

Community in Mourning

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What's All the Fuss?

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The
VOICE
of AUK



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By Dina El-Zohairy

In the luxuriously decorated Salwa Sabah al-Ahmed Hall and Theatre, on Friday 2nd June, AUK hosted its second Awards Night to honor and recognize students who have achieved excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, and employment throughout the semester. Addressing an audience of proud parents and glamorous students dressed in semi-formal night-wear, Dean Carol Ross began the evening's program minutes after 7p.m. with a welcome speech, followed by certificate-giving to Fall 2005 Dean's List students by Dr. Marina Tolmacheva and Ms. Amal al-Binali.

The next four awards were given out to students nominated

by their peers, professors, or supervisors at work. The Campus Service Award was given to students who have been huge assets to campus life and assisted greatly with running events. Student workers who performed at a high standard in their departments, like the library and Registrar's Office, were also given a Student Employee Award. The scholar athlete award went to the student who excelled both in class and on the field, and the Outstanding Athlete Award was granted to Sami Maan, a fabulous soccer player with a promising future in sports.

Next at the microphone was IEP instructor Ms. Kimberly al-Suffi, who gladly recognized two exceptionally hardworking Intensive English students, whose



Rama Sabano accepts the President's Award from Dr. Marina Tolmacheva.

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desire to become better writers is obvious despite their writing talent. Professors from different academic divisions also found the occasion an opportunity to recognize students who diligently committed to their studies in Business and Economics, Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, and the Sciences. Participants in the recently accredited Soliya Connect Program and the extracurricular E-Biz Challenge were also celebrated on the night.

The final round of awards included Exceptional Student Organization Awards and the prestigious Dean's and President's Awards. First however, SGA President Jawaher Ali-Redha presented the University Mentorship Award on behalf of

the SGA and AUK students. It wasn't only a night for students, but also for deserving faculty and staff who were voted for by students. Professor Fernand Tessier and Ms. Bibi al-Ghanim were recognized for being extremely helpful, friendly, and inspirational to everyone around them. Unfortunately, neither was present to receive the award.

Member students were then called out to accept awards on behalf of their organizations; the SGA, the Community Service Club, and last but not least the *Voice of AUK*. The Community Service Club, under the supervision of Mr. John Barnett, has helped to raise awareness of social concerns and via events including the bake sale and car boot sale, raised money for char-

Celebrating the Pursuit of Excellence

ity. The students participating in the *Voice*, on the other hand, were recognized for the incred-

ible motivation and effort they have demonstrated in publishing the newspaper every month,

with the help of Mr. David Hart, the monthly newspaper's faculty advisor.

Towards the end, Hussein Nour El-Dine and Rama Sabano were honored, respectively, with the Dean's and President's Awards in virtue of their ongoing contribution and dedication to AUK community, their motivational spirit and smile, and their ability to balance studies with social life. Hussein works in the Registrar's Office and whenever you need him he will be there for you. "The great" Rama Sabano, on the other hand, is so popular, committed, and capable that Dean Carol

Ross joked she would be the Dean of Student Affairs in a few years' time. Congratulations to them both!

The evening came to an end with a multimedia presentation. "The Year in Images" which brought laughter, tears, and happy memories to the hearts of everyone. Soon after, hungry guests were invited to the excellent, mainly seafood buffet in the adjacent hall while the awarded students gathered on stage for group photos. Nearly two hours before midnight, students were leaving with smiles across their faces after a pleasant evening, probably the last to enjoy un-

til the exams are over! Special thanks go to Dean Carol Ross for her hard work and splendid

effort in making the night an amazing one for us all.



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Faculty, family and friends honoring AUK's finest.



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Community Service members proudly display their advisor and their award.

Soliya Program: Bridging the Gap

By Dina El-Zohairy

The 21st century is undoubtedly the age of technology. And whether it's computer-based testing or virtual science labs, technology has certainly made its mark on higher education.

Utilizing the latest of video-conferencing and online collaboration technologies, the Soliya Connect Program is a unique, cross-cultural educational program that enables college students in the United States and predominantly Muslim countries in the Middle East to explore the relationship between the U.S. and the Arab and Muslim world in depth. Particular attention is given to the media since it strongly influences students' perceptions. The founders' mission is to "develop a new generation of leaders with cross-cultural knowledge, communications skills, and inter-

national connections to create a more informed, peaceful, and just global society."

The program is now accredited at most of the twelve partnered universities, including the American University in Cairo, Qatar University, University of Iowa, and AUK. At AUK, the program is offered as the practical part of 3-credit courses mainly concentrated in International Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy, Globalization, and Politics and Media. Over the duration of the course, students spend 2-3 hours every week in front of a computer and engage in intensive dialogue

with seven others in their group, four from the U.S. and three from the Middle East, whom they can see by means of a webcam. Groups "meet" with two trained facilitators, chiefly Masters' students in International Relations or Conflict Resolution from prestigious universities in the U.S. and the Middle East.

Together, students explore a multi-media library containing a wide array of resources including archival news and interview footage, and express their understanding of relevant issues by producing their own video segments with provided news foot-

age and working together on assigned projects. Group members can also send private messages and exchange thoughts outside of the weekly live sessions by posting messages on a forum. Each group logs into its own webpage by entering a username and password at the program's official website, www.soliya.net.

One of the objectives of the Soliya Connect Program is to enrich students from different regions with cultural information, but more significantly to build meaningful transnational relationships and openly discuss both personal and societal influences that affect our understanding of country-to-country relations. This goal of raising awareness between two polar opposite regions is indicated by the name of the program. The word 'Soliya' derives from

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Soliya students posing with Dr. Nizar.

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SGA Holds Memorial Service

By Abdulla Taki

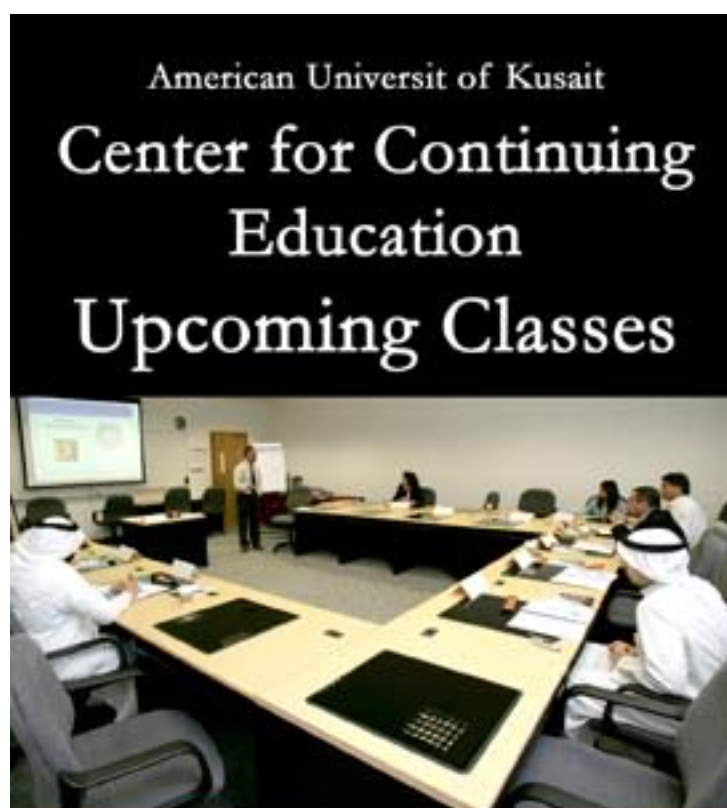
The SGA held a memorial event on the 24th of May in the university's multipurpose room where friends, family, loved ones and the entire AUK body gathered to share and express their love for Mohammed and how much they will miss him. As a starting note, Dr. Carol offered her deepest condolences to Mohammed's family in the name of AUK. The dreaded emotions of sadness and grief filled the room as SGA president Jawaher had stated to the *Voice*, "It was an extremely sad and unfortunate occasion that I hope will never reoccur. May he rest in peace. We will surely miss him."

Dr. Mohammed al-Awadhi also attended the memorial where he offered alleviating words to the family and friends of Mohammed.

Friends of Mohammed took turns expressing to those who had gathered how much Mohammed had meant to them. Mohammed obviously was deeply loved by his colleagues; a key thought that was shared amongst all of those who had spoken in the memorial was that Mohammed had a keen sense of humor. He made his friends laugh; he was a joyous person to be around.

Mohammed Hassib Ali was involved in a car accident on the 20th of May, which immediately claimed his own life. Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Saoud al-Sabah was hospitalized but sadly passed away on the 25th of May from injuries sustained in the accident.

