

## ‘Class of 2011’- AUK Graduation Ceremony

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER



Graduates of the Class of 2011.

On Thursday, June 16th, AUK hosted the graduation ceremony for its graduating class of 2011 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds (KIF), from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The ceremony commenced with Ms. Amal Al-Binali, the assistant to the President for Admissions and Public Affairs, giving a welcome note including introductory comments outlining the various figures involved with the respective commencement. Kuwait’s national anthem was followed by a beautiful recitation of the

Holy Quran by a graduating senior, Abdulrahman Al-Farhan, after the preliminary comments by Ms. Al-Binali. This was then followed by some welcome remarks by AUK’s current President, Dr. Winfred L. Thompson, to the graduating class of 2011 and the eager audience that almost swamped the stadium grounds.

The President welcomed students and their families to the ceremony, as well as the ceremony’s key-note speaker, Dr. Naif A. Al-Mutawa.

In his opening remarks, Dr.

Thompson reiterated in his speech that the completion of the baccalaureate degrees marks a special day in the lives of the graduating class and of the university as well. “Through the pomp and pageantry of the graduation ceremony we celebrate both your attainment of an important academic achievement and your advancement to the next stage of life. I congratulate you one and all.” Dr. Thompson continued by stating his hopes for the graduating class of 2011, potentially evoking a beautiful

nostalgic cataclysm within the hearts of the audience behind him, the graduating seniors. “Whatever course your lives may take, I hope that each year will add to your appreciation of your experiences at the American University of Kuwait, both your educational experiences in our classrooms and laboratories and your activities in our student clubs and organizations.”

The President then introduced and welcomed the key-note speaker of the ceremony, Dr. Naif A. Al-Mutawa, the creator and co-writer of THE 99, the

world’s first comic superheroes born of an Islamic archetype. Dr. Al-Mutawa is a Kuwaiti clinical psychologist, and stated that his colleagues humorously refer to him as “having more degrees than a thermometer!” He graduated with a Masters and PhD in Clinical Psychology, from Long Island University and an MBA and Masters in Organizational Psychology from Teacher’s College, Columbia University. He pursued his undergraduate triple major degrees in Clinical Psychology, English Literature, and History

from Tufts University.

Dr. Al-Mutawa’s writing of a timeless children’s tale, inspired by the direct contact with the horrors inflicted upon people because of their religious and political beliefs, won a UNESCO Prize for Literature in service for tolerance; he received the Eliot-Pearson Award for Excellence in Children’s Media from Tufts University, the UN Alliance of Civilizations “Marketplace of Ideas” Award, the Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneurship presented

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## Anthropology Workshop On Humanitarian Future of Kuwait

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI



Dr. Amer Al-Tamimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Human Rights Society.

On May 24th in the AUK Auditorium, one student’s efforts brought about an event that heralded social equality and began a fruitful dialogue on where Kuwait is headed in

the case of humanitarian relief. The term is often associated with impoverished, war-torn countries that rely on civil society and volunteer-led organizations to alleviate suffering but developing ones also have a share of misfortunes. The only difference is that they are masked with big business and neglected by the mainstream media. From that standpoint comes a forum of discussion revolving around the laborers and domestic workers of Kuwait who are not protected by any ratified laws that secure their human rights.

It was headed by Professor Pellegrino Luciano, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, and organized by AUK student,

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## A Senior’s Personal Thank You

BY WALAH AL-SABAH

Six years in AUK is not a short period at all. The experiences I have had as a student, an employee and a person here are not to be taken for granted. My life at AUK did really enhance my personality and I guard every experience I have had here as one worth valuing.

While working as a student employee for the Humanities Department in the academic year 2007/2008, I was exposed to many a great people. It was a pleasure getting to help the professors who needed exams to be procured, papers to be copied, and many other things.

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## Stop Racism

BY MOHAMED ARAB, ARABICGATE



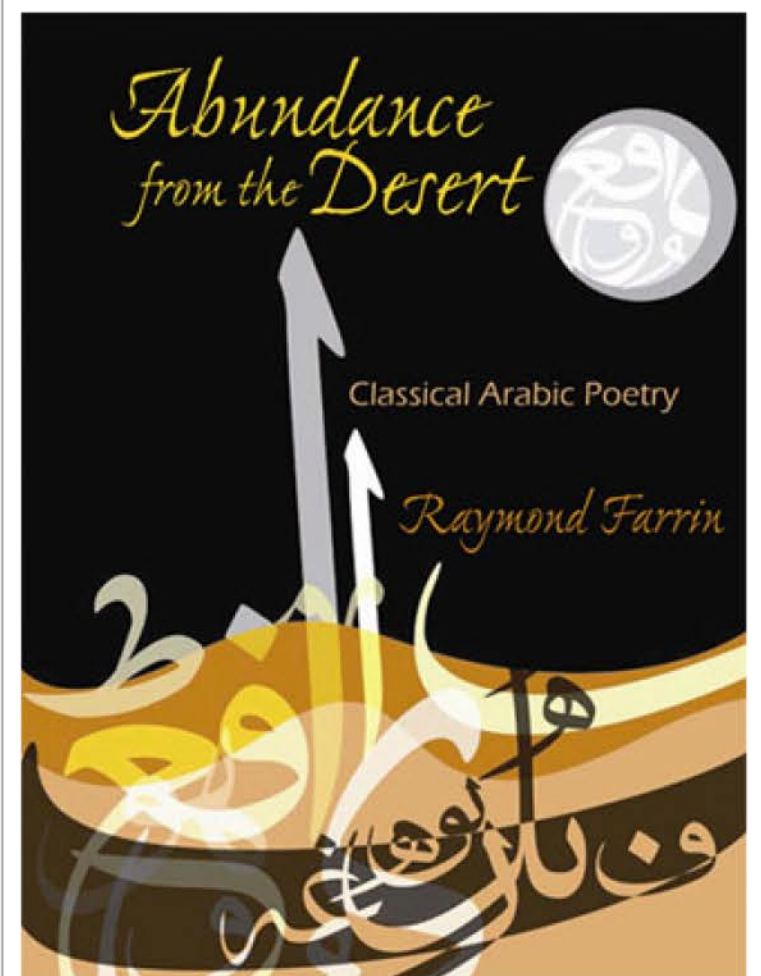
Racism is a very common issue being faced by a lot of people in today’s world. According to Wikipedia, “Racism is the belief that the genetic factors that constitute race, ethnicity, or nationality are a primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that ethnic differences produce an inherent

superiority of a particular race.” From that, we can fathom that racism is not only about the color of someone’s skin, but also about where they are from (nationality), their religion (ethnicity), and their skin color (race). A lot of people are being discriminated against because

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## Dr. Raymond Farrin Reveals Abundance from the Desert

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM



Cover of Dr. Raymond Farrin’s Abundance from the Desert.

It is impressive to see the output of our respected faculty members, some in forms of publications. One of these impressive faculty members is Dr. Raymond Farrin, AUK’s Assistant Professor of Arabic as well as Arabic Program Lead. His articles have been published in journals such as the Journal of Arabic Literature and the

Muslim World. His recent publication is a book entitled Abundance from the Desert, which, according to him, deals with thirteen great Arab poets from the pre-Islamic era to the end of the ‘Abbasid period (500 – 1258 CE). Dr. Farrin discusses each poet’s life and times, translates a major poem

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## 'Class of 2011'- AUK Graduation Ceremony

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER



Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa giving his keynote speech.



President Winfred Thompson giving his opening remarks.

at the 2009 World Economic Forum (WEF), and he has been named one of the WEF's Young Global Leaders for 2011.

Dr. Al-Mutawa, in his speech, imparted words of wisdom through segmented chronologies of his past experiences to the graduating class. He explained the importance of "speaking your mind" by shedding light over the intricacies revolving around his baccalaureate days and his consistency to mention situations and provide writings in accordance to his immediate thoughts and conventional wordings, which initially raised several eyebrows but at a later stage was accepted as norm. The second segment of his speech emphasized the importance of balance between work and general life obligations, viz. family, friends and relatives. He concluded with information about the creation of THE 99, where he implied the importance of believing in your



President Thompson, Dr. Al-Mutawa, Dr. Hamzeh, and valedictorian Laila Daghestani cutting the cake.

abilities and moving forward with your ideas. After this, valuable advice was given by Dr. Naif to the Class of 2011, "Please take time to have some fun, but when the fun is over, think about what lays ahead. Set your goals and achieve them, only then will you succeed and only then will you be happy." Succeeding the key-note address, Dr. Carol Ross-Scott, the Vice President for Administrative and Student Affairs introduced the Valedictorian of the Class of 2011, Ms. Laila A. Al-Daghestani, a Summa Cum Laude (3.90 - 4.00 GPA) senior, with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media, with the highest cumulative GPA of her entire graduating class. Ms. Laila approached the podium from her seat, to deliver her speech where she spoke about the importance of being unique and trying out something new, where she explained a unique lesson from Robert Frost's 1915 poem, The Road Not Taken, "As Robert Frost explicates the importance of being unique in his poem, it is very important for an individual to not always trod on a conventional path taken by people, but to travel on one less traveled by, to make all the difference." She also imparted words of wisdom saying, "Think not of the degree

you have earned as a ticket to self-motivated goals, but as a ticket of opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people around you." Following Ms. Daghestani's speech, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, the Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presented the Class of 2011, and recommended the conferral of degrees to President Thompson who then conferred upon the 492 graduates their respective degrees. The conferral of the undergraduate degree diploma was narrated by Ms. Amal Al-Binali and Ms. Sarah Boodai, the Marketing Development Officer. In keeping with the academic tradition, the graduates were asked to move their tassels from right to left, thereby marking their official graduation from AUK. The end of the ceremony was marked by the traditional cutting of the Class of 2011 cake and professional photography was provided for all graduates, their families and friends. Cake and different cocktail juices were available at the reception and were circulated at the inception and conclusion of this joyous and memorable ceremony.

Congratulations, Class of 2011! We'll miss you.

