New and Familiar Faces: the Ari Roland Jazz at AUK

BY NUR SOLOWMAN, AUK Alum '10

One minute it sounds like we're listening to bebop straight from Minton's Playhouse, the next minute it's sweet and playful cool West Coast sounds like the sound of Chet Baker or Warne Marsh, the minute after that, it's everything together and more.

They had arrived to Kuwait from Indonesia and now they were here again, and no-one could have been happier to receive them. In 2009 we were introduced to the Chris Byars Jazz Quartet (including Byars, Ari Roland, John Mosca, and Stefan Schatz) when they visited as part of the 2009 Rhythm Road Program, sponsored by the US

The Art of Persia: The Meshkinfam Museum of Art

BY ISHA HAIDER

As part of Persian Art Week, hosted from 20th to 23rd February at AUK, Mr. Hassan Meshkinfam, a prominent Persian artist, spread awareness about Persian art and design, by displaying his work in exhibition format, attending various art classes and critiquing student work, holding a watercolor workshop, and finally presenting a talk-show about Persian art and design to an open audience at the AUK auditorium. The presentation was followed by lectures by faculty professors, Maryam Hosseiniia, William Andersen, and Gholamreza Vatandoust.

Students could be seen enjoying the liberated facade of the campus, tailored according to the parallel joyous national occasion. As a contributor to the fun and frolic, the Persian Art Week enhanced the cultural spirit, by spreading healthy awareness of the Persian paint culture, general art advice and information, through the aforementioned mediums. The visit of Mr. Hassan Meshkinfam was made possible by the co-operation of Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, Dr. Gholamreza Vatandoust, Dr. Christopher Oham, Prof. Maryam Hosseiniia, Prof. William Andersen, Dr. Craig Loomis, and the Art Factory at AUK.

The Persian Art Week started with the critique of student artwork which was scheduled on Monday, 21st of February. The second event of the week involved the aggregation of students for a Watercolor Workshop on Tuesday 22nd of February, which led to the highlight of the week, a presentation about Persian Art and design on the 23rd of February by the special guest, Mr. Hassan Meshkinfam and lectures by the aforementioned renowned AUK professors. Throughout the week,

The Act of Volunteering: Anyone Can Do It

BY AMAL BEHBEHANI

Mr. Ayman Shouman, Hope Club members, and Ms. Fatema Al-Boloushi.

The Sand Sculpting Workshop

BY MAY OMIRAN

AUK students sand-sculpting.

The Role of Education in Economic Prosperity

BY AHMAD YOUSSEF

Ever since the existence of mankind on earth, education has been the key to success and prosperity. Whether we are aware of it or not, education in every sense played a crucial role in evolution and development of human kind. Education roots run back through time till the Stone Age, where mankind started learning usage and manipulation of stone to ease the burden of life, which in itself considered one of the different aspects of education. “Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils” (Louis Hector Berlioz). Education can take many different forms such as but not confined to gaining knowledge, obtaining skills, or development of new ideas, which altogether result from learning processes and trial and errors. Using deep thinking and analysis, we can find that economic

Evolution - Myth or Fact?

BY NADA EL-BADRI

On Wednesday 9th March, 2011, Dr. Faisal Al-Sayegh came to the American University of Kuwait to speak about a subject that the majority of our society are skeptical about, if not completely against: evolution. He starts off by saying how he realizes that the concept of evolution is, indeed, rejected here, proven by the fact that, in many – if not all – institutions, the subject of evolution is either briefly mentioned or completely

More on 3

If there's anything you'd like to let us know, please send an email to voice@auk.edu.kw.
The females showed a lot of interest in badminton. Badminton, being respectfully new to the university, was an attention-grabber with the single-elimination match criteria.

The tournament was constructed to meet the requirements of a “mini” badminton tournament. Each team played as an individual in ratio with the single-elimination match criteria.

The females showed a lot of interest in badminton. Badminton, being respectfully new to the university, was an attention-grabber for avid students to show off their interest in the sport. Several of them had prior experience in badminton while others were passionate about playing but had not played it before. When asked what the students liked best about the tournaments they replied, “It was organized and fun,” “the challenge of the matches,” and the simple fact that they got the chance to practice and play badminton at the university.”

A high level of satisfaction was revealed. After the tournament was over, the participants showed great interest in future badminton events and suggested there should be an official team for the university.

The winners of the women’s badminton intramurals are as follows:

1st Place – Nawal Al-Adasani
2nd Place – Dina Naser
3rd Place – Jumanah Al-Refai
4th Place – Amal Behbehani

The females showed a lot of interest in badminton.

Badminton, being respectfully new to the university, was an attention-grabber for avid students to show off their interest in the sport.

Evolution - Myth or Fact?

The Voice of AUK

The Finance Club

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Our Mission

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

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of AUK offers no guarantee that any submission will be published. To be considered for publication in the Voice, submissions for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The views expressed in opinion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK, nor those of the American University of Kuwait. All submissions become property of the Voice of AUK. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all submissions, including for grammar, spelling, style, and clarity. Writers have the right to withdraw submissions at any time prior to publication.

The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through October, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements may be published from time to time.

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You can receive cash donations to transfer in a form of currency receivable in Japan by way of bank transfers to the Japanese Red Cross Society mentioned above.

Kindly provide the Embassy, if donors so wish, with a copy of their donation so that it can thankfully acknowledge and also inform the relevant authorities in Japan of the donation.

The Embassy also has the honor to inform everyone, if donors so wish, that the Embassy can receive cash donations to transfer in a form of currency receivable in Japan by way of bank transfers to the Japanese Red Cross Society mentioned above.

Our Mission

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

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The Voice of AUK

WOLFPACK COMMUNITY

The Act of Volunteering: Anyone Can Do It

BY AMAL BHEEBEHANI

As part of the 6th Annual International Week and in collaboration with the Hope Club, the AUK Chat Series invited Ms. Fatema Al-Boloushi, a Kuwaiti humanitarian activist to discuss her experience in volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. The panel took place in the auditorium from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and had several students and faculty members.

Ms. Fatema tells of how she was inspired to start volunteer work. She retold of her experience during the Iraqi invasion, how she and two other women cleaned up the space out of their own time. She recounts how different it felt to do something that everyone was asking for.

