

# The Voice of AUK

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT • November 2015 •



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# The Voice Members



## Editor-in-Chief

Paola Schietekat

I'm Paola and I was born and raised in Mexico. Now I live in Kuwait and study International Relations. I attribute my misanthropy to politics and gender inequality, but I still enjoy political, philosophical and theological debate. I have a book published and hopefully more to come. I love literature and football. I also like Lego, dinosaurs, eggplant, videogames and series like Game of Thrones and Adventure Time.



## Graphic Designer

Alaa' Dashti

I'm Ala'a Dashti, a 25 year-old graduate from Box Hill College, Kuwait with a diploma Graphic Design. I enrolled in AUK to continue and get my bachelors degree in Graphic Design. One of my initial projects for The Voice of AUK was the logo, which was successfully changed. I designed it to portray that all AUK'ers have the right to express their opinions freely.



## General Reporter

Huda AlKotob

My name is Huda AlKotob. I'm a rather ordinary 19 year old Palestinian girl. Currently, I'm an Accounting major who anticipates graduating later this year. I like puddles, trampolines, learning, food, and furry animals. I often get that I resemble Zooey Deschanel and Jonah Hill.



## Reporter

Nathalie Matta

My name is Nathalie Matta. I'm 19 years old. I'm a sophomore majoring in Marketing and minoring in Graphic Design! I am obsessed with makeup and everything that has to do with fashion, thus I will be responsible for the fashion section in The Voice newspaper as a reporter. I truly hope this newspaper stands out.



## Reporter

Abdullah A Al-Qouz

I'm Abdullah, a 21 years old junior student. Initially an English major with a hope to be an author/spokesman. I enjoy working in groups with saltiness, which is unaccepted quite often. I do it even when I'm working by my own and people think it's not funny. I won't stop because I think it is.



## Reporter

Roua'a Diab

Hello. My name is Roua'a Diab, I am a computer engineer who surprisingly enjoys writing articles and sharing my views with the world. I am involved in several clubs, including the IEEE student branch in AUK and the Hummingbirds. I like to write, especially things that express my thoughts and opinions. Hopefully you'll enjoy my pieces!



## Reporter

Sara F. Ayesh

السلام عليكم، I'm a 19 year old sophmore majoring in Management. I enjoy being a fact debunker, and taking photographs; ironic occurances are my favorite subject, selfies are not allowed. I hope to be a writer in the near future إن شاء الله.



## General Advisor

Candace Dominique

Candace Dominique is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media and the Faculty Advisor for The Voice. She is committed to using her skills in journalism to support The Voice staff in producing a newspaper that is the source the AUK community looks to for high quality news and information that represents the University's legacy.



## Graphic Designer Advisor

Patrick A. Makhoul

Patrick Makhoul is a graphic designer in the PR & Marketing department at AUK and the design advisor for The Voice. He uses the experience he's gathered over the years designing publications and layouts to give advice and suggestions on ways to make The Voice a more pleasant experience for the reader.

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## What can I do with a major in GRAPHIC DESIGN

By: Student Counseling Center

Graphic designers use words and images to express messages that inform, persuade, and incite to action individuals and audiences. Graphic designers translate communication goals through printed materials, such as logos, symbols, annual reports, newsletters, packaging, business forms, and stationery. They are involved in the creation of electronic presentations of information through web sites, graphical computer interfaces, interactive multimedia, and motion graphics in television and video. They use problem solving, money and business management skills, and creativity.

### Related Career Titles

- Branding, Magazine Design
- Corporate Communicatio, Package Design
- Design Planning, Identity Design
- Publication Design, Digital Design
- Illustration, Type Design
- Exhibition Design, Information Design
- Television Graphics, Environmental Design
- Multimedia, Web Design
- Film Title Design, Fiber/Fabric Design

### Related Skills

- Drawing
- Painting
- Research and Writing
- Knowledge of Art and Design History
- Concept Development
- Design Development
- Story board creation
- Project management skills
- Organizational skills
- Presentation skills

### Some Employers for Graphic Design Majors

- Architectural firms
- Book publishing companies
- Corporations
- Graphic design firms
- Greeting card companies
- In-house marketing departments
- Magazine companies
- Museums
- News media
- Publication offices
- Real estate corporations

### Graduate School

Below is a list of the best ranked programs to pursue a Master's degree in Graphic Design and the Arts:

**Master (MA/Msc) Computational Design**  
Ravensbourne



**Master of Design (Mdes) Interaction Design**  
HK Polyu School of Design



**Design - 1st Level Master Degree**  
IED – Istituto Europeo di Design- Rome



**Master's Degree in Graphic Design and Generation of Digital Projects**

Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca



**Master in Graphic Design**

IED – Istituto Europeo Di Design Milan/ Madrid



**International Master of Design**

Academy Of Art and Design FHNW, Visual Communication Institute



**Master's in Graphic Design**  
BAU Design College of Barcelona







## Life As A Graphic Design Alumni from AUK – Hassan Abdozzahraei

By: Huda Al Kotob

### Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Hassan Abdozzahraei and I joined AUK in 2009. I recently graduated (2013/2014) with a Major in Graphic Design and a Minor in Communications & Media.

### What was the best part about being a Graphic Design major?

Being able to practice something or go into something that was always a dream for me. Since I was young, I wanted to be in this field and I wanted it to be computer related design, so the best part was being able to learn more about something I'm actually passionate about.

### Well, what would you say was the worst part?

It could possibly be overcoming your comfort zone. Professors try to challenge you into conceptualizing certain ideas that are in your imagination, in the part of your brain where they're just ideas and putting them into usable concepts that would apply to a product or service or different company. So it isn't the worst, but it's definitely the most challenging.

### Was it difficult to land a job after graduation?

Finding work as a graphic designer can be challenging, but it's not similar to other kinds of work. People in the field of graphic design will not look directly at how you performed in college. What they really look at is what you performed in college, what you did in college. What your projects were like? How was your conceptualizing? Were

you able to bring into fruition the concepts that you had in mind? Are they usable? These kinds of things... Depending on how much you're into the field, your performance is going to be influenced by that. If you're into it, you're going to be much more creative, productive, passionate about your projects and the work you do, and that passion is going to be reflected in your work, portfolio, and interviews when you're going to look for a job. It is challenging like any other fields but it's up to you. It all ends up being what you can do and what you're capable of.

### Do you find your job enjoyable? And what word of advice would you give future Graphic Design majors?

Yes I do enjoy my job and again it goes back to being passionate about it because I loved it since I was very young and it's always been something I've wanted to do and once I was in the field itself I enjoyed it even more. The word of advice I would give is not to graduates of graphic design per say, but to students of graphic design and students considering going into graphic design. This would determine whether they want to stay in graphic design or whether they want to move on to something maybe related to it, but not necessarily directly graphic design itself.

For example, someone moving into media would work with someone in graphic design but not do the designs themselves. The best way to determine whether or not the field is for you is to practice graphic design in the real world while you're studying it. And when I say 'real world' I mean finding a project to do for a relative or friend and what you want to gain from that is not material/ financial, it's the feeling of the work itself. Trying to apply what you're learning in your courses in real life. That would determine and show you how it feels to be in the field in real life. If you enjoy applying the things that you're studying into the work field, the real world, then graphic design is for you. What happens in this case is you'll enjoy learning and working because every time you're in class, and you're learning something, you're always going to be thinking how you're going to apply this for your next client or current project.

This way, learning becomes interactive and more hands-on. If you realize that 'okay I'm doing this project in real life for my uncle but this is not really what I wanted to do, this is not really what I was expecting from graphic design' then this is where you might determine 'okay, I don't want to be a graphic designer but I want to work with someone who does, I want to be in media or marketing instead.'

Once you go into the field and you realize 'this is for me' or 'not for me' you're going to be able to save time, effort, and energy for yourself by going into another field. You're going to understand what you really want to do. This way, things are going to be less difficult for you since you have to suffer through every single project every time you're doing it. On a separate note, when you also go into the field it's going to be much easier to understand those theories that they try and teach you because theories are always going to be theories until you actually try them and put them to use. That way they stick to your mind and they're much easier to understand once you're spending some time in the real world applying the concepts and theories you're learning into real projects.

### Some of Hassan's Logo Designs



## Student Counseling Center.

**By: Student Counseling Center**

### Who is Abir K Itani with all these emails and job ads to all students all the time?

Abir K Itani is our AUK career counselor. A lot of the times we have to fight to get into a certain major we want, or get forced on a major we do not want, and most of the time we either have no further plans after graduation or we graduate with an empty résumé. The ones who are careful about the Student Counseling Center and Itani's emails and job opportunities will get to maximize their college experience and get variety of options for their own paths after graduation regardless of how they ended up in their major since they do not limit themselves. The following is a short questionnaire conducted with Ms. Abir K Itani as a Counseling Center Coordinator.