## English Major Students Meet with University of Florida's Professor as Honor Senior Thesis Candidates

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

Six honor thesis English Literature students presented their Senior Thesis projects of the academic year 2010/2011 in the presence of Professor Malini Johar Scheuller from the University of Florida in a thesis discussion roundtable equivalent to a theses defense on Monday May 2, 9-11am in the AUK Auditorium. The students included the AUK community at a public discussion of their senior honors theses by initiating with a presentation of a brief précis of their theses and then responding to questions from theses committee members, Professor Scheuller, other English faculty, and attendees including students and staff members. The first student was Mariam El-Temtamy and her thesis is entitled "Wikis' Incredibility?: A Rhetorical Study of Online Wikis" which questions how knowledge is created and who creates knowledge, on the basis of wikis such as Wikipedia which is claimed to be non-credible. Her defence was supported by post-modern theorists and Roland Barthes' theory of the "Death of the Author." Mariam used a specific article by Barbra Warwick that deals with Wikis credibility and collaborations through digital technology. She also discussed the idea of student authorship and its contribution to wikis that can be limited at times. Mariam discovered a second layer for academic research, as a result, by investigating her research question of the creation of knowledge and the function of such wikis. The focal point of the thesis deals with Wikipedia's reputation in the realm of academia. Mariam mentioned that she was inspired by one of the digital rhetoric classes she has taken as a major elective course. Another student, Esraa Al-Sherida, presented her thesis which revolved around the psychological aspect of the loss of the Kuwaiti dialect, linguistically speaking. She associated the fear of loss with a psychological state of current Kuwaitis while linking it with linguistics. By compiling statistics and working with means that address this phenomena such as different media/traditional radio stations, Esraa's research concluded the there is no such thing as the loss of the Kuwaiti dialect, linguistically speaking, as it is all linked to the psyche of Kuwaiti citizens. Then student Fatima Ibraheem presented her thesis, "The Ambassador for Women's Role: A Rhetorical Study of Sayyida Zeinab's (PBUH) Sermons." Fatima explained the first time rhetorical analyses she conducted; it was based on Sayyida Zeinab's sermons,



Faculty from the English Language/Literature Department with Dr. Malini Schuller.



Audience members at the English Honors Thesis roundtable.

the Prophet's granddaughter, an orator, leader and educator, and provided context of the topic and tradition of oration in a critical phase in Islamic history (680 CE), years after the Prophet's ascension. She also discussed her use of some Western theories, Aristotle's On Rhetoric and Mikhail Bakhtin's concepts. Her ultimate argument is that Sayyida Zeinab deserves to be a canonical figure and her sermons are canonical pieces of literature and rhetoric while questioning why this isn't the case in the first place, since her pivotal sermons extended what her brother's sacrifice achieved: saving Islamic society from oppression, injustice, and a breakdown, while heroically challenging the tyrant of their time. Fatima also mentioned some of the challenges she encountered throughout the process in translating Arabic philosophical phrases into English, for instance, amongst others. Ultimately, she declared that her intention of this thesis is to extend an extra mile and expose the heritage of Islam via translation while also utilising more Western theories such as Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault to build and develop on her thesis. Furthermore, student Noura Ala-Ajmi introduced her thesis project, "Irony in 'Cannibalism in the Cars'" which deals with a close analysis of the irony aspect of an American short story written by Mark Twain. In addition to irony, she looked at symbolic themes and motifs that she can relate to today's political America. Her thesis revolves around the notions of democracy, manifestation of destiny and the elimination of minority groups in American, particularly.

Amal Behbehani, a fifth candidate, talked about her thesis, "Hawkeye: The Definition of an Early American Hero"

which also deals with American literature. Amal looked closely at the traits of a nineteenth century American hero to compose a definition. She questions what kind of hero it is: a romantic hero, an epic hero, or any kind of supernatural hero? She used comics as samples to look at for her discovery of an original definition of the American hero within American literature of the nineteenth century.

Lastly was Dana Al-Failakawi's "Obama's America in National Geographic: The Construction of the Self, the Stranger, the Other, and the Enemy" where she stated that her thesis was a developed version of an Anthropology paper she wrote for a class previously. Dana focused on the representation of culture and women in the magazine, National Geographic, and the issue of rhetoric used. She used theorists such as Sara Ahmed's "Stranger Feticism" and Edward Said's "Orientalism." Her analysis was based on photographs which she divided into categories according to representation and continent, first and foremost. Other than the magazine itself, Dana consulted the website to form her thesis question: who is constructing these ideas and whether or not it is based on power dynamics of identity. The fruitful discussion inhabited values about literature, writing, and preparing for graduate school as well, presented by this year's English thesis candidates and chaired by Malini Johar Schueller. It was an opportunity for these students to showcase their talents, innovative thesis project ideas and discoveries combined with future ambitions. Literary interests and inquiries about graduate school was the concluding discussion of the roundtable.

## THE VOICE OF AUK

### 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.

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*"The students included the AUK community at a public discussion of their senior honors theses by initiating with a presentation of a brief précis of their theses and then responding to questions..."*



# AUK’s 3rd Annual ACM Technology Fair

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

The Association for Computing Machinery at AUK held its 3rd Annual Technology Fair for the academic year 2010-2011 on May 23, 2011 in the AUK Auditorium from 5 to 9 pm. The Fair included a senior capstone showcase of Computer Science and Information Systems graduating students’ hard work to develop technology use and modern software innovations that could solve the world’s critical problems according to the United Nations, which are eight including poverty, illiteracy, mortality rates etc. The event was organized by the members of the ACM club at AUK.

The evening started with Dr. Amir Zeid, the supervisor of the event and Program Lead for CSIS, who mentioned the “rules of the game” to the members of the audience which consists of the students’ presentations



The “SWAP team: RRS” members being awarded first place by Dr. Amir Zeid and President Winfred Thompson.



The panel of judges.



“Voice of the Mute” presentation on display.



The “Team Dream: The Enlight Project” members: Wael El-Ahmady, Mejren Al-Hammadi, Faisal Al-Ajmi, and Salem Al-Hammadi getting ready to present.

restricted to a timeframe that could penalize the student participants for exceeding the time limit, followed by questions directed to the student presenters by a panel of judges who are Dr. Shereef Abu Al-Maati, Dr. Mohamad Awad, Dr. Naemat Mosaad, Dr. Roman Kulchitsky and Mr. Abdullah Al-Shaikh. The Fair is considered a competition amongst the participating students wherein only three are filtered to be the winners of the most innovative and best ideas in the end. Generically, all group presentations followed a specific structure for their showcase, an elaborate explanation of their work and product, a demo of its operation, the architecture and display of algorithms, applications and apparatus used, business viability, assessment, and proof of future enhancements/developments.

Eight teams participated with a four to four male-female equal ratio. The first team’s presentation was the one to win second place. “Team Dream: The Enlight Project,” composed of Wael El-Ahmady, Mejren Al-Hammadi, Faisal Al-Ajmi and Salem Al-Hammadi, presented their project which is composed of two parts to overcome

barriers for education. The first part primarily transfers any solid surface into an internet-connected touch screen, while the second part revolutionizes user interfaces by allowing users to control computers using body-motion-sensing without any keyboard/mouse.

On the other hand, the team that won first place was the “SWAP team: RRS” composed of Ali Taqi, Bader Al-Mohamed Ali and Eissa Al-Qadeeri. Their presentation showcased a “Revolutionary Reporting System” which facilitates solving the issue of mortality rates that result from severe accidents. Their design is a system that uses the GPS location tagged in the image to report problems to authorities such as accidents, environmental hazards, health emergencies, theft, etc. The third team to win the award was the “Voice Over Language” project presented by Khaled Al-Jassar, Mohammed Al-Shatti and Abdualah Al-Shaya. Their project is a system designed to make real time language translators available universally, regardless of the country or language. The translator is voice waves-oriented rather than reliant on words and letters.

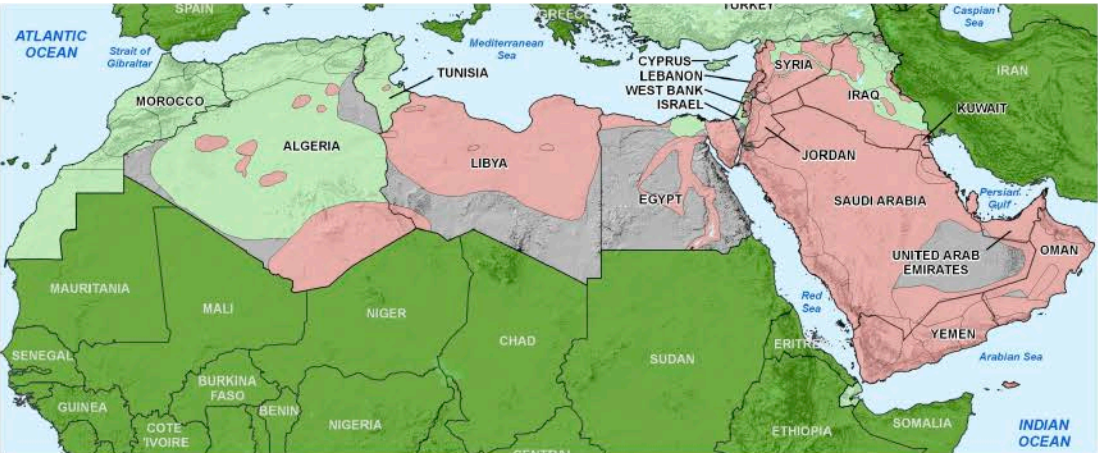
The other participating

teams included technological innovations that solved poverty, water consumption, education, and overcoming obstacles such as blindness, lack of communication, etc. “Reverse Poverty” by Thamer Al-Mayyan, Jassim Al-Fadhli, Musab Al-Shatti, Mustafa Ashkanani and Theyab Al-Mutairi is a project that aims to create a better environment and saves unprivileged people only by recycling and spreading awareness. Besides poverty, the issue of high water consumption is looked to be solved by Nour Al-Ghanim and Maha Al-Filakawei’s “Spare to Last,” which is a mobile phone application that helps the user to monitor and reduce users’ water consumption rate. On the other hand, “Reading Pal” by students Dalal Al-Obaidly, Jumana Al-Jasim and Rawan Al-Sughayer is a computer software that provides dyslexic users with a correction system using speech recognition to improve their reading skills. It also provides the option of using Livescribe Smartpen to help check spelling. As for overcoming obstacles caused by blindness and lack of communication, two teams organised a software; “Is it Mine” by Wadha Al-Dalama, Fatma Abdulghafour and Danah Buqrais is a phone application that assists blind people and their caretakers to be more independent. Also, “The Voice of the Mute” tries to break communication barrier for those who cannot talk but sign by translating sign language into voice.

Subsequently, the ACM Technology Fair 2011 included Information Technology student exhibits, in addition to selected graduation project presentations. The event also included a poster session for projects that were developed by CSIS students. The best graduation projects were acknowledged and certified by an award. ACM was an opportunity for such students to showcase their talents and innovative skills throughout their study at AUK.

# Mrs. Jones Deliverance: American Higher Education Benefits the Middle East

BY AISHA AL-FUWAIRES



There was nothing more exhilarating and embracing than having the American Corner and the Office of Student

Life of AUK to present her Excellency Mrs. Deborah Jones to present the topic of higher education and its importance to create and establish a nation worth governed by the highly-esteemed and honorable students of Kuwait. No goal or ambition will be achieved unless we put our intelligence to create innovative ideas and solutions to fix our ongoing issues and plans. That’s the purpose Mrs. Jones presentation of explaining that education is the key to unlocking our capabilities to build a well-informed and strong nation. Without it, not much hope can be grasped from the people to achieve a stable and prosperous country.

