

guests and assisted the First Lady and AUC alumna, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, in laying the cornerstone.

John achieved much during his tenure as AUC President. He personally led the planning for the new campus project and he participated enthusiastically in its development. He equitably resolved long-standing issues affecting the faculty. He initiated many new and innovative academic programs. His unflinching optimism and passionate belief in AUC's mission made him a superb fund-raiser and an eloquent emissary for AUC. He was admired for his high intelligence and his hands-on style of leadership, leavened always with his sense of humor and instinctive understanding of human relations. His humanity inspired all who knew him. He loved and understood Egypt and Egyptians, who reciprocated in kind. He leaves AUC a confident institution, more intellectually and culturally vibrant, and enriched immeasurably by his legacy.

We have all lost a great leader and a good friend.

Paul B. Hannon
American University of Cairo

Walter Oller (1954 – 2003)

Walter Oller, the Middle Eastern Studies Librarian at Brown University, died peacefully this morning after a long struggle with cancer. Walter came to Brown in May of 2001 from New York University, where he had been assistant to the Middle Eastern Studies Librarian. He was also working on a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies at NYU, and he completed and defended his dissertation in the Spring of 2003, while working at Brown. Walter made great progress in building the Library's collections in Middle Eastern Studies, as well as taking on responsibility for Egyptology and Modern Greek Studies. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues at Brown.

Georges Sabagh (1920 – 2002)

Georges Sabagh passed away on November 24, 2002 due to pneumonia of the lungs. Colleagues, students, and friends were truly saddened upon hearing the news at MESA 2002 in Washington, DC. Sabagh was Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former Director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies, at UCLA. He was born in Baghdad during King Faisal's reign, grew up in Paris and, after studying briefly in England, came to the US to pursue his higher education. He was a true cosmopolitan, and very much at ease in America, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa, where he spent most of his time. He received AB and MA degrees in Economics in the 1940s, and a Ph.D. in Sociology in 1952, all from the University of California, Berkeley. Before being recruited to UCLA as a

sociologist of the Middle East in 1964, he taught at Princeton, the University of Washington, Seattle, and the University of Southern California. He was also Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the American University in Cairo. At UCLA, Sabagh served as the Director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies from 1983 to 1994. He was a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and numerous major research grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Child Health Development (NICHD), Ford, Rockefeller, Mellon, and Haynes Foundations. His research covered a wide range of the fields in sociology in general, as well as in Middle Eastern studies, including the sociology and demography of Middle Eastern countries, migration and economic development in North Africa, and the adaptation of Iranians in Los Angeles.

A renowned social demographer, he published articles in major sociology and demography journals. He was one of the pioneers of Middle Eastern American studies, a field that has gained prominence since September 11. His *vita* modestly listed his publications since 1980 only. Since then, he published over 40 scholarly articles and book chapters, as well as edited three volumes for Cambridge University Press. He was passionate about research, and his enthusiasm was truly contagious. Having worked on several large research projects, he thrived on collaboration with colleagues and students. He continued his research until the very end – a chapter appeared posthumously in a book by the University of Chicago Press, and an article is forthcoming. He had received a grant to study the socioeconomic mobility and ethnic identity of second-generation Iranian Americans.

But what distinguished Sabagh the most was his remarkable personality. He was rarely, if ever, known to lose his temper. He was incredibly congenial and rarely acted like he was under pressure, which he often was. He treated his staff just as well as he treated his colleagues. He always made time for his students, even if it meant losing sleep to catch up with his demanding work as a Center Director. It's for these rare qualities and many others, which the limited space does not allow listing, that he will be greatly missed.

Mehdi Bozorgmehr
City University of New York

James Stewart-Robinson (1928 – 2003)

It is with great sorrow that I report that Professor James Stewart-Robinson died at his home in Saline, Michigan on Thursday, August 28, 2003. Professor Stewart-Robinson was born on March 3, 1928, in Edinburgh Scotland. At the age of three his family moved to Turkey where he attended the Gazi İlk Okulu and Türk Maarif Cemiyeti in Ankara and the English High School for Boys in Istanbul. In 1946 he returned to Scotland where he attended Edinburgh University,