

2nd Edition

September 2006

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A Message from Dr. Marina

Dear AUK Community,

It is a privilege to address you in my new capacity as President of the American University of Kuwait. The wonderful beginnings of AUK bring a tremendous sense of responsibility because of the exciting challenges that lie ahead. I am inspired by the confidence shown in me by the Board of Trustees and appreciate the support and contribution of all who helped to make our young university a standard of excellence among the institutions of higher education in Kuwait.

Spring semester 2006 ended on a high note. Ten faculty were awarded research grants for project initiation or completion, and several others received professional development grants for conference travel. In June AUK gained accreditation from the Ministry of Higher Education Council for Private Universities (**retroactive to February 2006**). Also in June we celebrated the first graduation of AUK's transfer students. Eight graduating Business majors were feted not only by their faculty and families, but also by

a distinguished group of visitors from Dartmouth College who presented AUK with a Proclamation of June 20, 2006 the AUK Day on the Dartmouth campus. Dr. Sheila Culbert of Dartmouth delivered the keynote speech.

This issue finds AUK preparing for the new academic year 2006-07 with renewed energy and expanded resources. Our faculty ranks have been strengthened by the arrival of ten new faculty whose photos you will find elsewhere in this issue. The new college building is being completed, with spacious new classrooms on three floors. On the fourth floor are faculty offices for the Divisions of Business & Economics and Humanities & Arts. In addition to the large conference room next to the new Dean's office is the attractive faculty and staff lounge. On the ground floor the cafeteria, open computer lab, and a new multipurpose room are nearing completion. This building will allow AUK to expand enrollment on this campus to 2,000 students. We are ready to welcome new and returning students, new Dartmouth interns, and our first Fulbright visitors.



Dr. Marina with the first AUK graduating class

AUK welcomes new faculty

This Fall Semester, the AUK community warmly welcomes ten new faculty members.

They are:



Dr. Christopher Ohan
Assistant Professor of
History



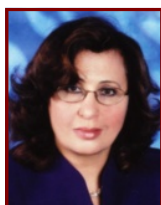
Dr. Mohsen Bagnied
Associate Professor of
Marketing



Christopher Gottschalk
Assistant Professor of
Humanities (Theatre &
Drama)



Dr. Mourad Dakhli
Assistant Professor of
Business



Dr. Fadia Hegazy
Associate Professor of
Computer Science and
Information System.



Dr. Nauman Farooqi
Visiting Associate
Professor of Finance



Dr. Florin Nichita
Assistant Professor of
Mathematics



Dr. Raymond Farrin
Assistant Professor of
Arabic



Dr. Karim Jallad
Assistant Professor of
Chemistry



Dr. Shaheed Mohammed
Associate Professor of
Communication

“Outstanding Academic Title” for A Companion to Psychological Anthropology”, co-edited by Conerly Casey

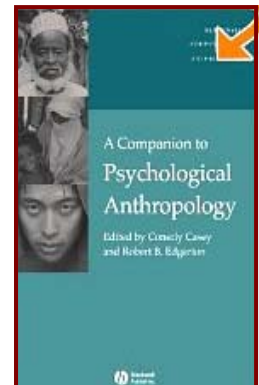


The “Companion”, co-edited by **Dr. Conerly Casey**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Psychology; with Prof. Robert B. Edgerton was chosen by *Choice Magazine* as a 2005 Outstanding Academic Book.

“A Companion to Psychological Anthropology: Modernity and Psycho-cultural Change”. Conerly Casey and Robert B. Edgerton, eds., Blackwell Companions to Anthropology. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

The book has received wonderful reviews and strong support from the Society for Psychological Anthropology, part of the American Anthropological Association. According to Blackwell Press, it is one of the best selling *Companions*, a series that charts that best of academic subfields such as psychological anthropology. Dr. Casey also has several other publications forthcoming

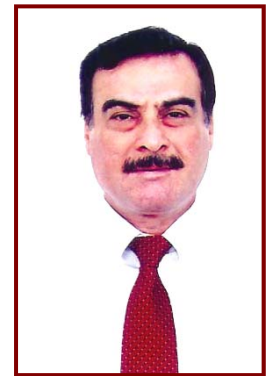
Congratulations, Dr. Casey!



