

Summary of trip to Egypt, March 9-21

By Professor Dick Walters
University of California, Davis

Part I: American University of Cairo

In response to a suggestion from Bob Kerr, I will try to put down some thoughts summarizing the many contacts, presentations and follow-up discussions and emails relating to my trip to Egypt in March. There are a great many threads to try to cover, and it is unclear how much detail properly fits in this type of summary. I believe that I will attempt, therefore, to divide the report into two sections - one with brief highlights of events; the second containing somewhat more details. Omitted are the workshops that I put on: 9 workshops in four locations, since contacts generated from those sessions are covered elsewhere.

This report contains summaries and detailed information on my contacts with the American University in Cairo. I am finding that the reports are fairly time-consuming and I want to get them out piecemeal as they are completed.

Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to Kais Menoufy for having proposed the trip, supporting my travel with excellent arrangements for lodging, meetings, and travel details. Having minimal concerns about these details allowed me to concentrate on the purpose of the trip - to get to know people in a variety of settings that relate to my overall responsibilities for developing collaborative projects. The meetings set up with Katie Dahl's effective assistance presented me with a broad exposure to many of the institutions and special interests with whom I needed to be in contact.

Professor Hoda Hosny, Dept Computer Science, American University in Cairo, provided the glue that complemented Kais' arrangements and made for a truly memorable visit, hosting me at every opportunity, giving of her time and that of her family to make sure that I was well cared for throughout my time in Cairo, as well as following up with many of the AUC faculty and staff with whom I met to ensure effective communications, meeting times and places, and broad coverage of the departments and units with whom I needed to communicate.

I am also deeply indebted to Prof Maysa Amer, MD, director of Medical Education, University of Alexandria, for her generous sharing of time with me above and beyond formal meetings and formal events.

Summaries of Meetings/Presentations

March 11-13: American University of Cairo (AUC)

AUC is located in central Cairo, walking distance from the Semiramis Hotel. However, they are constructing a new facility approximately 30 kilometers away, to be occupied this summer. This will cause some disruption in schedules and contacts during the transition phase.

Tues AM: Ed Simpson, Ed. D., Vice President for Continuing Education.

I met Tuesday March 11 with Ed Simpson, Ed. D., Vice President for Continuing Education, AUC. Continuing Education offers courses to a large number of students (about 17,000, some taking more than one course), compared to the approximately 4,500 undergraduate students in AUC itself. Continuing Education will remain on the current campus, moving into one of the other AUC buildings which will be vacated by undergraduate programs. There is a mix of student backgrounds, from post-grads to students with only high school diplomas, so the design of courses is challenging. There is one Masters in International Law in place, and an Online Certificate in Middle East Higher Education under development. David Arnold, president of AUC, strongly supports the Cont Ed process. Collaboration has been established with US institutions including the University of Washington, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Michigan State, and the University of Minnesota. This program operates independently of the undergraduate program to a large extent. Infrastructure appears to be strong, but we did not go into details.

Dr. Simpson is interested in generating extramural funding for his program, and is cautiously optimistic that something might happen.

Follow-up Actions:

1. Share materials provided by Dr. Simpson with Dennis Pendleton, Dean, UCD Extension and seek collaborative agreements between the two. I am seeking a meeting with Dennis at this time.
2. I hope to learn more about infrastructure capabilities and needs of their Continuing Education program and discuss this with Pete Siegel.

Tues AM: Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT)

I met with the Director (Aziza Ellozy, Ph.D.) Associate Director (Pandeli Glavanis, Ph.D.), Dean of Libraries and Technologies (Shahira el Sawy, Ph.D.) and a professor of Rhetoric and Communications (Amani el Shimi, Ph.D.). Dr. Shimi came to the Bodega Bay workshops sponsored by UCD Teaching Resources Center, where she met with TRC staff and did an outstanding job of representing AUC. I was given a set of brochures, a collection of news articles, and other extremely interesting material, which I will share with TRC staff.

Topics discussed included increasing use of Distance and Hybrid Learning, comparisons of CLT and TRC, specific resources they have to offer UCD, and administrative structures under which TRC and CLT operate.

Follow-up Actions:

I felt that the opportunities for closer two-way collaboration between CLT and our TRC are extensive.

1. We have already had one important development: Professor Shimi attended the Teaching Resources Center Seminar on College Teaching (SCT) held at Bodega Bay in March, where she met key staff members of TRC and made a presentation to the other participants that was very well received.

