



A Message from Dr. Marina

Dear AUK Community:

With this issue, we begin publication of our employee Newsletter, your forum for sharing the good news and information about AUK plans, faculty and staff achievements, and campus programs and events. We hope this will become a regular communication resource, published electronically and in hard copy. Please send us your own information, so we can share with the rest of the campus what books and articles have been published, what conferences you attended and participated in. We will use this newsletter to introduce new faculty and staff to the campus community and to tell you about forthcoming events, so let us know what events you or your staff have organized or are preparing. Please send your information to Fatma Khamis (PR/ Marketing) who is working this semester with Jordan Milne, one of two Dartmouth interns currently visiting AUK.

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Spring 2006 has been a period of transition for AUK and for the College of Arts and Sciences. Among the highlights are the introduction of the Research Initiation and Completion Grants program and the plan to establish four College Divisions: Business and Economics, Humanities and Arts, Sciences, and Social Sciences. We are eagerly anticipating the decision of the Private Universities Council on AUK's Kuwaiti

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh's Book Receives Honors



AUK Professor of History and International Relations, **Dr. Ahmed Nizar Hamzeh**, has been honored for his third and latest book, *In the Path of Hizbullah* (Syracuse University Press, 2004), which has been selected as one of the Outstanding Academic Titles in 2005 by *Choice* magazine. Among the several thousands of works reviewed by *Choice*, a recognized leader in academic and research review, Dr. Hamzeh's piece was selected for its excellence in scholarship, contribution to the field of Islamist political theory, and status as a pioneer in the analysis of organizational structural in Islamist movements and organizations.

Choice's recognition of Dr. Hamzeh's work came as a welcome relief from the aggravating review process which lasted nearly two years. The lengthy wait was a result of the rigorous review process that is to be expected from a highly respected publishing house such as Syracuse University Press.

Dr. Hamzeh has also been published in reputable academic journals including the Middle East Quarterly, International Journal of the Middle East, Third World Quarterly and the Social Political Economic Journal, among several others. He is currently planning his next project which will be a study on Islamic discourse and the tension between social modernity and Islam.

Mabrouk!



Dr. Lisa Urkevich (Music) was awarded a grant to participate in the new EVIA Digital Archive project, a joint effort of Indiana University and the University of Michigan to establish a digital collection of ethno-musicological video for use by scholars and instructors. For several weeks in June in Indiana (US), Dr. Urkevich will be detailing and annotating her field video of traditional music events in Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula. Thus, Kuwaiti music will be among the first preserved and represented in this significant project that will eventually feature the music of hundreds of nations throughout the world.

Bravo and good luck, Dr. Urkevich!



Dr. Shareef Abu Al-Maati has been given the honor and opportunity to participate in the Harvard Executive Program on Education Reform later this month. He will be joined in Cambridge by a distinguished group of top education officials from around Kuwait including one university president, the Deputy Minister of Education, members of parliament, and other school administrators. The program is designed to address issues of educational assessment, key performance indicators, and accreditation.

Congratulations and safe travels, Dr. Abu Al-Maati!



On April 10, Dr. Pamela Allegretto-Diulio successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. After two hours of intensive questioning, all of the members of the review panel gave her their approval and went on to encourage her to publish her work.

Her dissertation, *Female Entrapment in the Major Novels of Naguib Mahfouz*, was intended to show the disparity between a Western and Middle Eastern reading of Naguib Mahfouz. Often, the Western reader comes with a biased perspective of the oppressive nature of women from the Middle East and incorrectly assesses cultural norms to the Islamic religion. Therefore, this dissertation explores female entrapment through four subtopics: sexuality, domestic servitude, spirituality, and intellectuality in the following novels by Naguib Mahfouz: *Midaq Alley*, *Palace Walk*, *Children of Gebelawi*, *Wedding Song*, *Autumn Quail*, *Palace of Desire*, and *Sugar Street*. Well done, Dr. Allegretto-Diulio!



Akhbar from H.R.

The Human Resources Department would like to take a moment to ask your help in communicating their policies to the AUK community. If you have any questions or comments concerning HR, please e-mail them to the Human Resources Department so that they can be addressed and shared with the rest of the Faculty and Staff. Chances are, if you find something difficult, others find it difficult, as well. Thank you for your cooperation.

