Dear AUK Faculty and Staff:

This message may reach you during the second Liberal Arts Week marked by the meeting of AUK Board of Trustees, the Academic Showcase, and the second annual conference on Liberal Arts (thanks go to Dr. Ralph Palliam, conference program director). The highlights of the week also include the Dean’s List ceremony and a musical performance on Sunday, and the first visit to AUK by the creator of the Rassias method of foreign language instruction John Rassias and his daughter Helene, both of Dartmouth and the Rassias Foundation. John and Helen will teach a workshop organized by the Center for Continuing Education, and John will take part in the Liberal Arts conference; several AUK instructors are taking advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with the Rassias pedagogy. AUK interns at Dartmouth are expected to participate in the Rassias program this summer.

Our students have had some remarkable successes this semester. Students who gained the Dean’s List distinction for Fall 2006 will be congratulated at the ceremony held during the Showcase and scheduled for 6pm on May 13. Those with the “perfect” GPA of 4.0 will be honored with placement on the President’s Honor Roll at the AUK Awards Ceremony on June 2. Seven students were nominated and accepted into the summer program sponsored by the US Department Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) “Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders from the Middle East and North Africa.” AUK students successfully participated in the Model United Nations event held in Kuwait, in Business student competitions in Dubai and Bahrain, and won (again!) the team sports Championship Cup among Kuwait universities. Our total enrollment for Spring 2007 is at 1,241, including 139 in IEP. Graduation celebrations will take place on campus on June 19.

Staff ranks now include a Security & Safety Coordinator, Mr. Nawaf Al-Banai. AUK security and emergency systems and policies are being reviewed and revised.

Staff benefits, such as leave, have been addressed and enhanced in the proposed policies prepared for review by the Board of Trustees. Several staff participated in the Raft Race on May 3 and won a couple of trophies (Bravo!). Please be aware that staff are eligible for professional development support, and the University has been supporting staff participation in training and professional meetings. Be sure to check out training and professional development opportunities offered by the Center for Continuing Education right here, on campus.

Faculty highlights this month include the announcement of the Initiation and Completion grants; we congratulate all the recipients (see the list of grant and professional development awards on page 8).

Congratulations also to Dr. Nizar Hamzeh who has recently assumed the new role of Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Division Heads have been reappointed for AY 2007-08, the contract renewal process for 2007-10 has been completed, and new faculty have been hired in several fields, including English, ESL, Communication, Computer Science, and Business. The general faculty meeting on May 7 addressed questions of hiring, planning, promotion, and accreditation.

The legal requirement of segregating our students by gender and U.S. accreditation remain an important concern for AUK as a young institution with an ideal of coeducational, American-style education. The two were brought together in the report from the New England Association of Schools and Universities (NEASC) which explained their decision not to invite AUK to apply to NEASC for accreditation candidacy. Briefly, NEASC is “not prepared to approve the American University of Kuwait if you will be required by the government to segregate your students by gender.” The full Report of NEASC’s Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is posted on the general x:\drive in the folder titled “NEASC Report.”
Conferences

Professors Jeremy Cripps and George Kostopoulos attended the Business, Information and Management Academy (BIMA) Inaugural Conference at the American University of Sharjah. Professor Cripps presented a paper entitled “Gulf Business Model: Other Invisible Hands” an historical analysis of the influence of Arab scholars on prevailing economic activity in Gulf markets. Professor Kostopoulos presented a paper entitled “Wi-Fi Security Precautions” an analysis of replacements for Wire-

Dr. Fadia Hegazy will be presenting her paper “Empirical Investigation of the Effect of Corporate Cultural Factors on the Data Warehousing Success” to be in the 2007 International Conference on e-Learning, e-Business, Enterprise Information Systems, and e-Government (EEIE'07: June 25-28, 2007), Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

On April 30, Dr. Mohsen Bagnied and Dr. Nauman Farooki from the Business and Economics Division attended the Seminar on Global investments which was jointly organized by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) and Morgan Stanley Investment Company. The Seminar was held in Kuwait at Arraya Center in Marriott Courtyard hotel. Presentations were made by Mr. Fahad Majed Al Salem, Director of Strategy & Planning at KIA, and Mr. Abdulatif Al-Hamad, Chairman of the Board of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and former Minister of Finance of the State of Kuwait. The keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Roach, the Managing Director and Chief Economist of Morgan Stanley. Dr. Roach in his elaborate presentation discussed the current and prospective global investment environment. He highlighted developments in the US and Chinese markets as well as implications on Gulf Countries. Dr. Roach promoted policies of globalization and warned against policies of localization and protectionism. A copy of Dr. Roach’s presentation on “The Heavy Lifting of Global Rebalancing” is available in Dr. Bagnied’s office.

