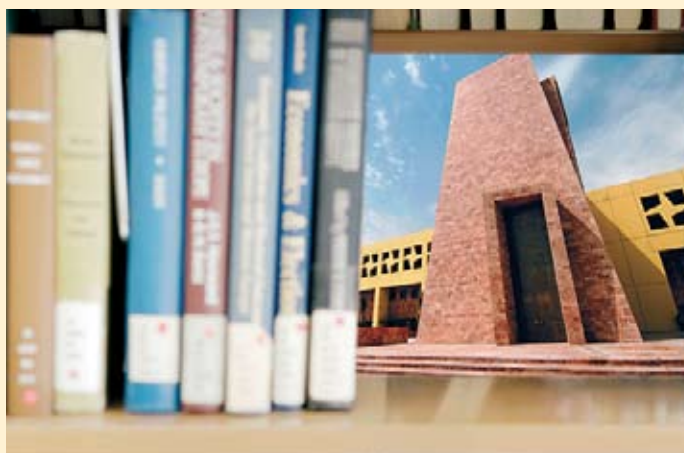
Print materials, such as books or journals, can be perused in the library. Check out to community borrowers is available by showing a current identification card, such as driver's license or student identification.

Library staff will add the community user to the Voyager patron record, including: name, address, PO Box, mobile number, office phone, and home phone.

TAMUQ Library print resources will not be checked out unless the community user is able to verify their personal information with an identification card, such as national ID, or driver's license. Borrowers are encouraged to provide a business card as additional information.

Material from the libraries at the main campus are not available for community borrowers.

For additional information, visit the library Website. Specific information about borrowing privileges is available on the borrowing and circulation section of the library's Website.



Electronic resources

The procedure that Texas A&M University follows in order to comply with licensing restrictions is to create a guest access account for anyone who comes into a library facility that will be available for two weeks, and is renewable.

The account permits a login to the computers in the library, thus allowing

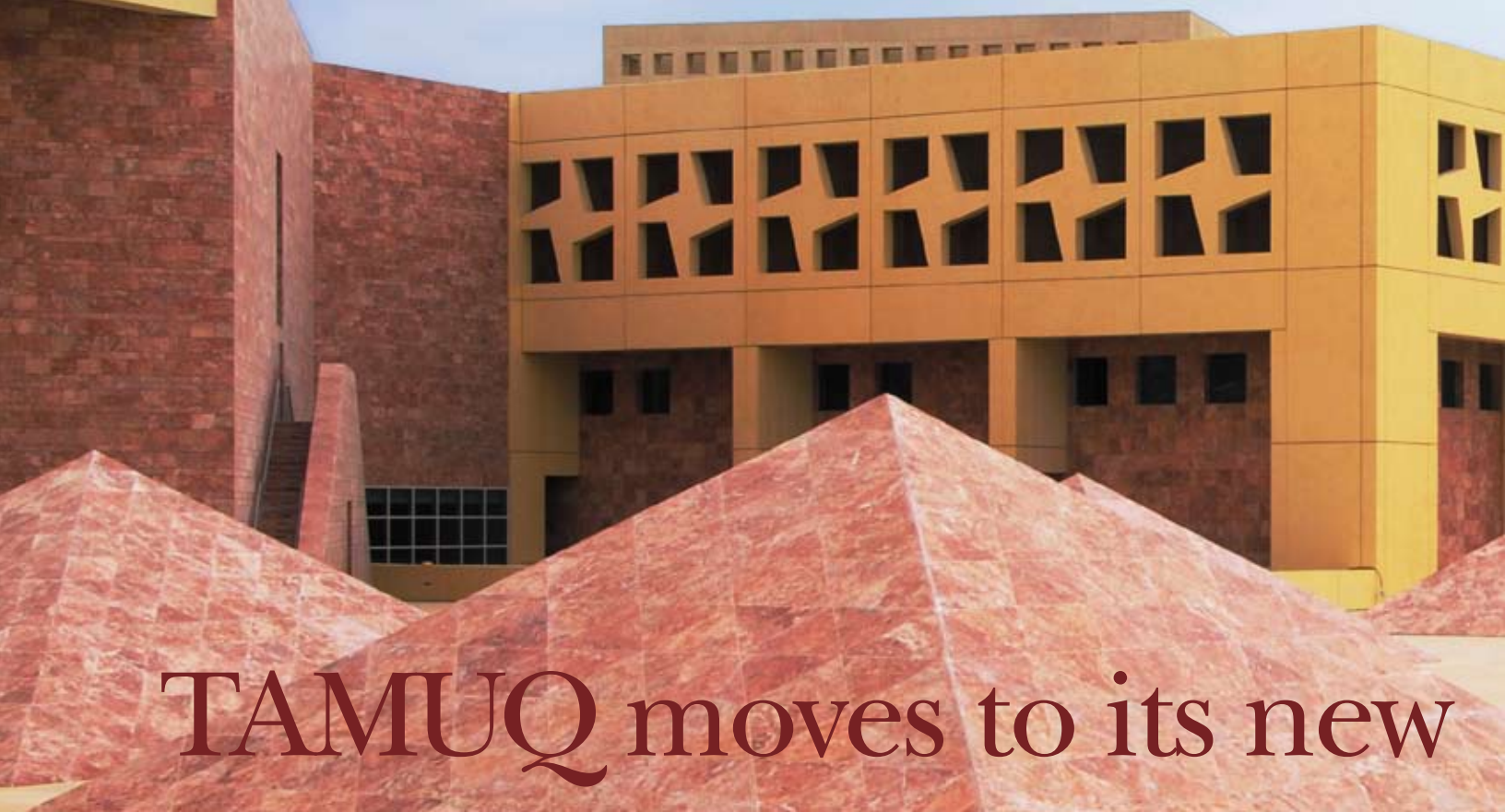
full access to the portfolio of electronic resources.

Current Library hours are posted on the Website, <http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/library>.

Suzanne Gyeszly, the principal public services librarian, is available by appointment to assist, or the librarian on duty will be happy to answer questions or provide information.

