A UK's 4th Academic Showcase took place 10 – 11 December 2007 in the Liberal Arts Auditorium. It was a multidisciplinary festival of computer animation, public speaking, short stories and films, debates, fine art displays, and musical performances. According to event coordinator Dalia Hasaan, "The showcase this semester witnessed the participation of more than a 100 students supervised by 18 professors."

Students displayed their work and talent in a wide variety of subject areas. Public speakers demonstrated their prowess at extemporaneous and impromptu speaking, while another group gave an outstanding talk on biodiversity and global warming.

For those interested in the Arts there were piano and violin recitals, short story readings, short films, and comedy sketches. Business students shared experiences gained at summer internships, discussed entrepreneurship, corporate governance and fraud, and the energy industry.

In the area of social sciences, attendees were treated to presentations on media and identity, pop culture in South Asia, an analysis of the similarities between Spanish and Arabic, and a debate on Kuwait's need for foreign support.

Intensive English students made their contribution as well, receiving outstanding achievement awards, putting on public speaking displays, and presenting on an eclectic group of topics ranging from music, insomnia, depression, and hypnotherapy.

One of the biggest crowd-pleasers of the event was the Alice Awards. The awards acknowledge the finest animation programming projects submitted in the CHIS 101 course. Students’ programs are developed using the educational Alice software program. Originally designed as a rapid development environment for virtual reality applications, Alice is currently being used at a growing number of schools— including AUK—to revitalize the teaching of computer programming.

The two-day event wrapped up on Tuesday evening with an Arabic Music Heritage performance in support of the Kuwait Orphanage.

Special thanks are due to Dalia Hasaan without whose tireless efforts at scheduling and logistics the event would not have been nearly as successful. That being said, it was a team effort, and also to be acknowledged are Mazine Younes & All Campus Services group, Louis Fernandes, Nazam Hamzei, Zeina, Amer Al Assaad, Farooq Khamis, ‘Ray and the Boys at the Diner’, Mr. Mushab, and of course, Ms. Violet and all the cleaning crew.

MUNAUK Triumphs at BUMUN

Meet AUK’s 2007-08 Falls

A scene from Anurag Ghalotra’s double award winning (Best Picture and Best Scene Design) production, Written In Blood.

Alice Awards Rock the Showcase

Music to Wash Off the Sea

By Nur Soliman

In this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a “leading specialist in this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a ‘leading specialist in this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a ‘leading specialist in music and artistic culture of the Arabian Peninsula” and professor at the American University of Kuwait, offered the audience the history of the sea-song tradition of Kuwait as a largely unique reflection of the hardships endured by the pearl-divers of the past. Aided by executive monochrome photographs, maps, and charts, Urkevich discussed the hardships of life on the sea, where hundreds of boats would sail off far into the blue waters to remain there for months on end, living under duress with meager provisions.

Urkevich then explained that to aid Urkevich in her lecture, the Kuwait Orphanage.

Music to Wash Off the Sea

By Nur Soliman

In this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a “leading specialist in this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a ‘leading specialist in music and artistic culture of the Arabian Peninsula” and professor at the American University of Kuwait, offered the audience the history of the sea-song tradition of Kuwait as a largely unique reflection of the hardships endured by the pearl-divers of the past. Aided by executive monochrome photographs, maps, and charts, Urkevich discussed the hardships of life on the sea, where hundreds of boats would sail off far into the blue waters to remain there for months on end, living under duress with meager provisions.

Urkevich then explained that to aid Urkevich in her lecture, the Kuwait Orphanage.

Music to Wash Off the Sea

By Nur Soliman

In this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a “leading specialist in music and artistic culture of the Arabian Peninsula” and professor at the American University of Kuwait, offered the audience the history of the sea-song tradition of Kuwait as a largely unique reflection of the hardships endured by the pearl-divers of the past. Aided by executive monochrome photographs, maps, and charts, Urkevich discussed the hardships of life on the sea, where hundreds of boats would sail off far into the blue waters to remain there for months on end, living under duress with meager provisions.

Urkevich then explained that to aid Urkevich in her lecture, the Kuwait Orphanage.
A 2007-2008 marks the Achievement of the senior year in the AUK undergraduate degree cycle. Next semester the program will end in Fall 2008 complete their four-year degree plans and graduate the Class of 2008. Commencement will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2008. The event will highlight the AUK-Darmstadt connection. The University of Darmstadt, and the College Dr. Barry Scherr will be the keynote speaker. The year 2007-08 also marks two major events that require mobilization of our best efforts and resources: the re-accreditation review by the Kuwait Council for Private Universities and the Master Planning for the new Aidiya campus.