“Culture and Customs of Iraq” by Ghazi Nassir

Dr. Ghazi Nassir, the Associate Professor of English Language & Comparative Literature, has signed a contract to author a book about *Culture and Customs of Iraq* with the Greenwood Publishers. This book, *Culture and Customs of Iraq*, is an attempt to treat in a concise and objective way the Iraqi people, their original, beliefs, customs, their land, and their history. The eight narrative

chapters include general introduction to the land, people, languages, and history (with contemporary focus); Religion and World View; Literature and Media; Art and Architecture/Housing; Cuisine and Traditional Dress; Gender, Marriage, and Family; Social Customs and Lifestyle; and Music and Dance. Dr. Nasser also has another book accepted for publication.



Dr. Ghazi Nassir

The Month of Ramadan

If you just recently moved to Kuwait, you probably haven't yet experienced the one month of the year that is completely different from all the rest. **Ramadan**, the month of fasting, will start soon after the Fall semester has commenced. You will immediately sense a different mood in the country, and in people themselves. Business hours will change, and there will be more festivities going on than usual.

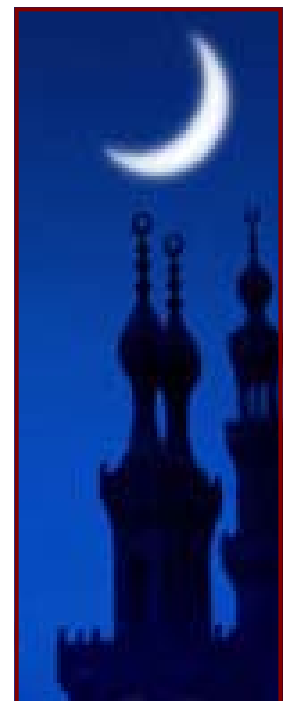
Ramadan is the name of the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The Holy Quran was revealed to mankind during this month, thus making it the holiest month of the year for Muslims the world over.

During this month, the most prominent event is the fasting practiced by all observant Muslims. Strict restraints are placed on their daily lives. No consumption of any kind is allowed. From dawn until sunset when the “maghrib” prayer is called, they are to abstain from eating, drinking, and smoking. The fast is broken with a meal called “Iftar.” In the evening following iftar it is customary for Muslims to go out visiting family and friends. The fast is resumed the next morning.

During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam by refraining from violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, angry and sarcastic retorts, and gossip.

People are meant to try to get along with each other better than they normally would. All obscene and irreligious sights and sounds are to be avoided. Purity of both thought and action is important. The fast is an exacting act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to God. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the inner soul and free it from harm.

Kuwait Laws strictly enforce compliance with the religious restrictions, non-muslims are expected to respect these rules and avoid eating drinking or smoking in public.



The Role of Liberal Arts in Business Conference

On May 10th 2006, The Gulf Studies & Dialogue Center at AUK presented an academic conference on “The Role of Liberal Arts in Business.”

The moderator during the sessions was Dr. Ralph Palliam, and papers were presented by each of the following professors:

Dr. Athmar Al-Salem
Assistant Professor of Management

Dr. Mutlaq Al-Mutairi
Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Jeremy Cripps
Professor of Management and Accounting

Dr. Pamela DiIulio
Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Dr. Abigail Gray
Visiting Associate Professor of Business and Communication

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh
Associate Professor of History

Dr. George Kostopoulos
Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Ann Scholl
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Topics discussed included:

- Cross Cultural Perspectives on the Work Ethic: Diversity, Discrimination and Ethics in Kuwait

- Online Education: Issues and Trends
- Epistemic and Metaphysical Bases of Today’s Liberal Arts Pedagogy
- Malice in Wonderland: What Lies Ahead in Corporate Reporting Process?
- Liberal Education and Terrorism
- The Role of Communication in Business
- Naguib Mahfouz: A Liberal Arts Approach to Morality Issues in Literature

Congratulations to the winners of the Faculty Support Grants for Spring and Summer 2006!