Welcome to all of the new additions to the AUK community. Below are all of the new hires for 2006. Welcome to AUK!



Harvey Varnet, Director of Library
Library Services



Reham Al-Essa,
Reference/Instruction Librarian
Library Services



Pradeep Alexander, Director
Human Resources



Eman El-Gallad, Purchasing Officer
Finance Department



Kenya Purcell, Program Coordinator
Office of Continuing Education



Joanne Hands, Counselor
Student Success Center



Lalitha Varadaraja, Chief
Accountant
Finance Department



Eric Fernandes, Senior Technician
Office of Campus Services

Employee Profile:



Waheed Abdulaziz Khalil

Waheed Abdulaziz Khalil is a member of the AUK security staff.

Waheed is 30 years old and holds a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Cairo in Beni Suef. He is originally from Egypt where he practiced law for 4 years, but has been calling Kuwait home for the past 7 months. For him, AUK is an excellent place to work with very nice and educated people.

General Statement from Security Staff

The security staff is here to provide security and safety for all AUK community. We would like everyone at AUK know that when we are asking for IDs at the gates, we are only doing our jobs. Please help us do our job by warning your guests to carry their IDs. You will make our job easier by warning people ahead of time to carry their IDs.

Thank you for keeping AUK safe and we're happy to have you with us!



Dr. Abigail Gray

U.S. Embassy-AUK Mentoring Day a Success!

The first meeting between students and mentors of the US Embassy-AUK Mentoring Program took place on April 5 in the Multipurpose Room.

Students in the Business and Communications Department met with members of the US Embassy in order to forge meaningful relationships and capture the ideas and experiences of US Embassy professionals in a motivational setting for young business students to learn from the experience, wisdom, and vision of their mentors.

The program, organized and directed by *Visiting Professor of Business and Communications* **Dr. Abigail Gray**, was designed to develop leadership potential in business students and prepare them for the complex and highly competitive business world. The program seeks to nurture the personal and professional growth of young men and women at AUK through initiatives that instill in students a passion for life-long learning, academic excellence, professionalism, and leadership.

The program features a two-pronged approach: semester-long classroom instruction on Professional Skills, and one-on-one mentoring sessions with US Embassy officials. For the US Embassy Mentoring Day, on the AUK campus, Business Communication students submit "Employment Packages" to their mentors for expert review, guidance and feedback. Students are encouraged to ask questions, seek clarification, and learn firsthand about the job roles and responsibilities of their mentors and the challenges of the workplace.



AUK is Growing: *New Building Update*

Larry Dawson, the Executive Director of Finance and Administration is proud to update the eager Faculty and Staff on the status of construction of a new academic building at AUK.



The building was originally to have five floors, but another floor was recently added to accommodate a cafeteria and student activity room. The Ground Floor will feature classrooms, including music and drama, a multi-purpose room, an open computer laboratory and will be the new home of the IT Department. The next three floors will be classroom space. Additional faculty offices will be located on the Fourth Floor and a new cafeteria and student activity space will fill the fifth floor.

Construction of the new academic building commenced in the fall of 2006 and has been proceeding on a fast-track basis. It is on schedule and is planned to be completed for the start of the 2006-2007 academic year. The faculty office area should be ready for occupancy by mid-August, while the classrooms and other areas should be ready for use a couple of weeks thereafter.

Quick Announcements

The Office of the Registrar has successfully launched the Degree Audit component of Self Service Banner - a tool by which students can track their academic progress online.

Tasnim Saleh is the first AUK student hired as a professional staff member in the Office of the Registrar at the American University of Kuwait.

Jordan Milne and **Akar Bharadvaj**, two new additions to the AUK team from Dartmouth College, arrived a few weeks ago and will be with us until June. Jordan will be spending his time between the Student Affairs and PR/Marketing Departments, while Akar will be spending his time in the Intensive English Program. Welcome!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these dates and keep an eye on you e-mail inbox for more information on all the happenings around campus.

University Champions Cup Tournament	May 7
Career Week	May 13-15
AUK Awards Night	May 23
Graduation	June 20

Submissions

If you would like to publish something in the Faculty/Staff Newsletter, please submit announcements and materials to Fatma Khamis in the PR/Marketing Department.

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All photos courtesy of the Public Relations & Marketing Department.

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