



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
of KUWAIT

OPRAA

News

November 2010, issue 1

Office of Parents Relations & Alumni Affairs Newsletter

Greetings,

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs (**OPRAA**) Newsletter! As some of you might have read from our previous announcements: **OPRAA** is **HERE!**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members, parents and alumni to this special edition of our online newsletter. We hope that our parents will find this a useful guide for activities on our campus and resources to help your son/daughter feel like a part of the AUK family. To our alumni, we have missed you all and hope that this edition serves as a celebration of your great achievements so far. Please continue to share your news with us, as we would love to feature more of you in our upcoming editions.

We wish to stay connected through various initiatives and hope that this newsletter will serve as your window into AUK.

To those of you going to Hajj, we wish you a safe journey and Hajj Mabroor and to everyone else Eid Mubarak! Enjoy your holiday and Eid festivities.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

The Office of Parent Relations & Alumni Affairs Team

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Campus News

Beginning from the first day of classes, many events took place on and off campus organized by Student Affairs, Student Clubs & Organization or other departments. Full coverage of the events can be followed [here](#)

AUK Homecoming 2010

The Office of Parent Relations & Alumni Affairs would like to invite you to join us at our 3rd Annual Homecoming. A various number of events will take place to bring together all member of the AUK Family; Students, Alumni, Parents Faculty & Staff.

Below is a list of our events:

Homecoming Schedule 2010

Sunday, November 28th

Spirit giveaways & BBQ

Faculty /Staff vs. Students & Pass, Shoot & Score Competition

12:30 pm @ AUK's Soccer Field



Monday, November 29th

BIG day out

10 am – 4 pm @ Hangout Tent

Dinner with the President

7 pm @ AUK Auditorium



Tuesday, November 30th

Senior countdown

2 pm – 4 pm @ the Grassy area by AUK's Soccer field

Five-Year Annual Alumni Reunion

7 pm @ AUK Auditorium



Alumni Highlight

Alumni at AUK

We are very proud to see the growing number of alumni working at AUK! It says a lot that some of you have chosen to remain on this campus, rising to the level of your peers. Whether in the Division of Student Affairs, IEP, the Business & Economics Division or Administration our alumni are thriving in the institution that granted their degrees.

Introducing the family:

Abdalla G. AbdelRahman '08 – Graphic Designer

“Working at AUK means working for a bigger family, one that supports you and encourages you to do better. As an alum I feel at home on campus, there’s a familiarity and a sense of belonging.”

Abdulwahab R. Al-Khaldi '08 – Student Life Specialist

“Joining the Office of Student Life was a positive step for me having previously worked in the field of Higher Education. We are here to serve students and as an alum I feel like I have an advantage. I know what the students are going through which allows me to empathize and better serve them.”

Abed-Al-Rahman Y. Al-Mahani '09 – Technical Support/ IT Department

“As a former student worker in the IT Department for 3 years I gained lots of experience and knowledge in the IT field, It has been a really interesting times in AUK specially when I try to keep up with the level of experience in the IT Department.”

Ahmed A. Lotfy '09 – Admissions Counselor

“I’ve been working here since March 2010 and the experience so far is amazing. What prompted me to join AUK is a project I am hoping will continue and to further my studies and experience in an institution I love. Lately I joined the faculty team of engineering as a research assistant and we’re working on a research project for the ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology).”

Dana H. Taqi '07 – Coordinator of Parent Relations & Alumni Affairs

“I am going on my third year here at AUK. Working within the Division of Student Affairs and along with some of my fellow alums, I have come to appreciate the value of staying connected to an extended family. The challenges of the work environment aren’t as difficult knowing that you have supportive colleges sharing your ups and downs.”

Dina N. El-Zohairy '09 – Registrar Coordinator – Graduation

“The idea of working in the place I had called second home as a student appealed to me. For the past one and a half years, seeing students through graduation has been exciting, challenging, and stressful at times. I have mastered working under pressure, multitasking, and funnily enough, memorizing student ID’s – I owe my sanity to a friendly and supportive team of coworkers. By far, the most rewarding aspect of my job is watching the students I have closely worked with march to the processional music on graduation day.”

