

**From Handel to Morricone:
Brass Ensemble Opens
Music Circle's 4th Season**

BY NUR SOLIMAN

On the evening of Wednesday, 6th October, a locally based brass ensemble opened the DAI Music Circle's 4th Season with a concert entitled "From Handel to Morricone." Playing the rousing harmonies of Handel's "Water Music" suite to playing the jazzy "I'm in the Mood" and other popular tunes, the ensemble ensured that the 4th Season was off to an excellent start.

The band consisted of Edward Timershin on trumpet, Ravshanboy Aliyev on the French horn, Sayidburhon Gapparov on the trombone, Sobirjon Mukhammadiyev on the drums and percussion, Vera Micheva-Kantcheva on the piano. Timershin, Aliyev, Gapparov, and Mukhammadiyev have played

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AUK Welcomes President Winfred Thompson

NADA EL-BADRY AND FARAH AL-SHAMALI



About a year ago, Sheikha Dana Al-Sabah, Chair of the Board of Trustees at the American University of Kuwait, announced that former AUK President, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, would step down to return to academic life in the United States, continuing to teach and becoming an international consultant in higher education. The *Voice of AUK* was granted the opportunity to sit down with and recall her

story, what brought her to AUK, how she would define receiving a liberal arts education (because many, and we mean MANY, students have the wrong idea), and thread together pearls of wisdom AUK students should take to heart during their collegial years in her conclusive remarks. Since then, AUK has undergone a taxing, rigorous process with the end result of locating a predecessor and were fortunate enough to have Dr. Tim Sullivan assume the role of Interim President while it was taking place. Faculty, staff, and students volunteered to meet with and survey presidential candidates and do a serious job of contributing to the selection of someone who would fit the criteria set by the university's backdrop, history, and relation with the Kuwait community. It is often difficult being an American model of higher and liberal arts education put adjacent to a relentless government in a dynamic society. Anyone stepping up to the plate and willing to accept the challenge of steering AUK in the right direction must be fierce but a pacifist, indulgent when need be but adamant when upholding the institution's principles, and lastly, adaptable to change, because we are such a young establishment. A few months ago, we arrived at the finish line and can now proudly and formally introduce AUK's new President, Dr. Winfred Thompson. As a crucial first step, any new president must strike a positive chord with the community he or she administers. The *Voice of AUK* wanted to be that channel of communication from the get-go so we sat down with

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**AUK Students Recall Their
Time at Dartmouth College**

The Dartmouth-AUK Student Exchange has been sending AUK student to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire since 2006. The exchange provides the opportunity for Dartmouth students to spend a term at the American University of Kuwait and for AUK students to intern for one month in the summer at Dartmouth College. This past summer, four AUK students participated in the program: Abdulrahman Al-Farhan, Fatma S. Mohammad, Shahed Al-Wadani, and Khawlah Tukhaim. Below are accounts of the summer exchange experience from two of the interns.

The 2011 Summer Internship experience selection process will take place in November 2010. Applications may be picked up from Student Life A-004 October 27th – November 10th 2010. Completed applications, and supporting materials/documents, must be submitted in A-004 by 5:00pm, Wednesday, November 10th 2010.

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Era of Tablets

BY YUSUF MAIMOON



So you just bought a new iPad and are flashing it in class or while you're strolling in university. Some might go to the extent of using them at malls but, really, that's only cool if you are at a mall, which only serves geek, and of course, when you are one. I am a proud geek and, like others, I too find reasons to buy a

new gadget as often as I can. The trend currently seems to diverge to the tablet arena. It's not like they were non-existent, but Apple has created such a product that really has put the spotlight on its dear product we now know as the iPad. The product was so hot that Apple sold

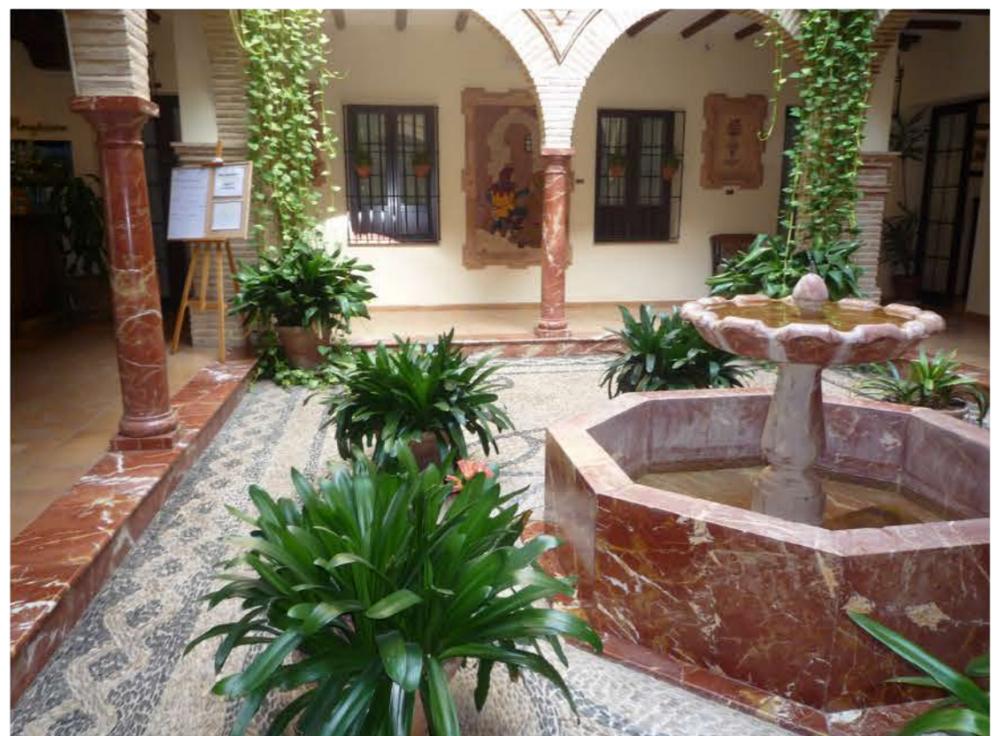
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BY HANOUF AL-JUHAIL

On an early summer morning, I stepped out of a remodeled Spanish ranch/hotel called *Finca Eslava*. I sat down at a bench by the main entrance looking at every detail surrounding me. I could see tiny parts of the mighty El Torcal Mountains since most of that mesmerizing view was blocked by industrial tall buildings. It was last August when I decided to escape modernity, and discover untamed paths. I wanted to be a responsible traveler, an explorer, and maybe even an "ecotourist" for a week. The place was Antequera, also known as the untainted capital of Andalusia where much of the original Spanish customs and way of living haven't been invaded by the Starbucks and the McDonalds of the modern world. On my first day there, I had dinner with nine other ranch

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Perplexed



Got a Problem? Go to Sleep

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Anything and everything out of the ordinary is cool (or so people think) because it has become fashionable to wear idiosyncrasies on your sleeve. It would be nice if we could go back to a much simpler time when people oozed with commonplace sensibility. But no. Today's legion of youth find it to be a mark of their departure from childhood (even when they still qualify as children on account of their age groups) when they are able to perform "adult-related" actions

and you can reach back into the recess of your mind to attribute a solid definition to what that may be exactly. I, as I am sure many people as well, have shown symptoms and displayed acts of rebellion against the institutionalized system that kept my child self in the dark about what I would be capable of as a teenager. At the very least, I'd have the option of staying up late. Looking back, I acknowledge my immaturity and realize just how crucial sleep is. There is nothing

even remotely cool about it; all it is is pure negligence. So looking past this baseless argument, just how important is sleep? To say the least, very.

Studies conducted in 2006 by the Harvard Women's Health Watch have generated six reasons why getting enough sleep is essential: learning and memory, metabolism and weight, safety, mood, cardiovascular health, and disease. Even if these reasons were to be taken

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Mental Coke and Mentos

BY CHARAH RAJI

Humans are fascinating beings. We have superior intelligence over all life forms on Earth (maybe even beyond that), we are capable of inventing and innovating useful and impressive technologies that make our lives as easy as possible, and we are in control of almost everything in this world. Except, it seems, ourselves.

When we break it down, what constitutes a person? Our self-awareness, our ability to think for ourselves, to solve problems and communicate through numerous ways (unlike animals), and the fact that we are the only species that is aware of clothes and covering the body. So if we are so intelligent and deep, why can't we con-

trol our own feelings? We have emotions that burst out of us at the most unexpected times because we cannot co-operate with ourselves. We have the tendency to suppress our emotions and cloister our minds. We teach ourselves that it is not okay to cry, be upset, fall in love, hate, laugh, and be happy.

Feelings are defined as what we generally feel in our body, whether it's mental or physical. It can be that thrill you feel in the pit of your stomach when you see your crush, or it could be what makes you say 'OUCH!' when you touch hot water. Feelings give life flavor and makes it worth living. They are an essential part of

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AUK Welcomes President Winfred Thompson

NADA EL-BADRY AND FARAH AL-SHAMALI

the President for a quick interview from which we have selected snippets to share with readers.

President Thompson grew up in State of Arkansas in the United States and went to the state university there, graduating with a Bachelors degree in History. He received a Woodrow Wilson scholarship and went on to pursue his Masters degree in Law at the University of Chicago. After a year of attending Law school, he had to relocate to the Washington D.C. area to complete his military service, and simultaneously received a J.D. (Juris Doctor) degree from George Washington University. Graduating with two Law degrees, he moved back to Arkansas to practice law. A few years later, he was asked to join the staff of the state university and found he enjoyed the university environment. He then completed his PhD at the University of Chicago and, in 1988, was selected to become the president of the University of Central Arkansas, a position he filled for 12 years until his departure in 2001. In the summer of 2002, he was appointed Chancellor of the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, leaving in the summer of 2008. It was his first experience in and exposure to an Arab country and he enjoyed it thoroughly. *I liked the tremendous diversity and how so many nationalities are represented.* He briefly considered retiring but decided against it and thought of what he could do on an international level; an opportunity to work in Afghanistan arose where he stayed for six months but left soon after

learning of AUK's presidential search. *Life is easier in the Gulf,* says President Thompson. Because he is familiar with the Arabian Gulf, he seized the opportunity and it is a central motive behind making the decision to leave Afghanistan apart from the political instability the country tackles.

With a background that highlights his work in an administrative setting, especially his time at AUS, President Thompson comes to us with a wealth of knowledge about the social, religious and cultural practices that distinguish the Arabian Gulf because the people of this region do exhibit differences from their Arab counterparts. While at AUS, he did hear of our university and the concerted effort being made to have it prosper and was pleased to accept the opportunity of being its president. You would think it necessary for a president to outline clearly-defined objectives upon assuming the position but President Thompson offers us a novel way of looking at future aspirations. *I am not here to impose goals; I want to help the senior staff, faculty and Board come up with agreed-upon goals.* What we found that the President established with this statement is his understanding of solidarity. Some of the "agreed-upon goals" that he shares are obtaining accreditation and improving quality. There are issues that decision-makers need to address and although the power to instigate change lies in their worthy hands, input from the faculty and the President is imperative. While at AUS, President Thompson helped the university gain

accreditation, oversaw and managed the growth of the institution, and refined goals and how they were to be obtained. We could not help but notice that what AUS achieved under the guidance of President Thompson is, more or less, what we hope for to ensure our longevity and continual growth. If these developments are secured, it will strengthen the university's stance as a legitimate archetype of academic excellence. The President made an important remark about goals that are within AUK's reach. *There are goals here that don't require further definition and refinement.*

Speaking of how he saw AUK after having been at AUS, comparisons cannot be drawn because they are different institutions. *AUS is residential, that fact alone changed the nature of the campus and services provided.* He felt that leading AUS was like being the mayor of a city. Here at AUK, however, he feels more like the president of a university where everything is related to the academic mission and he appreciates the positive atmosphere. *I am impressed with the quality and dedication of people who work here and with the degree of implementation of operations such as academic processes and resources. I would not have expected the Banner system to be as well as it is.* Strengths of AUK that the President cited were the faculty, staff, and maturity of programs. He recognizes governance issues that have complicated the desire for accreditation and noted his wish to work more closely on improving curricular and academic

policies so that students may be serviced better.

A few days after the interview was conducted, President Thompson left for the United States to pursue AUK accreditation. It has been a while since the issue of gender segregation was revisited at AUK but the President identifies it as a cog in the wheel. *The gender segregation issue has complicated efforts to move towards accreditation.* When asked about whether AUK has achieved the status of a liberal arts institution in his view, his comment revealed the impracticality and problematic undertone that such a statement might project. *No institution ever gets there; it is always a work in progress. AUK has done a good job of attaining a liberal arts outlook, but there are a number of areas we need to look at such as curricular development as well as providing a well-rounded atmosphere.* However, he is not disappointed with anything and is quite impressed with the students' appreciation of the education they receive at AUK.

The arrival of President Thompson sets in motion a new, exciting chapter of AUK history. What he hopes for is growth in the size of the institution, improvement in a number of criteria that will determine academic excellence, the maintenance of a positive reputation, and to have graduates who will take up leadership positions in such fields as the arts, media, and business administration. The *Voice of AUK* thoroughly enjoyed and learned much hearing from the President and would like to welcome him on behalf of the AUK community.

Fifth Annual Social Awareness Week

BY OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life is organizing its fifth Annual Social Awareness Week at the American University of Kuwait from October 31st to November 4th, 2010.

The week's programs aim to raise

awareness among students about issues surrounding social interactions and groups' dynamics, including cultural diversity and individuals' rights and responsibilities as productive members in the so-

ciety. Each day will concentrate on a specific social awareness topic including: Self Image Day, Environmental Day, Healthy Living Day, Anti-Violence Day, and Community Service Day.

AUK Holds Annual Convocation Ceremony

BY PR/MARKETING

The Office of Student Life at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) held a Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2014 on Wednesday, September 29th, as part of AUK's Annual Orientation and Welcome Week festivities to greet new and returning students to campus. Convocation was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel where an estimated 250 students and guests were in attendance. As the counterpart to graduation, it serves as a rite of passage, entering into the AUK community.

The ceremony hosted a number of keynote addresses regarding AUK's Motto Learn...Think...Become. These keynote addresses were given by AUK President Winfred Thompson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

concluded with the representation of the Torch, which stands for freedom and the passing of

ceremony was held with AUK's First Year students participating. The Convocation Ceremony



AUK President Winfred Thompson giving welcoming remarks on behalf of the university. Photo taken by PR/Marketing.

the light of knowledge and wis-

dom served as the pinnacle event for the Annual Orientation and Welcome Week festivities mainly catering to First Year students. During this week, many events were put on to welcome all students to campus including a Welcome Back Barbeque and a Get Involved Fair. In addition, specific events were held to help First Year students get familiar with their surroundings including Convocation, "Meet Your Professor" Reception, Class Photo, and an off-campus event. This program promotes the unity of the AUK community and



Dr. Russell holding the mace at the beginning of the ceremony. Photo taken by PR/Marketing.

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, and Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Ross. In addition, members of the Dean's Council, faculty and a student leader were part of the ceremony and each represented and described key components and symbols representative of AUK including, the AUK Seal, Logo, Mascot, and Colors. The AUK Seal, as the significant symbol of the University, was described in even more detail reviewing all four major components of the Circle of Life including a Book, the Dhow, a Falcon, and the Torch. The ceremony



New AUK students who attended the ceremony. Photo taken by PR/Marketing.

helps students in their transition into university life at AUK.

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THE VOICE OF AUK

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Our Mission

The Voice of AUK is a student-run, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communication among the entire campus community and keep it abreast of diverse and relevant issues by providing high-quality news and information in an academic context. Through this, The Voice also strives to heighten awareness of rights and responsibilities of membership in the AUK community. The Voice also espouses a commitment to philanthropy.

The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions should be emailed to voice@auk.edu.kw.

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance 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 on or before the published deadline for that issue.

The views expressed in opinion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK, nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

All submissions become property of the Voice of AUK. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all submissions, including for grammar, spelling, style, and clarity. Writers have the right to withdraw submissions at any time prior to publication.

The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through Oc-

tober, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements may be published from time to time.