Professor Conerly Casey attended the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meetings, March 8-11, in Manhattan Beach, California where she presented a paper entitled “Postcolonial Inner-Outer/Self-Other”. The paper offered ways of thinking about identity and social conflicts among Muslim Hausa youths living in the postcolonial, media saturated environment of northern Nigeria. Professor Casey was invited to submit this paper for publication in a guest edited volume of Ethos, the journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

March 12-14, 2007, Professor Mutlaq Almutairi attended the 13th International Conference on Industry, Engineering, and Management Systems in Cocoa Beach, Florida, where he presented a paper titled “Creation 3D solid modeling and Static Finite Eminent Analysis of Human Tibia.”
US Embassy Hosts AUK Business Students

US Ambassador Richard LeBaron, Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Matthew Tueller, and approximately 15 members of the diplomatic corps recently hosted over 35 business communication students for the 3rd annual US Embassy-AUK Mentoring Day. To date, over 150 AUK business communication students have participated in the mentoring program. The US Embassy-AUK Mentoring Program is designed to forge meaningful relationships and capture the ideas and experiences of US Embassy professionals in a setting that motivates young business students to learn from the experience, wisdom, and vision of their mentors. The program develops leadership potential in business students and prepares them for the complex and highly competitive business world. The program goal is 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.

Opening comments on the importance of professional communication skills were provided by Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Matthew Tueller. Mr. Tueller is a member of the Senior Foreign Service. He assumed his current position as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait in July 2004. Prior to arrival in Kuwait, he was Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh where he also served as a political officer. Other recent Foreign Service assignments were Deputy Director for the Office of Northern Gulf Affairs in the Department of State and Chief of the U.S. Office in Aden. His other overseas assignments include London, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt. Mr. Tueller grew up in overseas posts in Europe, North Africa, and Latin America. He is a graduate of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

During the session, the US Embassy mentors worked one-to-one with students, providing expert review, guidance and feedback on their job skills and job search strategies. Students were encouraged to ask questions, seek clarification, and learn firsthand about the job roles and responsibilities of their mentors and the challenges of the workplace. According to the program director, Dr. Abigail Gray, "This program is one of the most anticipated events of the semester. We can talk about resumes, interviewing skills, and networking in class, but the mentors bring these concepts to life. We have an amazing group of about 20 mentors involved in the program, with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. On behalf of the Business Communication students, I would like to extend a special thanks to Ambassador LeBaron for hosting us, to Mr. Tueller for providing such insightful opening comments, and to all of the mentors for serving as excellent role models." According to Dr. Gray, the students received a special surprise at the event when Ambassador LeBaron stopped by the session to welcome the students to the US Embassy, meet each of them, and personally answer any questions they might have about his career path. “We were very honored that Ambassador LeBaron stopped by, especially given his schedule. He talked with the students about his first job, and his comments reinforced the importance of demonstrating professionalism, responsibility, accountability, and integrity in everything you do in life, from one's very first job to one's current position. His message and his presence provided an excellent example of the value of both leadership and mentoring,” Dr. Gray said.
In Depth: Dr. Casey and Dr. Dinkha at The Second Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference of Psychology in Amman

On April 29, 2007, Dr. Conerly Casey and Dr. Juliet Dinkha presented a paper, Memory and Subjectivity among Kuwaiti Youths: Child Witnesses of the 1990 Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait at The Second Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference of Psychology in Amman, Jordan. Their findings suggest that Kuwaiti young adults continue to have intrusive images of tortured and mutilated bodies triggered by the 2003 U.S. War on Iraq, and either obsessive anxious vigilance about the War on Iraq or complete disengagement. Young adults feel increased anxiety and aggression, using drugs and alcohol to lessen these feelings. They also report insecurity and confusion about human accountability for the Iraqi invasion, increased mistrust, nationalism and ethnic chauvinism. The effects of trauma and the traumatic remembrances of their respondents reflect a convergence of veridical recall, socialization and enculturation, and the trans-generational transmission of trauma through Kuwaiti family and social interactions. Dr. Casey and Dr. Dinkha suggest that these entangled memory strands, personal and social, foster ongoing insecurity, mistrust, nationalism and ethnic chauvinism, requiring relief that individuals may need, as well as attention to social and political responses to trauma in Kuwait.

The paper presented by Dr. Casey and Dr. Dinkha was well-received, generating substantial interest in the social and cultural contexts of well-being, and in combining psychological and anthropological approaches to research on psychology in this region. The paper led to potential research collaborations with faculty at Kuwait University that will deepen existing knowledge of the relations of individual Kuwaitis to their social and cultural communities.