The AUK voice extends its deepest and most sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the two that had passed away.



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The Marriage of Mercury, Philology and Mercator

By Ala'a Ali-Redha

The first academic conference at AUK took place on Saturday, May 10th 2006 in the multipurpose room. Several AUK professors from different academic backgrounds took part in the event to present their research papers to the public. The conference was titled "The Role of Liberal Arts in Business" bringing up several interesting topics that show the relationship between business and liberal arts.

The conference began at 10 AM introducing a total of eight topics with a break after the first four presentations. The first half of the conference included the issues of work ethics in Kuwait, online education, epis-



Dr. Ralph Palliam.

temological and metaphysical bases of today's liberal arts pedagogy, and the question of what lies ahead in corporate reporting process. The second half of the session contained the topics of liberal education and terrorism, the role of communication in business, a liberal arts approach to morality issues in literature, and the role of a liberal arts education in business.

After each professor presented their papers, the audience was given a chance to ask questions. Given that the crowd was a rather small one, it had the advantage of being well organized.

The only AUK student to take part in the business conference was Sarah Al-Ateeqi since Dr. Farzad Farsio and Dr. Jeremy Cripps approached her for this unique opportunity. Al-Ateeqi had originally written the paper for her International Finance class for publication purposes. When al-Ateeqi was asked about the obstacles that she faced,



Dr. Athmar al-Salem.

she replied, "I was very terrified of the level that I could produce, I felt like I was under pressure. Another obstacle was presenting the paper, and also trying to apply finance to liberal arts." al-Ateeqi claimed that she enjoyed Dr. Palliam's presentation as well as Dr. Cripps in which Dr. Cripps discussed how artists like Michelangelo and Leonardo had also contributed to science and math discoveries. Although al-Ateeqi enjoyed the conference and wouldn't hesitate to do it again, she hoped that there would have been more people, including other academics from all over Kuwait.

E-Commerce Class Puts on a Show

By Bushra Zaher

Once again the American University of Kuwait has managed to reveal the true spirit behind any respectable educational institution. A divine mission to teach and educate its students with the utmost professional, moral and ethical perseverance, aspiring one day to become the building blocks on which modern societies are built.

The multipurpose room was once more the podium through which the American University of Kuwait acknowledged modern technology as an essential educational tool. This was demonstrated through two showcases that were held on the 22nd of May by the E-Commerce class.

The E-Commerce class was capable of showing its students the role of modern information technology systems in what is known as critical thinking. A role that exceeds the simple task of gathering accessible information to include complex research methods, obtaining comparative reliable data, being able to criticize and question acquired information and expressing one's opinion in the attempt to broaden the one's mind into being more innovative and creative.

This achievement was clearly illustrated through the remarkable efforts of the students of the E-Commerce class. Two showcases were presented by two separate groups. The first group based its project on creativity and managed to formulate an imaginary

product for which they created a website in order to promote and market this new product. The second group presented a classical case study of two worldwide renowned soft drink brands, Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola. The group presented a comparative study of both brands based on extensive research in addition to a taste test that was held as experiment on brand recognition.

This group of students managed to set an example for their fellow colleagues and reminded us once more why the students and the respectable staff of our university remain the soul pride of the American University of Kuwait.

Looking for Work at the Career Fair

By Ala'a Ali-Redha

The 2nd Annual Career Fair took place on Monday May 15th, 2006 in the multipurpose room between the hours of 10 am and 3:30 pm. There were various companies present ranging from the top four banks in Kuwait, the two rivals in the telecommunications sector and the most recently introduced English daily newspaper in Kuwait.

The Career Fair offered students the chance to familiarize themselves with the different business sectors and learn more about the jobs that the various companies were offering. The fair was mainly aimed towards those students that were on the close to graduating so that they would have an easier time looking for work after graduation. It helped them decide on the path that they wished to pursue in the future and learn more about the working sector. Most of the businesses that were at the fair offered full time jobs since there were a handful of graduating students looking for a permanent job to start their career off.

The fair ended with a draw, in which some students stayed around hoping to hear their name called out for the prizes. The prizes that were given out included vouchers from Hawaii Island Flower shop, Optivision, Kuwait Cinema Company, Jansport, and two Imates. What differentiated this draw from the other draws that had taken place at AUK was that even though the student was not present at the time of

the draw, they would be contacted later in order to claim their prize. When asked what she thought of the fair, career counselor Joanne Hands, who had organized the event, she said that the companies were impressed by the students and their CVs. She also acknowledged that the fair was less crowded than last year, but despite the low numbers, the quality of students were better in the sense that their CVs were more im-

pressive. She also claimed that there were only 12 companies this year because they were the only companies that were offering full and part time jobs opportunities. Last year, there were around 20 companies, but most of them were at the fair only to promote their companies to the students at AUK. "Next

year we expect [the fair] to be better because we will have more graduating students." A special thanks goes to the Gold sponsors, Gulf Bank and The Daily Star Newspaper, and Silver sponsors Alshaya Co., Maersk Kuwait, and Gulf Telecom for their help and support.

Other companies taking part in the Career Fair included Burgan Bank, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Deloitte, Kuwait Recruitment Bureau, MTC, National Bank of Kuwait, Wataniya Telecom.



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Students contemplating a career in journalism.

She also acknowledged that the fair was less crowded than last year, but despite the low numbers, the quality of students were better in the sense that their CVs were more im-

The War of the Colors: 5, 10, or 25?

By Noufa al-Sabah

You might have seen the different array of colors that paraded in front of the parliament. You might have been confused by the many incoherent newspaper headlines. You might have also been lost trying anxiously to follow the voting constituency issues, which incidentally seemed to change every minute. You might also have noticed other students' gossiping about it, heard your parents discussing it, seen the newspapers record it, or read lots of accounts on the internet; but do not know the big picture and what was really happening. We don't blame you.

Kuwait was blinded by the "Orange Revolution" for weeks; then shocked by the sudden emergence of the "blue tsunami," and finally stunned by the dissolution of the whole parliament. You might be a bit clueless about the whole episode and so The Voice of AUK presents this informative exposé about the whole "War of the Colors."

The War of the Colors revolved around the issue of parliamentary voting and the question of modifying the electoral constituencies. To better understand this issue, one has to understand the existing electoral structure, which consists of twenty-five constituencies, each of which elects two members to the National Assembly on the basis of a majority vote. This structure elects a fifty-member of parliament.

It all started with the government proposing to decrease the number of electoral con-

stituencies from twenty-five to ten. Some members of parliament wanted to modify that proposition from ten constituencies down to five, claiming that would be better at combating corruption and vote buying. It would also encourage competition as it would realign powers, and could just introduce new politicians.

The government refused this wish, and was adamant on its desire for ten constituencies. This act sparked the "color war" and the pro-five supporters began to rally and protest. Thus, the Orange Revolution was born.

The Orange Revolution's protests and demonstrations supported the five constituencies bill, criticized the government for failing to combat corruption and caught the eye of the public. When the disputed reform bill was debated in parliament, the speaker Mr. Jassim al-Khorafi suspended the session after an active and loud pro-reform audience began criticizing the government and anti-five parliamentarians, while and cheering on the twenty-nine pro-five members of parliament, who stormed out of the building after the government voted to refer the bill to the Kuwaiti constitutional court.

Those twenty nine opposing members merged to form a new bloc called the Alliance for Change, which later on filed a request to question the Prime Minister (Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah), a first in Kuwaiti political history.

As if there weren't already enough action and drama, suddenly a new pressure group

was formed, sporting the color blue and consisting of the remaining pro-governmental members of parliament. The "Blues" agree on decreasing of the electoral constituencies, since it would combat vote buying, but want the voters to be divided up equally between the constituencies. It is also important to note that they were pro-government and were not opposing it like their Orange counterparts.

The dissolution came after the cabinet said it could not deal with the parliament because of the Election Law row, and the overall chaos that struck the nation's political atmosphere.

In a televised broadcast, His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, stated, "I had to take a difficult decision that I had wanted to avoid, but I concluded that it was my duty to dissolve parliament to safeguard the security of our nation."

The new parliament will be elected by the people on June 29th 2006, and elections will be held in accordance with the current electoral system of twenty five constituencies. However, for the first time ever in Kuwait's history women will be able to vote, and to run as candidates. At the time of printing, twelve women have registered as candidates in the various constituencies, including Rola Dashti, Khaldia al-Khader, and Aisha al-Rushaid, Shaikha al-Ghanem and Fatima al-Abdily.

The author of this article is politically neutral. She is neither an Orange, a Blue, a White or any other color of the rainbow.