The event was held at the AUK Auditorium on May 8 at around 1:00 pm as many gathered and took their places, eager for the presentation to occur. After ten minutes, the show began with a welcoming introduction by President Winfred Thompson, who gave the audience a personal background of Mrs. Jones. She is the fifteenth U.S. ambassador to Kuwait. She’s has worked in high positions in the U.S as well as performing duties internationally, such as Turkey, UAE, Argentina, Syria, and so much more where she spent time engaging in Foreign Affairs and Services. She has received a Bachelors Degree in History and a Masters Degree in National Security and she’s married with two daughters. After this introduction, Mrs. Jones approached the stage and thanked heartily this fine institution for inviting her to present on a subject that carries a significant impact on her. She commenced her lecture by formatting her presentation with the first part by providing the historical background and the second part is how education influences society, economy and culture. In the beginning, she claimed that U.S.



U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, Deborah Jones.

higher education has a far better reputation than U.S. diplomacy and this led to strong admiration by the Middle East to apply their styles in their region. She said American liberal arts institutions in this region has aspired critical thinkers and academic freedom to their students and later provides statistics that more Kuwaiti students are attending American higher education both in Kuwait and the United States. She claims that higher education was doomed to failure due to various missionaries in the Arab region where their sole purpose was conversion. Then these missionaries shifted their focus towards an American secular system and it began with education, like when Beirut established an all-girls school and it further continued to grow until it became a university. This emphasized that people of all races, religions, and backgrounds deserve an education that promotes merit and intellectuals. She later talked about the importance of the Arabic language through interpretation and not memorization, but gradually, the language was abandoned since many literature and textbooks aren’t being translated into Arabic.

Mrs. Jones continues her lecture by stating American higher education has continued to flourish in the Arab region and provided many significant changes in Arab society. One of them was establishing Arab nationalism, which was formed due to the free spirit of Americans living in the region, and this led to free discussion

to develop Arab nationalism. Another one is increasing female empowerment such as the American University of Turkey, which helped establish female students in the fields of business, economy, media, and much more. Pride was highly accomplished such as Egypt, where the army has achieved professionalism in their training which was inspired by American influence in their combat at the Civil War. She believes that American higher education has taught their students valuable attributes like tolerance and respect for diversity.

That was attained through increased activity from American-based universities and satellite campuses in the Arab region.

Mrs. Jones concludes her presentation by referencing AUK. She says she’s extremely delighted and honored for the cultural programming done in this university as well as shaping the American influence by providing speakers and events that are set to encourage intellectualism and sharing of cultures and ideas. She’s also proud of this university for strengthening international interest in respecting diversity and increasing knowledge on many topics and events for personal thought and expression.

After ending the presentation, some audiences asked questions to her Excellency regarding the importance of American higher education in the Arab region and has it changed for better or for worse. She answered them with excellent points such as referring to educating the youth as vital for the growth of nations and the American educational system has made people exercise with their thoughts and form opinions. Her message that she’s invoking is that a nation’s resource of any country are humans and education will play a part in its economical growth and personal growth of its people.

“She said American liberal arts institutions in this region has aspired critical thinkers and academic freedom to their students and later provides statistics that more Kuwaiti students are attending American higher education both in Kuwait and the United States.”



# Dr. Malini Schueller, Neoliberal Imperialism, and Afghan Women

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI AND FATIMA IBRAHEEM

On May 3rd, the American Corner hosted a professor from the University of Florida and an accomplished scholar who enticed listeners with a thorough discussion about a topic that many have grown accustomed to hearing about, Afghan women. However, Dr. Malini Schueller had her own conclusions and theories to extrapolate from their desolate lifestyles. The afternoon began with Dr. James McDougall introducing the speaker and appropriating the pending lecture by mentioning the recent killing of Al-Qaeda's mastermind, Osama bin Laden, who was regularly associated with Afghanistan as he was sighted there often, be it for hiding or training the legion of Al-Qaeda followers who orchestrated acts of terror for the past decade. Of these enduring images, Dr. McDougall mentioned that of Afghan women and how events in the country have helped to form a narrative of liberation.

Dr. Schueller adopted the very standard format of an essay when beginning seeing as to how the topic was so very abstract but what determined the success of the lecture was ultimately her reliance on key words that would grip the audience when some points became too complicated. Firstly, she delved into the realm of ideas, popular culture, poetry, and conceptual theory which then lead to the gargantuan work, Orientalism. From it, Dr. Schueller highlighted harem literature and discourse on the terrorist. Orientalism increased after the events of 9/11 and ultimately lead to the justification of war in Afghanistan. Gayatri Spivak, an Indian literary critic and theorist, and Judith Butler, an American post-structuralist philosopher, are other names that were mentioned in relation to post-feminist modernity after 9/11. She then went into the apparent phenomenon that is the burqa-clad woman and how this opaque figure has been deliberately used in political discourse.

Her argument concerns self-conscious feminism, cultural tolerance and neoliberal imperialism, how Afghan women go about accepting formal and informal occupation. There exists a multi-cultural feminist critique



Professor James McDougall giving an introduction.

and privatization leading to neoliberal governance. She used the example of Laura Bush who had previously advocated for the rights of Afghan women and spoke of the identification of the other. She spoke of the feminist rescue of Afghani women, no to clash of civilizations and highlighting shared values/cultures instead.

There is, Dr. Schueller explains, an unspoken feminist consent to empire as well as the question of feminist importance. Of the points she focused on were the need for there to be a scrutiny of the desire to exchange places with the other and women's rights organizations. In the United States, there has been racially tolerant discourse to empire and systematic racism was replaced by issues of assimilation in the 1970s. In the case of popular culture, examples were brought up that Dr. Schueller looked at closely: the internationally renowned novel, The Bookseller of Kabul and a documentary film, The Beauty Academy of Kabul. The formulaic work, The Bookseller of Kabul, is a non-fiction novel written by Åsne Seierstad, a Norwegian journalist, about a bookseller, Shah Muhammad Rais (whose name was changed to Sultan Khan), and his family in Kabul, Afghanistan. It takes a novelistic approach, focusing on characters and the daily issues that they face. The Beauty Academy of Kabul chronicles the story of a group of American hairdressers who journey to Afghanistan to open the country's first post-Taliban beauty school. American imperial culture shines through into what becomes an extreme form of hyper nationalism, often negative as it implies the extermination of one way of life and replacing it with one thought to be more superior.

The dialogue that surrounded



Dr. Malini Schueller giving her presentation.

these items was one of neoliberalism as a form of government: consumers, freedom of the market and consumption. What was quite noticeable from the supplemental clips of the documentary film that Dr. Schueller showed was that women involuntarily looked away from the camera. The goal with the images is to stress differences and commodifying by revealing as much of the body as possible liberated and disciplines. It is benevolent humanitarianism, if you will: occupation of Afghanistan in the name of feminism. It can also be thought of as propaganda as they are advertising themselves as saviors of Afghan women.

The contention put forward is if hairdressers are able to change Afghanistan. Dr. Schueller pointed out how some of the American hairdressers displayed arrogance and how that presence is what we commonly distance ourselves from. This production stages how beauty parlors can become a place that promotes women empowerment. What is very important to take away from it is how the rhetoric of liberating women elsewhere reflects oppression for the American women at home.

Dr. Schueller ended by stating that there are traditional signifiers that distance Afghanistan from modernity and that questions of empowerment are alien to its women. In fact, educating women is a counter insurgency strategy. The questions that must be asked at this point should be concerned with where we are headed. One possibility could be towards increased capitalism. Finally, she made sure to correct false notions about feminism by pronouncing that is not merely about gender but also about social class and race.

*"Her argument concerns self-conscious feminism, cultural tolerance and neoliberal imperialism, how Afghan women go about accepting formal and informal occupation."*

## 'May Day' at AUK

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

On April 28th, the American University of Kuwait celebrated International Labor Day, and held the Staff Appreciation lunch and related activities to manifest and recognize its appreciation of the services provided by the workers of the university.

Workers were all present at the university in casual attire on this day and a sense of boosted confidence and gratitude could be felt in the air. The main event of the day, an appreciation lunch, was prepared by the AUK community members, working in collaboration from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, to assist in making the event successful and show their admiration for the services provided by the AUK support staff.

President Winfred Thompson, student representative Fatima M. Thunayan, Entrepreneurship & Business Club, and the Hope Club, thanked the AUK support staff for their diligent efforts and support on behalf of the campus. In addition, each worker was handed a certificate of appreciation along with a gift and gift bags, on behalf of the faculty, student organizations, and AUK students. AUK faculty



and staff also performed the setup and cleanup for the respective lunch, greeted and helped seat persons on arrival, and even served them food and drinks.

Student, faculty, and staff volunteers, who were trained as interim support staff, helped supervise the AUK gates for the security personnel, and helped in picking up and collecting trash from the campus grounds and waste containers for the housekeeping employees in an effort to collaboratively keep the campus safe and clean.

The purpose of this event was to appreciate and thank the housekeepers, technicians, security officers, landscaping

and office facilitators for their passionate and hard work in ensuring that AUK remains a secure and pleasant place for the individuals on the premises to both learn and work.

International Labor Day is a day that signifies giving gratitude to the laborers, which is usually held on the 1st of May around the world, but certain countries hold it around that date in accordance to their convenience. It celebrates the many contributions to society made by laborers and honors their dignity. This day is celebrated around the world and is also known as 'International Worker's Day' or 'May Day'.

# Dr. Mohamad Awad Spends Summer in Dartmouth for Research Project

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

For the third time, AUK awards the Annual Visiting Faculty Fellowship at Dartmouth Award. This award is certified to a faculty member who will be spending the summer in Dartmouth wherein research is conducted. For a faculty member to be given this award, he/she should satisfy the criteria which consists of a proposal of a successful research output which is parallel to the Strategic Planning Goals of AUK, with a production schedule timeline, and one that shows the proper and efficient utilization of research resources found at Dartmouth. The recipient of this award is Dr. Mohamad Awad, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at AUK's Division of Sciences and Engineering.

Dr. Mohamad Awad will use Dartmouth resources to conduct his research. This includes but is not restricted to access to a state-of-the-art research facility alike museum collections in Dartmouth, a collaboration opportunity with one of the world's leading research groups in the field, and Dartmouth's vast library that is one of leading research libraries in the United States. Dr. Awad's research revolves around wireless devices in cooperative networks. His research question is: Given any implementation scenario of cooperative wireless networks with largely unknown dynamics, what is the optimal resource allocation? Collaborating with Dr. Awad on his research project entitled "Practical Resource Allocation for Cooperative



Wireless Networks" is the Dartmouth Engineering faculty.

