

FOUNDATION TIMES 2018-2019





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Intro



I am delighted to welcome you to our latest issue of The Foundation Times. On behalf of our Foundation students, linvite you to explore the vibrant content and creative contributions of our talented class. They are thrilled to share reflections on their learning experience, fun events, and accomplishments throughout this academic year. Please join me in congratulating the 2019 Foundation students on their concerted efforts this year. We are proud of them and wish them success in the future.

Best regards,

Dr. Rachid Bendriss
Assistant Dean & Associate
Professor



To this year's Foundation students
- it has been another fun year with
all our interesting class discussions
and chats about life in general.
After hearing your opinions about
issues that we all face in the
present (and even issues of the
past), it gives me great comfort
to know that you all have a strong
moral compass with enough
passion to make a difference in the
future. I'm sure that with your hard
work and perseverance, you will
make it to the finish line!

It has been a wonderful four years at WCM-Q working with the Foundation students. In all our daily interactions, I have learned a lot from you as I hope you have learned from me. From the time I have spent here in Qatar, I have soaked in so much. Some fun things I learned that stand out the most are Arab hospitality, how to hold your cup if you don't want any more Arabic coffee, and how to use the term Masha'allah. In addition, I have learned that defensive driving is crucial and that new road layouts from all the construction make me feel like a lab rat in a maze. ... I will miss all of you—and hope that you will keep me updated on your lives from time to time!

All the best,

Ms. Melanie Fernandes

Orientation Week

By Owais Hasnah



Orientation week was exciting (and terrifying) for some of us new students. The 29th of August was the first day of orientation at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. The staff and volunteer students were there to organize this special event. All students received some great Cornell swag such as bags, t-shirts and notebooks. With booths filling the hall each with different brochures and information, happiness and joy were present on everyone's face.





Orientation wasn't only about getting to know the university; it included many activities that helped create friendships among different students. One icebreaker activity was where we shifted seats and met new people.



We had one minute to talk and then we were asked questions about each other by the organizers. I found this activity to be the best when it came to meeting new people. The other activity was a mystery hunt where we were put into groups and our objective was to figure out who killed a clown in a circus. We were like detectives asking questions of people we thought were involved. Overall, we learned a lot about ourselves and each other.





Memes Wadha Al-Naemi

and i hear someone says smth I haven't heard of in my entire life

When i win an argument











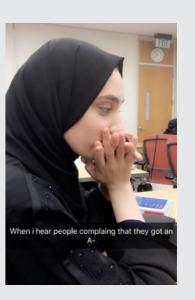














Club Fest

by Khalid Alsabbagh





Club Fest is one of the biggest events that takes place at Weill Cornell Medicine. Usually at the beginning of every academic year, Club Fest aims to bring incoming and current students together whilst allowing registered clubs and organizations to introduce and promote themselves. With around 35 different clubs and organizations on campus, students have a wide range of extracurricular options to invest their free time ranging from arts to sports and even interest groups on medical subspecialties.







Club Fest is organized by the student government of Cornell – The Medical School Executive Council (MSEC-Q), which consists of a team of about 30 executive members, coordinators and liaisons. From university events to bridging the gap between faculty and students, MSEC-Q members work towards improving students' quality of life on and off campus.

Being one of the two club coordinators supporting the 35 different clubs and organizations at the university has inspired me to create my own club, Francophone, a club that encourages learning of the French language within the student body. With Francophone as my own example, I highly encourage new students to participate in clubs that involve their hobbies or interests as they will have the opportunity to befriend people at various stages of their education – from Foundation to the medical years.



by Abdulrahman Tahir

Precisely at 7 a.m., squeaking, the old heavy rusty doors of hell opened, welcoming the inmates of this prison. Its edges as sharp as a knife; you could see the blood stains of those who had tried to escape. May your souls rest in peace, fellow comrades.

Right next to the gate stood the warden; a brown-skinned Egyptian man, in his early sixties, yet with a head full of white hair. The legend had it that if you look directly at his gel-soaked, slicked-back hair in the sunlight, you might go blind. Deep, massive wrinkles covered his face. Eyes so beady, you could barely see them. With ears like that of an elf, a set of teeth like those of a vampire and a nose longer than Pinocchio's, a bloodcurdling look from this guy sent chills down all the schoolboys' spines. There stood ... Nazir Gamal. To this day, my body shivers and my hair stands on end whenever I say his name.