AUK Girls Making it Special for Mom

By Daniya Alam

The Mother-Daughter Tea was an evening not only where daughters honor mothers, but sisters, friends and aunts as well. In short, it was an evening to honor women. The occasion took place on Tuesday, May 16th in Salwa Sabah Al Ahmed Theatre and Hall. The main purpose of the event was to raise money for scholarships at AUK; tickets were available at Student Affairs for 10 KD

The event started off a little late, but it was worth the wait. All the mothers and daughters attending the evening were in classy outfits, making them look glamorous. Dr. Carol Ross-Black, who looked fascinating in her



Opera singer Amal al-Hajji.

green dress, hosted the event and started the evening with a speech on women. This was followed by short speeches and poems presented by AUK students, including Rama Sabano, Fay al-Hamood and SGA president Jawaher Ali-Redha. Fadila al-Sabah, an AUK student and graceful pianist also delighted our ears with a musical piece.

The guest of honor, the breathtaking opera singer Amal al-Hajji, sang three beautiful opera musicals that blew the audience

away.

Just when it seemed the night couldn't get any better, dinner was served! It consisted of an excellent buffet of various hot dishes and delicious desserts. Everyone satisfied their hunger enjoyably.

At the end of the evening, Dr. Carol gave prizes away. These included free passes to health spas and salons, free restaurant vouchers, ten Wataniya mobile phone lines, and an airline ticket among many others.

On the whole, the night was well organized and filled with events that made one sit back and appreciate mothers a whole lot more. God bless all mothers.

This writer would like to extend special thanks to Ms. Bibi Al-Ghanim, who organized the whole event and worked so hard to make the evening a magical one.

An Evening of Poetic Rapture in the Library

By Daniya Alam

Poetry night took place on Tuesday, May 30th in the library at 6 pm. English professor, Dr. Kathryn Kleypas, hosted the evening. She began by introducing poetry and talking about the history of poetry. At one time in Ireland, poets arose and were considered equal to kings. She quoted a couple of poets such as Shakespeare, who once said that it requires a lot of hard work to write poetry.

There were four poets that night, Shurooq Amin, Fay al-Hamood, Mona Karim, and Al Zaina Shams. Before every poet got up on stage and recited their poems, Dr. Kathryn gave us a little background on each.

She began with Shurooq Amin, an artist, poet, and decorator who is in the process of writing her PhD thesis. She gave the audience a sneak preview of the poems she will include in the thesis, and which will be released the 7th February next year.

Shurooq began explaining the different types of poetry and recited a few samples of each. The first poem she recited was called "Break Up", an Imagist Poem. An imagist poem is one that takes an image and visualizes it as a snapshot. Another poem was a Death Poem called "On a Day like Today",

about a dead woman lying in the morgue. She also recited a Political Poem, a Love Poem, and an Ironic Poem, distinguishing between them all.

Next was Fay al-Hamoud, a 24-year-old poet who is currently a student at AUK. Fay has been writing poetry for quite a while and has recently published her book called *The Unknown Me*, which is available at AUK's bookstore. Her poems focus on her journey through life, describing the tough times she went through. Two of the poems she recited were "For You See" and "Touch of Faith".

Any teenager who has felt lost at some point during their adolescence will likely identify with Fay's poetry.

Mona Kareem, another AUK student who is majoring in English & Comparative Literature, recited two poems, one of which was called "I'm Not Myself".

The last poet, Al-Zaina Shams, is a thirteen-year-old

honor student from the Universal American School. She recited two poems, "As an Instrument" and "As Lonely", from her recently published book. Al-Zaina has been writing poetry since the age of 8. Her poetry book is available at Virgin MegaStore.

Finally, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva thanked the poets for sharing their talent at AUK and awarded them a certificate and a gift bag each. She also thanked Dr. Kathryn for hosting this special event, which many students attended and enjoyed.



Enchanted audience breathing in the inspiration of the poetic muse.

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AUK Students Get Down to Business

By Mohammed A Khaldi &
Amir-Ali Qaim-Ali

At a time when numbers are down at universities throughout the Middle East, and given the competitive nature of the academic market in Kuwait, 19 business communication students stepped into examine the latest trends in student retention and attrition and offer advice and recommendations based on their research, student interviews, faculty and staff interviews, and student surveys. These highly competitive business consulting teams were part of the latest Business Communication class challenge, under the direction of Dr. Abigail Gray.

The idea behind the project is to actively contribute to the AUK mission. Over the course of the semester, business communication students researched the retention literature, quickly learning that there are important differences in the retention and recruitment strategies that universities use. Teams were able to benchmark based on best practices that other universities are using to retain good students, especially those students that tend to drop out in their second year. As one business communication student said, "This experience gave students a touch of real life job problems. We had to do a lot of research, and we had to deal with the typical problems people

face in their jobs—communication problems with team members, pressure, conflict, time management, different levels of commitment, different levels of knowledge on the subject, and through it all we had to stay united and try to be the team that gets the account."

Each consulting team present-

ed its findings to AUK's senior administration, to include Dean Carol Ross-Black, who attended every presentation, took extensive notes, and provided feedback and recommendations to each team. Also attending were Dean Sean Dollman (Dean of Admissions and Registration), Library Director Dr. Harvey Varnet and members of the li-

brary staff, Dave McHardy and David Hart of the Center for Continuing Education, members of the Student Success Center, and several representatives from the university's Public Relations department. Faculty and staff members interacted with students to broaden their perspectives, exchange information,

High student involvement in academic life on campus is a proven way to retain students. In addition, faculty involvement in campus programs and events is a proven retention strategy

- AUK statistics indicate that financial factors were a primary reason why students who had been admitted chose not

- AUK students surveyed still want a recreational center (and health and fitness classes), a food court that offers student discounts, more soccer fields, a 24-hour computer lab, a bigger parking lot, and a dorm or learning community for international students.

Other Recommendations across teams: More on-line course offerings; more degree program offerings, greater academic collaboration with Dartmouth College; a more extensive and mandatory orientation program for freshmen; a second-year experience aimed at retaining second year students; more scholarship opportunities, especially for students who show significant GPA improvement; better advertising; expanded adult learning programs; and university standards that promote student responsibility.

This project motivated students to voice their needs, know the needs and activities of faculty and staff, and together help AUK deal with the retention issue. In the words of Amir-Ali Qaim-Ali (one of the authors) "As a personal experience, working on this project with a team gave me experience in how to manage and deal with situations in a real life job." The efforts of the teams seemed to have paid off when they were invited to present their findings before the university's Board of



Student consulting team advising AUK administration on how to hang on to students.

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and discuss recommendations on how to improve AUK.

Findings and recommendations of the groups included:

Students with good support networks (friends and family) have higher retention rates. Students that lack self-confidence, patience, social interaction skills, and courageousness may feel lonely and drop out.

to enroll at AUK.

- Many studies that show that part-time instructors do not adequately prepare students for full time instructor's courses.

- Courses should incorporate multimedia and computer-based learning approaches, including platforms such as WebCt and Blackboard.

Taking College Depression Seriously

By Ala'a Ali-Redha

The word depression is used very commonly among teenagers to describe their mood when they are feeling sad or lonely. However, what they fail to realize is that depression is more than just a mood swing or an emotion resulting from a bad situation. Depression is a long-term mood disorder that leads to feelings of extreme sadness, hopelessness, and in severe cases, thoughts of death or suicide. Depression is usually hereditary but environmental surroundings can often trigger it.

The Aware-sponsored study emphasized that the average

percentage of depression between college students is 7.8. However, the rates rose to 34% in people aged 17 to 21 and who live alone. Depression is also found to be greater among females than males partially due to the monthly changes of hormone levels that all women experience.

"More than 18 million American adults have depression, and many of them first experienced symptoms in their teen or young-adult years." The changes that teenagers go through, from physical to emotional to environmental, contribute a lot in increasing their chances of being depressed.

The main reasons for student depression are childhood/past problems (20%), stress (19%) and financial difficulties (14%). Childhood and past problems often stay with a person even when growing up, reminding them of their unhappy past. This constant reminder is an early trigger of gradual depression, and the person might undergo more experiences as they grow older that increase their risk of feeling extremely sad and hopeless.

Stress is another factor that leads to depression. College students undergo stress, especially in cases when they procrastinate. A lot of students don't organize

their time well and end up leaving big projects and studying for tests for the last minute. Students also tend to get overwhelmed by the difference in the workload between school and university, which can cause them to worry or be tense about the situation.

Many American students face financial difficulties, especially in their college years when they are first independent of their parents. Some students have to actually pay for their tuition, meaning that they might work part time in order to have enough money. Not being able to afford essentials can lead to depression and puts an extra load on students who have to manage their

studies as well as their finances.

