Slug- AUC Female Students Majority

Nadine Awadalla

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Synopsis: Investigative piece aiming to put the spotlight on AUC’s first Ph.D graduate, Yosra El-Maghrabi, and to then use statistical data to compare the overall enrollment of women at AUC to highlight growing trends in institutional gender equality.

Pitch:

The piece will begin with a profile on Yosra El-Maghrabi (04’, 08’, 14’), AUC’s first Ph.D graduate, highlighting that her achievement is not only significant for AUC as an institution, but also for El-Maghrabi’s fellow colleagues and female students. Data collected from the AUC Factbook shows that in 2012, 214 males and only 83 females declared construction engineering, El-Maghrabi’s field of choice.

While the gender disparity seems quite large, data collected between 2002-2012 shows that females comprised at the very least 51% percent of undergraduate graduates (June 2006,) but also up to 61.4% (June 2011.) In the fall of 2012, 89 more females than males were enrolled at AUC. Between 2008-2012, an average of 53.2% of degree-seeking students were female. Furthermore, the bigger portion of AUC graduates is female. In 2012, 54% of the February graduates were female and in June of that year the number rose to 56%.

After examining these statistics, the piece will then look at how the numbers describe gender equality at AUC. As El-Maghrabi sets the ball rolling for her peers both male and female and as more females continue to pursue higher education, a trend begins to develop that can be examined for what it means for females currently enrolled or planning to enroll at AUC.

Interviews:

Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zeid 🡪 is a professor of construction and architectural engineering at The American University in Cairo, El-Maghrabi’s adviser. Email: mnagiba@aucegypt.edu

* How did you find working with El-Maghrabi?
* Do you feel that female students in male dominated majors feel the need to excel mostly to compete with their male counterparts or do you find that the main driver behind their success is passion?
* In the future, can you see any more of your students following El-Maghrabi’s footsteps?

Martina Rieker 🡪 Director of Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies. Email: [mrieker@aucegypt.edu](mailto:mrieker@aucegypt.edu)

* What would you say is, in your opinion, the stronger reason more women are pursuing higher education?
* Do you think that there’s a shift in educational trends for women over all, or is this phenomenon only common to the MENA region (or even just Egypt)?
* Would you say that female AUC graduates are creating a noticeable impact on their communities? What about other women in comparable universities across the MENA?

Sources:

* Online
  + AUC Fact Book
  + [AUC Article on Yosra El Maghraby](http://www.aucegypt.edu/newsatauc/Pages/story.aspx?eid=1352)
* Offline
  + Ramya Subrahmanian, Gender equality in education: Definitions and measurements, International Journal of Educational Development, Volume 25, Issue 4, July 2005, Pages 395-407