She volunteered in Canada four teen years at several centers and facilities, one of them is the San Jose Women Center. Unlike other facilities that she was not expected to do. She recounts how different it felt to do something during the Iraqi invasion, how she and two other members attend.

The booth for the “Accounting Major – Why Not!” was the first encountered at the student Success Center. The Accounting major, collected responses from students for the fair. AUK’s student body. No one could possibly miss out the arrays of tables representing various majors at AUK with the assistance of innovative decor, enticing PowerPoint and video presentations and well-informed students and staff manning the tables to respond to any queries or remarks posed by the crowd.

The booth for the “Accounting Major” stood in the midst of it all, initiated by Professor Ishrat Russell and supervised by Dr. James Goodpasture who was diligently and effectively assisted by some members of the Accounting Club (Accounting Club – faculty advisor: Dr. Ayman Hadad, Nourin Tajani, Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi, and Balqees Salem) and, at various times, by senior Accounting major students at AUK (Hala Ahmad and Sahar Tamimi). Many students dropped by to learn more about the Accounting major, collected a special brochure created by the Business and Economics division especially for the event highlighting functions of the division, and enjoyed the resourceful PowerPoint presentation, prepared by Nourin Tajani, projected on a large screen placed nearby.

The presentation featured general information about Accounting. What is Accounting and what does it constitute? What career and further study opportunities can one enjoy from having an Accounting degree? Requirements to complete 120 credits to secure a Bachelor in Business Administration at AUK, and the definite attention-grabber – responses from various professors and students to the question “Why did you choose Accounting?”

The general consensus of responses from students for choosing Accounting was their love for numbers, great career prospects, and opportunities to learn and work in various accounting related fields. The responses from professors were along the same lines. They highlighted the need for accountants no matter the economic climate, rising global demand for accounting and finance professionals, and a great compensation. Dr. James Goodpasture tackled the question about the demand for accounting professionals spot on by pointing out that even though accounting and finance are similar in nature, accounting comes first providing key information used by those in Finance.

The Majors Fair laid a great foundation to help undecided students to choose the right major that suits their talents, and for declared majors to stay the track. The Business and Economics Division is highly motivated to assist students in any way possible, and we welcome you to contact the Accounting Club at accounting@auk.edu.kw for any queries or want to know more about anything Accounting-related.

On March 9, 2011, the Student Success Center conducted its 2011 Majors Fair for AUK’s student body. No one could possibly miss out the arrays of tables representing various majors at AUK with the assistance of innovative decor, enticing PowerPoint and video presentations and well-informed students and staff manning the tables to respond to any queries or remarks posed by the crowd.

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The Film Club: Lights, Camera, Action!

By Sarah Khalaf

The Film Club was created in the beginning of the Fall semester 2010. It has been created to motivate the students of AUK to learn and experience the skills of filming as well as having the chance to discover a talent that they never knew they had. Abdurrahman Bastaki, a sophomore at AUK and the President of the Film Club, began thinking of having a Film Club after being Vice President of the Drama Club. After failing to stage “The Shattered Soul,” he realized that he is not a theater kind of person but more of a film person, since he watches a lot of movies; and so he started his own club.

Not only does the Film Club teach students how to become filmmakers, it also hosts movie nights in which potential filmmakers can view well-directed films.

Some people may find the Film Club to be very similar to the Drama Club and ask, “Why do we need a Film Club when we already have a Drama Club?” Well, here’s your answer: the Drama club always has to be performed on stage, whereas the Film Club can be done in any location, anywhere, and at any time. Also, in view of the fact that the Film Club presents events such as movie nights, where the Drama Club has no involvement in doing them what so ever.

To end off the interview, Bastaki had this to convey to students about the Film Club and his hopes for the future, “I wish for more people to join the club, any kind of occupation can sign up. They do not have to be actors; furthermore, to attend their new movie, ”The Shattered Soul” co-directed by Vice President Hisham Najem, coming out on May 4.”

The Sand Sculpting Workshop

By May Omran

The American University of Kuwait was transformed into a remarkable sand architecture on February 21st. The Sand Sculpting event held its grounds behind the Administration building where dunes of sand were deposited for sculpting. Team Sandastic USA, Raymond Wirick was there giving students tutorials and providing them with techniques on how to create sand art of their own. The students were taught the different types of sand pertinent for sculpting, the different sculpting instruments needed to detail the artwork and the tactics for drying out and hardening the finished art. After acquiring the preliminary skills needed, each individual worked on various creations which resulted in a display of a variety of sand sculptures. Sand sculptures such as sea turtles, monuments and buildings, and symbolic Kuwait representations were created.

“Listening to Raymond teaching us how to sculpt and then creating our own was pleasant; it was a creative learning experience,” one of AUK’s students shares. Lavenna Lobo, Event Coordinator at AUK says, “It was a successful event. We had a lot of student’s involved and were interested in the idea of sand sculpting. Bringing in ideas like this into the university definitely brings together a different range of interest from the students.”

Aside from the tutorials provided, Wirick was also taking requests from the community. The ideas given to him were brought to life as he implemented them into sand sculptures. Wirick’s final sculptures included the Kuwait towers with a message for Kuwait’s 50-year independence, the Taj Mahal and several other different sculptures that were made in practice as tutorials for the students to see. Wirick’s Kuwait sculpture is still on display behind the Administration building for the community to come see until further notice.

As he left Kuwait, Wirick left behind not only his artwork but, some words on his time spent at AUK. “It has been quite a while since I came to Kuwait, approximately 10 years. However, I had a wonderful experience here at AUK. The community was very friendly and seemed very interested in what I had to teach them.”

The Sand Sculpting Workshop

The Film Club: Lights, Camera, Action!

The Act of Volunteering: Anyone Can Do It

the Accounting Club at accounting@auk.edu.kw to volunteer.
April 4, 1945

Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

April 4, 1938

Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed nonviolent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

April 7, 1894

After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 8, 1917

Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 11, 1976

Apollo 13 was launched from Cape Kennedy at 9:13 p.m. Fifty-six hours into the flight an oxygen tank exploded in the service module. Astronaut John L. Swigert saw a warming light that resembled the one and said, “Houston, we’ve had a problem here.” Swigert, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise then transferred into the lunar module, using it as a “lifeboat” and began preparations for a trip to Earth, splashing down safely on April 17th.