Another factor that might also add to the development of depression in college students is weather. Cases of extreme cold and lack of sun for long periods of time are environmental factors that can intensify feelings of depression more than causing them; nonetheless the effect is the same.

Some things that can be done to overcome the factors that can lead to depression is carefully planning your day to reduce stress, relying on other people for support, taking part in extracurricular activities, trying relaxation techniques, making time for yourself, and, last but not

Business Communication Class Hosts US Embassy Mentors

The Spring 2006 Business Communication class recently partnered with ten diplomats from the US Embassy in Kuwait for the first US Embassy-AUK Mentoring Day, a program aimed at fostering educational outreach initiatives between the Embassy and the American University of Kuwait (AUK)

Mentor 2006, part of the Dr. Abigail Gray's Business Communication course, partners diplomats with extensive managerial experience with AUK business students. The program is designed to forge meaningful relationships between business professionals and AUK students and to help students in developing their professional skills and abilities. The participating men-

tors bring extensive experience to campus in the areas of public affairs, economics, commercial affairs, community affairs, and international political affairs.

According to Dr. Gray, "This program is designed to capture the ideas and experiences of corporate and community leaders in a setting that motivates young business students to learn from the experiences of their mentors. This session focuses specifically on a thorough review of each student's Employment Package, and includes firsthand advice on cover letters, resumes, interviewing skills, and professionalism."

For more information on the **Mentor 2006** program, part of selected sections of the Fall 2006 Business Communica-



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Soliya Program

(Continued from Page 1)

the combination of *sol* (Latin for "sun") with *iya* ("beam of light" in Old Arabic). Soliya aims to shed light on the generally tense relationship between the U.S. and the Arab and Muslim World in a way that promotes understanding and respect.

According to Jawaher Ali-Redha, who participated the program in 2004-05, before it was offered for credit at AUK, "It's actually making a difference already in a number of ways. Firstly, you become aware of what Arabs are thinking around the Middle East. Secondly, you become aware of what Americans are thinking as well. Thirdly, you learn to be skeptical to the media and by having met all these people, you put a face to all the political troubles in the world and are allowed to peek behind the scenes at the humanity of it all."

The program was introduced and is housed by the Social Sciences Division, which is headed by Dr. Nizar Hamzeh' Professor of History and International Relations. Completing the program, however, is not mandatory for students majoring in History or International Relations; it is a choice among several Concentration courses under Global Studies. At least 40% of the final course grade comes from students' contribution to and efforts in the Soliya program. According to Dr. Nizar, 25 students have successfully completed the program since it was introduced for credit in Fall 2005. Furthermore, two of those students have published their research projects. It is also attracting more students from all majors due to the intimate experience it offers for students to discuss global issues.

Students who have excelled in the program were recognized on Awards Night and four have been selected to serve as group facilitators for the next round of Soliya sessions. The program is open to students majoring in unrelated fields; however, an introductory course in History or International Relations is a prerequisite, and some background knowledge would be useful. In addition to professors teaching the courses, Prof. Nizar states that Soliya "involves logistics and coordination of manpower; the Deans of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs as well as IT tech support staff all contribute to successful implementation of the program."

Upon completion, students receive a certificate and become eligible to participate in Soliya's Continued Engagement Activities. These include Facilitation and Conflict Resolution Skills Training. Participants have actually changed their opinions about certain issues after doing the program, mainly because they build on their knowledge of the various issues relating to the relationship between the US and the Middle East. Being one of the students who completed the program and is now a facilitator, Jawaher's contentment is

Communication Theories: Theories of Life

By Mohammed Medhat al-Habashi

Have you ever stopped to think about where would we be, where mankind would be, what would have happened to our world, or even to our entire universe, if we could not communicate?

If we weren't able to talk? If we weren't able to say or express what we want or what we felt? If we had no shared symbol system at all—either verbal or nonverbal?

This is one of many questions we've examined this semester in a course called *Communication*

Theory. Before you say, "no thanks to theory," let me tell you a little bit about it.

Communication theories are the key to fully understanding the human communication process. Theories allow us to be conceptual and predictive, and to make decisions about communication situations based on proven research. I know this because it has been a rather hectic and exhausting couple of weeks for the young communication theorists of the COMM 225 class here at AUK. As part

of their final assessment, the co-ed class consisting of a bunch of young, bright, future communication scholars was divided up into 4 groups of 6–7 students and each group was assigned a certain theory to analyze during a panel presentation.

The overall performance of

The Elaboration Likelihood Model (ELM): When it comes to everyday decision making, people tend to take one of two main paths of persuasion. One embraces critical thinking; the other does not. The route you take determines how much or how little you can affect attitude change.

The Social Judgment Theory: Did you ever stop to think that every message that we hear is instantly evaluated and judged? Or how the messages that we receive are judged based on the values, beliefs, and rules that we have created for ourselves?

Basically, messages fall into three "latitudes," those we accept, those we reject, and those we are non-committed on. The more ego-involved we are on an issue, the harder it is to change our opinions.

Constructivism: Here the group talked about how people construct or build new ideas or concepts based on their current/past knowledge, as well as how they select and transform information, construct hypotheses, and make decisions, relying on a cognitive structure to do so.



COMM 225 students illustrating the merits of Cognitive Dissonance.

each of the four groups during their presentations was phenomenal as the level of expertise and the standard of professionalism rocketed higher and higher with each presentation. The students clearly demonstrated a well-rounded, well-developed understanding of each of the theories that were discussed. The students confidently answered questions and professionally engaged in academic debate. Students clearly and confidently expressed their views and thoughts on the following:

That Was the Speech Festival that Was

By Shoug al-Khatrash, Sheikha al-Sabah & Rawan al-Muzaini

What if I forget my speech? What if I get a mental block in front of a hundred pairs of eyes as they await my introduction? What happens if stage fright crawls up my spine and turns me into a statue? All of these questions were some of the many worries that we had before getting up on stage. Volunteering as the chairpersons for the first AUK public speaking festival that was held on May 7th, 2006, there were heavy weights on our shoulders; would we live up to the position of chairpersons, or would we fail?

Because we are only novices in the art of public speaking, it took a log of preparation with the help of our teacher, Mr. Don Prades, to master our parts. But that didn't mean that we would not mess up the event and our speeches. One of our speeches had the line, "will you be fed to the lions?" That line was actually directed towards the contestants, but we couldn't help but apply it to ourselves. Not only that, we

were the ones who would be running the whole show. Therefore, one could easily see the pressure of the upcoming festival grow larger and larger as the big day loomed closer.

When "D-day" finally did arrive, the anxiety and nervousness built up to a crescendo. We got to the multipurpose room only to find the room filling with more and more people. While worrying about our performances, we had to make sure that everyone was in place and ready to go. Mr. Prades, though running around, seemed quite relaxed. That only added to the pressure on us. Suddenly, the room came to silence and before we knew it, it was show time!

We didn't actually realize what we had gotten ourselves into till the moment of truth. What were we thinking volunteering for this event in the first place? To each of us, that question kept recurring as we got up on stage. But surprisingly enough, it wasn't as bad and as horrifying as any of us had anticipated. As the audience looked at us and as we looked back at them, our nervousness subsided and com-

fort took over in our bodies. We were actually nervous for those who were doing the impromptu and extemporaneous speeches. We were really hoping and praying for them to do well and they did!

When the festival was over, one could read the excitement and relief written all over us. We were glad that we had volunteered for such an occasion, and it was one experience filled with mixed emotions. From anxiety, to nervousness, to adrenaline, to comfort, to excitement, we could wholeheartedly say that we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we definitely learned a lot. We just hope that we made our teacher proud of all of us participants who worked so hard to make this student-centered public speaking festival a big success.

On second thought, we wouldn't mind at all presenting this nerve-wracking speech festival all over again. If you get the chance, grab it! You learn a lot and it's fun. That much we know. Of that much, we are sure.

Cognitive Dissonance: Last, but most certainly not least, the members of this team explained what people do and how they feel when they perceive incompatibility between thoughts and actions, attitudes, emotions, beliefs, or behaviors. This team

explained that individuals tend to seek consistency among our beliefs and opinions and we try to eliminate the dissonance (conflict) when inconsistency between attitudes and behaviors occurs.

So before you say "no thanks

to theory," remember that it is a key to unlocking the mysteries of human behavior. And there are many mysteries to be solved in the complex world of human communication!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Smart Surfing with Tabbed Browsers

By Tasnim Saleh

If you are as tired as I am from opening 10 Internet Explorer applications every time you need to multitask and read 10 websites, then suffer no more. The latest trend in browsing is to drop the old Microsoft Internet Explorer and download a new, free-of-charge browser that is, well, 10-times as good as Internet Explorer. The power of tabbed browsing is the new thing in browsers.