Accreditation
AUK accreditation by the Council for Private Universities is a pre-condition of its continued success as a degree-granting institution. Without national accreditation, AUK cannot achieve international accreditation. The Council for Private Universities has difficulty in having our degrees and coursework credits recognized outside Kuwait. The Accreditation Committee of the Council for Private Universities has reviewed the required Re-Accreditation report submitted by AUK as well as other documents. The Council has extended the accreditation of the University for several times during the period of November 18, 1993, and requested additional information, met with the Administration, faculty, staff, students, and the Chair of the AUK Board of Trustees Shaikha Dana Nassar Al Sabah. In October 2007 AUK was able to fulfill its educational mission is accredited by the Kuwait laws, accreditation requirements, regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education, and the directives of the Council for Private Universities. For example, in the year 2000 on the Establishment of Private Universities in the State of Kuwait (cited in p. 20 of the AUK Catalog). AUK Code of Conduct (posted on the website) requires compliance with Kuwait laws and regulations in the areas of academic standards and traditions and values. The adherence to these values and the requirement of gender segregation by private universities is an important subject of appeal. The Council for Private Universities is required to submit to the Administration the names of members of the Council Accreditation team, to the Council at large, and to the Parliament. The Committee will present its report and recommendations to the Council within the next few weeks.

International Accreditation
AUK will continue exploring the possibilities for international institutional accreditation with the United States regional accrediting bodies. Dr. Patricia Read-Hunter, Senior Assistant to the President, will coordinate AUK’s international accreditation efforts. We are proud to report that AUK has achieved notable success in its first attempts to engage several US universities in the evaluation of our academic programs. The Intensive English Program (IEP) has been awarded a three-year accreditation with the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). Margaret Combs and Stephen Jacques are working on the self-study required for accreditation application. Dr. Jerry Cripps, Division Head of Business 

Opinion and Editorial Policy
The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all students, faculty, staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions must be emailed to the editor: voiceofauk.com. All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in keeping with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of AUK offers no guarantee that any submission will be published. To be considered for publication in the Voice, submissions for a given issue must be received no later than the 10th of the month in which the issue is to appear. The views expressed in open columns do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

The Voice of AUK is published ten monthly issues from September through June, on or about the 15th of the month, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements are published from time to time.

Opinions expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

AUK will continue exploring the possibilities for international institutional accreditation with the United States regional accrediting bodies. Dr. Patricia Read-Hunter, Senior Assistant to the President, will coordinate AUK’s international accreditation efforts. We are proud to report that AUK has achieved notable success in its first attempts to engage several US universities in the evaluation of our academic programs. The Intensive English Program (IEP) has been awarded a three-year accreditation with the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). Margaret Combs and Stephen Jacques are working on the self-study required for accreditation application. Dr. Jerry Cripps, Division Head of Business Economics, is directing preparations for the Business program’s accreditation with the US-based Association of Colleges Business Schools (ACBSP). In the meantime, AUK has been admitted to membership in ACRPS. The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has attained formal approval as a Cambridge International Centre, authorized to offer English (CEILA) training to individuals who wish to improve up to have a validated authorization to offer Sales and Marketing certification programs from the UK-based NCC Edu Ltd.

The Master Planning process has engaged various consultants to undertake a desktop study with academic and non-academic targets, academic programs, and the range of student activities and support services AUK wants to offer.

The Master plan is being developed under the guidance of the President’s Office, and will include an assessment of current priorities, needs, and expectations. The obvious need for planning on the new campus is the need to create a means to accommodate as many as 1,200-2,400 students complete with good course and schedule planning.

AUK Board of Trustees Shaikha Dana Nassar Al Sabah

The Editorial Board
Dina El-Dohairy Fatmousさらに lex-Quaif Nour Salihin Farah Al-Sublimi Next Summer

International Outreach

The first AUK study-abroad program was opened in Summer 2007, when the AUK French class traveled to Cannes for a French in France program. Various student groups are planned for the coming year. The International Accreditation program is scheduled for Spring 2008. Lead faculty in the first designated program will be expected to develop the academic vision of the program with oversight from their division heads and the College Dean. Ernest Conklin will oversee preparation of the faculty and finance sections of the proposal and help in the development of the appropriate space, equipment acquisition, and budgeting plans. Dr. Patricia Read-Hunter will serve as liaison to the President’s office and support the overall package preparation for the Graduate School license. The University will need to hire additional faculty in all five areas to teach graduate courses and guide graduate students through project plans and thesis requirements for degree completion. The University also anticipates a need for pre-Master’s courses, especially in English and Mathematics.

The Voice of AUK is published ten monthly issues from September through June, on or about the 15th of the month, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements are published from time to time.