April 12, 1945

Ilyich March, a young boy from Pakistan who was stuck out against child labor, was shot to death. At age four, he had been sold into servitude as a carpet weaver and spent the next six years shackled to a loom. At age ten, he escaped and began speaking out, attracting worldwide attention as a fistfunda speaker during an international labor conference in Sweden.

April 14, 1823

The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster as the American Dictionary of the English Language.

April 14, 1945

Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and painted with stones byorting crowds in Milan.

April 15, 1912

In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner Titanic with 2,224 persons on board sank at 2:27 a.m. after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 persons drowned while 200 were rescued by the liner Carpathia which arrived about two hours after Titanic went down.

April 18, 1946

Bobby McDonald was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemptions.
The current uprising in the Middle East caught the world by surprise, not least the Arabs. Old enmities were laid aside, and the myth that Arabs are intolerant of change, that they cherish dogmatism and that they have little appetite for democracy and political rights, shattered. All Arab states, in the Middle East and North Africa, have been阴道 by the new popular movements and democracy is on the rise.VOIC FORUM

Gholam Reza Vatandoust, Ph.D.

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Mourad Dakhil, Ph.D.

The uprising in Tunisia started with a single act of bravery by a fruit vendor named Bouazizi. No one expected that one poor man setting himself on fire would start a whole chorus of events across the Arab World and beyond. The Tunisian revolution that followed and that successfully toppled the regime of Ben Ali inspired many and showed that change is possible. For the first time, people in an Arab country can take to the street and bring down a long-established regime. For many of us, this means there are new options for our lives. The revolutionaries in the Middle East have shown that it is possible to change history and that it is possible to change the world.

Dina El Zohairy

The demonstrations taking place daily across the region - starting with the revolution in Tunisia, followed by Egypt, and now Libya - were unexpected and very overdue. Any oppressed people are a ticking bomb. In the words of Winston Churchill, people power is stronger than the people in power. Like every Egyptian dreaming of a civil, democratic regime; social justice; and an end to widespread corruption, I was elated by the 25 January revolution and proud of the young men and women who organized it. But I experienced other feelings along the way: melancholy, panic, confusion, excitement, hate and hopelessness. The revolutionaries in Egypt who spent their days and nights in Tahrir until their demand was fulfilled. My sense of nationalistic fervor increased tenfold. Today, I am very worried about the future of my country. There is chaos, insecurity, growing bitterness, political polarization, unacceptable ideologies, and constrained external forces. With mixed voices and viewpoints, it is difficult to know who is telling the truth and who is a crook, or who truly loves this country and who is seeking other agendas. But in accordance with Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) advice, “He who is optimistic and good shall be found,” I choose to believe that we will steer Egypt and every other Arab country into the right direction - instead of.

Dean Carol Ross

I have always believed that people have the right to speak their minds and express their concerns in a civil and peaceful manner. As I watch what is happening around us, it seems so clear in my mind, is that persons are fighting for their basic lower level needs food, clothing and shelter as well as the right to work. If you are a business mogul, you should know this as part of Myslov's hierarchy.

Deen Soliman

As a Literature major I'm always catching up with politics, but I believe the revolutions in the Middle East that strengthen the United States' position, protection of freedom of speech, religious belief, political association, of systems to provide water, bread, transport, quality education, have shaken the foundations of the current landscape. Our governments have always fought against injustice, and the torch has been taken up.

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Nur Soliman

Some better than others; after the bloody violence and deaths in Libya and Yemen, their dictators cannot, current lesser soon enough: some uprisings unnecessarily ride on the ensuing momentum, others show aggressive segmentation and西部s of corruption, but surely this must be expected. Whatever the case, the gong has woken, and it cannot be put back to sleep, but now must accelerate its evasive to the light to learn how to walk; it will probably be tougher than anyone can imagine, but it's an Arab Spring, the night is bright.
A few months ago, I had the pleasure of going to the movies with my best friend to celebrate the end of the Fall semester. Wanting to initially spend some quality girl time by watching a cliché chick flick, we sprinted happily to the cinema only to find a fully booked line of movies. So, as a replacement, we decided to check out James Franco critically praised movie, "127 Hours." Who knew a simple replacement could lead to such an enormous impact on both of us.

The movie, based on true events, tells the story of a mountain hiker, Aron Ralston, and his amazing, triumphant survival from an accident which occurred during one of his hikes. His right forearm was crushed by a boulder while hiking in the rocky mountains of Utah, trapping him in one of the small cracks of the canyon for five whole days; he eventually ran out of food and water, causing him to drop twenty pounds during the course of his journey. The movie, directed beautifully by Danny Boyle, does an incredible job of not only portraying the events of the incident in an exceptionally accurate manner, but also presents the underlying values that were introduced and obtained during the course of the journey. Together with the moving music, and the vivid presentation of the events, the end product was a work of gold, really deserving the Oscar nomination it received this year.

Before this hike, Aron expressed an overconfident persona, only wanting to experience an "adventurous" journey, escaping from all the "usual" events happening at home. That day, he didn’t answer his mother’s phone call, or bother to tell his coworker or any of his family members where he was going. During the time he was stuck in the canyon, he realized what he had done; he had shut everyone out of his life, all in an attempt to find an "adventurer." Was it worth it? He had five whole days to think about what was truly important to him; it was the adventures he would be thrilled by all alone, or the adventures he would go on with his family, and everyone who loved him? His journey was a difficult one, filled with some quality girl time by watching a cliché chick flick, I felt was that of a calm sense of appreciation for life. If this is beginning to sound cheery to you, just bear with me while I prove my point.

The Ba’ath Party ruled Iraq for around 40 years. During those years, Iraq collapsed under dark and harsh days of dictatorship. For the Ba’athists to strengthen their rule, they intended to spread ignorance in the country through censoring all sorts of media and writing. Moreover, they imprisoned Iraq’s intelligentsia, students, and all those who opposed the Ba’athist regime. Furat, the protagonist of Sinan Antoon’s novel I’jaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody (originally published in Arabic by Dar al-Adab in Beirut, 2004), is one of the Iraqi students who was imprisoned due to writing short stories that opposed the regime. The novel has been translated into English and was published by City Lights Books. My review is based on the English translation.