For advertising information, send email to voice@auk.edu.kw. Advertisements for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Opinions and/or attitudes expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

AUK Hosts First Ever Kuwait National Collegiate Programming Contest

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

From October 14th to 16th, Q8CPC, the First Kuwait National Collegiate Programming Contest, was hosted by the Sciences and Engineering Division, sponsored by IBM and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and held at the AUK campus. Mrs. Dima AbuRshaid who conceived the idea has, for the past ten years, been involved with programming contests. She started out as a student competitor for the Kuwait University team. A year later, she became an assistant coach and then a coach. Not long after, she became an assistant judge and then a judge. Finally, she was a contest manager for three years before she went back to judging and is now at AUK where she has been teaching and coaching for two years. What is so very special about such contests is their unique ability to combine competition and collaboration which can be difficult to achieve in an educational environment. Although not a qualifying round, the Q8CPC gives participants in Kuwait the prospect of training for one, the ACM Arab Collegiate Programming Contest which will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt this year.

Computer programming (or coding) is a process by which the source code, statements used by programmers to determine actions to be performed by a computer, is designed and maintained. Because this skill is indispensable to experts in the field, students aspiring to follow in their footsteps must be heavily prepped before they venture into the professional realm. Bringing them together by way of national, regional, and international competitions seems like a great way to do so as they secure the opportunity of them learning from as well as engaging with one another. It is a well-rounded atmosphere and having been around for so long is a standing testimony to its success. The nature of computer programming allows for the creation of a competitive air that is immediate, as opposed to other disciplines where it is not so much felt because the language is a lot more demanding. In that case, a generous amount of time would have to be devoted so a competition taking place for a few hours is implausible. Speaking of language, programmers make use of an artificial one to enter computations that can be performed by a computer. Although there are many of these languages, only three could have been used by participants during the course of the competition: Java, C, and C++.

Ten participating teams from four universities (American University of Kuwait, Arab Open University, Gulf University for Science and Technology, and Kuwait University) made their computer programming debut at Q8CPC: Wolfpack1, Wolfpack 2, AOU-Q8 Team1, AOU-Q8 Team2, GUST++, The Functioneers (GUST), Eng 1, Eng 2, Sci 1, and Sci 2 (the last four teams are from KU). When the event was being organized, a 'Call for Participation' was sent out introducing universities to the contest and giving them relevant information about the event outline, contest format, team eligibility, and expenses and registration.

Teams responded and so, on October 14th, they all made an appearance at the opening ceremony at AUK to be briefed about the proceedings of the contest and what would and would not be expected of them throughout. Before that was done



The AUK team, Omar El-Khatib, Wael El-Hamady, Ali Taqi, and their coach Mrs. Dima AbuRshaid, who came in third place.

though, Dr. Shereef Abu Al-Maati, Head of the Sciences and Engineering Division, gave a welcoming address to the students in which he reminded them of the importance of learning how to learn and to always be curious and passionate about their career-related endeavors. He also noted how such a competition would be able to foster the proper skill set needed in today's and tomorrow's world before calling up Mrs. AbuRshaid. She thanked her team of organizers and the Information Technology Department which she described as being the backbone of the event because they set up the entire system and proceeded with introducing the participating teams and their coaches.

For any programming contest, a panel of judges is required and this year's was supplied by KU and comprised of Mr. Galal El-Hosseini, Chief Judge, Mr. Anas Lotfi, Assistant Judge, and Ms. Ruba Salah, Assistant Judge. Mr. El-Hosseini and Mr. Lotfi developed the problem set that the teams were to solve during the contest.

Now for the thrilling particulars. Dr. Ziad Najem from Kuwait University as well as the Regional Contest Director for the ACM Arab Collegiate Programming Contest gave a detailed presentation outlining important rules and procedures participants must heed in order to partake in the contest. Before doing so, he gave and explained, with dates and solid facts and figures, a concise account of the history of the ICPC and its influence on national and regional chapters. Moving on, he talked about how programmed solutions would have to be in a single source file when sent to the judges and that their names must be specified. The output that each team ends up with for each problem must match that which is specified and given to them. Answers are assessed by a mechanical judge. On the day, teams could only bring in printed material to aid them such as algorithms (step-by-step methods for problem-solving), electronic devices and cell phones were strictly prohibited.

A practice session was held for one hour in the Open Lab, the same venue to be used later on, right after the opening ceremony and Dr. Nijem's presentation, familiarizing students with and testing the technical environment of the computers. The actual contest was five hours in length, taking place on October 16th, in which every three-member team was situated at a computer, programming and submitting solutions to the problems sets to the panel of judges which sent them timely responses. A mainstay of every ACM programming contest is

that whenever a team solves a problem correctly, they would be given a balloon, the color of which represents a particular problem. This definitely heightens the competitiveness as each team would want to secure a greater amount of balloons than the others.

As for the responses to be received from the panel of judges, they were varied and dependent upon each team's coordination and careful planning and strategy with which they approached the problems.

The winner of the contest is the team that solves the most number of problems correctly and has the least amount of penalties. The latter condition is increasingly vital should there be two or more teams who have solved the same quantity of problems correctly. In that case, the team with the least penalties would be the winner.

On the contest day, the teams arrived at 9:00 am, went into the Open Lab to begin the contest at 10:00 am, and after long hours of persistent programming, stepped away from their computers at 3:00 pm. The awards to be distributed, apart from those given to the top three teams, were appropriately named: Extreme Programmers (those that solve the very first problem correctly), Steadfast Gurus (those that solve the very last problem correctly), Solid Programmers (those who solve the most number of problems without penalties), and Relentless Programmers (those who received the most penalties on a problem but eventually solved it).

At the start of the awards ceremony, Dr. Abu Al-Maati took the podium congratulating students for their concerted efforts and exemplification of higher education. He informed them that the set expectations were exceeded by far much to their delight. Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was next and proudly expressed, on behalf of AUK President Winfred Thompson who could not be there due to travel, his appreciation to participant universities and thanked everyone who had been instrumental in bringing out the event's significance, including the sponsors. Mrs. AbuRshaid assumed the stage next and awarded Dr. Jassim Bishara of KFAS, the panel of judges, the IT team, and student volunteers.

Dr. Nijem was the last to address the audience that night and, to the teams, was the most crucial to hear from because he had the long-awaited results. In total, he said that there were 94 submissions, 40 of which were correct. A good percentage. Then came the winners of the awards; the Extreme Programmers award went to the GUST team that composed of Shoug Al-Fadhli, Reda Makarem, Abdurraheem Taha, and their coach Taher Ali which solved the first correct problem at minute 18 and the Steadfast Gurus award went to the AOU team that composed of Anwar Najim, Hasan AlHasan, Eslam Ismail, and their coach Alhussain Aly which solved the last correct problem at minute 276. As the top three teams were revealed, Dr. Nijem informed the crowd that they outperformed the others due to better timing and resource management and solved 6 problems each. The AUK team consisting of Omar El-Khatib, Wael El-Hamady, Ali Taqi, and their coach Mrs. Dima AbuRshaid seized third place and the GUST team that won the Extreme Programmers award came in second place. As for the most prestigious title of the contest, it went to the KU team that consisted of Husain Bu-Hamad, Mazyad Al-Abduljalil, Jafar Abdulrasoul, and their coach Dr. Bader Al-Bader whose programmers also won the remaining two awards, Solid Programmers and Relentless Programmers. The first Q8CPC was a noteworthy achievement that many people came together to accomplish and it will certainly continue to rise in prominence and benefit computer programmers here in Kuwait.

Speed-Dating in the Multipurpose Room

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

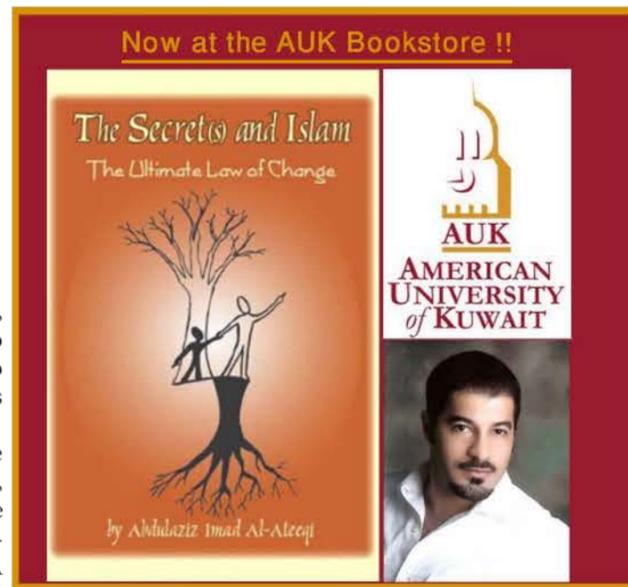
Tuesday, October 19 was the day when student employees from different departments gathered in the Multipurpose Room to "speed-date." Thirteen tables, each representing a department at AUK's Student Affairs, were waiting to be "dated" by the hard-working student employees. An entertaining, yet educational game organized by the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Ross, in cooperation with Shoug Al-Othman and Dina El-Zohairy, Alumni who currently work at the Student Success Centre as Government Scholarship Academic Advisor, and the Office of Registrar as Graduation and Degree Audit Services Coordinator, respectively. "It is an event meant to familiarise our student leaders with the Division of Student Affairs and its dynamics because a lot of the students don't know much about the Division of Student Affairs, which shouldn't be the case, especially with our student employees," Shoug personally commented. The Division of Student Affairs hosted a lunch for those who are interested in learning more about the profession, since October is Careers Month. This is AUK's first time to outreach and share with students about what they do and why. It is also meant to demonstrate how "rewarding the experience is when taking the position of Dean of Student Affairs," as Dr. Carol explicitly put it, while holding the microphone for the announcement of the game rules during the first few minutes, as different

students started to barge into the MPR to participate in the event.

The rules of the challenge was for each student to "date" a table (a department, per se), and have only two minutes to listen carefully to each table. Only three students were allowed to date one table at a time. Very equivalent to the game "musical chairs," students should show alertness and the skill of listening carefully while demonstrating sufficient potential to work hard. Each student was handed a checklist of all the departments to be dated. The winner, in return, gets to experience Dr. Carol's "Student Affairs" job for an entire day. At the end of almost an hour, Dr. Carol had a bowl with all the names of the participating students for the raffle. The lucky student was Farah Al-Toum; she was "speechless" as she put it when she was informed that she is the winner and will be "Dr. Carol" for a day, as a prize, such as solve problems brought up during "Tell it to the Dean", attend cabinet meetings, and even have lunch and eat the same food Dr. Carol does. "I just wanted to let you know," Dr. Carol assured the diverse students, "that your major isn't an obstacle to professions in higher education and no major will go waste. You don't get rich in education; your richness is the pride you acquire. The Division of Student Affairs is one that values diversity and students like you, who are bilingual, will be one of the successful indi-

viduals in this day and age. However, a high GPA is still crucial. I wanted to know, who will have the potential to take my position after I leave in no less than 30 years!" she jokingly said.

Signifying student leader and role model in the next hour of the event, Omar Mehdi was asked to take the stage and speak about his unique experience in the International NASPA Undergraduate Program - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. He represented the Middle Eastern region in the program, which is "the leading voice for student affairs administration, policy, and practice, and affirms the commitment of the student affairs profession to educating the whole student and integrating student life and learning. With over 11,000 members at 1,400 campuses, and representing 29 countries, NASPA is the foremost professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students. NASPA members are committed to serving college students by embracing the core values of diversity, learning, integrity, collaboration, access, service,



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To know more about the author and other information, go to:
<https://www.thesecondsandislam.com> <<http://www.thesecondsandislam.com>>

fellowship, and the spirit of inquiry."

By the end of a successful event like this one, it is not unusual to hear Shoug Al-Othman say something along the lines of, "we might repeat something like this next year when we come across new student leaders and ambitious learners."

The Importance of Being an Alumnus

BY DANA TAQI '07

AUK alumni have been on my mind.

An alumnus is a person who has received a degree from a school or university. Alumni are important to the university they belong to. They bring on a sense of pride with their various accomplishments and they are vital members of their institution. AUK Alumni stay connected by attending alumni events, supporting athletic programs, networking and taking advantage of career services offered to them by the university as well as benefiting from discounts at the Center for Continuing Education.

In my three years working at AUK, I have been asked on more than one occasion - why are alumni important? The answer is simple - it is for our students and our university.

The more we can tap into the sense of pride and the network of AUK alumni, the more op-

portunities will flow to our current students and recent graduates. In turn, our students and alumni bring their talents and enthusiasm to the workforce. Alumni benefit from networking opportunities between other alumni from different classes as well as networking opportunities with faculty and staff.

Collectively, this will have the effect of strengthening our identification as a school. My interactions with alumni are ultimately about pride and a sense that there is great value in the collective identity of our school. The office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs will be working hard to reinforce this principle. At the same time, alumni have the unique opportunity to do whatever they can to valorize their institution by generously engaging the next generation of AUK students.

As I look back on my years here at AUK, granted I was a

transfer student and only spent two years on this campus, I cannot help but wonder what my experience would have been like had I been in contact with AUK alumni, someone who had been through it all and was now able to share their pearls of wisdom. The university with all its staff and faculty will only offer you so much, it is the first-hand experience that our students are lacking. Whether it's advice on majors, hidden gems of the library or simply where to nap on campus! Alumni are a never-ending pool of knowledge to AUK students.

So I encourage you to talk to alumni, seek their advice and ask them about life AFTER AUK. They are our sense of pride and your source to all the ins and outs of the institution.

As an alum, I belong to the Wolfpack and I am a member of the AUK family for life.

The Road to Becoming an Alumni

BY DANA HASHEM TAQI

2011 Grads: Get Ready!

Are you an Alum? You've heard the word, but do you get it? Is it a secret society that only the privileged can join? The Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs is here to guide you on the path to becoming an Alumnus. Being an alum is about PRIDE. It's about staying connected. It's about the PACK.

Destination Alumni begins with a few easy steps:

Step One:

Attend Graduation Workshops and Rehearsals; make sure you are on the right track towards Graduation!

Step Two:

Stay Connected: Share your updated address and contact information with us so that you do not MISS

important information, deadline dates and opportunities to get involved.

Step Three:

Get Involved: Be on the lookout for senior related activities, volunteer or simply attend.

Step Four:

Meet your Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs Coordinator: It's easier to interact when a familiar face is involved.

Step Five:

Graduate! Membership is only for GRADUATES! Stop by the Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs and pick up an Alumni brochure today, fill out the Registration form and take your first step towards becoming an AUK ALUM.

A Big Hello from the Accounting Club

BY NOURIN TAJANI



Our journey to yet another eventful semester has begun, and the Accounting Club would like to welcome you all to Fall Semester 2010!

I can bet the thoughts fluttering around your head when you hear Accounting Club goes something like "Accounting Club - just another club from the billion others at AUK, big deal!" or "Hello! I'm not even an Accounting major" or better yet, "I don't care! Do I get extra credit for that?!"

Well, the purpose of the Accounting Club is to serve the AUK student body (Accounting major or not) who are interested in fostering practical

business skills and expose the AUK community (members and non-members) to various business-related experiences. The club acts as a platform for its members to bring together innovative ideas and make them commercially viable. So keep an eye out for the various events and sessions that will be hosted and how YOU can be a part of the fantastic process, be it backstage with organizing the events, or front and center by attending and encouraging others to participate!

Even though the Accounting Club, in essence, is a club to promote and enhance academics, we are not just about

the lectures and sessions. We are ready to jump to both extremes and offer an array of activities, both fun and educational. And the best part of it all - you don't even have to be an Accounting major to join! The general consensus we observed is how people assume that Accounting is all about numbers and math and so on. But we are here to prove to you that it is so much more than that!

We also strive to work alongside other clubs and organizations at AUK, hence rendering the true spirit of being a wolfpack. But let's not forget, the club is nothing without YOU. You are the key feature of our club and with your contribution and ideas, we can successfully achieve the goals set out, and that gives us assurance that our hunt for the best has not gone in vain, because we have YOUR support.

Watch out for our club meeting dates and get pumped to meet our executive board and other fellow members. If you have any ideas, thoughts, want to contribute or join, do not hesitate to email us at S00006699@auk.edu.kw.

What's Next for the Drama Club?

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

It was a casual talk at the Voice office, which then quickly transformed into a formal interview, per se. The Drama Club, which is a club that just started to flap its wings last year as they began staging simple plays that tackled social issues, operated fully by themselves. Director of their stage plays and President of the club, Yousef Nayef, is pleased to debrief us with this year's plans.



Yousef Nayef, President of the Drama Club.

What activities is the Year 2010/2011 looking for? With an ambitious tone, Yousef informed me that they are going to have their 'first kick' during Social Awareness Week. They will be performing a skit called "Stand Up" and he will be the main actor. Also, there will be a big play presented in December for this Fall semester called "The Shattered Soul" written by Abdulrahman Al-Bastaki, an active member of the club. As for the Spring semester, a play called "It's Just Too Much" which is a comedy, will be performed. The latter's theme, according to the Director, Yousef Nayef, revolves around how opposite genders interact with each other.

