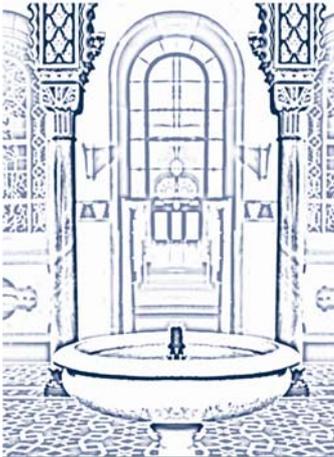




# The Fountain

THE JOHN D. GERHART CENTER  
FOR PHILANTHROPY  
AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



The fountain – Gerhart center logo and newsletter title – in traditional Arab architecture is placed at the center of the front courtyard as a symbol of hospitality, generosity and the wealth of spirit that is the essence of community

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A Newsletter from the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 2, April 2008

## Letter From The Director

It has been an exciting and busy time for all of us here at the Gerhart Center. We recently issued a major report on the trends in Arab philanthropy at a first-ever consultation with stakeholders. Launched on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Dubai, *From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy* was discussed among more than 300 participants from across the region.



Fielding a study in eight Arab countries in one year was a huge undertaking. But the enthusiastic reception it has received both internationally and here in the region suggest the timeliness of this topic. You can find press coverage and excerpts from the report on our website. An Arabic translation is currently underway.

Our Community Based Learning initiative continues to thrive and expand. More and more faculty are attending our workshops to learn how to integrate community service into their academic course work at AUC. Four new Student Leaders for Service have joined the team, and their energy and enthusiasm is inspiring. The Gerhart Center Campus Conversations continue to tackle topics that are on the minds of the AUC community, and we have been fortunate to have some great speakers share their ideas in our Public Lecture series.

Gerhart staff just finished a two-day planning retreat in Cairo. We emerged with a renewed conviction that our role in an increasingly dynamic field is to be a knowledge leader for civic engagement and philanthropy in the region. We also see a role for the center as an incubator for new ideas and programs that will eventually spin off to the broader community.

I hope you enjoy catching up on our recent news. Please stop in and visit us whenever you are in the vicinity -- the coffee pot is always on.

*Barbara Ibrahim*  
Director

## Conference on Arab Universities and Civic Engagement

The Gerhart Center, with the support of Innovators in Civic Participation and in partnership with the Talloires Network, will host a regional conference on the role of universities in promoting civic engagement. The conference is a first step in establishing a network of Arab universities focused on civic engagement.

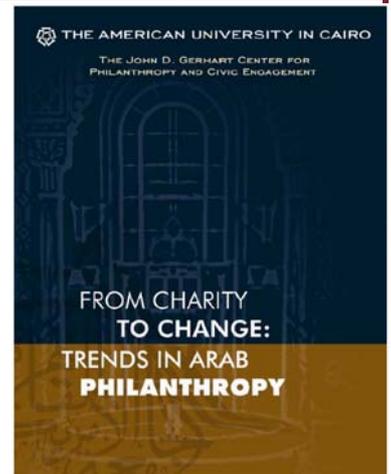
The two-day event at AUC will include 15 to 20 regional universities and is planned for October 2008. Participants will include senior level university administrators, faculty members and students. The primary aim of the conference is to initiate dialogue among universities in the region about how best they can work together to promote a model for 'engaged' higher education.

The conference will also serve as the beginning of a relationship between the Talloires Network and universities in the region, linking Arab institutions of higher education to the international network and its regional networks. This will provide an important means of sharing experiences, resources, and inspirations in the global search for an engaged higher education.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

**First Regional Consultation on Arab Philanthropy*****From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy, A Partnership between the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation***

Institutionalized philanthropy is an ancient tradition in the Arab region that is currently experiencing a powerful resurgence. Fueled by increased wealth, growing citizen participation and the belief that social problems are best addressed locally and in a sustainable manner, a new breed of Arab philanthropists is emerging. We at the Gerhart Center find ourselves in the exciting position being in the middle of this movement. We decided to leverage this position to capture the dynamism and further understand this largely undocumented sector. With the support of the Boeing Company, we carried out the unprecedented Mapping Arab Philanthropy (MAP) Project.



The result was the production of a comprehensive report entitled: ***From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy***. The study is the first of its kind carried out in the Arab region. It maps the types of philanthropy that exist in the region as well as identifying key Arab philanthropists pushing the sector forward.