The novel begins in 1989, a year post the Iran-Iraq war, where a government official uncovers a collection of un-dotted writings. The first page is a memo authorizing someone to dot the collection of un-dotted words. While in the Arabic version, the author Antoon uses the similarities between letters when hand written in the English translation. For instance the letter ‘I’ is similar to ‘T’ or ‘Y’ when hand written. The protagonist, Furat is an Iraqi Christian college student and writer who opposes the Ba’athist regime. The papers and pen that Furat uses to write were given to him by one of the prison guards. Furat then engages in writing unrelated pieces about his memories with his grandmother, girlfriend, and his nightmares in prison. Those scraps reflect the state Furat and most of the prisoners who were tortured for their opposing to the regime were in. Moreover, Furat’s description of the Iraqis’ daily life reminds the reader of how Iraqi lives were censored and monitored by the One Leader. The pieces the Furat writes do not indicate or give any date in which the reader will be able to locate the time. The only sentence that separates each part of the other is “I woke up to find myself (there).” The manuscripts were hard to translate due to the condition of the hand writing. Hence, the translator even makes a mistake on translating one word which changes the whole meaning of the manuscript. In some places, the translator indicates the confusion in the footnote. In one scrap where Furat describes life in Baghdad, he says “... to live here means to piss away three quarter of your life waiting” (11). However, in the footnote, the translator suggests another word which, pass. In other places, the reader will find that “democracy” is replaced by “democracy" due to the translator’s confusion through the process of decoding the manuscript. Nonetheless, the reader will never know whether it’s what Furat really said or what the translator wants him to say. The translator of the manuscript has the authority to change many words and sentences that Furat might never have said.

I’jaam is a stunning work, as it brings to the present a world of terror we know about, we have previously read about, but which usually seems remote, unreal. It takes a great talent to make it so specific, so Iraqi in this case, and so personal."
By Nur Soliman, AUK AlUm 10'

New and Familiar Faces: the Ari Roland Jazz at AUK

Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. The septet now included the ascendance of the Amir, HE Sheikh Sabah al-Pasquale Grasso (Luigi’s younger brother, and enthusiasm; his ‘misty’, for instance, had the smooth tenor tone, and his old-school vocal sounds together. The audience learned the lines with alto saxophonist and Billie Holliday’s “Summertime,” where the sound reminded of the writer of the saxophone dynamics of Al Cohn and Zoot Sims in “Stockholm-La” or better yet, like Al Cohn with Bill Perkins and Richie Kamuca in “Brother, can you spare a dime?”, their collective sound sweet and energetic and bursting with a golden lyric and a definitely jazzy swing. The opening of “Night in Tunisia” started with the well-known precursive intro, with its tinkling symbols and shimmering, off-beat drum beats, from the incomparable Bolla, accompanied by the rumbling of Roland’s double-bass and the sympathetic, soft racing of Pasquale Grasso on the guitar. This led to the deep and cohesive sound of the three saxophones. Luigi Grasso’s solo assumed the place of Charlie Parker’s, and Zaid Nasser taking Dizzy’s place, the beautyless sound of the Septet, making it the second Parker-esque piece that night with its dizzying whirlwind of joyous explosions and rushes of deliciously high, fast rushes of musical notes, ending the night all too brilliantly, all too soon.

The Septet played sensitively to each other’s music and timing with a group dynamic hard to match, alternating Arabic drums melted away into the round sound, steady and rich and fluid, easily moving from a gentle Parker sound to a fruiter Coltrane yet to a lighter Frank Rosolino sound, his voice definitely recognizable and much appreciated Zaid Nasser (previously George Joyner, heard on Red Garland and John Coltrane recordings) played his alto saxophone in its characteristically sweet, and elegant type of poetry, a real treat to listen to, relaxed but thoughtful, admirable throughout his performances.

Zaid Nasser and Chris Byars on saxophone with Keith Bolla on drums. Photo taken by Nur Soliman and Sara Soliman.

In some places, the jazz slowly sounded khalej, or Gulf-like, in other places, the sound of the Kuwaiti drums melted away into the background and sounded like the percussive drops of Duke Ellington’s more exotic ‘Caravan’ which is alternately attributed Latin or Middle-Eastern influences.

Whatever the case, the unique sound generated by the musicians was warm and genuine, with none of the music build up’s approach that we have tired of hearing about, but instead it was about the most honest collaboration and experimentation between two groups of musicians. In most of the pieces, the Kuwaiti drummers added their unique tones and improvisations. Chris Byars on tenor saxophone played in his characteristically sweet, round sound, steady and rich and fluid, easily moving from a gentle Parker sound to a fruiter Coltrane yet to a lighter Frank Rosolino sound,
The Voice of AUK

A Note from Dr. Gholam Reza Vatandoust

I am very grateful to all those who helped us make the Persian Art week a success. We had the full support of two Division Heads, Dr. Craig Loomis, Head of the Humanities and Arts Division and Dr. Chris Olan, Head of the Social Sciences Division. We also had the help of students, particularly the Art Factory. Ms. Helen El Neamn, President, and Sepideh Beilbehani, Vice President of the Art Factory were incredible and very resourceful. They prepared all the posters and made most of the arrangement. Honestly, we were not sure that the program would be as successful as it turned out to be. We were afraid that the Arabian Heritage would overshadow the Persian Art Week. However, we were wrong. Both events complimented each other. It goes to show the level of maturity and interest among our students. They do appreciate learning about neighboring arts and cultures. We also need to thank the AUK Voice and Ms. Fatima Khama. They were present at every event giving it full coverage. Professor William and I are very pleased with the turnout. All our hard work seemed to have had results. Thank you everyone.

Painting with the Persian Pallet

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

In a humble art classroom smothered in soothing Persian melody, you can see chairs assembled in a circular form with a focal point in the center which consists of a bowl of fruits with bright oranges and slender bananas. Each student would observe the focal point with a different perspective, applying the mission of the Workshop. Students passionate about watercolor painting would come and go from the room to partake in the Watercolor Workshop that was organized by the Art Factory Club.

The Workshop took place under the guidance of Mr. Hassan Meshkinfam, a renowned Persian artist who kept passing by each seated student to give valuable advice and suggestions regarding watercolor painting strategies. Each student was surrounded by watercolors and sketches of drawings while Mr. Meshkinfam would sit for a moment to study the student’s work and, in return, offer his recommendations to those ambitious students.

