Dr. Jose Maria Figueres Olsen: Mitigating Climate Change

By Fatmah H. Al-Qadfan

In reference to the current crisis in Darfur, Dr. Olsen has reason to believe that the disappearance of Lake Chad is a fundamental reason as to why many Darfurians have been displaced. Environmental policies to preserve the environment. Individuals today define a “skilled” politician as one who readily engages in foreign policy and serves as a symbolic icon for his or her country by paying diplomatic visits. There is no doubt that upholding positive relations with nations is an essential part of heading a state but what is more important is the state itself. A leader must focus on domestic issues and exert influence and power to bring about change from within. In the same way, issues that concern the environment of a nation should become a priority on the national agenda. Our way of thinking has lead us down a path of pessimism and the notion that no endeavor will ever be good enough to save our planet. Unless we adopt a positive mind-set, the earth’s physical features will change dramatically and it won’t be for the better. Dr. Olsen’s long career as the President of Costa Rica was one of giving his country and it is due to his efforts that it Costa Rica is credited as a worldwide touristic attraction. What truly distinguishes him from other presidents is his ability to plan ahead and anticipate events that are likely to happen. As a result of his diligent work, Costa Rica now enjoys a stable economy as the paradigm has been shifted towards sustainable development and the promotion of environmental policies. Our fragile planet has been subjected to several environmental changes that continue to degrade the earth’s most valuable resources.

The ‘Voice’ had the opportunity to ask the Dr. Olsen a few questions concerning Costa Rica’s efforts to promote environmental conservation and his view on recent political events.

Q: What are some of the policies that you have legislated concerning the environment during your time as President of Costa Rica?
A: They’re too many to mention but the most important were steering towards sustainable development such as macroeconomics, strategic investments in social areas, and the promotion of environmental policies.

Q: Have the policies you’ve implemented ever been challenged by Costa Rican citizens?
A: The policies were not always accepted. An example that may illustrate that was implementing the carbon tax on the sale of fuel. Also with regards to the social field, we were hoping to increase school days to 200. The response was mixed with some increasing their votes and some decreasing. Since the first day was dedicated to political awareness, copies of the constitution were distributed to students and parliament member Dr. Waleed Al-Tabtabai, was invited to speak to the AUK community through an open-forum. The topic of discussion was “Serv ing the Community”, but after a brief introduction, the conversation quickly shifted to various topics such as segregation and human rights. In response to student, faculty and staff questions, Dr. Waleed admitted that some articles in the constitution were not being implemented. However, students voiced their complaints at the end of the lecture, as they felt that their questions on segregation, education and women’s rights were not clearly answered. The last event that day was the screening of a Kuwaiti play at 7 pm, in the new soccer field. In the play, Om Ali, bluntly criticizes the parliament. The second day was organized in collaboration with the Environment Club. Members of the club sold organic foods and organized a photo exhibition. Garbage bags were collected from around campus and displayed in front of Starbucks to remind students how much trash is produced on campus on a daily basis. That day, the General Manager of Chevron, Mr. Hani Iskander spoke on campus about “Chevron’s Operation Green”. Other events on campus during Social Awareness Week included a health fair on Tuesday, 6th November. The fair promoted healthy living and was sponsored by different restaurants, gyms and health societies. Movies and documentaries were shown throughout the week but the turnout was relatively low.

Continued on page 4
AUK Hosts Four Fulbright Fellows

By Linda Stephenson

Three new faces you might see around campus are those of our Fulbrighters, Dr. Abbas Benmamoun, Mr. Henry Bowles and Ms. Lindsey Stephenson. The Fulbright program is the largest U.S.-international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced academic research and university teaching. This year, for the first time in AUK’s history, three in one is here at AUK hosting all of the Fulbrighters to Kuwait. There are two scholars, Dr. Abbas Benmamoun in the Fall and Dr. Amal Mahmoud in the Spring, and two long Fulbright Students, Mr. Henry Bowles and Ms. Lindsey Stephenson.