2. I am also working with Dr. Ellozy to promote further areas of collaboration and have several meetings scheduled with appropriate people at TRC. It is my hope that visits in both directions as well as videoconferencing and sharing of resources will result.

Tuesday Afternoon March 11 IT Group AUC

I met Tuesday March 11 with John Stuckey, Chief Technology Officer, IT at AUC and three of his staff to discuss infrastructure at AUC and possible two-way collaboration between them and IET at Davis. Their infrastructure is very good. They will face some challenges as they move to the new settings this summer, but it will also give them an opportunity to build on a solid foundation already established. They will replicate fiber optic, wireless and videoconferencing functionalities they have in their current setting. Distance Learning is supportable, but slow in developing for reasons beyond the control of this group.

Follow-up Actions

1. I have emailed Pete Siegel to introduce him to this group, and I hope that they will work together to develop the collaborations desired by both.

E-Learning Conference Discussion

Since I had presented a talk at the last (Jan 2007) E-Learning conference sponsored by AUC and attended by University representatives from a number of countries in the Middle East, I met with the Amr Ibrahim, Chair of the conference, and Fouad Ahmed, Co-Chair to discuss the plans for the next conference, to be held Jan 14-15. They have asked me to assist in the planning process. We discuss the flier for the first publicity announcement, some matters relating to possibly videoconferencing (which was how my presentation was made a year ago), and a possibility of adding a few items to the suggested topics for discussion. This was a planning meeting which we will be following up on in the months ahead. At present, I am uncertain how this conference will impact UC Davis.

Follow-up Actions

1. I expect to be in touch with these individuals, partly through the assistance of Hoda Hosny. It is likely that we will attempt to interest them in some videoconference presentations from Davis and perhaps send a representative to attend the meetings next January.

Academic Computing Services

I met Thursday March 13 with Maha Elksoshairi, Director of Academic Computing Services, and three of her associates in a long and very productive meeting. I was given a number of useful handouts describing things they are doing for faculty at AUC, and we discussed a number of areas of potential mutual interest. They currently support WebCT, but are thinking seriously of switching to an open-source product, either Moodle or Sakai. Some of their support efforts are aimed at skills pretty well developed among our faculty, but others may well prove of potential interest here at Davis. They also are involved in several applications development projects, such as integrating MIT open source course content into courses at AUC. They have an annual Technology Fair, an active newsletter, and are proactive in a number of areas.

The similarities of ACS and CTL at AUC with TRC and Media Works at Davis are striking. The two groups have a good working relationship, but I felt that, like UC Davis, there might be opportunities for closer cooperation if the two units were administratively closer together.

I am sharing materials given me by ACS with TRC and Media Works staff, and I hope that further collaboration will result.

Details:

American University, Cairo

Ed Simpson, Vice President, Continuing Education

I met Tuesday, March 11th with Ed Simpson, EdD, Vice President for Continuing Education, AUC. He has been in this position about two years, having spent time previously at Va Tech, and the Univ of Georgia. Continuing Education at AUC is a vastly different domain than the undergraduate program (c. 4500 ugrad students) with about 45,000 head-count students (17,000 FTE unduplicated students) enrolled in various courses and programs (all non-credit). There is a mix of students whose backgrounds range from post-grads to students with only high school diplomas, so the design of courses is challenging. David Arnold, president of AUC, strongly supports the Cont. Ed. process. Collaboration has been established with US institutions including the U of Washington, U Mass Amherst, Michigan State, U Minnesota and perhaps some others.

The possibility of passing techniques used in Cont. Ed. to the main campus program appears to be strong. There are probably administrative barriers, but the potential seems very promising. It may be complicated by the separation of the two units with this summer's move of the undergraduate campus to a location approximately 30 km distant.

Dr. Simpson is interested in generating extramural funding for his program, and is cautiously optimistic that something might happen.

Center for Learning and Teaching

I met Tuesday, March 11th with representatives of the AUC Center for Learning Technology, (CLT), their dean, and a faculty member from Rhetoric and Composition. Participants included:

Aziza Ragai Ellozy, Ph.D, Director, Center for Learning and Teaching

Pandeli Glavanis, Ph.D., Associate Director, CLT

Shahira A. el Sawy, Ph.D., Dean of Libraries and Learning Technologies

Amani el Shimi, Ph.D., Professor, Dept Rhetoric and Composition. Professor Shimi participated in the UC Davis Seminar on College Teaching to be held later in March at Bodega Bay.