For advertising information, contact the Marketing Department at 2666. The voiceofauk.com. The advertising deadline for regular advertisements is the 10th of the month. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept advertisements that best reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

President’s Progress Report December 2007

By President Marine Tomlacheva

A new Ardhiya campus.

Closing to higher, AUK took initiative to plan and coordinate with the Gulf countries on the challenges of implementing Liberal Arts education in the Gulf with faculty and academic administrators of new regional institutions. A small grant from the Hollings Center for International Dialogue in the US will support the participation of an AUK faculty and administrator teams from invited institutions at the May 2008 conference at Georgetown.

Transitions

This semester marks the transition of the offices of Administration and Registration to the division of Student Affairs. The current enrollment approximates 1,500 students, and we expect to admit 500-350 more in Spring 2008. The vacant position of Director of Admissions has been filled, and Maher Dahboosh will start in this post in January. Student Affairs has hired new staff in Admissions, Student Life, and the Student Success Center; one notable addition is our current graduate Rama Sabah who will work as Assistant Counselor Ms. Maha Khatt, who served as Acting Director of IT last spring, will be our new appointed Director. The AUK librarian Dr. Harvey Varnet is completing his service to AUK and leaving Kuwait. Ms. Amna Al-Omair will serve as Interim Director of the Library while the search process is underway.

AUK faculty on continuing appointment from 2004 had outstanding success rate in advancement and promotion. The Contract renewal for faculty hired in 2005 will begin early in 2008. Another remarkable achievement for the AUK faculty is that of the AUK French faculty: four were granted promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Associate Professor Marc Verley, Associate Professor Martin Baker, and Assistant Professor Caroline Oursel all achieved successful promotion applications received thorough consideration internally and externally, with all the department heads, and the approval committee before the vote is to be held. The AUK Faculty Senate will be written this fall on the AUK French Faculty.

A small grant from the Hollings Center for International Dialogue in the US will support the participation of an AUK faculty and administrator teams from invited institutions at the May 2008 conference at Georgetown.

Transitions

This semester marks the transition of the offices of Administration and Registration to the division of Student Affairs. The current enrollment approximates 1,500 students, and we expect to admit 500-350 more in Spring 2008. The vacant position of Director of Admissions has been filled, and Maher Dahboosh will start in this post in January. Student Affairs has hired new staff in Admissions, Student Life, and the Student Success Center; one notable addition is our current graduate Rama Sabah who will work as Assistant Counselor Ms. Maha Khatt, who served as Acting Director of IT last spring, will be our new appointed Director. The AUK librarian Dr. Harvey Varnet is completing his service to AUK and leaving Kuwait. Ms. Amna Al-Omair will serve as Interim Director of the Library while the search process is underway.

AUK faculty on continuing appointment from 2004 had outstanding success rate in advancement and promotion. The Contract renewal for faculty hired in 2005 will begin early in 2008. Another remarkable achievement for the AUK faculty is that of the AUK French faculty: four were granted promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Associate Professor Marc Verley, Associate Professor Martin Baker, and Assistant Professor Caroline Oursel all achieved successful promotion applications received thorough consideration internally and externally, with all the department heads, and the approval committee before the vote is to be held. The AUK Faculty Senate will be written this fall on the AUK French Faculty.

A small grant from the Hollings Center for International Dialogue in the US will support the participation of an AUK faculty and administrator teams from invited institutions at the May 2008 conference at Georgetown.

Transitions

This semester marks the transition of the offices of Administration and Registration to the division of Student Affairs. The current enrollment approximates 1,500 students, and we expect to admit 500-350 more in Spring 2008. The vacant position of Director of Admissions has been filled, and Maher Dahboosh will start in this post in January. Student Affairs has hired new staff in Admissions, Student Life, and the Student Success Center; one notable addition is our current graduate Rama Sabah who will work as Assistant Counselor Ms. Maha Khatt, who served as Acting Director of IT last spring, will be our new appointed Director. The AUK librarian Dr. Harvey Varnet is completing his service to AUK and leaving Kuwait. Ms. Amna Al-Omair will serve as Interim Director of the Library while the search process is underway.

AUK faculty on continuing appointment from 2004 had outstanding success rate in advancement and promotion. The Contract renewal for faculty hired in 2005 will begin early in 2008. Another remarkable achievement for the AUK faculty is that of the AUK French faculty: four were granted promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Associate Professor Marc Verley, Associate Professor Martin Baker, and Assistant Professor Caroline Oursel all achieved successful promotion applications received thorough consideration internally and externally, with all the department heads, and the approval committee before the vote is to be held. The AUK Faculty Senate will be written this fall on the AUK French Faculty.