| NAME | SUBJECT |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Mutlaq Al-Mutairi and Prof. Jeremy Cripps | Starting Salaries for Liberal Arts Graduates: Kuwait |
| Dr. Athmar Al-Salem and Prof. Jeremy Cripps | The Future Competitiveness of the EU and its Eastern Neighbors: Kuwait |
| Dr. Nizar Hamzeh (Political Science), | Implications of Shi’a Revival in Kuwait |
| Dr. Conerly Casey (Anthropology and Psychology Programs) | Tense Pasts: Environmental contaminants, PTSD and Depression, and High Mortality Rates among Kuwaitis. |
| Dr. Juliet Dinkha (Psychology Program) | |
| Afaf Al-Bataineh (Arabic) | The Representation of the Other. |
| Lisa Urkevich (Music) | The Translation of Arabic Texts pertaining to the Artistic Culture of Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula. |
| Dahlia Mahmoud (Media) | Your Image, Our Reality: Dress in the Gulf - a multimedia museum exhibition. |
| Marjorie Kelly (Anthropology) | |
| Dr. Ali Charara (Biology) | Modulation by Dopamine of Excitatory Inputs to the Nucleus Accumbens: an In Vitro Study Comparing Normal Rats with a Rat Model of Schizophrenia |
| Simon O’Meara (Art History) | Space and Urban Muslim Life: At the Limits of the Labyrinth of Fez |

C.C.E. Growing & Moving

With its program launched in April and public and corporate interest steadily increasing, AUK's Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has quickly outgrown its current space.

"We have been very fortunate so far," says Center Director Dave McHardy, "in that we have been able to attract some great people to work for us and the University's Executive Committee has recognized our need to expand and relocate. We have just hired Pareen Tajani as our Coordinator of Operations and Services. Pareen is trilingual and has years of experience in customer service and in student registration and records. Prior to that we hired Kenya Purcell as our Program Coordinator and she comes to us with excellent experience and knowledge of the Kuwaiti market. And, most recently, we've been able to extend Dave Hart's secondment to allow him to continue to develop English programs for public and corporate consumption. So, our team is quickly taking shape and we now need to provide them with the space they need to do their work effectively."

Ideally, a Center for Continuing Education occupies space that is readily accessible from off-campus so that busy, working people can quickly come in, obtain information, register for courses, etc. and then be on their way again. Since the "prime" ground-floor areas in the Arts & Science and Administration buildings are already occupied by service providers who need that type of space, it was decided to relocate the CCE to the Central Campus area and renovate a classroom. As soon as Spring classes are over, Room C101 and its adjoining washroom and office will be converted into the new home of the CCE.

"We really do appreciate all the support we have received regarding this move," says McHardy. "The specific location was Sean Dollman's suggestion and the Campus Services team has been very responsive in developing the floor plans. C101 will provide us with exactly what we need in terms of space and location. It is unfortunate that we have to lose a classroom to create an office area, but Margaret Combs has been very understanding and

supportive. And, with the Arts & Science 2 building coming on-stream this Fall, the loss of the classroom will hopefully not adversely affect anyone."

Plans are to reorient the space so that its primary entrance will face East towards the security gate, basketball courts and parking lot. An awning will be installed, along with walkways and signage so that the CCE's new home will be clear and inviting to anyone coming on-campus from the parking lot area. The new facility will include a registration and information counter, work space for CCE instructors and Coordinators, and an office for the Director.

"The timing is excellent," says McHardy. "When we make our major program launch in the Fall, we'll be able to welcome participants to our new office and provide them with services, facilities and programs that will be second-to-none."



Trainer/Consultant Tony White of Toronto facilitates the CCE's inaugural program "Achieving Leadership Excellence" at AUK.

"When we make our major program launch in the Fall, we'll be able to welcome participants to our new office and provide them with services, facilities and programs that will be second to none."

The 99 at AUK



Last May, Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa, founder of the Teshkeel Media Group, visited AUK to talk to students and faculty about his company, and its main project, The 99, a comic book publication about a superhero team based exclusively on Islamic culture.

