The Voice of AUK Holds 4th Annual Blood Drive

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

On October 27th, the Cooperation Club invited Dr. Mohammad Al-Awadhi, a Kuwaiti cleric and long-time companion of the American University of Kuwait, and Dr. Sabry El-Damerdash, a professor at Kuwait University, to address a subject matter that has long been a cause for division among Muslims, that of science and faith. The event shut down the American University of Kuwait for an hour in order to encourage students to enter practical life. The lecture itself was simple: ask. For it is only when we do that we can discover truth. Dr. Al-Awadhi began with questioning the misconception associated with the Muslim faith. In it, he explains how modern science directed him towards the existence of a God. The idea itself is as old as humanity: choosing to go through an experience based upon the people you will be involved with. Today, it has become a cause for division among Muslims, that of science and faith. The event shut down the American University of Kuwait for an hour in order to encourage students to enter practical life. The lecture itself was simple: ask. For it is only when we do that we can discover truth. Dr. Al-Awadhi began with questioning the misconception associated with the Muslim faith. In it, he explains how modern science directed him towards the existence of a God. The idea itself is as old as humanity: choosing to go through an experience based upon the people you will be involved with. Today, it has become a cause for division among Muslims, that of science and faith. The event shut down the American University of Kuwait for an hour in order to encourage students to enter practical life. The lecture itself was simple: ask. For it is only when we do that we can discover truth. Dr. Al-Awadhi began with questioning the misconception associated with the Muslim faith. In it, he explains how modern science directed him towards the existence of a God.
The central campus of AUK was adorned with the colors of the Kuwaiti flag and onlookers must have anticipated an event linked to nationalistic pride. They were right. The Patriots Club and the Discover Kuwait Club at the American University of Kuwait hosted a very fruitful lecture at the Auditorium on November 10th. Entitled “1962: Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem’s Vision and the Reality” which was sponsored by Al-Markaz Law Firm and Kuwait English School.

The topic of this gathering is of extreme importance to the Kuwaiti people: the formation of the Kuwaiti Constitution and how it has evolved into the present day document. Created in June of 1961, the Constitution, as in any nation, was fundamental to Kuwait, legitimizing it as a recognized sovereignty and establishing its form of government, a constitutional monarchy, and official religion, Islam. The backbone of the Constitution is very much its basis on democratic principles and the assurance of freedom to the Kuwaiti people.

President of the Patriot’s Club, Qutaiba Al-humood, began by introducing two speakers who had been invited to speak on the topic of 1962. He explained how this lecture would be more appreciative of how nations come into being and the extent to which authorities labor to maintain their authenticities. At this point in time, we rarely concern ourselves with our histories although knowing in our hearts that if every strand of DNA in the human body was stretched out, linking them together to form a chain would be around 6000 times the distance from the Earth to the sun! To think that such a distance has been neatly compacted into our bodies is literally unbelievable. Whether we do or not, it is a proven scientific findings, he gave a much-needed introduction to them because they may not be believed right away. 1, for one, was amazed at first. Come to think of it, I may always be because once thought about, the mind will go numb. When James Watson and Francis Crick made the revolutionary discovery of DNA, a nucleic acid that carries genetic information, they determined that if every strand of DNA in the human body was stretched out, linking them together to form a chain would be around 6000 times the distance from the Earth to the sun! To think that such a distance has been neatly compacted into our bodies is literally unbelievable. Whether we do or not, it is a proven scientific findings, he gave a much-needed introduction to them because they may not be believed right away. 1, for one, was amazed at first. Come to think of it, I may always be because once thought about, the mind will go numb. When James Watson and Francis Crick made the revolutionary discovery of DNA, a nucleic acid that carries genetic information, they determined that if every strand of DNA in the human body was stretched out, linking them together to form a chain would be around 6000 times the distance from the Earth to the sun! 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The Voice of AUK Holds 4th Annual Blood Drive

As part of the Office of Student Life’s 5th Annual Social Awareness Week and in conjunction with the Student Success Center’s Health Fair, The Voice of AUK, AUK’s official student newspaper, held its 4th Annual Blood Drive for three consecutive days on November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from 11 am to 5 pm in the Multi-purpose Room. A total of 116 members of the AUK community turned out to donate their blood. The Office of Student Life and the Student Success Center sponsored the event with giveaways and refreshments.

The Voice of AUK provided a registration booth for two weeks, one in the Liberal Arts building and the other in the Sciences building, to have the AUK community sign up for donating blood and they were provided with relevant information about the donation process, who can/cannot donate blood, tips for a successful donation, and answers to frequently asked questions about blood donations so that they may fully prepare for it. As always, the Kuwait Central Blood Bank was invited to carry out the donations and was accompanied by a specialized team of doctors and nurses to ensure everything ran smoothly.

On the days of the Blood Drive, the Multi-purpose room was organized into several stations: registration (filling in a questionnaire and getting registered into the system), mini-physical test (a blood test conducted by the Blood Bank staff to ensure whether an individual’s blood is at the right hemoglobin level and thus determining final eligibility), the actual blood donation (women had a segregated space), refreshments (important for donors to revitalize themselves as they may feel somewhat drowsy afterwards), and complementary giveaways to donors. Copies of the latest Voice of AUK issue were also made available.