Dr. Ellozy provided me with impressive copies of "Chalk Talk," their newsletter, a collection of writeups from previous issues of this newsletter, a list of workshops offered by CLT from Fall 2004-Fall 2007, and a few workshop fliers and a tri-fold flier describing CLT.

I was truly impressed with the handouts given me. Their newsletter is something that could be emulated at UC Davis. Their workshops have covered a wide range of topics including clickers, Critical Thinking, Web Design, Learning Outcomes, Classroom Assessment Techniques and Effective grading and more. I will share this material with TRC when I return to Davis.

Our discussion included topics such as how to attract faculty to attend workshops; how to increase use of Distance and Hybrid Learning; comparisons of CLT with the UC Davis TRC; administrative support for CLT; and other items. I described some of the activities in this area at UC Davis and briefly outlined what I might be presenting in a workshop to be held Wednesday, March 12th.

My overarching reaction to the discussion was that both UCD and AUC would benefit significantly from a two way interactive discussion. The workshops presented at CLT complement those of UCD, with a greater focus on pedagogic concepts, whereas much of what TRC offers is hands-on tutorials and other ways of providing faculty with knowledge of how to use tools effective in course design and delivery. They were particularly interested in the Summer Institute on Teaching and Technology, and in our apparent success in attracting faculty to participate in TRC offerings.

We shared some "war stories" of problems besetting both campuses in achieving a greater emphasis on teaching and learning, and in administrative barriers to change. My personal impression was that more could be achieved at AUC by closer links between IT and CLT, an area where UCD has made progress (though more could be done).

I felt that this was a very successful introductory meeting, and that opportunities are abundant for close collaboration in the future. For example, Dr. Shimi, attended the Bodega Bay SCT workshops, made a point of saying that she felt she could contribute as an instructor for many topics listed on

the agenda for that series. I encouraged her to offer her services when she comes to that series in about 10 days (note: she did so and her presentation was well received).

All in all, this was a very productive start for closer collaboration. I hope the people at TRC and Mediaworks will follow up in several ways on these opportunities.

IT Group at AUC

I met Tuesday March 11 with representatives of the AUC IT group. The participants included:

John E. Stuckey, Chief Technology Officer; he has been there for only a few months, but is settling in very nicely.

Eng. Khaled Sayed Hilal, Assoc Director, Univ. Network Services

Wahib I. Basillious, Assistant director, Univ Network Services

Nagwa Nicola, Assoc Director for Planning and Control, Office of Assoc Vice President for Computing

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss infrastructure at AUC and ways that they might collaborate with us to provide a two-way street to IT improvements for UCD as well as AUC.

AUC is far ahead of other institutions in Egypt with respect to infra-structure support. They have extensive wireless, classroom support for many functions, fiber optics since 1991, videoconferencing (I gave a videoconference lecture there a year ago from Davis), and close Connections with, among other places, the AUC office in Manhattan.

Distance Learning is supportable (see meeting with Ed Simpson, Vice Pres for Continuing Education), but it is growing very slowly owing both to academic and administrative slow paced acceptance of the concept.

I stressed that I was here for a fact-finding mission with respect to IT, and the Pete Siegel, our Director of IET is the right person to follow up on the meeting. Pete is committed to two-way collaboration and I promised that I would follow up with him as soon as I could.

E-Learning Conference Chair and Co-Chair

I met Wednesday, March 12th in the afternoon with three people in Engineering Services to discuss the workshop they are planning on eLearning Jan 14-15, 2009. The participants included

Amr Ibrahim, Ph.D. Engineering, Co-Chair of conference

Fouad Ahmad, Ph.D. Tempus Egypt, Co-Chair

Mahmoud Farag, Ph.D., Professor Mech Engineering, Conf Chair

I was given a draft of the flier they will use to publicize the conference. They sought my opinion on its appearance and content (I had presented a paper via videoconferencing at their Jan, 2007 conference). I am listed as serving on the Technical Committee, which includes about 25 names, some from Netherlands, Australia and Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The topics are fairly broad, with encouragement to submit papers beyond the guidelines they provide.

I did suggest that they perhaps consider opening the conference to remote videoconference sites, both for presentation and participation. They will explore this possibility.

I had a few comments on layout, and suggested that, among the topics to be listed might be something dealing with Standards, a topic badly needing addressing in this field, and a couple of other topics. I also suggested a few institutions to contact. I did not have much to offer in the realm of possible supporting companies, but felt that perhaps King Abdullah University, Saudi Arabia might be interested in participating/supporting the conference. I also raised the possibility of extending invitations to other middle eastern countries including American Universities (Lebanon etc), and perhaps Israel and Palestine (describing the BARD and MARD initiatives).