A small grant from the Hollings Center for International Dialogue in the US will support the participation of an AUK faculty and administrator teams from invited institutions at the May 2008 conference at Georgetown.
Women’s Rights in Iran

By Wahab Al Sabah

O n 22 November 2007, Dr. Ghomel Vatan- doust, a visiting professor of political science at the American University of Kuwait presented a lecture about human rights and discrimination against women in Iran. The title of the lecture was “Between Fundamental- ism and Reform: The Status of Iranian Women Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution”. Many people attended the lecture, including people from outside the university. Professor Vatan-doust quickly captured the attention of the audience with the interest- ing facts and statistics he presented about women in Iran. He also talked about discrimination against women in areas regarding their physical sanctity, Iran’s family laws, their education, and discrimination against women in areas regarding their education, family laws, their education, and discrimination against womu

Iran. He went on to explain that the government granted reforms in the area of women’s education in 1963 as well as curtailing women’s unilateral right to divorce by inserting a prohibition of this right. The Iranian constitution has legislated for policies that remove the legal status and represent women’s positions in the family, and remained unwilling to sur- render their religious and personal rights. The file of candidacy for the women’s movement in Iran was one of the hottest files in the Middle East. In Iran, there were some women who participated in the constitutional revolution that occurred in Iran from 1905 to 1911. Thus, women have always had a de facto role in both private and public spheres in Iranian society.

Dr. Ghomel concluded his lec- ture by stating that Iranian wom- en have stood up for themselves. In 1994, the Iranian government allowed women to participate in the elections and remove all barriers in logical order, allocating a time slot to each item based on priorities. The first step involves pre- \n
Runners up for Public Speakers in Dubai

By Nur Soliman

O n the afternoon of the 21 November, AUK’s representative team per- formed in the Public Speaking Competition in Dubai, run by the Emirates Environ- mental Group (EEG). The team was made up of three mem- bers, Zainab Al-RAjaib, the speaker and speech-writer; Nur Soliman, researcher; and Shaza Ayesh, who worked on the technology. The assis- ting professor was Dr. Rawda Awad, Professor of English Literature, who continuously supported the team. The three AUK Sophomores presented "The Impact of Global Warming on Biodiversity.”

AUK’s team developed the argument that the most effec- tive solution to combat, or mitigate climate change is through education of the populations through carefully researched incentives. The competing subjects were given a 5-minute time limit. The AUK team researched the EEG’s website, “Learn about Global Warming on Biodiversity”, and decided to focus on the positive effects of rising temperatures. After brainstorming about the issue, and deciding on the final structure of the talk, the students wrote the opening speech, which was then delivered at the beginning of their presentation. The EEG is a non-profit NGO, and this year’s compet- ition was the organization’s 7th Public Speaking Competi- tion. Of the 47 participating universities, only 6 were from outside the UAE. AUK’s team was the only team from Kuwait, and their critical thinking skills were from two Saudi Arabian universities, a Qatar univer- sity, and a South African university.

The whole event took place in Dubai’s large development, and was attended by around 200 people. Overall, the team was pleased with their performance and are considering the possibility of competing again in the next year. The team was very pleased with their performance, and are considering the possibility of competing again in the next year.
Burma: What the World Does Not Know

By Farah Al-Shareef

The country of Burma, presently known as Myanmar, is nestled in Southeast Asia and is geographically the largest in that area. For years, the Burmese people have been living in the dark and harsh reality of a military dictatorship that has strained its relations with other nations. The anti-civil rights practices of the dictatorship are an outright violation of human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, an organization of which the Union of Myanmar is a part. Much of the world is oblivious to the political oppression that has been taking place there. No international relief effort has been arranged.

Members of the Model United Nations at the American University of Kuwait team gave a presentation during the AUK Social Awareness Week on 8th November, 2007, to inform students of the human rights violations that have been committed in this distant country. Democratic rule in Burma ended in 1962 when General Ne Win staged a coup that established the Burmese Way of Socialism - the nationalization of industries, the repression of minorities, and the formation of a police state. The government of the police state has been carrying out rigid domination over the social, political, and economic life of a population. On 8th August, 1998, the infamous 8888 Uprising occurred among the Burmese civilians due to unrest over economic mismanagement and political subjugation by the government.

Demonstrators were tragically massacred by security forces. Video footage shown during the presentation illustrated the brutality with which citizens were treated as they were beaten relentlessly. Burma is currently being controlled by a military junta—a government ruled by military leaders—which recruits children into the military. The military regime ironically dubbed itself the “State Peace and Development Council” (SPDC). The SPDC is supplied with military equipment by its major allies (particularly China). It is very strong and resistant to internal and external pressures for change. Ethnic insurgencies are quickly cracked down by the SPDC and not much hope seems to be left for the Burmese people and their dream of a democratic nation or at least one free of military dictatorship.