However, before we even look into these upcoming successes, the Drama Club should consider the different criticisms shared by AUK students after attending the first play "Blind!". How could you respond to the feedback you received and how could you use it to improve? Yousef admitted that their advisor, Mr. Christopher Gottschalk, confessed that the play was a "train-wreck" and was not very well-planned. Therefore, as they move on, the members have gained enough experience and are willing to build on their first step. Specifically, what kind of improvements are you talking about? Specific improvements include consistent pre-rehearsals that would actually take up an entire two weeks every single day only for practice. He added that they will put more effort in terms of advertising.

With all these efforts put together to make the club successful, it made me wonder as to why the Drama Club is working that hard for what it seems to be a successful club. How do you think your activities will benefit AUK; in other words, what is your mission statement to begin with and vision for future? The plays they perform always have a thematic message for raising awareness. Messages can be delivered through actions, not just lectures. Hence, their purpose of raising awareness will extend to off-campus activities such as touring high schools and universities in Kuwait. The plays are also used to entertain the community! In addition to that, off-campus activities will also involve working with media groups in Kuwait such as "Wesal" which can help them conduct their plays in a more professional manner.

Before thinking too ambitiously to perform plays off-campus, why not start with something inside AUK first? Are you thinking of having any collaborations with other clubs in AUK? Yes. The Graphic Design club, for instance, are helping to create catchy flyers and advertisements. Each club has attended the other's meetings for more cooperation. The Voice of AUK, as a leadership organization, too acts as a liaison for the Drama Club to speak out to the AUK community.

Yousef, a president of an ambitious club, had words of wisdom to conclude the interview with. He explicitly stated, "I advise presidents of clubs to choose their members carefully. If not, they should at least 'filter' the good hard-working committed members from the lazy ones to be selective. It is very important for a club to not just be active and perform its activities successfully, but also maintain the 'spirit of harmony' amongst each other for an impressive and pleasing end result."



Abdulrahman Al-Bastaki, Vice President of the Drama Club



Rasha Al-Jabi

now in her junior year, has been working with the Office of the Registrar since July 2008. She is majoring in Communication & Media. This semester, Rasha has been hired as a part-time employee to assist with the electronic archiving process.

When asked how she feels about working while studying, Rasha cited earning her own money at the end of every month as opposed to receiving an allowance from her parents a great plus that helps foster a feeling of responsibility and maturity. However, she tends to feel pressured due to wanting to excel on both the academic and professional fronts.

“Working [as] a student is a great experience. You learn how to deal with people from different backgrounds; you meet students, parents, faculty, and so on.”



Nader Ghamlouche

was employed as a student worker in the Office of the Registrar a year ago. He is a sophomore working towards a double major in Management and Marketing.

Nader considers his job a great opportunity to apply skills acquired from classes in a practical world setting; develop his communication, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities; and use his free time wisely while earning some money. He finds working during finals a bit stressful but is getting better at managing his time effectively.

“I feel that by the time I graduate I will have a rich working experience and educational background to face the world with ease and confidence.”

Upon graduation, Nader plans to find a job in his career and pursue an MBA.



Amal Behbehani Major (or Desired Major): English.

What do you love about AUK?

I love the adventures of car parking at AUK and learning new ways to park illegally. No, seriously, I love that AUK is close to the places I hang out at and the people I met in AUK. They definitely made campus life more interesting.

How do you want to get involved at AUK?

By participating in AUK activities as much as I can since this is my last year, signing up for clubs, attending some workshops, and checking the news at the Voice newspaper.

What do you want to do after graduation?

Sleep for a month, catch up on my reading, then start writing and publishing/selling my books.

Random tidbit about you?

I love vanilla soft-serve ice-cream.



Yousef Al-Kandari Major: Int'l Studies

What do you love about AUK?

I love the freedom opportunities that AUK provides its students. It's also a place where I've managed to reconnect with friends that were with me in middle-school and continue practicing my hobby of debating and public speaking.

How do you want to get involved at AUK?

I get involved at AUK by both participating in the MUNAUK club as acting President and working as a student assistant in Student Life.

What do you want to do after graduation?

So far there are two plans. Plan A is to start working immediately or Plan B which is to further my education in the States. Random tidbit about you?

I love exotic foods, reading and writing poetry, debating and public speaking. Furthermore I am a fencer in the Salmiya Sports Club and I began karate at the Khaldiya Sports Club too

to compose a different Martial Art to my athletic ability.

AUK Students Recall Their Time at Dartmouth College

day November 10th, 2010. Please see the below for complete selection process details.

SELECTION PROCESS
Applications Available: October 27th – November 10th
Application Deadline: November 10th – 5:00pm A-004
Applications Reviewed: November 22nd
Interviews Conducted: November 27th – Dec 1st
Selected Interns Announced: December 6th – 5:00pm

My Time at Dartmouth – A Rewarding Experience

BY KHAWLAH AL-TUKHAIM

My internship last summer definitely enhanced my general working knowledge. I got to experience a new working environment and saw firsthand how all the behind the scenes work takes place.

The most valuable thing I gained while I was abroad was seeing the true nature of people and how giving the spirit of people is. One thing I learned is that Dartmouth teaches their students to be humanitarians by providing them with NGOs such as the Tucker Foundation. The Tucker Foundation has so many community service programs Dartmouth students can take part in. I only wish AUK had the same.

The most rewarding aspect throughout the internship would have to be the overall experience. I had the chance to witness the performance of a globally acclaimed dance company Pilobolus during my second day there and that was the perfect way to start off the internship. Also, I got to participate

in the ground breaking of a new house for Habitat for Humanity, which was very rewarding.

I feel that after this internship, I have grown into a better person who is more aware of the true nature of people. When it comes to community service, I believe in change even though there are many obstacles. I am a person who believes that the only form of true education is a liberal education.

My primary responsibilities during this internship were: a week of meeting with people at the Hopkins Center and learning what they do, then two weeks at the Hood Museum which consisted of meeting with people and work which, for me, was to create a lesson plan for an upcoming exhibition, and, lastly, two days at the Tucker Foundation. Also, Shahed Al-Wadani and I gave a presentation about Kuwait and the American University of Kuwait to the local Rotary Club. Rotary is an international organization which brings together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. We managed to share a new perspective on Kuwait, and how it is a developing, modernized country. The two of us were very nervous throughout the presentation, but the Dartmouth-AUK Project office staff, Laurel and Mary, gave us confidence and made us feel at ease.

Laurel and Mary were absolutely lovely. I don't think you would find any humble, caring and absolutely adorable people like these two amazing women. We met them almost every other day or so to discuss weekly events and how every-

thing was going. We were treated like family from all the love they gave us.

I would definitely recommend this experience to AUK students. I think anyone would love it and my advice would be to come with an open mind, willingness, and a training suit.

Ten days of Teaching and Learning Language the Rassis Way

BY FATMA S. MOHAMED

After a 16 hour trip from Kuwait to the States and a two hour bus drive, I could hardly wait to be in Hanover, New Hampshire. On my first day in Hanover, I learned the Rassis method of teaching, which is an unorthodox way of teaching that encourages the participants to use their target language. The method uses a “Snap, Point, and Look” technique to help the participants learn their new target language. Because the Rassis language program is a 10 day intensive course that prohibits the use of one's native language, the participants in the program go through mixed emotions during the program.

As a former assistant teacher (AT)/participant in the program, I have to say that I experienced more emotions during my 23days of teaching and learning a new language (German) in the program than I have experienced in my entire life. To help you understand my experience in the program, I'm going to share with you parts of a handout written for the program by Eleanor Shannon “Observations on the immersion Experience”.

Day 1	“Euphoria mixed with mid confusion about the schedule, the dorms, the method, etc... slight concern over whether the program was the right choice?” My feelings were: As an (AT): “This is going to be fabulous” I cannot wait to snap, point, and look. As a participant: “My AT's have so much energy” I cannot wait for my next class.
Day 2	“Genuine excitement, some fear about keeping up, slight annoyance about the “no English” rule...” As an (AT): “Wow, we are really blasting though this material!” I cannot believe that the participants can say “marhba,kaifa al hal” As a participant: “I don't know when my brain cells have gotten such a workout” my brain was working overtime trying to remember all the new vocabulary.
Day 3	“Sense of accomplishment coupled with a growing concern about just how intense the program really is...” As an (AT): Thank God, my students can now say more than just ‘can you please pass me the salt’ As a participant: “By five o'clock my brain is fried. I wish I had more time to review what we did today and prepare for tomorrow.” I always wished I had more time to prepare and review. Yet, I couldn't set at my room and study, because I was having too much fun outdoors.
Day 4,5	“Rising sense of panic that the pace is not going to let up... finding friends to get you through...” As an (AT): “Am I the only one who is feeling totally overwhelmed here?” During the four and five days, I felt like I was not doing a good job. Also, I felt sad and homesick. However, these feelings soon vanished, because of the support and love I felt from my participants, other AT's, Ms. Mary Batchelder, Ms. Laurel Stavis, and Kevin Smith the person in charge of guiding and helping the AT's in the program “who I drove crazy” As a participant: “Maybe I should just throw in the towel and speak English anyway. Who will know?” I wanted to speak English. I was crying wanting to speak English. However, thinking of the Arabic participants and what they went through stopped me.
Day 6,7	“The two toughest days of the program...no weekend break...sense of being overwhelmed because there is no let up...intense desire to speak English” As an (AT): “Don't these people know what weekends are for?” Weekends!!! How I miss you. Avenues, 360, Marina, Co-op anywhere where I can shop until I drop. As a participant: “These teachers have to be crazy to expect enthusiasm at this point.” I think my teachers should go straight to heaven for having me as a student.
Day 8	“Over the hump”...sense of bonding with your teachers and your group...realization that the hard work is paying off” As an (AT): “I don't think I have ever worked this hard or laughed this much.” I loved being in the program, and I wish I could be a part of it every year. As a participant: “I wish we were all going to Germany for a week...” calling my Mama: Mammy!!! I can speak German.... Take me to Germany...
Day 9,10	“Return to Euphoria...thrill of speaking the language...excitement over having completed the course...huge sense of accomplishment” As an (AT): “I can't believe I have actually done this... my mom and dad will be so impressed!” I can't believe that I helped a person learn Arabic. As a participant: “I love the beautiful people who have gotten me through this program!” Special thanks to Jerry “my master teacher”, Phillip, David, Vailzar, and Andy my German AT's. Also, thank you to all the other AT's and participants who helped me have the best experience possible.

HOMECOMING

November 28th - 30th, 2010

PROUD TO BE

at

AUK



Sunday, November 28th

SPIRIT GIVEAWAYS & BBQ;

Faculty \ Staff vs Students &

Pass, Shoot & Score

SOCCER COMPETITION, 12:30p.m.

Grassy Area next to Soccer Field & Soccer Field

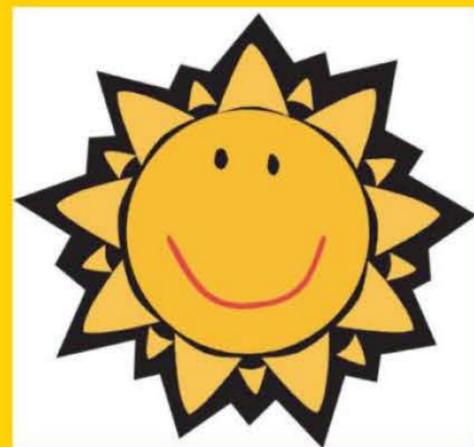
Monday, November 29th

BIG DAY OUT, 10a.m.-4p.m.

Hangout Tent

AUK Family Day

Time & Location : TBA



Tuesday, November 30th

SENIOR COUNTDOWN, 2p.m.-4p.m.

Grassy Area by Soccer Field

ALUMNI RECEPTION, 7p.m.

Auditorium



James Goodpasture

- Email: Jgoodpasture@auk.edu.kw
- Office: 402 (4th floor of Liberal Arts building)



Educational background
First degree beyond high school – Biology from Stanford University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Masters in Professional Accountancy from University of Texas at San Antonio, and PhD in Accounting from Florida State University.

Professional background
While attending Stanford, my goal was to become a physician. During my senior year, I discovered that I did not want to work the hours that bring a physician. I decided to go to nursing school because I could transfer credits from my biology degree relatively easily and I knew that as a nurse, I would have a very broad, particularly since I was working in critical care and in the emergency room. I decided to go into hospital administration and started work on my MBA. When I took Accounting courses, I found that I enjoyed it and was really good at it so I switched my degree from an MBA to a Masters in Professional Accountancy. When I was getting my Masters in Accounting in the late 1980s, the Chairman suggested a more health insurance program in the USA. I felt that with major changes in health care, it would require more health insurance programs in the USA. I felt that with major changes in health care, it would require more people who understood both the clinical aspects of health care and the financial side to do research. A lot of my research has to do with healthcare across from a financial viewpoint. I look at healthcare a little differently than most.

How did you hear about AUK?
By accident. I started applying to schools in the Middle East last month. I chose the Middle East because I am all a "two stage" in my life. My children can take care of themselves (or so they think). I don't have any grandchildren to date yet. My parents have died. So I have five ties to the USA. I applied to different schools. I was offered positions in Kuwait and Iraq and applied. They had an emergency vacancy. I was in the latter part of July. I noticed an opening at AUK and applied. They had an emergency vacancy. I was interviewed by Professor Russell. Then I spoke with Dr. Tari Dulfener (she was in the United States at the time). Dr. Dulfener did a good sales job on Kuwait and AUK. It was all very quick and people have been very helpful in getting my paperwork done.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I concentrate on three kinds of learners: visual, verbal, and kinesthetic (applying the information). I try very hard to teach using all three methods. Most undergraduates tend to be visual learners while some are verbal and kinesthetic. I present information using all three methods to expose students to the information in different ways. I will lecture, use PowerPoint presentations, and solve problems on the board in class. I ask students to present problems in class sometimes, students teach me another better than I can. How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far? I can't say I like it more than I thought I would. As teaching a number of people speak English; if they don't, they will find someone who does. People go out of their way to be nice. I remember when I was at a dinner in all the workers were eating. As I was not in a hurry, I was going to wait until they were done, they invited me to eat with them. I also had very nice. I walk all over Kuwait at late hours at night. People in Kuwait like to walk. There seems to be a lot of all functions. Students are very congenial and well-mannered. I have not given any exams yet, so hopefully they are hard workers as well.

Anastasia Kononova

- Email: Akononova@auk.edu.kw
- Office: 412 (4th floor of Liberal Arts building)
- Office extension: 447.



Educational background
Graduate degrees in the U.S.: Masters from Oklahoma State University in Mass Communication and Journalism and a PhD from the University of Missouri in Journalism. Teaching interests include journalism theory and practice and mass communication theory and methods. Research interest in media psychology (I study how media messages affect people), cross-cultural/international communication and new media. The dissertation study employed the method of experiment to explore how social stereotyping in online media messages affects the process of making impressions on message characters.

Professional background
Worked as a print journalist and editor in Russia.

How did you hear about AUK?
One of my research interests is in cross-cultural and international communication, it has, to some extent, influenced my decision to work abroad. When on the job market, I was mostly looking for academic opportunities in foreign countries. One of the positions was at AUK. While here, I plan to study how people in Kuwait use media, especially new communication technologies, and what the needs and motives that shape their media use are. I also should add that I enjoy teaching very much and would like to continue building my career in this area. I applied for the position at AUK because I knew that my American experience in teaching will be appreciated here. I think this university is a good place to become a better teacher.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I am trying to have dialogue with students in the classroom. My courses are interactive. Discussion is the basis of effective learning; it helps students develop critical thinking. My courses do not only involve reading textbook chapters and listening to lectures. They are designed for students to understand what has been read or heard, build on it and question it. In addition, one of my teaching goals is to expose to students how they can apply theoretical knowledge of communication and journalism in their professional lives.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I like Kuwait and I like AUK very much. I am glad to see that professors have a lot of resources at the university. I am well-equipped to prepare for classes and do good-quality research. I also have to mention that I like AUK students very much. They are very active in class. They are also very polite and respectful, which I appreciate very much. Even though this is my first visit to the Gulf, I find it very easy to adjust. People here are very welcoming and helpful. I was also amazed at how diverse this country is.

Christo El-Morr

- Email: Ceimor@auk.edu.kw
- Office: 209 (2nd floor of Sciences building)
- Office extension: 485.



Educational background
Honor Bachelors in Computer Science, PhD in Biomedical Engineering.