We will continue to be in touch, and I hope to participate in reviewing papers and perhaps offering a paper myself, to be given either in person or (preferred) videoconference as I did in 2007.

Academic Computing Services

I met for three hours Thursday, March 13th in the middle of the day with four representatives of Academic Computing Services (ACS), AUC. They included:

Maha Elkoshairi, MSc, Assoc Director for Academic Systems Dev.

Maha Fawzy Amer, MBA, Associate Director, Academic Computing Operations, ACS

Zeinab M. Fouad Saleh, Assustant Director for Technical Support

Marwa Mohamed Mansour, Research and Development Technology Manager, ACS

After introductions, we talked initially about some points relating to the talk I gave yesterday, which Maha Amer attended. Then Maha Alkoshairi led an introduction to the many activities run by ACS in a wide range of areas. I was given a tri-fold description of ACS, a folder of material relating to WebCT workshops and several research papers published by ACS, sometimes in collaboration with CLT staff, and some statistics summarizing WebCT usage by AUC faculty, including departmental and course statistics and names and emails of faculty using WEBCT.

ACS provides system support for the campus in a wide range of areas. They support WebCT with workshops as well as technical (programming) support. A (partial) list of activities in which they are involved included:

Remote management and distribution of antivirus update software

Licensing agreements for campus-wide software to take advantage of academic licensing discounts.

Classes for Adobe products

Support for UNIX and Mac systems

Computer Training programs in MS Office, graphics etc

Support and Assistance in Desktop publishing

An "Action Program for academic departments: meeting annually to discuss need and develop a development plan for the coming year, including specific support needed from ACS

Technology Internships for students, aimed at their field of interest. Students learn new ways to use technology in their field and submit a report at the end of the Academic year describing what they have learned and contributed.

Adaptive technology: This includes support of students with disabilities, including visually impaired or blind, hearing impaired, and other. (I promised to share my experience with INFTY, a program developed for visually impaired students.)

Applications development: programming staff develops software needed by faculty, such as schedulers, writing lab support, special purpose course evaluation, and even support of research.

A Content Management System, including some usage analysis statistics.

A Document Management System

Integration of MIT open source course content that is being used in courses at AUC.

Support for Human Resources Dept dealing with health benefits insurance, etc.

Print Shop support, involving shortcuts to finished printing of special document including research papers.

Support for faculty in Web Development

Multimedia cooperation and support.

They also put on an annual Technology Fair which resembles the one that used to be put on by IET, with demos of corporate software as well as demos of projects by AUC faculty.

An interesting observation of this group is that cooperation and collaboration with other units (such as CLT and the Chief Technology Officer) is close and cordial. At present, John Stuckey and his group is developing a Student Information Support system which will need to be integrated with WebCT, and this project will probably move on in a collaborative arrangement. They (John Stuckey's group) are also developing a Student Portal system that may be taken over by ACS when it becomes operational (later, it will be extended to faculty.) This degree of cooperation inside units and between groups such as CLT and ACS is welcome news for me. I learned that CLT and ACS both report to the same dean (Shahira el Sawy who met with the CLT group and myself yesterday), and there does not seem to be any rivalry or discord present between the groups.

I ended our discussion by asking in what ways UCDavis might work collaboratively with AUC in these areas. The most important service we can provide is assistance in getting up to speed on Sakai, a package that they intend to adopt soon (replacing WebCT), since they are not that familiar with it yet. I believe they can quite possibly benefit from TRC tutorials in areas that perhaps complement what they have focused on, and definitely vice versa.

I will share the material provided by both ACS and CLT with staff at TRC and Mediaworks. I hope that Pete Siegel may also see ways in which they might be able to work collaboratively.

It was a most valuable meeting. I was shown one of their computer teaching labs which has a SMARTBOARD system as well as other tools that permit creative sharing and collaboration between the 24 computers in the lab. I think that future visits in both directions of staff from AUC and UCD would prove highly productive.

Part II: Other Visits

Supreme Council of Universities (SCU)

Note: This section does not include the introductory comments at the beginning of Part I.