The Gerhart Center launched the report at the First Regional Consultation on Arab Philanthropy. The Consultation was organized by the Gerhart Center, in partnership with the newly established Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation and took place on January 20- 21, 2008 in Dubai, UAE. The Consultation, which was under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was also attended by AUC alumnus Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. The event brought together key Arab philanthropists, business leaders, foundation executives, heads of NGOs, decision makers, scholars and other critical stakeholders.

In addition to launching the MAP study, participants discussed key Arab challenges and the need for Increased Strategic Philanthropy. They exchanged ideas about creating a modern framework and further understanding of Philanthropy in the region. Through their discussions, they uncovered emerging trends and promising directions for Arab philanthropy.

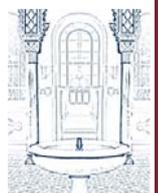
Working groups discussed challenges and opportunities within key sectors. They focused on fostering the strategic role of philanthropic work in the region's overall development and participants identified areas that require social investment in each sector and proposed recommendations that will lead to a Regional Action Plan.

Here are just a few of the topics that were covered:

- Education and Knowledge
- Youth Empowerment and Inclusion
- Enabling Environment (Legal and Policy framework)
- Measuring Impact and Building Strategies for Long Term Change
- Financial Sustainability Mechanisms
- Public Health
- Science and Research
- Building Effective Partnerships and Sector Networks

The Consultation provided a framework for effective networking, knowledge and experience exchanges and facilitated unprecedented debates. As a result, not only will more meetings on Arab philanthropy be held throughout the remainder of 2008, but the importance of further documenting the Arab philanthropic sector was highlighted and stressed. To that end, the Gerhart Center is now committed to undertaking a second phase of research that will cover institutionalized philanthropy in an additional eight Arab countries. In the coming months, the Center will be publishing a number of in-depth case studies derived from the countries covered in Phase I of its research, starting with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We look forward to sharing those findings with you.

Dina Sherif  
Associate Director



## FEATURE ARTICLES

## Gerhart Center hosts a public lecture by Ismail Serageldin at AUC

The assets of the three richest people in the world exceed the GDP of the world's 28 poorest countries. The assets of the 15 richest people in the world exceed the GDP of all of Sub Saharan Africa. The largest population segment in the Arab world are youth under the age of 25. The Arab world must create 100 million jobs in the next 20 years to absorb youth into the labor market.

These are a few of the thought-provoking statistics presented by Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Library of Alexandria and former Vice President for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development at the World Bank, in his March 24<sup>th</sup> lecture titled *Young Entrepreneurs Will Build Egypt* at the American University in Cairo. His lecture was an inspiring presentation promoting self sufficiency and innovation in Egypt and the Arab region. He evoked optimism at a time of economic crisis for many nations around the world.

His lecture began with a review of modern technological developments, followed by an illustration of what he termed the "knowledge revolution". Dr. Serageldin asserted that building the capacity of Egyptian youth is necessary so that they are converted from consumers to inventors and producers of technology. Using Taiwan, previously one of the world's poorest countries and currently the 11th most important economy in the world, as an example, Dr. Serageldin suggested that despite the grim picture painted by many, Egypt still stands a good chance to compete in the global economy. Dr. Serageldin pointed to the experience of young entrepreneurs around the world – including Steve Jobs of Apple and Sergey Brin and Larry Page, the brains behind Google – as inspirational examples of what their Egyptian counterparts can achieve.

Dr. Serageldin recommended better educational practices, increased public-private partnerships for youth initiatives, and more science-based policies. He encouraged computerization of schools, greater emphasis on science and math, and the building of new models of educational institutions. Dr. Serageldin used the example of France's Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) – an institution that has always advocated continuing education and has forsaken the out-dated academic snobbery which dictated that the only valuable education is full-time study – as an innovative educational institution. He emphasized the critical importance of catering to part time students here in Egypt. This recommendation is particularly significant in a country where many cannot afford to study full-time and where many women, in particular mothers, might not have the opportunity to attend a full-time educational institution. In addition, he urged the audience to examine different models when approaching their educational and career decisions. He encouraged students to explore alternatives to the traditional model of education-to-career. He advocated job mobility as a means to explore various areas and expand experience thus increasing job satisfaction and productivity.

Dr. Serageldin's lecture was an important reminder of the vast untapped potential of youth within the region. In times such as the present, one must hope that his suggestions for higher investment in youth find their way to the appropriate institutions, whether private or public, that will see them to fruition for a better future for all.

