



John Cabot University

ALUMNI PROFILE



Thabet Hashem Al Qaissieh
BA, Business Administration, Class of 2006
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Interviewed October 2008

What was your career path after graduating from JCU?

When I first left JCU, I worked with my father in the media business for 5 weeks. Then I moved to Al Qudra Real Estate, which is a subsidiary of Al Qudra Holding, as a marketing officer. After that, I was assigned as Al Qudra Holdings of Syria's General Manager. Finally, in late 2006, I came back to the United Arab Emirates, to work as an investments associate at the company's headquarters.

Tell us a little about your current position. What do you like most about it?

Being in the largest private investment company in Abu Dhabi, I work in a wide range of sectors: real estate, infrastructure, agriculture, energy, environmental services, and other smaller sectors. Since I work in the investments department of the "mother company," all of our subsidiaries must go through us, which exposes me to a lot of projects and activities. I also get to do a lot of travel, which is fun and also beneficial.

What has been the most interesting or challenging project you've undertaken at your current job?

When I was assigned to Syria, there was no office and no employees, just me and my self. I had to jump-start the company from scratch and seek investment opportunities in the country. I spent eight hectic months there, which was very stressful, but it helped me gain a lot of experience.

What were you probably doing on this very day, ten years ago?

I was probably in detention, after school, in grade 11.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would that be and why?

Abu Dhabi. Not because that's where I am from, but because it's not every day you LIVE in an emerging country with so much potential.

If you could re-live any time in your life, what would it be?

September 2002 – August 2006. The 4 years I spent in Rome.

What's your favorite landmark in Rome and why?

The Pantheon. It's one of the greatest historical landmarks in the world. Its architectural genius amazed me the first time I went inside, and yet, I always had the same feeling every time I walked in. I went to the Pantheon almost every week when I was in Rome.

What advice would you give to students attending JCU today?

When they say good things come in small packages, it's TRUE!! My only advice to students today is to try and enjoy their stay at JCU, because what you get out of it you will not get any where else in the world. After graduating, I realized that what makes JCU such an amazing place isn't only the quality of the professors, but the whole atmosphere. (And I know that current students who read this will think I am crazy, but after leaving JCU they will understand what I mean.)

How have you given back to your alma mater?

Apart from how much I talk about JCU, I am hoping to become a donor to the University.