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2007 - 08 Intensive English Class. Photo by Fatma Khamis. © 2007 AUK PR & Marketing



AUK's Undergraduate Class of 2011. Photo by Fatma Khamis. © 2007 AUK PR & Marketing

## The Family Just Keeps Growing: Welcome Class of 2011!

By Dr. Carol Ross-Black

The inaugural class of 2008 is embarking upon their senior year and readying themselves to take on the world. Class of 2011, you have big shoes to fill! The Class of 2008 has helped AUK set a standard of excellence second to none. From exploring other countries from an anthropological perspective and showing off their business acumen, to being dramatic, artistically creative and musical, and giving Hollywood something to think about...from philanthropic ventures to challeng-

ing and questioning bureaucracy while changing the face of Kuwait student-politics, not to mention showing casing the athletic power of AUK, the Class of 2008 is fabulous! I hate to see them graduate but we must make room for you new kids on the block. Welcome Class of 2011. Your challenge is to carry the torch of excellence handed down by the Class of 2008.

Carrying such a torch is a huge responsibility. The torch signifies your independence as a learner. Carrying the torch indicates your accept-

ing responsibility for making it to class on time and engaging in the learning material. You are responsible for seeking assistance from the professor, doing your part in group activities, and seeking academic support when you cannot grasp the material. Your torch should be lit day and night; it helps you manage time and ensure academics are your priority. It will brighten your way, guiding you to extra and co-curricular activities. The experiences and involvement in leadership, student organizations, or athletics will bring out the best in

you. Your torch will shine even brighter.

College is a life changing experience. It will be filled with good times, new and lasting friendships, and challenges that will force you to reflect on your goals and values. Some days your torch may seem as if it is burning out. We are here. You may feel like the torch is just too heavy. We are here. We are here...ready, willing, and able to ensure your torch keeps burning. Best of luck Alumni Class of 2008. Welcome to the family Class of 2011.

## A Letter from the President

Dear AUK Students:

Welcome to the new Academic Year at the American University of Kuwait. This year is very important in the life of AUK: we will complete the first four-year cycle of Bachelor's degree programs and graduate our first class, Class of 2008. You are all witnesses to our extraordinary growth and success. We are starting AY 2007-08 with almost 500 new students for a total of approximately 1,500. This includes high school graduates and transfer students, undergraduates and those in the Intensive English Program, and international and visiting students – all are equally welcome on this friendly, green campus.

We start this academic year with an expanded list of Bachelor's degree programs. The program in Graphic Design has been developed from a Minor to a Major field; two programs with new names, "International Studies" and "Social and Behavioral Sciences" (formerly ANSO), carry higher major certification requirements than before (for details see pp. 105 and 109 of the 2007-08 Catalog). Students entering our Intensive English program will

be pleased to know that AUK has been approved for international accreditation candidacy by the US-based Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). We are proud that AUK has the strongest English-language preparatory program in Kuwait.

AUK is always looking for internship and other academic opportunities for our students. This summer, AUK signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LoYAC) on awarding internship credit for LoYAC summer work and competitive internships in selected appropriate fields to participating AUK students. Over the summer, our students had a number of opportunities to attend conferences and participate in summer programs. AUK student Mohammed Dagher was selected to take part in the Dubai Summer Surprise Apprenticeship Program. Two students won internship with British Petroleum (BP), Nura Al-Hilali in Germany and Dina El-Zohairy in Kuwait. Rama Sabano and Hana Ibrahim were the 2007 AUK interns at Dartmouth (see elsewhere in this issue on this semester's Dart-

mouth interns at AUK).

Two AUK students, Noura Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Tukhaim, were selected from an applicant pool of 80 candidates to the Summer Academy on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding at Lebanese-American University. The August conference taught a group of thirty students the skills necessary for conflict resolution and peace building and included proposals for community projects presented to a local NGO representative. Other student participants were from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine.

Several AUK students were selected for a US-sponsored MEPI program (Middle East Partnership Initiative). This seven-week study and travel program was conducted at several American institutions and focused on leadership, collective problem-solving skills, and the history of American democracy. AUK students were the only Kuwaiti students selected for the program. Some of the students who completed the MEPI program (Abdullah Al-Shanfa, Ali Al-Tukhaim, Fahad Mohammad, Fatmah Al-Qadfan, Haya Al-Qassar, and Husna Al-Sabah) will have a

chance to participate in follow-up regional MEPI activities at a later date. Congratulations to all the winners!

Several other 2007-08 competitions have been already announced for student-centered programs involving research, subject knowledge, critical thinking, and communication and leadership skills. AUK has also received several invitations to student conferences to be held during AY 2007-08. Recently, Fahad Al-Tukhaim was nominated for the highly prestigious three-month MEPI program "Leadership for Democracy," to be conducted in Spring 2008 at Syracuse University, in New York and/or Washington, DC. Amal Tawakuli and Fahad Mohammed have been nominated for the "Festival of Thinkers" held by the Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi. You, too, can help AUK find new opportunities for you and your fellow students -- tell us about new sponsors and new competitions, involve your faculty, advisors, and counselors. We are here to help you succeed.

Marina Tolmacheva  
President

## Students do MEPI in U.S.

By Fatmah H. Al-Qadfan

Six students from the American University of Kuwait participated in a leadership training program this summer, in the United States. The program was sponsored and funded by the US Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI); over one hundred students from the Middle East and North Africa took part this year. MEPI aims to promote a better understanding of the United States and develop participants' collective problem-solving skills.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders aimed to provide the participants with a unique opportunity to learn about and discuss values, issues, and institutions that have played important roles throughout the history of the United States. The program was divided into different areas: Formative Events, Ideas, and Leaders; Societal Developments; the Contemporary Cultural Scene; the American Economy; and Political Institutions and Processes. Within each topical area, the role of leadership was examined from multiple perspectives. Participants in these programs lived on U.S. college campuses, attended lectures, roundtable discussions, visited historic sites, engaged in local community service activities and, most

importantly, had the opportunity to discover the United States and its diverse cultures for themselves.

The hosting Institutes for this summer's MEPI program were: Benedictine University, Dickinson College, Georgetown University, Montana State University and the University of Delaware. Each Institute hosted around 20 students.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007, the six students and their parents were invited to a 'Bon Voyage' reception by the US Embassy. They were welcomed by the President of the American University of Kuwait, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, who then gave the floor to Ms. Emily Sharpe, Gulf Center coordinator and the main liaison between the students, the American Embassy and the program directors in the US. She has worked hand in hand with the students ensuring that all the necessary paperwork was ready on time. Sharpe explained to the participants AUK's expectations of them, explaining that the students will be receiving credit from AUK for taking part in MEPI's Leadership Institutes. Sharpe briefed the students about the assignments they were expected to complete and the presentations they were to give upon return to AUK.

Ms. Tunisia Owens, the Cultural

Continued on page 2

## Moving On: AUK Alumna Working as Cultural Affairs Assistant at the U.S. Embassy

By Tasnim Saleh

Tasnim Saleh graduated from AUK with a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Information Systems with Summa Cum Laude honors, making her the Class of 2007 valedictorian. Tasnim toured the universities of Kuwait, attending Kuwait University and GUST before she landed at AUK. She also received two years of college education at Pennsylvania State University. Tasnim worked for AUK since August 2004 holding two part time jobs: as a student assistant in the Registrar's Office and as a tutor at the Student Success Center. In 2006, Tasnim was hired as a full time Registrar Coordinator, and in 2007, she was hired as a Writing Consultant/Administrative Assistant at the Writing Center at AUK. Tasnim was the first recipient of the President's Award in 2005.

But enough about what Tasnim was, and let's talk about where she is today. In May 2007, Tasnim became the Cultural Affairs Assistant at the Embassy of the United States of America in Kuwait, all the while keeping amicable relationships with her classmates and ex-coworkers at AUK. Tasnim is now responsible for English language, cultural, arts and music, youth and sports programs and is mainly concerned with students studying or planning to study in the U.S., as well as introducing the Kuwaiti public to American culture.

One might ask what this cultural business has to do with a degree in Computer Science. Tasnim's response to that is that it has nothing and everything to do with her degree. A degree in Computer Science means that the graduate is trained in analytical thinking, and is comfortable using all types of modern technology. In Tasnim's book, this also means that she went through the toughest program at AUK; one that involves a real good scratching of the head, so everything looks easier once you've been through the hardest of them all. The beauty of receiving a degree from an American institute like AUK is that a person is exposed to 45 credits of well-defined general education courses, creating a person

that is not only knowledgeable in their field but in all aspects of academia. One-third of our study at AUK is devoted to being well-rounded in our thinking, not just in our field.

After her last final exam at AUK, Tasnim went through what can only be described as a withdrawal period. She finally understood what a zombie must feel like. She woke up everyday to find that she had no books to put in her backpack; no sticky notes on the screen of her computer to remind her of exam dates and home work deadlines. She no longer had to study during the weekend, or pass on a party or dinner with her friends because she had a quiz on the next day. She did not have to spend her afternoons working on a group project with her classmates. In fact, she no longer had classmates. She no longer had a class to attend! It was a shocker to Tasnim's system. For a while, she really did not know what to do with all this new-found amount of free time. She discovered that, unlike her days as a student, she can leave her work at work, and go home with a blank mind. She discovered that she no longer needed to go to the massage parlor every week to release the tension in her shoulders, because all the tension from bending over a book and counting hours seized to exist.