Dr. Benmamoun is chair of the Linguistics department at the University of California at Berkeley and is a renowned scholar in the field of Arabic linguistics. In addition to conducting research on the Kuwaiti dialect of Arabic, Dr. Benmamoun is teaching a new course entitled “Eng-

ish and Globalization,” listed as ENGL/COMM/INTL Studies 389 Special Topics. Dr. Mahmoud is an ESL/EFL linguistics professor who has more than thirty years of experience teaching graduate and undergraduate classes and will be teaching ESL classes in Spring for the Intensive English Program known as The Institute of Languages from Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

Mr. Henry Bowles holds a B.S. in journalism from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He has spent the past summer in Syria studying Arabic. While in Kuwait, Mr. Bowles will explore whether and how the nature of the Kuwaiti Anglophone and Arabic press’s coverage of the women’s sufrage movement has changed, following evolving U.S.-Kuwaiti relations, since 1989. Next month, he will return to continue his work on the development of Arabic English. Mr. Bowles will be a master’s candidate in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University.

Ms. Lindsey Stephen-

son is a recent graduate of Georgia State University with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S.B in Middle Eastern Studies. She spent time in both Jordan and Syria studying Arabic. Mr. Bowles Fulbright research topic is the “Evolution of Political Gatherings in Kuwait,” and Mr. Bowles will be looking at the relationship between the individual citizen and the Parliament and the dynamism and perceptions of the role of the diwaniya.

The Fulbright was established just after World War Two in 1946 by the U.S. Congress and more specifically by Senator William Fulbright. The aim of the program was to promote and increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, in hopes of preventing future conflicts between nations. Every year the Fulbright is awarded to thousands of U.S. students, teachers, professors, and scholars to study, teach, lecture, and conduct research in more than 150 countries, and to their foreign counterparts to conduct similar activities at a cost of around $235 million per year.

Office of Admissions

Noura Zaidan enrolled at AUK in September 2007, partly on the basis of her very creative and entertaining personal essay. Her essay has been reproduced below. This is a brief follow-up and interview conducted by the Office of Admissions to see what she thinks of life at AUK after her expectations.

You said in your personal essay that you are a big fan of American English. Do you think you'll like AUK up to your expectations?

Yes, I loved it here and it's because of the academic work, but also because of all the students. I was in a British school and I always expected American Schools being much better, and after experiencing 2 months of AUK, it was proven that it was right. I don't get why people go all the way to USA when there is a successful American University, right here next to our friends and family.

You’re currently an IEP level 3 student. How do you find this English program? And, in your opinion, what is the importance of it?

Surprisingly, this English program was much better than I expected. Even though I’ve been studying English all my life I found myself still improving. So far I’ve learnt a lot which I find really useful not just for the time being but for my future studies.

Regardless of Academic Life, you find student life on campus?

In AUK, all students are like a big family, and I feel everyone here even more than the ones in my school. I hope those standards stay up in the many following years because it’s what every student wishes for.

Me, Myself, and Nora

By Noura Zaidan

A apparently, there is a lot of similarity between the American University of Kuwait and Myself & Irene or even “You, Me and Dupree”. Well, definitely it is not about schizophrenic personality—at least I hope not—and not a triangle of people trying to find happiness. It is about me from three different aspects of my life: academic, professional and personal.

Me: I started studying at the English Academy until grade 6, then moved along with my sister to New England English School, which I just graduated from.

During all my school-life, I have never settled for less than the best grades. I used to study hard, and get as much knowledge as possible from my teachers. I remember that, I was a participant in the Model United Nations, editor of the school newspaper, and so much more as extra activities. In both schools, I built very good relationships and friendships that I carry with me now even after school. My friends are from different nationalities and sometimes different grades.

I usually travel at least twice a year. One of my trips is usually to Lebanon. Other places I have been are the USA, UK, UAE, India, Singapore and Malaya. This, naturally, has helped me gain a lot of exposure to other cultures in their homelands. These experiences have played a great role for me and in my personality being into a more easy-going person, ready to accept my presence in a multi-cultural community.

I believe this has given a brief introduction to who I am, and what are—I believe—the best characteristics that I have gained from my background to get me through college life.

Myself: Hard-working, polite, confident, smart, ambitious, successful and a scholar!

I have a lot of self-discipline. I have never refused any responsibility given to me or taken it lightly. I do my best to finish any of the things for which I have been assigned. That’s why I have been doing anything after hard working to get it makes the journey work every second and drop of sweat.