Nora Eltahawy, Program Assistant



Dr. Ismail Serageldin

*"The secret message communicated to most young people today by the society around them is that they are not needed, that the society will run itself quite nicely until they— at some distant point in the future— take over the reigns. Yet the fact is that the society is not running itself nicely— because the rest of us need all the energy, brains, imagination and talent that young people can bring to bear down on our difficulties. For society to attempt to solve its desperate problems without the full participation of even very young people is imbecile."*

Alvin Toffler



## GERHART NEWS

## Networking and Partnerships

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### ARAB FORUM FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

The second meeting of the Arab Forum for Social Innovation (AFSI) was successfully held in Dubai, UAE on January 18-19, 2008. The meeting was held in partnership with the Institute for Philanthropy in the UK and UBS of Switzerland. It was hosted by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation. Participants included 14 philanthropists from eight Arab countries.

AFSI aims to provide philanthropists with a forum to interact, discuss and exchange information, knowledge and experience. Participants are afforded an exclusive setting to interact with each other as well as with renowned leaders and experts on selected topics in philanthropy. The objective of the meetings is for participating philanthropists to develop their knowledge and plans regarding their philanthropic initiatives.

The theme for the second meeting was *Enduring Change Driven by Creativity*. The subjects addressed were strategic philanthropy and innovation in social investment. Discussion focused on employing creative means to establish and strengthen partnerships within and across sectors (private, civic and government) to achieve strategic and sustained impact. The Next AFSI meeting will be held in Jordan and the theme will be *Education and Human Resource Development*.

## Training and Courses

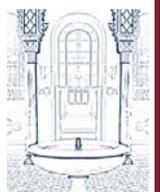
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- Community Based Learning (CBL): The Gerhart center and the Center for Learning and Teaching and the Department of Rhetoric and Composition at AUC conducted a training workshop entitled *Community Based Learning: Principles, Practice and Assessment* for faculty interested in integrating community service in their course work. The workshop featured guest speaker Susan Stroud, Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation. The workshop was held on March 31, 2008 in the Capital Club followed by a reception.



**Civic Journalism class**

- New course offering: *Philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility and Development* is the title of a new course offered at AUC and coordinated by the Gerhart center and the Management department for the Spring 2008 semester. The course is taught by Barry Gaberman, distinguished visiting professor, Gerhart center, and former Senior Vice President at the Ford Foundation, Jennifer Bremer, Associate Professor, management department and Director of Public Policy program, AUC and Barbara Ibrahim, Gerhart Center Director. The course was offered to AUC graduate and senior undergraduates, as well as auditors from the private sector.
- Professional development: In October 2007 the Gerhart Center and the Civil Society Project at the Center for Electronic Journalism conducted a tuition free 4-day training course for journalists. The course offered training on how to cover civic responsibility issues in Egypt titled *Strengthening Civic Journalism*. The course was taught by the internationally renowned, award-winning Egyptian journalist Mona Eltahawy. Eight journalist from different mainstream media participated in the course and received a certificate of completion at the end of the four day period.



## GERHART NEWS

### Public Events

- The Gerhart Center hosted a public lecture by Dr. Ismail Serageldin on youth and the private sector entitled: *Young Entrepreneurs Will Build Egypt*. (See Page 3)
- The first seminar of the spring series of the Interdisciplinary Research Centers of AUC was held at the Gerhart Center. The seminar was titled *Religion, Business and Philanthropy in Egypt: Studies at the Interface*. Barbara Ibrahim, Director of the Gerhart Center, introduced the scope of work at the center, then focused on the center's work on philanthropy in the Arab region.
- In partnership with the AUC Law department and the Law student association, the Gerhart Center organized a public talk on *The State of Pro Bono Practice in Egypt*. Lamiaa Youssef, Director of the Pro Bono Department at Sharkawy and Sarhan Law Office, gave an overview about the firm's new initiative that provides legal services on pro bono basis to clients who can demonstrate financial need and who would otherwise be unable to afford the service. Amr Shalakany, Director LLM Program, Law Dept. at AUC led a discussion on *The History and Status of Pro Bono Initiatives in Egypt*.
- *Violence Against Women: Pop Culture and Public Debate in Egypt* was the title of a public lecture by the New York-based Egyptian journalist Mona Eltahawy. She explored the way Egyptian and Arab media tackles the issue of violence against women and contrasted traditional portrayal of the abused but helpless women with more recent and daring images on television and print media portraying women as active agents in the face of violence they encounter whether publicly or domestically.