### What is the role of the Student Counseling Center at AUK?

The Student Counseling Center at AUK offers a wide range of services and opportunities for students to make the most out of their university experience. Services include personal counseling, career counseling, healthy living, and disability services. The department's role is to support the growth and development of students as individuals and professionals.

### When should a student seek an advice from the Student Counseling Center?

A student can visit us at the Center:  
-If he/she is facing concerns including anxiety, depression, relationship issues, interpersonal relationships, academic concerns, family and social issues, and personal problems.  
-If the student is facing physical/ learning difficulties and needs assistance.  
- If the student wants advice on job opportunities career path planning, graduate schools, etc.

**Would you say that students who care about consulting their advisors or are updated with the latest catalog do not need to pay visit(s)**

### to the Student Counseling Center?

The Student Counseling Center helps students with personal problems and difficulties as well as prepares them for the Career World after university. Students can also seek help to pursue their graduate studies. AALS and the Student Counseling Center help students differently but we surely complete one another. Each and every student needs to visit AALS for the advising and academics-related issues. While students who need personal help, career guidance and future planning, they need to visit the Student Counseling Center.

### Explain to the students what is your role in the Student Counseling Center exactly so that they might know when to consult the coordinator of Student Counseling Center (Abir K Itani herself)?

I work in the Student Counseling Center as a personal and career counselor. We offer job vacancies and internships as well as help students to build their CV and get ready for work environment. I am a personal counselor, so I help students with personal issues like anxiety, relationship problems, and other concerns. This year, I am working in the Alumni Affairs office along with Sara AlAmeeri. Students will be visiting us to update their information, sign their clearance form, and stay connected with AUK.

### Do you believe that a student who never knew the Student Counseling Center could possibly miss a life-changing opportunity or at least a job or education degree later on in his/her life?

If that person needed help and didn't ask for it then I'd say yes. It is always better to visit our office because there is something for everyone, be it full-time job, part-time, internship, graduate school, job readiness or just talking about personal concerns.

Abir Itani agreed to answer the following question as an additional question:

### How would you respond to a student with no future plans who still says "I still don't really care" after reading this?

It is a choice. If that student has other options then they are free to take it.

**Abir Itani, AUK Career Counselor**



**FALL 2015**

## Bet You Didn't Even Know!

**AUK | Art + Graphic Design**

**Design Student Successes**



**NAJD AL TAHER**  
3rd Year Design Student  
First Place Winner!!!  
Shes off to JAPAN



OPEN CALL  
Journey to Japan  
أنا أريد أن أذهب إلى اليابان



**MAI GHANNAM**  
3rd Year Design Student  
Selected to Design the AUK Review 2016 Book!







**ZEID MALAS**  
3rd Year Design Student  
Elected to the AUK Student Council Executive Board and is now the:  
Media Affairs Committee Chair





## What does the Student Council have to tell students?

By : Abdullah A Al-Qouz

It was a blast seeing all the candidates during the elections competing for a place in Student Council. The candidates worked to prove they are willing to achieve something that will help AUK become AUK as a better campus to its students. Student Council, or SC, is an opportunity for students to voice their thoughts and aims to improve the university. SC also plays a part in promoting the academic life of the university and students organizations. As the SCAs the SC has a critical responsibility to represent the students of the campus, The Voice of AUK would like to congratulate each of the elected candidates.

The following quotes are some thoughts the elected members of the council wanted to share with AUK students after delivering their speeches.

"We should be a union. What does not affect you might affect someone you know." – Omar Al-Farsi

"We want to listen to you. After all, your issues are our issues." – Ali Kelkawi

"It shouldn't be about us just standing here giving speeches, it's about you, as it should be." – Zainab Wasfi

"AUK is a second home for us." – George Massoud

"The speech is from the heart to the heart.." – Fouzan Al-Qahtani

"We all have the same goal. I don't

care whether I lose or win, we will hopefully have a bright future." – Zeid Malas

"You as AUK students, your voices need to be heard, even if your concern is not completed it has to be heard and has to be delivered for the right people ." – Nathalie Matta

Now who was I supposed to vote for? I am supposed to vote to Zainab because we are in the same major, maybe for Fouzan since we started AUK as IEP students together. I do hangout with Zeid a lot so maybe he deserves my vote. People will say but what about Nathalie, isn't she in The Voice team? If voting depends on the personal relationship between the voter and the candidate then I guess I should obviously not vote. Even if I only know one of the candidates, what if everyone did the same? Students elections is something that should

be taken seriously. Though it is not a country's election, this is a reflection of how serious we will take things in the future as current students. Every executive board position in the Council now has a representative. Hopefully each member will use their position to improve AUK.

## Meet the Newly Elected Student Council

By: Rouaa Diab

### President , Omar Al-Farsi Why did you want to be in the Student Council?

This is such a small question, but I guess it bears a lot of weight. I suppose I could give you the cliché political answer and say that I really, really care and I want to make AUK a better place, etc. But in all honesty, any student, whether a member of the Student Council or not, can affect the changes that should be done in AUK. However, my personal reason for wanting to be in Student Council is because you need to be in a certain position, we can call it symbolic, because now I do not see Student Council as a powerful entity in the university and that is no secret. But in order to change that, I needed to be a part of it. In fact, if I could make a change without the title that I am currently holding, I wouldn't have gone in initially.

### Did you initially want the position you currently have?

Honestly, I did go into elections wanting my current title, not because I wanted the title, but because in order to make changes, you need to have an effective team, and I believe that if I am put in a team, the position at which I am going to be most effective in is the President. Some people might disagree, that's all right because whatever position I am given I will work just as hard. When I saw what the President's duties are, I just knew that I was up to the challenge and capable of handling this responsibility. It is still the beginning of the year, and God knows what the job has to offer and how hard it is going to get, but, Inshallah it all goes well. In terms of

 <b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2015 - 2016</b>	
Serves as the official and primary contact and spokesperson for the Students Council and university student body	 <b>OMAR AL FARSI</b> - President
Liaises with the committee Chairs to ensure and track progression towards goals	 <b>ALI KELKAWI</b> - Vice President
Develops and maintains a filing system that is easy to utilize and access.	 <b>ZEINAB WASFY</b> - Secretary
Is responsible for maintaining a consistent relationship with the Finance Department	 <b>GEORGE MASSOUD</b> - Treasurer
Acts as Parliamentarian during meetings	 <b>FOUZAN AL QAHTANI</b> - Judicial Committee Chair
Ensures knowledge and communicates awareness of AUK policies as related to public relations	 <b>DUAIJ AL DUAIJ</b> - Public Relations Committee Chair
Maintains contact with news outlets off campus to ensure coverage of AUK events	 <b>ZEID MALAS</b> - Media Affairs Committee Chair
Makes an effort to establish cooperation between the SC and Clubs and Organizations through financial support, media, or joint events	 <b>FAISAL AL SAMHAN</b> - Clubs and Organizations Committee Chair
Surveys the student body to identify purposeful events for the benefit of the students, to include lectures, debates, seminars or conferences	 <b>NATHALIE MATTA</b> - Events Planning Committee Chair

positions, I would like to point out one thing to the student body. It is that Student Council is not about titles, it is about being in a team and working together effectively in order to achieve certain goals. So here is a message for anybody who plans on running for elections next year: go in with the intention of wanting to make a change, titles are not what the Student Council is about. Yes, you might see yourself fit for a certain position in the Student Council, you have every right to run for that position, and you have every right to prove yourself to the student body that you are suitable and are worthy of the position that you see yourself in. I do not mind if I had any other position in the Student Council, but my fellow Student Council members and some people in the student body saw that I was fit for the position, and that is how I got it.

**Give us an insight on things you plan on doing in order to make AUK a better place.**

This is a very, very deep question, to be honest. Because when you ask me what is wrong with AUK, I will reply back with "what is right with AUK?" Because at the end of the day, AUK does give us a lot of benefits and opportunities, and they obviously care for us and our futures. However, at the same time, there are things that are wrong and bother the student body, the faculty, and even the administration. It is our responsibility as the student body and as the Student Council to adjust these things.

When you ask me how to make AUK a better place, I will start by telling you the positive, or even negative, change starts with the students. This is because the students are the key to everything in the AUK community, the whole community exists for the students to get a good education and have better futures. We have to get the students to care about the environment they are growing up in, their second home.