It’s all about learning new things for which I train myself to self-learning mode twice or three times a week either by reading or watching useful TV programs, or just finding the right family members to tell me about something they think I don’t know!

One of my favorite spots is swimming. My favorite topic in reading is “young-adult-fiction”, while my spare time is preferably best spent in libraries… of course after I run out of things to do and need time off to refresh or regenerate. I love—I and like—living—in a close, family-friendly environment.

Nora: This is more like a conclusion really. So far I have been successful in what I have done to prepare for this moment where I step into the next level of my academic life. I realize life in college will require more self-dependence as well as more team work and acceptance of a multicultural envi-

ronment. I will require probably more open-mindedness and adaptability to maintain balance over the different or new responsibilities in life. College in my opinion—which is probably premature since I have only just finished secondary school—is the introduction to my professional life; just as school was the introduction to my academic life in college.

My goal is to enter the banking sector and put a recognizable “Noura-print” on this industry, which will be the result of my life-long work. At the same time, I give my life to gain at AUK. My success at AUK and AUK’s success with me is a one-two-sided success. This means we both succeed.

I believe AUK can offer me this as it has the best business majors, and is my first and only choice as to where to spend the most important part of my academic life, here around my friends and famil-
ies. I will offer professional success to it when the right moment is reached in my professional life. I will offer professional success to it when the right moment is reached in my professional life. I have been a big fan of American schools and universities, but I have never had the chance to be in an American school as my school was my parents’ choice, but university is my choice and I choose it to be American. I am willing to make this choice and this dream to come true.
SGA Visits Kuwait Orphanage
By Ali’a Al-Rida

On Saturday, 20th October 2007, the Student Government Association organized a trip to the Kuwait Orphanage. There were approximately 20 volunteers, including SGA members. Donation boxes were set up around campus, three weeks prior to the event, to collect toys, board games, colors, and coloring books.

Upon their arrival, the volunteers went to the Orphanage auditorium to set up the donated toys before the kids came in. Shortly after, approximately 30 children between the ages of four and twelve quietly entered the room feeling overwhelmed by the unexpected visitors and gifts and slowly took their seats. It only took a few minutes to break the ice and get the children involved and excited. Within moments, there were kids running around picking out toys, stuffed animals, colors, coloring books, balls, and board games to play with. Each volunteer immediately bonded with one or two of the children and shared their excitement opening the toys and playing with them right then and there.

What was supposed to be a one hour visit turned out twice as long, but felt just as short.

The fast paced energy in the room got both the children and volunteers carried away unaware of the time that had passed. When it was time to say goodbye, the volunteers helped the children put back the toys in their boxes to play with later. Almost every child walked out with a stack of new toys that was high enough to block their view. Everyone person that had come in the room left with a feeling of contentment. Due to the success of their visit, the SGA members and the volunteers quickly decided that visits to the orphanage would be done on a regular basis.

Welcome 2018 AUK Graduates!

Last Tuesday most of the “AUKians” were involved in the health fair, which was a very successful event. However, they weren’t the only ones involved. We had some visitors who might very well be part of the AUK class of 2018!

Fifth graders from Kuwait American School came on a school visit to the AUK. Their class teacher, Mr. Harris, thought it was an excellent idea to get the children to see what university life is really like. They got to watch a video, made by Rana Sabano, a new addition to the Office of Admissions and a recent AUK graduate, showing that university is not all about studying, but also about being a healthy student. The students were excited to see the library, and had lots of fun during the tour around our campus. After that, the students got to play some board games and then spent some time in the health fair.

It was really something to see them shouting “AUK” with all their energy! This was a very interesting day to all of the students and to Admissions who got many thanks later from the parents and the teachers when they saw how the students just could not wait to come to AUK. This is the first time we have elementary students visit us on campus. Some of their parents came too and were very impressed by the students, the campus, and, of course, the health fair. When the 5th graders were asked to write down on a piece of paper what they would like to see in AUK in the future, one student wrote, “I would like to see my children gradu ate from AUK!”

Under Secretary McCormick Pushing– Free Trade and Security
By Dina El-Zohairy

In coordination with the US Embassy in Kuwait, Under Secretary of International Affairs David McCormick visited AUK to address business stu dents and faculty on Sunday 28th October. He put forth a number of arguments relating to economic liberalism and openness of borders to set the stage for the Q&A session that followed.