"HURRY UP, YOU STUPID PIGS. ONE MINUTE AND THE GATE WILL BE SHUT. SO EITHER YOU GET IN, OR



GO ROT WITH THE DOGS OUTSIDE!" Nazir would scream hysterically in his gruff, gravelly voice.

At 7:15 a.m. sharp, the gates creaked closed as our souls screeched for freedom. Once in, there was no out—a law Nazir took upon himself to enforce. He would circle the perimeter of the prison daily, multiple times, looking for those "nasty barbarians" attempting to breakout.

It is said that one's clothes reflect one's personality. Even so, Nazir dressed like a worker in the Willy Wonka chocolate factory: a madeto-measure, button-down pink shirt, a loose blue tie, and oversized gray pants. Happy, cheerful and joyful he must have been—but none of which he actually was.



Synchronized with the heavy clacks of his shiny boots, Nazir would sing at the top of his lungs, despite his unbearable voice. So extremely irritating and even infuriating was his crooning that chopping off my ears didn't seem so awfully harsh. "In agony, you may live. From misery, you shall suffer; for you will hear nothing but my voice... forever," Nazir sentenced us

Shattered windows. Ruined ceilings. Filthy, grimy curtains. Greasy, sticky floors. Cracked walls cast in a depressing light green. To us, it was a prison cell. To "them," it was a so-called "classroom." Spending endless hours in that hell hole deciphering codes, one could easily go bananas. Many did. "It's break time," they would bark at VOU.

On the cafeteria's sign, "We serve healthy and delicious food," was written in bright colors. Lies. We were fed three-day-old meals sometimes. Finding a piece of hair was not something worth mentioning even. Tasteless and dull were all an understatement when describing what we were

eating. The lack of organization and supervision usually caused chaos and clutter. Many got injured, some even fractured a bone or two, yet shame and disgrace would follow you to your grave if you were spotted visiting the nurse. Sitting on gray, aged and feeble stools. dining without embarrassing vourself was unheard of. "Man up," they would say.

Before one could even have a bite, Nazir would slam the doors, bursting into the canteen like a raging bull. Instantly, the buzzing would pause, and a hush would fall over the cafeteria. No one dared to talk in his presence.

"Five minutes—" he choked, as his dried, smoke-filled lungs failed him. A mere human. How disappointing. But even at his lowest, signs of weakness were never shown, nor did he lose his prestige."Five minutes, that's all you've got left," croaked the Nazir we all knew and hated.

Like a colonizer, this man showed no mercy or pity toward us. Brutally, we were compelled to leave all our belongings behind. Stripped from our humanity, never had we felt as worthless.

As the sirens wailed, we would pass the same doorway, leading this time around to heaven, breaking free from Gamal's chains of captivity, restoring our liberty. There ended our day at school. Finally.



This first-hand account bubbled up to the surface from the 13-year-old boy in me. Transferred from a private school to a public one, I struggled to adapt to such heinous circumstances. However, in hindsight, I realize how careless we were and that Nazir couldn't be blamed for his harshness. Despite him being only a security guard, Nazir had the authority of a school director. Appreciated by the parents, respected and loved

by the faculty members, he was given "Employee of the Month" so many times that one lost count. When he retired after fifteen years of service, the old man was thrown a considerable farewell party to acknowledge his remarkable work. It is strange how time changes one's perspective of one's reality.

Foundation Year Highlights

by Asmaa Al-Kaabi



"The Foundation year is filled with many exciting activities and experiences, but the highlight of the Foundation year was visiting

the simulation lab at the university as this opportunity gave me the chance to understand the role of the doctor in the patient's life." - Asma



"I loved the opportunities that the Foundation program gave me. I was able to get to know so many students and professors.