Audiovisual resources

Because of high demand, the DVD collection is limited to TAMUQ faculty, staff and students only.



TAMUQ moves to its new

Most universities have buildings on a campus. Texas A&M University at Qatar is a campus in a building.

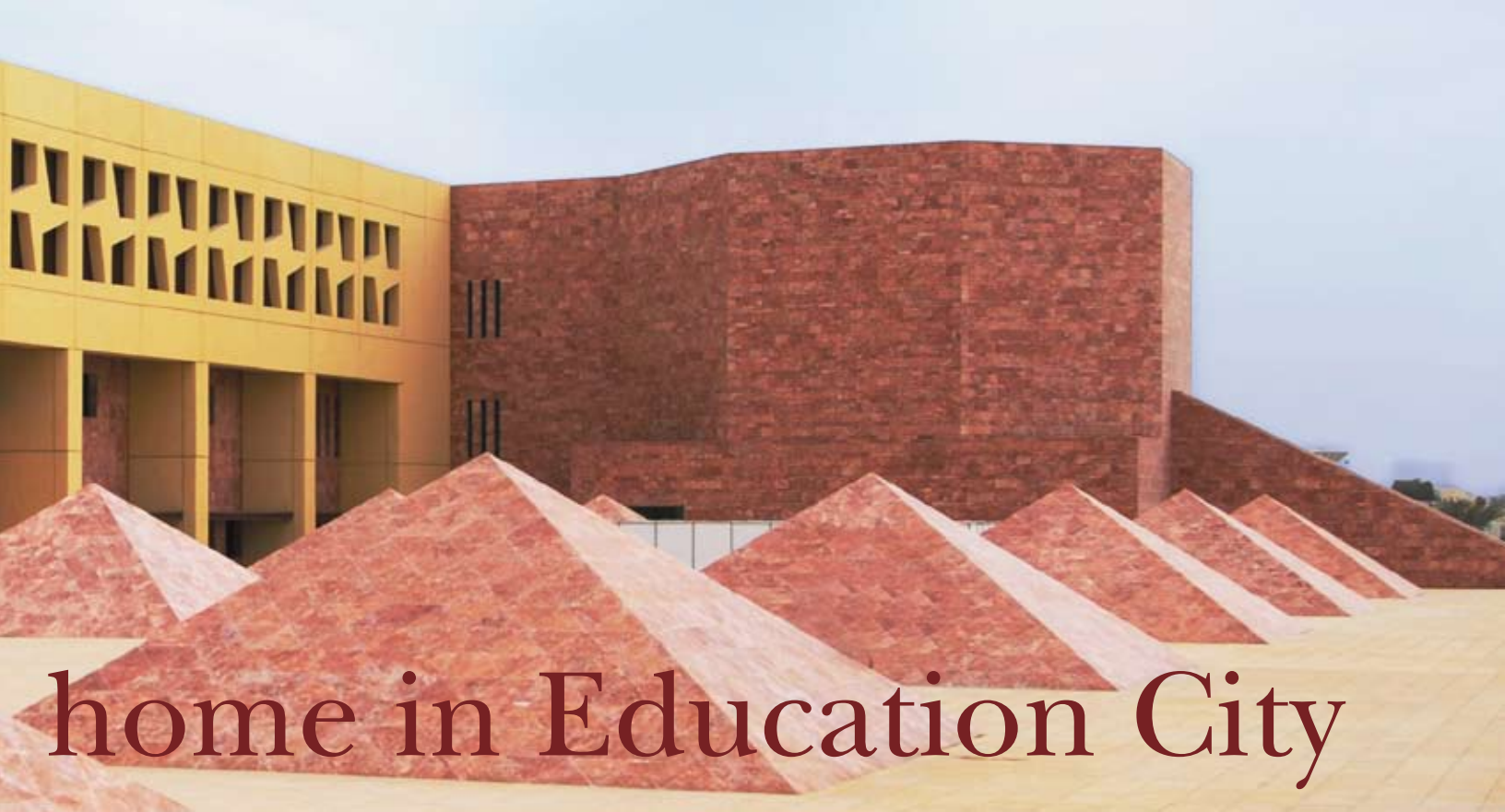
That’s the outlook of Ravi Kallianpur as he settles into his office in the new Texas A&M Engineering Building. Kallianpur, director of user services and instructional technology for Information Technology Services (ITS), offers some of the wit common among the new building’s first occupants — quips about flickering lights and particularly effective air conditioning — but he is sincere in his appreciation for the profound opportunities TAMUQ has been given with the new facilities.

“Not many people have an opportunity to work in a building like this,” he said. “It’s awesome to have the labs and classrooms all in one place — all within walking distance of each other. It’s a beautiful building, but it’s also functional and efficient.”

That functionality and efficiency is being thoroughly tested as the fall semester draws near. Sights, sounds and smells of newness — and, occasionally, construction — fill the Engineering Building in Education City as TAMUQ students, faculty and staff explore their new spaces for working, teaching, learning and researching. The building, though already occupied, is still receiving its



Library student workers, who typically help library patrons check out books, became extra familiar with every book in the library, having packed and unpacked each one.



home in Education City

finishing touches — and “explore” is not an exaggeration. At 595,000 square feet (55,000 square meters), the building offers substantially more space than the LAS Building TAMUQ previously shared with the Academic Bridge Program and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

But for the trailblazers who made the move while most faculty were away for the summer, it’s all in a day’s work. And the details — the little things — provide comic relief amid the sometimes overwhelming rush to finish preparing for the start of school. “What I find awesome is the motion-dependent lights — especially the ones in the restroom — reminding everyone not to spend much time in there or else you’ll be in total darkness,” said Vicky Molina, administrative assistant for academic affairs. The lights indeed can be tricky, but learning to navigate the building’s many corridors was the first challenge most people at TAMUQ faced

after the move this summer. “Will we ever be able to find everyone?” joked Teresa Chipman, an information technology consultant in ITS.