Professional background
After graduation, I joined a university in Lebanon for five years. Next, I headed to the American University of Sharjah for five years. After that, I taught at York University in Toronto, Canada for another five years working at the Health Informatics Department. I still have research projects at York University.

How did you hear about AUK?
I heard about it when I was teaching at the University of Sharjah, applied, and it all worked out.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
It depends on the course. Some can have discussion groups while others require the professor's input. I like to have discussions; classes are boring when they are not interactive. The teaching should be student-centered, involving students in the learning process.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I like the atmosphere in my department, very professional, dynamic and friendly. The country is expensive so salaries should catch up to the inflation.

Mohammed Al-Abd

- Email: Mabd@auk.edu.kw
- Office: 210 (2nd floor of Sciences building)
- Office extension: 534.



Educational background
I graduated from Ain Shams University in Egypt in 1998. I completed my Masters in 2002 and then went to the University of Waterloo in Canada in 2003. I completed my PhD in electrical and computer engineering in 2008.

Professional background
I have been a teaching assistant for 7 years in the computer engineering department at Ain Shams University. I was also a teaching assistant for several courses at the University of Waterloo. I served as a sessional instructor for artificial intelligence course at the University of Waterloo in Fall 2008.

How did you hear about AUK?
I heard about it from the advertisement when I was job-hunting. I did not know there was an American university in Kuwait. I only knew of the older ones such as the American University of Cairo and the American University of Beirut.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I like to get students interested in the material, how the course fits into the big picture, and how it is related to other courses. I change teaching styles. When I am teaching theory, I use slides and colorful figures. When there is problem-solving, I use the whiteboard. I usually switch between the two in one class. Lastly, I try to encourage students to ask questions.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
What interests me is that although it is relatively new university, AUK is trying to reach the standards set by other American universities in the region. Also since I'm serving in a very new program, this gives me the opportunity to learn a lot and provide me with a sense of stability. I like Kuwait and wanted to be closer to home. There is no language barrier and the system is relatively similar to that of Cairo.

Mohamad Awad

- Email: Mawad@auk.edu.kw
- Office: 461 (4th floor of Liberal Arts building)
- Office extension: 556.



Educational background
Earned the B.A.Sc in electrical and computer engineering (communications option) from the University of Windsor (Windsor, Ontario, Canada) in 2004 and the M.A.Sc from the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) in 2004 and the M.A.Sc and Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) in 2006 and 2009, respectively. From 2004 to 2009, he was a Research Assistant in the Broadband Communications Research Group, University of Waterloo.

How did you hear about AUK?
I always wanted to go back to the country I loved, Kuwait, where I was born and grew up. I searched online for universities in Kuwait and AUK was my best choice because its mission statement represents my own vision and values.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I see the teacher as a guide to students rather than a knowledge giver. The guide shows the students the way to gain knowledge by providing all necessary key concepts and background understanding of the topic under study. I believe that learning needs to be an enjoyable experience, especially in courses that are related to students' chosen field of study.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I think AUK is a unique university in the Gulf area in being the only liberal arts institution to offer Computer Science and Engineering degrees. Students will graduate with not only technical but also intellectual skills needed in the engineering field. Intellectual skills like analytical and critical thinking, unbiased judgment, curiosity, and the ability of a liberally educated mind which are very important for the success of engineers and computer scientists.

If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

Parking is a problem, there is no space. Not a lot of sections of classes are offered. Honestly, the entire university needs to change.

Sara Zadah



What do you think of AUK so far?

What I experienced during my first two weeks at AUK was so different than what I thought. It is a new environment and surrounding. Also, some courses are really hard; we have a lot of homework and quizzes. Moreover, AUK has a good community that supports students and professors.

May Omran



What do you think of AUK so far?

From the aspect of university life, I've had a great start so far upon entry of AUK. Since my academic arrival, I have joined student employment and currently work at the Office of Student Life. Staff and fellow student workers are very warm welcoming and friendly. I must mention, Student Life is by far the best office in the university. Fitting with ease into the community, involvement has greatly soothed matters. Activities are found all over campus, it's a fun way of meeting new faces. Grabbing a hold of all opportunities and getting to know everyone in your community really gives you the "family" feel while attending AUK. Studies have been going well here at AUK. The curriculum, following the American system helps a lot since I've lived my previous life in the US.

Dr. Carol Ross



If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

If I could change anything about AUK, I would change the segregation policy. STOP! Understand we are bound by the law hence we will respect and implement the law. I understand the value of single gender education; I attended a private all girl's high school, receiving an excellent education. However, implementation of the law is truly taxes our resources. It is not developmentally sound because of the many contradictions. Students can socialize outside and work together but cannot learn together?! AUK was approved to open its doors to both genders; we should be able to function in that capacity. If we were a single gender institution, then that changes the ball game. If people want to learn in a single gender environment, they should have the option to learn in that environment. If they want to learn in a mixed environment, they too should be able to exercise that choice.

If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

The first problem in AUK will definitely agree and believe there are 350 students at AUK so allocated whereas the problem. The second Business program, a course that is to be before they go out, into the real world something similar in other majors and one I can think of is too small to accommodate more facilities available room or auditorium activities instead lobbies of building the place where from point A to B distracted by a c

Shrouq Al-Asfour



What do you think of AUK so far?

AUK has a different community than the other universities. It has many kinds of groups which is good because it makes it easy for us to communicate with different people from different countries. The teaching methods in university are totally different from school. The Intensive English Program is heavy because we have a lot of homework to do. With my experience, I've never worked that much but it's actually okay with me because it helped me improve my ability to do something perfect.

If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

The Library is an issue. A restaurant on campus for smoking in building is our offices. Students smoking on campus. It



What do you think of AUK so far?

Very good. All the professors are amazing. I'm comfortable and happy.

Leila Al-Methen



If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

The atmosphere of AUK is wonderful. There is always something going on and the students seem to really enjoy participating in its activities. However, a big thing AUK is missing is the options of more majors. The more choices students have the more they feel that the university cares about them and their future. Many students have come to AUK just to be in the university because they love it so much but do not necessarily like their major. Other fields of interests, such as medicine, biology, art performance and many other major options are greatly wanted by many potential students. I think it would enhance AUK as a university and would increase the passion that the students have for learning.

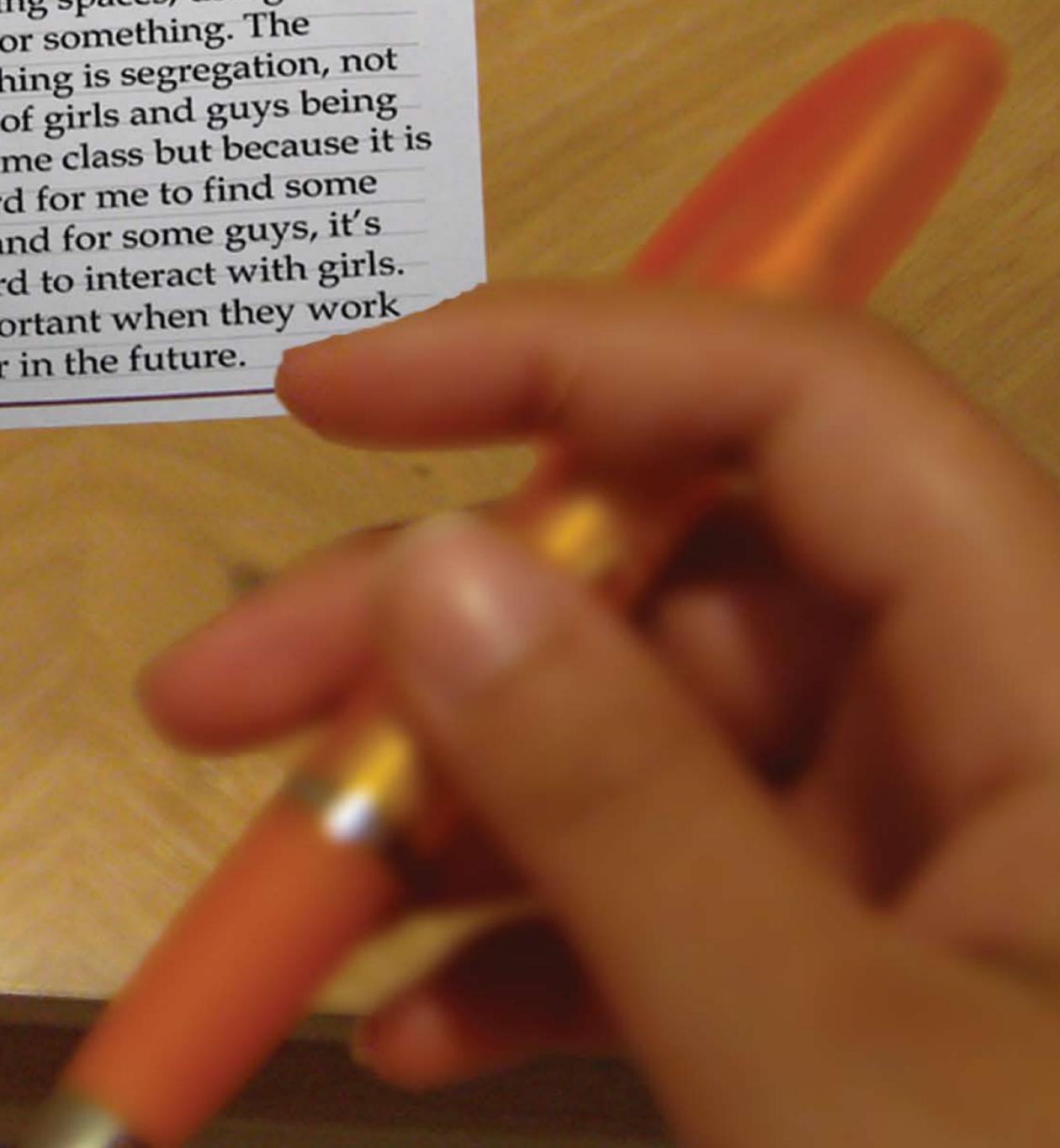
If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

Two things I want to change are the car parking and segregation. We don't have enough parking spaces for cars and one of the reasons is that the other school close to us uses it. There has to be a way to not allow them to use the parking spaces, using security or something. The second thing is segregation, not because of girls and guys being in the same class but because it is very hard for me to find some classes and for some guys, it's very hard to interact with girls. It's important when they work together in the future.

Library staff

If you had the chance, what would you change about AUK?

The library needs more space; it also, another building should be added on for more variety. Finally, the Administration is annoying as it is near the library. Generally, faculty and staff should not smoke on campus. It is common courtesy.



From Handel to Morricone: Brass Ensemble Opens Music Circle's 4th Season

BY NUR SOLIMAN - AUK ALUM'10

before in several other ensembles like the Kuwait Jazz Collective, and have also played with the Ahmadi Music Group Orchestra in performances like "Gideon."

While it is clear that Kuwait's audiences usually respond well to all kinds of concerts, what made this concert unique was that it combined music of the great classical canon combined with Hollywood themes, jazzy pieces, and pieces from various operas that made it greatly accessible and inspiring at the same time, presenting brass as an incredibly versatile range of instruments that cover various musical genres.

The ensemble opened with G F Handel's "Water Music" suite. The first movement, "Allegro Vivace," introduced the beautiful, warm sounds of the trombone and French horn like deep, rich undulations beneath Timershin's light, bright sounds of the trumpet. The Baroque rhythms combined Timershin's earnest melody with the gentle, somber harmony of the trombone and French horn in perfect balance and timing. "Air" was slower and softer, with the trumpet playing in a more *piano* tone, while the gently rolling deep sounds of Gapparov and Aliyev rumbled beneath the melody in long, lingering notes.

"Hornpipe" was a charming, lively movement, the quick-paced, thick fluttering of notes that danced with a sort of spontaneous ceremony, the trombone and French horn keeping remarkable harmony. Out of all the movements of this suite, the fourth, "Allegro Maestoso" is the most well-known, and far more ceremonial and celebrative than the earlier movements, beautifully paced with a bright, intricate melody working in tandem with the lower harmonics, the currents rippling through the Baroque tune.

G B Martini's "Gavotte" had a sweet, singsong quality to it, the sweet, delightful melody springing lightly along, Timershin, alternating with Gapparov and Aliyev, lapsing into minor phrases. Ms. Vera Micheva-Kantcheva made her first appearance with the third piece, Offenbach's "Barcarole" from the opera "The Tales of Hoffmann," playing with Gapparov and Aliyev. The Barcarole had well-paced, flourishing phrases, flowing along while the deep French horn and trombone carried the gentle Mediterranean phrases of the famous gondolier's song, while Micheva-Kantcheva's chords complemented them in perfect timing, the brass sounds now muted and warm, now higher and more earnest.

Micheva-Kantcheva played with Aliyev together for the first movement of C Mathis' "Concerto No. 2 for cornet." This was a more subdued, melancholy piece than the previous pieces, but the piano had an energetic introduction that had a kind of reserved, controlled passion without being too loud, moving to gentle, warm honey sound through the melody, leading Aliyev into his cue; while Micheva-Kantcheva lapsed back into gentle chords, Aliyev repeated the melody note by note, the pure, graceful sound of a single horn quite impressive. It was a wonderful combination as they both oscillated in and out of the melody and harmony with cheerful strains of piano under his slow, earnest melody. The movement ended in a lovely phrase, his earnest sound reaching jazzy notes as her chords rumbled quickly to reach the coda.

"Perpetual Motion," or "Perpetuum Mobile," by J Strauss II included all three brass musicians with Mukhammadiyev on the drums. "Perpetual Motion" was a unique, unconventional piece, with a lovely melody that jumped back and forth with a joyous rhythm, Timershin maintaining the structured melody very well, the trilling, energetic waltz melody entering strange, delightful variations when Mukhammadiyev slowly entered with his drum, adding a sharp, crisp beat with his drums, a modern sound infused into the warm, quickly paced sound of the trombone and French horn. Slowly, he added more layers of percussive sound to his beat until it leant an energetic, almost circus-like gaiety to the piece, so upbeat and classic, characteristic of

Strauss II's light music.

Timershin took up the main melody in "Hora Staccato" by Romanian virtuosic violinist and composer G Dinicu, accompanied by Micheva-Kantcheva and Mukhammadiyev, this time on the xylophone. The tune starts out with the same humorous rhythm of a light-hearted Greek melody, with the simple chords accompanying the bright melody until suddenly the melody transformed to a second, minor melody that was much more Eastern, Eastern European, almost Turkish in its urgent minor tone and swift intricate turns of phrase, Timershin's trumpet sound resembling the polka or klezmer clarinet while Micheva-Kantcheva's piano rumbled on in pleasant 2/4 polka chords to catch up and Mukhammadiyev's light, breezy xylophone followed through gracefully in a kind of echo of the melody.

Carl Maria von Weber's "Hunter's Chorus" from the opera "Der Freischutz" had the wonderfully monumental, sensible sound of a conventional brass ensemble, the sound bright and cheerful which was perfectly suitable for the tone of the chorus, while Eric Cook's "Bolivar," featuring Gapparov on the trombone accompanied by Micheva-Kantcheva and Mukhammadiyev who beat castanets for this piece, was bold and rich in its Spanish melody, the rich running sound of the ceremonious, strong brass, now triumphant and proud, now somber and almost funereal, echoed by the piano chords, now remarkably dramatic and rich, now deep and rumbling, returning to the main catchy melody.

Morricone's celebrated "A Fistful of Dollars" theme was played by Timershin, introduced by the soft minor chords of Micheva-Kantcheva, his tone more warm, like a Mexican trumpet, than in the movie version, but almost exactly like the film version in its melody, especially when Mukhammadiyev began the military-style brushing of his cymbals and soft beating of the snare drums, increasing as Timershin performed with greater crescendo, the impassioned trumpet sound impressive.

McHugh's "I'm in the Mood" and Lupie's "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White" were sweet, light jazz pieces, the first piece featuring a sweet, slow, somewhat bluesy tune from Timershin, Gapparov and Aliyev's harmony resembling the brass of Gil Evans and Maria Schneider somewhat, while a second was bossa-nova melody with lovely jazzy chords from the piano and light percussion underneath the warm dancing brass, with very impressive glissando phrases from Timershin.

Zemp's "Trombonist in Love" featured Gapparov, with the melody opened with such a cheerful, bright note, Mukhammadiyev using his steel brush over the cymbals lightly, and Timershin and Aliyev echoing Gapparov's warm-hearted melody in staggered harmony,



Faisal Khalifa on xylophone.

creating a unique dynamic to the piece, the gentle, sweet trombone solos punctuated by the sharp click of the drum and the back-and-forth call and response of the trumpet and horn.

