Transcript of the Interview:

Me: This is an interview conducted by Basma Essam Abdelhafiz may I have you name please?

Marwa: Marwa Heggy

Me: and your title?

Marwa: I’m an instructor of Economics

Me: your place and area of residence?

Marwa: Heliopolis, im living near Heliopolis Club.

Me: and, your age

Marwa: 31

Basma: do you accept that this interview is recorded and submitted into the AUC archives and used for classroom purposes?

Marwa: yes

Me: Ok, to my knowledge you are an AUC graduate?

Marwa: Yes, I did, I graduated from economics

Me: And what year did you graduate in?

Marwa: uhhhh, I graduated in fall 2001

Me: ummm, you also had your master’s degree from AUC, is that correct?

Marwa: yes I did, uhhh I finished my masters in economics fall 2005

Me: okk, and also to my knowledge you are a part time instructor at AUC starting last semester?

Marwa: Yes, im teaching along with Dr.Beshei Economics 201, macroeconomics

Me: Ok, (takes breath), so you practically went through the three different stages with the university, can you describe for me the experience of being the undergraduate, graduate and member of the faculty in the same place and over a long period of time?

(hits table)
Marwa: Ummmm, basically its , I can say it’s the same but, its different in the same time, from the social point , from the personal point of view I would say that uhhhhh when I was undergrad, I was more concerned with having fun (social ),(uhhhh) to (knn) to know new friends, to get to know new people, it was more of spending time, having fun. I also had an another part for studying I wanted to learn more and I wanted to have (fers) personal development I cared about my own personal development also, as the further I went in my studies I went and (ummmm) the focus went from having fun being undergrad lightheaded to being study more and to the personal development. As I finished my masters I am now working. I do care more about learning from everything, learn (a) I even learn from my students how to deal with them, how to teach and how to do everything and developing my personal my personal skills

Me: Ok, What major differences have you noticed throughout all these years that you spent in the same institution?

Marwa: The scale of the university is now much bigger than before

Me: Ok

Marwa: (Ummmmmmmmm )Major differences I can’t say there is major difference because it’s the same university the same I have the same teachers and the same departments, I, its relatively the same, I can say the scale and the research in the university is much bigger than

Me: Ok, You have also been exposed to both campuses which can be a good thing and a bad thing. So first what do you think of the new campus?

Marwa: I love the new campus it has a lot of trees, gardens everything its much bigger (uhhhhhhhhhhhhh) And I always had a problem in (thhhhh) the old campus like which was crossing the streets, it’s very difficult to cross the streets in Cairo, so basically this is safer a safer campus and I love it much more but I still have like something,I loved the old campus because it represents something for me

Me: Ok, so you still feel attached to the old campus?

Marwa: Yes

Me: And which do you personally like more?

Marwa: From personal experience I have personal memories and personal .......... Preference for the old campus of course, but I love the new campus because its similar to the big campus (aa) big university campuses abroad (uhhhhhhh) it’s also ...... it help you to concentrate on what you are doing because it was a problem for me in the old campus to move from the main campus to the SS or to the library I had to cross the street if I have classes between .......on..
what we called then the UTR’s Monday…….(mumbles) it was Sunday (uhhhh) Tuesday…Thursdayyy. It was the difference between classes was ten minutes (uuhhhhh) I had to run from my campus to another which was you basically you have to cross the street and in very short time so much its it was a waste of time for now it’s much better

(Table)

Me: Ok, so you don’t think that the campus, the new campus being far away from the city and everything else is a problem for students and professors?

Marwa: (Uhhhhh) no its not because even the Tahrir campus used to reach it if you’re living in Heliopolis it’s gonna be the same thing I will have to (sss)… wait for hours on, at the bridge, uuuuh ,The 6th of October bridge

Me: Ok so, answering also to the question what are, what, what do you think the advantages and disadvantages are of the new campus?

Marwa: The, I think the disadvantage would be that it is difficult for people to drive to the (uhhhhhhh) to the campus by themselves it will encourage using the bus because I cannot drive maybe at night on the (ummm) on the way back to the 90th road would be like bit dangerous, (ummmmmmm) that should be the only disadvantage I see to the new campus, (uuhhhhhhhhh) the advantages are a lot I see a lot of technological developing from the old campus the library is much bigger and the departments are set much much better than (ummmm) the old campus.

Me: Ok, and do you think the alumni offices are doing a good job with the alumni’s?

Marwa: Yes, while I lived abroad for a while and they used to call me every year although I’m living outside Egypt they used to call me to check if there is any change in my contacts in the, if there’s, if (ummm), what do I do if there is any change in my status for them and they would do it. They would change it

Me: Ok, last question about the university new campus, would you rather that it didn’t move to the new campus and stay in the old campus and why?

Marwa: No its true that I’m still attached in a way as in personal sense to the old campus but I think it’s it’s the right thing to move to the new campus and I think it would help the university move on the, the ranking between other universities because if the university put much more effort in the academics they can be compared to the top universities.

Me: Ok, so (…..), after saying the, what do you think of the university today and the progress that it had made?
Marwa: The university is doing very well now I think they are doing fantastic job in re, research and the development of classes, I think adding a PHD program would be an amazing thing also I think this is the path for some (uuuhhhhh) departments and so it’s doing a fantastic job I think we need to see more PHD programs or more study programs (uuhhh) offered for the students for whoever want to to to (hel) (Adm) submit in them

Me: Ok, (ummmm) do you have anything else to add about that

Marwa: No

Me: Ok (laugh)

Me: Do you feel a difference between your attitude as a student and the attitude of students now

Marwa: I don’t feel the difference between the attitudes but I can understand why they are acting in specific way, we all cared about getting a high grade, we didn’t want to do all the effort, we tried always to find the easy way around we always wanted to have, we appreciated having nice time more than going back and studying (f) so it was the same attitude the only thing I see different is the reasons how to deal with it I think that because maybe I remember how I felt as a student its helping me as a teacher to understand, as an instructor to understand, how to deal with the students to make them enjoy what they are studying

Me: Ok, and do you feel this is also a similar question, do you feel a difference between the attitude of the professors and the assistant back when u were a student and between your attitude now when you became the professor, the assistant of the professor?

Marwa: Sometimes, I still don’t understand some things because I find that some, I talk with the more on a different basic level now because now as I talk with them I understand why they are doing certain things, for example I always found (ummm) you have per, what we called a tough grader, why is he a tough grader, what he had in mind usually was to put you in the level of other universities top universities abroad but he didn’t, we did u never see it that way as a student, I only understood it now.

Me: Ok, (ummmmm) do u enjoy teaching after all these years of studying and being in the same field and then now your actually teaching that field do u enjoy it or are you getting bored of it

Marwa: No I don’t get bored of it actually I love it and I think that what I would love to do for the rest of my life because It I find it very interesting very (uhhhhhh) it helps when I said I want, I’m concerned with the personal development it helps me.....it helps me to understand
(uhhhhh) not to understand to(...) to give it this is what I want to do (ummmmmmm) (silence) it’s more like I don’t know how to say but it’s like some people enjoy teaching others don’t I like to do my research to do everything and then give whatever I have, give it all to the students

Me: Ok how long do you see yourself doing this, for couple more years? For just one year and then quiting ? Or for a lot of number of years?

Marwa: No I would love to do it for the rest of my life but I wish the department would see me like that.

Me:(laugh) yes hopefully (laugh)

Marwa: (laugh)

Me: (Ummmmm) So I hope that your experience in the university as a student as an undergrad as a graduate as a professor was good and I hope that the students keep on giving you a good experience and thank you very much for this interview.