The student workers who helped make the move might be able to provide a good answer to that question. As they traverse the building, moving from their jobs in the research wing to their student lounges in the academic wing, the student workers demonstrate not only their knowledge

of the building — but also that they will be essential to helping their classmates get acquainted with the Engineering Building when they return for the fall semester. They, after all, will have had a two-month head start in learning to navigate the building. And they’re excited about that. “The new Engineering Building will be a utopia for students, with its remarkable academic and research facilities and simultaneously an attractive environment,” said Misam Jaffer ’10, a mechanical engineering major and library student worker.

The student workers’



Staff and faculty were very happy to get settled in their new offices and see the last of the empty boxes be taken away.

“The facilities within the Engineering Building will enhance our academic reputation and further our charge to produce highly skilled, ethical, and service-oriented engineering graduates. We are committed to our mission of teaching, research, and service at TAMUQ and this wonderful building is a cornerstone of that effort.”

— Dr. Mark Weichold, Dean and CEO of Texas A&M University at Qatar

role is larger than that of a guide, though — they have been indispensable in transplanting TAMUQ from the LAS Building to the new engineering building. Russell Lindell, interim senior manager of customer applications in ITS, said student workers were a tremendous asset during the move because they could be relied upon to help solve problems as they arose. ITS student workers can be seen throughout the building, setting up computers, moving equipment and helping to install the building’s wireless network. “I’m impressed by those students’ willingness to work until the job is done,” Lindell said. “I appreciate their initiative and their attention to detail. Those are traits that will serve them well after graduation.”

Carole Thompson, director of the library, echoed those sentiments. About eight student workers packed up the library in the LAS Building earlier in the summer, Thompson said. “Three of those students stayed on to unpack, sort, shelve, shift and clean up the library,” she said. “They are still there plugging away every day. The library would simply not be in shape for fall term if not for our students.”

As the summer comes to a close and the building gets closer to completion, the adjustment period will wane. In that moment, one can simply stand back and admire the beauty of the building’s architecture — there’s something fascinating at every turn. “As I walk through the building, everywhere my eye falls there is something lovely or interesting to see,” Thompson said. “It’s a visually appealing and inspiring experience that grows every day that I live in the building. I love it more and more.”



Dr. Nesrene Ozalp, right, mechanical engineering faculty, gets help setting up her computer from ITS student workers.



ITS student workers are continuing to help ready the building for the fall semester, seen here putting together wireless access points.



Admitted students had the opportunity to meet other incoming freshmen during the Welcome Day.



Upperclass students spent time with the new admits so they could get a first hand account of what life is really like at TAMUQ.

Aggie Welcome Reception

The TAMUQ Student Body Government hosted its first Aggie Welcome Reception at Education City on May 12 to welcome Aggies who were offered admission to the university for the fall 2007 semester. Almost 70 new students appeared for the event and were not only given a great Aggie welcome, but they also had the opportunity to have many of their questions answered.

The morning started with an explanation of the official greeting of the university, "Howdy!" The agenda included an official welcome by the Student Body Government President, Ameer Khader, and by Dr. Mark Weichold, dean and CEO of TAMUQ. Weichold told the attendees that they were a part of an elite group that was chosen from among more than 1,000 applicants for the fall 2007 term. Other speakers included Director of Student Affairs Dennis Busch and program coordinators who spoke about their respective engineering programs and provided a general overview of mechanical, petroleum, electrical and chemical engineering.

The program also included a series of videos and a student panel. The videos gave the students an opportunity to see not only what it means to be an Aggie at Texas A&M University at Qatar, but what campus life involves. During the panel, 10 current students were available to answer questions. The new students had a large number of questions, including questions addressing student organizations, the courses taught at the university, what the different programs are like, and what the day-to-day life of a student is like.

The day concluded with a luncheon that provided the new students an opportunity to visit with current

students and faculty members. The new students took full advantage of this chance and asked more questions to get a better understanding what it means to be a student at TAMUQ. The reception was such a success that the Student Body Government plans to make the event an annual tradition.

Two days before students got their taste of Aggie life, on May 10 the new students' moms, aunts and sisters enjoyed a reception hosted by Ms. Mariam Al-Mannaie, assistant director of admissions at TAMUQ. The new Aggie Moms were given information about TAMUQ student life and were invited to join the soon-to-be-formed Qatar chapter of the Federation of Texas A&M Aggie Mothers Clubs. Dr. Saif Ali Al-Hajari, vice chairman of the board of directors for Qatar Foundation, encouraged the family members to become partners in fostering the students' success.



Because association with Texas A&M isn't limited to the student, Aggie moms, aunts and sisters attended a reception to learn more about the campus and their role in their student's success.

TAMUQ hosts workshop: Groundwater as a main water source for agriculture in Qatar



Sheikh Faleh, during an interview with Qatar Television, promoted the joint venture between the Ministry and TAMUQ.



Dr. Richard Ewing (third from left), VP for Research at Texas A&M at College Station, joined Dean Mark Weichold, Sheikh Faleh and Dr. Jim Holste, Assoc. Dean for Research, at a press conference for this project.

“The mission of our university is teaching, research and service. Collaborations of this nature between academia, government and industry support all three parts of our mission and we are proud to support the State of Qatar in this way.”

— Dr. Mark H. Weichold, TAMUQ Dean and CEO

Researchers explored the viability of groundwater being a source for agriculture in Qatar during a workshop hosted by TAMUQ on May 22 in Education City.

Titled “Groundwater as a Main Water Source for Agriculture in Qatar,” the workshop was jointly funded by the General Department of Agricultural Research and Development (GDARD) within the Qatar Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture (MMAA), the Office of the Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University at Qatar.

Opening remarks were offered by Sheikh Dr. Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani, director of the GDARD; Dr. Richard Ewing, vice president for research at Texas A&M University; and Dr. James Holste, associate dean for research at Texas A&M University at Qatar. Four hours of scientific presentations followed.