Under the openness agenda, McCormick discussed three aspects of policy: free trade, sovereign wealth funds, and the US investment policy. According to him, world trade has increased five times since 1980, driving global growth. In appreciation of the benefits of trade, Kuwait City was first intended as a trading port and Kuwait as a whole has continued to promote foreign trade. In fact, McCormick expressed his extreme delight with modern-day Kuwait, which he last visited during the Gulf War.

In general, free trade provides access for export ers and consumers worldwide and acts as a catalyst for economic reform. Consumers benefit from more choice, lower prices, and better quality of goods and services. McCormick is an advocate of the multilateral trade discussions taking place at the Doha round, which if concluded, will lower barriers for all.

On another note, Kuwait’s sovereign wealth funds have grown in number and size, as reported by the Kuwait Investment Authority. This ensures the economy will remain open to further investment.

Back to the US, McCormick described its investment policy as “welcomes investments while maintaining national security.” It is essential to note that protectionist tendencies against countries like Russia, China, and Western Europe restrict Foreign Direct Investment.

McCormick’s message to the student audience

AUK - Dartmouth Students Videocon
By Walah Al-Sabah

During the spring semester course of 2007 at AUK, a 400-level English course titled “Postcolonialism Gender, War and Religion” was offered and was taught by Professor Rawda Awad. The course was based on post-colonial theory and on concepts of identity construction, East-West dynamics, as well as gender dynamics during the end of the semester. Dr. Awad requested the students to come up with a final project that was related to one of the three major themes of the course: war, gender and religion.

One group of students produced a film called “Heroic Killing”. The movie is about a young woman living in Kuwait who enters a relationship with a young man. People start to talk about the woman in a negative way and the simple act of falling in love consequently stains her reputation. On the other hand, the man’s reputation remains undamaged. The title of the movie is a reference to the honor of the woman that was killed through gossip. The movie’s central theme depicts double standards in dealing with females and males in the Kuwaiti society.

Professor, Dale Eickelman, a Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations at Dartmouth College, showed “Heroic Killed” in one of his anthropology classes that focuses on changing ideas of political and religious authority in the Middle East. He then asked his students to review the movie. Students in both Eickelman’s and Awad’s class wanted a video conference to further discuss their views.

The American Embassy in Kuwait offered one of their meeting rooms for Professor Awad’s students to conduct their video conference with Professor Eickelman’s students. The video conversation was held on the 30th October and lasted for an hour and twenty minutes. The discussion revolved around gender dynamics and Western perceptions of Kuwait. Students from both sides discussed gender as being a global issue rather than it being endemic to Kuwait or the Arabian region only. According to Awad both sides solidified their claims as being an “educational and cultural one” and served as an eye-opener to both students from Dartmouth and AUK. Eickelman said that the video conference will have a “positive ripple effect” on both sides.

Mona K. Hussein, a third year student at AUK was a student in Professor Awwad’s past-colonial course and referred to the correspondence as a “great experience and opportunity.” Mona also mentioned that students were shocked about westernization that Kuwait had, for example one of the scenes takes place in Hard-Rock Cafe. She added that Dartmouth students were shocked to see women talk about such sensitive topics with such courage and bravery. Bedour Hamadah, another student who took the class and who attended the video conference described the discussion as being an “educational and cultural one that satisfied both sides with answers they have been looking for.”

Maryam Al Sabah, the producer and director of the movie, described the video conference as being a “positive opportunity.” She pointed out that the students at Dartmouth have provided the group who participated in the movie with constructive criticism that would help them should there be a prospect of another film in the future.

Finally Awad and Mona K. Hussein directed their thanks to the American Embassy in Kuwait for hosting them, Mona K. Hussein also expressed her gratitude to the American Embassy for presenting AUK with video conference equipment.
Thomas Friedman’s Generation Q – are we doing it? Probably

By Nur Soliman

Recently, the Herald Tribune, an influential Arab newspaper, ran a piece written by a certain Thomas L. Friedman addressing today’s college generations, especially the students at the American University of Kuwait (AUK). They then ran the label of “Generation Q,” [qu'] for quiet. He discusses how this generation of college-going young men and women are in fact contributing to the community in a different way than the “baffled and impressed.” The fact that so many students are going abroad in order to build homes for the needy, and volunteering at clinics in less fortunate countries. This got me thinking – well, where are we, as a college-going generation, as we stand in all of this? How do we AUK students stand in terms of speaking up about what we believe should be done or what concerns us as an entire generation? Are we doing any of this? Are students going ahead and making considerable efforts to strengthen the community and the world around us?