The government recently raised prices on fuel. Several hundreds of civilian protests occurred. The Burmese monks joined in the protest in September 2007. Hundreds of people experienced harsh retribution from the government, including monks. The Buddhist civilians and monks have been placed under house (monastery) arrest, beaten, jilted, or killed.

Attempts to bring about change on the part of the international community such as imposing sanctions have failed to threaten the regime’s survival. The challenge that the international community faces is to put intense pressure upon it to shift towards a more democratic route. Burma is in dire need of humanitarian aid. With the use of negotiation, there may be a possibility of securing Burma’s future.

On the last day of class before the break...

A Time to Celebrate: Respecting Traditions

By Tadd Kruse & Fatemah Sayegh

The end of the calendar year is filled with a variety of celebrations, both religious and commercial, that create an air of excitement for many across the globe. It is a season to be thankful, to be joyous, and to be kind to others. It is a season to be filled with charitable acts as we can live more harmoniously with one another. This year four major festivals celebrated by Muslims worldwide, Eid al-Adha, Eid Mubarak, Christmas, and Hanukkah, have been taking place there. No one beach, was collected. Operation Turtle actually found a land mine too, but that’s another story. Cigarette butts, broken bottles, diapers, you name it, and Operation Turtle cleaned it up. They worked hard. They fought the enemy with passion and pride; they lost the battle. The opponent was the 1,000,000 man army. Sad but true.

As an entire country we need to respect the environment and withhold our activities, otherwise, the trash will continually pile up.

We as an entire community need to participate in such events as well as create their own.

“Operation Turtle” By Mohammad Abagoch

On a windy, yet sunny Saturday morning, four great ones emerged from their humble abodes on a mission to save helpless animals, the weak, and the hungry. Well, not exactly; they wore the happy ones, they were the worker ones; they were assigned to Operation Turtle, mission impossible. Their assignment was to attack the grim and grime on Shuwaikh beach. With the support more than 200 people from across the world, Operation Turtle was a success this year, in creating more awareness for taking care of the environment here in Kuwait.

After only an hour’s worth of clean up, 60 bags worth of trash, from only one beach, were collected. Operation Turtle cleaned it up. They worked hard. They fought the enemy with passion and pride; they lost the battle. The opponent was the 1,000,000 man army. Sad but true.
O n the evening of 7th December, the Al-Maidan Cultural Centre was packed to capacity, where the crowd had come to see the Meholbanio Musical Ensemble perform Iranian and Kurdish music. The crowd included DAI members and family, music enthusiasts, and diplomats from the Iranian embassy and others. This was Meholbanio’s first performance in the GCC. Meholbanio Musical Ensemble is made up of five Iranian performers, all women, who come from different backgrounds but are together in their love for Persian and Kurdish song and music. The group leader is Rouzbehak Nori, who also plays the santur, similar to a zither, Korean Kim or the Arabic qanun. Mojdeh Jahangirani performs the tar, while Behnaz Bahnam Nia played the ‘ud. Naghmehd Mahmood Farhamand played the tambourine, or percussion—one was similar to the Arabic tabu, while the other resembled the large Kuwaiti tambourine. The groups vocalist was the vivid Mahro Mostawfi, who was occasionally backed by the other performers in chorus.

Some of the pieces, like Shahr Asequeh or Sarv Khuramans, are poems set to music as arranged by band leader Nori. The music is a standard piece for the santur; the santur is the main melody instrument, the notes well-composed. The energetic Max Ionata, who also sings the santur, joined in to provide the main melody. The ensemble changed their attire to more Kurd and Persian costumes with more glittering dresses, and coins over their heads—however, they kept the same instruments.

For the Kurdish music after the intermission, the group changed again and provided Kurdish costumes with more glittering dresses, and coins over their heads—however, they kept the same instruments. Kurdish music utilizes the santur as well as all the diverse forms of the dastagh. A second form that Kurdish music uses is the strictly measured set of melodies called the gousuri, meaning “closed” as it has a unique rhythm to it. The Kurdish modal systems are passed down by generation. According to the programme notes, the content of many Kurdish songs is largely do to do “romance and unrequited love,” made up of two verses. The lyrics are usually from the Gazelles of the ancient Zoroastrians. The music played here was much faster, and greater use was made of the percussion, which then acted as a sort of marker of climax. The use of “microtonal tuning systems” had the songs exciting leaps in the scale, or intervals, which kept up the excitement of the louder, more energetic music. Two traditional songs of Kurdistan were played, namely Maryam Bawanam and Hassi Guol, both of which had the audience beating their feet or swaying their heads to the rapid rhythm. The singing was also melancholy, but slowly faster as was the music. Another piece which really won the audience was the famous Harovk, a two-part piece with some very lively singing from Mahro Mostawfi. Meholbanio had captivated the capacity crowd to such an extent that the enthusiastic applause continued for quite a while, demanding that the ensemble play two encore pieces which were just as thrilling as the rest; truly an enlightening evening which gave the audience insight into the richness of the Persian and Kurdish cultural and musical heritage.