By the end of an hour or so, each participating student was confident enough to start efforts on his/her own piece of sketch. They were also confident to hold the brush and paint their drawings smoothly and elegantly. The environment was very friendly and content, thus all students came to the Workshop while having in mind the fact that they want to practice what they essentially enjoy. Since it was open to all students, not just those talented in watercolor painting, it was not unusual to see students from various disciplines and skills attending and making the most of their time there. Mr. Meshkinfam showed sufficient support which would encourage the AUK community to host similar events in the future. The Workshop was highly successful, having a unique angle of Persian art and painting all under the supervision of a remarkable Persian artist.

"GOT ART SKILLS?"

As a liberal arts university, of course we want you to develop your talents, including your artistic abilities. The world may be your canvas, but be sure that the classroom desk is not!

Use Paper - not the Desk!

A Note from Dr. Gholam Reza Vatandoust

Painting with the Persian Pallet

The Art of Persia: The Meshkinfam Museum of Art

BY ISHA HAIDER

During the talk entitled "Contemporary Persian Art and Design," Dr. Vatandoust initiated the presentation by introducing the several participants of the group and speaking about his published book, co-authored by Mr. Hassan himself, "The Meshkinfam Museum of Art."

"The Meshkinfam Museum of Visual Arts in Iran." Mr. Meshkinfam then spoke about the development of Persian painting, while Prof. Maryam Hosseiniazamingerenieremation regarding contemporary graphic design in Iran, which included information about impression graphic designers Morteza Momayer, Maryam Enaiti, Mehdi Sareed, Homa Delvaray and many others. After that, Professor William Andersen took the stage for his topic of lecture, "Contemporary Persian Art in Shiraz- Besancon and Paris."

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"As a liberal arts university, of course we want you to develop your talents, including your artistic abilities. The world may be your canvas, but be sure that the classroom desk is not! Use Paper - not the Desk!"
AUK Host 6th Annual International Week

The first day, March 6th, was designated as Diversity Tent. The first day witnessed the Mini Football World Cup Championship kickoff that went on for the whole week. The second day, March 7th, was designated Kuwait & the World. The Hope Club of AUK in collaboration with the Office of Student Life organized this day's activities. The day focused on Kuwait's role in the region and its worldwide humanitarian activities where information booths displayed ways of giving hope for Egyptians and Tunisians. Hope Club invited Ms. Fatema Al-Rohush, a Kuwaiti humanitarian activist as a guest speaker at the AUK Chat Series, to discuss her experience "Empowering Women". This event's intent was to engage AUK students in leadership experience in international settings and encourage them to develop their leadership abilities and believe in their capabilities. The panel explained the achievements of the speakers, the challenges they went through, and their advice to AUK students in general, and specifically to our female students to empower them. AUK Visiting Associate Professor of International Relations & History, Dr. Gholam Vatandoust, commenced the panel discussion by sharing his published paper "Study of Globalization and Kuwait Women".

The second day, March 8th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

May Omran spoke about women in action. Wednesday March 9th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day, and hosted the "Globalization and the Changing World". It was led by two faculty members; Dr. Gholamreza Vatandoust and Dr. Aly Mansour and AUK student, Ms. Sarah Raji. They spoke of innovations and development opportunities for social responsibility to others, fostered cultural collaboration, and communication, as well as offered civic, personal, and organizational leadership.

The third day, March 9th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

The third day, March 8th, celebrated International Women's day. B.E.l.L.E-Club of AUK organized a special event titled "B.E.l.L.E. of the Ball" which contained a number of activities for female AUK students. The day witnessed one of L.E.A.D Program workshops titled "Empowering Women". This event's intent was to engage AUK students in leadership experience in international settings and encourage them to develop their leadership abilities and believe in their capabilities. The panel explained the achievements of the speakers, the challenges they went through, and their advice to AUK students in general, and specifically to our female students to empower them. AUK Visiting Associate Professor of International Relations & History, Dr. Gholam Vatandoust, commenced the panel discussion by sharing his published paper "Study of Globalization and Kuwait Women".

The fourth day, March 10th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

The fifth day, March 11th, was designated as International Woman's Day. The B.E.l.L.E Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

The sixth day, March 12th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

The seventh day, March 13th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.

The eight day, March 14th, was designated as Inter-Cultural Day. The International Club of AUK organized this day's activities in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. On the same evening the AUK Film Club screened a diversity movie outside the Hangout with volunteering in Kuwait society and internationally. A discussion was held on how the audience would define the act of volunteering.
Communication Students on Reality Television

In previous years, reality TV has soared with success in the Western world. The trend spread into the Middle East smoothly and with great potency. The first reality TV show that was viewed on MBC was not even remotely related to the Arab world. The show revolved around Jessica Simpson and her husband Nick Lachey. It is a reality show in which Simpson and her husband lived in the life of the newlyweds around their house. After that, many Arabic reality shows appeared, as just the article mentioned. The shows represented nothing of our culture. They did not portray any Arab traditions, values, even not the limitations that our Arab identity has set for us. Yet a lot of us were hooked on these shows. Due to the major exposure they had, the issue of voting did not just represent the best talent but the nationality of the contestants. In Kuwait, I can still remember how our newspapers reacted when any of the Kuwaiti contestants were nominated to leave the shows. Pages and pages of pleas and calls to support the Kuwaiti contestant, because he is amazingly talented but because he represents our country. That is only a small piece of evidence of how entertainment not only turned into politics but is actually being portrayed as directly related to foreign affairs and the image of countries.

As I see it, the fact that everything in the entertainment business is about politics is sad. When we look at Hollywood, for example, it is universally known that it is controlled by Jews. Perhaps “Jews” is not a political party, but it is a sector of the community and sectarianism is irrevocably a part of politics. Anything that would come near their beliefs would be destroyed. A breathing example of this would be actor Mel Gibson. The man destroyed his career when he was caught with a DUI and then threw harsh words at the officer because he was Jewish. Even though he apologized on TV afterwards, it did him no good. When he finished with his brilliantly directed movie, The Passion of the Christ, it did not even get the attention it deserved. Globalization is a major force that is consuming every part of every country, no matter how insignificant that part is. Everything is interrelated now, and unfortunately, that cannot be changed. Politics is related to everything in this country, even to business. I believe that it is a destroying force to patriotism, and the fuel to sectarianism.