As its title suggests, Dr. Awad will see how wireless devices, such as cell phones, wireless computers, relays and sensors, cooperate to become means of remedy into providing a channel of services alike videos, voice and data to other wireless devices among districts of poor wireless coverage. Specifically, the benefit of working with cooperative networks include its low cost, rapid pace of deployment, and the capacity of

all-wireless for recovery post-network disasters, which could be remedial for making wireless coverage available in deserts and offshore oil/gas platforms. To back up his research project, Dr. Awad provided structures of practical algorithms which reflect a successful outcome of his research question. Dr. Awad will spend around two months in Dartmouth conducting his research, starting from mid-June and ending in mid-August summer of 2011.



# Anthropology Workshop On Humanitarian Future of Kuwait

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Dana Al-Otaibi, who, in her opening speech to the audience, demonstrated her enthusiasm for the topic. Important Kuwaiti figures related to the issue at hand were invited to share their knowledge and contribute facts, figures, and solutions. Professor Luciano explained that this would be first in a series of Anthropology workshops dealing with social problems. Generally speaking, the study of anthropology is not very much understood so he defined it as being the study of humanity and an insight into the workings of the human condition. Additionally, it serves as a critical channel between the sciences and the humanities. The main focus of this workshop



Professor Pellegrino Luciano giving an introduction

was to look into the condition of migrant laborers in Kuwait and subject it to overarching humanitarian laws.

The evening began when Ms. Al-Otaibi took to the podium to speak about how she was inspired to materialize this project and mentioned a lot of the humanitarian goals that every society should uphold and work towards. With unquestionable motivation, she sent out a message of reconciliation and hope that past faults would soon be amended. As a nation that strives to earn a place on the world stage in several aspects, comforting residents is a definite must. She also states how just months ago, Kuwait celebrated its Golden Jubilee but failed to include and extend gratitude to the migrant community that had a hand in shaping what the country has become today.

The first of the invited speakers to give some insight was Dr. Ibtihal Al-Khatib, a Professor of English Language and Literature at Kuwait University, who put everything into perspective and illustrated just how much of a social ill the conditions of laborers and domestic workers in Kuwait has become. Relevant organizations from the international community have accused Kuwait of coming short in the humanitarian realm and Dr. Al-Khatib stated that it annoys us as a nation, most probably because we know it is true. Instead of defending ourselves, we should acknowledge and work on solving whatever problems that threaten cohesion in Kuwaiti society. An interesting point made by Dr. Al-Khatib is

that we are in the process of experiencing the Enlightenment movement, where the focal point is the individual and maximizing human capital. She addressed what some might say about the incomprehensive approach to human rights exhibited by leading countries saying that while that may be true, the issue has mostly to do with internal affairs. Foreign affairs are a different story and had the discussion derailed into that, hypocrisy would be evident.

As for those who live in Kuwaiti homes, Dr. Al-Khatib mentioned how many Kuwaiti nationals do not regard them as fully human and listed some of the most distressing

realities that are a breach to their human rights: lack of minimum wages, late wages, no wages, no holidays/vacations, working at all hours of the day and night, working under harsh circumstances, being subject to violence by employers (often pushing them to commit suicide), the absence of laws to organize their human rights, and the absence of a syndicate through which their voices can be heard. A law has been drafted for domestic workers, presented by Saleh Ashour, a member of Parliament. However, it was not very well crafted because it focused more on the offices that provide Kuwaiti citizens with domestic workers as opposed to the workers themselves. Reforms to the law are presently ongoing.

Dr. Al-Khatib labels this as a very pressing issue that needs to be dealt with immediately and it is not one that just affects the psyche of the laborers and domestic workers themselves as it has impact on citizens of this country as well. The problem with domestic workers is that they encourage indolence and laziness in Kuwaiti households. Kuwaitis are losing control over the social/ideological framework of their own society. The fabric of it is affected by the fact that there are generally more people than us citizens to simply offer services, which is a very distorted notion. Dr. Al-Khatib ended her address by stressing on the significance of protecting laborers and domestic workers in Kuwait as they are no less than us in any way, shape, or form.

Next was Dr. Amer Al-Tamimi, the Secretary-General of the

Kuwait Human Rights Society, who was essentially the bearer of a long list of staggering statistical information related to the topic. He began by making it clear that the question of marginal labor in Kuwait is a very ticklish one. Before we even begin to perceive it as humanitarian, it is economic in nature. In the early 1950s, Kuwait became very dependent on foreign labor; most expatriates are engaged in different economic activities. Simplifying things, Dr. Al-Tamimi explained how the Kuwaiti economy is divided into two sectors: oil/petroleum and everything else. Kuwait has many economic sectors that heavily depend upon foreign labor. Unfortunately, it relies

on unskilled labor. Statistically speaking, almost 70 % of foreign labor in Kuwait is unskilled, poorly educated, and paid very little. Most unskilled laborers come from South and Southeast Asian countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. Some come from Arab countries like Egypt.

Today, the population of Kuwait is around 3.5 million; out of that, there are about 1.2 million Kuwaitis and 2.3 million made up of many nationalities, most of which are in the work force. The labor force is mostly made up of foreigners, 80% to be exact; 20% and even less are Kuwaitis. Dr. Al-Tamimi communicated how most Kuwaitis work for the government, around 90%. The private sector is dependent upon foreign labor; about 1.2 million are engaged in those occupations. About 650,000 are domestic workers. As far as the laws that regulate their employment in Kuwait go, we have ones that monitor civil service activities (i.e. government employment). There is also one that regulates employment in the private sector which was amended and issued in early 2010. It does not cover domestic workers – they are only protected by ministerial decrees issued by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor.

The society that Dr. Al-Tamimi heads and represents is lobbying with members of Parliament to enact a law that oversees the employment of domestic workers. Kuwait is being scrutinized by the United Nations Human Rights Commission and has been asked to pass such a law. During a periodical review that took



Mr. Vashin Sharma, Indian filmmaker.

place in May 2010, Kuwait was criticized for not having one. Dr. Al-Tamimi expressed his bewilderment at how 650,000 domestic workers service 1.2 million Kuwaitis and called it very excessive and inefficient. This reflects consumer behavior, the standard of living, and the heavy dependence on domestic assistance in Kuwait. But as long as these people live and work here, it is imperative that they are lawfully protected.

Currently, a law has been proposed to the Parliament and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is keen on enacting it. Foreign employees of the private sector have now been shielded by the newly-issued law which guarantees them a minimum wage of 60 KD per month among other benefits.



Dr. Ibtihal Al-Khatib, Professor of English Language and Literature at Kuwait University.

Still, there are complaints from some that are still not paid regularly. The government is taking a better position on this issue and is forcing companies to provide bank guarantees in order to be able to pay foreign employees if they fail in doing so. It will take time to rectify the situation and it needs people who are interested in protecting the human rights of these individuals. Fortunately, Kuwait has a very active civil society which works hard to correct the image of Kuwait abroad.

Every year, this country is having to face and answer to condemnation, whether it is printed in the form of articles in international newspapers or in frequent reports by human rights organizations like the Human Rights Watch in New York, Amnesty International in London, or the State Department in Washington D.C. To end things off, Dr. Al-Tamimi

stipulated the dire need for Kuwaiti society to accept the fact that there are flagrant violations against laborers and domestic workers that must be dealt with. He also hoped that Kuwait will one day utilize its native human capital and lessen its dependency on others. Finally, there is possibly a chance that the law to legally protect domestic workers Dr. Al-Tamimi spoke of will be endorsed before the end of this year.

The final speaker had the audience look at things from a visual standpoint, literally. Mr. Vashin Sharma, an Indian filmmaker, brought along an acclaimed documentary film to screen and stated that film for him is a way in which he can support what he believes in and feels very strongly about

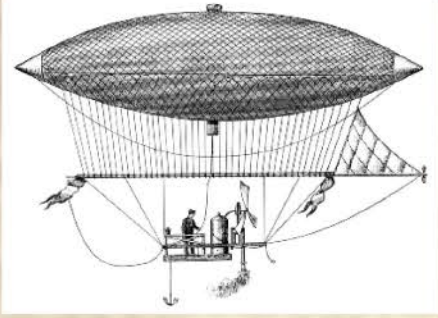
how it has the ability to change the world. Born and raised in Kuwait, he went to Los Angeles, California, United States right after high school and worked on independent film and television productions. While teaching a course on the subject in Kuwait, he required his students to produce and direct films that meant something to them. He was advised to put together a sample for them to be guided by. The byproduct of this passion for filmmaking that is able to raise awareness is Tokai, Street Cleaner, an 18-minute documentary film produced and directed by Mr. Sharma, Mr. Abdulrahman Alaskar, and Ms. Abeer Tebawi. They collaborated to highlight the issue of laborers in Kuwait and it was a difficult process as they had limitations to work around. In the end, their love for it and drive to bring the message out to audiences in Kuwait took them through

the post-production process without fail. Tokai, Street Cleaner offers a glimpse into the lives of thousands of street cleaners who sweep the streets of oil-rich Kuwait through Tokai, a Bengali laborer. It was shot at the end of 2006 and edited in early 2007. When it came out, it ignited some tension but was commended for the most part and the filmmakers submitted it to the Kuwait International Film Retreat, a film festival, in 2011. It was then that they found out that six minutes would have to be censored for sensitivity issues but it did provide for an explosion of publicity. On accessible video-sharing websites where the documentary film has been uploaded, there are conversations between Kuwaiti nationals and expatriates so it

has initiated somewhat of an informal forum. Mr. Sharma has had to moderate and push for understanding between them when discussions become intense. Ultimately, it did create a platform for debate that had not been available beforehand. With the end of the screening came the end of a highly successful event that was able to unite citizens and residents of this country represented by the audience under the banner of realizing humanitarian freedoms and pursuing them to the best of our abilities even when chances of doing so may seem grim. As a Kuwaiti national, I am shocked by the facts and figures but am hopeful that we will be able to witness the sanctioning of a tangible law that is able to protect laborers and domestic workers soon.



June:



June 5, 1783 - The first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier.



June 6, 1872 - Pioneering feminist Susan B. Anthony was fined for voting in a presidential election at Rochester, New York. After voting rights had been granted to African American males by the 15th Amendment, she attempted to extend the same rights to women.



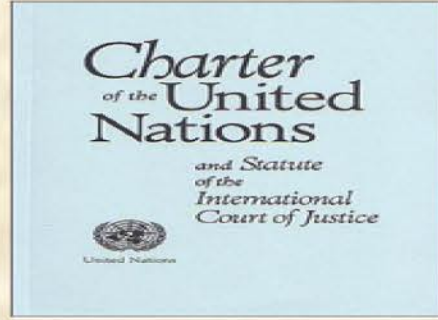
June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France.