AUK Students Participate in GUST Nuqat Design Conference

Seven graphic design majors participated in the two-day Nuqat Design Conference Workshop on the 24th and 25th of October, 2010 which was held at the Gulf University for Science and Technology. The AUK participants were Fatima Al-Sughayer, Dalal Marafie, Sepideh Behbehani, Lamia Al-Salahi, Parideh Moradi, Reem Al-Huwendi, and Maha Ali. Mr. Tarek Atrissi, an internationally known graphic designer, lectured and facilitated the two-day session. This was organized solely for the graphic design students from AUK and Boxhill. The conference and the workshop theme, Visual Pollution in the Arab World, explored the notion of social activism and that through design, we can reinforce awareness in our communities. At the workshop, students were to conceptualize and create a prototype highlighting contributing factors in visual pollution such as: signage, shop logos, packaging, supermarket layout, environmental issues, etc. By the end of the second day, students ended up with creative ideas related to the theme, visual pollution. Their solutions tapped the notion of awareness. Sepideh Behbehani shared her experience: “In the two-day workshop, Mr. Tarek taught the students the most important thing any artist or designer could teach and that is how to maintain creativity during the creative process and to be able to exchange dialogue about the process helped students to express their ideas and to guide and help them accordingly. This was a really great experience for me, to attend this workshop and meet him.”
As part of Social Awareness Week, the Office of Student Life, in association with the Arabic Heritage Program, held its Fifth Annual Poetry Competition entitled “The Self Identity Contest.” This theme in Social Awareness Week activities also included, but was not limited to, national pride. The competition was open for all eligible AUK students with a talent for poetry. Each student was required to recite at least one original poem modeled after the theme of self identity: either in English or Arabic, one being the minimum as students were allowed to present up to three poems. After brief introductions, the eight contestants each got up and recited their poems of choice or poems if they had written more than one. The contest included a separate English poems category. The event kicked off at 5:00 pm in the multipurpose Room which was soon filled with students, faculty, and members, Al-Anoud Al-Najem, and Dr. Khitam Al-Khouli from the Arabic Language Program and Dr. Kathy Ninon from the English Language and literature Program as the chosen judges for the task and three judges in attendance. The evening began with a recitation of one of Al-Mutanab’s poems by contestant Yousef Nayef. After a brief but heated discussion among the judges, they announced the winners. Esraa Al-Sherida and Yousef Nayef tied for first place for the Arabic poetry category. The judges also gave honorable mentions to those who came in second and third. Next, Dr. Nixon announced that for the English poetry category, Hawra Ashour came in first for her poem, Falcon. The chosen judges for the task included Dr. Raymond Farrin and Dr. Dianita Al-Khulth from the Arabic Language Program and Dr. Kathy Ninon from the English Language and literature Department.

The evening began with contestant Yousef Nayef presenting two Arabic poems. The next contestant would present in English. This alternation between the two languages was to show how versatile poetry is and it continued until the end of the event. The last recitation was by one of the Arabic Heritage Program’s leading coordinators, Youser Al-Anoud Al-Najem.

As the judges deliberated, the students were treated to a recitation of one of Al-Mutanab’s poems by contestant Yousef Nayef. After a brief but heated discussion among the judges, they announced the winners. Esraa Al-Sherida and Yousef Nayef tied for first place English poetry judging was based on all three judges’ opinions as apposed to the judging of the Arabic poetry category. As the evening wore on and the students received their awards, Dr. Nixon told the contestants that the judging was based on both the poetry and the recitation of it, and that although she could not catch most of the meaning of the words in the Arabic poems, she enjoyed the recitations of them tremendously. Congratulations to the winners!

On Wednesday November 3rd, 2010 AUK Hosted Anti-Violence Day. As a part of this event, an Anti-Violence Forum took place in which different, interesting issues regarding violence were discussed. Speakers included Jason Sullivan, Dr. Juliet Dinka, Dr. James Rose, Dr. Pellegrino Luciano, and one of AUK’s students, Monica Matta. Dr. Jason Sullivan started the forum by giving a brief introduction of violence. He mentioned that everyone goes through some degree of violence throughout their lives, and that this experience can lead to certain effects on how the brain functions: Whether it’s involving children suffering from violent homes, or even experiencing a tragedy that is associated with violence, such as being a victim of Hurricane Katrina, violence comes in many shapes and forms. The key is knowing what to do when these experiences take place, and the key to doing so starts with awareness, which is what this forum is all about.

Dr. Dinka discussed the issue of “intimate violence” that occurs between couples, which is something that seems to be a major issue nowadays. The discussion first began with showing a very familiar picture; it was a picture of the young, infamous former couple, Rihanna and Chris Brown, referring to the story of the abuse that took place between these two, which in turn led to a huge outrage from women, who were disappointed with Rihanna for accepting Chris’s violent behavior. However, as Dr. Juliet Dinka pointed out, this type of violence occurs in a “cycle” which often leads to a form of manipulation on the victim’s part. This cycle of violence is demonstrated as the following:

1. The victim tends to be ashamed and is constantly blaming themselves
2. The victim promises to “never let it happen again”
3. Battering Incident (where the victim gains the power)
4. Honeymoon Period (where the typical scenario of the abuser promises to “never let it happen again”)

As you can see, the “honeymoon period” leads to an almost never-ending cycle since the victim is prone to want to forgive the abuser for their actions. However, this can be changed if the victim gains the strength to get out of this unsuccessful relationship and seek help.