While Internet Explorer comes

as the easy solution, as it comes bundled up with Windows operating systems. The free browsers offered on the Internet are much more powerful and easy to adapt to.

If you are stuck on Internet Explorer, and you are too scared to jump to a new browser all together, you might want to start with a browser that looks and feels like Internet Explorer, and that is actually based on the Internet Explorer engine. Maxthon is the hottest new browser that won't scare off the faithful In-

ternet Explorer users. Download Maxthon from <http://www.maxthon.com>.

For more sophisticated browsing, with many plug-ins to download, especially for Computer Science students who need to more tools beyond what the ordinary browser can offer, Mozilla's Firefox is the answer. Firefox comes with tabbed browsing and more optional plug-ins and extensions to its functionality, including testing XML, XHTML, DOM and JavaScript codes. Firefox and its

many extensions and features can be downloaded from <http://www.firefox.com>.

Another browser that has been heavily used lately is Opera, which offers features that include pop-up blocking, tabbed browsing, integrated searches, and advanced functions like Opera's groundbreaking E-mail program, RSS Newsfeeds and IRC chat. Among other features, Opera also offers voice-enabled browsing. Opera can be downloaded from <http://www.opera.com>.

Tasnim's Techie Quick Bytes

Latest Music Players

You can enhance your music experience to the maximum with today's gadgets and gizmos. If you want to share your music with friends, buy one of the new, extremely affordable, foldable and portable speakers that work on AA battery or USB connection. They work for portable music players as well as laptops.

If you do not want to follow the crowd and buy an I-Pod, then don't! MP3 players from Sony now outdo the powers of an I-Pod, for less! Charging a Sony MP3 player with electricity is a breeze! In their latest MP3 player, which goes up to 2 GB, charging for 3 minutes keeps the MP3 player running for 30 hours. In larger MP3 players, up to 20 GB, charging for 3 hours

guarantees 30 hours of playtime, with plenty of standby time. Other brands like Creative also came up with new music solutions that fit every musical ear's need, with similar accessories to those that accompany I-Pods.

Do you like your music really loud? Well, don't say we didn't warn you about permanent hearing loss! If you still want it loud, try a Boostaroo Portable Amplifier from ThinkGeek. It doubles the volume on any portable audio device and it has 3 insertions for your friends to share the music experience with you.

Showtime in a Box

The TIVO of North America has reached Kuwait! Finally, Showtime delivers to the Middle East the newest replica of TIVO, distributed under the name of

ShowBox. ShowBox is built on the same idea as TIVO. The formal name for such devices is DVR (Digital Video Recorders). With a 40 GB hard drive, these devices can record up to 40 hours of TV shows. Through cable services, Showtime offers the possibility of time-based or show-based recording through ShowBox.

The device offers other services such as dual viewing of channels, access to on-screen TV Guide, and the ability to pause and rewind live TV while watching. Best of all, it is a free device. The subscriber pays refundable insurance that is repaid to the subscriber upon the return of the device.

Internet Everywhere... Literally

Out of the Blue

By Tasnim Saleh

On Wednesday, May 24, 2006, a team from a newly established IT company in Kuwait, creatively called Out of Blue, headed by the Director of Sales and Marketing, Yahya Kabbani, visited AUK to talk to Computer Science and Information Systems students about the company's technology and services.

Visiting Dr. George Kostopoulos' Software Engineering class, the team explained to students the unique Bluetooth services that the company offers in Kuwait. The company's goal (besides obvious financial goals), is to provide much-needed Bluetooth services in Kuwait, as well as to put a positive spin on Bluetooth, which is regarded very negatively in Kuwait and the Gulf region.

The team explained in details the mechanisms of the Bluetooth service for announcements and advertising, as well as providing interesting statistics. Kabbani mentioned that Marina

Mall is now their biggest client, with traffic of about 10 million a year, 60-70% of which have their Bluetooth enabled. Other clients include Sultan Center, Gillette, National Bank of Kuwait and Gulf Bank. Kabbani attested that the rate of accepting Bluetooth messages by people from trusted sources such as the above-listed large companies is high. The company is also launching a campaign to encourage people to turn on their Bluetooth.

Kabbani described how simple and effective the service is. One Bluetooth device from the company can cover a radius up to 150 meters. The device can be bought or rented from the company and the devices are sold for approximately \$4500 each with warranty. Different announcements and messages can be uploaded to the device which detects any Bluetooth device in its range and sends these messages and announcements to these devices without spamming.



Safety and Self-Defence for Students

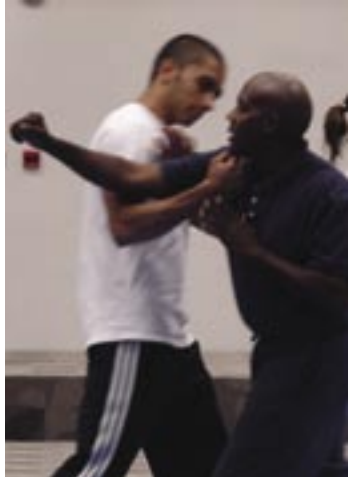


Photo by Fay al-Homoud

By Dua'a Husain

On May 28th AUK held a self defense workshop for women in the multipurpose room lead by Major Stephen Gholson, Major Mark Dixon of the US Embassy and with the help of AUK students Bader El Chammaa and Dua'a Husain (the author). The workshop focused on many basic skills in self-defense that could help women in tough situations.

They learned how to defend themselves from different types of attacks and how to act in different circumstances that would help them reach safety. AUK would like to thank the US Embassy, especially Major Stephen Gholson and Major Mark Dixon and AUK's own Dr. Ann Scholl and Ms. Shareefa al-Adwani for organizing this event and sharing their own experiences with the AUK participants.



Photo by Fay al-Homoud



Photo by Fay al-Homoud



Photo by Fay al-Homoud

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Photo by Dua'a Husain.

R'AUK-in' the Boat

By Dua'a Husain & Fay al-Homoud

On May 5th AUK's own staff and faculty participated in the Annual Raft Race competition that was held in Aqua Park. It was a beautiful sunny day with music blasting and many were at the beach swimming, playing beach volleyball, or on the water rides. Many teams participated in the event, and AUK was happy to have participated

in the race despite the short notice. Some members of the team would also like to see AUK form official teams of staff, faculty and students for future raft races. When AUK was at the start line many students showed their support by cheering until they reached the finish line. Although the AUK team did not come in first place, the team is looking forward to participating next year with more teams to "R'AUK the Boat."



Photo by Dua'a Husain.

ENTERTAINMENT

Friends Make it Fun on Failaka

By Daniya Alam

Thursday, May 18th, 10:30am, AUK students met up at Marina Mall, boarded a boat, and were off to Failaka Island. The one-hour ferry-trip was wonderful, filled with students playing the *tabla* and singing along to Arabic songs, laughing and taking pictures.

When we arrived at Failaka, I have to say we were all dumb-founded. The island looked like a deserted place that hadn't been inhabited for years; not at all what you'd picture an island to be, but instead a desert-like island with run-down buildings and cars that had been manufactured long before.

Surprised AUK students then boarded a 50-year-old bus that I was pretty sure would break down any second. I am happy to say we arrived to the village in one piece. It had small shops, chalets, a hotel, restaurant, and a swimming pool. We were handed a map of the village, a swimming pass, and the freedom to roam till 4:45 pm. With nothing to interest us but the pool, 80% of AUK students dived into it as if never before!

Snacks were distributed with the promise of a

special lunch including fish to be served at 2 pm. When the clock struck 2, and with empty stomachs and big appetites, we headed to the restaurant, fantasizing about how yummy the food was going to be. But contrary to what had been promised, we found lentil soup, and biryani with the choice of either beef or chicken.

Could the trip get any worse, you might ask? The answer is yes, it could. Most events that were supposed to take place, including horse back riding, music and dinner, were cancelled due to last-minute changes by the island staff.

Students continued to swim or play football till 5 pm when we boarded the boat again and headed back to Marina, arriving at around 6 pm.

The trip was intended to last till 9 pm and many events were to take place. Though none of it worked out as planned, participants still had a splendid time. What made it a good time was

that students managed to make the best of what little they had. It goes to show, no matter what the plans are it is the friends that make the good times worthwhile.



Students aboard the ferry to Failaka Island.



Taking in the sun and the fun poolside.

