

## Cairo, Egypt comes to North Avenue Coppin State University hosts 40 Egyptian students

*By Ken Morgan*

"I like everything here," said Nouran Ali. "People are kind. It helps us in studying," said Korim Mostafa. "Everything is perfect. The teaching is very good," said Ahmed Elwakeal.

These three students comprised part of the 29 students from Akhbar Elyom Academy in Cairo, Egypt. They took part in Coppin's historic first student exchange program.

The two-week intensive academic training interspersed with cultural trips took place July 16-31, 2010. Economist and Professor Sadie Gregory

taught the Introduction to Macroeconomics course. Dr. Roger Stritmatter taught the Internet Journalism course. Egyptian born Dr. Ahmed M. El-Haggan, Vice President/Chief Information Officer of Coppin's Technology Division initiated the exchange.

Five faculty persons in the last year traveled to Akhbar to guest lecture in journalism, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Health Information Management.

Within the next year, 40 Coppin State University (CSU) students will take courses at Akhbar and tour Cairo.

The exchange seeks to continue student and faculty exchanges. Other end goals include enrolling Akhbar students in Coppin online courses, and offering students from both institutions joint degrees.

Says El-Haggan, "This kind of agreement sets up a structure to expose our students to other parts of the world as part of their learning experience and as part of preparing them for a global economy."



The exchange provides an even greater significance. According to scholars studying Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East relationships, there exists a long history since prehistoric times between the two groups.

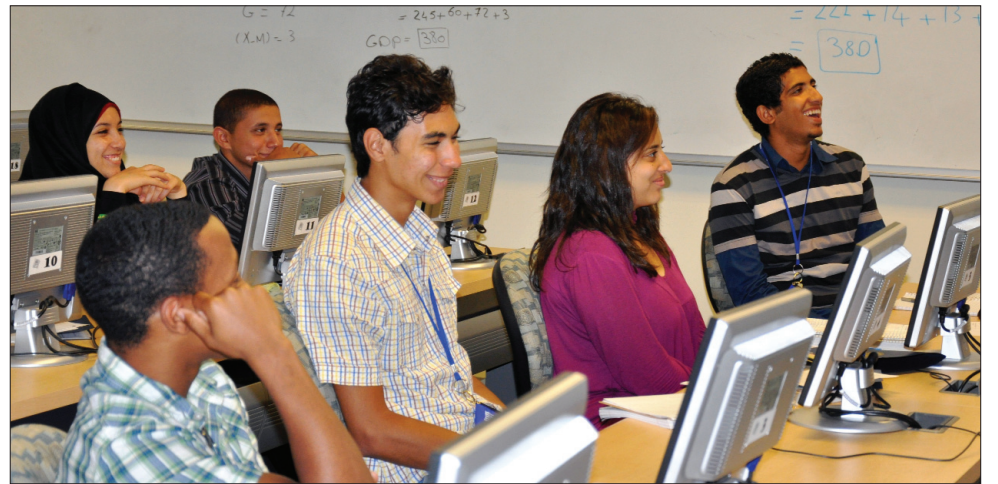
This fact is unknown to many Americans.

Aladdin Fouad an Iraqi born CSU Assessment Associate understanding this history said, "As an Iraqi, we know that Egypt has been the bridge between the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa."

Dr. Mona Kamal, the chaperone accompanying the Akhbar students, provided insightful comments culminating the visit. She said, "We should all

strive to learn from each other." She stressed not from the media or from propaganda.

She continued. "We were worried about how we would be treated. "We found that people at Coppin treated us not out of duty but out of love. Learning is more than curricula and syllabi."



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