



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q Student Authors Published in New Collection

Doha, November 25, 2008 - Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) has announced the publication of *Qira'at: Readings from the Students of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, 2004-2008*. Containing the best essays produced by students of the Medical College over the last four years, the book was compiled by the WCMC-Q writing faculty to bring these excellent academic works to a wider audience.

The essays were selected by competition earlier in the year. Students were encouraged to submit essays of any kind, provided they were written as part of their college course work. From over 40 entries, 27 essays were chosen for publication.

Of those, the WCMC-Q writing faculty determined the best ten as contest finalists, the top three to be recognized with certificates and prize money ranging from \$300 for first prize to \$100 for third.

Writing faculty from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York were then called upon to judge the finalists. Dr. Paul Sawyer, Director of the Knight Writing Institute, and Dr. Katy Gottschalk, Director of the First Year Writing Seminars, reviewed the ten finalists and selected the award winners.

Tasnim Khalife's (class of 2010) essay "Rieux: A Willing Victim of Abstraction" was named the First Place Prize winner for being "the most nuanced and elegant of the ten semifinalist essays". Her essay analyzes the dilemmas faced by Dr. Rieux, a character in Albert Camus's novel *The Plague*, a story about a plague epidemic in Oran, Algeria.

The judges described the essay as "an exemplary work of literary criticism that tackles a question of medical ethics from the point of view of a fictional character who adopts the defense of abstraction to deal with his inability to stop an uncontrollable, incurable disease."

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Marwa Saleh's (class of 2013) essay "Gulf Research: Stem Cell Research" took Second Place in the contest for delivering "a masterful examination of a painful medical dilemma that combines exact biological explanation with examples of moral reasoning."

Third Place went to Anayah Sarkar (class of 2010) for "Adolescent Ethics", an essay based on actual events that occurred to Sarkar during her clinical training in local hospitals. Sarkar discusses whether adolescent patients should have the right to know about their medical conditions even if parents request that doctors not reveal this information to the patient.

Samarpit Rai's (class of 2013) essay, "The Psycho-analytical Theory – Is it relevant today?", received Honorable Mention from the judges. This category was not originally part of the award structure, but the judges determined that the high quality of Rai's work merited recognition.

In addition to the initial effort of writing the essays for the classroom, additional honing under the direction of WCMC-Q writing faculty was done to prepare the works for professional publication.

"This process provides valuable advanced training for writing future scientific research papers, presentations, and notes in professional newsletters," said Dr. Alan Weber, Assistant Professor in the WCMC-Q Writing faculty and driving force behind the book. "A professional publication will also look good on a resume when applying for medical school [for those in the Pre-medical program], residencies, and research laboratory positions."

To celebrate the release of the anthology and honor the contest winners, a ceremony was held where the winners and honorable mention recipient read excerpts from their essays and received plaques recognizing their achievement. All contributors to the book and attendees at the ceremony received advance copies.

Qira'at will be available for purchase by the general public at select Doha bookstores later in the year.

Ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of five of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa/>

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