They must also know what is going on in AUK in order to know what changes they would like to see, or in fact make. Otherwise they will just focus on the things that affect them individually, rather than the things that affect

them and the community they are in. Generally speaking, for the students, we would like to let them know what their rights are, because only when you know what you can or cannot do, then you can know what to demand. We will tackle financial aid, because it affects a lot of students in AUK. Even if it does not affect you, it does affect other people and it is a humanitarian duty that we should help these people, no one else is going to help them.

These are your friends, classmates, colleagues, project partners. And in order to keep our community status, we have to work together as a community. Keeping in mind the golden rule: Do not do to others what you would not like to be done to you. I really want to say, that we as the Student Council, we really do want AUK to be a better place, but we cannot do it alone, we need the students as well.

**Vice President, Ali Kelkawi**  
**Why did you want to be in the Student Council?**

When I first came to AUK, I saw an amazing university that was not meeting its potential, which is understandable for such a young university. I wanted to help AUK reach its potential, and make it a better place to be in on a daily basis. Year after year, I joined the Student Council due to my strong determination and commitment, both of which I was more than willing to offer to the Student Council. Also, the Student Council will be the biggest opportunity for me to build my character and improve as a person and a leader.

**Did you initially want the position you currently have?**

At the beginning of this year, I was aspiring to become the President of the Student Council, because I believed that I had a vision and experience to work with and lead the Student Council team and make a positive impact at AUK. However, I believe that everything happens for a reason, and I was only able to secure the position of the Vice-President for this year, with the President being Omar Al Farsi, who I believe is more than competent enough to do the job this year.

**Give us an insight on things you plan on doing in order to make AUK a better place.**

The Student Council is currently in the process of setting up the agenda for the year. Some of the recurring ideas have been improving financial aid, advocating student rights and providing short-term solutions to the parking issue. We also hope to be conducting several open forums with students in the near future to have them express their demands to us, allowing us to further develop our agenda.

**Secretary, Zeinab Wasfy**  
**Why did you want to be in the Student Council?**

I wanted to be a part of the Student Council team because this is the way that I, as an individual, can work with others in order to be the change that I wanted to see. I decided to not sit back and tell others to make a change, rather I wanted to take part in the changes that are and will be made. I want to help student know what their rights are in AUK.

**Did you initially want the position you currently have?**

Yes, I did want to be the Secretary. I did have my doubts for a while, but after taking my time to make a decision, I still decided that Secretary is indeed the most suitable position for me.

**Give us an insight on things you plan on doing in order to make AUK a better place.**

First of all, financial aid. As I mentioned before, a huge thing that we would like to tackle is to let the students in AUK know what their rights are, because most students at AUK seem not to know their rights even when it comes to the simple things, like posting certain things on social media.

Also, as you know the educational and course-related books that are sold at the bookstore tend to be a little expensive. We are trying to find a solution to that problem as well. My personal goal would be to get more AUK students involved in AUK's goals and activities; basically to care more about their second home than they

do. For example, during the elections, less than 30% of people in AUK voted. So I would personally like to find ways to educate students about the importance of doing these little things in order to get more involved in AUK.

**Treasurer, George Massoud**  
**Why did you want to be in the Student Council?**

I wanted be in Student Council for several reasons. The first reason being my love for AUK; I consider AUK as my second home, and in order to have the power to make certain changes in AUK I decided to run for the Student Council elections.

**Did you initially want the position you currently have?**

Yes, I was able to obtain the position that I wanted. However, I believe that positions do not matter much. The only reason I prefer to be a Treasurer is because I have previous experience within this position in clubs like the Lebanese Club, and the Marketing Club.

**Give us an insight on things you plan on doing in order to make AUK a better place.**

The three things that I mentioned in my speech: the books and how to reduce their prices. Even though we cannot change the prices of the books, we can have an official book sale system, where we can officially sell books online and trade books. Second thing would be AUK's memorabilia.

Students at AUK should be proud to be part of the AUK community, and they should own things to show that they are proud. Things like shirts, to be worn whenever they like. Yes, there are shirts available at the bookstore, but they are expensive, so I would like to do something that would allow the students to own these things but, again, at cheaper costs. The third thing is to target every department, and help these departments in certain aspects. For example, in my department, the Marketing Department, we face problems with the internships, therefore I will be working with the CSW on promoting programs for students to let the students know that they can provide us with internships that we might need.



## In Case You Missed it: The Politics of Climate

By: Huda Al Kotob

On the 18th of October, an important lecture took place in the Multipurpose room; The Politics of Climate. Two speakers, Dima Al-Khatib (from the UNDP) and Tancrede Voiturez (from Sciences Po, Paris) spoke about the aspects and implications of the upcoming 2015 Paris Climate Conference which the UN has been working on for more than 20 years to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement of one goal: keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. This means every nation that agrees to this will have to reform the way it does everything to help save our Earth.

The lecture was conducted in a very professional manner; it felt like a UN conference. There were statistics, explanations of the problems, resolutions, and the whole package. Voiturez pointed out that much of today's global warming is due to human activity.

Al-Khatib cited some shocking statistics that if nothing were to be improved, Kuwait's rainfall would decrease by an average of 2 mm per year (as if we get much rain to begin with!) What's worse is that our average temperature would increase by about 1.6 degrees Celsius throughout 2035, and God knows we don't need any more heat!

On December 11, 2001, China joined the WTO. This event was a turning point because now not only were the richer countries releasing green house gas emissions, now poorer countries are too. As China's economy grew, so

did the hole in the ozone layer. However, it was not all China's fault; other rising economies joined the trend: Germany, India, Russia, and much of the EU. So now the question remains: who should pay for all these damages? With the way politics work, every nation will try to get another nation to pay more so they have to

pay less. How do you ask oil-based economies to completely change the way they raise their GDP, as in the case of the Gulf States? So how will they address this problem? Well, that's what we'll find out after the 2015 Paris Climate Conference which will be held on November 30 to December 11 later this year.



## What is AUK Made Of?

By: Paola Schietekat

October was a bad month. Hurricane Patricia hit the coasts of Mexico and it was announced as the worst one recorded in the Pacific coast. Luckily, damages were not as catastrophic across the American continent, but the American University of Kuwait resented the climactic rage.

Wait, it was not a cyclone that hit Kuwait was it? It was a storm, a thunderstorm with heavy rain, yes, but a regular storm after all. Everyone woke up the next day, rather flabbergasted because rain is not common in this country, but went to work (although school was off cancelled because of the flooding, universities operated normally).

A bunch of early birds arrived at AUK and found all cleaning and maintenance staff running around campus like bees to fix the 'damages' caused by the storm. It wasn't until almost 9 that we got emails saying classes were cancelled, and

throughout the day we kept receiving Snapchats of the disastrous conditions of the Sciences Building. The roof collapsed and a lot of the faculty's offices were damaged, which brings up the question: what exactly is AUK made of that an hour long storm could bring the ceiling down? We are aware that the fourth floor of Building A is an extension of the originally three floor building, but was it built with haste and haste and did it overlook any standards of decency? It is a university we are speaking about, a place where lots of people spend lots of time and where physical safety is paramount to provide a healthy and harmonious educational environment. Now that we tackled the material part of the question, let's ask the more abstract one. What is AUK really made of? Among the bewilderment of both faculty and students, the administration remained unresponsive. Many professors felt their jobs were impaired by the damages to their offices and were still asked to resume classes on Thursday, even though little was resolved by then.

Moreover, students were unsure about attending university on Thursday since there was no email sent and those

who bothered to ask were told that there was another storm coming and decisions depended on the severity of the second storm. After it passed, no email was sent. The reputation of the university was affected by how poorly situation was managed. On Thursday, students taking classes at Building A would constantly look up at the ceiling because, no, we do not trust the infrastructure of this place. AUK needs to raise the bar a little

higher, not only meeting construction standards to prevent infrastructural devastation caused by some water, but administrative reformation. Maybe that amount of rain was unprecedented in Kuwait, but the ceiling collapsing? Are you kidding us? A great place to start would be giving students concrete answers to make us feel we are safe in our university. Maybe that way we'll start looking at AUK with different eyes.





## Photography Empowers Domestic Workers in Kuwait

By: Paola Schietekat



On October 23rd, Project 189, an organization that advocates for the rights of domestic workers, opened to the public a photographic exhibition that displayed pictures taken by 23 workers who were trained on the basics of photography. 52 Pixels was the name of the event; 52 representing the number of free days that a domestic worker is entitled to be granted every year. The event took place at Masaha 13; a formidable and original spot in the heart of Shuwaikh. The exhibition was sponsored by en.v, the US Embassy, MEPI and other organizations like the International Relations Club of AUK collaborated to make the night possible.