Dr. Dinka also discussed how all kinds and types of abuse are essentially centered around power and control. A few alarming set of statistics were shown regarding intimate violence:

- In every 4 women experience domestic violence
- Less than 15/1000
deaths are caused due to intimate violence
- In every 6 women and 1 in every 33 men experience rape
- 1 in every 6 women and 1 in every 33 men experience rape
- 1 in every 6 women and 1 in every 33 men experience rape

It is important to address the issue of violence since it is something that we all have to deal with to some degree. Even if certain societal chains hold you down, be sure to gain some strength to seek help if you or someone you know is experiencing some kind of violence. Monica Matta also mentions that there is a Facebook group that is dedicated for this cause, and is entitled, “We Can Prevent Violence.” This group also allows you to communicate with students from the States regarding this issue, so don’t hesitate to join this group in an effort to promote violence awareness.

The Voice of AUK

Volume 7, Issue 3

Self Identity Poetry Competition

BY HAWRA AISHOUR

Reflection Corner

BY NADA EL-BADRY

As a part of the 5th Annual Social Awareness Week, Student Life organized an exhibition in the Multipurpose Room titled “Stop the Violence: Anti-Violence Forum” on Sunday, October 31st. Held on “Self-Image Day” from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, the exhibition was meant to express Identity Development. Upon entrance, you find three posters of ethnically diverse students representing stereotypes by each holding up a sign, the first was an African-American with a poster that declares “Because I’m black, I MUST be a rapper,” with the others being to that effect. Their intention is obviously to express how stereotypes govern our lives and how we should not follow them simply to fit into the status quo set by the society — just because you’re Asian does not mean you are automatically a genius. As you move into the room, you’ll find posters lining the walls. A few show “before and after’s,” meant to depict how Photoshop has become a necessity when it comes to advertising. They show a completely normal-looking girl in one picture, and then in the next they show the results post-Photoshopping. Needless to say, she looks completely different; she has been completely transformed, as are the other girls in the rest of the posters. This is meant to represent how right a lot of the advertisements and depictions of women are today. Other posters include humorous cartoons and more serious ones show fruits that appear perfect on the outside, but are actually rotten on the inside; the message here is that just because someone or something is beautiful on the outside does not necessarily mean they are good on the inside. Beauty is not aesthetically pleasing, but everyone away with her voice on American Idol. She is one of many examples that looks really aren’t everything, and that you should not judge a book by its cover.

In the middle of the exhibition was a curious-looking object: a large (fake, of course) tree. People were asked to write a line meant to portray optimism; something you would want someone to say to you” they said. They were mainly famous, inspirational quotes and this writer herself participated, writing a little motivational statement. Moreover, there was a table at the corner with a blank white table cloth with the simple question: "WHO ARE YOU?” It did not remain blank for very long and was soon filled with anonymous sentences of whom or what every student thought he or she was.

Overall, the exhibition was a success. A big thank you is an order to those who organized it for inspiring us and opening our eyes to the reality of self-image.
On November 1st, Equilibrium presented The Green Carnival Film Festival, as part of a series of events for the Office of Student Life's 5th Annual Social Awareness Week. The two animations, 'Lost and Found' and 'Varmints', were screened in the AUK auditorium, to reflect environmental issues that provoke guilt. The screenings were conducted in the presence of several AUK students, professors, and the co-directors of Equilibrium themselves, Reham Al-Samerey and Sandra Al-Salah.

The two screenings were organized as a segment of a total of ten screenings, which were planned to take place within Kuwait and Dubai, from October 31st to November 23rd. Out of the eight animations, which were screened in Kuwait, two of them were repeated in Cuadros, Dubai, UAE, on November 23rd. Kuwait University, the American International School, and Cinematic Arts were three of the seven venues, for the planned screenings held in Kuwait, by Equilibrium.

Equilibrium is an environment-focused company based in Kuwait, founded in 2007, in recognition of the need to take on urgent environmental challenges in dynamic environments. They join forces with students, educators, activists and NGOs to inspire change through collaborative and interactive awareness-raising activities.

The Environmental Awareness event, at AUK began with a succinct introduction given by Khalid O. Mohammad, the Secretary of Al-Akhdar Environmental Club, followed by the two beautiful animations, Lost and Found, and Varmints. Pop-corn and giveaways were available as snacks during the entire event.

The first screening, Lost and Found, served as a good medium to spread awareness regarding our environmental belonging, whilst thought about the potential repercussions that can arise from our mishandling and carelessness. These two animations present an imaginary world, which is also the known world in which we can recognize ourselves. Both these animations were strong enough to force any concerned mind, into deep musing over their reprehensible behavior towards the environment, and their respective responsibilities.

Lost and Found is an exquisite tale about a young boy determined to return his surprising guest, an innocent penguin, to his home in the South Pole, any way he can; whilst Varmints is based on an innocent creature trying to save a world in danger of being lost forever through perpetual heartlessness, recklessness and indiscriminate indifference.

