

*An Aucian's Life After Graduation.*

Interviewer: Dalia El Abd

Narrator: Yomna Osman

Date: 20/02/12

Place: Narrator's home. Maadi. St.18, Building 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. (012)23694509

College: American University of Cairo

Prof.: Dr. Kim Fox

Date completed: 21/02/12

### **Introduction of the transcript:**

The Narrator's name is Yomna Osman; she graduated from Auc in the fall of 2012. Yomna was born in Egypt on November forth 1990. She is currently taking a time off to figure out what exactly she wants to pursue in her career. Yomna however did start looking for jobs, and her plan is to work for whiles in Egypt then go master somewhere in international law. Osman lived in Dubai before she came to Auc, Egypt. She went to AUD, which is the University Of Dubai for one year, in 2008, then transferred to Auc. She went to Sakkara Language School, which is a school in Maadi, Egypt.

I thought Yomna was definitely worth interviewing because I myself am a year away from graduating. I will hopefully be graduating in the fall of 2013, so I wanted to hear from a graduate on how the beginning of the rest of our lives is and if Auc is actually a part of who we become in the future, concerning our career life. I wanted to know how fresh graduates feel and how they'll manage to organize and figure out their life suddenly. I wanted to interview Yomna Osman specifically because she did a lot of extra curricular activities during her years at AUC, which of course is very advantageous. She had also changed majors and minors a few times so she is well experienced in that department. I thought she would be very helpful to a lot of undergraduates who are soon to face the beginning of their permanent lives.

Yomna referred to the Caps office in Auc, which is an office where they help you find job opportunities and scholarships, and even internships anywhere in the world. She said it is a very helpful place, as Yomna also referred to their website "The career advising website", which is quite as helpful.

## **Glossary:**

FYE: First year experience

GRE: Graduate record examinations

CV: Curriculum vitae

## Interview Transcript

Dalia El Abd

Yomna Osman Interview

1/6

20 February 2012

El Abd: Good morning

Osman: Good morning

El Abd: What's your name?

Osman: Yomna Osman, I'm an Auc alumni

El Abd: And where do you currently live?

Osman: Maadi

El Abd: And how old are you?

Osman: I'm 21

El Abd: when exactly did you graduate?

Osman: I finished last fall, and I graduated a few days ago.

El Abd: How does it feel to finally be an Auc graduate?

Osman: It's a bitter sweet feeling, umm I'm finally happy I finished school or studying forever, but I'm not sure what I'm going to do for the rest of my life, so it's a new...its definitely out of my comfort zone, I'm happy I graduated, I'm just... I'm not sure what I'm going to do so I'm panicking a little (laughs).

El Abd: (laughs back) what did you study at Auc?

Osman: Political, I majored in political science with a concentration of public and international law, and I was a history major and a business administration major, minor sorry. Bother were minors (giggles). I took a lot of classes in art I was going to minor in it but I never finished, and that's it.

El Abd: and what exactly are your plans concerning your career? Does it have to do with what you studied or is it something different?

Osman: I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do, but I want to work with law, which is yes directly related to what I studied, corporate or human rights. But I'm not entirely sure that this is what I want but because I studied, I took a lot of classes, my major and my two minors are kind of diverse, so I'm guessing that I would work with something that has to do with my field of study but it doesn't have to be directly related to it and also if I worked with law, that would require me to do further studies, like grad studies, so that's it.

El Abd: Ok, did you AUC help you make that decision, or did you already like law before you studied it in AUC?

Osman: AUC helped coming up with that decision because I didn't know anything about law coming into AUC, I changed my major like two times. I knew I wanted business but I didn't want it as a major. I liked political science but not to work with so when I took my very first class in international law on AUC that's when I basically knew that this is what I want to study, and after that I took like three or four classes in law, I knew that I wanted to work with law.

El Abd: ok was it beneficial? Did you learn life experiences from it or was it all theoretical?

Osman: AUC itself, I learned a lot from AUC, from being in AUC. But the classes I took in law, they were very theoretical. The social sciences in general in AUC are very theoretical they don't really include any sort of field work, well they do, anthropology and sociology include field work but not as much as they should, especially law, we don't do any sort of field work or internships or... we don't really work on the job, its just we read cases, its very theoretical

El Abd: How difficult is it to find jobs now that you're a fresh graduate?