June 15, 1215 - King John set his seal to Magna Carta, the first charter of British liberties, guaranteeing basic rights that have since become the foundation of modern democracies around the world.



June 16, 1963 - Valentina Tereshkova, 26, became the first woman in space as her Soviet spacecraft, Vostok 6, took off from the Tyuratam launch site. She manually controlled the spacecraft completing 48 orbits in 71 hours before landing safely.



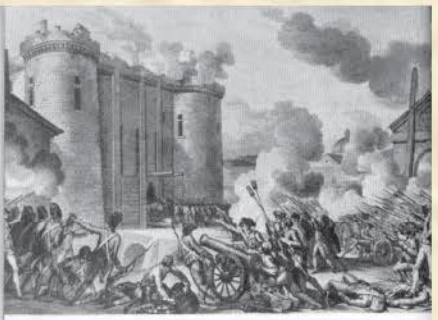
June 26, 1945 - The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco by 50 nations. The Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945.



July 6, 1885 - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.



July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.



July 14, 1789 - The fall of the Bastille occurred at the beginning of the French Revolution.



July 17, 1918 - In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg in Siberia, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.



July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.



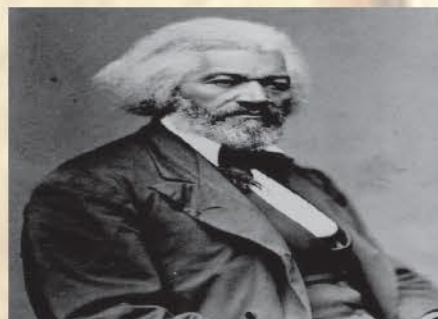
August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October 12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.



August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.



August 9, 1974 - Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.



August 11, 1841 - Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, spoke before an audience in the North for the first time. During an anti-slavery convention on Nantucket Island, he gave a powerful, emotional account of his life as a slave. He was immediately asked to become a full-time lecturer for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society.



August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.



August 22, 1986 - Deadly fumes from a volcanic eruption under Lake Nios in Cameroon killed more than 1,500 persons.

August:



# Dr. Raymond Farrin Reveals Abundance from the Desert

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM



Dr. Raymond Farrin giving a lecture explaining his book.

by him or her, and analyzes the work. Since this book covers a sequence of key poets and all the major genres, he intends for the book to serve as a general introduction to classical Arabic poetry.

As a recent AUK graduate, I am more than curious for an elaboration of this book. Thus, I conducted a simple interview with Dr. Farrin. After the summary of the book, I asked the question of: What motivated you to write such book? He answered: I was motivated to write the book around the time of 2001 when I was living in California. Following the events of September 11, 2001, there was unfortunately a lot of negative sentiment in the U.S. towards Arabs. I wanted somehow to contribute to changing the negative stereotypes, to influence people instead to appreciate and admire some of the amazing achievements of the Arabs.

Related to that question was a question I asked about the intended audience of his book. He responded: I am writing primarily for a Western audience. Classical Arabic poetry is unfortunately very little known among English-speaking readers. I hope to contribute towards changing that.

Since his intended audience is the Western audience, I asked: What would you say to non-Arab speakers/readers/writers about the uniqueness of Arabic poetry/literature and how different is it from other comparative world literatures? He initiated his response with a saying by Samuel Johnson that goes, "Poetry has to do rather with the people's passions, which are uniform, than their customs, which are changeable." So the range of human emotions is there in Arabic poetry, just as it is there in any other body of literature. But the emotions in these Arabic works are clothed in a particular language and imagery distinct to this culture. What I think is interesting is coming to understand

the particular symbols and expressions of this poetry, in order to connect to the human emotions of the composers.

As readers, we would contemplate what Dr. Farrin wants us to get away with after the valuable read. He conveyed: I hope my reader would want to read more of this poetry and perhaps take Arabic lessons.

Concerning the process of his writing of the book, I asked: What is your favorite part of the book – what have you enjoyed the most while writing it? He mentioned a quote he used in his book by Ibn Qutayba (d. 889) "The best poet is the one in whose poetry you are currently engrossed." I felt that as I was writing the book—that in each chapter the poet I was dealing with at the time was the best one. However, if I had to choose, I would say that I most enjoyed writing Chapter 5 ("Martyr to Love") about the 'Udhri poet Jamil, whose story with Buthayna is similar to that between Qays and Layla. Jamil's poetry is really touching and poignant.

Hypothetically speaking, I asked Dr. Farrin: Would you consider extending an extra mile on this book/topic in the future – is there something more that you want to further declare about Arabic poetry/literature? He said: I would certainly consider going an extra mile on this topic. All of the poets discussed in the book deserve individual studies written on them in English. Perhaps I might like to write a book on al-Mutanabbi, the would-be prophet, as his poetry is wonderful!

With all this passion for classical Arabic poetry, one is inclined to know if there were any influences on Dr. Farrin's writing as an educator. Furthermore, whether he has influenced others. Admittedly, Dr. Farrin said: There are many professors who have had an impact on me. In particular, I might mention James Monroe at UC Berkeley, who encouraged

me to write on this topic and provided helpful feedback throughout. As for writers, I especially admire the work of the eighteenth-century English poet, critic, and essayist Samuel Johnson. I read his Selected Essays as I was starting my project, and they inspired me. I hope I might influence some readers to become enthusiastic about classical Arabic poetry.

It is important, however, to know Dr. Farrin's personal opinion regarding the status of Arabic poetry and literature nowadays and whether he writes poetry himself. Therefore, after the questions, he answered: I think it is flourishing, as so much poetry continues to be written and published. I would say though, at this point, with figures such as Nizar Qabbani and Mahmoud Darwish now gone, we are waiting for the next great poet to emerge and define the field. And no, I don't write poetry, but maybe I will in the future. Until now, I have been happy to translate and explain poetry.

Ultimately, it is pleasant to have the writer share some behind-the-scenes moments with his readers while compiling the research and publishing the book, followed by a piece of advice for future student authors in particular. Hence, Dr Farrin's response was: I probably enjoyed most researching and gathering ideas in the University of California library, and taking long walks in Berkeley, working out the chapters in my mind. During the writing process, I drank at least one cup of coffee for every paragraph in the book. Also, it took almost four years from the time I sent off the manuscript to Syracuse until the book appeared. But I'm happy with the result. I would advise them to continue reading and writing. I struggled with my writing as an undergraduate, but it got easier and improved with lots of reading and steady practice.

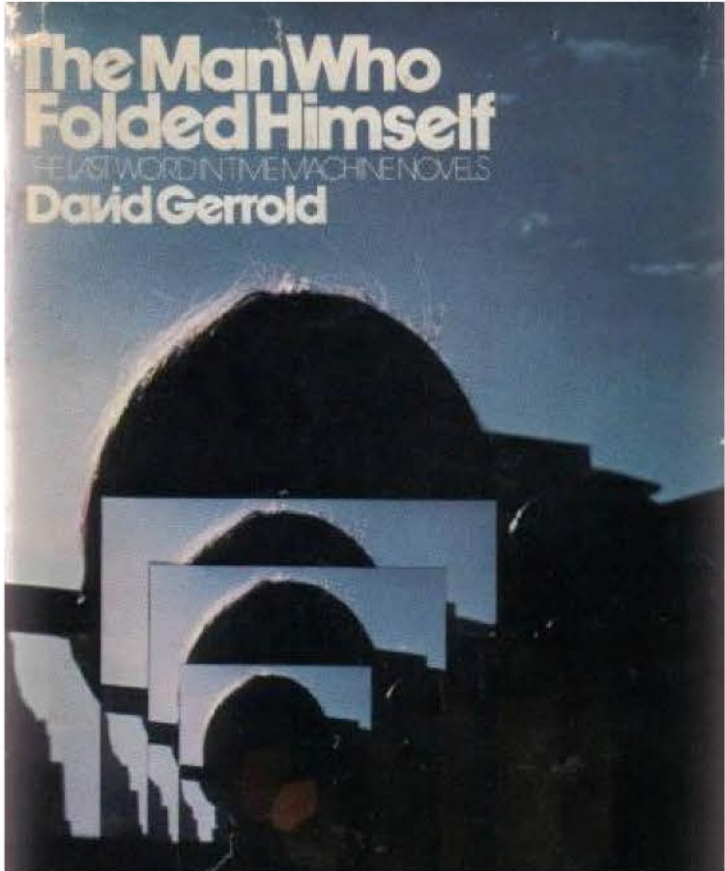
## فاطمة صالح حسين

قيل بأن الخال دليل جمال  
وانت لك اربع في الشمال..  
واخرى في ميمنة خدك  
كأنهم لآلئ اکتست خمال..  
بل انت اللؤلؤ الطاهر  
الذي أضفى عليهم الكمال..  
الخال غارت من تلك العيون  
فألبست العسل الرمال..  
فصار العسل في مقلتيك  
وعلى خد اللجين سال..  
ليس للبياض ملامح فتنة  
ولا الخال ولا الرموش الطوال..  
بل قلبك النقي وصفائه  
عكس على وجهك أبهى جمال

إهداء إلى أعز أنسانة لقلبي ..دانة إسماعيل

# The Man Who Folded Himself

BY HAWRAA ASHOUR



David Gerrold's novel The Man Who Folded Himself is an all-time classic and I mean that literally as it explores the concept of time travel. Originally published in 1973, the edition I happen to own, this novel when read today, is nothing short of insightful. In the blooming period of science fiction, this novel carves a place for its own. Star war fans will be happy to note that the author shared a similar passion and strove to write episodes for the series; succeeding, he went on to write one of the most popular episodes ever.

What brings you back to the novel is the all-consuming setting of it being in the 70s, a period that even the protagonist, Daniel, favors in his time journeys. Can you imagine life without all these cell phones, computers, laptops and smart devices? Gerrold makes it easy with first person narrative,

smart characters, character development and minute details in all his settings and an action-packed plot. The story begins when Daniel's uncle, his sole relative, passes away and leaves him a grand fortune and a single belt. Happily Daniel who isn't really motivated in his life, seeks to use the fortune only to find from everyone that it didn't exist and his uncle must have been delusional when he wrote his will. On the day of his birthday, Daniel wears the belt and discovers that built in is a time machine. Thinking he'd find a hidden message with the right buttons, he plays around with it, leading into his forward movement to the next day. Striking gold at the horse racing tracks with his knowledge of the results is the first in series of Daniel's use of his belt.