The beautiful story, Lost and Found, is based on Oliver Jeffers' award winning children's picture book, adapted and directed into a twenty minutes film by Philip Hunt, featuring narration by the great Jim Broadbent, and a beautiful score by composer Max Richter. It is a winner of BAFTA, for Best Children's Animation, and a total of forty six international awards to date.

Varmints is adapted and directed by Studio akas Marc Craste. It is a twenty four minute film, based on the award-winning book of the same name by Helen Ward and illustrated by Marc.

It was nominated for a BAFTA and shortlisted for an Oscar. The purposes of both these animations can be viewed at www.thegreencaravan.com. These films were screened for the second season of the Green Carnival Film Festival.

Equilibrium's website, www.eqcco, states that they "bring together elements of art, culture, and the environment," to inject a much needed sense of fun, enthusiasm and passion into our mission to help the planet.

Equilibrium states in its brochure, which was distributed during the event, that they "hope that this year's festival will open even wider, and bring more people together to work on a future that is both responsible and hopeful." After all, awareness is the answer.

"The Environmental Awareness event at AUK began with a succinct introduction given by Khalid O. Mohammad, the Secretary of Al-Akhdar Environmental Club, followed by the two beautiful animations, Lost and Found, and Varmints."
December 10, 1896
Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel died at San Remo, Italy. He stipulated that income from his $9.5 million estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity.

December 10, 1948

December 11, 1901
The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.

December 14, 1911
Antarctic explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole.

December 14, 1962
The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus, the first information ever received from another planet.

December 13, 1993
European Union leaders announced their new currency would be known as the Euro.

December 17, 1903
After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

December 21, 1946
Anesthesia was used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London performed by Robert Liston, who amputated the leg of a servant.

December 21, 1972
East and West Germany established diplomatic ties, ending nearly two decades of Cold War hostility and paving the way for international recognition of East Germany.

December 23, 1947
The transistors were invented at Bell Laboratories by John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, who shared the Nobel Prize for their invention which sparked a worldwide revolution in electronics.

December 25th
Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25th by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

December 26, 2004
An estimated 230,000 persons were killed and 15 million left homeless when a magnitude 9.3 earthquake on the seafloor of the Indian Ocean set off a series of giant tsunami waves that crashed into the shorelines of a dozen countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Somalia.

December 27, 1831
Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship HMS Beagle on his five-year global scientific expedition. Darwin collected fossils and studied plants and animals, gradually beginning to doubt that many diverse species of living things had sprung into existence at one moment (creationism).

December 29, 1918
In the waning days of the Romanov dynasty, Russian monk Rasputin (Grigory Yefimovich Noykikh) was assassinated. A group of conspirators had lured him to a private horse-drawn carriage, poisoned and shot him, although he did not die. They then tied him up and threw him into the Neva River, in which he drowned.

December 31, 1879
Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.
Do you think there should be a Gulf currency? Why or why not?

Fatima Al-Dakheel

No, I totally disagree because unifying the Gulf currency will cause economic problems for Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Dinar is one of the expensive currencies and unifying the currency will reduce the quality of ours.

Nawal Al-Adasani

I do believe that there should be a unified Gulf currency. People travel all over the Gulf and it would be a lot easier to use the same currency without having to exchange it. I believe it will help improve the economies of the Gulf nations. Like the Euros, the Gulf currency can be very strong.

Eman Feho

Yes, I think there should be a unified Gulf currency considering the fact that people living in GCC countries travel all throughout the year between these countries. Therefore, it would be easier for people to hold the same currency when traveling rather than spending time exchanging money.

Abdulrahman Sabr

Yes, this is purely my personal view. I feel and believe we should give Saudi Arabia some leverage for being the largest economy in the GCC. We should back them to open their market to the world. As everyone knows, Saudi Arabia is a major country and it really helps the GCC to have a common currency. UAE should reconsider its decision; if it wants, we can have some other headquarters (related to the common currency bank) should not exclude itself from the GCC. It would be good for all GCC nations to be unified under one currency and thinking whether the Central Bank should be in UAE or Saudi Arabia is just making our mind distorted. It is one currency and unified countries to why the problem just because of the Central Bank. Head Office, I think Dubai is more suitable and we will all progress together; Kuwaiti, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE should think again on their decision. It’s for the future, to unify Arab nations.

Luqman Al-Farhan

I don’t believe that the Gulf should have a unified currency. Not only will this cause inflation (e.g., the Euro in Europe has caused Cyprus to increase prices, thus causing it hard to make a living) but alongside that, every country in the Gulf is unique. Not only are traditions and cultures unique, but so is the currency. Sure some may have the same currency (e.g., the Bahrainis have the Dinar too), but it’s always different in shape, look and size. So Allah forbid that we’ll all share the same currency and have issues! It’s bad enough that we have unified work schedules, i.e., Sundays to Thursdays. I personally miss my Saturday to Wednesday timetable.