The last piece, which featured student Faisal Khalifa on the xylophone with the whole ensemble to perform a wildly popular samba tune, Khalifa playing with confident grace and deftness on the xylophone echoed by the brass while the piano sounded out rich samba chords and Mukhammadiyev keeping up the pace with energetic percussive accompaniment.

The music – and the performers – were so engaging and talented, and the audience so taken by the performance, that one felt surprised to have reached the end so soon, but the final tune really ended the evening on a very energetic, vivid note, and left the audience looking forward to a Music Circle Season of 17 more concerts to come.

For more information on upcoming concerts, lectures, workshops, and other events, please contact the al-Maidan Cultural Center through telephone (2563 6561 and 2563 6528) or email (membership@darmuseum.org.kw).



Edward Timershin on trumpet.



Sayiduburhon Gapparov on trombone.

Beethoven Duo Perform Time-Honored Classics at AUK

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI AND SARAH KHALAF



Fedor Elesin on cello (left) and Alina Kabanova on piano (right). Photo taken by Sara Soliman.

On October 4, 2010, the Music Program of the American University of Kuwait in partnership with the German Embassy hosted the Beethoven Duo, Alina Kabanova and Fedor Elesin. Born in the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol, Alina began to lean towards a musical career very early in her life. In the span of nine years, she has been the recipient of multiple prizes and awards and has won several soloist competitions such as during Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concert and received a special award for young, aspiring artists at the music school at the Moscow Conservatory. Fedor Elesin was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and received his first cello at the age of five. While in school from 1989 to 1998, Elesin's first public concerts took place. They began in 1996 when he performed on Russian television (the „First Channel“), the Shostakovich Cello Concerto, and with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra. As a student at the University of Music and Theatre in Hamburg, he was fortunate enough to be acquainted with accomplished cellist and teacher, professor Wolfgang Mehlhorn. In dieser Zeit errang Fjodor Elesin zahlreiche Siege bei nationalen und internationalen Wettbewerben. Neben sechs ersten Preisen und vielen weiteren Auszeichnungen waren jedoch ganz entscheidend die Verleihung eines Gand-Cellos der Deutschen Stiftung „Musikleben“ und der letzte Grand Prize der IBLA-Foundation in Italien.

Im Jahr 2006, unter der künstlerischen Leitung von Maestro Marcello Abbado, entstand mit der Pianistin Alina Kabanova, das Beethoven Duo, das spätestens seit seinem Debüt in der CARNEGIE HALL NEW YORK im April 2008, zu den Kammermusikensembles der Spitzenliga zählt. Together, Kabanova and Elesin founded and constituted the Beethoven Duo in 2006 under the artistic direction of Maestro Marcello Abbado Beethoven. The duo made their musical debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

What struck the audience most about this powerful performance by this remarkable duo is the intensity with which they deliver their music. It is, after all, a channeling of an individual's emotions and can successfully capture and enthrall a crowd. They began by sampling the timeless work of German composer, Ludwig van Beethoven, Sonata 4 in A major (or the key of A) composed in 1808. Although it is all one composition, Beethoven organized it in such a way that it would be played at varied paces, what are known as movements: *allegro ma non tanto* (fast but not too much), *allegro molto* (very fast), and *allegro vivace* (lively and fast). The piece is a solemn one and sedated the audience for a while as they were moved by it; you cannot help but smile when listening to it. It is, therefore, not surprising to discover that Beethoven composed it as a dedication to Ignaz Gleichenstein, an

accomplished cellist who took over the running of Beethoven's affairs some time after Ferdinand Ries, Beethoven's comrade and whom assisted him with the physical constraints of composition, left Vienna in 1805. It is the most popular and loved work of the composer. In addition to the reputation this composition garnered, having Kabanova and Elesin perform it definitely generated positive reviews because they are certainly individuals who are committed to their respective crafts and deliver serious renditions of several compositions. The duo transitioned to the livelier version of the piece which

leading to an intense pinnacle), *allegro* (energetic and suddenly concluded), *largo* (moves rather slowly and is marked by a dark backdrop provided by the piano), and *allegro* (upbeat melody played by both instruments). Much like the history behind this piece, it is quite heated at times and takes the audience on an emotional journey with some movements ending abruptly. The last represented composer of the night is none other than the celebrated Tchaikovsky, a Russian composer of the Romantic era. Most people are so detached from classical music but Tchai-



Elesin and Kabanova with representatives of the Music Program of AUK, President Thompson, and the German Embassy. Photo taken by Sara Soliman.

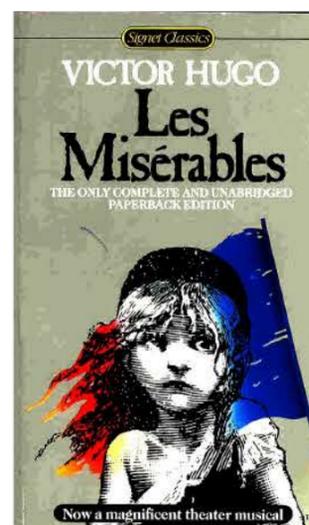
flows beautifully and is characterized by varying degrees of volume and tempo and understanding how to manipulate both to create effect as well as sharper sounds throughout. It was a departure from the melodic tune heard earlier and contrasted wonderfully with it. The last rendering of the piece was played *adagio cantabile*; in other words, it was songlike, graceful and calm. Music like that transports you to another place and this one might resemble a brisk walk outdoors.

Next was a sampling of one of the most celebrated composers of the 20th century, Soviet Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich's Sonata 4 in D minor composed in 1934. Similar to Beethoven's composition, this one had four movements which Kabanova and Elesin performed in the following succession: *allegro non troppo* (interchanging of cello and piano themes

kovskiy might (unknowingly) ring a bell with anyone who's watched Walt Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*; the musical score and songs hummed and sung, respectively, by generations after it came out in 1959 were adaptations of numbers from the 1890 ballet entitled *Sleeping Beauty* by Tchaikovsky. Kabanova and Elesin performed "The Hunt" in G major which was quite quick and cheerful. The Beethoven Duo, much like many musical acts who perform at AUK, masterfully conveyed, through these great works, the pedagogical importance of classical compositions. Such advancements (or deteriorations, rather) of the music industry such as catchy guitar riffs and auto-tune are sadly more circulated. This isn't the 18th century but for that night, it was and we would have liked it to be so for a lot longer.

Les Misérables – A Book Review

BY SARAH KHALAF*



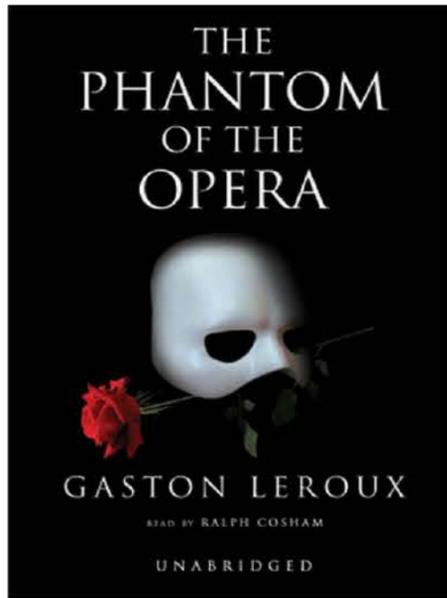
Les Misérables is full of characters whose lives are linked together. Jean Valjean, the main character, steals a

loaf of bread for his starving sister and her family and was incarcerated for nineteen years. An old rival, Javert, pursues him because Valjean breaks parole. Javert has disagreements because he sees the world in black and white and Valjean exposes him to the grays. While mayor, Valjean meets Fantine - an employee of his that used to work in his factory. He feels guilty because she is dying and promises to take care of her daughter, Cosette. Cosette is staying with the Thénardiens. The father and mother are villains and later drag their children into it. After Valjean observes them abusing her, he buys Cosette from them and takes her to a

convent school where he gets a job. By the time she's a teenager, he feels safe enough to buy a house for them to live in. Cosette eventually falls in love with a revolutionary, Marius. Soon Valjean saves him from the barricade. Valjean also allows Javert, who is still chasing him, to escape from the revolutionaries. In the end, Javert's understanding of right and wrong is utterly destroyed and he cannot handle the gray, so he commits suicide. Cosette and Marius get married, and Valjean confesses to Marius of his past. Valjean removes himself from Cosette and dies of heartache. It is a lovely story, which is filled with detail and character.

The Phantom of the Opera- A Book Review

BY SARAH KHALAF*



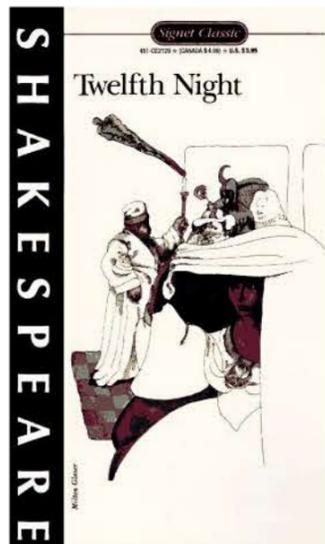
The Phantom of the Opera is about a young lady named Christine Daaé, a ballet dancer at the Paris Opera House. She is the musical student of a repulsively malformed musical genius who hides in shadows, living beneath the Opera House. Most people call him the Phantom or Opera Ghost, but she calls him the Angel of Music. He has been secretly teaching her how to sing. When

Carlotta, the main female lead at the opera, leaves, Christine is called upon to sing, and she does so gracefully. But this does not mean well for her.

Raoul de Chagny, a man whom she has known for some time, sees her sing and remembers her. He then becomes passionately interested in her, but the Angel of Music does not allow it as doing so will determine the fate of not only Christine, but of the entire Paris Opera House. Instead of letting them run away together, the Angel of Music kidnaps Christine in order to train her further. After unmasking him and revealing the horrible abnormality on his face, Christine runs away in astonishment. Now, she is the enemy of the Phantom. She must hide from him at all times when she is in the Opera House, which also makes Raoul afraid for her. In desperation, after another performance by Christine, the Phantom kidnaps her again. He tries all to get rid of Raoul, who follows them down under the Opera House. Instead of doing so, however, he ends up making Christine and Raoul fall further in love with each other, and even more desperate to escape.

The Twelfth Night

BY SARAH KHALAF*



guises herself as a young man and becomes Orsino's servant, calling herself Cesario. Orsino sends Viola to Olivia to reveal his passionate love for her; but when Olivia meets Viola, she falls in love with "him," assuming Viola is a male. During the course of the play, Viola also falls in love, with her new master, Orsino. Meanwhile, the servants and other characters present additional comedy of confusions, disguises, and practical jokes, such as when Maria (Olivia's maid), Sir Toby (Olivia's uncle) and Sir Andrew (Sir Toby's friend) send a fake letter from Olivia to Malvolio (Olivia's steward), claiming that she is in love with him, and requesting that he wear some rather bizarre clothing for her sake. Illyria, in which the play takes place, is a fantastical world where time and wisdom do not exist.

The play centers on the characters Orsino, Duke of Illyria, and the woman he believes he is in love with, Olivia, "a rich countess." After a shipwreck, twins, Sebastian and Viola, are separated, and Viola dis-

Struggles in Gold Mountain

BY AMAL BEHBEHANI

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See is a story about two Chinese sisters and the abrupt changes that occur in their life. The sisters are complete opposites of one another: Pearl, the older sister, is the plain and responsible one while her sister, May, is the young, glamorous one. Each has a role to play, but when tragedy strikes their family, their evaluation of one another and of themselves alters.

The story continues to describe the ruin they've become and the troubles they endure as they enter a foreign country. The story is broken into three parts, each reflecting a phase the sisters go through. Creatively written, it takes the reader into the world of Pearl and May. We

do not only get to see their surroundings, but also receive an insight into their thoughts and struggles.

When one side of the story is presented, it is only at the end that the reader sees the other side of the story. The revealed secrets show that not everything is black and white; there are two sides to every story. Part of the time you want to dislike either of the sisters for their actions, but Lisa See turns the story around and shows reasons to their actions. It makes you wonder: if people communicated their real motives, would society then have a really hard time understanding individuals?

The struggle of the Chinese in America during the 1940s is de-

picted through the sisters' eyes. Issues such as immigration, the formation of Chinatown, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor are shown from the sisters' point of view, and shows a different account of it when you are standing in the sidelines. The sisters experience the immigration process and show how ridiculous it was, and the treatment of the Chinese during the process.

Even though their journey to Gold Mountain passed through many struggles and tragedies, there is still a note of hope in every chapter. Readers may not like the ending, but it presents an ending in where there is still a beginning for the characters to find hope and a happy ending.

*Editorial note: the book reviews were mistakenly printed under Nur Soliman's name in the previous issue, when they are originally written by Sarah Khalaf.

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE TO GET MARRIED?

He loves me! She loves me not! College is one of those places where relationships bloom! Back in the early days of American higher education, some women used to go to college to earn an MRS degree. Have you seen the Julia Roberts movie, *Mona Lisa Smile*? I have heard students say that females should marry before 25 and males can marry whenever. Women must think about having babies and don't want to be too

old, in spite of all the medical advances!

Dr. Emily Kensington (I found her on Google instead of reading *Cosmo!*) recommends that people are better off waiting to get married for a variety of reasons. (I waited until I was 37-ancient in some of your eyes, I know- and still didn't get it right the first time!) Here are some of Dr. Kensington's thoughts about marrying young:



1. Teenage or early adult marriages have a divorce rate of 75 to 85%. The older the female is in her first marriage, the longer it will last. (Mine lasted seven years, -whalaaa, what would have happened I married in my 20's?)
2. People's needs and goals change when they hit 30! You are a much different person at 30 than at the butterflies in the tummy puppy love that generally lasts two to six months when you are in your 20's!
3. When you are in your early twenties, you generally are not mature enough to know that love is not enough for a marriage. You have to think job, health insurance, children, etc., so why rush the adult responsibilities?
4. You must be totally emotionally, physically and financially independent from your parents for a healthy marriage. It requires two independent individuals. Marriage isn't for escaping from your parents.
5. Youth is a time to be selfish! You should think about your needs, goals, and relationship requirements. When you are in your early 20's do you really know, let alone care about anyone else enough to change your needs, goals and requirements?
6. How well do you know yourself? What do you want to do in life? What do you want to contribute to the world? What's your purpose? Does your love interest have similar world views and life visions because that fuels and sustains a relationship?

I fully understand that our culture is much different from America when it comes to relationships, engagement and marriage. When I was a teenager, I was allowed to go out in groups with male and female friends. (And yes, sometimes my brothers went along!) When I turned 16, I was allowed to have a 'boyfriend' and go out to dinner, sports events or the movies. Our families knew one another and approved. In this culture, you would have said I was engaged. My boyfriend and I dated for 4 years! We talked about marriage; we were soooooo in love. We broke up because I moved to England to live

with my parents. I didn't want to go at first-silly me! While I was away, I realized I wanted different things in life. When I went home for a vacation, Sam and I had grown apart plus he was an idiot! My love blinders were miraculously removed after the cross Atlantic flight!

There is a lot of pressure to find the "perfect" mate. Marriage is a beautiful union but can you really appreciate the beauty when you are twenty? Does age really make a difference when you are thinking about marriage? Why or why not? Here is what the Wolf Pack said about marrying young...

RESPONSES:

Greetings,
Well for me as Kuwaiti female in my mid 20s and married since 6 years with 3 kids now... I believe that a woman should think of getting married after the age of 25 and I feel more mature and realistic than before. Even in condition of non-married, my girlfriends at the age of 25 have changed and have become mature and I could notice it about them. At the age of 20, still a teenager, lives in dreams and thinks that she will have the love that is in the movies but when the person gets older I believe things would be clearer and the rate of divorce might be less. "M"

A Christian's Perspective :
I believe nothing works if the Lord is not in. The age doesn't matter. I say what matters the most is whether the Lord is the lead or not.
For if you really love the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul, you would ask for his decision/approval regarding your commitment and believe it or not, the Lord will answer. Moreover, a person who is so passionate for the Lord would always keep in mind that the Lord is the lead, and he will provide your needs at the appointed time.
Everything has a time, we should not hurry, and we should not reject opportunities, but wait on the Lord and bring glory to his Name. Be blessed, "M"

I understand your view, because my mother is American (who has converted to Islam for almost 20 years)...but she still has the same background as most Americans, which is basically for every individual to be independent...
The thing is, it is not just a culture thing as you have said that encourages us to marry young...It is our religion too (and I want to emphasize the culture and religion are two very different things. Muslims come from ALL over the world and we all have the same beliefs).
But as for the question "why does our religion encourage us to marry young?" You said our youth is a time for us to be selfish. Well in our religion we are told the exact opposite. We are supposed to at LEAST TRY to be as unselfish as we can be. Sacrifice doesn't mean we are sacrificing ourselves as individuals; it is a much deeper and spiritual attachment to ourselves.