A very long time ago, as a freshman in Pennsylvania State University, Tasnim learned not to set dreamy long term goals because life often messes those up, so she started setting short term goals, one semester at a time. When Tasnim found herself without a semester to plan for, she panicked!! She started thinking about long term goals again, with no limited time frame called a semester to restrain her thoughts. Baby steps no longer worked.

For a couple of months after graduation, Tasnim toyed around with the easy way out. She thought to herself that she could just stay in "Student Mode" and pursue her master's degree right away. In fact, she could just stay a student forever! She started spending those extra hours after work



AUK Graduate Tasnim Saleh.

researching graduate schools all over the world. Eventually she realized that she wanted to really truly start her career and not take a hasty step into graduate school, so she dropped that idea for now and started looking at career opportunities. AUK had given her career the jump-start that it needed. She did not only have a degree, but circa three years of work experience. She was ready to enter phase 2: the real world!!

After graduating and moving to a new job, Tasnim started seeing many things from a different perspective. At one point in time, she thought that she would never be able to leave AUK; that her life will forever revolve around the university, as she is sure many students feel. After years of just being a student, it's hard to adopt a new identity. Transition is hard, but like they say, hindsight is 20/20. You never think that you will be able to move on, and have a life that does not involve driving to and from AUK 5 times a week. You never think that your circle of friends will grow after hanging out with the same group of people that you met in college 2 or 3 years back. If you had asked Tasnim a year ago where she would be today, never would she have told you that she would be happily employed at the American Embassy doing something that seemed so distant from her major. Tasnim thought she knew where life was taking her, but then she discovered that life had a totally different route planned out for her, and to tell you the truth, she kinda likes it!!!

## Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating AUK's 1st group of Peer Academic Leaders (PALs)...



Nada Darras - Razan Sharaf - Ala'a Ali-Reda - Valentina Noronha, Abdallah Abdulrahman - Hussien Nour-Elddine

*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 [Bghanim@auk.edu.kw](mailto:Bghanim@auk.edu.kw).

## MEPI, Continued from Page 1

Affairs Officer at the US Embassy, then explained the Embassy's expectations. Owens then opened the floor for a questions and answers session. The students and their parents directed questions to Sharpe and Owens, who addressed and answered all the questions in detail, providing the students with additional advice and guidance. The reception came to an end with the US Embassy presenting the participants with their tickets and information packages.

When asked to describe her cultural and academic experience, Senior Fatmah Al-Qadfan who was positioned in Dickinson College, first referred to "living in dorms and being more independent". She also learned to manage her time better and had the unique opportunity to meet people from all over the world, most notably Arab-Is-

raelis. By integrating academia with culture in a very dynamic way, Fatmah felt it was "a constant learning process, both in and out the classroom."

According to Fatmah, meeting professionals in every field, including politicians, artists, and businessmen, was inspiring. "I am now more aware of my opportunities and prospects".

On another note, Fatmah thinks AUK should push for "more community involvement" and start a program to "fund and support students who take semesters abroad", both of which are adopted by Dickinson College, her host university.

21-year-old Fahad Mohammad, an International Studies and History major, is another participant who spent six weeks at the University of Delaware. He benefited most from the leadership workshops, which he

would like to see AUK implement. Why? "One learns how to work with people, how to negotiate, and as a leader, get the most out of the people around him."

For a person whose interests lie in Middle Eastern Politics, Kuwait History, and Diplomacy, engaging in debates and discussions with people from other cultures is certainly fulfilling. Not surprisingly, it was the lack of interaction with American students that he considered a negative point about the program.

On the other hand, diversity was everywhere. Fahad notes, "Not only was there a huge diversity in the people we met, with regards to their race, ethnicity, nationality and education background, but also there was great diversity in the places we visited from a huge city like New York to the ranches of Colorado."

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The Voice of AUK

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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.

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The news by students, for students.

### Editorial Board

Dina El-Zohairy  
Fatmah Hussain Al-Qadfan

### Opinion and Editorial Policy

The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions must be emailed to [editor@voiceofauk.com](mailto:editor@voiceofauk.com).

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in keeping with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of



## Class of '07 Leaves the Nest

By Fatmah H. Al-Qadfan

The American University of Kuwait's commencement for the class of 2007 was held under the patronage of Her Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Ms. Nouriya Al-Sabeeh. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, 19th June 2007 in Al-Hashemi Grand Ballroom. Over 50 students donned their caps and gowns and received their diplomas in the presence of family, friends and professors.

At 7:15 pm and the students walked in to the traditional processional 'Pomp and Circumstance'. Once the graduates took their seats, Dr. Nezar Hamzeh, Dean of Academic Affairs gave the welcome remarks. The President of AUK, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva then presented the keynote speaker, Mr. Faisal Al-Ayyar, a member of the Board of Trustees and recipient of the 2005 Achievement Award for the Arab Bankers Association of North American. "Your graduation brings back memories of 31 years ago, my graduation day. It was in Big Springs, Texas, which is probably not even shown on the map. The temperature there is almost the same as here. We were ten proud Air-Force officers...with hair much shorter than yours." Al-Ayyar addressed both graduates and guests in his



AUK Graduating Class of 2007. Photo by Fatma Khamis. © 2007 AUK PR & Marketing

speech; he spoke candidly about his failures and experiences and how ultimately all the hard work led to his success in the corporate world. He concluded with a few advisory remarks, asking the graduates to "always raise the bar; in your conduct, in your ethics and particularly in your execution...Whatever you choose to be, all you need is hard work and dedication, harnessed with good ethics."

Following Al-Ayyar's speech, Mr. Sean Dollman, Dean of Admissions and Registration, presented the class of 2007 while, Tolmacheva conferred the graduates' degrees. Ms. Tasnim Saleh, a summa cum laude

graduate, gave the valedictory remarks for the class of 2007. "Important as academics are," she said, "there is much more to AUK than lectures, books, and labs. AUK gave us unique opportunities for work on campus as student workers and off-campus participating in internships. This allowed students to taste financial independence and take responsibility beyond the sheltered environment of their classrooms." Al-Saleh talked about the different activities students engage in on campus, such as writing for the Voice of AUK and running for the Student Government Association; she said that AUK "was not just a trip to a

classroom two or three times a day. It actually became a way of life for us...AUK is certainly a place where university comes to life, and that is not just a slogan!"

In her speech, Al-Saleh urged the Class of 2007 to stay connected. On behalf of the graduates, Tasnim Al-Saleh concluded by thanking everyone for their support, parents, professors, staff members, friends and classmates. "AUK will always be our alma mater, and we will always be the one, the only, AUK class of 2007" with that statement, Al-Saleh stepped off the podium for Dr. Tolmacheva who gave the closing remarks before the recessional.

## Al-Awadhi Addresses Ramadan Crowd

By Dina El-Zohairy

What better timing than Ramadan do we have to repent and change our wrongdoings into good deeds?

This was the main message behind Dr. Mohammed Al-Awadhi and Sheikh Nabil Al-Awadhi's talk on the night of Tuesday 25th September. Prior to the speakers' arrival, songs from Rekaaz's newest campaign's tape were playing in the Liberal Arts auditorium as students and their guests filled the seating area, forming a large audience.

Nizar Meshal, Head of the SGA's Cultural Committee, welcomed his guests by narrating a piece of poetry from Al-Mutanabi's famous works. Dr. Mohammed Al-Awadhi was then handed over the microphone.

He talked about how natural it is for people to make mistakes, small or big; after all we are humans. Even the Prophet's Companions sinned, but they were quick to repent. And so should every wrongdoer. Feelings of regret followed by the desire to change will lead to an actual change only if one really wants to. "I can't change" actually means I don't want to change, yet.

Now, Ramadan is an exceptional opportunity to change from bad to good or even from good to better and better. It is the holiest month of the year and one in which the devils are chained and the doors to Paradise are open. Sad, but it is a fact that many people will not live to witness next Ramadan, like some of the characters of Sheikh Nabil Al-Awadhi's real-life stories. This life is indeed a race; if you look at your opponents you lag behind, and if you move in the wrong direction you lose. Only heading forward and keeping your eyes on the prize will save you.

Why is it necessary to change now? Simply because there may be no other time, no tomorrow. Maybe if people knew when or where or in what state they will die, they would live life to the fullest and synchronize repentance with their death. But that's impossible.

As Dr. Mohammed Al-Awadhi also clarified, glorifying Allah and walking right in life does not mean putting on a sullen face. One can still laugh and enjoy life, while remembering it does not last

forever so as not to fall victim to its temptations. In fact, the audience reacted to the speakers' contextual jokes by laughing heartedly every now and again, making a point.

Aside from the speakers' words of wisdom, which cast a silence of attentiveness on the audience, it was the stories that touched them to the point of tearing; stories of young men and women who got so indulged in life that they forgot their duty towards Allah and towards their community. Luckily enough, they were given an opportunity to change into better individuals, but only because the unlucky ones alerted them in one way or another.

