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Yara Abdel Aziz Interview Transcript

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Person Present: Nouri Hassaballah

Yara Abdel Aziz

Nouri: I'm interviewing Yara Abdel Aziz an American University in Cairo graduate. She graduated with a major in  Art and a minor in architecture in Fall 2013. I'm interviewing Yara because her journey after graduating is very interesting and i think that she could give all the undergraduates inspiration and ideas about life after graduating.

Nouri: Hi Yara

Yara: Hi

Nouri: Can you briefly talk about your experience as an undergraduate at AUC?

Yara: Umm. First as I got accepted at AUC I was undeclared, so I planned to major in architecture because my parents they wanted me in architecture, and since I was young I was very interested in this major. However, after spending my freshmen and sophomore year in this major waiting to declare because of a difference of a 0.3 in my GPA, I wasn't declared. I felt like maybe this is a sign for me to stop trying to declare architecture because it was already so hard for me and I felt I was pressured so much to do something that I kind of like but I just felt like it was too much for me and I already wanted to major in art, but my parents they didn't agree because they had this mentality of what are you going to do with art, study something that you can actually work with. After convincing them and talking to them about how I wanted to major in art, they finally got convinced and I switched majors and I majored in art and kept my architectural design as a minor and I felt like this was the best thing I have ever done because ever since I’ve made that decision my GPA went really up, I started getting straight As, I felt I'm doing something I really love and I really like and I felt like I did actually achieve something in my life.

Nouri: How long did it take you to find a job after graduating?

Yara: About a month because first I was waiting, there was like a two month between the last day of exams and until the graduation, the commencement, so during that time I felt I don't want to stay at home so I went to work with my dad. He is an architect so that made things a lot easier for me, so was kind of really interesting because I didn't have to wait to interviewed or anything, although I did send my CVs online for so many companies but I never heard back so it was a good start to start working with my dad.

Nouri: Is that the only job you got?

Yara: No, actually recently, which is after two month after my commencement, I started working with an event planner in Egypt and i just started a month ago. So yeah, its going great and I feel its like I'm doing both things at the

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same time so they're both interesting to and they’re both so related and its all about interior decorations and interior design and it all has the creativity and the design.

Nouri: Are these jobs something that you see yourself continuing in?

Yara: Yes of course this is exactly what I want to do in my life and I’ve never thought of doing something else. I just feel like this is what I want to accomplish in my life and I want exceed and be a very successful well-known woman in Egypt as an interior designer and as an interior architect.

Nouri: So most people that i know that graduated from AUC, it took them a long time like about six month to find a job, and when they did they found jobs in banks and they eventually accepted it because they couldn't find any other jobs. What do you think about that?

Yara: I feel like sometimes when you feel like you have to be doing something, especially that AUC graduates there is a lot of expectations from them because its suppose to be the best education and you are suppose to find a job easily and we are wanted and etc. So the thing is that when they find a job anyone, all my friends now when they find a job, all they can say is "yes we will defiantly take it," even if it is not that related to what we studied in university but its because they want to be productive they want to do something. They did all of this and they've been educated the best education in order to work and to help their country and to help themselves so I feel like sometimes people are kind of forced or they don't really have the choice to work what they want but i feel like they have to at least be somehow interested and they like what they like what ever they are doing because if they don't like lilt it they will never be successful in it, they will never be known.

Nouri: Do you think that all the pressure into getting into AUC and declaring after you get into AUC and all the pressure into getting into certain jobs that are acceptable in the society, is it worth it after spending all the money and all that energy, after graduating?

Yara: For me personally I really believe it’s worth it because its not just education, like you builds a character. I've been in so many interviews before and that not my first time to work now as I work with my dad and i work as an even planner, I've worked before and in all the interviews I’ve been told that what really distinguishes us from other people is the character and the skills we have like of the personality and how we deal with each other and how we know how to tackle things and its a lot of things, so I believe it not just education it a lot more than that.

Nouri: So do you think AUC provides a society were we are more social and we know how to work in outside circumstances other than our community?

Yara: Defiantly, I believe that they way of how like we are educated, not just AUC a I'm also talking about international schools, it does really matter and it does make you a different person because when you talk to

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someone who has been taught and educated in a way that has always required critical thinking it would defiantly make you a different person.

Nouri: Okay finally, what advice would you give to undergraduates?

Yara: I would tell them just make sure you're studying whatever you like not because your parents they want you to be an engineer or because your parents want you to be a lawyer or your parents want you to be a doctor, whatever it is whatever major you are just make sure this want you want not what your society wants you to be, this not what your parents want you to be, this what you want to be because when you do something you really like and you really love, you'll find yourself in it and you'll defiantly succeed in it and it will make a huge difference in your life time.

Nouri: Thank you Yara, it’s been nice talking to you

Yara: Thank you.