By Nur Soliman

An Evening of Persian & Kurdish Music

The Amatou Ionata Quartet Swings It...continued from page 1

As certain types of drums. The more prominent rhythm used was a bag or drum, a special maqam, as is the ‘ud playing. All percussion is often played by the goalkeeper, who is a huge, encompassing part of the Kurdish music. However, all are played on the set of drums with energy truly evoked from the dry, slightly cooler conditions of the urban regions. Here, the more prominent drum is the drum that is used in the city is usually exclusive to a single singer. The sailors, however, enjoy the style of music; transformed it and “made it collective,” including everyone in choralsinging and vibrant, energetic dancing (where two men would dance in the middle between the rows of other sailors, then participate in this chanting leaping between rows and shouting exclamations.)

In the end, the audience—and apparently the musicians—had thoroughly enjoyed the entire performance that the band gave a terrific encore, with dancing and clapping. In fact, the Bin Hussein band had won over the audience that even when the concert was over, both the band and the great number of the audience remained to watch them perform a more casual dance.

The whole experience of watching the huge ensemble, made of old and young men alike, leap up in their white and red robes and listening to the Aukhun singing as he strummed on his ‘ud, while the other men clapped or beat their drums with energy truly evil the feel of the sea and land for the pearl-divers and sailors of the Kuwait.

By Nur Soliman

Amatou-Ionata Quartet Swings It...continued from page 1
A Generations of Kuwaiti Filmmaking

By Mohammed Alsayegh

The new generation of Kuwaiti filmmaking is here and AUK was lucky enough to host it. Sharq, a movie produced by Kuwaitis, for Kuwaitis, was shown at AUK on Wednesday, 21st November in the Liberal Arts Auditorium. The event was organized by AUK Studio, a student-run club, and had a successful turnout of more than 200 students and faculty. The club’s aim for this semester is to introduce the concept of filmmaking which many misunderstand in this country. Successful films take time and hard work. The organization hopes to enlighten the students and have them join in the experience.

"The movie was hilarious and the crowd went wild right from the start," said AUK Studio President, Mohammed Alsayegh. The audience had no idea what the movie was about when they entered; many students thought it was a documentary about the old times in Kuwait, while others thought it was an AUK made film and thought poorly of it. As soon as the show started, the entire audience was absorbed.

"The movie was inspired by our childhood favorite cartoon, Captain Majad, which is all about football and that is what many young Kuwaitis have in common," said Abdulaziz Al-Subiian, producer of "Sharq". The idea was born in 2004, and the crew worked together in the United States and arrived in Kuwait for two weeks in 2005, shot the film, and headed back. The story entails six young boys that lived all their lives in Jaha. Their ball pops during a football match and so they set forth to get a new one. They set off to go to Sharq in search for a ball ‘that will never puncture’ no matter what happens to it. They get completely lost and lose faith in the existence of this magical place, ending up in Sharq Mall asking for directions. Finally, they find themselves on a grassy pitch and play a football game with the few kids. The boys forget about their journey enticed from the joy of the match. "Erik was very in tune with all aspects of film making, and managed to extract wonderful performances from all the actors," said Club Vice President, Fatima Al-Qatan. Erik San- doval, the director, is a young filmmaker who recently graduated. He met Al-Sharhan during his college days in Los Angeles. They came up with the idea, and the rest is history.

Some critics believed the film misrepresented Kuwait and attacked many issues that aren’t true about Kuwait. Alsayegh disagrees in saying that a movie is made for entertainment, and should not be seen as a full representation of a culture. "An enjoyable film and a must see for Kuwaiti film enthusiasts," Alsayegh said.

SGA Bake Sale

A Charity Bake Sale took place on the 11th of December in collaboration with the SGA, and coordinated by Sahar Hussain. The Bake Sale managed to raise a collective amount of KD 73,250 from the range of baked goods and sweets, whereby the proceeds would be donated to the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, a cancer hospital in Pakistan.