I met people who I look forward to spending the next years of my life with. I was given a chance that's one in a million. It was more than I hoped for or expected." - Meera



"I was worried that I might not be able to meet new people due to my shyness, but my classmates are friendly. I am

really thankful for the Foundation year because it gave me the chance to meet new people." - Fatema Falamrz



"What I liked about the Foundation year the most is that it prepares you for the next phase. The preparation

is not solely academic. We also got to shadow some doctors in Sidra, which provided me with a realistic picture of how doctors work. Moreover, I like that we took some subjects with premed students, which helped reduce the load for Premed 1. That way we could get better grades by studying more and have better focus." - Latifa



"Shadowing several neonatologists in Sidra was an experience that I will always remember, especially when we saw how newborns are cared

for and the facilities equipped with the latest technology are used." - Maha



"The Foundation year gave me the chance to meet amazing people that I look forward to sharing the next six years of my life with." - Khalid



"International Night was so special because I discovered a lot about other students' backgrounds and cultures." - Wadha



"My highlight for the Foundation year was the Sidra visits because being exposed to the hospital environment early on helped put everything

into perspective regarding why I chose this career in the first place." - Ghalya



"My highlight for the Foundation year were the cat dissections because it gave me an appreciation of the complexity of the human body in a

hands-on learning environment." - Alia



"My experience at WCM-Q's Foundation program was beyond fruitful! Whether it was the knowledge and skills I gained

from the lab sessions or the memorable encounter with patients at Sidra. The program broadened my horizons and strengths in my wish to pursue a medical career." - Fatima Eisa Al-Kubaisi







Medical Career Seminar

by Latifa Mahmoud



Nasser Al-Kuwari Former Foundation Student

"You need to have discipline to get your work done."



Dr. Javaid Sheikh MD, MBA - Psychiatry

"Education City grants a vision to change society."

"You have to be healers by providing hope and medicine."



Dr. Robert Crone MD - Clinical Pediatrics

"By knowing what a population needs, we can provide a system in order to satisfy those needs."

"It was an opportunity not only to provide humane assistance but also educational purposes."

"You are so important to the health care of this country."



Dr. Mohamud Verjee BSc (Hons), MBChB, DRCOG, **CCFP, FCFP - Family Medicine**

"I had to apply five times to medical school, as I was not accepted and here I am."



Dr. Bakr Nour MS, PhD, MBChB - Surgery

"Apparently we always have a shortage of organ matching."

"Welcome to a beautiful career of medicine."



Dr. Ravinder Mamtani MD, MSc, FACPM, FACOEM -**Integrative Medicine**

"One of my most memorable moments was working with...maybe you know of her...Mother Teresa."



Dr. Ahmed Al-Qahtani **MD - Opthalmology Resident**

"I don't consider myself supersmart. I believe in hard work."

"Medicine is not easy; it was hard to study all the material. But when you see a patient and you apply all your knowledge...you see a patient that was almost dead...to finally be smiling is what motivated me and kept me doing medicine."



Dr. Sanabel Al-Akras **MD - Psychiatry**

"It is very rewarding to see very sick patients and help to put their life together and put them back on track after being mentally ill or unstable."

"If you believe something is wrong in the patient, continue until you find the solution for the patient's care."



I walked down the long, white tile-covered hallway, my friends beside me, flaps of my white lab coat flailing slightly. I noticed that the doors we entered through the last time were shut, shielding our view, feeding into out nerves and fear. The hallway led me to a large white room inside the Clinical Skills and Simulations Lab. The center specializes in instructing students through state-of-the-art equipment. There were ear models, brain models, heart models and even what looked to be a CPR dummy. We were asked to take a seat until Dr. Stella arrived to welcome us. She stepped through one of the two doors with a smile that could light the darkest of days. Her black dress swayed as elegantly as she did whilst entering the room, walking in with confidence that caught the attention of those around her.

"We believe that every individual is intelligent, can do better, and is able to improve" -basic assumptions of the CSSL. Those were the words they repeated the most in our first visit. I found them charming until it was applied to me —then I found them inspiring. Reassurance is highly encouraged in this space of experiential learning. They aim to provide clinical education without the risk of endangering patients, allowing students to gain an understanding of the skills required to succeed in the hospital. These skills are not solely limited to medicine as they also entail the importance of strong interpersonal communication. Through the CSSL's facilitation, the use of standardized patients (SPs) and simulation models help students acquire the skills they need. The SPs are members of the community who have given their time, voluntarily, to assist those learning in the field of medicine. However, the simulation models are robotic models that produce human-like sounds and reactions to replicate "actual patients".