What makes this story more than just a fortune build is that Daniel's need for a family and

people to understand him make him leap into the challenges presented by going forward and backwards in time, such as meeting himself. Since Daniel had went forward a day and came back to the same day for the results, he'd already made a copy of himself at the race stands, one that has already experienced obtaining the results. It is at this point the Daniel realizes that time traveling wasn't as simple as he thought and proceeds to make up a system of support for all his current selves meeting their future one day selves, the Dans and Dannys for each other. Daniel explores changing the past, explores his fortune and investments, the identity of his uncle, his origin and, most of all, he explores himself as a human being. His desires for a family are rendered almost impossible because his current situation leaves him to explore different spaces in time and different personalities that are then born of the Dans and Dannys choosing to time hop into different locations and making different choices. Daniel also witnesses his own death, and that of different Dans and Dannys who grow too old. It is not a sight that leaves no impact, but not the same as when Daniel meets his female self.

At some point, you will lose Daniel, and you will no longer be sure which different fold of time it is that is speaking to you; is he a newer version? Is he a futuristic version with more experiences than the first Daniel? Is this version sane? Is this version straight? Is this version female? Is this version old? Is this version about to die? There are too many possibilities and still more to explore but for sure, Daniel will no longer be the same person you've heard at the start.

I wanted somehow to contribute to changing the negative stereotypes, to influence people instead to appreciate and admire some of the amazing achievements of the Arabs.



# A Senior’s Personal Thank You

BY WALAH AL-SABAH

Most of all, it was an absolute pleasure to work under the direction of Dr. Craig Loomis. That man was a great boss to have. It was also such a delight to help Dr. Katherine Kleypas. One relishes in working with people who are always kind such as her.

After this job at AUK, I joined extracurricular activities for three years. During two of those three years, I worked with the Voice as a member of the Editorial Board along with Dina Al Zohairy, Nur Suliman, and Farah Al Shamali who were colleagues one aspires to work with. During the second year, I joined the Campus Activities Board as a secretary under President Haya Al Qassar. My job as secretary for CAB was one I will always have a great sentiment for. Finally, during my third year, I was put in charge of CAB. That particular year, 2009/2010, was one I will never forget. Furthermore, I will never forget December 19, 2009.

December 19, 2009 is a day that I will never forget. That is when CAB organized the Charity Carnival. And that is when I had the opportunity to work with many, many people. My team and I prepared for this event 3 to 4 months in advance. I do convey my heartfelt thanks to everyone, and by everyone I mean from the domestic workers in the university who carried things around in preparation for the carnival from 6:00 am in the morning to the CEOs of companies we dealt with for the sake of the carnival. I also thank Mr. Tadd for his patience with us. As well as Student Life. And most especially, the SGA president of the year 2009/2010, Mr. Abdallah Al Sharrad, and the members of SGA that year who helped us.

Furthermore, I deem it right

to express my gratitude to the people who have truly influenced me, whether they know it or not. Thank yous are always a must. They make people realize their own impact on others. For all intents and purposes, these thanks are a tad bit overdue.

First, I would like to thank my professors. Some of them still teach at AUK, some are teaching at other universities, some I’ve grown to respect without having taken any class with them, and some went off to continue their doctoral studies, but all have one thing in common: They made me figure out what I want to become and what kind of career path I should choose. Each one of them has a different teaching style. So here goes. Doctors Tracy Ann Scholl, Conerly Casey, Craig Loomis, Marjorie Kelly, Hesham Al Awadhi, Gholamreza Vatandoust, Afaf Al Bataineh, Christopher Ohan, Ildiko Kaposi, Mohammed Akbar, Roman Kulchitsky, Ali Charara, Nadeem Burney (Instructor), Rawda Awwad, Mary-Ann Tetrault and Professor Shareefa Al Adwani (Away for her doctoral studies.)

Also, I would like to thank some of the people that I have had the pleasure to work or interact with. Dr. Carol-Ross Black, for her lighthearted and helpful nature, Mr. Tadd Kruse (During CAB), Ms. Fatema Hayat, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh for his simple and cheerful attitude to life, Ms. Amal Benali, Mr. Amer Al Asaad, Mr. Nawaf Al Banai, Mr. Mazin (No longer at AUK), Mr. Nizam (Information Technology) as well as all the great people in the I.T. Department who rush to solve any technological mishap in a matter of minutes. Let me not forget all of the helpful staff at the Library.

My experiences at AUK will always be considered as a great index in the library of my life. I can refer to this index for the future in order to succeed. And as I move on to the next phase of my life, I must stand to honor the past moments which have made me, me. I entered AUK when I was 18 years old, and today I am 23. I guess that says it all.

This is where I met my best friends –friends that I am certain will be in my life till it ends. This is where I received intense training to be ready for life – both from an academic and personal level. I am grateful to all my years at AUK. To every experience, bad or good because all of them were educational. Truly, thank you AUK. For the education and the experience. For the people I have been taught by, the people I have met, the people I have worked with, and the people whom I have befriended for life. Thank you.

Thank you AUK. By AUK, I mean all the experiences I have had, whether good or bad. By AUK, I mean all the people I have worked with, the professors who have inspired me, and the professors who I’ve come to hold great personal respect for. One must stop and say thank you. One must honor the moments which have been glorious – moments that have created us, made us grow, and made us ready for life. It is truly my belief that my experiences at AUK have geared me for life. Finally, they say that true educators don’t enter with their students through the door of knowledge, but they prepare them, and lead them to the door, and urge them to enter it alone. AUK, I think you are that educator.

# A Year Out: Random Contemplations

BY NUR SOLIMAN, AUK ALUM ‘10

When a local website published my second concert review, they asked for a photo and short bio to go along with it. While the photo was easy to find (there are only so many decent self-portraits one is not ashamed of), I had a harder time with the bio. What to say? Do I tell them I am at a crossroads in the middle of the universe, overwhelmed with its brilliance but wrought with deep anxiety? Do I tell them that I spend many frantic hours scribbling down draft plans of what post-graduate degrees I would like to pursue, stressing about what I’m doing and what I want to do?

I do the sensible thing; the first sentences read something like ‘Nur Soliman recently graduated with a degree in Literature. By day, she is a curatorial assistant; by night, she is a freelance art writer.’ That makes much more sense. A 9-to-5 job takes up most of your energy, and racing against deadlines in the evening (while your smarter friends are at a movie marathon) is exhilarating but tough. While I’ve learned a lot from both experiences, so much more has happened this year. What I’ve learned in the last four years is just starting to really come to the light.

The first September after graduation challenges the graduate to find their true bearings, to draw on every aspect of knowledge they think they have gained outside campus premises. Did they honestly learn something that goes beyond the classroom, but something that shapes them as human beings for years to come, something far more indelible, valuable?

Students who graduated with me have done all kinds of wonderful things. Some of us are attending MA and PhD programs, doing TA-ships at other universities, working in organizations and firms of our preferred choices, gotten engaged, married, even pregnant, had our art shown in exhibitions, and all kinds of other things. We have had to leave AUK with the tools, skills, experience, and knowledge we absorbed in the course of 4 years and take that out into the world. Did it work out? Were we genuinely prepared?

There are many occasions when I feel I left AUK too soon, where I am not ready for the world’s small cruelties and smaller but more insidiously painful instances of social injustice or inequalities, where I am pathetically naïve and lacking in worldly experiences, and so on. And it’s tough, all of that. There are many things that AUK, with its own growing pains, has neglected to prioritize,



to remember, to include, and to omit, and I realise this now.

That said, I realise I got a lot more out of the university experience than I, or even my educators, perhaps intended. Whatever I did at AUK has seeped deeper into my unconsciousness, a latent potential that reveals itself as I struggle to handle newer challenges. And whatever AUK lacked forced us to grow in those very same directions.

I threw myself into classes and reading, and spent the rest of my time in the Writing Center and extra-curricular activities, all of which meant a lot to me. There aren’t many things I wanted to do at AUK that I didn’t do, but there’s so much I don’t know and still haven’t learned, but I tried to learn as much as I was humanly able, and make it useful by giving back.

My research and writing skills were improved on while at AUK (papers stained with the profuse blood of a red biro are testament to this), and have really helped me with work at the museum and getting my work published. I have greater confidence and competency in articulating myself and feeling strongly engaged with my society, and with questions of ethics, truth. I have continued to feel attached to AUK, showing my support by volunteering at various activities and functions. And I can’t really help it; staying on campus for hours everyday for eight semesters kind of clings to you.

Wanting, trying to enrich the heart and mind is more beautifully, succinctly put by the Rev. William Jewett Tucker, the 9th president of Dartmouth College, who transformed the college into the established entity it is today. He wrote, ‘Be not content with the commonplace in character any more than with the commonplace in ambition or intellectual attainment. Do not expect that you will make any lasting or very strong impression on the world through intellectual power without the use of an equal amount of conscience and heart.’

That’s the most important, lasting thing I take with me. It is as much about heart as it is about mind, what we deserve to be and live on in this world, no less. Not only do I demand this of myself, but of others. I look back on my experience at AUK with a more critical, affectionate eye, and see where I stand on things differently.

While I have stressed myself sick with what I’m supposed to be doing, with ‘career’ and ‘education’ and ‘salary’ and ‘getting things right’ and ‘getting ahead,’ I realise that I needed to be a little gentler and see things with perspective. It’s taken me a year to shed away the expectations of others that I have kept with me for ages, and to let go of certain fears, apprehensions, faults, other things that have hindered me from exploring myself. It’s taken me a year to realise that what I want to do now, I’ve actually sort of known all along and now I can go back and bravely apply to programs I actually want to be in, but more importantly, keep growing and discovering things, illuminating with intelligence and not cleverness, truthfulness and not self-righteousness.

Is this an excuse for taking so long to make decisions? It probably is, in a way, but all things considered, I’m glad it took that long.

# Stop Racism

BY MOHAMED ARAB, ARABICGATE

of their race, ethnicity, or nationality. This causes people to feel less equal and it might get serious to a certain level or the person might turn too violent.

Anyone who treats others on those factors must feel insecure. A lot of people played a major role in fighting racism, some examples would be Michael Jackson, Martin Luther King, and Rosa Parks. Michael Jackson, the changer of the nation, never said much about why his skin color changed but many of us thought that he changed his color because he was ashamed of being black; some also thought it was a conspiracy against Michael Jackson. Meanwhile, he maintained on illuminating

the hatred of blacks and the stereotypes associated to them. He also wrote and sang a lot of songs about how we shouldn’t treat them badly and how all humans are equal.

Martin Luther King is the one who spent most of his life fighting racism. He organized protests and encouraged the blacks to join them so they could protest and fight for their given rights. He was one of many who believed that it was not fair for blacks to not have any rights while the whites ended up getting more than just their rights. One of his famous quotes is “Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away, and that in

some not too distant tomorrow, the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

Rosa Parks changed history when she refused to obey the bus driver’s order about moving for a white person in the bus. Seeing all those racism soldiers fight racism should give us a message about how wrong racism is; we need to stand by their side, and make them our idols. We should all fight racism with whatever we can and not accept it between us. After all, it is said that we should treat people the way we want to be treated, right?

