

Yara Ahmed Abdel Rehim  
JRMC 460: Final Project  
Final Script

Lead-In: The purposes of many student organizations at AUC have changed since the launch of the Student Union seventy-five years ago. Of course the community and the social issues have impacted these changes.

Music: Omar Khayrat (Track 5)

The American University in Cairo one of the oldest academic institutions in the country, it is the first private university. A-U-C is well known of having the best student life besides the academic level, and the reason behind that is the large diversity of student organizations that empowers the students with different experience and skills. The students started their activities in the 1930s and 1940s . Their direction at this time was more of cultural and artistic preferences so they operated a drama club called the Maskers in 1934 followed by the Student Union in 1937. Then in the sixties and the seventies they were more of politically oriented activities under the leadership of the Student Union , and this was due to the political situation Egypt was experiencing during this time. After the stability of the political situation in Egypt the student's preferences get back to the artistic and cultural activities in addition to the conference clubs, academic clubs and the other different ideas that all reflected the society's interest and the common causes that needed community and service clubs.

Mt.Sayed Omar the specialist of the Student of Office Development has been working with student organizations at A-U-C for more than twelve years now, and he is willing to talk to us about it.

Music Fade-in: Omar Khayrat Music (Hekmat Case series)

*Sayed Omar (Office of student Development Specialist): "student organizations besides the Student Union was M-A-L (Model Arab League) and M-U-N (Model United Nations), because umm M-A-L , Model Arab League and Model United Nations it was part of the political science department because its an academic program, after that it was the political science and office of student activities which is O-S-D now the office of student development decided M-A-L and M-U-N must be student organization running by students. We have AISEC as well we*

*have these the three oldest student organizations on campus, M-A-L, M-U-N and AISEC. After that we have I-S-L-C umm I-C-I-T which is not existed, I-C-G-E and the latest one we have Developers Inc." (0:58)*

In the last twenty years, more than sixty student organizations appeared at A-U-C, some of them recorded a huge success and made it until now, others failed in a very short time. The difference between these types of organizations depends mainly on the founders and how they are dedicated to their goal.

*Omar: "umm you know the vision if it is very clear and the idea is very solid, umm when the student organization or the founder which they have must be nine founders they are believing in the organization which is not a one man show, which is once the founder graduated the club is not existed, we have, umm for example we have Model Egyptian Parliament it was five years ago it was an idea started by one of the students and when he finished the classes and graduated we don't have this organization anymore, because the people who beside him they don't believe the vision, or the idea of the club or the conference. Because the language was one of the weakness of the conference because Model Egyptian Parliament it was in Arabic so most of students at AUC they don't speak Arabic and this why in M-A-L and M-U-N they have both and now we have Cairo International Model and we have branches outside A-U-C, we have Alashanek ya Balady it was an idea started in A-U-C and now we have in most of the Egyptian Universities. (2:05)*

Not just M-A-L, M-U-N and Alashanek Ya Balady who reached an outsider community other than A-U-C, but also back in the eighties one of the first music groups at A-U-C built their audience in other universities. Mrs.Dalia Eissa an AUC alumna will talk us about her experience as a part of this music group.

Music fade-in: Omar Faruk- Kemyali

*Dalia Eissa (Associate Director of student organizations in the O-S-D and AUC Alumna): "I was also part of the activities I used to sing, I was a member of A-U-C core quire which was one of the very first cultural groups that opened on campus, the cultural office was established in 1984 as I recall and in 1986 they established the A-U-C core quire and then came the A-U-C Folklore and the A-U-C*

*music. So when I joined in 1986 I asked about the activities available, because I used to love singing from before and I joined both as a quire member and a solo singer. Also later I was also involved in several events large events on campus the Talent Show, something was called Winter Variety Show which was all conducted by A-U-Cians , we used to invite celebrities but only to watch A-U-C talents, we use to have these event in Ewart, and it was totally full-house. We use to sell the tickets days and days before there was an unprecedented umm umm, like people liked it very much and they would always wait for the Winter Variety and the Talent Show, in for example presenting being the M-C media coordinator for these events. And some of them were competitions held under the..at that time it was the ministry supreme council for youth and then became the ministry for youth and A-U-C in 19...i guess it 87 and 88 it was the first time in the history of A-U-C that an American University gets the first prize and the second prize in individual singing and in quire singing, because you know the name A-U-C they didn't want to give the prize to A-U-C because we were the American University and we were singing Arabic so it made more sense to give it to an Egyptian University (Cairo university, Ein-Shams, Helwan) who are basically professionals in music and singing, but this was the first time because we had really a wonderful program and we reached a stage that was no amateur like it was more like professionals." (2:23)*

Music: Ehlam Ma'aya by Hamza Namira (first thirty seconds of the song, repeating music technique)

As we can notice, the life and the interests were different than now, after the eightie and its artistic shine. The first community and service club operated in 1995 and it was the Help Club. Help Club still one of the most successful student organizations at A-U-C, they are focusing on awarness and developmental programs. They are sustaining the area of Masr Eladeema (ancient Egypt). Help Club has an effective role on campus since its establishment. They are even playing the role of father of community and service clubs by gathering them together in one project.