Photo by Mary Hanna.

Photo by Emad Salamah.

Latest X-Men a Disappointment

By Fahad al-Tukhaim

After the long wait, the teaser trailers, and watching it twice in the theatre, X-men: The Last Stand can only be viewed as one thing to any hardcore fan of the comic books...disappointing!

Film director Brett Ratner did not stay true to the actual Phoenix saga storyline, instead giving an original twist to the story. Not that I didn't like the feature film, which was amazingly well done, but it could have been better had they focused on the Phoenix storyline and dedicated the third installment of the X-men series to this important Marvel and X-men milestone. Due to the tight budget and time frame, Ratner did have the challenge of wrapping up the series, and that was evident because one can't help but feel that the entire movie is being force fed to the viewer. Given these constraints, Ratner did a reasonably good job, following in the footsteps of Bryan Singer, director of the first two films.

The movie is filled with realistic CGI—computer generated imagery—, graphics that will surely take your breath away and leave you convinced that it was all real! I especially liked the danger room scene where the X-men were battling the sentinels earlier on in the movie. Apart from that, the gang is all there with the addition of some new mutant characters. Some of the new X-men that had cameo appearances in X2 like Colossus, Ice-man, and Kitty Pryde are now part of the new X-men team. Other

new mutants that joined Magneto's Brotherhood, the bad guys, include Juggernaut, Multiple Man, Spike, Callisto and Arclight along with a plethora of other mutants that make up Magneto's army.

The story deals with some a cure that's been discovered by Worthington Labs that has the promise of eliminating the mutant X gene in the mutants and transform them into normal humans. It also picks up from X2, where we discover that Jean Grey is not dead but is resurrected as the Phoenix. While some mutants, like Magneto, who leads the Mutant Brotherhood, are offended at the very idea of labeling their special mutant abilities as a disease, aim to eliminate the cure and a war erupts between the humans and the Brotherhood. However, the Brotherhood has a weapon that is far superior to the cure: the limitless fury of the Phoenix. The Phoenix is one of the most powerful mutants in the Marvel universe because it possesses the power of The Phoenix Force. According to Stan Lee, creator of Marvel comics, The Phoenix Force is the nexus of all psionic energy which exists in all realities of the multiverse! So, the X-men's mission is to put an end to Magneto's struggle obtain supremacy, believing that humans and mutants can coexist peacefully.

With the limitless power of the Phoenix in Magneto's corner, the cure in the human's corner and Professor Charles Xavier's vision of mutant's co-existence with the humans in another...who will prevail? In this conflicting triangle, only one side will emerge victorious. But that is left for you to



Do you follow politics? What do you think of the political situation?



Anwar al-Ibraheem

Yes. I think that the politics in Kuwait is becoming a big mess (like most countries). I don't see that we have a true democracy, because as soon as people start to say what they believe is right and wrong, things become chaotic and the parliament is dissolved. But hopefully, women would make a difference in those coming elections (inshallah!).



Sara Taha

Yes, I come from a family that adores politics. The current situation is really bad. I'm pro orange because it will improve the overall situation, decrease corruption and cheating. This will hopefully build a brighter future for Kuwait.



Nasser al-Monawer

Yes. I'm with the five constituencies because it will stop bribery and vote buying. The Emir did the best thing by dissolving the parliament for two months, which stopped all the conflicts that happened between the members of parliament.



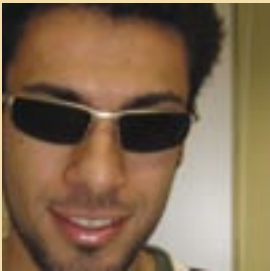
Rama Sabano

No, I follow Syrian and Lebanese politics. I don't get Kuwaiti politics.



Latifa al-Sanee

Not really, I think its chaos. I'm pro the orange revolution but I feel that no matter what they go for, its going to be exactly the same. But I really hope the orange makes a difference.



Fahad Mohammed

Yes, I think it was a wise decision to dissolve parliament by the Emir, as it would cool tensions over the electoral districts crisis.



Abdullah Taqi

Yes, I think it's unstable; the majorities are not getting to voice their opinion and are not being heard. I'm orange all the way.



Tareq al-Rifaai

No, but I thinks it's a crisis!



Bader al-Sane



Hessa al-Sabah

Yes, I believe in one constituency because this is the ideal solution. In that way, every Kuwaiti can vote for his chosen candidate based on competency and be not be restricted to his district. Some-time people don't vote because they are limited to voting for a candidate in their district.



Abdullah Shanfa

No it's a head ache especially Kuwaiti politics.



Rawan al-Baghli

Yes. I'm with the Blue Wave, because I believe the orange revolution is unfair. The divisions of the orange revolution (5 districts) are not fair. It's either they change those divisions, or modify them based on the areas. They should be more focused on dividing the districts based on the similarities and interests rather than basing them on location.



Nawal al-Sadoun:

No I don't follow politics. I just don't care.



Dalal al-Mulla:

Yes, I'm pro the 5 constituencies, "Nabeeha Khamsa" (We want it to be 5). Basically we want to combat corruption in the parliament.



Najla al-Majed:

Yes, I'm surprised that the current situations lead to a parliament dissolution. This has never happened before throughout history

What Dire Offence: The Strange Case of Mr. Amr Khalid

By Dina El-Zohairy

On Monday 29th May at around 2 pm, a fairly large group of students and staff were seated in plastic chairs just outside the men's prayer room, where a tent had been set up, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Muslim preacher Amr Khaled. The sermon was entitled "The Keys to Success" and the event had been organized by SGA's Cultural Committee and sponsored by Al-Furqan Center, part of the Kuwaiti Association for Islamic Sciences. As a means of publicizing the event, red flyers were circulated on campus several days earlier, in addition to a newspaper ad in Al-Watan; invitations had been sent to ACK and GUST inviting students to attend.

Even though it was extremely hot, the attendees waited patiently for forty-five minutes, notified only once, at around 2:15 pm, that Amr Khalid was on his way. Shortly thereafter, and much to everyone's disappointment, Cultural Committee Head, Nizar Mishal, announced that the lecture had been cancelled. Surprisingly, Amr Khaled had come at five to two and left immediately. According to Nizar, the reasons for this were that Amr

Khaled was unsatisfied with the petty number of attendees, and he had expected a formal welcome from AUK's administrative body, instead of being welcomed by Nizar, a student.

News reporters who were at the event rushed to Nizar to take down comments, and the following day at least three national newspapers printed coverage of the story. However, instead of giving readers a full, accurate account of exactly what had taken place between Amr Khaled and Nizar, only SGA's point of view was given to explain the incident. Being rational, educated thinkers and reasonable individuals, we cannot jump to conclusions without hearing what Amr Khalid has to say about the conflict.

It had originally been planned that the lecture would be held in an air-conditioned hall, as with Imam Suhaib Webb, who gave a lecture at AUK about a month ago. On Monday 29th, just before Amr's departure from the Hotel, he was informed that the lecture would be convened outdoors, to which he agreed, even though his inviters were concerned that the 46-degree temperature that day was too hot. According to Amr Khaled's official spokesperson, Dr. Ashraf Kordy, the

story is a bit different. He stated that Amr Khalid had asked if he could wait somewhere until all the students were present. Nizar said they could only wait in the library because the administration did not approve of his presence at AUK. The latter understandably found this unsuitable since it is of self-respect not to enter a place without the owners' welcome. So from the other side the reason behind his refusal to give the lecture was the sudden change in the agreement, which had been based upon the administration's approval as Amr Khalid said he had been told.

In sum, since the conversation only took place between Nizar and Amr Khalid, it is virtually to know what exactly was said. Amr Khalid was apparently unaware of the enormity of what had happened, so he left without giving an official statement to SGA or any newspaper. Despite my respect for the values he stands for, I now believe that Amr Khalid was at fault. Despite any misunderstanding, he should have considered SGA's position and not taken the matter so seriously as to perceive it as an act of disrespect on their part. Yet we cannot place all the blame on Amr Khalid since he was a guest to Kuwait and the arrangements

had not been made directly with him; we cannot assume that the details given by SGA were transmitted to him accurately. Perhaps he had different expectations in mind or maybe the appearance of the tent and the lack of air-conditioning discouraged him from waiting until all the students had arrived, since it was extremely hot and all the attendees were sweating.