I sat in my seat quietly as Dr. Stella gave us our instructions for the day. We were to be actual doctors that day, just as we always dreamed. The soft breaths of my classmates surrounded me as we listened intently to our activity for the day. I found myself drifting away slightly, drifting to my potential future. I saw myself sitting in this same seat with the same thoughtful souls around me but was wearing my white coat in that scenario.

A soft knock on the door snapped me back to reality. Looking up, I saw Gemma, the receptionist from our last visit, standing in the doorway wearing scrubs.

"We need six doctors to see to the patients in the clinic," she announced to the room.

I watched as my colleagues made their way to the clinic to live their long-term dream of practicing medicine-even on a small scale. Those of us who remained discussed patient-doctor behavior with Dr. Stella until the last five of us were called.

Finally, Gemma entered the room and handed each of us a red file with the patient's information. I opened the file anxiously to find a series of questions that we were to ask the patient and gather her information. These questions included inquiries into family history, medications, the time the pain started, etc. I looked at my friend who mirrored the same expression that was probably plastered all over my face. A look of fear and excitement. Before I knew it, we were escorted to the examination rooms where the patients were awaiting our arrival. I was put in exam room one, so I arrived almost immediately to my destination. I sat at the desk outside the exam room and felt as if my heart was about to burst out of my chest. The situation was a challenge I was not sure I was ready for. I used to be an introverted child who would not speak to a single soul; nevertheless, I was able to overcome it over the years.

"You may enter the examination room." That was our signal.



I knocked and pushed open the door to the examination room. I entered to see a beautiful, young, fair-haired lady sitting next to the brown desk against the opposite white wall. The wall on my left held different medical equipment to assess the patient. A sphygmomanometer (to measure blood pressure), a machine to measure temperature and other small materials (cotton balls, wooden sticks, etc). I followed our previous instructions and started with the introduction of myself, my purpose of being at the clinic, and the confirmation of patient identification. I slowly made my way towards the

before taking my seat. I looked up and attempted a smile, but she seemed distressed. I cleared my throat and asked all the questions required of me. I asked her about her pain, her family history, and her personal concerns. Some questions were of a professional matter, such as inquiring the exact location of the pain and its severity. Other questions were of a personal nature, such as inquiring about family and work. I blurted out question after question without hesitation feeling quite proud of myself for being confident. I felt determined to do a good job, and to

prove to myself how much I've grown. She started talking about her job being the main income for her family, including her two kids. When I asked about when the pain started, the patient mentioned that it was at its worst. Before I knew it, she was crying, sadness filling her bright blue eyes while expressing her worry regarding her kids' futures. The two-minute mark arrived just as I completed all my questions. I gave my patient one last glance, thanked her for her time, and exited the room. I stood outside the door with the happiness and pride swirling deep inside me.

I was told to wait in a room close to the examination rooms where I had

a few moments to myself and my thoughts. That is when it dawned on me, I was completely emotionless with that hurting patient. I felt all the happiness, pride, and confidence slowly seep out of me. I realized that I failed to comfort her, to sympathize with her situation. I heard the rest of my colleagues as they walked towards the room where I was sat in. Realization sank in as I became aware of my downfall; nonetheless, I swore to myself that empathizing and connecting with patients would be my main goal before I get my white coat: to become more intact with my emotions, to an appropriate extent, and professional yet reassuring.