Sheikh Faleh said, “It is decided to give a special priority to maintain and protect our sole natural water source which is groundwater. The workshop is planned to be the first one in a series of workshops to discuss several critical issues in the whole of the agricultural sector and try to find suitable solutions for them. It is our pleasure to have Texas A&M University now in the country and we are delighted to cooperate with such a veteran university.”

The workshop began with a presentation entitled “The State of Groundwater in Qatar” by Dr. Kamel M. Amer, GDARD, MMAA, which gave an overview of the

groundwater management and policy issues.

Internationally renowned researchers from Germany, Norway and the United States then discussed various practices and issues for underground water systems, saltwater intrusion, and groundwater quality, and then examined mathematical challenges involved in modeling and simulation of groundwater systems in subsurface regimes like those found in Qatar.

Dr. Richard Ewing said, “It was interesting to see a team of interdisciplinary experts in groundwater modeling and management from around the world come together in Doha with water management experts from Qatar to discuss common issues, to share best practices, and to build potential collaborations.”

The workshop was the culmination of two days of scientific presentations by researchers at the First Annual Doha Conference in Applied Mathematics and Computational Science, which was held May 20 and 21, 2007.

TAMUQ Dean and CEO Dr. Mark H. Weichold was pleased that the mathematics conference and water workshop brought the university’s experts together with Qatar’s expertise and experience in water resources. “The mission of our university is teaching, research and service. Collaborations of this nature between academia, government and industry support all three parts of our mission and we are proud to support the State of Qatar in this way.”

Qtel and TAMUQ sign agreement to establish a wireless communication research laboratory

Qtel and TAMUQ in April signed an agreement to establish a wireless Communication Research Laboratory in the new Engineering Building at Education City.

Wireless telecommunication is one of the areas of research to be emphasized in the electrical engineering program. The Communication Research Laboratory will complement an already advanced array of TAMUQ research facilities and undergraduate teaching laboratories and will contain the latest, most advanced electronic equipment.

Both graduate and undergraduate students will be able to perform research that will prove useful information for commercial applications in Qatar and will have the capability of developing new technology. As they perform the research, the students will learn to solve practical problems and become familiar with using the most advanced technology available. This lab will include a new hardware test facility capable of emulating real mobile wireless and wire line scenarios.

Dr. Nasser Marafih, chief executive officer of Qtel, expressed his enthusiasm for the project and said: "We feel it is part of Qtel's responsibilities to contribute toward the country's development and technological advancement by creating a 'launch pad' with relevant parties to foster research and development in Qatar."

Dr. Khalid Qaraqe and Dr. Mohamed-Slim Alouini, electrical engineering faculty at TAMUQ, described in more detail the functions of the wireless communication laboratory to include a wireless test bed that will be used for the evaluation of technology; the understanding and development of wireless/wired internetworking; and the development of protocols and applications for seamless mobile operation. The laboratory will include a combination of software and hardware equipment such as a computer-controlled RF multipath fading simulator, a spectrum analyzer, a logic analyzer, a signal generator, an oscilloscope, a network simulator, and a signal processing part (with Matlab and real-time DSP capabilities).

Dr. James C. Holste, associate dean for research and graduate studies at TAMUQ added: "The wireless communication laboratory will also be designed to facilitate the training of some of TAMUQ's best undergraduate students as part of their senior design projects. These experiences will improve the students' training on technological updates and hands-on experience that cannot be fully provided by regular laboratory courses."

The laboratory also will be essential for the electrical and computer engineering graduate programs to be introduced in the very near future.

Engineering staff from RasGas provide training to TAMUQ engineering students and faculty



Engineering staff from the subsurface department at RasGas Company Ltd. (RasGas) provided training to a group of 43 TAMUQ engineering students and faculty on April 25.

This was an opportunity for RasGas, a principal developer of Qatar's natural gas resources, to share technical knowledge covering a wide range of topics such as basic well design, installation of equipment and well testing. These technologies are important to the efficient production of natural gas reserves from North Field wells being developed by RasGas. Students and faculty gained a practical understanding of how applied engineering is used in the design of oil and gas wells.

Dr. Khalid Qaraqe and Dr. Mohamed-Slim Alouini, electrical engineering faculty at TAMUQ, and Dr. Scott Miller, electrical engineering faculty at Texas A&M University in College Station, are exploring research opportunities with RasGas on advanced techniques for wireless downhole communications systems. These opportunities will help nurture additional collaboration relationships with RasGas in



TAMUQ Professor Khalid Qaraqe (right) invited fellow Texas A&M graduate Harris Swartz to give a lecture to TAMUQ students and faculty on behalf of RasGas.

the area of wireless sensors and will provide TAMUQ students with opportunities to understand practical implementation of the basic completions engineering process.

West Point cadets meet TAMUQ

In the 1800s two institutions were formed by government mandate to address the critical shortage of both engineers and military leadership: The United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA) and Texas A&M University (TAMU). Both institutions, though separated by many hundreds of miles, were positioned along rivers, which was, at the time, considered strategically advantageous; USMA by the Hudson River in New York State, and TAMU by the Brazos River in Texas. Over the next 150 years or so, through numerous military engagements and the rapid growth of an industrial nation, both institutions consistently provided graduates who are unrivaled in engineering and military expertise.

Today, the strategic position has shifted somewhat eastward and, in a collaboration of the two historic institutions, seven West Point cadets came to the Middle Eastern campus of Texas A&M University at Qatar, on the shores of the Arabian Gulf, to participate in a joint enrollment political science class organized by Liberal Arts faculty member, Todd Kent and West Point faculty member, Brian Dietzman. There is no military program at TAMUQ, so the cadets were allowed to enjoy the more relaxed classroom atmosphere in their “civies” (civilian clothes) as well as getting to know the Qatar Aggies. The West Point cadets had all previously passed intensive Arabic classes on the home campus in New York and were eager to work on their fluency skills with the native Arabic speakers at TAMUQ.