Office of Admissions

H ow do we recruit students? Everyone knows that the Office of Admissions is located on campus and is open for anyone interested in applying to the American University of Kuwait. But is that all the Office of Admissions does? Are we that boring? Never! The Office of Admissions visits both private and public high schools at least twice throughout the academic school year. Our target is to visit as many high schools as possible, before inviting them to visit our campus. In previous years, Admissions Counselors would visit various high schools and give informative presentations about AUK exclusively for the senior students. This year, we tried a different approach. Rather than giving presentations, the team set up a small booth during the school’s break-time. We catch seniors strolling by as well as any other interested students and share information and university publications. We provide general information regarding scholarships, both the government scholarship program as well as the AUK academic merit based. The Counselors also provide a sneak peak at student life and all the support services available at AUK. The Admissions and Outreach departments were also found at the Avenues mall “Giving the Gift of Education” to students and families. It was literally a gift, a box filled with brochures, a book light, a pen and an organizer! We showcased AUK life via video and the amazing booth designed by the Public Relations and Marketing Department. The hard work really paid off! Many people were interested in joining the AUK family and we left a lasting impression with our gift of education. To this day, people we met at Avenues have come to AUK to apply or get more information.

We are always looking for a few amazing volunteers to go out with us and spread the word. You too can give the gift of education by joining the Admissions team as a volunteer recruiter. Please stop by the Office of Admissions and sign up! Look for AUK out and about in the spring!

Office of Student Life

The Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange was developed as part of the Dartmouth-AUK Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed between the two universities in September 2003. The exchange gives Dartmouth students the experience at the American University of Kuwait and AUK students the opportunity to visit Dartmouth. Twice annually two students from Dartmouth come to Kuwait for 10 weeks, in September and March. Equally, since 2006 two AUK students have been going to Dartmouth (Hanover, New Hampshire) for four weeks in the summer to work with the Russian Foundation’s Accelerated Languages Program (ALPS). The ALPS program is an intensive 10 day program in which AUK students serve as program assistants including teaching Arabic. Rana Sabbane (07) and Hana Ibrahim (Senior) ventured to Dartmouth as the only second set of representatives from AUK; Husseini Nour-Elddine was the first in 2006. The experience was mutually beneficial for the AUK students and their hosts providing a variety of cultural learning opportunities, including Ramaha and Hana participating in a July 4th Independence Day parade. Hana Ibrahim summarized her experience as, “breathtaking, but nothing compared to the high I got when I first glimpsed cultural assimilation.” In addition to the two internships available with the Russian Foundation, another new opportunity for AUK students is available for summer 2008. The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, will offer two internship positions to students interested in art and art related educational programs for exploration. Considered to be a model academic and regional museum by the Association of American Museums, the Hood has a collection of over 65,000 works, which it draws on for teaching and exhibitions. The Hood is now in the planning stages for a traveling exhibition drawn from the collections of Dar al-Ashar al-Islamiyyah in Kuwait.

When looking back on her internship experience Rama stated, “I feel that it helped me grow as a person and a better individual, as it helped me develop my social, mental and academic skills. The opportunity of being able to meet new people from all over the world, exchanging with them information about languages & cultures was priceless.” While this experience is designed to assist with personal growth, it is also meant to build personal bridges between the AUK and Dartmouth communities and to broaden educational and cultural experiences for AUK students.

The selection process for those students interested in a Summer 2008 internship at Dartmouth College will take place this month. Applications may be picked up from Student Life A-604 January 6th – 15th. Completed Applications and supporting materials/documents are due by 5:00 pm Wednesday January 16th, 2008, with final interviews to take place during final exams.

COMMUNITY

An Inside Look at AUK’s Recruitment Process

By Sahar Hussain

Rana Sabbane and Hana Ibrahim march in a 4th of July parade in the U.S. while returning at Dartmouth College.

2008 Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange

The Voice of AUK | Volume 4, Issue 1
Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating AUK’s 2007-08 Peer Academic Leaders (PALs)

Fatema Al-Qattan - Merriam Rafehi - Daniya Alam - Shouq Al-Ohman - Nadine Nour El-Dine - Mohammed Al-Muzaini - Bader Al-Ajeel (PALs Events Coordinator/ Creative Designer)

PALs will offer support and advice to freshman students in the areas of educational planning, course selection, and the utilization of academic resources. They serve as mentors and leaders to the AUK student body.

The Peer Academic Leaders program was created and implemented on April 2007 by the Student Success Center. The SSC is responsible for supervising the PALs program. If you would like to become a Peer Academic Leader look out for the application openings during the end of October 2007. For more information contact Bibi Al-Ghanim - PALs Supervisor at hghanim@auk.edu.kw.

Serious Creativity

Join a community of fellow writers of poetry, prose, fiction, drama, etc. to share ideas and display your talents.

Present your work in progress at weekly meetings for peer review and critique.

See your work and your writing skills improve with each session.

Individual readings will be followed by discussion and constructive criticism by members of the group.