After narrating several stories of people from the times of the Prophet and people today, Prophet Sayings and verses from the Qur'an, all around the same topic, an AUK student was invited to the podium. Her birth name is Rosemary Santizo, but she is better known as Maryam. Maryam is new to Islam and to AUK, which she has joined as a visiting student from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she is majoring in International Studies and Islamic Studies. Because she is an inspiration for change, her story strongly connected with the lecture topic.

Maryam was asked to share her experience with the audience, how as a devout Christian she first knew about Islam through an Arabic recitation of Surat (19) Maryam. She says, "Even though I did not understand a word, I knew in my heart these were words from Allah, and cried". Maryam converted to Islam after studying it more and testing it by reading the Bible and the Torah. According to Maryam, she chose the path she felt would help her most to glorify Allah and worship Him.

After almost two hours of advice, tales, and inspiring talk, SGA President Sami Maan and Nizar Mishal awarded each of Dr. Mohammed Al-Awadhi, Sheikh Nabil Al-Awadhi, and Maryam Santizo, a certificate as a token of appreciation. A number of perfumes promoting the Change campaign were distributed among the audience. Finally, photos of all SGA members with the speakers were taken, as the audience slowly left the auditorium.

## AUK's First Senior Thesis Defense

By Fatmah H. Al-Qadfan

On the 6th June 2007, the first English Language and Literature majors presented their thesis defense in the presence of Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, the President of the American University of Kuwait, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, Head of Humanities, Dr. Nezar Hamzeh, Academic Dean, as well as the English faculty, family and friends. Ms. Fatma Yousef Al-Ali, the Kuwaiti novelist was also present at the thesis defense as an honorary guest; she has written numerous collections of short stories including 'Her Face is a Nation'. Al-Ali was invited by Dana Taqi, an English major, whose thesis was titled "Incidents of Silent Awakening within Arab Short Stories". During the defense, Taqi went on to explain how Arab women writers empower their gender and explore taboo issues while still maintaining their ability to publish. The Voice interviewed Professor Katherine Kleypas, Assistant Professor of English, to find out more about the English thesis. Kleypas worked closely with consultants at Dartmouth to include the senior thesis in the English program at AUK.

Professor Kleypas explained that not all bachelor degrees require their students to present a thesis, although it is not uncommon. She described the senior thesis as a regular culminating experience, calling it a "capstone project". Kleypas said that "the purpose of a capstone project is to take all of the skills that a student has learned throughout their four

years of undergraduate education, all their different kinds of literacies and I don't mean just reading and writing, I



Successful English Lit Senior Thesis Candidate with President Tolmacheva

mean knowing how to do deep research – how to conceptualize a critical problem and then in the process of doing the research answer it." The English program at AUK also includes a theory course, which in Kleypas' opinion, goes hand in hand with the capstone project and takes the bachelors education to a new level.

The Literature Committee met to decide how this project should look. The main reason the English faculty decided to have the students write a thesis was to prepare them for success in graduate school. Kleypas explained that students in masters and PhD programs are required to write seminar papers, and so the English faculty wanted to replicate that experience in order to train students and give them the skills they would need later.

The five students, Ghada Al-Abdul-Aaly, Anwaar Al-Ibrahim, Dalal Al-Hendi, Budour

Al-Qassar and Dana Taqi have started brainstorming with their chairs as far back as the summer of 2006. At that time,

the students began to articulate the theoretical problem they wanted to solve and got their reading list together. They spent the summer and the Fall semester reading. When their thesis semester started, they were ready to start work. "In conjunction with the thesis director and second and sometimes third readers, the student then goes through a weekly process of continuing to refine the critical problem, to begin to answer it, to begin the actual writing process and then the arduous process of revision," said Kleypas. At the end of the semester, a special event takes place, similar to a PhD defense, where the student has the opportunity to speak in front of the community. The thesis defense was more of a ceremony to celebrate the students' work as it will not greatly affect their grade.

Kleypas was really pleased with the way the first thesis

defense went, "I think that the students just demonstrated their poise, their confidence, their ability to articulate their scholarship and their ability to speak in public." When asked about the setbacks and challenges, Kleypas stated that the only real problem students had was finding enough resources as the library is still building its collection and did not have some of the theoretical texts the students needed. As for the general thesis process, Kleypas said that it is a work in progress and that it will be further developed for the better. "We, the faculty who were the readers of the thesis, definitely learned a few lessons on how to be better readers for our students." Kleypas said that after having a semester of this as an experiment, the English faculty is more committed to having a thesis. She is extremely proud of the students who did these projects and is pleased at the way the faculty came together and supported the students, "particularly the faculty who weren't expected to do so. It really built a community, and after this experience I feel more part of AUK's intellectual community, and I think the students do to." Kleypas says that the presence of the president and the division heads as well as other faculty shows a commitment to the development of the students.

At the end of the ceremony, President Tolmacheva gave a brief speech congratulating the students and commending their efforts. Finally, Dr. Tolmacheva and Ms. Al-Ali presented the seniors with certificates.



SGA's Nizar Meshal with Dr. Mohammed Al-Awadhi and Sheikh Nabil Al-Awadhi



## New Members of the Faculty Team

James McDougall is a recent graduate from the University of Florida's English Ph.D. program, and has arrived in Kuwait with his wife Liulu and his son Colin. His research includes studies of modernism, revolution, translation, and migration as aspects of twentieth century American poetry, and his teaching focuses on his passion—writing.

In addition to English literature, Professor McDougall is devoted to Chinese poetry which he translates in his free time. Before entering academia, Professor McDougall has had incarnations as a TEFL Instructor in South Korea; a Peace Corps volunteer in the People's Republic of China; a technical writer for Harris RF Communication in Rochester, NY; a tree planter in northern Ontario, Canada; a drive-in movie theatre manager in Perry, New York, and sailor on the Great Lakes.

Professor McDougall is excited to explore the language and culture of Kuwait, and looks forward to working with students and faculty at the American University of Kuwait.

John Rutland was born in Nashville, Tennessee and grew up in Western Kentucky. He has been married to Frances Bogle for nearly twenty-five years. He has two daughters, Aulica and Tamara, and likes to be called أبو حمرة.

He holds a BA in History from the University of Kentucky, MAs in Business and Economics from the University of Minnesota and

a Ph.D. in Business Policy and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Washington, Seattle. He also studied international monetary theory and policy and economic development at the *Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg*. His avocations are mountain climbing and scuba diving.

Dina Aburous feels fortunate to have lived, studied, and worked in the Arab world and the United States. She has lived in Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, California, and now Kuwait. All these places have offered her the most enriching experiences, and introduced her to great people who have become lifelong friends, among them her husband, Dr. Raymond Farrin, who teaches at AUK.

Dina holds an M.S. in Accountancy from San Jose State University, and a B.A. degree from The University of Jordan. After passing the California CPA exam, she worked in multiple companies, most recently The Clorox Company where she managed the accounting functions & budgets for R&D (Research & Development). Her interest in teaching developed as she helped train many employees, thereafter joining a teaching credential program at San Francisco State University to learn pedagogy.

"I look forward to teaching and learning with my students at AUK."

Dr. Dmytro Roman Kulchitsky is an assistant professor of Public Policy in the Faculty of

Arts and Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University in 2001. He is currently studying the evolution and effects of information and communication technologies in the Arab region with an emphasis on governance, public policy and administration.

Dr. Kulchitsky's primary research areas are agenda setting and policy processes in the Middle East, e-government, organizational communication and information systems, and knowledge societies.

Dr. Kulchitsky has provided consultancy input to the United Nations Development Programme and has worked for the Electronic Data Systems Corporation on automation software projects in the US public sector. Before entering academia, he served in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Dr. Rizwan Ahmad is Assistant Professor in the Department of English. Currently, Dr. Rizwan is teaching composition courses at AUK. His basic training is in the field of linguistics and English. After earning an M.A. and M. Phil. in linguistics from the University of Delhi in India, Dr. Rizwan taught English and linguistics at the University of Science and Technology in Yemen for several years before starting his Ph.D. work at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, where he received a second M.A. and a Ph.D. in linguistics.

His main research interests are language ideology, multilingual-

ism, and sociolinguistics of orthography. His Ph.D. dissertation examines the semiotic complexity of Urdu in India. He recently published a research paper in the *Journal of Pragmatics*. Dr. Rizwan is also interested in the sociopolitical aspects of Arabic in the Arab world.

Dr. Rizwan speaks several languages: Standard Arabic, Yemeni Arabic, Urdu, and Hindi. He has scholarly interest in the Arabic grammatical tradition. Dr. Rizwan also has reading proficiency in Farsi/Persian. In his free time, he loves to listen to Urdu *ghazal*, and classical Arabic music especially Om Kulthum, Abdul Halim Hafiz, Fairuz, and Majda Al-Rumi.

Robin MacDonald is a proud Australian who comes to AUK with a combination of academic and professional experience. He has twelve years teaching in the Australian academic system and before he came to Kuwait he worked at Universities in Morocco, Lebanon and Indonesia.

He took his PhD in Business Administration from the University of Canterbury in 2002 and his work for this degree was an evaluation of management training and crisis preparedness between industries.