Teshkeel Media Group is one of the Middle East's leading developers of comics and children's entertainment. Based in Kuwait

with offices in New York, the Company aims to fill a void by providing positive, high-quality children's content in the region. The company's multimedia offerings will soon include print and electronic media, films and television. Teshkeel is already working in partnership with global publishers like Marvel, DC and Archie Comics in the Middle East and North Africa.

If you are interested in more information, or would like to read a preview of the comics online, you can do so at www.the99.org



Dr. Al-Mutawa during his presentation at AUK.

AUK-Dartmouth Interns Win Fulbright Grants to Return to the Arabian Gulf

HANOVER, NH -- Jennifer Krimm '06 and Hema Mohan '06, AUK-Dartmouth Interns in the program's inaugural term in Spring 2005, were recently awarded Fulbright grants to pursue research projects in the Arabian Gulf over the next academic year. Mohan and Krimm, who attended the session of the Kuwaiti parliament in which women won the right to vote, hope as Fulbright fellows to explore the relationship between linguistics and Westernization in Kuwait and new media in Qatar respectively. In their Fulbright studies, Krimm will work through al-Jazeera International and Mohan through the American University of Kuwait.

Both Krimm and Mohan are enthusiastic about their upcoming

studies. "I feel so blessed to be chosen to join the ranks of Fulbright scholars and alumni worldwide. I look forward to both my research and to officially representing the United States abroad," Mohan said in a statement. Krimm reiterated Mohan's sentiments and cited her AUK internship as "a critical part of my Fulbright success", adding that she was "honored to have received both an AUK internship and a Fulbright Grant."

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire (USA), have been working together since 2003, when the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding that facilitated a series of advisory, consultative, and cooperative projects.

The initial five-year understanding reflects AUK's commitment to creating a premier institution of higher learning, based on the liberal arts model, and Dartmouth's recognition of the importance of AUK's mission.

The Fulbright Foundation was established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to "enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries," the Foundation receives its funding through the U.S. State Department and from participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries.

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Jennifer Krimm



Hema Mohan

Bollywood Films made at AUK

Academic Showcase:

Bollywood Class Produces Bollywood Films

The Bollywood class, taught by Dr. Shoma Munshi, screened three typical Bollywood ('Hindi') films as part of AUK's Academic Showcase. The students were responsible for the entire production process – story, screenplay, acting, music, production and direction. The event was very well attended by students, faculty, and family members.

The following is what Margaret Combs, Director of the Intensive English Program at AUK, said about the event:

I had the pleasure of attending Dr. Shoma Munshi's students

"Bollywood" performances yesterday. The performances were creative, fun and very personable with the audience. Everyone was absolutely thrilled with the momentum of the show, the excitement, the laughs and the varied content. I would highly recommend your show for everyone to see. The presentation was extremely effective and tightly held the attention of students and faculty alike. Fast paced, witty, innovative - a delight.

Thank you so much for providing us with such a comedic and awesome show.



Students enjoying one of the Bollywood showcases produced by students.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3-6 | Su-W | Faculty Orientation |
| 9-11 | Sa-M | Placement, Advising and Registration and New Student Orientation |
| 16 | Sa | Fall semester and 1 st Block courses begin |
| 23 | Sa | Holy Month of Ramadan begins. |

OCTOBER

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 | M | Eid Al-Fitr starts. University closed |
| 25 | W | Eid Al-Fitr ends. University resumes operations on Saturday |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------------------|
| 6 | M | Midterm grades for Fall semester courses due |
| 8 | W | 2 nd Block courses begin |

DECEMBER

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------|
| 23 | Sa | Winter Break begins |
|----|----|---------------------|

JANUARY 2007

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | Sa | Classes resume |
| 15 | M | Final Exams begin (see exam schedule) |
| 24 | W | Final grades for Fall semester & 2 nd Block courses due |

Submissions



Dear colleagues,

Allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself, **Reham Al-Samerai**, as the newly appointed University Editor. I look forward to collaborating with all of you on future editions of the *AUK Chronicle*. If you would like to publish anything in the next edition, kindly email me your submissions at: rsamerai@auk.edu.kw

Deadline for submissions: November 30, 2006.

All photos courtesy of the Public Relations & Marketing Department.

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