The issue with marriage isn't really age. It is how a person finds their "spouse" to be and how they choose them. Marriage is commitment and shared responsibility. When a married couple is of similar ethnicity, religion and socio-economic level, it is a lot easier for both of them of course. Family approval would be another issue to how long a marriage lasts. Many couples that get married after a relationship and sometimes without the approval of both families end up "discovering" someone they did not know. Of course that would be an obvious thing. Two people living together and sharing responsibilities are very different from two people in a relationship. Even if a marriage isn't based on love, it doesn't mean that it would not exist in a marriage. Marriage shouldn't be premised on emotion only. In arranged marriages, there is a combination of emotion and thoughtfulness as well. Whereas relationships that come after love usually are based on emotion, which blinds the couple of each other's faults. Sometimes the other person has a fault that when two people live together, it can't be handled. This "fault" can be as simple as the way the spouse drinks their tea and it would be able to turn life into a living hell for both of them. The age isn't the issue. The issue is how the spouse is chosen and on what basis. (anonymous)

I believe this is a topic of huge debate but this is what I think. I personally believe it's a matter of luck to meet the person you truly love. Age just gives a person more time to find the best person that suits him (since I don't believe in perfect). I believe the best age to get married is when the people involved decide. Also, other people's experiences shouldn't be included in your judgment since everyone went through a different situation! This is basically a matter of trusting your heart and fate. If fate smiles in your face, voila you got a life-long wife. If not... you can start the search again. Don't forget... just trust in your heart. Thank you, AK.

Also, in ISLAM (not just the Arab culture) pre-marital relations are not allowed. But, as HUMAN BEINGS, we NEED the connection with the opposite sex. Therefore, Islam makes marriage the easier option for them to be together (and be accepted by the community).

If you think about it, how many single mothers are there because their boyfriend didn't want to play his part after he "enjoyed himself" with her and poured down ALL the responsibility on her?

In Islam, marriage is a union where each partner has their part, and tries their best to make the other's life as easy as possible. Is there such a thing as a perfect marriage? Of course not, because we as human beings are not perfect. All we can do is try to do our best and hope that Allah makes it easier on us. (anonymous)

I believe marriage does not depend on someone's age as much as on their maturity. Many people in their 20's might be just as mature as someone in their 30's.

Definitely no one should marry very young, but mid-twenties is quite about right, as it's the age where usually the human mind has well-matured and her or his life would be quite stable. Yet, it also depends on where you're from. For example, in Kuwait, usually women get married in early or mid twenties, but in America some might think that a woman in her 20's is still too young. Traditions and cultures play a large role, but in the end, live your life to the fullest and ALWAYS consider your choices. You're never too young, or too old to live your dreams, never let anything get in your way. (anonymous)

I don't think that there's a best age for marriage. There are people that know what to do and how to deal with situations at an early age, although I must admit these people are RARE. I also believe that marriage is "neseb"; in English, "destined". (anonymous)

MORE RESPONSES:

It actually doesn't have to do with the age, it's something related to the human. I mean it depends on the person (he / she), for example, the way he / she thinks has a huge effect on the relationship. Also many many people don't know what love is and how to love. It's not about this person, whether he / she is (handsome or beautiful) so I can love or not. It's about the personality itself. If you love someone you would love everything in his / her personality, even the dark side. I don't mean you have to, but you consider everything in your partner unique. If many teenagers got divorced, most of the time they don't understand each other well, they don't know each other well. However, love is not just "I love you". Don't say "I love you" before you truly understand this word, you have to figure out what it means first. Because it's more than a word. Furthermore, we have heard many times that love is blind. Well, it's not about love being blind, it's about us, when we neglect something in our lives then we try to blame anything else while we are the ones who should be blamed. Finally, never judge a book based on its cover. For the perfect partner you will find him / her if you are perfect! And no one is perfect. Note: I am talking in general. "MAK"

I do believe that marriage is not the most important thing to happen to a girl and that she can live a happy life without it. She can be educated, with a respectable job and her own independent life but in case she does want to get married she should know that it will be a load on her, like responsibilities of taking care of her husband and the house and, maybe in the future, kids and as long as she is ready to accept that responsibility it should be okay for her to get married no matter what her age is. As for the relationship requirements as well as the other requirements that you have mentioned, I do believe that love between both sides is a very important one as it can get the couple to tolerate some of the troubles that they will face and it will help them in growing stronger with years to come but that doesn't mean that everything will always work out as there is still a big chance of the couple breaking up because of uncontrollable situations that they may face. I'm not really a big believer of the quote that says "love conquers all" but still it's nice to see a teenage couple that think they have everything figured out every once in a while. (anonymous)

I don't think age has anything to do with getting married. It is all about maturity. It's a simple fact; some people grow up faster than others. I do, however, think people need to realize that love does not conquer all. People need to fully understand what getting married means and the responsibilities that come with naming someone your life partner. I know plenty of people who got married young and ended up divorced a year or two later, but I also know many couples who got married between the ages of 18 and 25 who are still madly in love and happily married 30 years later. So, in the end, it all depends on peoples' maturity level. Some people are still immature at 40 while others are mature at 20. Age should not be a factor in marriage. "S"

This is the topic that my friends and I have been discussing for a long time since we are in our 20's, probably just ahead of getting married.

I actually agree with Dr. Emily Kensington's points, but in my opinion, I believe that being a grown up, responsible, or independent don't really have a certain number. In other words, some people can handle a house of wife and kids at the age of 25. Others can't even see themselves getting married by the age of 30! So it mostly depends on the personalities of people themselves. Plus, if the two sides have a close level of personality, a close level of social class, a close level education, etc., then most likely they can work out their marriage fine.

Sometimes I feel that am ready to get engaged, without thinking hard through it, but when I wake up the next morning, I take a big step back realizing that it was just a "false" feeling. When thinking of the big responsibility of getting married and the bigger responsibilities after, I find myself not mature enough to take this step. I feel that I should wait a couple of years, find a job, do the things that I always wanted to do, go to places I've never been to and then think of marriage. My friend on the other hand, who is one year older than me and a student, is married. When I ask him about it, he tells me that everything is going fine with his marriage. When I asked him: how do you manage your time between college, your friends, your family and your wife, he told me that it was difficult to do so in the first few months, but then things start to go into the right direction. He said that if one side of the couple is the type that understands then there is nothing to worry about. One lifts the other.

So if you think about it, there is no big difference between my friend and me when it comes to age or education, just the maturity and the personality. And I am pretty sure that he is not the first or the only out there. So no, age doesn't really matter. However, I still think that getting married without having a job is very challenging and risky. Marriage is not a game; it is a step of a life time, at least for some. (anonymous)

Yes, because love is different than marriage, you can fall in love at any age, but to get married and be responsible you have to be mature enough and be able to handle the responsibility. Marriage is not only about love. It is how well you can build a new generation. "MAH"

After being away from Kuwait for 3 months for the summer, I came back with a lot of news from my friends who got engaged. I was very surprised because all of them are between 19 -22 years old. So I thought to myself, is this natural? Are these people out of their mind? Or is it just me?

In my opinion, I think age is not a factor when it comes to marriage as long as you are mature enough to know what exactly you want from life. If you still didn't decide what you want to be in the future or if you don't have a clear vision about your life path, then you should take a deep breath and think about these things first. Once you know what exactly you want in life, then you can find the right person to share your dreams with. And hopefully then, you will live happily ever after. "NB"

In the beginning, I would like to show you my impression of this topic. I agree with you; marriage needs a long time of thinking in order to increase his/her awareness. But I see that the thinking period should not exceed the age of 20's. In my opinion, knowing each other for 1 to 4 years in the 20's is enough to decide many important things about their relationship, plus setting their goals will be much accurate. At the end, I'm convinced that marriage is considered a "crowning" of any love story between any "true" lover, and through the marriage level, they will have a new and unique experience that may increase their awareness and their love level by putting them in the face of responsibilities... "NA"

Very Interesting Topic...I liked the way you elaborated on your love and marriage relationships' path ...

In my opinion, marriage should not be restricted by a specific age. Yet, it should be restrained to the female's achievements and wants.

As for the female's achievements, in order for a female to get married she needs to have her self-esteem fulfilled, otherwise the male will definitely know that he has a 100% hold on her, which will lead to many unwanted consequences that might end up ruining the marriage. That's because it is very important for the male to view his mate as strong, confident, independent, and, most importantly, SMART! For the previous to be met, a female should place a value on herself by at least not marrying before attaining a high educational degree, and having a job is a plus! Also, she needs to have a distinguished outstanding identity within a specific group in an organization or a university, for instance. It is also very vital for the female to acknowledge who she is, what are her capabilities, and what she wants to end up doing in life. If her marriage won't interfere with her ambitions, nor will it take away her personality, then, why not get married?!

What about wants that a female needs to have fulfilled?

Unlike others, I think it is no shame to say that marriage is a bargain; love itself is never enough! If I believe in myself, this will reflect on many areas in my life, not only relationships. Therefore, I have the faith that the good enough male for me will come along one day. A good enough male for me ought to be spiritual, healthy, respectable, cultured, educated, smart, generous, capable of having a family, and above all respects commitment! And if he loves me much, and I at least like

him then LUCKY ME! A marriage requires a lot of giving up from both partners, but the foundation should be strong enough. I am not being too demanding or greedy; it is just that why shall I get married if I am not going to get the kind of life that females have always dreamed of?! There is nothing impossible, a SMART and faithful female can get everything she wants from a relationship.

This leaves us at the point that age itself to some extent has nothing much to do with marriage. Therefore, a confident female should not worry much about getting older and being single, because at some point the right person will definitely come along and thereafter it is she who decides where to lead this relationship! Yet, for me not to exaggerate, I still have to admit that in our society females can't wait too long to get married (Not after they hit their 27 or so), one reason is the ongoing societal criticism (which I don't really care about), and the second would be that, as a human being, how long can a female overcome her sexual desires while being single?! But, I can still say that a smart, confident, and mature female has many chances making her way through a good conditioned marriage before she hits her 30's. It is always nice to keep a good balance between needs, wants, and desires.

When I get involved in such a conversation with my friends I always conclude saying, "every very often the right thing happens to the right person for the right reason at the right time". Also, I do advise my friends, telling them not to add someone to their lives in order to change; rather they should change within themselves, because we are the ones who construe our lives!

This ran long, but I was so excited expressing my point of view. "HB"



Fall 2010 Schedule

OCTOBER

"Introduction to Leadership" presented by Tadd Kruse, Division of Student Affairs.
Tuesday Oct. 5, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"AUK Library Resources" presented by Asma Al-Kanan, Reference/Instruction Librarian.
Tuesday Oct. 12, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Self Confidence" presented by Dr. Aly Mansour, Division of Business & Economics.
Tuesday Oct. 19, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Share Our LEAD Experience" presented by AUK 2009 Outstanding Club Leaders.
Tuesday Oct. 26, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

NOVEMBER

"Tips to Get Effective Time" presented by Jason Sullivan, Mental Health Counselor.
Tuesday Nov. 9, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Resume Preparation" presented by Amy Kushner, Student Success Center.
Tuesday Nov. 23, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Student Life & Leadership" presented by Dr. Carol Ross, Dean of Student Affairs.
Tuesday Nov. 30, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

DECEMBER

"Art and Stress" presented by Dr. Sharon Lawrence, Division of Humanities & Arts.
Tuesday Dec. 7, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Leadership in Sports" presented by Trevor Taylor, AUK Sports Coordinator.
Tuesday Dec. 14, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

JANUARY

"Table Manners" presented by Bibi Al-Ghanim, Director of The House of Etiquette.
Tuesday Jan. 4, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room

"Leadership Styles" presented by Damian Medina, Director of Student Life.
Tuesday Jan. 11, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Library Conference Room



Thanks so much for your thoughts about marriage and what you feel may be the best age to take the plunge! As you can see, there is no one right answer. We can all agree however, before you embark upon such a huge endeavor, know yourself and love for the "right" reasons. Backing out of the Dean's Corner until next time. dcars

everybody here at AUK?

If not, then it's never too late to start from this minute.

Do not break a rule, but try bending one.

Act like a true nerd for once in your life.

Start a healthy, Starbucks-free diet!

Go crazy the night before the Graduation ceremony!

Prove that you're able to conduct miracles. Switch off

es.

Collect your favorite professors' contact numbers and emails to stay in touch with them after you graduate.

Contemplate this question: when you leave, will you be remembered?

Have you left your mark at AUK?

Learn a new random skill!

Enjoy every minute you spend on campus and make your final year the best one yet!

Talk to "that" person you always wanted to get to know but never did.

Talk to "that" person you used to know but now pretend you don't.

Compliment someone!

Explore all parts of campus!

Join clubs! (refer to the Office of Student Life for that).

Get out of the classroom; meet new people!

Remove yourself from Facebook for a month; it is surprisingly freeing!

Start an assignment unusually early! (yes, we know it is such a novel idea).

Have a study group at the Diner.

Create a list comparing yourself at the time you graduated from high school and now, as you graduate from university.

If you have free time on your hands, take a walk around campus, remember the memories and smile.

Go to the AUK Bookstore and buy a piece of AUK merchandise.

Feed the cats in the hallway, but don't let anyone see you!

Settle any differences you might have with a friend. Don't hold a grudge.

Reconnect with a classmate from the first class you attended at AUK.

Recycle; save a tree and don't write a paper...risk it!

(just kidding of course - refer to your sensible brain for that).

Read a book you dislike.
Call an old friend you lost touch with and re-keep in touch as much as you can.
Spend an entire weekday on campus, from the hour the gates open until the

Write a looong letter to your best friend and mention every single memory you shared, even the boring, unmentionable ones. Let them know that even

d work is acknowledged.



Take a (memorable) picture with Dr. Carol!
Think about your accomplishments over the past few years.
Be proud of them and sigh.

Attend an AUK event and become a "side-kick" (refer to the Office of Student Life for that).

Stay up so late cramming for an exam that you fall asleep where you're studying.
Play a board game on the grassy area with some friends!

Have the courage of your conviction to participate in a heated debate in one of your classes.

Take a course just for fun in your last semester, and exert your pressure from schoolwork.

Read a book by an author you've never heard of.

Play one memorable practical joke!

Write an honest letter to your parents thanking them for getting you where you are today.

Introduce yourself to the Presiden

Plan an event, even if a random one. (refer to the Office of Student Life for that).
Try to park within the designated parking lines perfectly for an entire semester!

! world!

t).

Waste two hours of your day just relaxing in the Library.

Try making a video montage of your time at AUK; trust us, you'll need it later.

Smile at a stranger!

Dine with the President or the Dean!

Try making your classmates and professor gasp in amazement at an intellectually original statement you throw out in class.

Go to the piano room and give it a try!

Embrace the university experience!

Draw a chart of your future plans, draw not write!

Stop whining!

Teach someone something you recently learned in class.

Celebrate a friend's birthday on campus!

Attend or participate in at least one sports match at AUK. (refer to the Office of Student Life for that).

Get started!

Exercise regularly!

Create a scrap book!

Do something silly and unexpected of you!

Write a personal letter to each and every one that has touched your life in the last few years, simply thank them.

Check out the AUK gym!

Go back and visit your high school!

Commit to memory at least one poem of your choice.

Find a job or a Graduate school from n

Become a Student Worker for one semester at least. (refer to the Office of Student Life for that).

Protest something!

Write an anonymous letter to a professor in the middle of

Hand in an assignment a week early!
Withdraw from a course for reasons of laziness!
(Kidding...again - refer to your grades for that).
Actually graduate! (Refer to yours

Make your face turn blue by screaming at midnight before the first finals.

Be a hero and donate your blood at the Voice of AUK's Annual Blood Drive! (refer to us for that).

Sit outside of the Library when classes change and watch all the people walking by.

Keep a journal!

Read the newspaper. Everyday. Remember that there is life outside of AUK.

Lead a family member or friend on a tour of campus.

Sit on every bench on campus!

Start procrastinating!

Stop procrastinating!

Invent a new nickname for yourself!

Check out every book in the Library.

Correct your professor.

Stop worrying (really!)