My first answer is “we sure are.” We aren’t doing what Friedman calls lighting fire under the country, but I think we’re well on our way, little by little, in making our mark. We’re volunteering others at home or abroad. Slow? Uncertain? Maybe, maybe not. Whatever our pace, though, I think we’re doing a pretty good job of it, even though it is nothing like starting a nationwide demonstration.

Our Community Service Club fed at least 30 needy families last year, while several students traveled to Lebanon to give their aid and efforts in different ways – these aren’t demonstrations for revolutionizing anything per se, but I think we can all agree that this is making a difference.

So yes, I think Friedman is correct to a strong extent when he says that generation Q ought to be louder and more active in their convictions regarding things like politics and ecological concerns; we need to be active – and pressure the community to take action and we need to get things done ourself.

But I also think that what matters too is participating in national service[s] and the quietly pursuing goals that will help fortify the foundations of our own communities. Questions to be answered are in need of global warming, voting rights, the Iraq War and what not, but let us consider the equally important families around the globe that need homes, funds that need to be raised, and some other things, some of which I think AUK is already implementing rather well.

Speaking of Global Warming, I think this is definitely an issue for active AUK students to start trying to tackle in small, significant ways. So we’re not CEO’s of multinational energy-providing corporations, but we’re students which, I think, stands for something.

And let’s face it: we do need to take action. We do need to do our best, whatever that may be, for our part and the others we can influence – that greenhouse gases need to be reduced. We need to do our best; be hopeful; to know that if we work at it, our efforts will surely affect the way our society sees and handles global warming and climate change. There are quite a number of things a student can do. Recycle: stop throwing your Starbucks paper bag away. Get a cork in your trash can; go ahead and find one of those boxes with the green recycling symbol, and put it in the consumer – fuel-emitting products, or fuel-powered need to be kept at a minimum. Start riding your bike more often? Start using a taxi or a bus more often? I’m not sure, but there are just some ideas that will help cut down on fuel emissions. Use sunlight as much as possible, don’t switch on lights until after dark. Do your homework and find out more about photovoltaic (solar power) cells, and see how they would help in a consumer who is acquainted with light “as ours. I don’t know how far we can go, but it’s the least we owe to our planet as inhabitants and global citizens, and perhaps the US government and multinational companies need to be more ‘citizen-like’. By Friedman’s own words, not to go overboard. As he says, “they need to go, but it’s the least we owe to our planet as inhabitants and global citizens, and perhaps the US government and multinational companies need to be more ‘citizen-like’.

A: The wars that we need to fight and win today are not won with armies in the field. Under the umbrella of these wars are the wars against hunger, malnutrition, lack of access on the continent, and helping creation for those new generations...better education. Those wars could greatly benefit from the overwhelming moral resources and good people of the United States.

Q: What role can education play in raising societal awareness regarding the environment?

A: There should be a great amount of effort for education to be taken as a solution to our degrading environment but he had put forth this effort as possibly affecting the world. In totality, he successfully expressed his intended message but he had yet to make a proposal for action. Friedman, by the way, is taken to be a man of deep consideration. This is the future of your world and though the changing environment may not directly affect you now, be certain that it will surely affect you and the future of our planet. Friedman concluded his talk by noting that in our dramatically changing era, the ability to succeed lies in engaging the rest of the world on many fronts and being open to new opportunities. Openness cannot be taken for granted and as such the US is a champion of openness to trade and people. He hopes the Gulf States continue to work towards promoting openness in trade too.

When asked about the complications caused by the US’ war efforts and the the US having put off energy independence, Friedman replied that the keeping of many fronts and being open to new opportunities. Openness cannot be taken for granted and as such the US is a champion of openness to trade and people. He hopes the Gulf States continue to work towards promoting openness in trade too.

Q: If you could say one thing to the President of the United States, what would it be?