May Abou-Taleb As media is a world changing and changing dramatically, people started changing too as they are being affected by what they see and hear in the media. In the last few years, there was a boom in reality television shows which gained a lot of popularity through fans and viewers of all the Arab reality shows in particular that witnessed this phenomenon and they are Super Star, Al Rais, and Star Academy. Many people went with the flow and got addicted to these shows and the television channels airing these programs as they felt it became a part of them or their daily routines to watch the contestants. Others were against the program as they felt it was threatening Arab identity and religion as it violates many Arab or Islamic views and illustrates Westerns values of freedom and sexual promiscuity. People not in favor of these programs felt that these shows were nothing new, just an Arabic copy or version of American Idol, Fame Academy, and Big Brother. Star Academy and Super Star reality television shows played major roles in connecting both politics and entertainment as they were one of the most controversial programs in the history of Arabs since the day satellites were introduced. Al Rais was banned from television a week after airing as it caused street demonstrations in Manama. Television channels airing these programs had a huge impact on how popular they became. The shows were based on many contestants that were eliminated week by week according to votes by viewers at home. As the contestants were from different countries, most viewers at home voted for their country or the country they like the most. This meant that contestants from countries with wealth like the Gulf region will be most likely to win. These reality shows caused riots in many places such as Beirut when their contestant in Super Star got eliminated due to a rumor that Syrian political pressure caused this elimination. This caused problems between countries as people felt the contestants from their country must win and voting became like a national duty to the level that telecommunication companies made campaigns for people to vote. Even the President of Saudi Arabia gave orders for people to vote for Diana Carazon who was the Jordanian contestant.

On the other hand, these shows helped the people feel patriotism, nationalism and a sense of loyalty as they wanted to see their country on top and they were trying their best to have their country win even if it was in a reality television show. The message is bigger than just the contestants they like, it is about the flag that the viewers want to see risen at the end of the show, the feeling of success and accomplishment as a nation hard and this may be the good side of these shows. This was the motivation for people to vote and that is the secret that made these shows popular and addictive as people felt it is represented their identity. Media has affected us in many ways especially in the past 20 years; reality television shows can help or hinder politics as we saw in these cases. It is all up to the people and their ideologies to both support these shows and go with the positive aspects which are the enhancement of the feeling of patriotism and entertainment or to the negative side which is hatred and jealousy of other Arab nations and forgetting our Arabic roots, traditions and culture. Thus, in my opinion, would be the greatest threat and risk from reality shows.

Hessa Al-Zoubi. In the last five years we noticed that reality TV shows were huge success all over the Arab world. It was a very big and massive thing in our society. Many people became obsessed with those reality TV shows. I remember the huge chaos when those shows started and how people were crazy about them. Many people became huge fans and started in front of the TV to watch the 24 hours channels that broadcasted every move they made and whatever they did or said was on air. Millions of people in the Arab world waited for the “prime” each week to vote for their idol to keep him inside the house. The Arab world was eager for a change and such TV shows. It was all over the Arab world and people were talking about them all the time. The most famous shows were Super Star, Star Academy and Al Ra’is. The shows came from American Idol and others in the States and the UK. The masterminds behind the shows are LBC and MBC. They were very successful and they made a fortune out of the messages and the voting. People of different ages were watching, even old women were excited. At some point the TV shows were so big and successful that it reached the political level. Even the presidents of some Arab countries got attached to the shows. The president of each country was cheering for the contestant from his country. An example in Dian Karan, we remember the president of Jordan was voting for her and was so excited for her, he wanted her to win first place and she did. I believe that such reality shows can be something huge and reach people from different levels and ages and the shows definitely affect politics and even the presidents. It was not only Super Star but also Star Academy and all the other reality shows. When a reality TV show gets so successful and reaches a huge number of people, things become political. Many religious leaders raised questions and concerns and at some point. They were spreading brochures that told people to stay away from them because it affected the mentality of children and they absorbed the different and strange values and traditions of others. It was a huge fuss all the media about the reality shows and how they affected us and how they invaded our lives in a magical way. I believe that reality shows affect politics and sometimes start small fights between countries. The competitions got so furious that politics was high and intense between countries.
What is the most important aspect of your education? Why are you even studying at a university? What do you seek to accomplish from the long four years that you’re spending right now earning a degree? While some of you don’t even know how you’ve ended up here or why you even need to attend, most of you are here to gain a proper education, to have value added to yourself, and most importantly, to define your career.

Unfortunately, we all viewed as a subset of the final grades, i.e. GPA, that we end up earning at high school or university. If I am not saying that is wrong, and neither am I implying that is not saying that is wrong, and high school or university. I am GPA, that we end up earning at as a subset of the final grades, i.e. GPA, that we end up earning at as a subset of the final grades, i.e. GPA, that we end up earning at.

Apart from yourself, there are your group members and your professors you need to be concerned about if you need to ace your exams. When I think about the difference between communicating with a professor, group member or client, I often think myself is there really a difference between them at all? I believe that whether you talk to your group member, your professor, or anyone above you, you should assume that everyone is a client, and should apply the same degree of professional etiquette to every conversation regardless of the respective audience.

Development, economic efficiency, and social consistency are in a sense extensively correlated with education. However, along with education, a person should be aware that his own future success, development, and happiness reside within his motivation of learning. A university professor sets an examination question in which he asked what the difference between ignorance and naiveté. The professor had to give an A+ to a student who answered: I don’t know and I don’t care.

For that particular reason, the twentieth century is called the “Age of Human Capital” because it was considered a turnover stage, where it witnessed the transition in interest and hunt for education, skills, and acquisition of knowledge. That settled a firm ground for the idea that the country’s standard of living reflects the extent of how well it achieves development, utilizes skills and knowledge; in addition to health medical care.

No one can deny the fact that in order for any country to achieve economic development and productivity, a considerable amount of money should be invested on human capital. New researches that educating girls and women is as crucial as educating men and could possibly be the single most valuable investment a country can make, regardless of whether a woman works outside of the home or not. Girls and women eventually become mothers and mothers and mothers are considered the pillars that the family is built on. So educating women creates a multitude of benefits and advantages starting from the family she raises, health care, nutrition, birth spacing, lower infant and child mortality, and most importantly enhancing her children’s education, knowledge, and skills.