Mental Coke and Mentos

BY CHARAH RAJI

critical thinking, and it is the first question we subconsciously ask ourselves: how do I feel about this? How do I feel about him? How do I feel about her? And so on. Emotions, however, are direct reactions involved with someone or something. Crying while watching your favorite movie, anger boiling in the pit of your stomach when your dad tells you that your favorite jeans are too tight, and laughing your head off at a joke your friend told you, are all emotions.

So why suppress them? Isn't it natural to feel them? Don't you want to cry when you fail an exam? Some people choose to ig-

nore anger out of fear of the consequences involved. Long-term suppression of emotions can (and will) lead to your mind not being able to register feelings and emotions, and leave you as blank as a white sheet of paper. You will become monotonous, boring, robotic, and you will not experience life the way you should. Of course, I'm not condoning freaking out when you feel like it! You should work with your emotions to gain something positive out of it. For example, in my Public Speaking class, we are taught that we should use our nervousness in a positive way; that is, to change nervousness into adren-

aline to get us excited for our speeches. We have to work with the emotions we have, and we should never force ourselves to feel something we don't.

Here are a few tips: to avoid anger, be open and tolerant. A good cry a month is totally healthy, and even encouraged. Laughing tightens stomach muscles, so try that out as a workout! It's not healthy to bottle those tears, because some way or the other they are going to let loose, and it's going to be ugly. Don't repress, especially if you're a stressed out student. Live, laugh, and love; it's your duty to yourself as a human.

Our Country's Most Important Product

BY HASHIM AL-SUGHAYER



have the right to be proud, you are producing our future leaders and doctors! When you think about it, we are our country's most important assets.

We are the future. In that class room are future leaders that will improve our country or doctors that will fix seemingly impossible problems. Every one of us can and will make a difference in our country and in the world. We have so many doors that we will open and explore and the first step in opening these doors is finishing our education and getting a proper degree. I'm an AUK student who can open so many doors and, with my degree, I can, and will, explore and challenge life in every way possible. But the first step now is to finish this wonderful thing that I started: AUK. This degree will help me and believe me when I say it: it's the best thing that ever happened to me. Getting the chance to learn and experience the proper educational journey with AUK is the best thing that ever happened to me. After ten or twenty years, I will look back and just remember all the good times that I've spent here in AUK. So, what I would like to say is: thank you, AUK, for giving me the chance to challenge myself and for expanding my opportunities. Thank you for making us our country's most important product! I would like to welcome all our new students. I hope you enjoy the journey here at AUK.

When you produce a good thing, you will be proud, but when you can produce a great, ever-lasting thing, you will be satisfied! I was listening to my Economics professor when he said something interesting that made me realize how important college and the whole concept of education can be. He said: "I always feel proud when I get the chance to produce a good student." Yes Sir you

ture. In that class room are future leaders that will improve our country or doctors that will fix seemingly impossible problems. Every one of us can and will make a difference in our country and in the world. We have so many doors that we will open and explore and the first step in opening these doors is finishing our education and getting a proper degree. I'm an AUK student who can open so many doors and, with

Has Technology Obliterated Direct Communication?

BY MAY OMRAN

The advanced technology era has stripped away originality in terms of communication. Should society take pride in improving archaic concepts, or should we arbitrate, deciding on a limiting expands in growth?

Advancements in technology have made seldom-used, old-fashion communications a thing of the past. To our advantage; the simpler, the quicker, the better; as the average human mind has gradually adapted to be handed things. It makes life easier. But this easy going approach has diminished the originality of direct communication with each other, affecting the way we deal with each other. Merely several years ago a development began in technology to ease human life. Now at present day, take a look at some of the successful developments in this era.

Business; in the field of interacting, business alone is vast in its advanced availability options. The internet has allowed us to: email employers with resumes, search for and attend job fairs, apply for desired jobs, arrange for interviews and even set online interviews through teleconferencing, all at a click of a button. No need to meet with individuals. Schedule or perform any type of direct communication. Sitting at home has never been so efficient.

How about a topic we all desire? FOOD. Yumm! Okay so have you seen fast food lately? Technology has made fast food come to life by ordering online for various restaurants, in addition to grocery shopping. Several clicks and a conformation; dinner and your weekly groceries are at your doorstep.

Society has come as far as building imposter online communities. With advancements in computer gaming, it has paved the way for gamers to get together in a "second life" and live life virtually. It's implausible. Social networking has recently increased dramatically; Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc. The uses of friends have become more interactive virtually rather than directly. As to mention, virtual interaction has caused controversy to arise in terms of security and safety issues. These online communities have created dangerous telecommute worlds for amateurs entering them.

Looking at the massive takeover in technology, awareness arises; a perspective in ethical issues. So sustainability in this matter becomes apprehensive, putting into consideration the high aptitude efficiency in direct communication that is becoming endangered. Haven't advancements in communications affected our dealings with each other personally since the majority of matters and conflicts may be handled virtually or electronically for ones' own state of mind to be isolated in relaxation from humans?

I believe outdated values have departed off to groups of society where technology isn't so essential. Areas where people can communicate freely and directly with each other, places which have lost value in direct communication have also lost a way of interaction. With all these new implementations presently surrounding us, how will societal interactions develop ten years from now? Wouldn't you imagine a ten year developmental spurt to leave society in isolation of their own selves?

Fresh Minds

BY DANA AL-KHURAIBET

We are clouds of enthusiasm; we are the rain of knowledge that falls upon fortuneless lands. We hold fresh minds, our imagination has no limits and our power of will is competitive. That is why we are AUK students. Each one of us is unique, but equally smart, are we. We all have our different treasured passions, but handle the hunt, can we. We are the pack that howls in the darkest of nights. Our footsteps, you will hear (and see). We are wolves in disguises!

To all AUK fresh year students! Hold your heads high. For you have entered the University of your (and many others) dreams. Remember as you keep going on, that life in general has many destinations. But it is not what matters the most. In fact, it is the journey itself! The voyage of life is important as well. It is the people you meet, the things you read, learn and observe.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond



measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?" - Marianne Williamson

Let that be your motto! Let that quotation be your guide, through thick and thin, through all of your years to come. Don't ever lose faith or hope in yourself and don't ever let someone tell you what it that

you can or cannot do is. Some happily will say "oh, go ahead. The sky is your limit!" No, that's certainly not your limit, or anyone else's. It is beyond. We do not want to finish our studies without leaving some kind of mark or should I say "footprint" behind as we walk on forward. Be inventive, outrageous and awesomely extraordinary. Be yourself! And don't be afraid to dream (a little too) big. Anyway, congratulations to us all. Study hard. Learn quick! Think big! And Become someone you admire. Good luck to us all! Let's make it worthwhile.

Convocation or Graduation?

BY EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE VOICE OF AUK



Photo taken by PR/Marketing.



Would you prefer attending a ceremony that admits you into the university experience or one that marks the end of that journey? Without a doubt, most students believe that leaving university with legitimate degrees is the most rewarding moment of their young lives. However, all that really translates into is their willingness to dismiss the significance of their collegial experiences. That being said, this misconception is widespread and takes a toll on how worthwhile these separate experiences are;

Convocation ceremonies, therefore, must not be taken lightly because they function as a roadmap would, guiding them.

Students can chart their courses and make smooth transitions as they learn to adapt to this new educational setting.

So what is a convocation ceremony? It is a formal celebration that seeks to honor the start of a student's university career whereby the institution welcomes freshmen into its community. It also explains the significance of academic life and presents and explains the symbolic symbols of the university such as the logo and the mascot. The essential function of such a ceremony is really to integrate students into a university's community, much like what AUK personnel do by getting across the idea that we

are a "Wolfpack," so that they are not as apprehensive towards expected challenges and obstacles. It is the ice-breaker, if you will. Convocations can definitely and easily be taken out of the university context because the concept was not born there to begin with. The term conveniently fits the event's proceedings and purpose but generally refers to an assemblage of people who come together for an exclusive objective.

Considering all of the benefits that first-year students will be able to acquire, why is it the case that some of the class of 2014 were absent during this year's convocation?

Students must exhibit common courtesy by appreciating the services and resources provided by their institution. Attending a function such as this can be categorised as expressing some of that gratitude. We all go by the conviction that goodbyes are the worst feelings ever to have to go through during our lifetime and yet, graduations are more worthy of students' time. Yes, we can all rejoice the fact that we have finally crossed the threshold into adulthood, degree in hand and are ready to make something of ourselves. Not to burst anyone's bubble but doesn't it also mean having to say goodbye? It may be another one of those harsh realities but it is also one we most often dread to have to experience. We understand how graduation can be thrilling and is such for too many reasons we won't be delving into. However, convocations also celebrate an

overlooked achievement: being admitted into a university. When we are in high school, we can always imagine how our lives would change as undergraduates but no one ever comprehends the magnitude of that alteration. But once we're there, there comes a sudden realization of the extent to which you can redefine and learn more about yourself. Spatial as well as atmospheric components will affect you heavily and time alone will reveal your dynamism and readiness to become more involved. It is an invigorating feeling that universities produce because they allow you to uncover hidden interests and explore them more profoundly. You can certainly begin embracing that sort of changeover by attending a convocation ceremony.

The sustenance of harmony among sizeable communities, such as universities, is reliant on several factors, most notably the induction of team spirit and integrating new members into the larger framework by way of events and activities outside of the traditional classroom environment. We all want to feel like we belong and cannot consider being a part of a group for an extended period of time unless there are established common-

alities. Make it a rule to live by to formally allow yourself to be welcomed into any group of people. Just give yourself a sound start, even if an official ceremony isn't held. You can take it upon yourself to do what is necessary to feel comfortable. When it is, don't miss it!

MPs Condemn Concert at AUK

BY NUR SOLIMAN

A recent article in the Arab Times ("MP Condemns," Oct. 1) and a second article by Salama Al-Suleimany in the al-Shahid daily ("Buramiah and al-Tabtabaie," Oct. 1) report the responses of two MPs to an upcoming concert to be held at AUK "next week," no doubt meaning the Beethoven Duo cello-piano concert featuring pianist Alina Kabanova and cellist Fedor Elesin, which took place on the evening of Monday, October 4th in AUK's Auditorium.

According to the articles, MP Dr. Dhaifullah Buramiah and MP Dr. Waleed al-Tabtabaie expressed sentiments of extreme disapproval regarding the upcoming concert. MP Buramiah said that "Islam and society frown on" such events which even violate the constitution, while MP Al-Tabtabaie said that these concerts, or "raves," as they were described in the Arabic article, are at odds with the traditions of Kuwaiti society.

As if to emphasize the importance of this issue, MP Buramiah is reported to have requested that Minister of Higher Education Dr. Moudhi al-Humoud take a "responsible stance" by canceling the concert as it is "vulgar and corruptive," and goes against Islamic tradition. The MPs also saw concerts as irrelevant to the activities of an educational institution, which should be strictly limited to "learning and knowledge."

For those of you who did not attend, you will hopefully be relieved to know that the concert did in fact go on and was well-attended by members of the AUK community and others outside the university, and received some first-rate positive reviews. It should not be surprising that the MPs' response had no effect on AUK's administration, but given the pressure AUK is frequently under from certain parts of the community, it could have been a possibility that the concert be cancelled. AUK commendably continued with their plans, but the fact that these sentiments by the MPs were expressed and published is a concern.

What made me deeply frustrated is that these announcements were made in the first place. It disturbs me that two Members of Parliament would vocalize such concerns and simply cast off all music as corruptive and, even worse, irrelevant. It is entirely true that musical trends, traditions, and media can promote different sub-cultures and have moral influences on listeners and viewers that is sometimes seen negatively, but to utterly denounce music and the arts as something irrelevant to one's education, and something that as a whole

can "corrupt minds" is incredible. Where is our country when music as a whole is called "corruptive" and "vulgar" and is said to be something that the entire Kuwaiti society apparently rejects?

It's not just about the Beethoven Duo (although some of you may still be shocked at the word "vulgar" used in connection with Classical music). In fact, it's not about them at all; it's a matter of attacking the arts that cannot defend themselves; attacking art, music, literature, when you cannot attack more serious issues in the community like the desperate need to address education, and the need to reinstate a sense of ethics and values in the community as a whole. It's about enforcing rules where no-one can fight back, while the problems that lie at the heart of society are left ignored.

Have the MPs forgotten that culture is what makes us human, is what brings a community and a country together? Have they forgotten, or ever known, the joy and sense of belonging when listening to the traditional music of their own country? Have they forgotten that studying and embracing the arts is very much an integral and incredibly important aspect of anyone's education? I'm not talking about current, questionable media culture that segments of our society disapprove of; I'm talking about established music of our own and other cultures. It's not about being knowledgeable of names, dates, musical eras, and so on, but to appreciate books, art, music, theatre, film contributes to creating a well-rounded person acquainted with history, cultural development, and aware of the changes in their own community's philosophies, outlooks and identity.

To define education as devoid of any cultural education means to turn education into schooling, into instruction and education missing its other half that helps internalize meaning, give value to education, and facilitate meaningful connections between students and learners of different communities. Music - culture - is edifying, is inspiring, ennobling. It amazes me that this is brought to question and that a huge part of human development and achievement is deemed unnecessary, even harmful. Actually, it doesn't amaze me that much, considering that the arts in many, many parts of the world are among the first to experience budget cuts and lay-offs, and are the first school and university programs to go, but that doesn't mean we should ignore it when dissenting voices call for the canceling of a concert.

It would be interesting to learn why these MPs are suddenly in-

terested in AUK's musical activity when AUK has hosted many concerts, student performances, and musical festivals prior to this particular concert. Perhaps things are quiet at Parliament and they found themselves with nothing to do but turn to their favorite university. Interested readers may like to look at the constitution which MP Dr. Buramiah says denounces concerts, when it clearly states in Article 14 that "the state shall promote science, letters, and the arts and encourage scientific research therein."

Even if all of this is irrelevant to MP Dr. Buramiah and MP Dr. al-Tabtabaie, who surely find strength in their stance against the lewdness and inappropriateness of cultural events, I invite them to at least listen to Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich and see that their music is nothing like "rave" music.

I invite them to at least turn on the television and have a look at the music video channels: Not MTV, not Western channels, but Arab music channels. I invite them to take a look at those channels and see how there is a huge, gaping chasm between the deplorably "corruptive" and questionable values propagated on those channels and the concerts of Classical and traditional music. There is an equal gap between much of Arabic music today and the Arabic music in the time of Mahmoud Al-Kuwaiti, Abdul-Latif Al-Kuwaiti, Abdul-Karim Abdul-Qader, or Aisha al-Marta, or Mohammed Abdul-Wahab, Um Kulthoum, Fairouz, and others.

I mourn the blind closing of the Arab mind that is oblivious (or chooses to be oblivious) to the degenerative quality of modern Arabic music and which turns instead to denounce Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich. I ask that the MPs listen to that music and ask themselves how it cannot be like music of the spheres that is natural and beautiful, and how they can find the heart to denounce it after listening to it, if only for a moment.

Perhaps the religious tradition that MPs Dr. Buramiah and Dr. Al-Tabtabaie subscribe to is different to the religious tradition that many of us subscribe to, but surely it is against sound judgment to freely libel and slander the works and tradition and artistic production without grounded evidence and an argument. Surely it cannot be right to denounce music and claim it has harmful, corruptive qualities when there are surely more pressing, urgent matters at hand that need the assistance of Parliament rather than concerts.

GADGET TALK!

Era of Tablets

BY YUSUF MAIMOON

3 million units in just 80 days. It became 'the most quickly adopted non-phone electronic product.' Now, obviously, you were not thinking that other companies would turn their heads away and not look into this matter because they did not want the piece of the pie, did you? Well many companies entered the arena and rose, sort of. The gadget heart of mine tracked most of them on my favorite site, Engadget (www.engadget.com). What I discovered was that electronics giant, Sony, also want to play the game and has created a touch-based bedside device called the 'Dash.' HP is teasing us with their 'Slate' and another WebOS powered tablet which they promise to release later on.

Now the real contenders of the fight are Dell with 'Streak,' Samsung with 'Galaxy Tab' and surprisingly Blackberry with 'Play-

book.' With a bit of research, you can see what each of the tablets bear, but here is a simple comparison chart with all of them.

I haven't seen any tablet in the university but the iPad. Could it be that the users are mere Apple fanatics and will buy anything that the company produces, or is it that they want to read some books (why didn't they consider Amazon's Kindle?), or did they want to play Angry Birds HD? Apple has an advantage over the others because of its greatly publicized App Store. 1.5million e-books and 12 million iPad applications were downloaded in just one month! How can any other company beat that kind of madness? Well Blackberry has spoken, with its PlayBook. Compared to iPad's 9.7" screen and 680g of weight, the Playbook challenges Apple's offering by boasting 7" screen and weighs only at 400g. That's im-

pressive in the sense that the pixel density on RIM's offering is the same as the iPad's. With on-board Adobe Flash and AIR support, PlayBook has already scored a few points more than the iPad.