A: There should be a great amount of effort for education to be taken as a solution to our degrading environment but he had put forth this effort as possibly affecting the world. In totality, he successfully expressed his intended message but he had yet to make a proposal for action. Friedman, by the way, is taken to be a man of deep consideration. This is the future of your world and though the changing environment may not directly affect you now, be certain that it will surely affect you and the future of our planet. Friedman concluded his talk by noting that in our dramatically changing era, the ability to succeed lies in engaging the rest of the world on many fronts and being open to new opportunities. Openness cannot be taken for granted and as such the US is a champion of openness to trade and people. He hopes the Gulf States continue to work towards promoting openness in trade too.

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Dar Al-Athar 13th Cultural Season Begins

By Nur Soliman

The Dar al-Athar al-Islamyyah (DAI) has commenced its 13th Cultural Season Monday, November 26th, 2007. The Dar al-Athar al-Islamyyah continues to draw a multitude of people from varied backgrounds and ages, all bound by their interest for the Islamic arts, history, culture, as well as love for all kinds of music, from Classical Indian Music to an upcoming Jazz “big band” concert. It is a perfect place to enjoy a wide range of culture and art and music, as well as meeting up with people who pursue similar interests. Professor Géza Fehérvari: Masterpieces of an Unknown Iranian Metal Worker.

According to Cezary Owercowicz on the cello, and Markovic on the violin, Wic-K mascus, Syria.

ITHAKA: The Journey of Ulysses – a piano as a vessel in discovering the Mediterranean “As you set out for Ithaca, hope your journey is a long one.”

So read the first few lines of “hikai” by the Greek Alexandrian poet Konstantinos Kavafis, the inspiration for Cristina Pogoraro’s composition. Pogoraro attributes her inspiration to Kavafis’ comparing Ulysses’ journey across the Mediterranean to every human being’s journey of life.

On Monday 29th of October, renowned Italian pianist Cristina Pogoraro performed her composition “hikhai,” a retelling of Ulysses’ famed journey of the Mediterranean based on her own vivid interpretations, fused with works from Mozart, Liszt, Schubert, Chopin, as well as Argentinean and Cuban composers Piazzolla and Lecuona, and American jazz composer Chick Corea.

ITHAKA: The Journey of Ulysses. A fantastic 120 Chopin Concert Season. The KCP promise further enjoyment of all genres, as well as meeting up with people who pursue similar interests.

Professor Géza Fehérvari, curator of the famed Tareq Rajab Museum in Kuwait. In the lecture, entitled “Masterpieces of an Unknown Iranian Metal Worker,” the Professor discussed certain metal incense burners he had been studying, each originating from Herat, Damascus, and Mosul before a full, eager crowd, including several students and members of faculty and staff from AUK.

Professor Fehérvari discussed with great energy and enthusiasm a particular incense burner from Mosul that the museum had recently acquired. The Mosul burner also reveals certain characteristics of Iranian metalwork in its rich incrustation and intricately ornamented items, like the Solomon’s seal/Buddhist eternal knot. In addition, another burner that Professor Fehérvari discussed was the Keir burner made in Syria for the Ayyubid ruler in 1218 which was strikingly similar to the one from Mosul, and also carrying some Iranian stylistic features.

The professor concluded from this, and other evidence, that the examples of metalwork found in Mosul and Syria were surely the works of a migrant Iranian metalworker who probably began his career in Iran, then moved westward to Mosul when the Mongols invaded Herat, and so on, until he found support with the Ayyubid rulers of Damascus.

Tickets (adults KD 6, students KD 4) are available at the Radisson SAS Hotel.

The Tareq Rajab Museum always welcomes new persons interested should certainly visit Al-Mudai Cultural Center for a lecture/concert; it is a worthwhile experience for anyone interested in the arts, music, and culture!

Dar al-Athar al-Islamyyah presents a lecture and/or music every Monday evening at 7:00 pm at Al-Mudai Cultural Center (Abdullah al-Salem School), most of the lectures being in English. Also, the DAI Music Circle presents performances of varied genres on Wednesdays usually at 6:00 pm. Visit www.darmuseum.org.kw for more information, or call 5638528 for information/directions.