Mona Eltahawy



Women Pushing the Boundaries of Cyberspace

- The Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement resumed its Campus Conversation series of open discussions with the AUC community. *Her Space, Our Space: Women Pushing the Boundaries of Cyberspace* was the title of a campus conversation exploring how women and girls use blogging and other internet venues to gain the voice and space that may otherwise be unavailable to them. Panelists included Mona Eltahawy, the Bussy Project Club, a group of AUC young women who gave girls virtual space to tell their stories then took them to stage, as well as other women from the Egyptian blogosphere who use blogging as a creative or political forum.

### Gerhart Fellow

From December 2007 to January 2008, Ehaab Abdou was in residence as the Gerhart Center's first Fellow. His work concentrated on documenting his experience with Nahdet El Mahrousa NGO's Incubator of Innovative Social Enterprises and the Federation of Egyptian Youth NGO. The output will be a manual highlighting the incubation model. The manual will offer valuable "Dos and Don'ts", best practices and lessons learned, based on his experience over the past few years.



## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Student Leaders For Service



***Yumna Kassim and Nada Sabet***

The Gerhart Center is happy to announce the launch of its Student Leaders for Service program. This Spring, the Center welcomed four committed undergraduates into the program: Yumna Kassim, Journalism, Hagar Ibrahim, Computer Engineering, Nada Sabet, Actuarial Science, and Ramadan Moussa, Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies.

Coming from very different backgrounds and parts of Egypt, these four students have one thing in common: their commitment to civic engagement and community service.

***"I think the program is unique and very inspiring. It will add to my experience and I hope it could give me the opportunity to serve my community and myself in a better way."***

*-Student Leader*

As Student Leaders they will take part in weekly leadership training, attend lectures given by prominent community leaders, visit Egyptian NGOs, and help organize a youth conference of Egyptian universities. The Leaders will also organize the Gerhart center Campus Conversations, as well as assist with research on civic engagement and Arab philanthropy. We are proud and excited to work with these dedicated students!

### Campus-wide Literacy Project for AUC Workers Incorporates Arabic Classes

Although it continued to attract its average of 40 volunteer tutors and 150 learners, last semester's literacy program encountered some difficulties. Starting late due to both Ramadan's lag effect on the university schedule and the hand over of the project to a new coordinator, the classes saw lower attendance rates and increased scheduling conflicts exacerbated by the shortage of rooms on campus.

Despite the challenges, however, the Center was proud to see the successful re-launching of its Arabic literacy classes. Met with overwhelming demand by AUC workers, the Arabic classes used interactive computer software developed by the Ministry of Communications held classes in the Center for Learning and Teaching's 'smart classrooms'. Volunteer tutors were trained on effective usage of the software, as well as age and culture appropriate methods of teaching by a Ministry representative. This semester, the Gerhart Center is examining ways to provide government certification for students who complete the Arabic literacy eradication program. It is anticipated that the curriculum will expand to encompass more written material.

### Action Research with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)

In January, the AUC Social Research Center hosted a workshop on design of poverty interventions and it was attended by several experts on programs in Latin America. Following meetings at the Ministry of Social Solidarity, we are now finalizing the package of services that will be offered to families in the Ain el Sirra pilot study area. Gerhart Center is designing the community component of the study as well as laying groundwork for a new Community Fund. This will involve the private sector in provision of livelihood training and job placement, as well as responding to other issues identified by the community.



## GERHART NEWS

### Beyond AUC

The Gerhart Center team has been busy not only organizing events at the Center and AUC, but also participating in key events internationally.

Here is a summary:

Denmark (November 2007)—Barbara Ibrahim spoke in a conference at the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen, Denmark entitled *Islam and Civil Society in the Middle East*. She presented research on the phenomena of youth volunteering as an emerging pathway to public participation for young Egyptians.

Jordan (November 2007) - Dina Sherif, Associate Director, participated in a conference entitled *Leveraging Corporate-Community Partnerships to Support Women's Progress* held in Amman, Jordan. Dina Sherif gave a talk on the importance of building public-private partnerships and led a plenary of four panelists on Community Partnerships in the Arab region. The conference organized by Vital Voices under the patronage of HMQ Rania Al Abdullah.

Cairo (December 2007) - Barbara Ibrahim organized a consultation for a visit of the president of the Synergos Institute in New York, Robert Dunn, on the topic of social entrepreneurship in Egypt.

