

GRAD CABLE

The official newsletter of Graduate Student Association - Qatar



UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

OCT. 6

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR
THE 13TH CYCLE OF NPRP -
CLUSTER TRACK

OCT. 11-15

FALL BREAK
(NO CLASSES HELD)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FOLLOWING GRADUATE
STUDENTS WHO RECENTLY
DEFENDED THEIR THESIS!**

MASTERS

MIRNA MAKLAD
NAVAIRA FATHIMA

DOCTORAL

M. ZIYAN SHERIFF
(COLLEGE STATION)

My Constant

by Sara Amani

When I look back at my undergraduate life and reflect on all the good and bad times, all the long nights and stressful days, all the challenges that seemed impossible, all the days I showed up to the university in sweat pants, there was one constant in my life that helped me get through it all, and that was... coffee.

I'm not sure how I would have pulled all the all-nighters or attended all the back-to-back lectures if I didn't have AT LEAST one cup of coffee a day. Before university, I used to show up to cafes with my family and get incredibly confused by the menu... "What's the difference between a latte, cappuccino, macchiato, and americano?", I would think, and then kindly ask the waiter to just bring me whatever he thought was not too bitter but not too sweet. Now, I can give a full lecture on the differences between everything on the menu at Starbucks, explain how many shots of espresso go in each drink depending on the size, and discuss the ideal ratio of espresso,

.... milk, sugar, and water for each person's taste. As a chemical engineer, I find that fascinating.

But coffee was about more than just the caffeine rush and energy levels for me. Grabbing coffee was a chance for me to take a break from the packed schedule and unwind with my peers; it gave me an outlet to explore and relax while still feeling productive at the same time. Whether it was finding an open pantry to make free Nescafé in or driving to an overpriced coffee shop, the time spent on getting coffee was a great stress relief.

PHOTO BY SARA AMANI



I'm writing this on the night of September 30th, incredibly excited that tomorrow is International Coffee Day. I can't wait to go get some great deals at my favorite cafes and take my work there. For those of you reading, I know you'll see this after the fact, but I hope you got lucky and were at a café at the right place and right time. If not, there's always next year. Coffee is my constant.

Kindness

by Neil Adia

It is apparent that the history of human civilization is just one long failure of critical thinking. Uncertain? Recall that at different points of history people were *burned alive* for opposing the idea of geocentrism, people thought that Continental Drift was a ridiculous concept, the Mars Climate Orbiter literally couldn't handle the difference between the Imperial and Metric systems of units, the people of Troy let a magnificent wooden horse into their city and were annihilated for it, and people tried to use *cocaine* to treat hay fever and *meth* as a diet pill. The list goes on.

We seem to be fooled by the *simplest* of things – optical illusions, for example. How then are we supposed to see the truth of reality in subjects of *actual* importance in our lives? Day after day, our expertise in the use of logical fallacies has taken us out of the frying pan and into the fire of arguments and heated debates instead of the hope of collaborative enterprise. Can we not just *acknowledge* the existence of an honest gap between science and truth? Our world is too big for almost all of us not to be ignorant about almost everything. There just might be an answer to that.

Despite the massive intelligence gap between humans and other living beings that inhabit this planet, human children are among the most helpless infants to exist. For good measure, those *adorable* baby giraffes are able to stand merely *hours* after birth. Our infants, on the other hand, take years before they can even be left unsupervised. That means that we have to take care of them for a long time, out of nothing but *kindness*. My own parents have spent all that time raising me, protecting me, and



PHOTO BY MURTAZA ALI KHAN

.... teaching me – a debt to their kindness I can never repay, and one they wouldn't expect me to, either. That same kindness, perhaps in some other shape or form, has kept us all alive. Doubtless, there is a skeleton out there, thousands of years old, with missing or deficient bone structure yet they died of old age. That means that someone would have been *helping* them live, that someone had *cared* about them, cared for them. All that time ago, they were kind for the sake of being kind. If there was some way to show them how far we had come, everything from our civilization would seem completely unimaginable, except perhaps for *compassion*. Because although they comparatively knew little and understood even less, despite the series of failures that were on the road ahead for them, we know that they had kindness. The same kindness that today raises our children and takes care of our elderly, provides humanitarian aid and disaster relief, and sustains friendships.

In terms of our course through time, we have never been this far out to sea before, and the waves ahead are looking bigger

than ever. Maybe if we squint hard enough, we can just about make out the promise of land in the years ahead. But a thousand storms lie between now and the future. Our ancestors have seen this film before, constantly living on the edge of *uncertainty* and *death*, helplessly bound by the systems inside and outside of them that they did not understand, just like we are today. And if there was *one thing* alongside intelligence and technology, *one thing* that sustained them and got them through, that one thing that was indisputable – it was *kindness*. There is no doubt we will mess up in the future, albeit with *a billion times* the efficiency that we messed up in the past. We *cannot* and will *never be* correct about everything all the time. Ignorance might be our curse, but **kindness** is a blessing that we can always share.

ADDITIONAL DEADLINES

MASTER'S - NON-THESIS

OCT. 23 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION" OR 10 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

OCT. 30 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMINATION" FOR STUDENTS IN M.ENG. OR M.ED. IN EPSY

MASTER'S - THESIS

OCT. 2 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION" OR 10 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES;

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMINATION"

OCT. 16 - LAST DAY TO TAKE FINAL EXAM (DEFEND THESIS)

DOCTORAL

OCT. 2 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION" OR 10 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

OCT. 16 - LAST DAY TO TAKE FINAL EXAM (DEFEND DISSERTATION OR RECORD OF STUDY)

OCT. 23 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT A SIGNED APPROVAL FORM AND PDF OF THE DISSERTATION IN FINAL FORM BY 5:00 P.M. SIGNED APPROVAL FORM IS SUBMITTED TO OGAPS. THE PDF FILE MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA THE WEB TO

[HTTP://THESIS.TAMU.EDU](http://thesis.tamu.edu)