Osman: its certainly very difficult to find jobs in Egypt now because of the current economic state and political instability so its very difficult they're not really hiring fresh grads, international companies are cutting down their payments, their budgets and they're actually closing down and they're decreasing, and they're decreasing their activity in Egypt so it's not, its not (giggles) the best time to be, to just graduate college.

El Abd: Okay, does Auc help find job offers for you? Is it easier that you're an AUCian somehow?

Osman: Well, Auc because we have the Caps office, which is located on campus and you can find it online. The career advising website is basically, it helps you, basically its updated weekly or by weekly and if your registered to that website it's going to send you by weekly emails to update you on the current job, vacancies whether it's a job or an internship or a scholarship, also the office that's located on campus will help you prepare for the, for any sort of job, it will help you write your CV, its going to help you with increasing your interview skills, presentations skills in some cases and, taking an exam, like you can go ask them, for example that your going to take your GRE's and its going to help you.

El Abd: That's certainly helpful. Do people treat you differently knowing that you're an AUCian?

Osman: I think some people do treat you differently on job, but its either good or bad. If your employer is an Auc graduate himself he might treat you well because he knows your background, he knows the kind of training or the kind of classes

you use to take on campus. But if they're not and they're against AUC for some reason, they'll think your spoiled then it's a disadvantage, so yes I think some people treat you differently and it can be an advantage or a disadvantage.

El Abd: Okay, do you wish that you could've done something differently at Auc? Would have made a difference for your future plans?

Osman: Maybe, I could've double majored in political science and history, because I just, I really like studying history. I'm not sure if it would've altered my plans, because if I am going to work in any field I do have to get the masters degree. I also wanted to finish my art minor, and this might've helped yes, being a bit more decided from the gate would've been definitely helpful, like it would've spared me a lot of things and classes I took and I wasn't even interested at the end of the day.

El Abd: Did you participate in any extra curricular activities?

Osman: Yes.

El Abd: And what were they?

Osman: I did Model United Nations and Model Arab League three or four times, and I took part in FYE, which is first year experience, twice.

El Abd: Were they; *are* they helpful for you now? Do you think it would benefit you later in your job opportunities?

Osman: The amount of experience and skills I learned from all of these extra curriculars combined, definitely, is definitely helpful. I, I think it added to my skill level, my public speaking skills, my social skills as well as writing skills and leadership skills, so yes I definitely definitely think it gives me an advantage over someone who's never participated in any extra curricular activities.

El Abd: That's certainly helpful. And finally I would like to ask you, what advice would you give to your fellow Auc undergraduates, do you have any thing you would like to add to their knowledge?

Osman: I think the best thing I can tell them at this point, whether they're fresh grads or sophomores, um sorry whether they're freshmans or sophomores or anything, is just to chill! Its fine to not know what you want to do, I thought I wanted business and I thought I wanted (sighs) psychology and then I thought I wanted economics, and then, oh actually and chemistry and art! And I went all over the place; I was all over the place, so I think it's fine. Things will be figured out, somehow. And actually taking the amount of classes I did and going through the experience of changing your major and changing your minor definitely helped me to grow and helped me to take a decision and know what I like, and I would've never guessed to end up in political science, like if you asked me five, no like six years ago I would've never guessed to end up in political science and I don't think, I don't actually, personally know anyone who knew what they wanted from the first minute, so its, its fine not to know what you want. Also, if a class is difficult, or if your not getting good grades just don't give up because some, your going to learn something anyway, so I just think you should go on with the experience anyway, do your best and I know that will sound extremely cliché but honestly (laughs) don't care about the grades that much because even if you do end up having straight As in every single class your taking and you didn't learn anything, you wont grow and your going to be the exact same person you were four years ago which is something that I really don't think anyone, no one should go and come out with any sort of university experience the same person.

El Abd: That's lovely advice; I think we all would want to take it. Thank you very much Yomna, thank you for your time.

Osman: Thank you, thank you.