This was the second presentation of their collaborative research. On December 5, 2006, Dr. Casey and Dr. Dinkha presented a paper, Tense Pasts: The 1990 Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait, Environmental Contaminants, and PTSD and Depression at Kuwait University’s Third International Conference of the College of Social Sciences.

In addition to Dr. Casey’s and Dr. Dinkha’s presentation of their collaborative research, Dr. Dinkha presented two additional papers. Dr. Dinkha used symbolic interactionism as a framework in her paper, Foreign Workers in Kuwait: The Experience of Women Faculty, to explain the mechanisms students use in classroom settings to either perpetuate privilege systems and/or to influence the perceptions of others regarding the teaching and scholarship of women professors—especially those who are expatriate residents. Dr. Dinkha found that some students are particularly engaged in using privilege to devalue the professor and the academic process. Some are more engaged than others in using their sociopolitical position/s to exert power and authority over women faculty of color. Preliminary findings suggest that the dynamics of such relationships are stronger in Kuwait than in the United States as a result of differences in class structure and social welfare systems.

Dr. Dinkha presented a third paper (co-authored with her student Safaa Abdulhamid) titled How Identity Is Constructed: Analysis of Four Case Studies. Psychologists suggest that ethnic identity is a template through which people learn cultural knowledge, beliefs, norms, and expectations. Ethnic identity is a lens through which people perceive and define objects, situations, events, and other people. Dr. Dinkha’s findings suggest that Kuwaiti young adults of mixed ethnic background create identities that incorporate values learned at home and in Kuwaiti communities in which they experience discrimination. Many suggest that they have created personal identities that help them to co-exist in Kuwait and to access basic resources such as education and healthcare, but have not been successful in forming identities that make them feel happy or proud of themselves.

Dr. Dinkha and Dr. Casey have agreed to participate in a collaborative book project that will be edited by Dr. Dinkha and Dr. Judy Kuriansky, representative of the International Association of Psychology to the United Nations. The book will combine psychological and anthropological approaches to the changing roles of women in the Middle East.
Leadership Students Excel in Event Management at AUK

This semester, the American University of Kuwait offered its first leadership and communication course for undergraduate students. Management 350, Organizational Communication and Leadership, teaches students the role of communication in creating a productive organizational environment, and covers team building, conflict resolution, problem solving, and logistics. The course is offered by Dr. Abigail Gray, Visiting Associate Professor of Business and Communication. According to Yara Darwich, one of the team’s Senior Vice Presidents, “Dr. Gray has taught this course at numerous higher education institutions in the US and abroad using an event management focus for business and management operations. This was our turn and our time, and we blew the AUK student body away! We came together not only as a class, but as a group of young professionals. It was a huge success.”

According to Dr. Gray, this is the first leadership course offered at AUK for undergraduate students that focuses on event planning and management, and specifically takes an experiential learning approach to teach transformational leadership, effective communication and successful event planning and management while simultaneously requiring students to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities required to succeed in business. “We can read and talk about leadership all day. But this course is about leading. It is action-oriented. Every day is an opportunity to learn from, with, and through each other based on decisions made or not made, actions taken or not taken, opportunities gained or lost, and victories shared,” the project’s Executive Director Mohamed Boresly explains.

The course is designed to equip AUK students with the leadership and professional skills needed in the workplace. As such, students are in charge of all aspects of event management for a major course Capstone Event. Key event management teams are charged with the full spectrum of conceptualizing, managing, marketing, seeking corporate sponsorships and donations, and executing the event. Because it is a university-wide event, several Logistics and Management teams must learn to work effectively and efficiently with both internal and external constituencies to accomplish the event. According to Noaf Hussein, Senior Vice President of Corporate Sponsorships and Donations, “We knew it was going to be a challenge. We had to secure every sponsor and every donation, cover our operating expenses, then the rest was to go to our charity, Animal Friends League of Kuwait. But the final sponsors we worked with were amazing, as was the outcome of our event!”

Vice President of Corporate Sponsorships and Donations for the Leadership Capstone Event, Noaf Hussein, presents charitable gift to Ayesha Al-Humaidhi of Animal Friends League of Kuwait, on behalf of the Leadership Class, as class members look on.
Depression in Children Workshop

On 28th March 2007, Dr. Juliet Dinkha and Safaa AbdulHamid (research assistant) carried out a Workshop in the American Academy for Girl’s (AAG) Professional Developmental Day. The workshop was titled “Depression in Children” and was prepared for an audience that was made up of 130 teachers. The presentation was made to help the staff of the American Academy for Girls recognize depression in students, and to teach those techniques of how to deal with this depression and how to implement an educational system that does not lead students to become depressed. The Workshop was extremely successful and the teachers came away with a wealth of knowledge.