Anonymous

I think it’s difficult to choose one side. They both have their advantages and disadvantages. When you look at an example like the European Union, it considered unifying the currency would be something ideal. But, we’re not smaller as a region and number of nations. Then again, as a Kuwaitis, I may not agree right away because our currency is at a very strong place at the moment and creating a Gulf currency might hurt it. I think the benefits need to outweigh the issues but there or be a change. Also, Gulf countries may have the same customs and traditions but they aren’t unified on all fronts. They need to iron out their differences before considering coming together under one currency. One such problem is quarreling over the headquarters. It’s absurd to say the least.
two-dimensional works (giclée, digital art that ink-jet printed on canvas or print), hiding a kind of surprise in each canvas. The artist encourages the viewer to “scratch your head, hide a smile, or just blush” at the collection of paintings.

What is interesting about Al-Awadi’s idea of nostalgia is that it is refreshingly humorous, that is rather without the melancholy so common in nostalgic art, but at the same time presents an altogether negative, just different.

What is interesting about Al-Awadi’s idea of nostalgia is that it is refreshingly humorous, that is rather without the melancholy so common in nostalgic art, but at the same time presents an altogether negative, just different.

In the post-Apocalyptic ruins of what was once North America lies the shining nation of Panem, a flashy Capitol and the constantly surveyed twelve impoverished districts. The Capitol has a savage hold on the twelve districts, after a failed uprising attempt by what was once District 13. The result was the complete destruction of said district and a new, cruel law to keep all other districts in line: The Hunger Games. The Hunger Games is a barbaric competition that emphasizes Collins’ obvious beliefs in Darwinism: Survival Of The Fittest. Each one of the twelve districts produces two competitors, or tributes, a boy and a girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen. When her younger sister is chosen to represent District 12 (or sometimes referred to as The Seam), sixteen year old Katniss Everdeen automatically volunteers to take her twelve year old sister, Prim’s, place. She is sent to the Capitol with the male tribute, the baker’s son, Preeta Mellark. Once they arrive, they are forced to take part in completely sordid affairs, such as televised interviews, make-up sessions, and fashion designers. All of these pageantry are preludes to the actual Games themselves. Once they enter the arena, all the tributes must fight to the death while being humiliated, tortured, starved, and taunted. The last remaining tribute is crowned champion, and his or her district will receive proper sustenance until the next Hunger Games. However, before any tributes can even dream of winning, they must train vigorously. Little does sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen know that due to events in the Arena (I won’t spoil anything), she has placed herself in a very dangerous position. With a futile action, she had made herself a major target and changed the nation of Panem forever. For more than half of the Hunger Games, my heart was racing and I was constantly yelling encouragement at the sentimental, innocent, and caring young adults fighting for their lives for the entertainment of the shallow citizens of the Capitol. In Collins’ thriller, one is left thinking: what will happen next? The captivating writing makes the reader almost believe that these are actual events occurring in a distant part of the world, and makes us realize our own mistakes and what is becoming of Earth. Personally, I believe that the Hunger Games is more than just a great read. It is a wake-up call, and almost a subtle threat. Pick up a copy of the Hunger Games, and prepare to be changed.
On the evening of Wednesday, the 20th of October 2010, a small audience took up its seats in Co12, the Black Box Studio at the American University of Kuwait. They found seven chairs arranged in a crescent curve on a bare stage. Dedicated members of AUK’s Drama Club, advised by Drama Professor Chris Gottschalk, took up their seats to read the play There is a Field. The wall behind the actors was plain black, but as the actors read from their scripts, the audience listened intensely, as though glimpsing a strange but familiar world.

"All that anger – where did it come from? As for the years I saw, this anger came from the fathers to the fathers of those people. It became a duty. It's the years I saw, this anger came from the fathers..."

The play was performed with great emotion and dedication from every performer and many lines that left a deep impression. Some lines had an uncanny foreshadowing, as when Nardeen jokes to Aseel in an email that "you should be held an uncanny foreshadowing, as when Nardeen jokes to Aseel in an email that "you should be held with your back to the wall and shot!!!" Hassan and Jamila, Aseel and Nardeen's parents (played by Yousef Nayef and Sarah Raji) often press their children to prioritize their education so they can be capable, independent, and carve out a bright future. More often than not, the criss-crossing of voices broken with emotion, exaggerated, gentle, angry, and hopeful as the story of Aseel's life and death was retold.

The play is based on emails and correspondence between Aseel and his sister Nardeen (played by Faten al-Kadiri), or his "Seeds of Peace" friends, emails between Nardeen and Marlowe, as well as conversations, interviews, and transcripts of 8 years' worth of material. Marlowe patches it together to create some sort of narrative which, in Gottschalk's words, aims to "give voice and honour to his memory," and whatever our own political or religious affiliations, to also offer prayers to "a young man, ten years ago, who dreamed of peace."

One can imagine how hard it is to be able to present a play that is lucid and coherent when one must work solely with existing, non-fictional material (emails, interviews, transcripts, etc.) as Marlowe did. Although some things people say in real-life, everyday conversation can be more beautiful or eloquent than poetry, much of our speech doesn't always translate very well in an artificial narrative. So it is sometimes with There is a Field, where the excerpts Marlowe selects use end up confusing the viewers as to the place, time, or subject of the scene. Sometimes the wording of Nardeen’s or Aseel’s emails is stilted or strange, sometimes with imperfect or unusual grammar. Despite these challenges, the presence of these "real" voices definitely gave the sense of faithfully giving someone's voice back even if it does not make for great fictional script, although it was poetic at times.