*Lojain Tamer (The newsletter director of Help Club): "Umm I would say that help club has a very unique, powerful andinfluential position between other clubs. You know umm, it's a fact that it was the first community and service club on campus and there is something very unique about it, in that it actually gathers clubs together and it actually happened in more than one event. Like for example last fall there was*

*a campaign that aimed at collecting money to dig a water well in Somalia, and help club started, you know this initiative and it managed to collaborate with nineteen other clubs on campus, and we actually ended-up collecting more than six hundred thousand pounds for the cause and it was very very successful, and actually you know this you know whole thing of gathering you know the whole many many clubs you know on campus to work together for just one cause and make a difference it happened more than once, it happened one time for Palestine." (01:03)*

But Help Club has a different culture than all the other clubs on campus, which raises a lot of question marks between the students. A lot of them thinks that they are religiously affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, especially that they are separating males and females in the committees. Lojain Tamer the current newsletter director of the Help Club has a different opinion.

*Tamer: "its true that Help Club has a different culture other than other clubs on campus, because it does separate males and females we do work in different committees, but at the end of the day we have the same mission and the same vision. and we do know that we are the same club we are one club. But..umm, the reason for this separation is definitely because of religious reasons you know, we have this concept of sincerity. We believe that its very very important that our intentions are hundred percent sincere and that you know our work is fully for the sake of God and bettering ourselves and enhancing the community, and so you know we don't want anything you know in our intentions to be except you know that this work is for God. Umm, so, actually there are many many misconceptions about the club, umm for example that the club is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhoods, of course this is not true. We do have may be a couple of members who recently you know joined their political party you know, but the club as a whole is not affiliated by any means by the Muslim Brotherhood." (Fade -out) (2:01)*

We have seen now how are the students interests changes over the years, due to the social and cultural changes. The students preferences are affected by these changes and their way of thinking, so by default when they are going to think of a new organization it will be directly related to a current social issue. Like harassment for example?!!

Fade-in Music: (Buddha Bar)

"Fight Harassment 101" is a brand new initiative on campus, and Holly Dages who initiated the idea got inspired by a personal experience. So she decided to work on launching a new initiative with her friends and give the young women self-defense sessions in addition to psychological awareness sessions to stop feeling guilty if they got attacked. Holly Dages the graduate student at A-U-C got impressed by the revolution and the new Egypt, and she decided to help the young women to speak-up for their rights and be part of this new Egypt.

*Holly Dages (We recorded in the plaza floor-library) (Fight Harassment 101 initiative Founrder: "I was like, you know what this is a new Egypt we need to change the way of girls and women think about themselves and how they're respected and all that, so I was like what we gotta do. We gotta somehow educate the girls and women about what harassment is exactly, that it is not their fault, give them counselling, help girls to talk, talk about it among themselves tell about their experiences if it is so bad, because unfortunately I just heard a story and they want me to contact the girl about it, that talk about it. But now I look to it and I learn more about harassment, and I was like wow, it has nothing to do with what you wear, you can wear hijab, you can wear niqab, you can wear regular clothes, you can wear party clothes they still act it, its their attitude, yea. So I was like ok we need to do something so I was out with some friends, my Egyptian friends I told them about it and they were interested and we decided to take the initiative.." Fade-out. (01:03)*

Sexual Harassment is a big issue in our society nowadays, and here it is reflected on A-U-C student organizations. Student organizations at the university is like a mirror to our society. It is part of who we are, and it helps a lot in shaping our character. We should get the best out of this experience, use it for our own good, because as we can see it reflects our community so we better get a rehearsal before facing the real life.

**Music credit:**

- Omar Kayrat Track 5
- Omar Khayrat-Hekmat case
- Hamza Namira Ehlam Ma'aya

**Credit for Youtube:**

- Omar Farouk Music-Kemyali
- Buddha Bar-unnamed track

**Interviewees:**

- Mr.Sayed Omar The Office of Student Development Specialist
- Mrs.Dalis Eissa The Associate Director of Students Organizations At OSD
- Lojain Tamer The current newsletter director of Help Club
- Holly Dages The founder of "Fight Harassment 101" initiative.