Beyond the successful completion of the intellectually challenging course, the cadets took part in a whirlwind of activities and observations in an effort to better familiarize them with the life and culture of the Middle East as well as with the American military presence in the country. Not only did they attend a lengthy class every day and do the homework required by that course, but also they toured such places as the American military installations in Qatar where they met the base commander, the Qatar Military Academy, the Qatar Leadership Academy, the Al-Jazeera



USMA cadets relaxing in Doha eatery Ric's Kountry Kitchen.

Media Network English and Arabic channels, and the Shaffallah Center. During a farewell breakfast at a well-known downtown Doha American-style eatery, Ric's, the cadets related some of their impressions and experiences:

As an ice-breaker upon arrival, their leader, Brian Dietzman, assigned them a mock “Amazing Race” game but most said the Qatar version of it was much more difficult than the televised version. The cadets were dropped-off in various places in Doha and had to find their way back to their quarters in Education City; using their Arabic skills, they had to catch taxis and give directions to the drivers, they had to locate hard-to-find items, and they were assigned many other tasks that tested their Arabic communication abilities. Besides being in an unfamiliar place and having to communicate in Arabic, one student noted, “It’s a lot hotter here than back home in Michigan!” Another student mentioned that he mistakenly thought pedestrians had the right-of-way on the street and was nearly hit by a speeding Land Cruiser — a lesson all expats living in Qatar learn very quickly!

As the breakfast ended and the cadets were heading back to their quarters to pack and get ready for their return to the US, it was apparent they were tired and somewhat ready to go home, but one student remarked on his way out, “I remember this one Qatari guy told me there is an old Bedouin saying that goes something like: ‘If you stay with a man’s tribe for 40 days, you’re a member of his tribe.’ I really liked that.”



Major Brian Dietzman (left) and Dr. Todd Kent (right), who coordinated the joint enrollment political science course for West Point and TAMUQ students, welcomed as a guest speaker the base commander (center) from Camp As Sayliyah, the US Army post located on the outskirts of Doha.

Liberal Arts hosts anthropologist

The Liberal Arts program recently hosted Susan Ossman, a noted cultural anthropologist, who visited the campus and spoke to students of English faculty member Leticia Salter. Guests such as Dr. Ossman bring greater world perspectives to the students of TAMUQ.

Dr. Ossman is an anthropologist who has done extensive fieldwork and archival research on media and globalization, gender and politics and migration in Morocco, France, Egypt and most recently, in Canada. After earning her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in 1991, she founded the Rabat office of the Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain in 1992 (now Centre Jacques Berque). She has taught at the communications institute of the Sorbonne, the American University of Paris, Georgetown University, Rice University and Goldsmith's College, University of London. She has just joined the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, where she is a professor of global studies and anthropology.

Professor Ossman has published extensively in English and French. Her *Picturing Casablanca, Portraits of Power in a Modern City*, is a landmark study of how transnational currents shape modernity, understandings of tradition and power from the perspective of urban Morocco. *Miroirs Maghrébins, Itinéraires de soi et Paysages de Rencontre*, presents the



Dr. Susan Ossman

results of an international collaborative research program on media and social interaction that she led while at the IRMC. In *Three Faces of Beauty, Casablanca, Cairo, Paris* she develops an innovative approach to the study of globalization through the method of linked comparison. She shows how media images are “embodied” in the beauty salons of three cities connected by history and the flow of fashion.

Her recent work considers how geographic mobility is related to processes of social distinction, political agency and class. Her interest in mobility has also led her to embark on

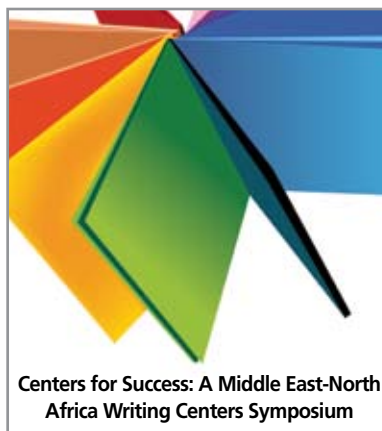
her latest project: a critique of philosophical concepts of cosmopolitanism from the perspective of people who have lived lives of serial migration: people who, like herself, have lived in several countries in the course of their lives. These “serial migrants” are the subject of her current research. She has published several articles on this work, as well as an edited book, *The Places We Share: Migration, Subjectivity and Global Mobility*.

Professor Ossman has received numerous grants for her research, including two Fulbrights, a bourse Chateaubriand and grants from the French CNRS and the British Academy. She was awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in 2005.

TAMUQ Technical Communications Center to host regional conference

In the fall of 2006, writing center directors from all the Education City universities gathered for a luncheon hosted by TAMUQ to share experiences and get to know one another. From this first informal meeting emerged the Qatar Writing Centers Network (QWCN). In the spring, responding to contacts from writing center directors at universities as far away as Lebanon and Egypt who are interested in work in Qatar and the Gulf region, TAMUQ agreed to sponsor the first writing center conference for the Middle East and North Africa.

“Centers for Success: A Middle East-North Africa Writing Centers Symposium” will be held October 26–27, 2007 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Doha. During this conference, writing center officials will share best practices in opening and operating a writing center, encourage regional



Centers for Success: A Middle East-North Africa Writing Centers Symposium

networking, and inaugurate a branch of the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) for the Middle East and North Africa.

The event will be a fully interactive symposium with roundtable discussions and hands-on workshops. The guest speaker and workshop facilitator will be Michele Eodice, vice president of the board of the International Writing Centers Association and executive director of the ConocoPhillips Writing Center at the University of Oklahoma.

The event is funded by Texas A&M University at Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar.

ASME Rip-My-Ride



The Qatar Scientific Club donated tools and space for TAMUQ engineering students to experiment with automotive mechanics during the ASME Rip-My-Ride event.