The rights of domestic workers are not a new topic in Kuwait. A lot has been done to try and mitigate abuses of authority against workers. Many initiatives have had a positive impact in disseminating the importance of treating those who serve you with dignity. Project 189's idea, however, was different. It was not about being condescending to domestic workers and feeling sorry for their circumstances; it was about acknowledging them, making them know they are as worthy as any human being and empowering them through the arts. During the exhibition, the photographers smiled with pride while the public admired their work and looked up to them as artists. Many of the pictures of landscapes, still nature and daily life treasures

were sold, giving the photographers an incentive to continue taking pictures.

What was more impressive than the amount of people who attended and signed pledges to protect the rights of workers, was how insightful, genuine and introspective the pictures and reflections of photographers were. A clear reminder that domestic workers are more than just that, and that they have so much to say, but sometimes no voices to be heard: "My name is Clark. I am 31 years old and I am from the Philippines. I have one boy, he is 12 years old. I have two siblings, and my mother. My father died of lung cancer one year and a half ago. My son is living with my mother. I have been in Kuwait for 4 years with the same employer.

Before coming here I was working in the Philippines. I used to be a construction worker building houses and buildings. It was very tiring, and

even though it was a male dominated job I still used to do it. I also used to have another job at the same time fixing small broken computer chips. I went to college and studied Computer Programming. I completed 3, and then, on my senior year, I had to drop out because of financial reasons." -Clark Cabanilla, contributing photographer.

Kuwait needs more original initiatives like Project 189's to promote an inclusive society through art and space. 52 Pixels sets a strong precedent; it gave domestic workers the chance to share their dreams, ambitions and hopes with an audience who was moved by the stories and reflections behind each picture. Many of the domestic workers in Kuwait have left their entire families and lifestyles back home, and it is important for us to see the world through their eyes every once in a while.



## AUK Students Travel to New York for International MUN Conference



The Department of International Relations, along with the efforts of Nour Al Failakawi, has pushed for a group of eight students to take part in the WIFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) 2015 that is taking place in New York City on November 10th-14th. Our delegation of Arab Ambassadors will have the opportunity to take part in one of the most prestigious MUN conferences worldwide, which closely replicates the way the United Nations' different committees operate. Delegates will receive specialized training by UN officials, interact with participants from all around the world and simulate the UN experience at the UN Headquarters.

This is not the first time students from AUK participate in prominent MUN conferences; delegates have previously travelled to Bahrain and Boston. But as MUN continues to gain momentum, it has become increasingly competitive to be part of the delegation that travels to international conferences. Students interested in a life changing opportunity that the MUN experience has to offer should follow up with the International Relations department and try out to be a delegate in the next international conference.

**The Voice would like to congratulate the students who were selected to participate in WIMUN 2015:**

Abdulaziz Al Mahmeed, Ahmad Fadi Fahs, Anjan Sethi, Batul Sadliwala Layan Al Dabt, Nour Al Failakawi Paola Schietekat & Shaza Al Wattar



## Chair of the Graphic Design Department- Maryam Hosseinnia

By : Abdullah A Al-Qouz



This month we are all about Graphic Design, which is why Abdullah Al Qouz conducted an interview with Professor Maryam Hosseinnia, Chair of the Graphic Design Department. Maryam Hosseinnia led the department of Graphic Design in 2007 for two years, and currently acts as Chair of Department once again. The Voice of AUK would like to congratulate Professor Hosseinnia for her new position. In this interview, she agreed to share with us details about her career and personal life.

### Tell us where you are from and what is your degree(s)?

I am Iranian-American. I have my Masters in fine arts in graphic design, and a BFA in Graphic Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

### How were you settled as a Department Chair of Graphic Design?

In spring of 2015, the Chair of the department went on leave, and I took over as the acting chair. So the appointment opened up, and I was appointed as a chair this year. From 2007- 2009 I served as the Program Lead of the Graphic Design Department.

### What difference do you notice between being the Department Chair and a regular instructor?

A lot more responsibility, definitely. Having a chair position or administrative role requires you to manage a department, faculty, student related issues, along with teaching. At the same time I like to maintain my own research or creativity. So, from time to time I find it a struggle to find balance

between research (especially my own work) and the administrative work that I am doing right now. That was the reason I pulled back as the program leader in 2009.

### So it is time balancing that makes the challenge for being the chair?

That is one of the biggest challenges, I think finding time for personal work is the big challenge for me right now. Along with that, this year our department is going under accreditation which requires more work to meet deadlines.

### Are there any plans for developing the Department of Graphic Design?

Definitely, I think right now is to put the accreditation behind us. That is very important and this year we are going through that review. We just hired new faculty within our department like Professor Joowun Lee; she has been a wonderful addition to our department. We will be seeking for more full time graphic design faculty. Now we have two who are teaching part-time here so yes, definitely. I hope we keep growing as we are busy with accreditation and after this we will be looking very closely to a little facelift.

### Do you have any advice for the graphic design students?

Yes, the one thing I tell my students always is to be curious. Curiosity really plays a big role in creativity. I want them to be curious, I want them to question things around them. I think that is very important and that is something that I don't find between students around me. So to be curious is very important, I think that really taps into creativity to inquire and to allow themselves to trust their guts and intuition to create.

### Can we expect something from the department in a very soon period of time?

To be accredited by the NASAD accreditation team and the Capstone exhibition in May, 2016.

### Have you ever seen a project from anybody that changed your perspective about something?

I know that our students have a lot to say and also that they are very creative and they have a lot of voices to express their opinions. But it is really tapping into that sensitive area through creativity to make them express it. For example, in a Typography class of mine (300 level) I give a timeline project where some of the students used the timeline project to get very close to something that has been very private to them: about maybe their family, the invasion, a relationship, divorce, maybe marriage, or just something about their lives. So they had to write a specific event, organize their material and turn that narrative into a sequence of information in a book format. We experiment with typographic hierarchy, type treatment on the page. At the end, they will learn to layout their information in engaging ways to tell a story.

What surprises me is when sometimes the students who are mostly quiet deliver projects and their

stories are so deep and profound, and it just comes out full of meaning and full of depth, that to me is quite rewarding.

I had a student, Mohammed Sharaf, who now graduated and moved to continue graduate studies in School of Visual Arts. He was in a typography II class few years back. I gave a social commentary project that the students had to design a poster for an audience who did not know anything about Kuwait. From that experience everything else sort of blossomed.

What happened from that project was that the Arab Springs all started at that time with first Tunis, and Egypt, then all the rest. From this project given to him, he really dived in and created posters after posters based on what he was feeling and he was seeing from these changes that were happening. So he became like a visual commentary to the political and social climate within the region. I really admired that he took an opportunity and just bounced it off to his own personal work.

As for a professional artist in the region that changed a perspective of mine, Kuwait has a lot of artists that we should know. One of them actually gave a speech recently in AUK, Monira AL Qadiri. I think she is really remarkable with how she is pushing the envelope and I like that, and I like how she is challenging her environment. Now some people may object to that, but she does do her work about "let me question the religion and the politics of our society." I like that in an artist, I like when an artist has the guts to produce work that will enable the community and the audience to be challenged a little bit. At the same time I see a lot of work that is very safe and fluffy and just casual.

### Do you often sense these things in your students?

For some of them I do, but it is very individual based. Some students as you know have that curiosity and have that push within themselves that they keep working, and working and working. Sometimes I don't know why some students major in Graphic Design, and, you know, that happens too.

### Are you willing to keep up being the Department Chair of Graphic Design?

...No comment... I do not know, and my contract is not at an end but right now it is for one year.

Professor Maryam agreed to answer these questions as additional ones:

### What do you think of Décopatching?

I think it is fun and a great way to upcycle materials using these beautiful colors of paper, and redecorate your environment and objects that you have.

### How do you think it would be if students got familiarized with décopatching?

It is fun! And there is a lot one can do with décopatching. Décopatching is something I find as craft oriented.



## My TOP 6 Favorite Drug Store Products

By: Nathalie Matta

Don't we all love spending our money on makeup, but sometimes as students we try to find affordable products that provide us with very good quality.

Here is a list of 10 drugstore products that can provide you with a simple makeup look with very amazing results yet very affordable.