Apple fan boys/girls will tell you that the better doesn't always win, and will give you the example of Blackberry, Nokia and Android being better than iPhone. They would be right in this matter, sadly for me at least. If RIM has game-changing ideas like tighter integration with their Blackberry phones then it might be interesting to see how the market develops at least in Kuwait as we can see the popularity of the berries. This is exactly what Apple has done with most of its products; they have integrated everything with their iTunes ecosystem.

Should the tablets rise, then Kuwait, especially its malls, will witness a new blackberry movement. Kids will be gifted tablets instead of coloring books, footballs, or any other article that we cherish. They will be playing with it in the Avenues 'multiplayer tablet arena' while parents cool off shopping at IKEA. Teens will be lost in sub-10inch LCD screens that they won't notice anyone passing by and walk right into them. Guys might flaunt their contact details stuck onto the back of the tablets for whatever reasons they might wish to do so. Students will see time shrinking as they race away on their iPad's multiplayer games when in class. But the advantages of such a piece of brilliant technology surpass the demerits. How about having all aspects of AUK right on that 400g device? Reading this newspaper on that super-bright screen would be truly astonishing.

Know Your Gadgets

BY NADA EL-BADRY

We all know the evolution of iPads, iPhones, iPads and other Apple products have taken the technological world by storm. Apple had located a niche within the market and, in a strategic move, targeted it and produced products that they found the consumers lacked, starting with: the iPhone. From a marketing point of view, Apple's approach was to make a product that satisfied the consumer's needs: something that was user-friendly, something you could access applications from easily and so on and so forth. All around the world, the iPhone became not just a want, but a need for anyone who has the tendency to lean towards technology - or, if you're in Kuwait, then the tendency to follow the trend. As if that wasn't enough, Apple came out with yet another innovative product: the iPad. Predictably, it, too, quickly became popular, especially among teenagers. Keep in mind Apple's strategy here: customer satisfaction, and producing goods that were user-friendly. However, is that really what they are all about, or have their tactics changed?

I have heard, and you might have noticed it, too, if you are an Apple user, that with the new generation, products do not accept old accessories that are from a different brand. Evidently, Apple has installed a chip in their own accessories and the new generation of products so that, if they are not compatible, you cannot use the accessories: for example, a new

generation of the iPod would not accept an extension cord unless you bought it from the Apple store itself. While it might seem like a minor inconvenience, hardly even noticeable perhaps for the every-day Apple user, in reality Apple is slowly - but surely - ensuring that their customers buy products strictly from their store. Thus far, it does not appear to have much of an impact on their sale, but I predict that, soon enough, their consumers will become tired of the lack of choice - not to mention the fact that they are forced to pay a ridiculous sum of money for something they could get cheaper elsewhere, even if it is not "original". Personally, I am not an Apple user (not yet, at least, although I am saving up for an iPhone), but this topic was brought up on more than one occasion in one of my classes and I simply wished to inform Apple users everywhere, just in case they were as ignorant of this as I was. I suppose all I am suggesting is that you know your gadgets and your brands before purchasing them. While this might only be a minor inconvenience, you might find that something else you haven't properly researched and simply bought to follow a trend will bring you more misery than happiness, and we all know how annoying the realization that you wasted your money on something that you expected to turn out differently is. So, research, research, research!

	PlayBook	iPad	Galaxy Tab	Streak
Processor	1GHz	1GHz	1GHz	1GHz
RAM	1GB	256MB	512MB	512MB
Internal Storage	16GB / 32GB (unconfirmed)	16GB/32GB/ 64GB	16GB / 32GB	2GB
Expansion	Unknown	None	MicroSD	MicroSD
Connectivity	WiFi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR	WiFi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR	WiFi, Bluetooth 3.0	WiFi, Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
Cellular data	3G & 4G promised for future	3G optional	3G	3G
GPS	None	3G models only	Yes	Yes
Camera	3MP front, 5MP rear	None	1.3MP front, 3MP rear	VGA front, 5MP rear
Weight	400 g	680 g	382 g	222 g

Did-You-Know Facts, A Must Read!

BY FATMA IBRAHEEM

1. Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.
2. Your mouth produces 1 litre (1.8 pints) of saliva a day.
3. The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
4. The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as the Encyclopaedia Britannica.
5. Your thumb is the same length of your nose.
6. Breast cancer can cause both men and women.
7. Scientists say the higher your I.Q. the more you dream.
8. If all your DNA is stretched out, it would reach to the moon 6,000 times.
9. On average, you speak almost 5,000 words a day - and almost 80% of speaking is self-talk - talking to yourself.
10. An annoyed camel will spit at a person.

Laughing, a Cure!

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM



Opening the medicine cabinet, your eyes quickly scroll to the vitamin supplements available, the lined bottles of painkillers, sleeping pills and the strangely colorful capsules. Which one should you choose for your teeth to crunch and esophagus to swallow? Panadol just doesn't seem enough to annihilate the lingering depression you're going through after a long exhausting day. So no choice but to laugh... simply tickle yourself and laugh!

Research has suggested that laughing fosters the secretion of a hormone called Endorphin, which acts as a painkiller to the body; when released, it makes us feel better and improves our mood for a period of time. This state is equivalent to the state an individual undergoes when taking Morphine. Laughing also cures those suffering from insomnia as it causes relaxation which helps to sleep easily; thus, tries to get rid of the challenge with insomnia.

Nervousness and worrying go hand in hand with insomnia as they are the main causes of lack of sleep. Hence laughing helps relax muscle cramps resulting from nervousness which, in return, prevents expected back and neck pain. With high blood pressure, on the other hand, laughing helps relax blood arteries and capillaries allowing smooth blood flow and preventing hypertension. Away from depressant causes, laughing is also helpful for athletes because it is the

main reason for having muscles relaxed after a painful and tiresome workout.

As we encounter several days of irritable weather, we easily find that the first age group to be affected are children. Laughing, in this case, helps reduce asthma and esophagus infection since it encourages efficient breathing while allowing more air to flow in. Alongside the respiratory system, there are problems with the digestive system that could be cured by laughing because with laughing, the movement of stomach muscles facilitates digestion of complex processes and mechanisms.

By and large, laughing seems to be the cure of many problems that involve muscles; therefore, it is not far-fetched to realize that laughing can also be considered an exercise for the face muscles as well! So just improve your mood and laugh... controllably though.



BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Got a Problem? Go to Sleep



at face value, they are nonetheless imperative tools without which life would become arduous and troublesome. Imagine going about your daily life with poor learning/memory skills. If you aren't equipped with a solid memory, you might repeatedly fail to remember information during an exam. Solution? Sleep. Why? Because it enables the mind to commit new information to memory by way of a process called memory consolidation. Studies have shown that people who sleep after memorizing information will perform better on examinations.

Especially in Kuwait, weight gain has arrived at staggering figures and it seems that we have entrenched ourselves into this bleak reality. We run from physical activity like the plague and still have the audacity to systematically complain about deviations. Well, no to worry and there is no plausible way that any overweight or obese individual would take up arms

against this form of weight loss or at least maintaining weight. You've guessed it! Sleep. Chronic sleep deprivation contributes to weight gain by affecting the way our bodies process and store carbohydrates and by changing levels of hormones that affect our appetite. We are all fairly familiar with the metabolism of the body and how crucial it is for it to function smoothly to bolster bodily systems. One affordable way to achieve this is through sleep. When people become nocturnal beings, there is much reason to worry. When you rearrange the cosmology and natural order of things, you are really beginning to tamper with your very existence. Unless you belong to a family of fruit bats, there is no incentive behind staying awake to the break of dawn, none whatsoever. You will fall asleep during the daytime to pay off your sleep debt. Whether you approve of it or not, your body needs to secure the benefits that sleep provides and it will get it,

anytime and anywhere. Save yourself the embarrassment of having people talk about you for weeks on end by putting yourself to sleep when you're supposed to. If you absolutely have to stay up a while longer, don't. I know, not much to work with.

Sleep recharges your batteries and prepares you for another day however you wish to spend it; chances are you'll need to move and invigorate your senses whether you'd like to excel in the workplace or do something recreational. It can even be linked to the people you're surrounded by: if you're cranky and easily irritated because you only slept for two hours, they will quickly take notice and think less of your company. Mood swings can be affected by practically anything and not getting a good night's sleep is certainly no exception. Empirical facts do enjoy a good amount of credibility because they are sustained by research and conclusive data. So, people are more receptive towards

anything that might distress physical health. Cardiovascular health, or pertaining to the heart and blood vessels, is at serious risk if one does not keep up with sleep. Some of the consequences include hypertension, increased stress hormone levels, and an irregular heartbeat. Diseases that sleep can help fight off are immune deficiency and cancer.

There is a lot to lose, most notably your life, if you do not commit yourself to a strict sleeping schedule that takes the pattern of night and day into careful consideration. It may seem trivial and I can understand how it can be labeled as such. You, the reader, cannot dismiss it, however, after acquiring a wealth of information illustrating its advantages. Right now, wherever you are reading this, I implore you, if you feel a tad bit heavy-eyed, find a spot to rest for a while. You may joke about it but it really is no laughing matter. Sweet dreams!

A Quick Look: Green or Black?

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM



Some might think that there are olive trees that produce green olives and others that produce black ones. This is an incorrect concept, of course, since all of the different olive colors can be a product of the same tree while the only difference that lies between some olive trees is the type of olive produced.

What happens is that an olive starts off green and then turns into brown and sometimes brownish-red until it reaches its black color, which is a sign that it is fully ripe. What makes the green olive different from the black olive is that it contains less calories wherein 100 grams of green olives hold a calorie of 120 as opposed to 230 calories for 100 grams of black olives. Therefore, what is interpreted is that the darker the olive is - meaning the riper it is, the less dilute it be-

comes which makes it more concentrated in terms of oil content and calories. However, which one is considered better? Of course the dominant one - black! That's because more oil is acquired, thus making it more healthy. Yes, we all know the endless benefits of olive oil, a weapon that fights cholesterol.

Though in either case, whether green or black, olives are considered a rich source of Vitamin E and C, as they are also a good source of Keratin - a substance that is important for healthy hair and nails and radiant skin! Olives also consist of several essential mineral ions such as Magnesium, Potassium, Calcium and Phosphorus. Who knows what other amazing characteristics this type of vegetable has?

Perplexed

BY HANOUF AL-JUHAIL

visitors who came from different walks of life. Seven out of those nine were Europeans worked in banking and finance, a very social middle-aged Norwegian woman – who's actually Moroccan, and an ex-boxer from Manchester who I had a difficult time understanding his spoken words. We all had two things in common; we spoke English, and we were escaping our realities by hiding in a Spanish farm away from text messages, emails, and patronizing lattes. During my time there, I did a lot of observations since the sociologist in me never goes on vacation. I watched how language connected nine perfect strangers in a way that would create unique and interesting paths of communication. Very few of us understood or spoke proper Spanish; therefore, the Spanish ranch crew indentified us by room numbers. I was 213. I went to a nearby ranch where olive oil production was

taking place. I wanted to see how life was when it's stripped down to its simplest form. The men were the ones holding the electrical mega tools to cut the branches of the olive trees, while the women stayed in groups sorting through the nets where the olives had landed. There was a system that ran efficiently, and everyone understood their role, but I couldn't help over-analyzing gender roles there, and thinking of the cultural implications of that efficient system. My socio mode was back on, again, refusing to let me be on vacation. The women on that farm were soft spoken, while the male farmers were louder since they had to communicate with other workers from different parts of the farm to run their operations effectively. I wanted to research further the dynamics of that setting, so I started talking to several farm workers inquiring about their role in the ranch

and what do they think of it. I couldn't simplify my English, and they couldn't clarify their Spanish enough for me to fully understand their responses. Language barrier was an apparent component in my conversations with the locals, and I was frustrated. I learned something that I have always known, which was that language doesn't just start conversations, but by acquiring a language, you earn the privilege to be exposed to a new culture with all its heritage and values. Language changes the way we see the world, and it allows us to understand ourselves by relating to others. After my Spanish adventure was over, I was more eager and determined to start learning that beautiful language.

Note: for further details on what went on between those nine strangers, and interesting stories about the locals, look for my upcoming articles on the Writing Center page!!



I Don't Need Writing Skills! Why They Are Important for Your Career

JOSE E. MANGIBIN

"I don't need good writing skills! I'm never going to use them in the future!" This is what some of your classmates may tell you. But five years from now, look for those particular classmates of yours and there is a good chance that they are working at a gas station, a convenience store, or at a dead-end job that they really dread. Now my examples may sound a bit harsh and extreme, but, most of the time, they are correct as those are the type of

jobs that really do not need too much writing. Almost every other job - whether you are in finance, sales, manufacturing, and so on - will require you to use your writing skills in one way or another. Just try it for yourself: think of 10 jobs that you would like to pursue after graduation, and most probably at least eight of those jobs will need you to be a good writer. There will always come a time wherein you will need to send an email to a client,

write an internal memo to your staff, or create a written analysis or report to your boss, and this is why honing your writing skills now is so essential for your future career.

Actually, my mindset was like this when I was a student. I thought that I never really needed to improve my writing skills and I dreaded long written assignments. I would ask myself, "Why do I have to write a 10 page paper about Napoleon Bonaparte,

how in the world will this help me in the future? Moreover, why do I only have two weeks to do it?!" Well, there will come a time when your boss will ask you to write a 20 page report about the activities you held for your company for the fiscal year, or you will need to make a 15 page proposal paper to land a deal or a client. These reports will not be asked to be submitted in two weeks, but in two days or the longest would be a week. Now having written

that 10 page paper about Napoleon in college, you will have the discipline and work ethic to write other papers or reports and you won't feel overwhelmed with the deadline or how to start your report since you've made long reports and research papers in the past. That is just the real world; there will always be times where you have to write things that you just do not want to write. However if you have had good training on writing in the past, these tasks won't feel so complex or unbearable.

From the get go, right after graduating, you will need to put your writing skills to good use. When applying for a job, employers always look at an applicant's cover letter and their resume. Now, imagine yourself as an employer; would you hire a person with a really poor cover letter which has numerous grammar mistakes and his/her ideas are everywhere? Then when you look at that person's resume, words are misspelled, bits of information are meaningless and scattered, and the layout of the entire CV just looks unorganized. Now would you hire this applicant? This person may have been a genius or perfect for the job, but due to his/her poor writing skills, they did not even get the opportunity to be interviewed. Don't let that person be you.

Now you may say, "I am going to work for my father and immediately get a senior position so I don't need to know how to write properly as I can have people write my reports and my emails for me." Let's examine that idea wherein you will just have someone write all your correspondences for you. Now you can get away with this a few times, but it cannot and will not work all the time. There will always come a time when that person you are relying on to write your reports or emails for you will not be there or that you need to reply to something right then and there. What will you do then? Moreover, as you yourself are not a good writ-

er, how would you know what the person writing for you is good or is the point that you would like to convey?

Another statement I hear at times is, "I don't need this since I'm going to be my own boss." You may not know it, but sometimes being an employer has more writing responsibilities than being an employee. Talking with big clients or partners is done most of the time via the Internet through back and forth emails, which you as the boss and owner of the company must make and decide on. Moreover what if there are words and ideas in your written correspondence that you cannot comprehend? Most of the time, you won't understand those phrases or words due to the fact that you yourself have never used them before. Also, how would you reply to those eloquent emails without showing that you are adequate at best and illiterate at worst? Would your client or partner still want to work with you and invest money in you and your company? The answer would be a flat out NO.

If there is one clear message that I would like to convey through this article, it would be this: the way you write will always represent you as a person. It will represent how you think, what kind of character and intellect you have, and will also show what you are capable of. This, in turn, will be your measuring point for landing that dream job of yours, impressing your boss, gaining influence over your co-workers, landing a business deal, and obtaining anything else important in your career life. So the next time you get another writing assignment and just can't push yourself to do it, just imagine yourself as a successful person and remember that that writing assignment helped you get where you are in your career today. If that is still not enough motivation for you, imagine yourself asking your former classmates, "Would you like fries with that?"



IF YOU
REALLY WANT TO LEND
A HAND

LEND AN ARM



Blood Drive

Location: Multi Purpose Room
Date: 2nd, 3rd, 4th November
Time: 11-4