Most college students are aware of a popular television show that takes old, run-down cars and unbeknownst to the owner gives them a complete make-over with new paint and high-tech audio-visual equipment. When classes finished at TAMUQ, a group of mechanical engineering students decided to create their own version of this project in coordination with TAMUQ's student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Old, run-down car — check. A team of young, capable mechanics — check. Plan for making the car the best looking 1987 Subaru on the roads of Doha — let's not get too creative. Instead of giving the car a fresh coat of paint and stereo speakers that would rattle the windows of nearby cars, the ASME students and Dr. John Bryant simply took the car apart.

Dubbed "ASME Rip-My-Ride," the dedicated engineering students braved the heat and dust to take the car apart piece by piece to learn more about how everything worked together. Over the course of three days, the students dismantled the engine, air-conditioning system, interior

furnishings and exhaust system. The project brought a bit of celebrity to the students as well when they were featured in a local

Doha newspaper for their unique, independent approach to learning, especially given that classes were finished for the semester and they weren't receiving a grade.

Although there was no celebrity host or television cameras, the students had a great time dismantling the car together. One other major difference between this project and the popular television show — this was not done unbeknownst to the owner of the car. It actually belonged to the father of one of the students. However, he didn't get a shiny new 1987 car at the end of the project...just a bunch of spare parts.



Four students dismantled the dashboard and steering for two whole days.

TAMUQ Sports

Education City Outdoor Soccer Tournament

First Place: Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

Second Place: Texas A&M University at Qatar

Third Place: Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Education City Basketball Tournament

First Place: CHN University

Second Place: Texas A&M University at Qatar

Third Place: Qatar Academy

Qatar A&M Club donates scholarship



On their first visit to the Texas A&M Engineering Building, Mr. Robbie Schilhab '75 (middle), president of the Qatar A&M Club, and Mr. Robby Denton '80, vice president for finance, presented Dean Weichold with a QR10000 scholarship donation. The Qatar A&M Club has been a strong supporter of the campus since the idea for TAMUQ was conceived.

Maroon Club Chocolate Day



The Maroon Club hosted "Chocolate Day" in April to celebrate chocolate in its many forms! The Wellness Program helped to support the event, demonstrating the benefits of chocolate in moderation. Students from all over Education City came to TAMUQ to sample chocolate treats, including a fondue tower, crepes, and more. A cake decorating contest was also a big hit, with teams of students competing for the most creative and interesting chocolate creation.

Student Body Government Election Results

Student Voter Participation: 78 percent of student body

President
Ameer Khader '08

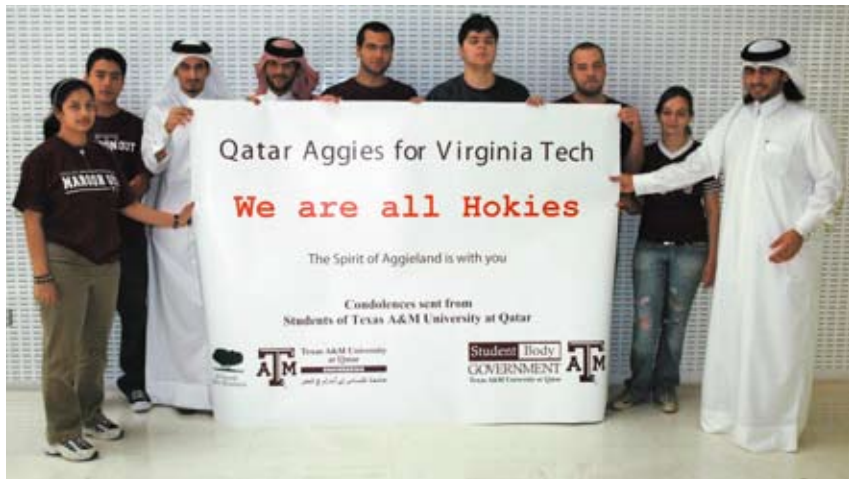
**Class of 2008
Representatives**
Saja Al-Naimi
Bassel Babi
Ahmed El Sanadedy

**Class of 2009
Representatives**
Maha Al-Sulaiti
Hussein Jichi
Talha Mirza

**Class of 2010
Representatives**
Muneera Alshriem
Talal El Awar
Lamma Najjar

TAMUQ sends condolences to VaTech

On April 16, 2007, a gunman killed 32 students and faculty on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. To show solidarity with their fellow students, faculty and staff in Blacksburg, Virginia, the TAMUQ Student Body Government arranged for a banner to be sent expressing support for the Virginia Tech Hokies.



TAMUQ Student Affairs to highlight disability services

It has been estimated that up to 10 percent of college students have one or more disabilities, ranging from autism to dyslexia. To provide equal access to education for all students, the Department of Student Affairs is proud to begin offering support services to students with disabilities in the fall of 2007. Disability Services was one of the first committees formed by Dr. Mark H. Weichold after beginning his tenure as dean and CEO. "Just like in College Station, TAMUQ strives to provide its students with every opportunity to succeed in their studies. I am pleased that TAMUQ is taking steps to that end in providing assistance through disability services for students who may need either short term or long term aid to overcome any challenges that could impede their chances for success."

Disability Services provides accommodations counseling, evaluation referrals, disability-related information, adaptive technology counseling, and equipment for academically related purposes. In addition, staff members are available to faculty, staff and students who wish to incorporate awareness about individuals with disabilities into their classrooms, events, and activities.

Disability Services is housed within the Wellness Program, and is managed by Ms. Patti Collins, Wellness Program coordinator and counselor. Disability Services in College Station, under the direction of Dr. Anne Reber, is also providing invaluable support to make this service possible.

More information on Disability Services can be found at <http://www.qatar.tamu.edu> or by calling the Department of Student Affairs at 423-0047.

Plucking

a poem by Mohammad Hashim '09, Mechanical Engineering

I don't have the words to say what I'm going through
 some things cannot be said in a word or two
 it feels like plucking feathers from a sleepless owl
 its everything you know, but you don't want to say
 it is me, when I see you alone
 standing there, and they don't care
 they just say what they think is best for you
 they just bestow their wishes and dreams upon you
 I wished that everyone would get a real life
 and leave us alone, we would barely survive
 we don't know why we love or hate
 but I wish I knew why they love to hate
 I don't know what to do now, it seems like you are gone
 and I really can't do this...All on my own
 I'll try and close my eyes, and ignore what they do
 cause really...it does not affect me or you
 I'll picture us in another world, where things can go
 like fairy tales and that is...a place where love can grow.
 plucking...