### 1. Maybelline Dream Smooth Primer



This Dream smooth primer is one of the best primers I've used for my makeup. Living in Kuwait, we experience sunny/humid weather for like everyday and our makeup tends to melt off our faces but this primer makes everything stay in place for the rest of the day. This primer also is very smooth and soft on your skin, you can also apply it on its own and it makes your face look fresh and makes it glow. **You can find this Primer anywhere that sells Maybelline for 4.000KD**

### 2. L'Oreal Infallible Pro Matte Foundation



This foundation has been the topic of many of the makeup bloggers not only in the Middle East but also

abroad. Why? Because this is the first drugstore foundation that gives the coverage, feel and lasting of a high-end foundation. Why should you use this foundation? One: because it lasts all day long and doesn't change in color or look puffy on your face. Two: the coverage is amazing and the shades offered are unbelievable. Three and the most important: it's against humidity, water and sweat which works perfectly considering that we live in Kuwait. **You can find it anywhere that sells L'Oreal products for 7.900KD**

### 3. L.A. girl. Pro Conceal Concealer



L.A. girl concealer is considered one of the best concealers out there. It comes in 24 different shades. The variety in the shades helps you use it not only as a concealer but as a contour/highlight too. They are also available in the shades of green, yellow and orange that you can use to before your concealer to hide circles/red spots. This concealer is also said to be a great cheap alternative for M.A.C's famous pro long wear concealer, and upon my experience I totally agree with that fact. It has amazing matt full coverage but does not make it long thick and does not give you cracked line. **You can find this concealer at Mansour Makeup at Al Salam Mall for 2.000KD**

### 4. Rimmel Day 2 Night Mascara



I've been using this mascara for the past 4 years (no joke).

This mascara is simply amazing; it comes with 2 different brushes, one

for length and the other for volume. Apply two coats of each and you'll feel that you have thick falsies on. I love it because it doesn't make your lashes look like spider legs and sticky but it does spread them nicely and volumes them out. **You can find this mascara anywhere that sells Rimmel products for 5.600KD**

### 5. Elizabeth Helen Eyeliner



Anyone that was raised in Kuwait definitely knows this Eyeliner by Mahmoud Saeed. If you don't know about it, I'm pretty sure your mom does because it has been around since forever. I personally used for 90% of the time. I love it because it's very matt and dries very well. It's long lasting and is not affected by humidity, which makes it work perfectly for me. It has a thin flexible brush, which means you need to practice a couple of times in order to perfect it. **You can find this eyeliner at Mansour Makeup at Al Salam Mall for 2.000KD**

### 6. Essence Sun Club 2 in 1 Bronzer



This Blusher/bronzer is so cute and gives your face a very summery blush. It comes in a mix of pink and bronze which makes it look like you've been tanned with slightly been sun kissed. I have been using it lately and I'm very happy with the results. **For those who don't know this brand it's called Essence and you can find it at Centerpoint for 2.000KD**

## Do It Yourself - Makeup Remover

By: Nathalie Matta

Having a good makeup remover is definitely an essential but finding a good one that suits your skin type and doesn't affect it isn't that easy. So I always prefer to use products that include natural substances and oils compared to those products with many chemicals. So this homemade makeup remover is easy to make and all natural ;)

### What you need?

- A glass Jar
- Circular cotton pads
- Coconut oil
- Baby oil
- Rose water
- Fresh lemon

Place the glass jar on the side and fill it with your cotton pads, in another bowl mix the different products needed. Mix ¼ a cup of rose water, ¼ a cup of coconut oil, 1/5 a cup of baby oil and squeeze a couple of drops of lemon on top. Slowly apply the mix in the jar, so all the cotton pads get wet. Leave it for sometime and then it's ready to use ;)

**Now let's talk about why we used each ingredient and how does it help our face look cleaner and fresher**

- **Coconut oil:** makes your skin smoother, contains vitamin E which prevents your skin cracking
- **Baby oil:** makes your skin so soft like a baby. It contains 98% mineral oils, which are very healthy and 2% only fragrance, which makes you smell fresh.
- **Rose Water:** works for all skin types, reduces puffiness and moisturizes dry skin
- **Lemon juice:** kills acne, and deeply cleans your skin.



## Reading Qur'an Won't Make My Depression Go Away

By: Paola Schietekat

You're reading a magazine full of pictures of perfect bodies and skins that are fairer than yours and glow. You skim through an Ikea catalog full of pictures of meticulously decorated, spacious, ordered rooms and every evening you walk into a messy apartment because your job does not allow you to do the dishes every day. And the relatives, oh the relatives in the Arab world; it's like their sole purpose is to bombard you with questions of when you will get married, have kids, settle down and get a big house where you can entertain guests and bring honor to your family name.

The responsibility of unrealistic standards is often unbearable, and even though we all know how ludicrous it is to try to live up to them, we still stand in front of the mirror and sigh because our skin will never glow the way Photoshop makes it glow. Pressure, responsibilities and standards of achievement cause anxiety and depression: a condition that is not too rare, but that we've chosen to neglect.

So, you go to the doctor because you are lethargic or because your joints have been aching and they tell you that your labs are perfect, that you are just

depressed. 'Just depressed' like it is not a real disease and perhaps they'll prescribe you some pills or simply tell you to grow out of it. So you talk to friends and they pat you on the back, tell you it's OK and give you a million reasons to be happy. They're right; chances are you have four limbs, your fridge is full and you have a roof over your head.

You have a privileged life and others have it much worse, so how dare you feel depressed? You talk to your family; your mom has been wondering why you're not as outgoing as before so you tell her how you feel. She mentions all the blessings in your life. You think of how selfish you're being when you talk about your feelings when there are people with no food to eat. Your mom tells you to read Qur'an and everything will go away. You do, or you don't, but nothing really moves.

Some days you won't have the willpower to get out of bed and will lay there thinking of all the things you didn't do. Some days you will decline all calls because who wants to hear your detestable cries for help? So you end up in isolation, maybe feeling better the next day, maybe going out with friends, having dinner and a movie night, maybe you buy your mom flowers and then miss work for three days because it's back. It's back and there is no reason why. You'd go to a doctor if you had a broken leg, and while something is physically aching, you know your labs are perfect; it's your weakness, they say. Your feelings are discredited and you are called a

pessimist, and your mom reads Qur'an, she reads Qur'an for you, but nothing moves.

It's been two years now and you dodge the questions with a smile. Relatives keep asking what is wrong with you, why are you so static, what is next? Sometimes you know exactly where to look at, but other days you don't. It stopped being a choice because no one listened when it was. It's a taboo; you can't have a problem and go to a psychiatrist. You are not crazy, you just have to read Qur'an and make it go away. Suicidal thoughts started six months ago, you lost your job, your grades went down, you sleep too much and have worn the same shirt for three days. It's not a choice, who would choose to live this way?

If you're lucky you find this guy who's been through it before. He tells you that if he survived, so can you. The new doctor tells you that one out of twenty people suffer from clinical depression; he uses the word 'disease' with such fluency that he makes it sound like the flu, like it has cure. You trust him, you trust yourself, you take your pills and you take it easy. It gets better but it takes time and effort too. There are still grey days and days when bad things happen, but they're just days and they end, and it gets easier. Some days you'll need to take a step back, or take a day off and maybe even read Qur'an, but at least you have a little more perspective and you've pulled yourself together.





**Q: What did you want to be as a kid?**



**Yusha Mohsin, CSIS**

"A movie star. Inspirations are Ryan Gosling from The Notebook and Heath Ledger from The Dark Knight."

**Q: Give me a list of random things that make you happy.**



**Abdulrahman Khaled, MRKT**

"Running, hanging out with friends, and my cat Candy."

**Q: Who do you think lie more: men or women?**



**Maryam Ali, ECON&FINC**

"Men."



**Shafiq Lalani, Undecided**

"An astronaut because I loved the moon when I was a kid."



**Omar Alfarsi, COMM**

"Justice, helping people, and parks."



**Yousef AlNasser, COMM**

"Men."



**Saleh Hayati, CSIS**

"A pilot because my father was a pilot and I thought he was the coolest guy in the world."



**Ruba Elamine, IR**

"Sushi, shoes, and music."



**Ahmed AbdulAziz, CSIS**

"Men."