It is a hard blow for SGA to have spent nearly 1000 KD, lots of time, and magnificent effort, and lose it all in minutes. Their intention was to please students and enlighten them on an such an important issue as success, especially with finals coming up! Nevertheless, it was unnecessary to make the incident public so as not to be the precursor for "dirty media". After all, Amr Khaled is a valuable Islamic social figure who has been a huge asset for people of all ages since he started giving sermons in 1998. We are all human and prone to make mistakes or miscalculate our actions. So let's with a kind heart forgive him and forget about the unpleasant incident. Hopefully next year will turn out to be more productive for SGA and in turn enjoyable and rewarding for AUK students.

Writing Center Gets A+

By Noufa al-Sabah

I've gotten the knack of trying the different services our university has to offer; like that time I tried the tutoring assistance. This time I ventured off to the second floor with a rough draft art history paper in hand, seeking someone to proof read it. Yes, I went to the writing center. To tell you the truth, like the tutoring center, I always heard about it but never bothered to go to it since like most people I thought I did not need assistance. I did not really go to it because I was in need of help. I went to it because Dr. Simon actually advised us to go there since the paper was going to be a big percentage of out grade and he was a former English professor; thus he expected perfect grammar, and grammar and writing skills were going to be accounted for in that paper. I did not expect the writing center to be this professional and efficient. On the door, there was an appointment sheet in which one jots down their name in a time slot of their choice. You would then be expected to come back to the writing center at your chosen time. I was amazed to find the time slots nearly full, and luckily found a vacant appointment. When I came back, I was greeted cheerfully at the door by Fatmah al-Qadfan (a student worker in that center) and was asked to wait as she finished the paper she had on hand. As soon as she finished with the person before me, she sat with me and discussed my paper. I told her

about the requirements and she read over my paper once. The second time around, she started advising me on word usage, corrected a bunch of grammatical errors my computer's spell check had missed, and also helped me better articulate my ideas.

Like many people, I do not enjoy peer editing but with Fatmah it was a totally different experience. She actually helped me through it instead of just correcting it and butchering my whole paper. Whenever there was a suggestion I did not agree with, she backed off and did not pressure me into editing it. I felt in control, something you do not normally feel when someone edits your paper. On the contrary, they seem to be holding the reins whilst they edit. Fatmah on the other hand, was merely coaching me through it. She was patient throughout my long paper, and did not even heave a sigh; quite the opposite, she was dedicated and enthusiastic the whole time.

This whole process took less than half an hour, but the results exceeded my expectations significantly. This short time at the writing center greatly benefited my paper. It not only made it good, it brought me an A+ and a positive appraisal from my instructor. To all the students who are struggling with their papers, projects or overall writing skills; if there is one thing you should do, it's to give this writing center a visit. I guarantee you a good experience and an even better overall grade on

“Ah Summer what power you have to make us suffer and like it” —Russel Baker

By Noufa al-Sabah

Summer is on our doorstep. Some might argue its here already. I don't care. The only thing I can say is "God Help Us." It seems every year we bid farewell to this insufferable season; take pleasure in the coolness; wear our winter clothes (even though our winter is actually autumn in many countries, and yet we consider it cold) and just enjoy the overall pleasant temperatures. We forget that we even had summer, and when it comes around again, we get vexed and bothered. Yes, I'm one of those people. Even though I've been living here my whole life, I have not yet got the hang of this winter to summer succession. Let's just say it's human nature to hang on to things we love, and I'm a winter kind of person.

Summer in Kuwait is characterized by high temperatures, scorching heat, and humidity. High temperatures here are not normal temperatures; we're talking fifty degrees and more. However, the government never states the real temperature, instead posting significantly lower figures. Being honest can be costly, since if temperatures reach fifty degrees or more, all outdoor work must cease. Alas,

this is not the case here in Kuwait, and many poor laborers work in this heart wrenching heat.

You have to admit that this heat is cost efficient though. For example, you don't need to get an oven or fryer in the summer, just get a pan or pot and cook your food on the asphalt outside; you can actually easily fry eggs in this heat (I've tried it and it works!).

Apart from getting scalded while getting in your car (especially true for people with leather upholstery in their cars), suffocating while walking outside, literally feeling like a human icicle as you melt from the car to your home or office, and being fried alive due to the high temperatures, heat messes with people's brains. It is a well-known fact that as temperatures increase, people become more irritable. Concentration decreases, and everyone is easily fatigued.

So, bad news to all you drivers: if you already thought driving in Kuwait was an adventure that couldn't get any worse, think again. It's going to get even more perilous. For starters, remember those daredevil, irresponsible drivers that seem to think that the road is their playground? Well they're go-

ing to get more revved up during the summer, so get ready for their new audacious road stunts. Want my advice? Just make sure you say a little prayer before you embark on this dangerous journey, and hope you reach your destination in one piece. Okay, that's a little pessimistic, but seriously start expecting the unexpected, especially during summer. And just remember, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going."


Despite all that, summer in Kuwait can be amazing. Summer is a time when the beaches get packed, jet skis and jet boats rule the sea, and the many Kuwaiti islands especially Kubbar and Um al-Maradim become the local hotspots. It is a time when tanned skin is a status symbol. It's even a time when people commit most damage to their skin by simply "frying", no I mean "lounging" (that's what they call it now) in the sun for hours on end with no sunscreen whatsoever in the hope of getting a tan. Save yourself future dermatological and plastic surgery expenses, and just apply sun block every two hours. And remember since we're in Kuwait after all, make that SPF 50 and up. I wish you a Happy Summer!

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Anger Management: Do You Have Issues?

By Dr. Caren Jordan

What is anger? How do you control it? Anger is a completely normal, and usually healthy, human emotion. But when it gets out of control it can lead to difficulties such as problems at work, in your personal relationships, and in the overall quality of your life. Anger varies in intensity from mild to intense irritation. Like all other emotions, anger is accompanied by biological and physiological changes. For example, when you get angry, your heart rate and blood pressure go up, as do the levels of your energy, hormones, adrenaline, and nor-adrenaline (<http://www.apa.org/topics/controlanger.html>).

What makes you angry? Anger can be triggered by internal and external events. You could be worrying about an upcoming exam or project or could be

stuck in traffic, both of which can trigger angry feelings.

According to experts in the field, responding aggressively is the natural way to express anger. Anger is adaptive, it inspires powerful feelings and behaviors which allow us to fight and defend ourselves when we are attacked (<http://www.apa.org/topics/controlanger.html>). Some anger is necessary for us to survive; however, we need to manage those feelings and not take it out on every person or object that bothers us.

You can't be tense and relaxed at the same time due to biology. According to the American Psychological Association (<http://www.apa.org/topics/controlanger.html>), here are some strategies to keep your anger in check:

1) Simple relaxation tools such as deep breathing and relaxation imagery can help with

So how do you know if anger is a problem? Next are some questions to ask yourself in order to determine if you are having difficulty managing your anger
When you become angry, do you ever feel out of control?
When you become angry, have you ever said or done anything you regretted later?
While angry, have you ever physically attacked someone (i.e., grabbed, shoved, lapped, or punched)?
Has an angry reaction to a situation ever cost you a relationship or a job?
Do feelings of anger often make it difficult to concentrate on work or school?
Do you drink alcohol or use other drugs to calm down and to reduce your angry feelings?
Have you ever been arrested or faced legal difficulties as a result of your anger?
If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, then you may have difficulty managing anger.
If you answered yes to most or all of these questions, then you may have a serious anger management problem.
Source: http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/SelfHelp/SelfHelpLibrary/VirtualHandouts/AngerManagement/

those angry feelings. Start by taking a deep breath way down into your diaphragm and watch your stomach rise. Slowly repeat a calm word or phrase such as "relax" to yourself while breathing deeply. Nonstrenuous exercises, such as yoga, can relax your muscles and calm you. Practice these techniques frequently.

2) Change the way you think. When angry, our thoughts often are irrational. Try to replace these with more rational ones.

3) Make a plan, and check your progress along the way. When angry, we tend to jump to conclusions. Try to slow down and actually listen to the other person and think about what you are saying rather than just blurting it out.

4) Use humor to de-escalate the situation. Don't try to just "laugh off" your problems; rather, use humor to help yourself

face them more constructively. In other words, don't take yourself too seriously.

5) Change your environment. Give yourself a break. Schedule in some "personal time" during particularly stressful times.

If you feel that your anger is out of control or if it is having an impact on your relationships and on important parts of your life, you might consider counseling to learn how to handle it better. Here at AUK, the Student Success Center (SSC) offers FREE counseling to address anger problems as well as other difficulties including depression and anxiety. The SSC staff can work with you in developing a range of techniques for changing your thinking and behavior. You can call the SSC at 224 8399 or stop by A-105 and 106 to make an appointment.

Speaking to Fatma About the Five

By Hessa Al Mughni

What is the "Orange Revolution"?