Maha Al-Namla

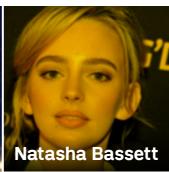


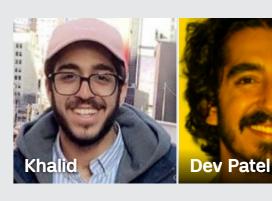




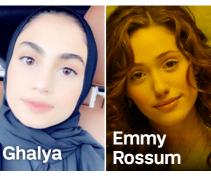






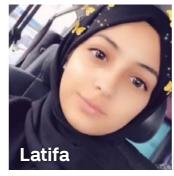












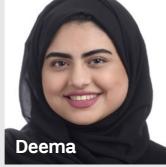






































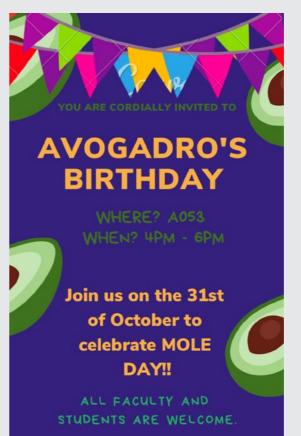


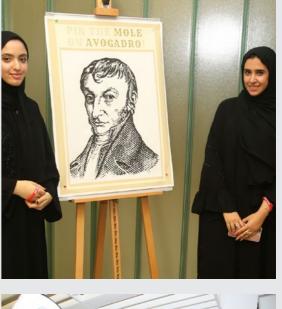
by Dr. Sheila Qureshi

Mole Day observes Avogadro's Number (6.02×1023) , which is an essential measuring unit in chemistry. Since 1991, it has been celebrated every year on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. Mole Day is also celebrated during National Chemistry Week designated by the American Chemical Society (ACS) in collaboration with schools and industry to demonstrate the importance of chemistry in daily life.

My first experience with Mole Day was when I attended a conference in the USA in 2008. I was intrigued by an event they held, which was a Mole Day breakfast at 6.02 am. I loved that it was about celebrating chemistry using Avogadro's number as a date and time. I thought it was a good way to motivate

students and enjoy chemistry. It's amazing what themes students have come up with including superheroes, horror and Mole World, to name a few. In the fall semester of 2019, we will celebrate Mole Day with the Periodic Table theme as its International Year of the Periodic Table. 1869 is considered as the year of discovery of the Periodic System by Dmitri Mendeleev. 2019 will be the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and has therefore been proclaimed the «International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019)» by the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO (www.iypt2019.org).















Biology Lab

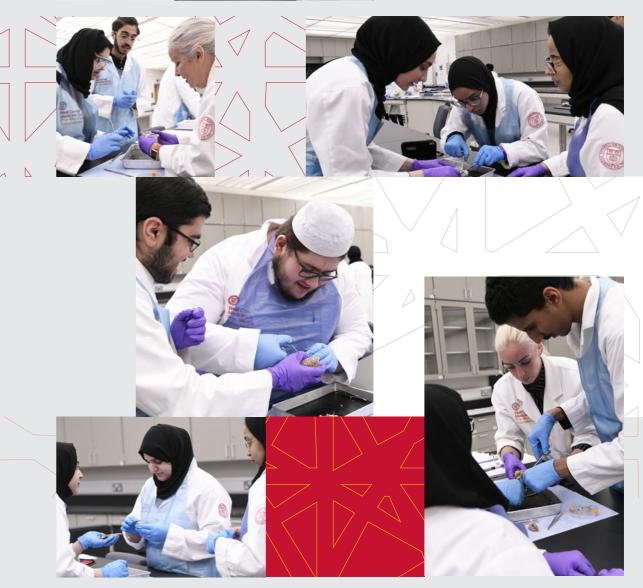
by Deema Al-Abdulla

In the first dissection lab, everyone was filled with anticipation and curiosity as to what it would be like dissecting an entire animal while going through every system. When we saw the cat for the first time, we were instantly filled with hesitation; however, with guidance and time to ease into it, we got used to the pungent smell and the odd view while we gained a wealth of knowledge and understanding of relating the anatomy from our textbooks into real life.











Over the course of a few weeks, we were afforded a unique experience that has challenged and deepened our understanding and appreciation of healthcare professions in Qatar. Each pair of students was assigned to a physician in a particular department. Wadha and I were lucky enough to be assigned to Dr. Abdul in the Pediatric Emergency Department. Prior to the visits, I didn't know what to expect. I had this very vague image in my mind of what I thought the Peds ER would be like or what physicianship would be like in general. As the days went by, more exposure in the hospital gave me a clearer understanding of the medical field. Throughout this experience, I got to observe the challenges and obstacle doctors face every day—all the ups and downs.