"Not only this, but often the present, past, even future were artfully interwoven in simple scenes, where the audience found itself meandering in and out of Nardeen’s feelings about her brother's death to a court scene at the Ort Commission where actor Yousef Nayef, Zaid al Kazemi, Nigel D’Ossoua, and Nader Abdullah took on the roles of judges, witnesses, and soldiers, to a fresh encounter with Aseel, when he was still alive, as he speaks about his experience with the "Seeds of Peace" youth. More often than not, the criss-crossing of sources was less of a drawback, and left the viewers emotionally drawn to the story."

"As part of the global theatre initiative, AUK’s drama club soon tapped into the movement to contribute their support for the project. That evening, their audience listened attentively to seven voices broken with emotion, exaggerated, gentle, angry, and hopeful as the story of Aseel’s life and death was retold."

"More often than not, the criss-crossing of sources was less of a drawback, and left the viewers emotionally drawn to the story."

To learn about the play, the project, or the playwright, please visit www.donkeysaddle.org.
“For the most part, students in universities enroll in courses based upon what they hear and not know to be true about professors, apart from core or capstone courses.”

BY CHARAH RAI

What do you do when you first wake up in the morning (other than groaning about the looming day ahead of you)? I’m sure you drag yourself out of bed, spend at least 30 minutes or so in the bathroom, and spend even longer trying to decide what to wear. I’m sure you take out literally everything in your closet, try it on, then toss it onto your unmade bed. You then proceed to complain about how unattractive you are and how no one is going to ask for your hand in the future. This is when you run to your sister’s or mother’s closet and take out her new shirt from H&M. By the end of your morning, your room will look a lot like the accompanying picture. After finding a suitable outfit, you probably leave your room the way it is and drive to university. As you take a sweeping look at your room to ensure that you haven’t forgotten your iPod, don’t you feel a twinge of guilt related to the state of your habitat? Don’t you think that if you made the mess, you should clean it up? Back when I used to live in Canada, I made my bed first thing in the morning, and my mom never let me leave my room if there was a feather out of place. Ever since I lived in Kuwait, it’s been the total opposite. I leave my clothes in every possible place other than my closet, never make my bed, never clean my own dishes, and never bother with chores like I used to.

“We need to start respecting everyone around us.”

BY SARAH FUMA, AUK ALUM ’10

We are always in a hurry to grow old and start working and become the people we want to become by following our role models in life. But we never want to get younger and enjoy the life that was once lived by us. I remember while I was still in high school, I always used to tell my mom how I wish to grow up just like her and go to work in the morning instead of school. Her reply to me always used to be, “you will miss these days once you grow old!” To be honest, I never really paid attention and never understood what she meant. Not until I graduated recently. On June 18th 2010, a day after my graduation day, I realized that I didn’t really have an agenda for that particular day although everyone else was on their summer break and I was supposed to enjoy my moment of being a graduate. Instead, I stayed back on my bed just wondering about how I don’t have things planned ahead of me. I don’t really know what I want to do next. Should I start applying for jobs or should I apply to graduate schools? And then, at that moment, I wished I was still back in the days when I woke up at 6:00 in the morning for school and attended classes and had no worries of what I should do next. The feeling of not knowing what to do was a bit familiar. I had the same emotion when I graduated from school and didn’t know what I really wanted then. It is natural to have these feelings, as human, we lack patience.

We lose our self-confidence and stop believing in ourselves once we’re done with one step and try to take another. But eventually, we always end up doing what is right for us. After high school, I started to apply for undergraduate programs and I made mistakes in the process. My point here is, although I did what I wanted to do, it just took time to figure out. At this point in time, I remember what my mom used to say when I wished to grow older.

With growing up, we also have responsibilities and duties that we are not suppose to neglect. We have the freedom to make our own choices and we need to make wise ones. Graduating from university makes us able to take wise decisions even we are not grown ups, it only prepares us to be better individuals.
James McDonagh is an Assistant Professor of English, Writing Program Coordinator, and Writing Center Director. He earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Florida, completing a doctoral dissertation on transnational modern American poetry; his current research examines Chinese-language texts produced within the United States and representations of immigrant experiences in modern Chinese literature. At the University of Florida, he also received training in TESOL and served as an editorial assistant for the journal Early Medieval China. His teaching interests include: writing and rhetoric, poetry and poetics, second language acquisition, modernism/postmodernism, world literature, American literature, Chinese literature, and film. Before becoming an academic, he worked as a technical writer, journal editor, sailor, drive-in movie theater manager, bookshop clerk, tutor, ESL instructor, tree-planter, and Peace Corps volunteer.

Abdulrahman Saud Al-Farhan is a senior student at the American University of Kuwait majoring in Business and Economics and minoring in Arabic. Literature and Visual and Performing Arts. Since he enjoys researching, exploring, passing and exchanging knowledge, he tries to take different classes and pursues different minors that cover a variety of fields in the university. Abdulrahman was the head of the public relation committee in the Student Government Association working to build the best image of the AUK community and the student body for the outside community. He was also an active member in other clubs and organizations in AUK working hard toward representing AUK student body in the best image. Moreover, he participated and volunteered in different events and activities.