DAI always welcomes new members, including students and their families. The complete Program Schedule for the 13th Cultural Season, as well as the Schedule for the Dar’s Music Circle is available on page 7.
Benefits Of Job Experience
Recent graduates who have had work experience are better prepared for applying for a job. Prior experience helps an applicant to build a strong resume, to collect recommendations from former employers, and to develop a work portfolio. Each of these helps an employer to develop a more thorough understanding of an applicant's skills, interests, and goals. As a result, an employer can better predict how an applicant might benefit the company.

Also, by gaining work experience before graduating, students have the opportunity to discover their own skills and values. Because these applicants have a better understanding of their capabilities and interests, they are better prepared to interview. Furthermore, the self-awareness and confidence that comes with work experience help recent hires to adjust to a new work environment. For many, the experience of working before graduation can be like a practice-run for the working world.

Opportunities at AUK
Students seeking work experience should visit the Student Success Center (SSC) to browse through the resources available to them. Students looking for employment or work experience opportunities may find the new SSC Job Opportunities Directory and its companion Database useful for finding recently-added job postings by major companies in Kuwait. These employers are seeking University students for internships and employment.

Both the Directory and the Database are powerful resources for students seeking job opportunities, and they are updated regularly.

Students may make an appointment to speak with an advisor about internships, externships, full-time employment, and other career services provided by the SSC.

For more information, please contact or visit the Student Success Center at its new location on the 5th floor of the Liberal Arts Building.

By Dr. Carol Ross-Black
It is that time of the year, at least in America, and most likely in many places around the world where we begin to give thanks for all the blessings and endeavor to reach out in a more purposeful way to help those who are less fortunate.

Mind you, we should be considering giving and saying thanks for our blessings each and every day but in the month of November, as the year comes to an end, we reflect on the past year.

Being truly thankful is much more than moving one's lips and forming the words. It is about reaching deep down, recognizing and acknowledging that without the blessing one's life would be different, perhaps less fulfilled. Maybe you would not even be where you are today. Would you still be alive?

The recent passing of my mom clouded my willingness to want to be thankful. I hurt so much and the pain was still so deep that it seems hard to recognize the blessings I alone acknowledge them and be thankful. While many of my family and friends are blessed with both parents still living-they may be divorced but they are not alone—there are those who are not. Thankful, for what? Sounds selfish huh? I am thankful for the 47 years God gave me with both of my parents, we were all filled with joy, love, and happiness. I am thankful for the person I have become and am becoming. Thank you.

If you take for granted (and we do) the roof that covers your head and the food that fills your belly, stop, and be thankful.

That car you drive, that driver who left his family in another country and sees them only every few years to earn so his family can have food that fills the belly with a sense of security.

For the parent you say does not care about you, for the friend that tells you to stop being selfish, for the guy or gal that wants to be a member.

For the parent you say does not care about you, for the friend that tells you to stop being selfish, for the guy or gal that wants to be a member.

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For the parent you say does not care about you, for the friend that tells you to stop being selfish, for the guy or gal that wants to be a member.

Behind the voice of AUK
By Daniel O'Brien
The Voice of AUK

Opportunities include:
2-Page Week view
• Updated Student Information
• Updated Restaurant Directory
• AUK Campus Map
• Stickers

Also pass by to pick up your free supplementary bookmarks

The Value of Experience

Once you begin to feel comfortable with the organization you have joined, start to seek out new opportunities within that organization. Take a look at what you put in into it is what you get out of it. Do not be afraid to speak up! Clubs benefit from people who ask questions and propose new ideas. If you are excited about your club and want to get even more involved, consider volunteering for a leadership position. Student leaders tend to get the most out of the club experience. As a student leader, you have the power to decide how the club is organized and what activities the club gets to do.

Many people join a club simply because they are interested in the activity it provides, but clubs offer much more than what they advertise. A student-run organization provides the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded people outside of class and helps to improve your social, leadership, and problem-solving skills. If you are concerned about the added time commitment of a club, you should not worry. Students who participate in clubs and organizations tend to be more popular and have higher grade point averages than those who do not.

Join any of the clubs listed here and you are assured to have a rewarding and memorable time.

Student-run clubs and organizations are a wonderful opportunity to get the most out of your AUK experience, but there are also a number of resources that the University provides to its students. AUK opens before class begins and stays open late for all the students on campus this time! Use campus hours to socialize with friends, spend time in the Hangout, play soccer or basketball. When you are not in the place where you learn and work, it can just as easily be your home away from home.