His professional experience covers a variety of industries and he has also run his own businesses on several occasions during an extensive working career in public relations and marketing, tourism and hospitality and the media. He has worked for both

government agencies and private enterprise organizations.

Robin's particular interests are in management training and the development and operation of effective management systems in the tourism and hospitality industry which he sees as one of the most significant industries for improving the economic situation for many nations.

In his short time in Kuwait he has been very impressed with the country and the Kuwaiti people in particular and looks forward to getting to know the students in the coming semesters.

Marcella Kulchitsky is a lecturer in the graphic design program at the American University of Kuwait. She has a Master's degree in Fine Arts (MFA) from the School of Visual Arts, Boston University and a Bachelor's in Fine Arts (BFA) from the University of Michigan. She has also studied at Yale and Parson's School of Design in Paris.

Marcella has experience in both the private sector and academia. She has worked as a creative director, art director, and senior designer for firms in the Washington DC area, and provided consultancy input for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She has also taught at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

Her areas of specialization include corporate identity systems, branding strategies, and environmental graphic design. She is currently studying the impact multilingualism on environmental, book, and publication design

systems.

When Penny MacDonald left Australia to start her international teaching career little did she realize that she would one day finish up teaching at the American University of Kuwait.

The first woman to work in management in the international airline industry in Australia, Penny had found her way from private enterprise to academic teaching by chance, but it was an opportunity she found too good to walk away from.

Penny took her PhD from Canterbury University in 2005 and her area of specialization was the development of career opportunities for women in the business world.

She has run a consultancy in marketing and has also been involved in several women's organizations

Penny was at Northern Territory University for twelve years before embarking on an international career. In the last five years she has taught in Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco and now Kuwait.

She enjoys teaching in both business management and in marketing because she has a wide professional background in these areas. This experience allows her to bring "the realities of life" to her teaching and she believes that this makes her teaching more relevant to today's world.

Penny believes that Kuwait has an exciting future and looks forward to working with student to enable them to take their place in tomorrow's business world.

## Attention Seniors

Thinking about participating in the Spring 2008 graduation ceremony? Preparations are under way. If you intend to complete your degree requirements by Fall 2007, Spring 2008 or Summer 2008, you may be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony. The following is a list of students that we think are eligible to graduate. If your name is not on the list, please stop by the registration department. Prospective graduating seniors will soon receive important information via email about the graduation process, senior count down and life as an alumni of AUK.

Engy Abbas	Alanoud Al-Ghunaim Noura Al-Hadhab	Dalal Al-Oqab Nouf Al-Otaibi	Wenayyan Al-Wenayyan	Dua'a Husain Noaf Hussien
Ali Abbas	Ebrahim Al-Hajri	Nooriya Al-Othman	Nada Al-Yahya	Hana Ibrahim
Noha Abdallah	Fatima Al-Hamar	Sarah Al-Qabandi	Faisal Al-Zankawi	Hamad Ibrahim
Abdalla AbdelRahman	Jassim Al-Hasawi	Fatmah Al-Qadfan	Yazan Al-Zoubi	David Ishou
Amani Abdul-Rahman	Khaled Al-Hashem	Nasser Al-Qallaf	Ahmed Baroudi	Mohammed Jafar
Maya Abou-Ismael	Diana Al-Hassibi	Abdullah Al-Qatami	Faisal Bashir	Rawaa Jafar
Rawan Abulhasan	Fay Al-Homoud	Yousef Al-Qatami	Hadeel Behbehani	Christine Joubanian
Ahmad Adi	Naima Al-Humaidhi	Sulaiman Al-Qanaei	Latifa Benessa	Lama Kablaoui
Kheiriyyeh Ahmadi	Noora Al-Ibrahim	Fahed Al-Rafidi	Farah Bishara	Firas Kanawati
Yousef Akbar	Fatma Al-Ibrahim	Abdulrahman Al-Ramadan	Mohammed Bokhadour	Ahmed Karam
Amna Akbar	Ala'a Ali-Reda	Yusuf Al-Rashed	Sarah Boodai	Nadia Karam
Haya Al-Abduljader	Waleed Al-Jaser	Anfal Al-Rashed	Mohammad Boresly	Hesham Khalil
Rakan Al-Abduljaleel	Noura Al-Abdulkaarem	Reem Al-Rashi	Nasser Bourislee	Alyaa Khuraibet
Abdulaziz Al-Abdulkaarem	Fahad Al-Jassar	Abdullah Al-Roumi	Hamad Buhamad	Ali Marafie
Noora Al-Abdullah	Faten Al-Kadiri	Fouz Al-Sabah	Jabran Butt	Laila Marafie
Ibrahim Al-Adasani	Ala'a Al-Kadiri	Noufa Al-Sabah	Faisal Buzuobar	Fahad Mohammad
Mishari Al-Ajeel	Nawar Al-Kazemi	Hissa Al-Sabah	Bader Chammaa	Valentina Noronha
Munira Al-Anjari	Abdulwahab Al-Khalidi	Nooriya Al-Sabah	Mohammed Dagher	Bader Norris
Suliman Al-Atiqi	Mohammed Al-Khalidi	Majed Al-Sabah	Nada Darras	Husseini Nour-Elddine
Yousef Al-Awadhi	Shaikha Al-Khalidi	Lateefa Al-Sane	Naji Dimachkie	Ibrahim Qaddoura
Nahel Al-Azem	Sara Al-Khalifa	Basma Al-Sanee	Kristina Duwailova	Mariam Rafehi
Jasem Al-Azmi	Hesham Al-Khamis	Dana Al-Sarraf	Edmond Eid	Ali Redha
Rawan Al-Baghlhi	Ahmed Al-Kharafi	Amal Al-Sarraf	Ghada Elalamy	Sarah Saeed
Abbrar Al-Baqasami	Hamad Al-Khudher	Nasser Al-Sayegh	Adel El-Assaad	Khadija Sarhan
Khalid Al-Duajj	Hamsah Al-Matar	Mohammed Al-Sayegh	Doua El-Taki	Shereen Shaheen
Hebah Al-Duajj	Faisal Al-Mosaibeeh	Abdulla Al-Shanfa	Layan Ezzo	Razan Sharaf
Monirah Al-Eiedan	Abdulla Al-Mulaifi	Nouriah Al-Shatti	Tarek Fahmy	Sarvat Sharfi
Farah Al-Eisa	Sarah Al-Mulla	Tahani Al-Soomali	Ghalia Faraj	Shahad Shihab
Abdullatif Al-Eisa	Muneera Al-Musairee	Hisham Al-Suwaidan	Rawan Farhat	Mohammed Sulaiman
Bader Al-Fahad	Abdulrazzaq Al-Musallam	Faek Al-Syriani	Sherry Fayek	Osama Sundhu
Maryam Al-Fahad	Rowena Al-Mutawa	Alia Al-Tukhaim	Bahaj Gabra	Abdulla Taki
Mohammed Al-Ghanim	Abdalla Al-Muzaini	Fahad Al-Tukhaim	Suzan Ghattas	Amal Tawakuli
Saleh Al-Gharabally	Rawan Al-Nafisi	Yousef Al-Tukhaim	Fahad Al-Tukhaim	Suheil Taye'a
Mishary Al-Ghunaim	Yousef Al-Najadi	Abdullah Al-Wanayan	Sandra Hamchaoui	Sara Zakhari
			Lina Haron	Hanan Zubaid



Members of outgoing SGA wishing their '07-'08 counterparts the best of luck.

## A Letter from the SGA President

By Sami Maan

As 2007 - 2008 President of our Student Government Association, I would like to welcome you all to the American University of Kuwait. Attending this university for two years, has given me an undying appreciation for each and every student I have met. I'm amazed at your ambition to work hard in academics and extensively contribute to extracurricular activities here on campus. It is our goal not only to represent the students, but to insure that they have the best experience they can.

With the support of all students that make up the SGA, the faculty, the staff, and the graduates, we will have a year of great success! I am looking forward to working with the various set of talented

and committed people who will strive to create a better AUK experience.

Finally, our goal, the SGA, is to interact with you, the students. Feel free to contact anyone on Student Government with any questions, concerns or ideas that will make this campus better. SGA is here to help, so help us help you by supporting us and give us your suggestions.

My fellow SGA members are: Ali Al-Tukhaim, Vice-President; Tareq Al-Rifaii, Secretary; Nizar Mashal, Cultural Officer; Edmond Eid, Social officer; Abdulrazzaq Al-Mahmeed, IEP/Freshman Officer; Ala'a Ali-Redha, Media Officer, Abdulrahman Saoud Al-Farhan, P.R Officer

I wish you all the best this year.

## Get a Life at AUK

By: *Wes Sager*

Welcome to the American University of Kuwait! For those of you who are new to AUK, we hope you are now feeling comfortable on campus. For those who are returning, we hope that your summer break was enjoyable and you are ready for yet another rewarding year at AUK.

There are a couple things to keep in mind when starting a new year at AUK. First, start off with energy and ambition. Make sure to go to all of your classes, eat well during the appropriate times, and sleep as much as you can. That way, you are prepared, both physically and mentally, to tackle all of the challenges that AUK throws your way. Your friends and professors will be more inclined to like you, and you will not have to scramble at the end of the term to make up for your poor performance in the beginning of the term.