In his free time, Abdulrahman likes to read and research about politics, history, and Arabic literature. Also, attending any activities and seminars held in AUK working hard toward representing AUK student body in the best image. Moreover, he participated and volunteered in different events and activities. In his free time, Abdulrahman likes to read and research about politics, history, and Arabic literature. Also, attending any activities and seminars held in AUK working hard toward representing AUK student body in the best image. Moreover, he participated and volunteered in different events and activities. Finally, he is honored to be a writing consultant at the Writing Center and help to students improve their writing skills and papers.

Nader Abdullah is a junior student at AUK majoring in English Language and Literature. He is of mixed Kuwaiti and British descent, having lived a good portion of his life in England, and was recently awarded a scholarship from the Kuwaiti government to continue his studies here. He is an avid member of the AUK Drama Club, participating in theatrical performances by and for students, as well as helping to encourage and prepare amateur student actors to participate in campus wide events for other clubs. This is his third semester working as a consultant in the Writing Center and he enjoys the challenge of helping other students improve their writing and considers it valuable work experience for a future career in teaching.

Kheiriyeh Almadi is an administrative assistant and staff consultant at the Writing Center. She has experience working as a consultant in the Writing Center and she hopes to continue to help students develop confidence and clarity in their writing. She graduated in Spring 2008 with a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the American University of Kuwait with a concentration in Arabic Language and Literature. As an ex-student, Kheiriyeh has experience working as a consultant in the Writing Center for two years. She likes to investigate different perspectives on diverse issues. Kheiriyeh finds helping students bring out their best in their papers a most valuable mission.

Kheiriyeh Almadi

Fatima Ali Ibrahim is a student majoring in English Language and Literature. She is of mixed Kuwaiti and British descent, having lived a good portion of her life in England, and was recently awarded a scholarship from the Kuwaiti government to continue her studies here. She is an avid member of the AUK Drama Club, participating in theatrical performances by and for students, as well as helping to encourage and prepare amateur student actors to participate in campus wide events for other clubs. This is his third semester working as a consultant in the Writing Center and he enjoys the challenge of helping other students improve their writing and considers it valuable work experience for a future career in teaching.

Kirsten Bartholome is a writing consultant at the Writing Center. She is currently working towards a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. She has a passion for learning and enjoys helping others. Kirsten also believes that with just a little hard work and perseverance, everything is possible.

Kirsten Bartholome

Nada Bedir is a writing consultant at AUK. She is a junior at the American University in Kuwait, double majoring in Accounting and Finance. Since she believes that writing is the best method to express one’s ideas and thoughts, Nada wants to encourage people to discover this fantastic tool through working at the Writing Center.

Nada Bedir

Hansouf Al-Jahal is an administrative assistant and staff consultant at the Writing Center. After graduating with a B.S. in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, she joined AUK to continue her higher education in Cambodia. She has a passion for knowledge and education because it is where she finds absolute freedom.

Hansouf Al-Jahal

Sara Soliman is a sophomore studying Graphic Design and intends to concentrate in Visual and Performing Arts. Sara writes frequently for the Arts section in the Voice of AUK and works with the AUK's Kuwait Review. This is her second semester working as a writing consultant at the Writing Center, and she hopes to continue to help students develop confidence and clarity in their writing.

Sara Soliman

Clement Yu is a junior from Boston College, studying abroad at AUK for one semester. This is his first time in the Arabian Gulf region and he hopes to get to know the area and culture better through his interactions with students. As a Writing Center consultant, it is his hope to further develop and explore the different writing styles and voices of AUK students, which in turn will help him gain a better understanding of the Kuwaiti perspective through composition.

Clement Yu

Jose Manghin is an administrative specialist and staff consultant at the Writing Center. He has worked as an English tutor in the Philippines and has also worked as a journalist, proofreader, and copy editor in Kuwait. Jose likes helping students express themselves to the best of their abilities and be active in a lively environment.

Jose Manghin

Hawraa Ashour is an AUK transfer student. She came to AUK after obtaining a two year degree in Law. Now she’s in her last semester, aiming to obtain a BA in English Language and Literature. As a Writing Center consultant, whenever she permits, she likes to explore different aspects of creative writing and how people convey their feelings in different ways, while using the same modes of writing.
Christo El-Morr

Educational background
Honours Bachelors in Computer Science, PhD in Biomedical Engineering

Professional background
After graduation, I joined a university in Lebanon for five years. After that, I taught at York University in Toronto, Canada for another five years working at the Health Informatics Department. I still have research projects at York University.

How did you hear about AUK?
I heard about it when I was teaching at the University of Sharjah, applied, and all worked out.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
It depends on the course. Some can have discussion groups while others require the professor's input. I like to have discussions; classes are boring to learn a lot and provide me with a sense of stability. I like Kuwait and AUK was my best choice because its mission statement ranges this country is.

Mohammed Al-Abd

Educational background
I graduated from Am Sana University in Egypt in 1998. I completed my masters in 2000 and found myself well at the University of Waterloo in Canada in 2003. I completed my PhD in electrical and computer engineering in 2008.

Professional background
I have been a teaching assistant for 7 years in the computer engineering department at Am Sana University. I was also a teaching assistant for several courses at the University of Waterloo.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I like the atmosphere in my department, very professional, dynamic and friendly. The country is expensive so salaries should catch up to the inflation.