Spain and Austria (January 2008) - Barbara Ibrahim spoke on trends in Arab philanthropy as a member of the International Foundations Working Group of the Alliance of Civilizations forum in Madrid, Spain. She also gave a talk on Civic Engagement and the potential role of Arab Universities at the Salzburg Global Seminar, in Salzburg, Austria



Dina Sherif, Associate Director of the Gerhart Center

### Noteworthy Initiatives: Living Together Ambassadors



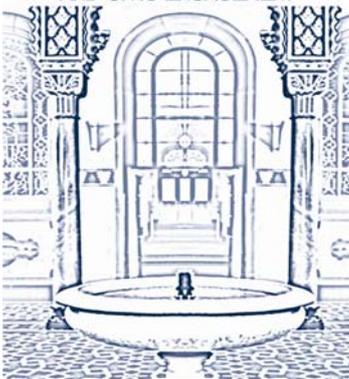
Living Together is a project that aims to bring together Egyptians and refugees of all nationalities to work for common benefits through training, capacity building and raising awareness. Trainees representing 20 civil society organizations were recruited. With different gender, ethnicity, religion, and nationality, the group was highly diverse and truly representative of the concerned communities and their intersecting causes.

Over the last two months this dynamic group of people has participated in the Living Together training of trainers. Participants received training in problem solving, communication, diversity management and cooperative livelihoods. As a first group project, they hosted a

successful press conference and film screening.

The trainees celebrated the completion of their program at a Gerhart Center event and graduated as the first Living Together Ambassadors. They were awarded certificates in a ceremony on March 17, 2008. Dr. Ismail Serageldin presented the certificates to the graduates and then delivered his lecture: *Young Entrepreneurs Will Build Egypt*. The project, Living Together, is the initiative of two young Fellows of the Law Department at AUC, Todd Lester and Jakob Myschetzky. Lester and Myschetzky started their own NGOs in the USA and Denmark, respectively: Free Dimensional and Inklusion. The two NGOs, together with Tadamon, an Egyptian consortium of NGOs, and Townhouse Gallery in Cairo, are the implementing partners of Living Together.





## News

### Staff Updates

Congratulations to staff member Nora Eltahawy who will be pursuing her graduate studies in English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin.

Fauzia Dawood, our Presidential Intern is also moving on to exciting new horizons as she pursues a Masters in International Affairs at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

We are sorry to see them both leave but wish them best of luck



**Nora and Fauzia hard at work**

Farewell also to Tagreid Hassabo, Communications and Outreach Manager. Tagreid will continue working in the field of social responsibility through her new position as Senior Programs Manager at the Al Alfi Foundation. Welcome to Sufia Lodhi, who will be acting as communications and publications consultant. Her rich experience as communications specialist will undoubtedly make the transition a smooth one.

### Upcoming Events

- May 13, Final Campus Conversation of the semester: *"Daily Bread—Right or Privilege"* will be a discussion on the current global food crisis. Don't miss it!
- June 3-5, the Gerhart Center will co-host a workshop at the American University in Cairo on *Religion and Humanitarianism*. Students and faculty are coming from the United States and around the Middle East to present their research and further explore the relation of faith and humanitarian work through an interdisciplinary dialogue with academics and civil society leaders from the region.



### THE LAST WORD

**DOES HE LOOK LIKE A BOY TO YOU?**

**Lets stop using the term "OFFICE-BOY". Send your thoughts on a more fitting title for our valued AUC co-workers to:**

**[gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu](mailto:gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu)**

### Calendar

#### Campus Conversation

Discussing factors behind the International Food Crisis

May 13

5.00-7.00pm

Hill House Lounge

6th floor

Main Campus

AUC

#### Arab Forum for Social Innovation

June 15-16

Amman, Jordan

#### Workshop

June 3-5

Religion and Humanitarianism

(Co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota)

AUC

#### Regional Conference

October 13-14,

Role of Arab universities in promoting civic engagement

AUC

#### Gerhart Center Move to the New Campus

July 1

New Cairo

### THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement  
Office: 5 Youssef El Guindi Street • Fifth Floor, Apt 51 • Cairo, Egypt  
Mailing Address: 113 Kasr El Aini Street, P.O. Box 2511 • Cairo 11511, Egypt  
tel 20.2.2797.5467 • fax 20.2.2796.3084 • e-mail [gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu](mailto:gerhartcenter@aucegypt.edu)  
[www.aucegypt.edu/research/rc/gerhartcenter](http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/rc/gerhartcenter)

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