“A lot of people are being discriminated against because of their race, ethnicity, or nationality. This causes people to feel less equal and it might get serious to a certain level or the person might turn too violent.”

“The first September after graduation challenges the graduate to find their true bearings, to draw on every aspect of knowledge they think they have gained outside campus premises.”



# The Journey Down English 108

BY FAJER AL-KHALIFA

The semester is over, and now we have packed our stuff and are ready to move on. But move where? Move to the future where our goals, dreams and aspirations await us. English 108 is the track I followed to help me get there and I believe it has been the right road. Now as I leave, I take along with me all the skills, experiences, and knowledge that I accumulated and there are lots of them.

Overcoming the fear of speaking in front of a crowd is one, crafting an interesting speech that can relate to me and my fellow classmates is another; and finally, delivering a faultless (well, sort of) speech to an intimidating and overwhelming audience. If I look back at my first presentation and compare it to my last, I would be able to identify the long and difficult path because it is marked with milestones signifying our progress. Who could forget our first project, the “Ice Breaker” where we had to introduce ourselves to the class in a five to six- minute speech that seemed to last forever? Or the overwhelming impromptu, extemporaneous and special occasion speeches that comprised our second project? We had the informative, persuasive, and power point speeches to worry about and the list of class projects went on and on as the semester progressed. Who could forget the familiar, quivering voice, or the shaking knees? At that particular moment, even breathing was difficult. Your heart was pounding so hard that you felt like it was jumping out of your mouth. This was the same experience, the same ‘dreadful’ path that all my classmates took, and were led by Mr. Don Prades.

Yes, most of us survived and we soon realized that they were just the symptoms of speech anxiety and we have become better students because of it. But interestingly, our journey in English 108 did not just stop there. If you go back to our class syllabus, it states that speaking outside the classroom

is a prerequisite for a grade of ‘A’. It could be in the annual “Academic Showcase” or any venue which the professor thought could serve the purpose. Unfortunately, this year we did not have the ‘Academic Showcase’ so the professor introduced us to the world of Toastmasters and what an unforgettable experience it was.

Toastmasters International is a U.S. based organization where one can study, rehearse and practice the art of public speaking. When I heard of the idea, I was intrigued because it was the first time I ever heard of the Toastmasters. I never knew such a thing existed, with all due respect. My eyes and mind were opened to something new, and something so exciting. So far I’ve been to a Toastmasters’ meeting twice, and I hope I’d attend more of those meetings in the future, or perhaps even become a member. It has many clubs worldwide, and thirty-three of them are in Kuwait. The club I attended is called “Active Minds” and it consists of so many talented members I would look up to. I observed them speak on stage with such aptitude and skill that would take me years to establish.

There is a timetable or an agenda to stick to, and it tells you what you will be doing throughout the whole meeting. It starts at 6:00 p.m. with the impromptu speech. The table topic master of the evening calls people randomly to respond to a topic they haven’t heard about before and speak without any preparation at all. After the impromptu portion, they give you a ten-minute break for coffee, light snacks and networking. It’s scary but fun. Then after the break, the prepared speech portion comes. Speeches follow the speech manual that every member gets when he or she joins the Toastmasters. Each speaker is assigned a regular evaluator who gives a constructive evaluation of his target speaker. Normally the evaluator talks about the strong points the speaker

already has, the weak points and finally his recommendations or suggestions as to how the speaker can improve in his or her next speech. Before you even realize it, the meeting is over and it has gone on for two hours.

My first experience with the Toastmasters was a bit scary. But it was something I had to do to be able to achieve a requirement to speak outside the comfort zone of the classroom. It was hard to walk into the room full of people much older than I am and it was even harder to have the courage to volunteer to speak in the impromptu session but before I knew it, I was on the stage ready to participate or to be humiliated! I could literally feel the butterflies swim around in my stomach. I could feel my heart beat in my head and feel it pierce my pulse. When my two and a half minute speech was over, I was glad to know that I was not dead and that I was still breathing, but with a changed character. I felt more alive, more enthusiastic, and more confident. When I stood up to speak, I had the chance to pick my topic from a cup full of them. I managed to squeeze some words out of my mouth and deliver a competitive impromptu speech which made me feel like a “veteran” Toastmaster. For me, it is an unforgettable experience. In the end, it’s only two words: PUBLIC and SPEAKING. Individually, the words seem so harmless and safe. After all, public means available to all people; speaking means to communicate vocally. Nevertheless, in English 108, you have to put them together, and the result? Well, the result is priceless; it’s the ability, the art or the skill of addressing an audience effectively. Consequently, I would like to thank my classmates and the Toastmasters for being patient, tolerant, and for encouraging me to go beyond what I thought was possible for me. I would like to thank Mr. Prades for creating and providing us with wonderful experiences that we can pack for our arduous journey that is called life.

# Post-9/11 Novels: Cliché Galore

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI



On occasion, I would make my way over to a local bookstore. Originally, going there provided solace whenever I desperately needed it; it is a very exclusive sentiment as it is related to my field of study. But has anyone noticed how much of a post-9/11 identity they have adopted? Sure, the argument can easily be refuted because bookstores have, since their founding and even more so now, been supplying for knowledge-based communities or even those that strive to be, that cover virtually every subject. While that is true, there is clearly no screening process to rule out the possibility of inconsequential, pointless books/novels ever making it on bookshelves. This is because the notion that gives freedom for everyone to write has always been propagated and rightfully so. But that does not mean that what absolutely everyone has to say is worthwhile. There is no need for anyone to feel defensive about that: some people are just more gifted than others in this area. This brings me to the reason why I feel so much rage when I walk up and down aisles of endless titles.

After the catastrophe that reshaped the cosmos, that is the terrorist attacks on American soil on that unfortunate September day, scholars on the region of the Middle East skyrocketed and it began to be regarded as a concentration of caliber and heightened interest. There is nothing wrong with that but here is where I feel the line gets crossed: publications that depict veiled or burqa-clad women with glistening eyes (like they have a secret you have to dig

deep within the pages to find) suddenly became a hit. As much as I respect the foundational, groundbreaking work of Edward Said, I do cast blame upon him for calling attention to how mystical and oriental Westerners find the Middle East to be. These characteristics may have been applicable around 100 years ago (and even then, the people of this region had slowly begun to cross the threshold into modernity) but it just does not make any sense nowadays.

In fact, as a citizen of this region, I find it insulting that some people still think it to be “scholarly” to publish a book/ novel that assesses and analyzes daily life in the Middle East or exposes how much women are socially marginalized. While I understand that that is a reality in some places, people need to stop associating the region with the unknown, and think that our societies are still largely fantastical. Our lives now are not another chapter of 1001 Arabian Nights. If they really want to circulate something on the region, it needs to be backed by facts, figures, and statistics. A popular inclination most writers have adopted is trekking around the region and noting down their experiences in travel logs so that their accounts are authentic. No one reading their publications is entirely sure of how truthful they are. They can be a general web of lies so that they profoundly resonate with readers. With novels, that sort of thrill is necessary so that it becomes a page-turner.

All of this does not mean that I do not appreciate our past. It is a source of pride and any

citizen of the Middle East can and will attest to that fact. But, I think I speak for everyone of us when I say that Said’s Orientalism has gone to some people’s heads. Funnily enough, he himself criticized the idea of the other but unknowingly made it appealing in my view. So, when I see various novels that depict veiled or burqa-clad women with jet-black, signature round eyes, I know I have something to worry about. In the beginning, it was normal as readers had a fetish for wanting to know more about how lives are conducted here. But it has now gone overboard and I feel that storylines are greatly exaggerated to build suspense and make for a bestseller.

This is all done at the expense of people who have been born and raised here and they can often spread false assumptions. That, if anything, is dangerous. Once again, I know that this part of the world is ancient and makes for great exotic settings but not everyone can reserve the right to do that. If I wrote a practical book/novel that communicates exactly how women in Kuwait live, very few would be interested. It scares me to think that I would need to throw in some controversy for it to be noticed, like that has become obligatory. In any case, I know that not everyone does this or even thinks this way but it is a common trend. I just am tired of the clichéd image on all of these book/novel covers. We are nowhere near perfect as a people but certainly do not need to be saved by Western powers.

# Spring Concert

BY NOURA AL-HULAIBI

It was a dark and quiet room, with no sound other than the whispering of anticipation. I was waiting for this all day and just when people started losing their patience, a woman walked on stage. “It has finally begun!” Being a classical music lover, I attended the spring concert hosted by AUK’s Music Department. It was held on the evening of May 15th; and boy, what an evening it was! I was first astonished at the number of people who attended this event; nothing says success like a full house. I never knew that so many people liked classical music and I was very impressed, not only because of the presence, but also because of the idea that

AUK actually supports and encourages these events.

Dr. Winfred Thompson said so himself in his heartfelt speech of his love for music, which was an excellent start for a magical evening to remember. After the introduction came the beautiful playing of the xylophones. “The Blue Danube” never sounded as lovely as it sounded then. The playful waltz took me back to when I was a child, eating ice cream at a theme park and gazing at the different shapes of clouds. The reminiscing altered into a dream-like world when Chopin’s etude began. It was as if the pianist took us into his realm of imagination and back; and just when I thought the night couldn’t get any better,

Khalid Ghafar started playing the Spanish guitar. A soft spot for guitar playing is what I have, and the beauty of its sound memorized me. He played it with such passion that it seemed like the guitar was playing him, instead of it being the other way around.

After being struck by the exquisiteness of the guitar and the exciting violin-playing, the choirs stole the night and made it their own. I especially loved the magnificence of “Sole Mio,” which was sung beautifully. I would like to thank the Music Department for organizing such a delightful event and I hope that there will be many more to come.

“In fact, as a citizen of this region, I find it insulting that some people still think it to be “scholarly” to publish a book/novel that assesses and analyzes daily life in the Middle East or exposes how much women are socially marginalized. While I understand that that is a reality in some places, people need to stop associating the region with the unknown, and think that our societies are still largely fantastical.”



# Newly-Discovered Animals!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Many scientists have referred to space as the final frontier and we know that large-scale film franchises have gone along with that claim and popularized it. Thank you, George Lucas. But did you know that planet Earth still has undiscovered, rare species of animals and plants? There is still so much to learn and document. Humans have come a long way since about 200,000 years ago when they first began to emerge in terms of finding out more about the world we inhabit but not everything is accounted for. Here is a snippet to illustrate this: a list of newly-discovered animals, the result of twenty years of field studies by Conservation International's (CI) Rapid Assessment



Tube-Nosed Fruit Bat.