My visit to the Supreme Council consisted primarily of my putting on three workshops: Research in Pedagogy, Health Informatics, and On-Line Learning Course Design and Accreditation. These sessions were attended by somewhere between 15-25 people, presumably from a number of different universities in Egypt, but I did not get the names of the institutions represented. The sessions were set up by Dr. Salwah El-Gharib, Secretary General, SCU, and specific arrangements made through Dr. Tarek El-Ahmady El-Tobely, Executive Director of Information and Communications Project (ICTP) at SCU. I have since heard from two or three of the participants, one of whom has corresponded with me more than once, seeking additional information and guidance. I believe that the workshops were generally quite well received, although the Health Informatics presentation, aimed primarily at physicians, had relatively few physicians in the group. I did not have any other meetings while at SCU.

One item that apparently was not circulated to SCU participating institutions was an invitation for one of them to send a participant to the TRC-sponsored Bodega Bay Seminar on College Teaching (described in Part I of this report). I had obtained permission to have two people attend this three-day session, and one person from AUC did go and found it valuable, but no other persons applied.

Follow-up: The most important next step is for us to obtain a better listing of the institutions that are involved with SCU. In particular, we would benefit from knowing whom to contact. I have received some names of schools and names of contacts from another source, but I believe we should follow up on this question with Dr. Salwa. Probably either Kais or Bob Kerr should make these contacts.

Smart Village: March 17

I was invited to present a talk on On-Line Course Design and Accreditation to about 20 people at Smart Village (Marc Feldman and some other Delegata delegation visitors also sat in). The workshops went quite well for the most part, but some participants evidently felt that I had omitted some material they had hoped to see presented. We should attempt to follow up where possible.

Follow-up: Contact Dr. Nagwa to make sure that she has forwarded handouts provided to participants. Continue correspondence with others as they respond (e.g., Dr. Samia, Dr. Kazem). In particular, we hope to get details on the expressions of dissatisfaction regarding my presentation.

University of Alexandria

The visit to the University of Alexandria was very active and quite productive. Over a two day period, I gave all three workshops (two on March 19, one March 19). I had a long late dinner with

Dr. Maysa Amer, director of Medical Education in their school of Medicine, talking about possible future areas of collaboration. At a final social late lunch I was invited to sit with the dean of Engineering, Dr. Rouchdy Zahran, and we spoke of further cooperation/collaboration in engineering, and especially in agricultural engineering. Our visit ended with a tour of the Library of Alexandria, which ranks among the most impressive libraries in the world.

The workshops were well received, with one person attending all three workshops as he found the material in the first workshop to be of considerable interest and decided to attend the next two. He has been one of the more consistent in following up on our discussions and emails (Ahmed Mourady, Training Supervisor for Computing Services at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport).

Follow-up: I have been in touch with Dr. Amer, Mr. Mourady, and some others. I have attempted to put them in contact with key people in medicine and Teaching Resources Center, and will continue to do so. I introduced (by email) Dean Lavernia of our College of Engineering to Dean Zahran, and I believe they are starting a dialogue.

Meeting with Hassan Sherbiny, Director, Agricultural Research Center

I met with Dr. Sherbini (who is Professor Hosny's husband) at his office in Giza to learn a bit about the projects he is involved with and explore various opportunities for collaboration. We had spent some time together socially, and I felt it was important to learn more about his work. Dr. Sherbini studied here at Davis while his wife was studying with me, and he would welcome opportunities for collaboration. The Central Laboratory for Agricultural Climate, which he heads, is doing important work that should, I believe be made known to our College of Agriculture. I will be meeting with Associate Dean Hill to discuss this matter soon.

General Closing Comments

Overall, this was an extremely interesting trip. I worked quite hard most of the time there, and made many contacts that I want to follow up on. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Hosny for her hospitality and efficiency in arranging meetings and other events.

While my scheduled presentations were for the most part well received, I left with a strong desire to increase opportunities for interaction between other UCD representatives and institutions in Egypt and nearby countries. I believe that my talents can best be used in establishing lasting contacts between individuals who are far from retirement, and I hope to be able to promote this approach in the future.

I felt that my contacts with Schools of Medicine were inadequate. Dr. James Marcin, whose schedule scarcely overlapped with mine, was able to meet with several people, including Dr. Wael, who visited us in Sacramento earlier in the year. Unfortunately, our schedules did not allow us to meet together. I hope that we will have opportunities to do more together in the future.

It was also unfortunate that the invitation to have a second person from any institution in Egypt participate in the TRC Bodega Bay Seminar on College Teaching (attended by one person from the

American University in Cairo). This appears to have been due to many of the institutions not having been informed of this opportunity.

