

PEOPLE..continued

WSSU Instructor Goes To Saudi Arabia

By Carolyn Baker

Although Dr. Samiha Youssef is not returning to the Arab Republic of Egypt, she feels that being in Saudi Arabia will take her pretty close to home, and bring back many memories. Dr. Youssef, a native Egyptian, has been in the United States for 17 years. Dr. Youssef has been a professor of education at WSSU since 1970. Because of expenses—round-trip plane fare is \$1200—she has not returned home. She leaves behind the American culture and dress, to explore and learn of a new culture that is very conservative and strict. Dr. Youssef will return to wearing head dresses and ankle-length dresses with long sleeves. Arabian customs required that women be completely covered from head to foot. The only part of the body they can reveal is their eyes.

Dr. Youssef has left for one year to teach at King Faisal University in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. She will teach courses in research, education, and administration. Dr. Youssef was recommended for this experience by her former Arabian students at the University of Michigan. This is not the first honor for Dr. Youssef. She was awarded the Barbour Scholarship after graduating from Ains Shams University which is located in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Barbour Scholarship is an academic scholarship offered to women from the Middle and Far East, who maintain an "A" average in all courses. Dr. Youssef used this scholarship to obtain her masters degree in education. She also received the Fulbright Scholarship, which is offered to international and exchange students to study in the United States. She was among six students selected from 155 applicants. She used this scholarship to obtain her doctorate degree. After receiving her doctorate

degree, Dr. Youssef taught education at the University of Michigan for one year. Moving to Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1967, she taught for three years at Clafin University.

Born in the Arab Republic of Egypt to a family of four, Dr. Youssef fluently speaks the Arabic language, which is a requirement for teaching at King Faisal University. Dr. Youssef accepted this honor so that she could have the experience of teaching in another country and culture. She also wants to share her experiences with the faculty and students at WSSU and in turn, the King Faisal University faculty and students can learn and understand WSSU and its teaching methods.

King Faisal University, also called Jamiat Al-malik Faisal, is one of two campuses located near the Persian Gulf in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. The academic structure of the university includes the Schools of Architecture, Veterinarian Science, Agriculture, Medicine, Education, and Petroleum Science. Dr. Youssef will be teaching in the School of Education. Established in 1975, King Faisal University was named in memory of the King of Saudi Arabia, Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud. He was assassinated by his nephew in 1975.

Currently King Faisal University has an academic staff of 100, and a student population of 350. The academic school year is from October to June, with only a few days between semesters. There are no breaks or holidays except the Haj, a religious Moselm feast, celebrated 10 days before the beginning of school. Located in one of the country's largest cities, the university is also near the largest supermarket in the world.



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