Softly call the Muster...



Aggie Muster 2007 was marked at TAMUQ with a ceremony held at the Education City Community Center. The program for the Muster ceremony this year was almost completely planned and carried out by TAMUQ students, 10 of whom took part in the actual ceremony. Mr. Carter Crites '82 represented the Qatar A&M Club and made greeting remarks. Major Tyler Moore from the U.S. Army base played Taps. The names of 16 students from the main campus and 5 former students who passed away in the region were called during the Roll Call for the Absent. Mr. Dave Stanfield '03, Director of Student Activities at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, was invited to give the keynote address. He shared his Texas A&M experience with over 100 guests, including TAMUQ students, faculty, and staff, Qatar A&M Club members and other friends of Texas A&M.

TAMUQ names new CIO, director of admissions and records, and director of environmental health and safety

Khalid Warraich was named in April as TAMUQ's chief information officer. Reporting to Dean Mark Weichold, Warraich will be leading TAMUQ's Information Technology Services (ITS) department and will be responsible for creating research computing strategy, planning and operation of the University's information systems, and technology development activities. He will also support the campus administrative and academic computing, communication and instructional technology needs.

Warraich brings more than 15 years of experience in supercomputing and information technology services. Prior to his appointment as TAMUQ CIO, Warraich served as director of research computing at TAMUQ. He was previously the associate director for supercomputing at Texas A&M University in College Station where he led outreach activities to other Texas institutions of higher learning resulting in the creation of HiPCAT (High Performance Computing Across Texas) federation which works to enhance the national prominence of high performance computing in Texas. Member institutions are Rice University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Houston, and the University of Texas. He also led several expansions of the main campus' supercomputing and mass storage systems.

Dr. Robert Hensley recently joined TAMUQ as the new director of admissions and records and campus registrar. Dr. Hensley has nearly 30 years of experience in higher education admissions at universities across the United States and comes to TAMUQ from the University of New Orleans, where he has served as director of admissions.

In his new role at TAMUQ, Dr. Hensley will be responsible for the recruitment of applicants to the university's engineering programs, as well as oversee the management of all applicant, student and alumni records. He will ensure that the same standards for admission to the main campus of Texas A&M in the United States are applied and upheld at the Qatar campus. TAMUQ



Mr. Khalid Warraich



Dr. Robert Hensley

is set to begin graduate programs in the next year and the recruitment of graduate program applicants will be another responsibility for Dr. Hensley.

Over his nearly 30 years of experience, Dr. Hensley has served in various positions of increasing responsibility at University of Wyoming, Humboldt State University, University of Great Falls, University of Montana-Montana Tech, Colorado School of Mines and University of Tulsa.



Ms. Marné Smith

Marné Smith joined TAMUQ in June as director of environmental health and safety. Most recently serving SUNY Fredonia for the past seven years, she brings over 20 years of experience in the field of regulatory compliance across a wide range of disciplines which includes work within private industry and academia. A graduate of the State University of New York, Ms. Smith is a certified environmental trainer, certified hazardous materials manager, and NYS building and fire code enforcement officer.

In her new position, Ms. Smith will ensure the safety of faculty, staff, students and visitors by designing and implementing environmental and safety compliance programs that are compatible with US federal standards. To that end, she will coordinate safety training activities for the various departments to foster compliance with implemented programs and work with applicable departments to promote building security and coordinate internal emergency response activities. Reporting to Dr. Jim Holste, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, she will also work closely with Qatar Foundation and neighboring Education City universities to provide input on campus wide security strategies.

Electrical engineering program technical development training

The Electrical Engineering Program held technical trainings April 17–25. The training provided two professional workshops for the various faculty and staff members at TAMUQ, in particular EE staff. The first training, held April 17–18, was offered by EMONA TIMS Systems, a company specialized in telecommunication equipment for educational purposes. The second training, held April 19th – 25th, was offered by National Instrument (NI). It covered hands-on practical skills using LabVIEW, a graphical programming software to create user-defined solutions.

A total of six staff members attended both trainings. In addition, one faculty member and one staff member from the Electrical Engineering Department at Qatar University attended the training. The trainings were organized and supported by the EE program.

To conclude the event, Dr. Khalid Qaraq presented training certificates to attendees who participated in the training and passed the LabVIEW Fundamentals Exam.

Because of the overwhelming success of the trainings,



Attendees during an NI training session

the Electrical Engineering program has committed to sponsor such trainings in the future.

This event reflects Texas A&M University’s commitment to provide the best resources available to faculty and staff at TAMUQ as they undertake the process of innovation and the creation of knowledge.

Dr. M. Suhail Zubairy

a professor of physics at TAMUQ has recently published a paper in the prestigious journal *Science* on an important aspect of quantum computing, namely the factoring of numbers. The journal *Science* publishes only results that are internationally acclaimed.



Prof. Zubairy’s paper has, in addition to the obvious scientific importance, has a unique distinction: This is the first paper published in *Science* not just by a scientist from TAMUQ but from any institution from Qatar. In the paper titled “Factoring numbers with waves,” Zubairy has discussed how recent techniques based on nuclear magnetic resonance can be used to factorize a large number. The factoring problem lies at the heart of modern e-commerce as the difficulty to factor a large number into its prime factors is widely used in communication safety protocols.

Professor Zubairy joined the TAMUQ faculty in January 2007 from the Texas A&M University campus in College Station, where he is a professor of physics. He is regarded as an international authority on quantum optics and quantum computing. He holds the patent for the circuit

design of an important quantum search algorithm. He is the co-author of two books, one on Quantum Optics and the other on Quantum Computing Devices. Zubairy is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America and a Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He has received the Orders of Hilal-e-Imtiaz and Sitara-e-Imtiaz from the president of Pakistan, the Outstanding Physicist Award by the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), the International Khwarizmi Award by the President of Iran, and the Abdus Salam Prize for Physics. Earlier this year he was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize of the Republic of Germany.