Second, make sure to introduce yourself to as many new people as possible. AUK is full of interesting people from a variety of backgrounds. While you may think you have all the friends you will ever need, you never know when the next person you meet may be your next best friend. This also goes for professors as well. Introduce yourself to your professors and make sure they know

your name. A professor who knows you is more likely to give you a good grade or help you out if you have a problem.

Most importantly, take advantage of what AUK has to offer. Starting off school at a new place is going to take some getting used to. The best way to start feeling comfortable at a new university such as AUK is to get involved in clubs and activities immediately. If you have a hobby, enjoy playing a sport, or want to try something new, either join a pre-existing club or make up your own. Even watching a movie in the Hangout after class will help you feel more comfortable at AUK.

We here at the Office of Student Life want to help you get involved in AUK. There are numerous opportunities for you to get involved in life on campus outside of the classroom in addition to your experiences inside the classroom. Many events, intramural sports, student clubs and organizations are supported by Student Life. To fully support your education and personal growth we work to make AUK not only an academic institution, but a cultural and social one as well.

For those of you interested in getting involved in AUK, Student Life is introducing a number of exciting programs for AUK stu-

dents. The most ambitious of these is the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI). This program will feature a presentation on a specific part of leadership approximately twice a month. These Leadership Events are designed to help you learn how to become an effective leader both on campus and in the professional world.

Student Life is also coordinating a number of special events for the coming month. You may have already been to a few Ramadan celebrations and events put on by Student Life, and you can expect more of these gatherings through Eid. We are also planning to hold sports tournaments and movie nights. Make sure to keep yourself informed. Check your e-mails and keep your eyes open for any new events and programs that will be advertised on the General Postings and Student Life bulletin boards located across campus.

Whether you want to volunteer, start a new organization, or simply participate in a club, we can help you get involved and "Get a Life at AUK." We encourage every student to stop by and acquaint themselves with all that Student Life has to offer. Please visit A004 with any questions or suggestions.

## Dean Carol's Corner

By *Dr. Carol Ross-Black*

Welcome to the Dean's Corner, '07-'08 Edition! This little corner of the Voice is reserved for Dr. Carol, Dean of Student Affairs. With each issue, there will be something to make your day brighter or clearer. Occasionally, it will be cloudy and dusty. We do not want many of those days! Always check out the corner! Feedback on topics is always welcome.

Nagging lesson number 1. (It is the beginning of the year, what did you expect?)

Please keep in mind that AUK

must abide by the laws of segregation. You will notice varying ways of implementing the law from segregated classes to separate seating and activities. Respect the law!

Your college experience is priceless. Value it. Treat it better than you would the amazing matching Gucci purse, shoes and belt. Cherish this experience more than you would your dream car. What are you worth?

Yea, Class of 2008! Welcome Class of 2011! Have an amazing year. Backing out of the Dean's Corner until next time! dear

## First Impressions from the Executive Director

By *Ernest Conklin*

A warm welcome to all AUKites-students, faculty, staff, those returning and those starting on an educational experience not soon to be forgotten.

"How good is AUK going to be?" Since I arrived in Salmiya one month ago I have been asked this question by parents of potential students, by prominent businessmen in the community and even by faculty and staff seeking employment at AUK. I interpret "How good" to mean will a degree from AUK be acceptable at other universities if the student wishes to pursue a higher degree or recognized by an employer wanting to hire a qualified graduate? This question is for the future to answer but for now my answer is, "The American University of Ku-

wait is not going to be a good university; it is going to be a great university." Why am I so certain? Because when I have the opportunity to discuss AUK with the people involved in its founding and its early planners and designers, I feel a passion and true desire by them to make something great happen in education for the State of Kuwait, the region and the world that has never really happened here before-quality education with a strong focus on developing leaders.

Kuwait has a number of good universities. There are many good companies in Kuwait and life in the country is good but good is the enemy of great. To be satisfied with what you have because it is good is the key reason why greatness is very seldom accomplished.

You have been individually accepted into AUK based upon your personality, educational qualifications, ability to apply yourself and how adeptly you comprehend English, our language of instruction. However, the most important facet of your selection process was in the observation of your character. AUK accepts students that we feel will possess leadership qualities that include the ability to communicate, to comprehend and use modern technology, to think critically and to act professionally by involving and directing others. AUK is looking for good students that will graduate and accomplish greatness! You have been chosen. We expect nothing less than greatness from you. Your greatness will clearly answer the question "How good is AUK going to be?"

## Complementing Education with Student Work

By *Dina El-Zohairy*

Working in the Admissions department is probably the best professional opportunity AUK has offered me. I have seen all aspects of a work environment and dealt with diverse students and parents during my one-and-a-half year experience. I have witnessed staff members leave and others join, and improvements to interior design and computer databases. I have basically grown with the Admissions team, which I consider a second family, and who are my friends even after I left the department seeking a new challenge.

At times of inactivity I would be twiddling my thumbs and wishing for the phone to ring. In contrast, prior to every semes-

ter there would be an influx of prospective students, inquisitive parents, and incessant phone calls. These were the times that challenged our efforts as an Admissions team and how well we were coordinated as a chain of administrative departments all working together to achieve one goal. I can't say it was easy all the time, because multitasking and working under pressure to meet deadlines needs patience and sharp management skills. Sometimes we had to work outside regular working hours to ensure smooth procession of work activities, which I was always open to, simply because I felt obliged as a team member and dedicated to the department which enabled

me to start from zero and grow into a more responsible individual as I grasped Admissions policies and procedures and tested my skills.

Most of all, I feel lucky to have taken part in the first internal government scholarship program in Kuwait. I was privileged to be involved in the planning phase, in which I learned many new skills from the professionals. But beyond such benefits, simply following up with an application till it fruits into a new AUK student hanging around campus, smiling at you, makes me happy—in other words, student workers play a role, even if minor, in the careers of students seeking a good education.



Dartmouth Interns Weston Robert Sager and Daniel Joseph O'Brien

## Fall '07 Dartmouth Interns Dan and Wes

*Student Affairs*

Weston Robert SAGER is a third-year student at Dartmouth College. A major in Arabic Language and Literature with a Minor in History, Weston is pleased to again be residing overseas after living in Fez, Morocco during the summer of 2006.

Weston is from the small town of Wakefield, New Hampshire, where he grew up on a farm with chickens, pigs, and steer. When he is at his house, Weston enjoys playing with his dog and going on hikes. He has worked on a number of local political campaigns, and continues to follow politics closely.

At Dartmouth, Weston is involved in a number of organizations. In addition to being an Arabic teaching assistant and Arabic research assistant, Weston serves as an editor for Dartmouth's only independent newspaper, The Dartmouth Review, and is a brother at Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. During his free time, Weston enjoys playing ping-pong and reading history books.

Currently, Weston is interested in researching Media Arabic and hopes to write a thesis on this topic following his stay in Kuwait. Weston is honored to be an intern at the American University in Kuwait and looks forward to contributing to life at the school.

Weston will be working in the Office of Student Life, the Writing Center, and the Inten-

sive English Program.

Daniel Joseph O'BRIEN '09 ("Dan") is a sophomore at Dartmouth College. He is from Hampstead, New Hampshire, where he has lived all his life. He is a Government Major with Arabic and Religion Minors. He is especially interested in diplomatic and security issues. In the past Dan has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the rank of Black Belt in Ueichi Ryu style of Karate.

At Dartmouth, Dan has worked as an Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Residential Life. In his spare time he plays piano and violin and enjoys camping, canoeing, biking, and other outdoor activities.

His first experience outside of the country was in the summer of 2006 on a Language Study Abroad Program (LSA+) to Fes, Morocco, where he took courses in Modern Standard Arabic, Moroccan Colloquial, and Moroccan Politics, Culture, and Society. He is excited to return to the Arab world and hopes to get a clearer picture of Arab culture.

Dan will be working in the Student Success Center, the Office of Student Life, and the Intensive English Program.

Weston & Dan will be at AUK until the middle of November 2007. They are the sixth pair of interns to join AUK from Dartmouth College.



## Moments to Cherish at Dartmouth

By: Rama Sabano

As one of two students who were lucky enough to be selected for an internship, which I have come to realize was a 'lucky opportunity' of a lifetime, an opportunity to intern in the Rassias Program (Intensive Language program) at Dartmouth College. They say "Luck is the moment at which preparation meets opportunity". And I believe AUK had prepared me for such an opportunity. The chance of being able to travel and meet new people from all over the world, to exchange information about languages & cultures, was simply priceless.

For those of you who do not know, The Rassias Program is an Intensive language curriculum, in which people of all ages may participate. Mr. John Rassias, founder of this program, had one simple goal, which he so amusingly sang to everyone all the time. It went a little something like this, "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Monolingualism's gotta go". On that basis, the program offered various languages such

as Arabic, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese, German, and Chinese. I was mainly a Teacher's Assistant for Arabic, but then I had the chance to help out with the French and Intensive English departments.