During each visit we were supposed to observe and find instances of specific themes: professional identity, teamwork and leadership, emotional intelligence and empathy, and professionalism. One very important lesson I learned is that emotional intelligence in medicine is more than just understanding your patient's emotions. It is more about knowing how to deal with patients and colleagues to deliver the best possible level of care. This experience has shown me what it means to be a doctor; it gave me insight into what I need to become. After seeing what I had witnessed in this hospital, learning what I have learned, I now know what to expect. I know the reality of the field rather than the idealized version I used to have in my mind.





Quotable Quotes by Fatima Al Kubaisi



"Ain't got no tears left to cry."

"Oh my good it's so interesting."







Ahmed "I think I am failing." "I'm gonna drop out.



Abdulrahman "انا اختفیت - انا اختفیت - انا













Mohammed "استغفرالله, God's forgiveness,



Fatima Al Kubaisi "I can't see. I need my glasses."





Aljohara "Is there another quiz?"



Alia "I don't really understand anything."





Fatima AlKhayat 'Wallah carrot juice is so good!'

Soundtrack of













مانية خيل - سيف عامر





















Aries (03/21 - 04/19

Strengths: Courageous, Determined, Confident, Enthusiastic, Optimistic, Honest, Passionate Weaknesses: Impatient, Moody, Short-tempered, Impulsive, Aggressive



Strengths: Reliable, Patient, Practical, Devoted, Responsible, Stable Weaknesses: Stubborn, Possessive, Uncompromising



Gemini (05/21 – 06/20)

Strengths: Gentle, Affectionate, Curious, Adaptable, Ability to learn quickly and exchange

Weaknesses: Nervous, Inconsistent, Indecisive





Cancer (21/06 - 07/22)

Strengths: Tenacious, Highly imaginative, Loyal, Emotional, Sympathetic, Persuasive

Weaknesses: Moody, Pessimistic, Suspicious, Manipulative, Insecure



Strengths: Creative, Passionate, Generous, Warm-Hearted, Cheerful, Humorous Weaknesses: Arrogant, Stubborn, Self-centered, Lazy, Inflexible



Virgo (08/23 - 09/22)

Strengths: Loyal, Analytical, Kind, Hardworking, Practical

Weaknesses: Shyness, Worry, Overly critical of self and others, All work and no play





Libra (09/23 – 10/22)

Strengths: Cooperative, Diplomatic, Gracious, Fairminded. Social

Weaknesses: Indecisive, Avoids confrontations, Will carry a grudge, Self-pity, Manipulative, Insecure



Strengths: Resourceful, Brave, Passionate, Stubborn, A true friend Weaknesses: Distrusting, Jealous, Secretive, Violent



Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/21)

Strengths: Generous, Idealistic, Great sense of humor

Weaknesses: Promises more than can deliver, Very impatient, Will say anything no matter how undiplomatic



Capricorn (12/22 - 01/19)

Strengths: Responsible, Disciplined, Self-control, Good managers

Weaknesses: Know-it-all, Unforgiving, Condescending, Pessimistic





Aguarius (21/01 – 02/18)

Strengths: Progressive, Original, Independent, Humanitarian Weaknesses: Runs from emotional expression, Temperamental, Uncompromising, Aloof



Pisces (19/02 - 03/20)

Strengths: Compassionate, Artistic, Intuitive, Gentle, Wise, Musical

Weaknesses: Fearful, Overly trusting, Sad, Desire to escape reality, Can be a victim

Disclaimer: The above content is not to be taken seriously, as it is intended for fun purposes only.





Chemistry lab, even though it's the last and longest and most exhausting period on a Sunday, is the most hectic, exciting and amusing three hours of the week. If you ever end up asking yourself. "What's the point of knowing this?" Chemistry lab is where you find all the answers. Just wait for chemistry lab.