Program (RAP). Thousands upon thousands of expeditions have taken place to parts of our planet that, up until then, remained uncharted. The RAP has found 1,300 new or rare species. Here are a few of them: 1. Satanic Leaf-Tailed Gecko: Devilishly named, it is one of 12 species of bizarre geckos, is very camouflaged, and lives only in remote and undisturbed forests.



Fish-Hook Ant.

Common in Madagascar and discovered there in 1998, these geckos are extremely sensitive to all the habitual destruction of the environment there. 2. Emperor Scorpion: Most probably named so regally because of its bright blue color under ultraviolet light, it is one of the largest scorpions in the world. This scorpion eats termites and other small insects. Now here



Emperor Scorpion.

comes the ultimate surprise: even though it has venom, it is not that dangerous to humans! 3. Pinocchio Frog: You cannot help but think this reptile to be a reference to Disney's Pinocchio because of its ingenuous name; discovered in Indonesia in 2008, it has a long nose-like bump that inflates upwards when calling but deflates downwards at other times. The story behind



Satanic Leaf-Tailed Gecko.

its discovery is comical: the researcher saw him sitting on a bag of rice in camp! 4. Tube-Nosed Fruit Bat: This creature of the night was discovered during an expedition to Papua New Guinea in 2009. It is endemic to the country and lives in its hilly forests. 5. Fish-Hook Ant: This fascinating ant observed in Cambodia in 2007 has a huge curved spine that penetrates



Pinocchio Frog.

skin and stays hooked for some time. A lot of them together can form another defense mechanism: when attacked, they hook together into a bunch. This makes it very difficult for a predator to get a single ant alone, not to mention dealing with all those hooks. All one needs to do is make the effort to find out more about these extraordinary creatures!

*"Humans have come a long way since about 200,000 years ago when they first began to emerge in terms of finding out more about the world we inhabit but not everything is accounted for."*

## Tips for Summer Safety!

With the summer months upon us and extreme heat rearing its ugly head, it's important to remember some rules of thumb. Here's a list of basic tips to prevent auto damage and also ensure your safety when you're out and about in the heat.

1. Park in the shade whenever possible.
2. Use a sunshade to help reduce the heat buildup.
3. Use a fabric-based steering wheel cover to help protect your hands.
4. Open doors and let the air circulate in the car for a few minutes before getting into the car.
5. Set your air conditioner to "regular or fresh air" before switching to "maximum."
6. Use a sunshade to help reduce heat and sun-damage in your vehicle.

14. Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.

15. If your car is beginning to overheat or is running too hot, do not continue to drive. Instead, pull over immediately.

Illnesses directly caused by heat do become frequent in the summer. To avoid them, do the following:

1. Drink more fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
2. Don't drink liquids that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid.
3. Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air-conditioning,

infants, young children, people your family's risk of cancer



age 65 and over, people who have a mental illness, and people with health conditions such as heart disease or high blood pressure.

7. Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need much more frequent watching.

Summer is, of course, all about unwinding and having a good time. In Kuwait, that includes a lot of trips to chalets and engaging in a lot of water-related activities. If you do plan on being out in the sun for a while, keep the following in mind:

1. The worst hours for going out in the sun are from 10 am to 4 pm. It's best to avoid going out in the sun during this time frame because the sun's ultraviolet (UV) strength is at its peak. If for some reason you have to be out in the sun at these hours use the maximum amount of protection that you can.
2. A sunblock with an SPF rating of 50 is the ideal during these hours. Sunblocks are even stronger than sunscreen. Non-protected exposure during these hours would increase

tremendously.

3. When do we put on the sunscreen? Rub it on half an hour before exposure to the sun. Some people only apply it after going outside. This is a mistake since it takes time for your skin to absorb the sunscreen.

4. A common mistake that we make is forgetting certain spots when putting on the sunscreen. So every part of the skin that is exposed should have sunscreen. Ears, feet, behind the legs are places that we tend to forget.

5. Keep reapplying it every 2 hours. Especially if you go into the water. Even if your sunscreen is water resistant you still need to reapply every 2 hours.

6. Clothing helps to block sun rays so if possible, wear a light-weight, long-sleeved shirt, sunglasses, and a wide-brim hat to help protect your skin.

7. Remain in the shade as much as possible. When your kids are playing in the sand, have them remain under a large umbrella for more protection.

### Did-You-Know Summer

#### Facts: A Must Read!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Mosquitoes have been around for 30 million years. They can detect mammals from 100 feet away especially warm-blooded creatures (that's why they love humans!) And they have visual sensors that detect movement and contrast in colors.

A cricket's chirp frequency fluctuates with temperature. Count the number of times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds, then add 37 to whatever number you reach and you have an approximate outside temperature (in Fahrenheit)! Watermelon is actually a vegetable, not a fruit! It is most closely related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash. The watermelon is composed of 92%

water and early explorers often used hollowed out watermelons as canteens. Popsicle was invented by accident by an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson in 1905. He accidentally left a mixture of powdered soda and water, with a stirring stick, on his porch, and awoke the next morning to find a frozen pop! Cherry flavor popsicle is the number one favorite flavor.

Sharks are one of the oldest living creatures in the sea. There is evidence that the shark species has been around for more than 400 million years. Current sharks are much smaller than those from dinosaur times. The sharks that lived in the dino-age were up to 80 feet long, where today's largest shark, the Great White, grows to lengths of only 25 feet.

### The Problem with Soft Drinks

BY DALAL MARAFIE

It feels fresh in the throat and some people even replaced consuming water with soft drinks. This is actually dangerous because too much can cause many health problems. Why? According to [www.freshandhealth.com](http://www.freshandhealth.com), here are important reasons: 1. Soft drinks drain the fluids in the body. As any diuretic, instead of giving water to our bodies, soft drinks are spending it. Processing high levels of sugar that are contained in soft drinks require large amounts of fluids in our body. To replace these fluids, people should drink 8-12 glasses of water for every glass of a soft drink. 2. People usually consume soft drinks to replace it with water. This is wrong; soft drinks are not the necessary fluid that the body needs. Without drinking actual water, it will cause dehydration and reduce the immune system. 3. High levels of phosphorus content in soft drinks can crush vital minerals in the body. Mineral deficiency can cause heart disease and more. Most vitamins also can't function in the body without the presence of minerals. 4. Try to wipe the rust from the metal object using soft drinks, it works! Imagine what it can cause to your digestive



system and other body parts.

5. High amounts of sugar in soft drink cause the pancreas to produce insulin in large quantities. Unbalanced sugar levels can cause diabetes and other diseases. 6. Soft drinks also contains large amount of caffeine. Too much of it can block the metabolism system. It takes weeks to digest soft drinks that are consumed with French fries. 7. Soft drinks contains aspartame which connects with depression, insomnia, neurological disease and many other diseases. The FDA has received many complaints that are connected with aspartame. 8. Soft drinks are highly acidic; it can melt aluminum if kept too long. Alzheimer patients who have been autopsied all have high levels of aluminum in the brain. Heavy metals in the body can cause neurological disorders and other diseases. Well, these reasons don't mean you can't drink soft drinks at all; just do not drink too much and never make it an addiction!



7. Protect steering wheels, dashboard and seats with covers.
8. Wash your vehicle regularly and use a wax with a UV absorber.
9. Make sure that your battery is working properly.
10. Maintain vinyl and leather interiors with a UV absorbent cleaner/protectant.
11. Have your cabin air filter and air-conditioning systems serviced annually.
12. Check your coolant and other fluid levels before traveling.
13. Make sure that your air conditioning is working properly. If not, have it serviced.

go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air-conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat.

4. Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

5. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

6. Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others—



# WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE RECENT BIDOUN UPRISING?

## Anonymous responses

Uprising! What a big word! We cannot call the few demonstrations the bidoun did as uprising. It is just an attempt to gain their denied rights. The Iranian intellect Ali Shariati has a book called *Al-nabaha wal Istihmar*. In this book he presents the idea of despotism and stupidification. His idea simply says that when a regime violates the rights of the people, they try to distract them from asking for their rights through giving them fractions and fragmented hopes. This is what the Kuwaiti government is doing, the *Istihmar* of the bidoun people, the stupidification of the problem the government created by their own hands since the very first day of Kuwait's founding. They give an invalid green card, food supply, etc just to silence the bidoun who ask for their essential human rights that the Kuwaiti Constitution grants for every person who lives in Kuwait. I can imagine the response of all other people who might participate in this forum. Some might say "let them return to their own countries" and I will say Kuwait is multi-cultured that consists of immigrants who came here and assimilated with the Kuwaiti culture. Everyone of course has a root, we have Kuwaiti-Iranians, Kuwaiti-Saudis, Kuwaiti-Iraqis, and many other. Why when it comes to bidoun you want them to be purely Kuwaitis with no other root. People who reflect this idea are reflecting their complete ignorance about Kuwait's history, culture and diversity.

They should get their basic rights partially because they are human beings, yet they should not get their full rights like Kuwaitis since it's unfair and it will cause disputes. They are originally responsible for not carrying the passport. So I think that they should get their rights but within the range. On the other hand, there are other minorities in Kuwait who also deserve to get Kuwaiti rights besides the bidouns, such as those living and serving Kuwait for years.

According to historical facts, the bidouns fall into two categories; the Kuwaiti who didn't undergo citizenship paperwork which affected later generations, and another which do originally hold a citizenship of another specific country but have denied it in hope of getting the Kuwaiti citizenship. The fact that the latter category (the centre of controversy since the former has been almost solved) are "demonstrating" for their "denied" rights is baseless in of itself; how can governments grant rights - and not - deny people who deny their own citizenship in the first place? It needs to be understood that this issue isn't just humanitarian-related but is larger than this restricted eye frame. It's one that talks about a large number of people which will be added to the already-dominated Kuwaiti population! I though do support the basic human rights for them, but these could be easily achieved if the bidouns reveal their actual citizenship because by then, they'll be treated as foreigners with privileges who live in the State of Kuwait based on the Constitution, and no right'll be taken away.

Kuwait as a country has welcomed all kinds of foreigners of different countries for years; evidently, the number of expatriates is more than the Kuwaiti population itself, but because we all need each other as people of different backgrounds. Therefore, the "grudge" isn't against the bidouns particularly as coming from other countries, but those that have chosen to deny their beautiful heritage and rich background unfortunately, and prevent the government from being recognised, and have affected themselves and their offspring, which opens can of worms for the government to deal with. Doesn't this indicate that it's in the bidouns hands to actually create/solve this issue by themselves, which can yet, indicate that they shouldn't throw the blame on the Kuwaiti government? Maybe we can look at the bidouns' situation as equivalent to illegal immigrants in other countries...