The world now is perceived as one market due to the theory that all countries are integrated and hugely interdependent. One could say that for a country to succeed and compete in the worldwide market depends on the excellence of its human capital and their ability to compete and survive the aggressive competition. "The ability to learn and adapt to new circumstances are the only sustainable competitive advantage" (Arie de Geus).

Education is economic prosperity. The key in getting constructive results of any university on per capita income depends on how well a country controls its human capital distribution and the use of a rigorous asset allocation model. Furthermore, the seminal works of (Schulte, 1961) and (Deming, 1962-67) proved that education contributed to the non clarified superiority in the economic development of Western economies. In 1964, statistics proved that investment in education had a significant correlation with economic growth that ranged from less than 1 percent in Mexico to as high as 23 percent in Ghana (Psacharopoulos).

So, how are education and productivity linked together? A question, people might think that the match is really gets me down. Writing about this crucial problem, I couldn’t see myself as a childlike eyes on their faces. I realized that this with minds full of nonsense? I couldn’t see you want to see children arguing completely weird ideas to children, who imitate our fashion and other meaningless stuff became our major concern. And we, as an example, transferred that our world grew its absurdity in children’s mind too. What would be your first thought if you saw two children arguing at the age of four talking about fashion? I’ve been through this experience, I was in one of the most popular malls here in Kuwait hanging out with my friend. While we were shopping, I came across two girls who caught my attention. When I said this where on Earth would you want to see two children with minds full of nonsense? I couldn’t see children in their everyday lives. I realized that this world grew its absurdity in children’s mind too. Fashion and other meaningless stuff became our major concern. And we, as an example, transferred these ridiculous ideas to children, who imitate our behaviors. Day by day, the whole world is getting worse and our values, principles and life are disappearing. Writing about this crucial problem really gets me down.
Modernization = Environmental Damages

BY MAY OMTRAN

Standards are ever-changing in the developing world we live in. As this earth has aged, the past eras have become archaic for our society to cope with. Keeping this aspect in ratio with our environment, it is quite evident that these developmental changes have taken their toll on greener parts. Stations are made for trains and buses as well. These adjustments facilitate an easier lifestyle for society to live in – on behalf of what was naturally given to us. In exchange for ease, we have taken pollution, destroyed motherly lands and decreased natural resources.

However, these changes are inevitable as we progress, not all things will change for the better. So as society continues to further develop in suitable people more comfortably, the world will face the consequences of the damages caused by modernization. The effects being caused by these improvements are leading to warmer weather (due to the melting icecaps), animals dying from pollution, rainforests etc. being torn down. The environment will only drain further downhill from here. Awareness must be raised throughout the world for positive eco-effects. This is a pro-solution to help retain what is lost by recycling it back into the environment. Activities such as purifying polluted water in ponds, lakes and small bays of water can be refined and placed back into the community. Not only will this help the bodies of water, but organisms living in these unsanitary conditions as well. A chain reaction of benefits will come from it. Local environmentalists can also raise awareness in their local communities and help spread the word for protecting our environment by doing things as simple as recycling. Recycling containers can be placed in schools, parks and other social areas to remind people of our environment.

Progression is inevitable. As years pass and technology advances, the world will continue to take on more and more progressions. Therefore, the risk of environment damage will only increase with time. Action must be taken by us beings living and breathing from what nature gives us. However, the changes that can be made are minor but when many contribute and awareness is present, the network will continue to grow into a vast operation. In reality, it can only do so much for restoration of the environment but will aid it from being completely harmed.

Health Facts: A Must-Read!

BY DANA M ISSMAIL

Lack of Safety

“Lack of safety may increase the risk of cancer.” U.S. researchers said that living in neighborhoods with low safety may increase the risk of cancer. In addition, a study by researchers at the University of Michigan published in the American Journal of Public Health that elderly people living in neighborhoods where there are crimes increases the risk of cancer. Furthermore, the study showed that the risk of cancer in elderly men living in unsafe neighborhoods is more than 3% higher than for elderly women, it is 25%. The doctor who was responsible for Vicky Freedom Studies states that the similarity in the volume of strength of rapes for elderly men living in unsafe neighborhoods is more than 3% higher than for elderly women, it is 25%. The doctor who was responsible for Vicky Freedom Studies states that the similarity in the volume of strength of rapes for elderly men living in unsafe neighborhoods is more than 3% higher than for elderly women, it is 25%. The doctor who was responsible for Vicky Freedom Studies states that the similarity in the volume of strength of rapes for elderly men living in unsafe neighborhoods is more than 3% higher than for elderly women, it is 25%.

Health Facts:

1. Your heart beats 100,000 times during your lifetime it will beat about 3 billion times and pump about 400 million liters (800 million pints) of blood.
2. It is impossible to lick your elbow. Well, for almost every one… but a few can.
4. On average, you speak almost 5,000 words a day – although almost 80% of speaking is self-talk (talking to yourself).
5. If the amount of water in your body is reduced by just 1%, you’ll feel thirsty.
6. A person can live without food for about a month, but only about a week without water.
7. Men lose about 40 hairs a day. Women lose about 70 hairs a day.

Into the Depths of Mars: Mythology VS Facts

BY HUDA AL-RASHID

Okay, so the majority of you have probably watched or at least heard of Steven Spielberg’s “ET: Extrarestrial”. This was just one of many science fiction movies depicting intelligent life found in the Solar System, or more specifically, on Mars. Other works include “Mars Attack!” or “Mission to Mars” just to name a few. So, just what is it about Mars that makes it such a special target for science fiction movies? Well, it all originated in astronomical, scientific research conducted in the late 1800s.

Giovanni Schiaparelli, an Italian astronomer, first came up with the idea of life on Mars after a series of telescopic observations, which appeared to show a “network of linear structures” on Mars’ surface. He described these structures as “canali” which means “channels” in Italian. However, scientists later mistranslated this word into “canals” indicating water-based life on Mars. Notably, American astronaut, Percival Lowell, popularized this idea by focusing his research on this topic, to the point of sketching possible organizations of these canals on the planet. According to Lowell, the canals were built by the inhabitants of the planet in order to transfer water from areas where it was abundant to areas where it was scarce. Depicting an “organized” structure of created canals further proved the existence of intelligent life on Mars, or in other words, this led to the emergence of the almighty Martians. Although some scientific research seems to prove that the structure of “canals” was a mere optical illusion created by the reflection of light, that didn’t stop the creative minds of the world of literature in creating their own imaginative pieces about space colonization.