I am working with Teaching Resources Center, hoping to set up invitations for the Summer Institute on Teaching and Technology (to be held in September this year). I have a meeting with James Hill, Associate Dean, Agriculture, to discuss opportunities for following up both with Dean Zahran at The University of Alexandria and with Dr. Sherbini of the Agricultural Research Center.

It will be important to build on the contacts established in Egypt, extending our area of investigation to other countries in the area. We have begun specific negotiations with representatives of two institutions in Saudi Arabia, and I hope also to be able to pursue connections established by Professor Suad Joseph of UCD Davis. That process has begun, but it is in its infancy.

I believe that we have many opportunities to work more closely on the infrastructure support of teaching and learning and of medicine. In this area, it will be important for Pete Siegel to become more directly involved.

Details

I did not prepare a detailed summary of the visits to the Supreme Council of Universities or to Smart Village. The details of the University of Alexandria meetings are presented below.

University of Alexandria

I spent two nights and two days at the University of Alexandria, during which I met with a few key individuals and presented all three workshops scheduled for delivery on this trip.

A had an extremely productive meeting with Maysa Amer, MD, Director of Medical Education in the school of Medicine. Dr. Amer took me to dinner after her regular work day following my drive from Smart Village to Alexandria. We had a leisurely dinner and discussed opportunities for collaboration, with emphasis in the area of medical education. Dr. Amer expressed regret that she had not been informed of the possibility of sending a representative to the TRC Bodega Bay Seminar on College Teaching, and we agreed that this needs further investigation. She also expressed a desire to set up a master's program in medical education and sought help from our School of Medicine to explore this idea further (I am working on this with Dr. Bonham, director of our Office of Medial Education).

The first workshop was on Design, Delivery, Accreditation and Approval of Distance or Hybrid courses. There were about fifteen people present, including two physicians and specialists in several other disciplines. (I have given to Dr. Amer a flash memory stick with files I had collected for the entire trip, including the three workshops presented in Alexandria. I asked her please to share the folder as best fits individual needs (Dr. Amer was kind enough to make CDs for the participants in the third workshop, which contained a Word document describing the contents of this rather voluminous folder as a guideline for its use. I would especially ask Dr. Amer to share

that file "Description of Egypt Folder) with others who received the folder before I had written that description.)

The first workshop was fairly wide ranging over topics related to effective design of on-line courses and emphasizing some of the practical issues that arise when trying to persuade faculty to adopt/adapt their courses to on-line or hybrid delivery, and also discussing some of the administrative pitfalls related to accreditation and approval of such courses. I believe that the participants felt the workshop was of value.

The second session was devoted to Opportunities for Learning about Health Informatics. I shared information about two recent all day sessions given by UC Davis School of Medicine faculty, and left behind the brochure for the March 1, 2008 conference which I attended shortly before coming to Egypt. We reviewed national resources and projects in the US, a companion offering in the area given by Oregon Health and Science University, which offers on-line Certificate and Master's degrees. I showed a flier about a new Health Informatics Certificate program that we will offer starting in September 2008, with the special feature that courses will be on-line and receive UC credit that can be applied to master's and other degrees. We covered a broad range of topics briefly, and participants were able to see that the material contained in my folder could be used for subsequent perusal and reflection. The response seemed strongly positive overall.

The third workshop, offered Wednesday morning, was on new research and development in pedagogy. It was attended by a couple of people with clinical background, a number of faculty development or education specialists and others. About fifteen people attended this workshop. This offering was perhaps less satisfactory to me personally, as I realized after completing it that there were some important national resources I had not highlighted in the presentations. I hope that the material left with participants will compensate in part for the heterogeneity of the content presented. I did, however, get positive feedback from several participants after the session.

I had quite a number of questions and comments following the sessions. One thread which was particularly important to a couple of the people attending one or more of the sessions was the need for concrete "MOU"s (Memoranda of Understanding) to be generated between UC Davis and various departments and programs at the University of Alexandria. I hope that recipients of this summary will follow up with specific suggestions, so that I can pass on this information to appropriate contacts at UCD and the School of Medicine. (Dr. Amer and I have already communicated about one area in Medical Education).

In all, I felt that the trip, including a post-meeting dinner at the Alexandria Fish Market (where I sat with Dean Rouchdy Zahran Engineering and we discussed opportunities for collaboration), provided rich opportunities for follow-up and I hope to be able to help Davis capitalize on these opportunities.