## To Trump or Not to Trump?

By: Huda Al Kotob

The jokes about Arnold Schwarzenegger being the late governor of the state of California sure did bring about a lot of laughs and chuckles. On the other hand, the news of rapper Kanye West's plans to run for president is certainly no laughing matter. What is unfortunate is the fact that he is eligible to actually become the leader of America; he was born in the United States, has been a resident of the nation for more than 14 years, and is over the age of 35. Advocates of President West claim that the music and entertainment industry do truly go through a lot of politics in the process and therefore, he is truly fit to run for presidency because of his 'experience'. Some even jokingly say that if he can handle being married to a Kardashian, then he should be able to handle steering the fate of America. Just to throw it out there, if Kanye did indeed become president, that would make Kim Kardashian the first lady. Just a thought.

Fortunately for us, those plans are not set in stone, as he accidentally blurted them out during a speech at the VMA's. However what is set in stone may possibly be just as bad; Donald J. Trump running for President in 2016. His slogan, Make America Great Again, seems to imply that America would be 'great again' if he were President. Jokes aside, could former TV star/businessman truly handle being part of the executive branch of America?

It's not fair to just plainly say 'Trump should not run for president' simply because that would be going against what America stands for. Democracy in America is beautiful and it's illustrated in their elections. Since Trump is one of the the Republican candidates, it would be extremely interesting to see the kind of reforms he would bring to the nation. His

personality is quite clear-cut and sharp, which makes it slightly easier to predict his actions. Due to his extensive knowledge about business, in theory, he could help boost the economy tremendously.

However, could he be far too business-oriented and gamble with the issues that America is currently facing? Nevertheless, it is truly admiring to see that he is using his own money to fund his campaign. He even made that clear in one of his speeches saying, "I don't need anybody's money. I'm using my own money. I'm not using the lobbyists. I'm not using donors. I don't care. I'm really rich."

There is still much time remaining to see how this upcoming year's election will shape up. Those interested should most definitely stay tuned, and those that need a good giggle should YouTube some of Trump's best lines in the speeches he's given so far. If all else fails, at least we got some good laughs out of it.

"Free trade can be wonderful if you have smart people, but we have people that are... stupid." –Trump 2015.



## The Third Kind of Illiteracy

By: Sara Ayesh

As our knowledge of the world increases we surely grow as a species and as intelligent beings. As of 2015 we are expectedly the most knowledgeable we've been in all of history. Unfortunately, despite our leaps in innovation and discovery, some semblance of earlier ignorance lingers on.

The famous mantra "ignorance is bliss" comes from the poem Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College by Thomas Gray (1716-1771).

"No more; where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise." Gray means to say that because the children of Eton College will experience pain, hardship, and disappointment as they grow older, it's kind to let them live in blissful ignorance until the time comes when they must face harsh reality.

To put it bluntly, this is a horrible way to raise your children. Yes, life can sometimes be harsh, and difficult to experience, but confining your children in a bubble of security that is meant to "protect" them for the bitter reality will only be detrimental in the long run. Many parents try to shield their children from things that they feel are too violent, scary, or inappropriate. While this technique could be helpful in creating a sense of security for the child in their early years, it becomes obsolete after they reach their first decade.

If words like "cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, etc." are tabooed in households, and the mere mention of them is met with angry glances, and reminders that there are children present, then how can we expect our children will know why certain things are not allowed? How is anyone supposed to grow as a well-rounded, worldly individual if they can't feel free to discuss certain things in the confines of their own homes in fear of

the word "عيب" ('Aib/shame). How is ignorance in this case beneficial? Is ignorance in common things worth the momentary shade of bliss?

If one does not know that fire burns, how are they to know that they should not touch it?

As a species we are empirical by nature. We are curious creatures. We wish to experiment and push our limits to discover new things. This way of life brought on a plethora of knowledge, but to get to that knowledge a lot of mistakes had to be made, as well as a lot of regrets. To be perfectly honest, children will not stay in those safety bubbles for long. They will go out and seek their own answers, sometimes from inaccurate or harmful sources.

Isn't it worth breaking the shields that we have placed around our children, to teach them about sensitive topics in safe environments, rather than watch them make easily avoidable mistakes in their quest for knowledge? In a way, ignorance has become the third form of illiteracy in the 21st century. For like the inability to read and write, being ignorant in certain things makes you unfit, and unable to converse with those around you. Ignorance may be an agent of bliss, but it also hinders your ability to grow and develop. For what other reason is there to be literate?





## Why I Am Not 'One Of The Boys'- On Internalised Misogyny

By: Paola Schietekat

"I'm one of the boys." "I just have guy friends because girls are so much drama" and my very favorite: slut shaming. Don't we hear at least one of these rants every single day? And yet, this has come to be the character of the new liberated woman... a woman who is ashamed of being one.

I do admit that at some point of my life I fell into this category and I often bashed down women who chose to be housewives and bear children using the "it's not a choice since you didn't know better" mantra. But the point of this is not my (absence of) intersectionality, or maybe it is, because our lack of understanding of the perceptions of other women have somehow led us to think they are not good enough; they are way too stereotypical to represent us, or, for whatever reason, they are simply sluts.

Internalized misogyny is, in other words, women boycotting themselves. But the mere sound of it is problematic; how would a woman be chauvinistic against her own gender? Well, just by thinking about the aggressive bombardment of sexist publicity that denigrates the female body to a disposable object and that strengthens the adoption of traditional gender roles, we can get a grasp of why we think femininity is inferior to masculinity. Think about it. An overwhelming win is equated to raping. Being courageous is associated with testicles.

Growing up in a phallogocentric environment will end up making us women believe that, in fact, masculinity is way superior to femininity, and that the only way to become an empowered woman is to

leave feminine normalcy to the weak, break away from the stereotype and acquire masculine traits (although you enjoy polishing your nails every now and then).

What happens next is quite disgraceful; by distancing ourselves from our own gender "I'm one of the boys. I'm not like other girls.", we automatically create an 'us-them' dichotomy where we discredit the 'Other' as backward and inferior "They are so much drama. They are sluts". No longer identifying ourselves as women is problematic because we consider that being a woman is something we need to distance ourselves from.

We are blindly accepting the idea that women are inferior, but that doesn't really matter to us, because that's them; it's them who are dramatic, materialistic and stereotypical. But the problem does not end there. By identifying ourselves as 'masculine women' and accepting that as the only definition of 'liberated women', we are obviously strengthening those gender

stereotypes that we so much criticised of our own gender (it's just that now we are adopting the other's). With this comes unnecessary pressure to excel and prove everyone wrong in what are considered as 'manly' tasks. A woman has to prove herself to be a better than average driver, doctor, lawyer, politician, etc., when equality calls for her to be just good enough and still have the same chances as a man, not for dealing with an extra burden that accepts nothing less than outstanding.

The issue does not end in us doing our fair share of the job to strengthen gender stereotypes. When we disassociate ourselves from these dramatic, overly emotional, materialistic beings, it is easier for us to point fingers and call names. So, because we have broken away from the label, we are entitled to slut shame. We are entitled to blatantly interfere with other women's bodies and choices and degrade them. After all, they don't represent us; they represent moral deviance or pure domestic backwardness, whichever side of the spectrum.

In an ideal world, where the underlying issue of gender binary was tackled by losing the labels of what is masculine and feminine, both women and men could do with their lives whatever they feel like doing, not because it is "what boys do or girls do" but because it is what they like doing. In that world, a girl can be a good football player, wear high heels and not be worried about being a bad driver (not because she is a woman but because, like any other man, she just happened to be a bad driver). Ultimately, there would not be a superiority complex based on gender stereotypes because the fluidity of masculinity and femininity would not allow to assign traditional roles to each gender.

Hence, us women would not be pressurized to distance ourselves from 'inferior' representations of our gender and identify ourselves as masculine just to face an unnecessary pressure to uphold idiotic gender standards again. Breaking free from a pink cage and locking yourself in a blue cage is not liberation, it's upfront stupidity.





Sparks of Creativity is a space where students, faculty and staff can share anything their thoughts lead them to: a poem, a story, a sketch, or an experience that deserves a passive-aggressive rant about life and how much it hates you. English and Arabic entries are welcome.

## Sandy The Cat

By: Huda Al Kotb

Her nails glittered with delight today. I guess I always liked that about her, her nails. She changed the nail color varnish to match her mood so it was easier to know when it would be best to approach her. There was a phase where she wore clear see-through varnish for a while. I'm not sure if that was to reflect her transparency at the time or whether she wanted her emotions camouflaged.

Today, her nails glittered with delight. So I approached her. She had her hair in a bun and wore her dirty converse, pink-colored. We aren't technically friends since she says she doesn't have any. She prefers the term 'fellow earthlings'. To anyone, you could safely consider her strange. I wish I could say I considered her rare or special, but the truth is she was just plain and simple, strange. But I suppose that's what drew us all in.