Faten F. Al-Kadiri '08 – Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of Finance and Administration

“My experience at AUK is simply A: Alluring U: Unique K: Kicking ☐ AUK”

Jabran N. Butt '09 – Lab Assistant – IEP program

“I have enjoyed every day at my work and the best thing I like about AUK is the trust that is put in our capabilities, people are encouraged to do their best and their contribution is rewarded.”

Lama Z. Kablaoui '08 – Assistant Scholarship Coordinator

“My attachment to AUK as a student is what made me consider applying for a job here upon graduation. The diversity of the students I meet breaks the routine of the job and it feels good to inform students that they’ve been awarded a scholarship just as it feels bad to see others lose it. Our Division (Student Affairs) is doing so much to make us feel like one family and motivate us to move ahead in the higher education field, and it’s working pretty well!”

Najd M. Al-Muhanna '10 – Admissions Administrative Assistant

“Getting a job in AUK is an opportunity to feel the academic environment from another prospective. Since I’ve started work I found myself included in another family that has supported me since day one. AUK has become my other home now.”

Nour M. El-Shamsy '09 – Assistant to the Director of IEP

“My experience at AUK can only be described as wonderful. Having a small campus and a smaller student body compared to other universities in the region gave a familial feeling to AUK. You weren’t going to college, you were going home. No wonder we are the wolf-pack – one for all and all for one!”

Rama Sabano '07 – Coordinator of Student Organizations & Leadership Development

“I love AUK! What can I say? It gave me so much as a student; I have yet to give it so much more as a staff member.”

Sarah J. Boodai '08 – Marketing Development Officer

“AUK is our home away from home! I joined AUK to remain close to the family and to contribute to the institution that I spent 4 of the best years of my life in.”

Shoug A. Al-Othman '09 – Academic Advisor - Government Scholarship Program

“My experience at AUK was one of a kind. By getting the opportunity to be a Teacher’s Assistant, PAL, tutor and a Student worker at AUK, it broadened my knowledge and prepared me to the real life. The one thing that prompted me to come to AUK is the environment; for me it has a unique comfortable environment where one can work and follow his dream all at the same time. I love the SSC and always have.”

Other alumni at AUK:

Mohammed El-Kuishawy '07 – Part-Time Evening Activities Coordinator

Kheiriyeh M. Ahmadi '08 – Administrative Assistant & Writing Center Staff Consultant

Bader M. Chammaa '08 – Adjunct Instructor

Daniya A. Alam '09 - Business Division Admin Assistant

Adhari A. Al-Qadri '09 – Registrar Coordinator

Reema Al-Jabi '10 – Admissions Counselor

Heba Ali '10 - Part-Time Evening Activities Coordinator & Part-Time Program Coordinator for The Gulf Studies Center



Where Are They Now

Mona Al-Musallam '10 – Abyat Megastore – HR Officer

Abdulaziz Al-Majid '10 – Al Waseet Financial Company – Broker

Shahad Al Wadani '10 – Global Investment House – Operations Analyst

Sharifa Al-Omar '10 – BNP Paribas Bank – Compliance Officer

Ghalya Ahmadi '09 – National Bank of Kuwait – Assistant Personal Banking Officer

Nouf Al-Nafisi '09 – ZAIN – Public Relations Coordinator

Hisham Khalil '09 – British Council – Customer Service Advisor

Rawan Farhat '08 – Bates Pan Gulf – PR Executive

Munira Al-Anjari '08 – Global Investment House – Operations Analyst

Hisham Al-Suwaidan '08 – Kuwait Investment Authority – Investment Analyst

Abdullah Al-Zamel '08 – Wafra International Investments – Credit Analyst

Haya Al-Khalidi '07 – Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI) – Communications Coordinator

Mazyad Al-Masoud '07 – Kuwait Investment Authority – Investment Analyst (European Equity)