The most well-known literary piece on this topic is HG Wells’ 1898 book, “War of the Worlds” of which Tom Cruise made even more famous in the Hollywood remake. The popularity of the original novel caused media frenzy back in 1938, to the point where a radio announcement, describing the novel, was misunderstood by the public as a news broadcast causing them to actually believe the Earth was actually invaded by the alien race, the “Martians.” As trivial as this whole idea sounds, scientists are still intrigued by the possibility of life on other planets, or the idea that we aren’t the only living organisms in the Solar System. In 1996, the discovery of worm-like bacteria on Mars was big news, as it was finally proof that life on Mars did exist. However, the idea was pushed aside by claims that it was a scientific error in judgment.

With today’s emerging technological advances, we may be able to know for sure whether this idea is a myth or fact, but for the time being, this idea is only fueled by one’s pure imagination. But, remember, as Albert Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination encompasses the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

“In 1996, the discovery of worm-like bacteria on Mars was big news, as it was finally proof that life on Mars did exist.”
For the College of Arts and Sciences: Combining Art with Science

BEAUTIFUL SCIENCE (ACCORDING TO BBC):

Colorful and visually stunning but also important in our understanding of scientific advances, the winners of this year’s Wellcome Image Awards range from a close up look at a bloody sticking plaster, to the striking shades of a ruby-tailed wasp viewed through a microscope. The judging panel were looking for images that did not simply convey scientific information - but also had aesthetic beauty. Take a look at some of the 21 winning entries.

- **Moth wing scales** (scanning electron micrograph), Kevin MacKenzie, University of Aberdeen.
- **Chromosome lifetime map** (fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy), Dr. David Lieres, University of Dundee.
- **Foreleg of a male diving beetle** (polarised photomicrograph), Spike Walker.
- **Blood clotting on a plaster** (scanning electron micrograph), Anne Weston, LRI, CRUK.
- **Mouse retina** (confocal micrograph), Freya Mowat, UCL.
- **Cavefish embryo** (confocal micrograph), Monica Folgueira, Steve Wilson’s lab, UCL.
- **Pyramidal neurons** (computer simulation), Michael Hauser and Dr. Hermann Cuntz, UCL.
- **Cell division of a thale cress seedling** (confocal micrograph), Fernan Federic and Dr. Lionel Dupuy, University of Cambridge.
The Voice of AUK

BY CHRIS ASMAR

“I met the members of the club, AUK students with a real desire to help others and make their lives better by taking a little time out of their own.”

My Experience at the Writing Center

By ImAN ASKAR

“Even though I’ve only been working there for a couple of weeks, I feel so comfortable whenever I’m at the Writing Center because the atmosphere is so warm and welcoming.”

Writing Center Pride

By ALLA ABEEF

My association with the Writing Center started during my first year when pushed by a certain professor to go and “let them take a look at my paper.” Being the attentive student that I am, I complied and I did just that! Even though I still harbored some doubt because frankly, I knew my paper was good and did not need editing. I don’t mean to sound arrogant but I’m an English major, I know a good paper when I read one. Anyway, the consultant who read my paper echoed the same praise. Then what use was it going to the Writing Center? Why couldn’t the teacher have looked over my paper? Why go to a stranger? I asked myself all those questions and so will you one day. Dear reader, but I am here to explain why I and you need to visit the Writing Center once in a while.

One of the main misconceptions students have, especially English majors, is that they can write so why visit a Writing Center? Well, the consultant’s job isn’t to teach you how to write, but it is to teach you how to write better. To improve on what you already have, to help you reach your full potential. The Writing Center also opens your eyes and mind up to criticism of not only your own paper but of others as well. This will help you acquire a more open approach to accepting criticism as well as giving it confidently. These practices will also help you in choosing your words much more carefully to obtain the outcome you expect from not only your readers but also your fellow class mates and professors.

Believe me, visiting the Writing Center will not only improve your writing, it will also improve your spirits as the staff is one of the best at AUK. Ask around and you will know that the Writing Center is a very warm and welcoming environment. I should know, after the first time I visited I kept going back to get second opinions on my papers. I also tried applying for a job and was deemed not ready to work there due to reasons I may or may not divulge in another article I am thinking of writing. Anyway, I am working now and all is well in my neck of the woods. Why don’t you take an appointment and come on up to the Writing Center? We are always happy to see you and you know for sure that you will get answers for your numerous questions on how to improve your paper. See you there!”

Impressions of AUK

This is my first semester at AUK. It is also, unfortunately, my last. I’m from Boston, Massachusetts in the United States, and I’m visiting AUK for the Spring semester. When I first arrived here almost two months ago, I didn’t know anything about the people, places, or culture of Kuwait. The culture at AUK was also a mystery to me, and my little experience with walking around an empty campus before the semester started did not help much to enlighten me. My first week or two here was spent almost entirely in trying to wrap my mind around the fact that I had travelled over 6,100 miles or 9,900 km from my home and my school in the northeastern United States to a place about which I knew next to nothing. The people I did meet tended to be the kinds who are paid to help much to enlighten me. My association with the Hope Club, AUK’s community service organization. Although I was hesitant at first, I decided to attend one of their events at a local hospital for the handicapped. We spent the day playing games, singing songs, and tossing balloons around with the patients there. I met the members of the club, AUK students with a real desire to help others and make their lives better by taking a little time out of their own.

Another decision that I made with trepidation that paid off better by taking a little time out of my last. I’m from Boston, Massachusetts in the United States, and I’m very excited to get away with speaking English to you. I need my practice. I’m extremely optimistic about the rest of my semester here in Kuwait, and I’m very excited to learn more about the history and culture of the country. But in my mind there is something that AUK can teach me that is even more important than what I can learn in the classroom: that when it comes down to it, no matter where we are from or who our families are, none of us are really that different in the end.

I visited I kept going back to get second opinions on my papers. I also tried applying for a job and was deemed not ready to work there due to reasons I may or may not divulge in another article I am thinking of writing. Anyway, I am working now and all is well in my neck of the woods. Why don’t you take an appointment and come on up to the Writing Center? We are always happy to see you and you know for sure that you will get answers for your numerous questions on how to improve your paper. See you there!"
NATIONAL - LIBERATION WEEK
AL-KOUT FESTIVAL