As I mentioned earlier, I was fortunate enough to meet a lot of people and make new friends (one was an 86-year-old student!) who I have kept in close touch with, despite the distance. I remember going there with much passion to change any wrong views and opinions they may have perceived about Arabs. Speaking of which, I actually found myself being judged on the first day of being there because of my "popped" collar and pearl earrings (from that day on, I was bestowed upon the simple nickname, "Princess"). I realized later, when speaking to them all, that being Middle-Eastern, living in the desert of Kuwait, they expected someone a little more traditional-looking. Possibly wearing a "hijab", and a "dara'a"? And maybe even with a slight accent? I understood where they

were coming from, because later on I found myself doing the exact same thing. When I met a student who was from Alaska, I automatically found myself asking her if they lived in igloos there! Now I realize why it is so important to live in diverse places, because you automatically open your eyes to various cultures.

This Internship at Dartmouth College was definitely a most memorable one. It was not only a huge benefit to my academic and personal growth, but also a wonderful experience for me. I feel it helped me become a better individual, by helping develop my social, mental and academic skills. I also got a chance to gain knowledge from some of the greatest language teachers, as well as build up my confidence. Being a teacher's assistant helped me develop leadership skills that I can now demonstrate to future employers.

In conclusion, I wish everyone can have the chance to experience what I did this summer. I know one thing; this program has inspired me to move on to my next step in life: Learning Chinese! Neehaw!



Rama Sabano and Hana Ibrahim put on Arabic Culture event with fellow Rassias staffers.

By Hana Ibrahim

Being a student intern sent by the American University of Kuwait to Dartmouth where I worked as an assistant teacher of Arabic in the Rassias Foundation's Accelerated Language Program of 2007 summer was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

During my internship, I gained thorough knowledge and insight which has benefited in my intellectual, professional, and social growth in and outside the workplace. I am thrilled to share my experience and excited to help individuals grow as I did.

This was a very special experience for me for various reasons. First of all, being part of the Rassias Foundation program was a lot of fun. There was an excellent team atmosphere and I really enjoyed being able to work with all people. On the micro level, it was very rewarding, and testing at the same time.

In addition, I interacted with different people from different countries speaking different languages. This gave me an appreciation for the cultural and intellectual diversity of our world. The Arabic Cultural tent was the living heart of all of this internship. There were no weekends. Participating in the Arabic tent was something to be proud of. Having not only students from the Arabic program but other foreign students from other language programs wanting to be part of our group is indeed something that reflects how suc-

cessful the team I worked with was. We used to meet with the students and other participants in the program to share ideas, thoughts and interact with each other. It was a unique and valuable opportunity there. The knowledge, experience, and relationships that I gained will be with me for the rest of my life. I took back with me new concepts, perceptions and a vision I may want to adapt or shape my life on both personal and professional levels.

From a macro perspective, however, it seems that everything one does is just a very small drop on a hot stone. But that brings me back to one thing I really liked about this internship from the very beginning: it allowed me to discover what I want for my graduate studies. It has been a practical example of the concepts and theories that I have learned while seeing how hungry people were to learning a new language, the Arabic language.

Before, I could not say with any degree of certainty what direction my studies would take. But now I am graduating next spring with a plan to pursue my graduate studies in the methods of teaching Arabic to foreigners. Being an intern helped me plan to eventually go back to school to receive my Master's degree and would love to get involved with teaching methods at some point.

I believe we must seek out opportunities to explore other disciplines, and to interact with oth-

ers. I have undoubtedly benefited from my participation in the internship and the experiences and relationships it has afforded me will surely shape my future career path. I don't think I would have considered myself passionate about teaching before. I simply didn't know enough about it to have developed a passion at that point.

As I continue reflecting on my experience, this internship has given me the incredible opportunity to learn more about myself. I now have a better understanding of my own personal capabilities in communication, working with different people and handling new/challenging situations.

Lastly, I was invited to participate in the historical Wolfboro, N. H., Independence Day Parade. I also was honored with the invitation of New Hampshire Senator John Sununu. Marching in this extraordinary event was a moment to cherish for life. I really did not want this experience to end.

A summer internship abroad is an experience that everyone should have and it's something that you have to DO to really understand how valuable that experience will be. Internships abroad do encourage students to grow and learn in every way possible—intellectually, professionally, and personally. This is something that I will never ever forget because it has enriched my life in so many ways, you have to experience it yourself to understand what I mean. Ibrahim

## Nadia's "Mind-Opening Experience" at LSE

By Nur Soliman

The highly acclaimed London School of Economics is an old, mellowed brick structure, situated in Clare Market and Houghton Street, London. It was conceived in 1895 by four Fabian fellows, one of them notably George Bernard Shaw. With "rerum cognoscere causas," or "know the causes of things" as its motto, LSE is one of the world's leading research stations, particularly in the Social Sciences. The Voice asked Nadia Karam, a senior student at AUK, to relate her six-week experience in LSE this past summer. She spent those six weeks taking two courses, actually Masters and PhD. Courses, the first entitled "Global Civil Society," the second, "Building Democracies from Conflict."

Nadia's first word was an enthusiastic "overwhelming..." The rigorous academic experience and the "independent student's life", Nadia explains, were so impressive that it left her stunned for several days. "It was as though I was hit by a train! I kept asking myself, 'Where am I?'" She learnt an incredible amount from the lectures, and the books, "literally living on coffee just to get through." "I was flabbergasted," Nadia says, by the material offered in the courses. She also mentioned going back time and time again to the huge five-storey library, which quickly became her "favorite spot."

In addition of learning from books, Nadia continues, she learnt a lot from the people she met over the course of those six

weeks. "In my first class," Nadia says, "I could count at least eleven different nationalities, and in my second, there were too many to count!" She also commented on the diversity in age – there were students in their 40s and 50s studying similar courses.

However, cultural boundaries meant nothing, as Nadia says "it

gestions, but there was one she repeated. "We really ought to encourage our students to learn, simply for learning's sake... to push their boundaries and broaden their minds," through things like encouraging independence, anonymously marked tests for fairness, and the like. These would create truly intellectual individuals,



Nadia Karam and friends at the London School of Economics

all boiled down to [the fact that] we wanted to learn. We wanted to enrich our knowledge... some of us took the class simply to complement our learning. LSE provided me with a chance to challenge my potentials." Nadia attributes this to the motivation that bound these culturally diverse students, many of which have become fast friends with Nadia, and with whom she still keeps in touch.

"What could AUK adopt from LSE?" Nadia has several sug-

Nadia believes, and encourages maximum use of people's "mental faculties."

Nadia considers a career as a professor, teaching Global Politics, International Law or International Relations. Nadia even received an invitation from the Co-Director of the Center for Global Governance to apply for a Masters degree at LSE. And when asked about where she sees herself in the near future, Nadia has a quick response: "LSE."

## Resolving Conflict in Lebanon

By Fatmah H. Al-Qadfan

This summer, two students from AUK participated in a conflict-resolution program in Lebanon. The purpose of the program is to familiarize individuals with various ways of understanding the genesis of a conflict and the various ways of resolving them. The workshop enabled the students to view real-scenario conflicts from the lens of "mediators" in order for them to come up with neutral ways of resolving the conflict. Another crucial part of the summer program is the knowledge of peace-building. *The Voice* interviewed Fahad Al-Tukhaim, one of the participants and asked him to relate his experience.

"Lebanon is a very interesting place for anyone," said Al-Tukhaim. "If you are a political science, communication, anthropology or even English major; you will find Lebanon a very mind stimulating case study in its own right. Overall, the cultural experience from my trip to Lebanon was priceless." According to Al-Tukhaim, he went with clear ideas of what to expect, and was proven wrong. "I am sure that a lot of Kuwaiti students will be in shock once they set foot on Lebanon and mingle with the people to understand their country. Lebanon is a very beautiful place that is rich with culture and history and is populated with amazing people. The hospitality was unreal. Once they know that you are a foreigner, they make it their job to ensure you have a great time." Al-Tukhaim blames corrupt politics and the media for taking the best out of that country and trying to give it a bad reputation. "You can never understand the politics of Lebanon unless you go there and see for yourself. And believe me; cab drivers have a lot to say," he said.

Al-Tukhaim said that the trip gave him valuable tools that will ultimately help him in his professional career in diplomacy. He believes that both negotiation and mediation will come in handy and that the experience gave him a taste for what diplomacy is really like. Al-Tukhaim said, "this whole workshop was about communication so it correlates quite perfectly with my major."

Al-Tukhaim also spoke about the activities he enjoyed the most. The first was the oil quota activity which his team one. In this activity, the participants recreated a typical OPEC scenario, where two countries competed for oil prices through negotiations in order to provide oil

for the market. Another activity Al-Tukhaim enjoyed was the group dialogue in which the participants discussed the issues they felt most passionately about, and they found out that that all had something in common. This activity could have been applied in real life to the many sects in Lebanon. Al-Tukhaim's favorite activity however was the "Open Space" activity where he led a discussion on two main issues that the Middle East faces today. The first issue dealt with arms or who has the right to own arms in a state and what constitutes as "self defense". The second issue he discussed was "The separation of religion from politics". "This was quite interesting concerning the Lebanese input towards this issue but no one got hurt," said Al-Tukhaim.