Naser Qourtom '07 – NBK Corporate Banking – Relationship Officer

Taiba Al-Humaidhi '06 – Silsal Ceramics – Owner and CEO

Meshal Al-Ali '06 – Kuwait Oil Company – Compensation Analyst

Alumni in Graduate School

- Taibah Al-Mershad – Bond University in Australia
- Fares Fares – University of Manchester in the UK
- Suliman Al-Atiqi – Columbia University in the USA
- Edmund Eid – University of Tampa in the USA
- Hussein Nour-Elddine – University of Manchester in the UK (PHD program)
- Nadia Karam – University College of London in the UK
- Latifa Benessa – Royal Holloway, University of London in the UK
- Yousef Al-Awadhi – Newcastle University in Australia
- Tasnim Saleh – Murdoch University in Dubai
- Noura Al-Alewi – Brock University in Canada
- Adla Al-Madahka – Maastricht Business School in Kuwait
- Valentina Noronha – American University in The Middle East in Kuwait
- Nasser Al-Monawer – Gulf University of Science & Technology in Kuwait
- Mohammed Hussien – Gulf University of Science & Technology in Kuwait

Alumni who have earned Graduate Degrees

- Suliman Al-Atiqi – MA from Florida State University
- Hussein Nour-Elddine – MA from University of Manchester
- Anwaar Al-Ibrahim – MA from Essex University
- Jawaher Ali-Redha – MA from SOAS College
- Bassam Saeed – MBA from Kent University

Career Corner

Graduate School? Work Experience? Navigating your Career Path

By: Amy Kushner, MA
Career Counselor, Student Success Center



With the recent economic woes, many university graduates are choosing to go straight to graduate school, instead of braving an uncertain job market. While an advanced degree is always beneficial, not every profession requires an advanced degree, and not every advanced degree is available to you without work experience. Navigating this uncertain path can be confusing and even frustrating.

So how do you decide whether to pursue an advanced degree? And how do you know if it is best to go straight to graduate school, or try to gain some full-time work experience first? Here are a few thoughts...your generation is constantly setting new standards for education. In the past, merely having a bachelor's degree was enough; but for this generation, that is no longer the case. When you apply for a job, you are now in competition with many other candidates who have more experience and more advanced degrees. It is certainly possible for you to get a job with your bachelor's degree, but in order for you to quickly move up in your field, an advanced degree is often beneficial and sometimes even expected.

When thinking about an advanced degree (Certification, Master's or even Doctorate!), you need to find out what is expected in your field. If you want to be a doctor, you can't just go apply at a hospital with a Bachelor's degree. You need to obtain your MD. If you want to be an accountant with certain firms, you need your CFA. If you want to be a teacher, you might need to get a master's degree in that field. Before you make a decision about pursuing another degree, take the time to research your field. Talk to people in your profession and to your professors. Meet with the Career Counselor. Research the career and specific jobs online. Be informed before you jump into your career path.

For some professions, an advanced degree is preferred but not required. One example of this would be the business field. In Kuwait, many companies *require* a bachelor's degree, but *prefer* an MBA. So if you have your MBA, you have a better chance of being hired. However, if you have ever researched MBA programs, you know that most MBA programs require a year or two of experience before you can even apply. So if you think you will go straight from AUK to an MBA program, but have no work experience, you might need to reconsider your plans. There are certainly some MBA programs available for fresh graduates, but the options are fewer without any experience. You might want to consider working for a year or two after graduation, even if it is an entry-level job, so that you can gain the experience that will enable you to apply to the top MBA programs around the world.

As you can see, these decisions about your career path can seem daunting. You want to enter the work world ready...with solid knowledge, excellent experience, and a good work ethic. You want to know your field and be a critical thinker. The resources are available to you. You have access to information online, career and alumni resources through AUK, and a wealth of knowledge from faculty in your field. Use these resources. Make plans. Set goals for your career. Consider graduate school and consider work experience. And if you need help thinking through these steps, please set-up an appointment to meet with me so that we can talk through your options.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center brings a range of resources to support all AUK students and alumni in meeting their academic and personal goals. With exams just around the corner, tutoring and academic skills workshops are available to assist students succeeding. We utilize a variety of tools to help identify students' learning needs and concerns. Our user-friendly services and professional staff in the field are here to help students succeed in their academic, career, and personal development. For more information, please visit our website http://www.auk.edu.kw/student_affairs/ssc_main.jsp or contact us at +965-2224-8399 ext.242 or by e-mail at success@auk.edu.kw or visit in person on the fifth floor of the Liberal Arts Building.