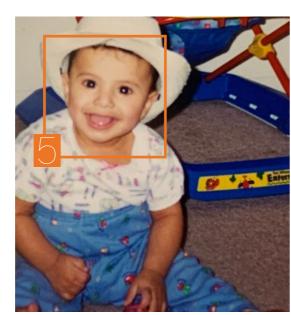
Guess Who's Who

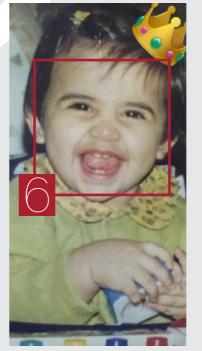




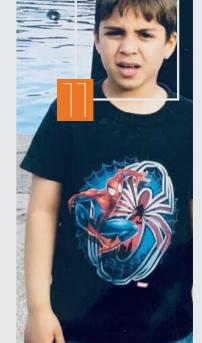






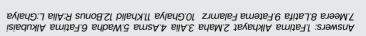


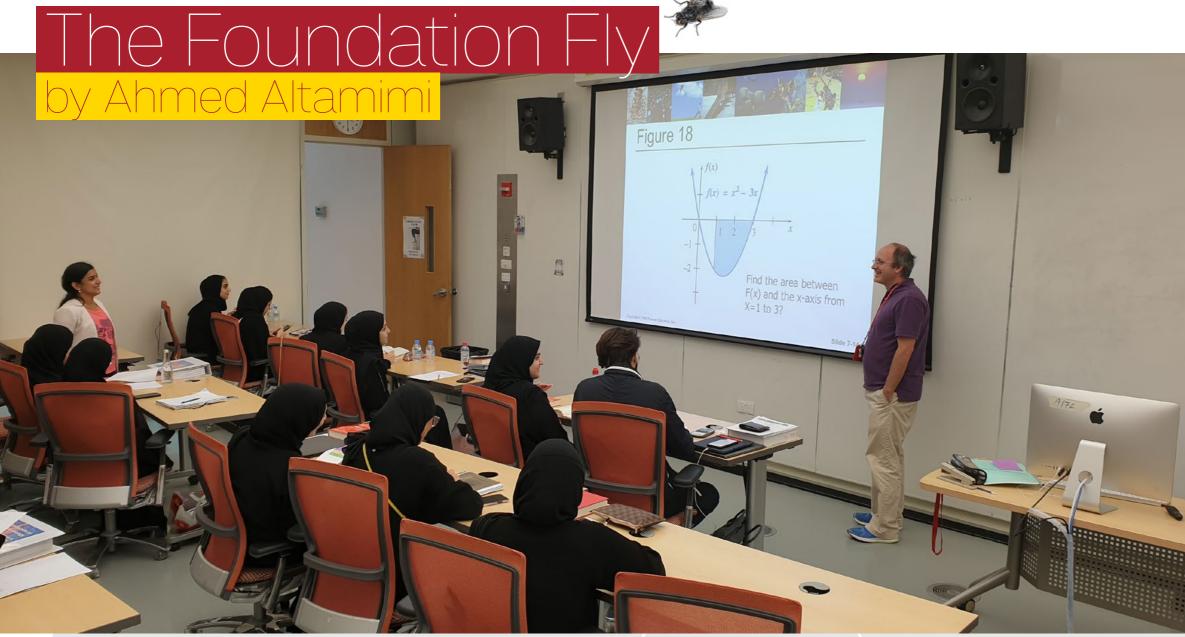














Through a small opening in the door, I entered this brightly lit room with white walls. It was crowded with humans that looked ill. They were sitting still, gloomy faces, intently listening to another human that was reading a book to them.

I wanted to investigate, so I went to see what that book was about, but when I got close to the human holding it, the giant hit me with its huge hands and shouted, "Get away you stupid fly!" I was sent to the other side of the room by the

sheer force of the smack and, as a result, flew into the ear of one of the ill humans.

Suddenly, the human jumped up and screamed as it shouted, "What is wrong with this fly?"

I think I cured this human of its illness! It finally got some color in its face (mostly red) and could finally move like normal humans. I wanted to help the other humans in the room, but they kept swatting at me for some reason.



"Strange," I thought to myself, "they might be shy," so I left the room, but I will come back to help the rest of the humans and stop their misery if they stop taking swings at