Anastasia Kononova

Education background
Graduate degrees in the U.S. from Oklahoma State University in Mass Communication and Journalism and a PhD from the University of Missouri in Journalism. Teaching interests include journalism theory and practice and mass communication theory and methods. Research interest is in applied linguistics. I study how media messages affect the process of making impressions on message recipients. I apply theoretical knowledge of communication and journalism in my professional work.

Professional background
Worked as a print journalist and editor in Russia.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I am adapting a lot faster than I thought I would. An amazing number of people speak English. If they don't, they will find someone who does. People go out of their way to be nice. I remember when I was at a dive-in, all the workers were eating. As I was not on a hurry, I was waiting until they were done, they invited me to eat with them. I asked very safe I walk all over Salmiya even at late hours at night. People in Kuwait like to eat, there seems to be food at all functions. Students are very creative and very hard working. We have not given any exams yet so hopefully they are hard workers as well.

Mohammad Awad

Educational Background
Earned the B.Sc in electrical and computer engineering (communications option) from University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) in 2004 and M.A.Sc. and Ph.D in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) in 2006 and 2009, respectively. From 2004 to 2009, he was a Research Assistant in the Broad-Based Communications Research Group at the University of Waterloo.

How did you hear about AUK?
I always wanted to go back to the country I lived, Kuwait, where I was born and grew up. I searched online for universities in Kuwait and AUK was my best choice because its mission statement represents my own views and values.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I see the teacher as a guide to students rather than a knowledge giver. The goal is to ensure the students have the means to gain knowledge by providing all necessary key concepts and background understanding of the topic under study. I believe that learning needs to be enjoyable experience especially in courses that are related to students' chosen field of study.

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FACULTY CORNER

James Goodpasture

Educational background
Four degrees beyond high school – Biology (from Stanford University), Bachelors of Science in Nursing (from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio), Masters in Professional Accountability from University of Texas at San Antonio, and PhD in Accounting from Florida State University.

Professional background
While attending Stanford, my goal was to become a physician. During my senior year, I discovered that I did not want to work in the homes that being a physician demands. I decided to go to nursing school because I could transfer credits from my biology degree relatively easily and I knew that as a nurse, I would have a job. I found that enjoyable nursing but I discovered that clinical/biomedical nursing is physically tiring, and it’s very stressful, particularly since I was working in critical areas and in the emergency room. I decided to go into hospital administration and started work on my MBA. When I took accounting courses, I found that I enjoyed it and was relatively good at it so I switched my degree from an MBA to a Masters in Professional Accountability. When I was getting my Masters in Accounting in the late 1980s, the Clinton’s suggested a national health insurance program. My MBA helped with major changes in health care, it would require more people who understood both the clinical aspects of health care and the financial side to do research. The lot of my research has to do with healthcare access from a financial viewpoint. I look at healthcare a little differently now.

How did you hear about AUK?
By accident. I started applying to schools in the Middle East last March. I chose the Middle East because I can be at a “free” stage in my life. My children can take care of themselves (so they think). I don’t have any grandchildren to dote on. My parents have died. So I have few ties to the USA. I applied to different places. I was offered positions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a job in Saudi Arabia, but the “9/11” was not right. In the later part of July, I noticed an opening at AUK and applied. They had an emergency vacancy. I was interviewed by Professor Russell. Then I spoke with Dr. Tim Sullivan (who was in the United States at the time). Dr. Sullivan did a good sales job on Kuwait and AUK. It was all very quick and people have been very helpful in getting my paperwork done.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?
I concentrate on three kinds of lessons: visual, verbal, and kinesthetic (applying the information). I try very hard to teach using all three methods. Most undergraduates tend to be visual learners while some are verbal and kinesthetic. I present information using all three methods to expose students to the information in different ways. I will lecture, use PowerPoint presentations, and solve problems on the board. I ask students to present problems in class; sometimes, students teach another better than I can.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I am adapting a lot faster than I thought I would. An amazing number of people speak English. If they don't, they will find someone who does. People go out of their way to be nice. I remember when I was at a dive-in, all the workers were eating. As I was not on a hurry, I was waiting until they were done, they invited me to eat with them. I asked very safe I walk all over Salmiya even at late hours at night. People in Kuwait like to eat, there seems to be food at all functions. Students are very creative and very hard working. We have not given any exams yet so hopefully they are hard workers as well.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I like Kuwait and I like AUK. Very much. I am glad to see that professors have a lot of resources at the university I am well-equipped to prepare for classes and do good-quality research. I also have to mention that I like AUK students, very much. They are very active in class. They are also very polite and respectful, which I appreciate very much. Even through this is my first year in the Gulf, I find it very easy to adapt. People here are very welcoming and helpful. I was also amazed at how diverse this country is.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?
I think AUK is a unique university in the gulf area in being the only liberal arts institution to offer Computer Science and Engineering, degrees. Students will graduate with a strong liberal arts education, as well as the intellectual skills needed in the engineering field. Intellectual skills are analytical and critical thinking, unbiased judgment, curiosity, originality and creativity. Students trained in these skills are very important for the success of engineers and computer scientists.