ALUMNI MEMBER BENEFITS:



- You get a distinguished AUK Alumni University ID Card
- A copy of our quarterly newsletter
- Library access and database privileges
- Staying in touch with former classmates
- Expand your networking
- And much more...

Center for Continuing Education

CCE offers all alumni 15% discounts on all courses, below is a list of some of the courses/programs/diplomas offered:

- Business English Program (10 levels)
- Cambridge International Diploma in Business (6 modules)
- Exam Preparation Courses (IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, SAT, ICES, GED)
- Leadership and Supervisory Skills (7 workshops)

For Further information please feel free to visit our link on the AUK website

http://www.auk.edu.kw/cce/cce_main.jsp or contact us at (965) 2224-8399 ext. 137 email cce@auk.edu.kw.

Finance Department

Starting last Fall, Finance introduced the online payment option using Self Service. This easy and reliable service is provided as an option for students and parents to pay tuition and fees on time and is accessible anywhere outside the University Campus. Follow the steps on this link

http://www.auk.edu.kw/admissions/pay_online.jsp and it'll save you a visit to our Department.



Wolf Pack Fitness Room – Hours of Operation

We would like to remind our alumni that the fitness room and classes are open to alumni. Please find the schedule below and we hope to see some of you sweating it out with us!

Males

Monday: 8:00am – 10:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am – 10:00pm
Thursday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Female

Sunday: 8:00am – 10:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am – 10:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Women's Fitness Classes - Timings

Yoga, Pilates, & Meditation

Sunday: 8:00am – 9:00am
Thursday: 8:00am – 9:00am

Pump Toning Fitness Class

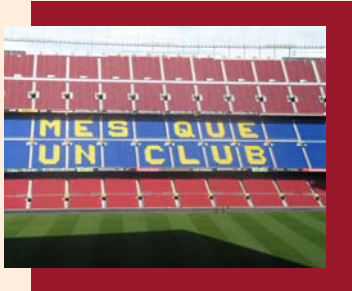
Sunday: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Tuesday: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 14-21** Waqfat Arafat & Eid Al-Adha, University Closed
- Nov. 28** “The rebuilding of Beirut” Arabian Heritage Project by Dr. Assad Seif.
- Dec. 7** Islamic New Year, University Closed
- Dec. 15** Advance Registration for Spring and Summer 2011 begins

Travel Ideas for the Holidays

As the holidays approach **OPRAA** would like to wish everyone a blessed Eid and happy holidays! Wondering where to go this winter break? Here are some suggestions from our Office:



Spain

Games to watch:

- 13/11/2010 **Barcelona VS Villarreal**
28/11/2010 **Barcelona VS Real Madrid**
5/12/2010 **Real Madrid VS Valencia**

Other things to do in Spain: visit Compo Del Moro in Madrid, sip hot cocoa in La Ganja café in Barcelona, see the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, stretching down Mallorca’s west coast.

Italy

Games to watch:

- 14/11/2010 **Inter Milan VS AC Milan**
20/11/2010 **AC Milan VS Fiorentina**
19/12/2010 **AC Milan VS Roma**

Other things to do in Italy: visit the famous Coliseum in Rome, take a trip to historic Florence, shop in the Quadrilatero d'Oro and enjoy an opera show at La Scala: Carmen will be playing this November, Swan Lake (ballet) in December.



U.K.

Games to watch:

- 20/11/2010 **Arsenal VS Tottenham Hotspur**
28/11/2010 **Newcastle United VS Chelsea**
19/12/2010 **Chelsea VS Manchester United**

Other things to do in the UK: check out the famous Stonehenge, visit the birthplace of Shakespeare, take a ride on the London eye, and watch the changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace.



Got Stuff?

We encourage and welcome submissions of articles, stories or any personal or professional news from our Alumni & Parents for the upcoming issue. Please send your submissions by email to parentsandalumni@auk.edu.kw no later than January 19, 2011.

American University of Kuwait

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