Delight glittered off her nails today and danced in the sunlight, with her hair bun bouncing behind her with every step she took. She exchanged small pleasantries with her fellow earthlings and smiled wide. My friend and I watched her walk towards the fountain for a drink of water. He turned to me and said, "Wallah, crazy."

I envied her happiness; that moment as she hydrated herself. So strange, yet majestic in her own way. I

wondered if I had ever met anyone more three dimensional. I looked around to confirm my thoughts. She stood out the same way a starfish stands out in an aquarium. I lit a cigarette as my friend spoke to me about being a veteran-level Rocket League player. I wondered if her life felt like an endless LSD trip.

Later that day, she peeled a tangerine with her glittering nails. I sat beside her and asked how her day was. She carried the conversation with confidence and eloquence, the pieces of tangerine stuck between her teeth only seemed to add more character to her being. She asked me what I thought about the refugee situation.

With a glittered fingernail, she points to a stray cat and tells me she's named her Sandy, because she loves to lie in the sand. It was only then that I noticed all the cuts on her arm. I wanted to ask her about them but didn't know how. She tells me she brings Sandy some catnip once a week and wonders if anyone will bring Sandy catnip when she's no longer around. I ask what she means and she says if she graduates. I didn't know at that time what I know now, but she meant from the world.

Her fingernails are painted black as she lies still in her coffin. Her foster parents found her in the bathtub with her arms slit open. The funeral was packed with her many fellow earthlings, all in tears, everyone a victim of what she did to herself. They have already flooded social media websites with dedications and tributes and pictures and quotes.

Every Tuesday I bring catnip to Sandy. I don't know why I do it, but in a strange way it makes me feel like she's still around, painting her nails on a bench somewhere.





## Trapped Inn

By: Paola Schietekat

Besides restaurants, there is not much to do in Kuwait for leisure, especially when the temperature is high and the trip from your house to your car becomes an ordeal. But Kuwait is full of young people who want to have fun (indoors preferably), and I might just have found one of the best spots in town.

Just across AUK there's Symphony Hotel, and it's kind of sad to go inside the mini-mall they've set up there because it's always empty and besides Juan Valdez Café, there's nothing really worthwhile. Then one weekend, while on a double date (because I'm into that kind of thing), the other couple arranged a booking at Trapped Inn, the first escape game in the Middle East. It was such a downer because, since Kuwait has no fun spots as I mentioned, all the rooms at Trapped Inn were booked for like an entire week. We booked a room for next week and showed up on the day of our appointment just to find out that our booking was not on their system. We yelled at the manager and he promised us to compensate it with a complimentary session the week after.

So we showed up again and this time they did have our booking, but had no record of the "free-of-charge-make-up-for-our-inefficiency-promotion." We yelled again (gracefully and respectfully), and got our discount. I think they have about six to eight rooms to choose from, and we got the "Castle". You are supposed to solve puzzles that have to do with skill, wit and math, in order to exit the room in an hour or less. You are allowed a certain number of hints and can call staff at any point during the game. Ours was one of the easiest and we kind of rocked it with our killer skills. However, we did not make it out of the room on time because one of the locks we had to open was faulty (we had the correct combination but it didn't open, so we tried other combinations and lost lots of time).

Overall, it was a fun experience and I would definitely try more rooms and would recommend teens and adults (it's not really for children under 13) to try it out. Nevertheless, I do think it's overpriced (what a surprise); an hour in each room is 50 KWD, and some of the puzzles lack quality (some are just dull printouts on paper, cut off and stuck on a surface). Also the faulty lock...what up with that? I'd like to see more of these ideas opening up in Kuwait so young peeps have the chance to do more than walking around the Avenues, and if they can use their brains in the process, then please, more games like this.



## Monthly Dose of New Series

By: Rouaa Diab



### Mr. Robot

Even-though this show seems a little non-typical and a bit odd. The show revolves around a hacker, who does not know how to make normal human interactions and who has no other choice but to get to know people through, well, hacking them! This show will specifically be interesting for Computer Science students, and Computer Engineers. However, it is a recommendation made for everyone, since this series targets so many aspects other than computer hacking; aspects such as how messed up our everyday lives have become. This show is extremely smart and will definitely make you more aware and self-conscious about the things going on around you.

### Daredevil

As a fan of superheroes, I love the way the Daredevil is portrayed in this Netflix original series. For those of you who do not know, Daredevil is one of the heroes created by Marvel. He is a lawyer who has gone blind due to a tragic accident that happened to him as a kid, an accident that made him the hero he is today. The reason why he is a lawyer is because he wants to bring justice back into the world, and the message this show sends is a very powerful one. So if you like superheroes, and if you like justice, this should surely be on the top of your to-watch list.



### Grey's Anatomy

This is indeed an old show that everybody has heard about. However, even as a person who has been watching series ever since she was thirteen, the idea of a show about adult doctors in a hospital and their personal dramatic lives just seemed boring to me. After I saw all the social media attention it got, I felt like I had to at least give it a try. Now I take back everything negative I said or thought about this show! I promise you, in every single episode of this show, your feelings will be moved and you will be left with a thought. This show is definitely worth at least a try, I promise, you will go back for more!





## The Art of Décopatching

By: Abdullah Al Qouz



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Upcycle &  
Reuse Again!



The graphic designer Lubna Saif Abbas had finally accomplished the grand re-opening of LB o J'zazz retail store in Mujama'a Al-Turath, Historic Mubarakia, Kuwait City moving from Shaab Al Bahryover two years back. She worked continuously for eight

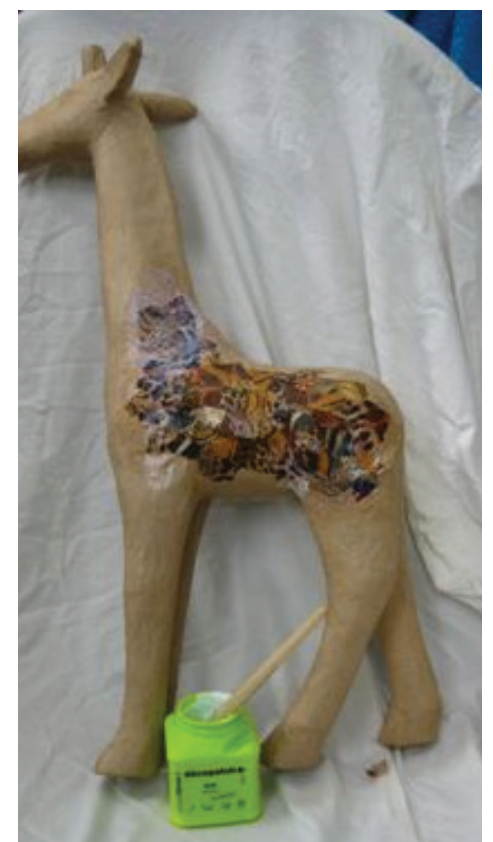
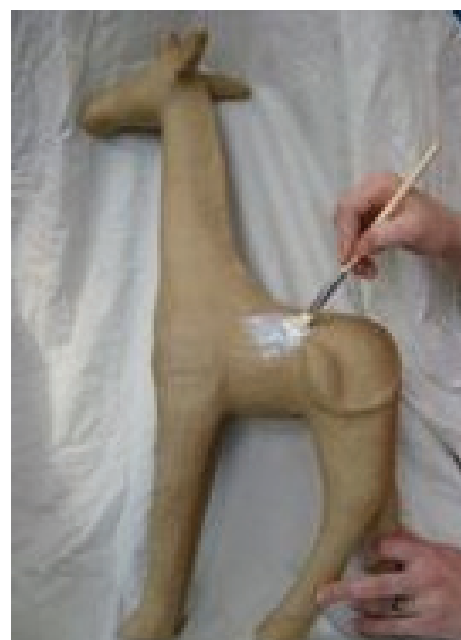
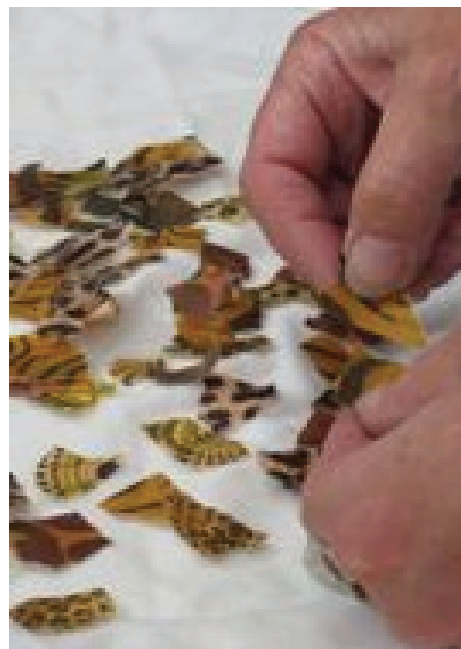
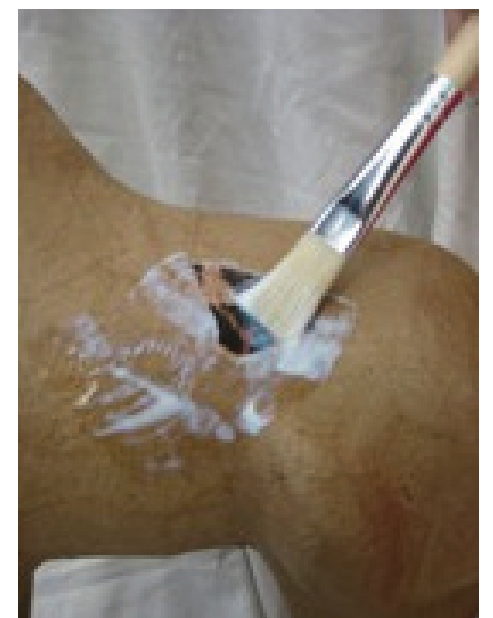
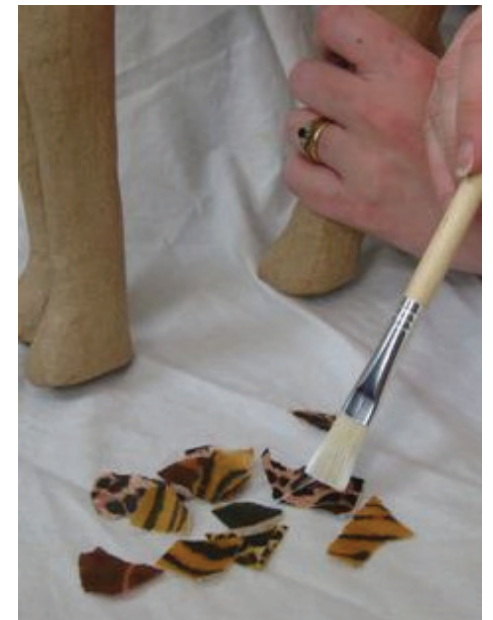
years in her basement studio "Yadawi" in Jabriya which was a main source for both of the Art & Crafts workshops and décopatching materials. Lubna is often referred to as a maker/educator of arts and crafts; she is mostly known for artistic spread to people in Kuwait to décopatch.