In the next few weeks, an effort to explore everything AUK has to offer. Think of this place as more than just a school, as the place in your life that you are in an environment surrounded by interesting people of a similar age. Use all of the resources that AUK and your fellow students have to offer to truly make your college experience worthwhile.
Recognized Clubs and Organizations

The International Film Club
Spanish Club
The Anime and Manga Club
The Patrons Club
Model United Nations at the American University of Kuwait
AUK Studios Filmmakers
Kuwait Alpha Pi Gamma Mu
Soccer Club
The Environmental Club

The Rock Club
Badminton Club
Student Government Association
The Voice of AUK
Promote to People Internationa
Fashion Club
Campus Activities Board (CAB)

The Environmental Club

Dear AUK Student,

Please be advised that if you still owe the Office of Admissions any outstanding items for your application file, you must turn these items in to us as soon as possible. If your file currently remains incomplete a hold will be placed on your academic record. Students with holds on their academic records will NOT be permitted to register for Spring 2008 classes until all missing application materials are turned in to the Office of Admissions and the hold is subsequently removed. Advance Registration for the Spring 2008 semester begins on December 9, 2007. Outstanding application items may include any of the following:

- **Original Final High School Transcript:** Your final high school transcript must be an original copy (not a photocopy), and must indicate that you graduated from high school, showing your final GPA. For students graduating from the British system, your final transcripts are your final Cambridge Certificate scores (GCSE, GCE, A’S and A-Levels).

- **Original College Transcript(s) (For Transfer Students):** Official transcripts of all previous college-level coursework attempted or earned must be turned in regardless of whether transfer credit is desired. Transcripts must be original copies (not photocopies).

- **Official TOEFL Scores:** If you only turned in an unofficial TOEFL score report to the Office of Admissions, an official TOEFL score report is required to complete your file. Please contact AMETH at 577-0670 for more information on how to have an original TOEFL score report sent to AUK by the Educational Testing Service in the United States. AUK’s Designated Institution Code for the TOEFL is: 8444. (This does not apply to IEP students).

- **Personal Essay:** The topic of the personal essay is written on the back of the Application Form (http://www.auk.edu.kw/admissions_download.jsp). The essay must be written in English.

- **Application Fee:** The KD 35 application fee can be paid at the cashier’s office and the pink receipt must be turned in to the Office of Admissions.

Your application file will be considered complete once the outstanding items have been received, and the hold will be removed from your academic record.

If you are unsure what items are missing from your file, or if we can assist you with any admissions related questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Office of Admissions is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Telephone: 802040 ext. 206/312/313/215 Fax: 572-494 E-mail: admissions@auk.edu.kw

**Admissions Holds Announcement**

**DAI Musical Circle Season**

26/1/08
Santu Dapson’s Young Musicians
28/1/08
Buddham Chamber Orchestra
30/1/08
Arabic Music Group
30/4/08
Desert City Jazz Band
21/5/08
Valentina Maria Bagiorno Organ and Double Bass Concert

**Official University Hours**

The Hangout (activity tent)
Sunday-Thurday 7:00a.m.-11:00p.m.
Friday-Closed
Saturday-Closed

The Diner
Sunday-Thurday 7:00a.m.-9:00p.m.
Friday-Closed
Saturday-Closed

La Maison du Café
Sunday-Thurday 8:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Friday-Closed
Saturday-Closed

The Diner
Sunday-Thurday 7:00a.m.-11:00p.m.
Friday-Closed
Saturday-Closed

**Office of the Registrar Reminders**

All eligible graduates of these important dates for the month of December:

Wednesday 5th December
Last day to complete missing documents for fall graduates.

Wednesday 12th December
Latest day to submit degree audit adjustments for fall graduates.

Please make sure to regularly check your AUK email account for updates on University events and Important Deadlines

**Guess what? I’ve been rating your saws! It’s either good, better, or great!**

**Hey, Aminah! That’s really good! Well what’s today like?**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah 2007-2008 Cultural Season

26/11/07
Ali Radwan
Concerning the appearance of some Pharaonic Marks in art & Crafts of the
Classical Egyptian Music (MUSIC)

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