Congratulations to Dr. Seyeong Choi

for successfully passing his Ph.D. dissertation defense! As previously reported in The Aggie Platform, Dr. Choi conducted his research at TAMUQ and completed his defense via video conference with his committee on the main campus. The title of his dissertation is “Design and Performance Evaluation of RAKE Finger Management Schemes in the Soft Handover Region.” Mabrook, Dr. Choi!





Debating Debates

By Magdalena Rostron, Academic Bridge Program Student Development Specialist

“It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it,” said Joseph Joubert (1754-1824), a French moralist and essayist. The Academic Bridge Program’s Debating Society could hold that quote as its motto.

ABP officials view student debates as a vital activity that develops language skills, enhances critical thinking and promotes independent research. The rationale behind the ABP student debates is to promote an open and non-violent exchange of ideas, practice expressing them in clear and comprehensible English, and develop public speaking skills.

Most student debates conducted in the ABP are structured on the basis of the Oxford Union format, with two teams — proposition and opposition — competing for the audience’s vote. Each team has two key speakers and a summator who summarizes the main points before voting takes place at the end of the debate. A moderator provides the overall guidance, directing questions from the audience and keeping tabs on the time allowed to speakers. Motions debated by ABP students are formulated by the students themselves and include social, cultural, and political issues.

ABP debates generate a lot of excitement and interest among students. “This experience has been life changing. It has made me more open and more active. I started to defend what I think is right and I always love to debate now,” said Maryam Al Nisf, a Debating Society member.

However, debating is also a highly academic activity as it involves a great deal of research, writing and speaking, all

done in English. In many ways it is team-oriented because it emphasizes cooperation and exchange of views, but, at the same time, it gives individual students an opportunity to shine on their own as speakers. It develops students’ awareness of various, sometimes conflicting, opinions, ways of presenting one’s own arguments in a rational manner, listening skills and tolerance.

The first public ABP student debate took place in April 2006 and the motion was “This House believes that gender segregation in Qatar should be abolished.”

The speakers for the proposition argued passionately that segregation of men and women was detrimental to their social and intellectual development, and advocated greater flexibility and openness to change. The opposition team came up with strong counter-arguments quoting the country’s traditions and social mores.

Both sides presented well-formulated arguments that showed not only their profound understanding of the complexity of the issue, but also proved that they had researched it thoroughly. The opposition won by 108 to 81 votes.

The second public debate was held by the ABP Debating Society in November 2006. The motion put for discussion was “This House believes that the pace of changes in Qatar is too fast.”

The speakers for the proposition argued that changes in the country were being implemented too fast, while the
(Debating continued on page 20)

“The most significant element of a successful debate is the level of preparedness of its participants.”

— Tim Sebastian, host of The Doha Debates



(Debating continued from page 19)

society was mostly unprepared for them and needed time to adapt. They advocated caution and less indiscriminate approval of some social and cultural transformations taking place in Qatar.

The opposition team struck back with powerful arguments in favor of modernization and greater open-mindedness in the Qatari society. They listed a number of vital advantages brought in by the changes, such as co-education and more opportunities for women, and many other positive additions to the country. After a heated discussion, the proposition side won by 105 votes to 61.

The idea of holding student debates in the ABP was partially inspired by The Doha Debates. The Doha Debates team has given the ABP Debating Society a great deal of encouragement and support, organizing presentations on debating skills and facilitating meetings with Tim Sebastian, a renowned British journalist, famous for conducting the Hard Talk program on BBC World, who offers advice to students on how to conduct properly structured debates.

So far, two special meetings with Tim Sebastian of The Doha Debates have been arranged for ABP Debating Society members. Both times, the participating ABP students found them to be not only intellectually inspiring but also extremely helpful in terms of delivering practical guidelines for successful debating.

According to Sebastian, “The most significant element of a successful debate is the level of preparedness of its participants.” He stressed the significance of research conducted before each debate and gave students useful tips on formulating opinions and questions in simple, straightforward language. Another vital factor contributing to a successful debate, he said, is the ability to listen to the other side and to questions.

Debating is not about winning or losing an argument — although the element of competition is a strongly motivational component as the audience votes for or against the motion at the end of a debate. It certainly isn’t about finding an ultimate solution to a controversial issue. But it is about being able to express one’s views convincingly and listen to what other people have to say. It is about learning and getting to know different points of view. It is about working as a team while developing one’s own independent thinking. It is about the spirit of communication and using words to build bridges between people.

Even if none of the questions discussed by the ABP Debating Society so far — and there have been many — got settled once and for all, the very action of debating them has opened minds and hearts, and allowed for brave new ideas to appear, hammering out freedom of thought in the process.

Education City welcomes Faculty of Islamic Studies

Qatar Foundation recently announced the development of the Faculty of Islamic Studies, an international center for Islamic thinking and dialogue committed to enhancing research into Islamic culture. Commencing in 2007, the Faculty of Islamic Studies aims to produce future generations of scholars who are expert in Islamic culture and ideology and are equipped to tackle the challenges facing Muslim communities across the world.

Based on the diversity and tolerance of the Islamic Fiqh, the Faculty of Islamic Studies aims to provide a structured study that adapts and contributes to our modern changing world; illustrates the richness and diversity of Islamic culture; emphasizes the openness of Islamic faith and demonstrates

the power and potential of Islam to serve humanity.

A truly global center, the Faculty of Islamic Studies is open to students from Qatar, the region and the rest of the world. The Faculty’s flagship courses are a General Diploma in Islamic Studies and MA programs in Islamic Studies (with a specialization in Contemporary Fiqh) and Public Policy in Islam.

The Faculty of Islamic Studies expects its students to seek knowledge, not just information. The Faculty aims to strengthen the confidence of its graduates to accurately represent Islamic culture and ideology on an international stage.





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