The workshop will consist of 6-8 Saturday meetings, 10 am - 2 pm, from 26 January to 23 February, 2008.

Registration fee: 129 KD.

Space is limited - Register Now!

Antony Johae earned his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Essex, England in 1989. He has taught in Germany, England, Ghana, Tunisia, and for the last 16 years in the Department of English Language and Literature at Kuwait University. He is a founding member of the Kuwait Writers’ Workshop, which has been meeting weekly for the past 15 years.

Rassias Languages Program

2 Internship Positions Available

The Rassias Foundation is committed to the effective instruction of language and culture. Originally developed during the advent of the Peace Corps, it has been adopted by language teachers in colleges, universities, and high schools in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The successful applicants should have a passion for languages and interest in culture. Strong English & Arabic language skills (written & oral) are required and students with an interest in language and language teaching are preferred. Interns will support the Accelerated Language Programs as Program Assistants & Assistant Teachers in Arabic (both interns will serve in both roles). Type of work may include preparing materials, teaching drill classes, giving individual tutorials, and participating in evening activities.

Application Deadline: Wednesday 16 January, 5:00 PM

New and Not So New Members of Staff

Director of Admissions, Maher Dabboush

Maher comes to us from American University of Iraq by way of the windy city Chicago! He began his admissions career at Robert Morris college as an undergraduate student worker. He completed his MBA at the University of Phoenix. From admissions student worker to founding Director of Admissions and now a member of the AUK family, it is a love that has Maher as part of the team. Good people come to those who wait!

Director of Human Resources, Cecil Hill

Effective January 6, 2008 Cecil Hill joins AUK as the new Director of Human Resources. Cecil holds an MA degree in Human Resources Management from Washington University and has been a senior Human Resources Officer for over 12 years including two years in the Middle East. Cecil and his wife, Rebecca, presently reside in St. Louis County, Missouri. Mrs. Hill plans to join Cecil at a later date in Kuwait.

Assistant Director of Human Resources

Norma Baden has been appointed the Assistant Director of Human Resources-Logistics. Norma has been working in the AUK Human Resources Department since March 2005 as a Human Resources Consultant. As her new title implies, Norma, with the aid of her assistant Dalal Al-Hubail, will be responsible for all non-salary logistical matters affecting our faculty and staff. These include, but are not limited to, visa issues, residency permit requirements, accommodations, business travel issues and personal concerns.

Student Success Counselor, Vanessa Breslin

Vanessa is from Oklahoma, where she completed her Master’s of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. Her career has been

Admissions Receptionist, Amal Jaber

Amal used to work in Academic Affairs. Her smiling face and great demeanor will be the first encounter for prospective students as she helps them begin their AUK journey.

Internships

The Hood Museum of Art

2 Internship Positions Available

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, considered to be a model academic and regional museum by the Association of American Museums, has a collection of over 65,000 works, which it draws on for teaching and exhibitions. The Hood is now in the planning stages for a traveling exhibition drawn from the collections of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Kuwait.

The successful applicants should have an art or art history background, and will be working on collections and educational programs as well as the upcoming planned exhibition of Islamic art. English writing and public speaking skills are desirable, as well as knowledge of library research, basic office work, and word processing programs. Type of work may include organizational work for exhibitions and preparing educational programs for exhibitions.

Website: http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/

For application forms and additional information and details, visit Student Life A-004.

SUMMER 08 INTERNSHIPS AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Dates: June 19th – July 16th 2008

Hood Museum of Art

2 Internship Positions Available

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, is seeking 2 summer interns to work in the Acquisition and Collections Management department. This department has ongoing projects to digitize our collections and to study the condition and treatments of objects in the collection. The interns will work on a project of their choosing.

The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in museum collections, art history, and/or art conservation. The position is open to students majoring in art history, museum studies, or related fields, or to recent graduates. The internship is approximately 40 hours/week, with flexible scheduling. The Hood Museum is able to provide a stipend for students who are receiving financial aid.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to:อยู่ใน

The V oice of AUK

January, 2008

Announcements

Hood Museum of Art

2 Internship Positions Available

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, is seeking 2 summer interns to work in the Acquisition and Collections Management department. This department has ongoing projects to digitize our collections and to study the condition and treatments of objects in the collection. The interns will work on a project of their choosing.

The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in museum collections, art history, and/or art conservation. The position is open to students majoring in art history, museum studies, or related fields, or to recent graduates. The internship is approximately 40 hours/week, with flexible scheduling. The Hood Museum is able to provide a stipend for students who are receiving financial aid.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to: Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, 608 Saintorden Rd., Hanover, NH 03755. Questions may be directed to Leslie Kalb, 603-646-3024, lesliekalb@dartmouth.edu.