There are different "Orange Revolutions". There was one in Lebanon, and one in Ukraine. The color orange is the color of change, that's part of the reason why we chose the color orange for our campaign.

What is your role in the "Nabeeha 5" campaign?

It is a group of young people who have decided to meet together and work together for this campaign. I am one of the people who help brainstorm ideas.

When did you start engaging in politics?

I started engaging in politics when I was 17.

In your opinion, why are the five districts better than the twenty-five we have today?

What we are actually aiming for is to have one district. We need to get the five first in order to get the one district. Having five districts will make the elections more democratic. Right now, there are small numbers of voters in small constituencies and they represent tribes or sets of people. It doesn't represent the *ummah*, or the society, as a whole. Having five districts will result in more voters and it will represent most of the people. Instead of having 20,000 people voting in each district, we will have 50,000.

Since women can participate in this coming election, do you

think that they will have any impact in the voting results?

Yes, they will have a huge effect on the results. As many newspapers say, these elections will be determined by women. In each district, 60% of the voters are women. I'm not saying that women will be parliament members, but the results will be not the same as they were before.

Do you think that the MPs will get the five after the new elections? Why?

If the government cooperates and if the right numbers of MPs are all for the five districts, technically the parliament will pass the bill. It depends on the MPs who are for the five districts.

Dean Carol's Corner

By Dr. Carol Ross-Black

Sitting here, May 24, 2006, not really knowing where to begin. There must be a lesson in all of this sadness. There must be. I feel compelled to search... so I reflect.

Between 1980 and 1982, (I know some of you were not born!), while I was finding myself in the midst of having great fun being lost, I was about to begin my college career majoring in kinesiology. I was a sports junkie and had every intention of being the trainer for the Los Angeles Lakers. Counted the years it would take to finish kines' as we called it and medical school plus the specialized training. Glanced at my social calendar and decided against that career goal, twelve years! Who would want to be in school for so long? Good grief! Business it was. Quick and easy (sorry biz majors!) with social life in tact. Two and one-half years later, one degree down; no desire to work; no calling. Suddenly the phone of life rang and I picked it up! For once, I was home. The caller said, "Do what you love, love what you do and love where you do it." WHAT!? I loved college but certainly not

the fact that going to class was mandatory. It was something about an individual having so much power over your life that just got to me. Obviously, the caller had the wrong number. It was like a telemarketer; the phone kept ringing. A stroll through the yellow pages of life and a few more phone calls-collect and emergency ones too, a couple of disconnections, a few hang ups, not to mention operator assistance, and just when you thought no one was home, I finally heard my calling and had a conversation with the caller.

Do what you love. I love to help others succeed. I love to compete. Don't really know why, just do. *Love where you do it.* And even though I used to be believe that the college environment had such utopian potential if it were not for the scheduled classes, it was and is still the best place on earth to learn. It is designed to truly be one of the most positively unforgettable experiences of life. College is a short-term sacrifice for long-term gain. The roll-over minutes last a life time! There are many lessons learned in college, not only within the confines of the classroom but also within the yellow pages of university life. Those yellow pages give

you so much information and so many choices. Try a number. If it is not right, you can try another. Do it on your own or get operator assistance. Most importantly, you can keep dialing until there is a connection. I got connected; I love what I do and where I do it.

So, why do I hate what I love so much right now? The caller never told me about painful the times. Maybe there was just too much static in the phone line during that conversation or knowing me, I was on two-way! Granted there are many more connections than wrong numbers. In a utopian world, how can one explain joy in the pain? That number is unlisted! How do I explain mortality to the immortal? How do you teach someone to recognize a crank call? College will teach you how to handle the crank calls of life (with operator assistance of course). And yes, it is truly a positively unforgettable experience. You will be amazed that you can receive a call when you when you are in the middle of nowhere. As we prepare to close our second academic year, did you get a call? Did you hear your phone ring or was it on silent? Life makes the call but only you can answer. This summer, zestfully,

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ALWAYS MORE

Mohammed Hassib Ali: 1986 - 2006



Goodbye, Mohammed

By Dina El-Zohairy

Even though I barely knew him when he was alive, I feel a close friend of his now. Mohammed's death touched my heart deeply, as with everyone at AUK. It is extremely difficult to imagine not seeing him around on campus in his knee-length shorts, flip-flops, and bald head; he had a charismatic air about him. We lost him in a tragic way, without getting a chance to say goodbye. Letting go is always hard, especially with such an energetic and lovable personality as Mohammed's. But even amidst our sorrows, it fills our hearts with joy to see the vast number of people who attended his funeral, prayed for him, and cried over his loss; this is truly a gift from God.

Not an ocean of tears can bring him back. His day has come to leave the world and go to a better place, far from the devastating wars, worldwide epidemics,

ongoing fights over money and power, and fading love humans have for each other. Sad that we will never meet him again, we must be happy that he has returned to his Creator, where no safer or happier a person can be.

Whenever we pass by his favorite spot, listen to his favorite song, or hear the name "Mohammed", we will remember him, and he will always be missed. His picture will forever stay in our memories. For his sake, let's smile when we remember his shining eyes and bright smile, his jokes and friendliness, and pray for him, with all our hearts, that God blesses his soul forever and may Paradise be his place. I pray to God to grant his family all the patience and strength they need. And to all of you who knew him and loved him, with hearts that miss him let's wait to see him in heaven, insha'lla.

For M. Ali

By Mona Kareem

Here's Mr. Death;
Opening the doors
Looking for a good guy
To take him in a trip.

Here's Mr. Death
Takes our lovely friend
Near to God
To live forever
In heaven .

Hey Mr. Death
We are happy
because you took our
friend;
he has a better life now
he remembers us
when he was making us
laugh
or hugging us when we
say:
life is just a lie.

Hey Mr. Death
You are a loser
And we will always stay
winners
In the game of life.

You took his soul
But his image is painted
On our hearts.

You dressed him up in
your dark clothes
And we take them off
By our prayers.

One day, Mr. Death
You will die
And you will have no one

To cry for you.

A celebration of the Life of Mohammed Hassib Ali

By Zaki Alsawaf & Ayham Al-Dajane

Life is such a precious thing. We have just lost a member not from the student body but from the AUK family. On May 20th 2006, Mohammed Hassib Ali left us all in sorrow.

Mo, as most people knew him, has left us all in grief, and missing his smile that brought joy to AUK. Mo was always happy, and quite a funny person too. He would come up with one punch line after another just to make sure that we were smiling. He was to us not only a friend but more like a brother. We used to hang out with him all the time, and we always enjoyed his company.

Mo was a B student in AUK, just finishing up his freshman year. He also helped most of the students with their assignments, and studying for their tests. Mo's favorite sayings were "Tabbyyy Shaaayyy" and "Il3ab".

The last time we were with Mo he was actually at Ayham's house after the trip to Failaka, and he was telling us how much fun he had had and how his favorite part of the trip was when he went on the ATV's. And then we started talking about our summer plans on how we are all going to meet up in Los Ange-

les and party it up. But I guess we won't be meeting him in L.A.. but rather in the afterlife in heaven. And I'm sure we'll have more fun then than meeting in L.A.

Mo has taught us an important lesson, that life shouldn't be taken for granted, and we should always tell people we love them. He also taught us live life to the fullest with no regrets because, not only isn't tomorrow promised but also the next period isn't promised. Mo left us all and he made sure before he left he'd told that special someone that he loved her.

When Zaki saw Mo's face for the last time, just before he got in the car, he seemed like he was happy and relaxed, he had no worries in life, and all his problems were solved. When you're a college student, in your youth, you think that you will live young forever; that you will outlive the water, the wind, and earth; that you are immortal and untouchable.

The most important lesson is that we should drive carefully, and take care of ourselves, because a wise man once said, "When driving you've got one foot on the gas pedal and the other foot in thae grave."

Mo was a one of a kind, and everybody loved him. He died so young and he was destined to

greater things in life. When we talk about our futures he would always say he wanted to have a nice family, and a good job, doing something he was passionate about. I guess God has greater plans for Mo up there in heaven. Mo has left us all with a hole in our hearts that will never be filled. He affected everyone in his life directly and indirectly; he was that person that always had a smile on even when he was sad.

AUK gives its deepest condolences to his parents and our prayers are always going to be with him. We hope that his parents recover from this tragic event as soon as possible. I'm sure that we all have grieved and we all have cried, but I'm sure that Mo wants us to cheer. He would want us to celebrate his life and remember all the good times he had with us. Rest in Peace Mohammed Hassib Ali and you will always be loved



Friends and family share their grief at the memorial service for Mohammed Hassib Ali.



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