The Voice asked Al-Tukhaim if he sees AUK participating in more such programs or possibly hosting them. Al-Tukhaim was very optimistic and supportive of such programs, "you see, AUK is a growing university and activities such as these will only make it stand out in the scholastic field in the Middle East region as a prestigious school that invests greatly in extracurricular activities. You need that kind of drive and motivation to gain a seat next to the giants." Al-Tukhaim concluded by saying, "The name of a university does not just stop at what is being offered in the classrooms, it's that is outside that generates the buzz from a public relations point of view."



Fahad Al-Tukhaim giving a talk in Lebanon

## Free Speech: An Open Letter to... We're Not Sure Who

*Freedom of expression and an open environment within which to pursue scholarly inquiry and to share information are encouraged, supported, and protected at the American University of Kuwait. Censorship is not compatible with the goals of AUK. Students...are free to express opinions publicly and privately.* (2006-07 Student Handbook, 98-99)

During the Spring Semester, a number of incidents took place on campus that contradicted that statement. A project of the Journalism students "The AUK Telegraph"—an online news magazine (it was not actually online; rather, it was to be distributed on CD ROM) was not allowed to be circulated because it allegedly contained content that was "culturally insensitive", despite the fact that it was written by members of this culture, covering events taking place publicly in this culture.

The first edition of AUK's Art and Literary Journal was

withheld from publication until certain content was deleted or altered on the instructions of the administration.

Neither of these incidents



could be construed as 'encouraging', 'supporting', or 'protecting' freedom of speech.

They are, on the contrary, fairly clear-cut instances of

censorship. Thus, if one were to take the words cited above at face value, one couldn't but draw the conclusion that AUK's administration is operating in a way that is "not compatible with the goals of AUK".

The Voice of AUK also suffered in this war against the freedom of speech. The Editorial members of the Voice temporarily suspended publications in a futile attempt to find out where the 'red lines' are drawn at AUK.

On behalf of the community, the Editorial Board of the Voice is hereby requesting clarification in these matters. We ask that an unambiguous, university-wide editorial policy be drafted along with a set of procedures for its application.

As always, we urge members of the community to participate in the discussion by submitting their views on the subject for publication in these pages, so that a

*Voice of AUK,  
Editorial Board*

## The Holocaust: Lessons not Learned

By *Walah Al-Sabah*

The Holocaust. It might ring in some people's ears, suddenly conjuring up images of piles of dead bodies, Stars of David, Gas Chambers, and of course, Adolf Hitler. To others, it might pass by unnoticed and unheeded. For those who do not know what the Holocaust is, shockingly, it was the mass killing of Jews, Gypsies, the mentally and physically disabled, political prisoners, and other groups that were "unfit to live" under Hitler's Germany during World War 2. Some people mistakenly define the Holocaust as the "mass extermination of Jews under Hitler's regime". The Jews were not the only ones to be slaughtered by the Nazis. Other groups were targeted as well, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, Belarusians, Social Democrats, journalists, Serbs, Bosniaks, some Africans, some Asians, and Polish citizens.

No matter how I try to dramatize the Holocaust and make it seem as a tragedy, it speaks for itself. It was cruel, harsh, and extremely inhumane. However, the purpose of this article is not to discuss whether the Holocaust was right or wrong. My goal as a human, student, and as a person is to question why the Holocaust was never taught to us when we were in

school. Why were we used to seeing pages blacked out in our history textbooks or torn out altogether? Why are we hiding the truth? Is it because the group most victimized during the Holocaust is our so-called enemy? Or is it because the Ministry of Education was so worried that we would be hurt by the brutal scenes of the Holocaust that they decided to make us ignorant about the most horrific and repulsive genocide of all time?

Readers of this article might ask why I have endeavored to write about the Holocaust sixty-five years later after it occurred. Others might question my loyalty to my religion and my "Arabness" on the grounds that since it was the Jews who were victimized during the Holocaust, no Muslim or Arab has the right to acknowledge that the Holocaust happened. My answer to those people is to read the Qur'an; read the Prophet's (PBUH) Hadith; see how the two always speak out for truth, justice, and education then come back and tell me whether my duty is to hide the truth and not to educate myself. As far as I know, our religion is a promoter of peace, justice, and truth.

It is shocking that there are people who do not know what the Holocaust is. But, are they to be blamed if all mention of

the Holocaust was censored from their history textbooks? Absolutely not. It is the responsibility of the people who have chosen not to educate students in schools about such an important subject. To deny something that is historical is simply outrageous. It far exceeds the bounds of reason.

Some people might convince themselves that they really do not need to learn about the Holocaust because it did not affect them; they weren't the people who were killed or whose families were killed, and that it won't happen again. And, that, my dear readers, is exactly the problem. The truth is that if we, as students, do not know about or deny one of the greatest genocides in history, it is all the more likely to happen again in the future. By this, it will be a victory to the perpetrators of genocide.

Can we do anything about the Holocaust? Of course not. It happened more than sixty years ago and the people who have died have died. Nonetheless, to prevent another Holocaust in the future, the first step to be taken is to educate people about the one that did happen in the early 1940's under Hitler's Nazi Regime. In the end, "Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions."

## Little Venice and Its Big Dictator

By *Farah Al-Shamali*

I rushed out of the Liberal Arts Building afraid I wasn't going to make it to Dr. Ohan's lecture: Hugo Chavez and his views on Socialism and Oil. When I arrived, no one was there yet but the professor so I took my seat quite certain that a good number of students would turn out. It was well past 6:30 before we realized that no one else would be coming. Dr. Ohan was determined to share the knowledge he had accumulated about the subject even if it was to only one person. I thank him for giving me the lecture; it was truly interesting and had people come, they would have enjoyed it as well.

The need to be politically aware is constantly enforcing itself upon the youth of this world but they unfortunately refuse to comply. Especially in this war-torn and thus unstable region of the world, Middle-Easterners should take heed to being informed about the daily occurrences that most often relate to them and which could dictate their futures. We hope for Kuwait never to be directly entangled in matters that may threaten its existence, but its youth must open their eyes to the harsh reality that is continually in development (for the worse) around them. This region is at all times susceptible to war due to the many civil wars occurring in some countries that may escalate beyond their borders at any given time.

One of the issues that we should be informed about is in fact that of Venezuela's importance on the world stage due to its resilient leader, Hugo Chavez. Believing that there may be some interested in this topic, I have gathered the main points that were covered. The question that the professor had posed for this lecture was whether Venezuela could be the Kuwait of South America. Present-day Venezuela was first discovered by European explorers who had named it "Little Venice" after observing that local houses were built on stilts over water.

In comparing Venezuela to Kuwait, one similarity is both nations' possession of crude oil reserves. In 1986, Venezuela had become the largest producer of oil and did not capitalize on the economic windfall of oil. Another fascinating similarity which none may have considered is that like Kuwait, Venezuelans of the 14 century had made a living from pearl fishing off the northeastern coast. Lastly, Hugo Chavez believes in democracy and its benefits much like Kuwait's past and present leaders do. Venezuela had gained its independence in 1821 whereas Kuwait had gained it in 1961 after being a British protectorate.

At the time of its independence, Venezuela did not have a strong ruling class or even a stable upper class. Instead, it had been dominated by successive waves of *nouveaux riches*—men who had risen to political power. What would amaze most people about Venezuela in a world that has been characterized by ethnic discrimination is its "natural inclination towards racial equality" as stated by Augusto Mijares, one of Venezuela's best-known historians. Class and status in Venezuela are not determined by economic factors or by skin color and background; Venezuelans get what they deserve according to merit whereas some things in Kuwait are resolved by favoritism. The native population of Venezuela had disappeared due to Spanish exploitation. Another reason was because people had succumbed to several diseases. Simon Bolivar, infamous for his independence movement across South America and as the second president of Venezuela following its independence, had once declared that "the blood of our people is different; we will mix it so as to unite it."

Hugo Chavez retells an interesting story of how he eventually came to power in Venezuela. The 1980's were a period of worldwide economic recession fueled by a decline in the world's oil prices. Venezuelan leaders had to take mea-

asures to enhance their economy and relieve themselves of debt. In 1989, President Perez announced austerity measures which included a rise in bus fares. This angered the Venezuelan people, who resorted to massive looting, resulting in the killing of hundreds. Hugo Chavez was part of a group of soldiers who were dispatched to end the fighting. He was angered by orders to shoot into a crowd of Venezuelan citizens. That in itself is an act of humanity that shifted public opinion in his favor. In 1992, Lieutenant Hugo Chavez attempted a coup against President Perez. Remarkably kept alive, he was given 45 seconds on national TV to tell others to lay down their weapons. Only after Hugo Chavez had used this chance did Perez realize that it had been a mistake. Chavez had proclaimed that his movement was unsuccessful "por ahora", or for now. "Por ahora" graffiti was sprayed all along the streets and buildings of the capital city of Caracas. Perez was thus forced to leave office as Chavez was released from prison.