The Gulf Studies Center Congratulates AUK Students on MEPI Program Selection

The Gulf Studies Center at the American University of Kuwait is pleased to announce that seven AUK students have been selected to participate in the Middle East Partnership Initiative “Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders”. This six-week long program, to be held this summer at 5 different university campuses in the United States, will be an opportunity for our students to meet fellow young leaders from the Arab world, develop their leadership skills and learn about American history, culture and politics.
Published Work

Dr. Florin F. Nichita, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Florin F. Nichita’s paper “On Some Remarkable Limits of Functions” has been published in Mathematical Gazette, Series B, No. 1 / 2007, pages 2-6.

Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, President


Professional Development Awards and Research Initiation and Completion Grants for Spring 2007

Professional Development (Conference Travel)

Dr. Ann Scholl (Philosophy - Division of Humanities & Arts)
Dr. Lisa Urkevich (Music - Division of Humanities & Arts)
Dr. Jeremy Cripps (Business & Economics)
Dr. Murad Dakhli (Business & Economics)
Dr. Ralph Palliam (Business & Economics)
Dr. Fadia Hegazy (Computer Science - Division of Sciences)

Research Initiation & Completion Grants

Dr. Afaf Al-Bataineh (Arabic - Division of Humanities & Arts)
Dr. Karim Jallad (Chemistry - Division of Sciences)
Dr. Marjorie Kelly (Anthropology - Division of Social Sciences)
Dr. Shoma Munshi (Anthropology - Division of Social Sciences)
Dr. Simon O’Meara (Art History - Division of Humanities & Arts)
Naguib Mahfouz: A Western and Eastern Cage of Female Entrapment

By: Pamela Allegretto-Diulio

Abstract:

Using four subcategories of sexuality, domestic servitude, spirituality, and intellectuality, this book investigates the theme of female entrapment in the major novels of Egyptian Nobel Prize author, Naguib Mahfouz. Keying on the differences between Western and Islamic feminism, the author explores the disparity in cultural, religious, and political interpretation as it relates to female oppression and subservience in Egyptian society and as it is explored in Mahfouz's fiction.

Through a variety of Western and Islamic feminist theories, blended with post-colonial theory, this dissertation examines the various methods in which Mahfouz uses the backdrop of the British occupation of Egypt to highlight his prominent theme of injustice. His focus on the woman's position in early to mid-twentieth century Egypt enables the reader to understand the conflicts that face the female amidst the brewing quest for power - both in gender and in nationalism.

In Midaq Alley, the female is exposed to sexual exploitation along with other female constraints; there, one of the major characters is faced with a sense of hopelessness that leads her into the world of prostitution. She walks right into another cage that prevents her from fulfilling her dreams for a better life.

Females in Palace Walk, the first novel in Mahfouz's famous The Cairo Trilogy, are entrapped in domestic servitude. This family saga centers in part on Amina, the matriarch who along with her four children and step-son, are victims of a patriarchal dictator. His double life contradicts the strict religious mandate that govern his family but simultaneously allows him to roam at liberty from one prostitute to another and drink without restraint.

In Children of the Alley (Gebalawi), Mahfouz presents the history of mankind through a spiritual background of disappointment and corruption. He parallels the lives of the major prophets while adding the role of modern science as the final prophet. The spiritual entrapment of the female in this chapter is foregrounded since the female's role in religious history is juxtaposed beside that of the male. This novel, incidentally, was scorned in Egypt and was the catalyst behind the attempted murder of Mahfouz by the Muslim Brotherhood in 1994 when he was stabbed in the neck.

Finally, in a composite of other Mahfouz novels, this book finishes with the role of intellectual entrapment as this dimension of female oppression is explored as it existed - in a fiercely patriarchal society.
Dear colleagues,

If you would like to publish anything in the next edition of the AUK Chronicle, kindly email me your submissions at:
rsamerai@auk.edu.kw

Upcoming Events

May 2007
30 W Last day of classes for Spring semester and 2nd Block courses.

June 2007
12 T Final grades for Spring semester and 2nd Block courses due.
18 M Summer semester courses begin. (IEP & Undergraduate students)
19 T Graduation ceremony.

July 2007
14 Sa Last day of classes for 1st Block Summer semester courses.
17 T Final grades for 1st Block Summer semester due.
21 Sa 2nd Block Summer semester courses begin.

August 2007
15 W Last day of classes for 2nd Block Summer semester courses.
20 M Final grades for 2nd Block Summer semester due.
29 W Last day of classes for Summer semester IEP courses

September 2007
3 M Final grades for Summer semester IEP courses due.

Submissions

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rsamerai@auk.edu.kw

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