Décopatching is a very humble crafting process which is why it does not require a lot of tools to start it other than types of special glues and creative paper sheets, and it is also named as a process of "Upcycling". For décopatching the décopatcher should pick an object, it could be anything but probably not a piece of cloth in the first time. Then you need some gesso, varnish glue, a brush, and a selection of different papers which all come from the Decopatch brand.

The chosen object, especially if it is glass or metal, can be entirely gessoed to give it more solidity. The object will turn white which will make the colors pop as well as ease the job for the decopatcher. Allow the object time to dry before decopatching.

The paper can be torn into smaller pieces (most of the time) and the object should be ready to get upcycled after that. Then, every spot on the gessoed object has to be varnished by the non-toxic glue, and a piece from the torn paper should be placed on it and get varnished while it is on top of it as well so that all the edges get stuck down, and rest of the object's areas will have the same as well. Scissors can be used to cut and strips and shapes for highlighting.

Once the object has dried, there is another sealing varnish that will help protect the object with dusting and regular use and 24 hours after it is varnished, it would not affect if the object is dunked in water just like it is its original look. The brush will take care of all the glue, gesso, varnish and paper placement another option can be the hands but it is a bit messier.







A benefit of décopatching is that it is always used for an object that is already obtained, so typically a person who wants to décopatch will get the supplements and décopatches something he/she already owns like lamps, pots, piggy-banks...etc. Some people go even beyond that where they actually décopatch chairs, tables, and/or walls. What also boosts the décopatchers' patience during the work is that all the required materials are non-toxic ones, nothing will be disgusting and sticky while working, not a lot to clean up right afterwards, even the papers used, other than they are colorful, gorgeous, and French! They are much lighter than the regular ones which are typically used for gift wrapping and they would come in paper or some times fabric and a bit heavier.

Décopatching is an art. Often the ones who get introduced to it will get to see whatever they do not use anymore for such reasons that should be in use so they can have more décopatching opportunities. It can be seen as a very eco-friendly innovation because it enlightens up ideas to people and let them think of objects they would typically not use while they already have. It lets décopatchers think for better/prettier ways of making projects, gift, decoration, and color matching, it is a lot of creativity and fun, and the more efforts put on it, the more creative and outstanding it can be. So how about the graphic design

students? Could anyone expect to see creativity through simplicity from them? Can we expect good décopatchers to be good designers and vise versa?



**YES, the mysterious pretty chairs were décopatched by Lubna Saif last April during Earth Day and the other one for whoever is wondering is getting finalized at the Yadawi studio!**

## Horoscopes

By: Huda Al Kotob



**Aries**  
(21Mar-Apr 19)

A friend will prove their true loyalty to you soon. If you look carefully, good fortune will come your way in its material form.



**Taurus**  
(Apr20 -May 20)

Take extra care of yourself this month, especially your health. Pressures and stresses of life are likely to build up this month and raise your blood pressure.



**Gemini**  
(21May -June 20)

Bizarre events lie in store for you this month, so expect the unexpected. However, make sure to keep track of your finances since this month will be turbulent on your wallet.



**Cancer**  
(21June -1July 22)

You will experience a change in your energies, which will allow you to follow your dreams more easily. But beware being thrown into an imbalance of energies.



**Leo**  
(23July -Aug 22)

Situations in your recent history have caused you to be doubtful of those closest to you, but you mustn't let that feeling get in the way this month.



**Virgo**  
(23Aug -Sept 22)

With the change of weather will come a change of heart. You might want to reconsider some of your friendships this month.



**Libra**  
(23Sept -Oct 22)

Your physical appearance will be noticed by those who surround you this month. You are likely to receive many compliments.



**Scorpio**  
(23Oct -Nov 21)

The odds are in your favor this month! Welcome your birthday with open arms and embrace those you love, for they have something big planned for you.



**Sagittarius**  
(22Nov -Dec 21)

It could possibly be time for a change in your wardrobe. Your sign predicts you will have excellent bargains on purchases this month.



**Capricorn**  
(22Dec -Jan 19)

You have promises left unfulfilled and have begun to disappoint those closest in your life. Attempt to mend the bonds before they are broken beyond repair.



**Aquarius**  
(20Jan -Feb 18)

This month you will be adventurous, daring and bold in your actions. You will find the energy to do things beyond your wildest imagination.



**Pisces**  
(19Feb -Mar 20)

Tap into your nature-loving side and spirituality this month. Volunteer at an animal shelter and take a yoga class at Shaheed Park. It will serve you well.

**\*\*\*Disclaimer: The Voice is not responsible for any unfulfilled prediction, blame the stars instead.**



## No Smoking in the Hallway

By: Student Counseling Center

Unlike many societies who have realized that, while smoking is a personal choice (no less harmful, but a choice after all), it being a personal and not a collective decision should acknowledge and respect those who have chosen not to smoke. Yet, culture has it that each individual knows better, so people smoke inside malls, supermarkets, restaurants, and in any other restricted area. Passive smoking kills the whole purpose of one's choice not to smoke because they want to stay healthy and it is the reason why all students were notified that they can no longer smoke in the hallway. Most paid no attention and continued smoking cigarettes. So whatever you want to smoke, please don't do it in the hallway. Rules. No, it is not to tease you, it is out of respect; because if you have the right to smoke, others also have the right not to.



## Call for December/January Submissions

The Voice of AUK is now accepting submissions for our December/January edition. **The deadline for submissions will be on Thursday 3rd of December.** The Voice will be publishing relevant information about a career in **English Literature and Foreign Languages** in our Academic section.

The Voice also regularly accepts submissions concerning politics, sports, fashion, poetry, opinion piece, shealth & beauty, etc. from students, faculty and staff.

**Email your submissions to:**  
**[voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw)**

Submissions should be 1000 words or less. If pictures are attached, they need to be in a JPG format and attached in a separate file.

The Voice of AUK is the official student newspaper of the American University of Kuwait.