In 1998, Chavez ran for president, winning by a landslide victory of 60% of the votes. In today's politics, that number is quite impressive for any candidate. Soon, he emerged as a hero to the people. Some of his most major reforms were putting himself in economic power and cutting down oil production to raise oil prices. There was a difference in Venezuela's literacy rate under Chavez as he was believed to be a ruler working out of love for his country—a very rare and unseen trait in today's political leaders. Dr. Ohan even made comparison of Hugo Chavez to Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who also puts his nation's needs before his own not caring what others have to say of his ventures. These countries are considered to be irrational, increasing nationalism and refusing to conform to other political and economic systems and practices.

Chavez was reelected in 2000 with a new

struggle to face: making Venezuela as well as the rest of South America more diplomatically independent of the United States. He began doing so by strengthening Latin America's nationalism and even giving large sums of money to neighboring countries that they would normally get from the United States. Chavez has been described as a fox for portraying himself as the valiant resister of U.S. power. Directly attacking the United States' capitalist economy, he had described it as "the way of the devil and exploitation." In his support for socialism, he has said that "if you really want to look at things through the eyes of Jesus Christ—who I think was the first socialist—only socialism can really create a genuine society." Furthermore, Chavez has bluntly characterized the United States thirst, shall we say, for oil believing that Bush wants Iraq's oil and is after Venezuela's. Despite criticism, President Hugo Chavez is seen as a charismatic and exciting ruler that we have yet to see more from in the years to come.

There is a lot more to say on this subject, and it all would have been heard had students troubled themselves to attend Professor Ohan's talk. I can not stress enough the fact that students of the AUK community are always declining these opportunities offered by faculty members. I am not merely asking students to attend, but to also to show some interest in matters of importance in our world. In the end, it is for your benefit because stepping out into society without a political background will only hinder your understanding of the world around you. You may think it to be of no significance. Why should I care if Iran is threatened by war? Unless you don't know your geography, you will recognize how pertinent it is to know and act upon this possibility and many others. We do care about this world and where it is headed; all we need is something to take us on the right path and that is what the university is trying to instigate with these orations. Why let them go to waste?

# Spring '07 Dean's List

Fatmah Al-Qadfan  
Fahad Mohammad  
Sara Zakhari  
Maya Abou-Ismael  
Dalal Al-Hendi  
Naima Al-Humaidhi  
Lama Kablaoui  
Abdulla AlMulaifi  
Abrar Al-Baqsami  
Ala'a Ali-Reda  
Alia Al-Khaled  
Bibi Al-Ahmed  
Engy Abbas  
Munira Al-Anjari  
Abdulla Taki  
Noufa Al-Sabah  
Tarek Al-Nafisi  
Ghada Al-AbdulAaly  
Noora Al-Ibrahim  
Sarah Al-Mulla  
Rana Al-Najjar  
Rasha Al-Najjar  
Dana Al-Sarraf  
Abdulla Al-Shanfa  
Jawaher Ali-Redha  
Mohammed Baker  
Fatima Buhaimed  
Sarah Boodai  
Naji Dimachkie  
Sherry Fayek  
Mada Hammoud

Sandra Hamchaoui  
Shadi Ibrahim  
Hadi Sarieddine  
Abdullatif Al-Eisa  
Esraa Al-Shammari  
Hussein Nour-Elddine  
Firas Kanawati  
Talal Sorour  
Mohammed Dabash  
Kheiriyeh Ahmadi  
Hana Ibrahim  
Mohamed Gad  
Amani Abdul-Rahman  
Khaled Al-Hashem  
Ahmad Adi  
Shahad Shihab  
Abdullah Al-Far  
Bushra Zaher  
Hussien Jumah  
Nadia Al-Jazzaf  
Reem Al-Rashi  
Fahed Al-Dawey  
Abdulrahman Al-Farra  
Fahad Al-Tukhaim  
Mariam Al-Rayes  
Suheil Taye'a  
Farah Al-Mekhled  
Mazyad Al-Masoud  
Yousef Al-Tukhaim  
Naser Quortom  
Amro Sarhan

Tuleen Mahroussah  
Haya AlSharhan  
Mays Naser  
Ibrahim Qaddoura  
Adla Al-Madahka  
Nizar Mashal  
Tareq Al-Rifai  
Shereen Shaheen  
Nora Al-Refai  
Faten Al-Kadiri  
Hanan Al-Yousef  
Shoug Al-Khatrash  
Rawan Al-Muzaini  
Norah Al-Hilaly  
Layal Ashkanani  
Sally Saleh  
Mohammed Fares  
Fares Fares  
Dana Al-Madani  
Nadia Al-Fadhli  
Dalal Al-Sabah  
Abdalla AbdelRahman  
Noaf Hussien  
Mustafa Husain  
Nadia Karam  
Mirae Hanna  
Dina El-Zohairy  
Ahmad Al-Enezi  
Violla Bader  
Heba Gabr  
Naser Al-Shatti

Zeina Al-Shatti  
Sarah Al-Qabandi  
Sherif Mohammed  
Manal Zeidan  
Jasmine Al-Jabi  
Rami Abdulsalam  
Nadeen Nour-Elddine  
Hadeel Al-Tunaib  
Daniya Alam  
Noura Al-Aleiwi  
Ali Abdulsalam  
Amna Akbar  
Sherif Abdelhalim  
Sara Al-Ajmi  
Youssif Al-Raqqas  
Abdulmohsen Al-Hashem  
Emad Salamah  
Mohammed Al-Zuhair  
Marahib Al-Sabah  
Shaima Al-Obaid  
Dalia Al-Mahmood  
Iman Anjum  
Yassmine Al-Rashdan  
Razan Sharaf  
Amal Tawakuli  
Hussa Al-Refai  
Haya Al-Qassar  
Rowena Al-Mutawa  
Faek Al-Syriani  
Omar Al-Haider  
Abdulaziz Al-Mossalem

Bedour Hamadah  
Wenayyan Al-Wenayyan  
Fahad Al-Kharafi  
Noha Abdallah  
Khadija Ahmed  
Alissar Shaanin  
Jackleen Shaanin  
Khalid Al-Shammaa  
Ali Al-Tukhaim  
Noura Al-Baijan  
Noura Al-Shaya  
Fatma Al-Fadhli  
Ahmed Dimachkie  
Shaza Abdelazim  
Shaikha Al-Khaldi  
Achoud Kyoumjian  
Sandra Aoun  
Reham Ibrahim  
Jenan Al-Wazzan  
Reem Shuhaibar  
Abdulrahman Al-Failakawi  
Shaha Al-Obaid  
Iman Zariwala  
Wael El-Ahmady  
Heba Rashwan  
Sabikah Al-Ayyoubi  
Dua'a Mansour  
Nada Al-Yahya  
Sarah Al-Mejreb  
Robert Mchardy

Dalal Al-Mukaimi  
Abdelrahman Abuzaid  
Nuha Al-Fadli  
Nur Soliman  
Rana Emera  
Hind Al-Terkait  
Hind Nassar  
Taiba Al-Zaabi  
Mohammed Fakhre  
Husham Hindi  
Ala'a Al-Habib  
Kawthar Jamal  
Farah Al-Shamali  
Khaled Ibrahim  
Balques Al-Radwan  
Taiba Al-Refai  
Anfal Al-Rashed  
Dana Abdal  
Reem Aloush  
Fahed Al-Rafidi  
Tahani Al-Soomali  
Amina Al-Kazemi  
Nivine Al-Ayash  
Hussa Al-Khaldi  
Hussain Taha  
Mariam Mairza  
Kawther Sadeq  
Maha Fathi  
Zakaria Al-Ansari  
Leen Taha  
Latifa Benessa

Student's names are presented against the backdrop of a selection of work shown at AUK's Spring Art Exhibition, laid out by Sara Al-Farhan.

## New Academic Support Specialist

Reem Al-Amin has joined the SSC to manage the peer tutoring program at the AUK Study Center. Tutors are available Sunday through Thursday 10 am – 3 pm for ACCT, ARAB, ART, BEAL, BIOL, COMM, CSIS, DRAMA, ECON, ENGL, ENTR, FINC, FRNC, GDES, HIST, MATH, MGMT, PHYS, PSYC, SBSA (ANSO) & STAT. Come by A008 to receive individual attention and push yourself to academic excellence

## We Have Moved



The Student Success Center has moved to its new location on the 15th Floor of the Liberal Arts Building

Hours of Operation: Sunday – Thursday, 8:00am – 4:00pm  
and  
(Monday, 4:00pm – 6:00pm (By Appointment Only)

:Remember, the Student Success Center is your home for

### Academic Support

Probationary Students  
Early Warning

### Personal Counseling

Conflict Resolution  
Decision Making  
Healthy Student Living  
*All Counseling is Confidential*

### Academic Advising

Course Selection  
Registration  
Planning  
Declaring a Major  
Graduate School Education

### Career Counseling

Internships and Externships  
Summer Employment  
Full-Time Employment

Please, come visit us in our new location in  
!the Liberal Arts Building

## Office of the Registrar Announces

### :Working hours during Ramadan

Sunday – Wednesday, 9:00am – 3:00pm  
and  
Thursday, 9:00pm – 12:00pm

### :Please keep in mind these important dates for the month of October

Thursday the 11th of October – last day to withdraw from 1st Block Courses  
Sunday the 28th of October – online registration is open for 2nd Block Courses

Please make sure to regularly check your AUK email account for updates on University events and on courses offered in the semester