

The Voice of AUK Holds 4th Annual Blood Drive

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI AND FATIMA HAJI



A student prepares to donate.

Continued on pg. 3

Dar al-Funoon Exhibition: Anmatt

BY NUR SOLIMAN

The painting, “Enta Omri,” is kaleidoscopic in pattern, jewel-like tones glowing side by side in dazzling – even dizzying – rhythm that only reveals each of its parts after you stare at it long enough. It looks like a brilliant series of complicated rosettes of patterns and colours resembling watercolour flowers, until you look closely and discover Um Kulthoum staring contemplatively from behind her large sunglasses, multiplied in wheeling patterns or Fairuz’s pale profile looking at a reversed copy of itself in a wash of blue symmetry.

Walking through the Dar al-Funoon’s warm corridors this October was a refreshing, interesting experience. Staring at the square canvases is a visual puzzle as you try to separate the pattern into isolated images, and then come up with a new, creative way of looking at it all.

Abdulla al-Awadi, this month’s featured artist at the

gallery, presented a unique and modern collection which incorporated historic Arab film and music culture with modern, psychedelic patterns as well as traditional Eastern patterns. The art had a certain spontaneity to it that restrained one from thinking of it as kitschy and more as vintage-nostalgic, which leads to an interesting visual experience as one juggles the past with the present.

Al-Awadi has a diverse range of talents and interests which show themselves in his art. He earned his BA in Architecture and Art Photography and an MA in Suburb and Town Design from Miami University, but also designs contemporary clothing, theatrical clothing (recently he was costume designer, choreographer, assistant director, and artistic advisor to Suleiman al-Bassam’s theatre). He also has an interest in photography, jewelry, plastic, and installation arts. Here, he focuses mostly on

Continued on pg. 8

Cooperation Club Hosts Lecture on Science and Faith

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 if it is at all linked to faith. As human history progressed, milestones were achieved in the field of science that discredited much of the supernatural occurrences eons upon eons of people have believed in. Discourse on the matter has become so intense in fact that the opposition does not correlate science with faith any longer. Tackling this in public spheres is essential because the idea has spread like wildfire and we all know that when an idea is let loose, it is difficult to contain. Today, it has become a primary cause behind instances in which youth have their faith shaken.

Dr. Al-Awadhi began with questioning the rationale that antagonist groups use to cause

systematic episodes of dispute as well as provided a concise summary of a history that appropriates knowledge-seeking communities alongside Islam. He gave the example of Antony Flew, a British philosopher, who, after more than sixty years of being an avid proponent of atheism, was simply convinced otherwise and chronicled his experience of dismissing and then discovering the divine in a book he called *There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*. In it, he explains how modern science directed him towards the existence of a God. If an atheist was able to make his way outside of monotheism and back, there is no reason why believers should not find answers to satisfy their inquisitive natures within the walls of religion.

Speaking of which, another common misconception associated with the Muslim faith that Dr. Al-Awadhi drew attention to is how fearful its members are of asking questions. His response was simple: ask. For it is only when we do that we

Continued on pg. 2

All new quick look feature!

Say No to Professor-Based Course Selection

BY EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE VOICE OF AUK

The idea itself is as old as humanity: choosing to go through an experience based upon the people you will be involved with. Today, not much has changed, especially at institutions of higher education. 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. Even before

going into how inequitable doing so is, it is important to consider how much it is against the acquisition of a liberal arts education. Once a student does this, he or she rules out the possibility of exploring courses that might just be to their liking. Thus, they limit their university experiences by misjudging professors.

Really, before going any further, the point must be made

Continued on pg. 10

AUK Students Participate in GUST Nuqat Design Conference

BY MARIAM HOSSEINIA



Model designed by Dalal Marafie, Farideh Moradi, and Maha Ali.

Continued on pg. 3

AUK Hosts the 5th Annual Social Awareness Week

BY OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life at the American University of Kuwait organized its 5th Annual Social Awareness Week from October 31st to November 4th, 2010. Each day concentrated on a specific social awareness topic including: Self Image Day, Environmental Day, Healthy Living Day, Anti-Violence Day, and Community Service Day.

Social Awareness Week is one of AUK’s annual diversity programs. The week actively encourages and fosters respect for diversity and creates sense of community through the interaction of AUK students and clubs and organizations. In addition, involvement also included AUK’s academics, government, and

nongovernmental organizations within the greater society of Kuwait. The week’s programs strive to promote social responsibilities and a sense of community among the AUK population. The learning experience offered through these programs prepares AUK students to enter practical life

Continued on pg. 5

Patriots Club and Discover Kuwait Club Host Lecture on Kuwaiti Constitution

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI



Patriots Club President, Qutaiba Al-Humood, with Mohammed Al-Sager and Ghanim Al-Najjar, two pertinent individuals in the field of Kuwaiti politics who gave the lecture.

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 issue: Ghanim Al-Najjar, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University and former Member of Parliament, Mohammed Al-Sager, who is also a human rights activist as well. They shared their expertise in the field of Kuwaiti politics and gave valuable information pertaining to the emergence and development of the

Kuwaiti Constitution.

When the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem formed the Constitution, he most certainly wished for Kuwait to adopt democratic ideals and weave them into society. Al-Najjar and Al-Sager relayed the work of this visionary and how his dreams are met with obstacles nowadays. In recent years especially, there have been efforts to reconcile the Parliament and government of Kuwait because much of the tension that exists between them is stalling the growth of Kuwait. Kuwaiti society since the time of Sheikh Al-Salem has rapidly changed, at times for the better but much more so for the worst since divisions are deeper now that they have ever been in this nation’s young life.

If anything, Kuwaiti citizens and even residents of this country walked away from this lecture 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 subconscious the value of doing so. It is said that knowing where we come from helps to determine where we are going or headed and that is anything but an overstatement. It is completely factual and must not be taken lightly. Just as this lecture had done, we must always concern ourselves with understanding and appreciating our pasts and proclaiming them with pride.

Cooperation Club Hosts Lecture on Science and Faith

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI



Dr. Sabry El-Damerdash during the lecture.

grow closer to the Creator. Our faith may be tested and it will be at times but running away from our reservations is not the solution. For all we know, the answers might be right there; they just need to be found. He then turned it over to Dr. El-Damerdash who went into the meat of the discussion.

The task that Dr. El-Damerdash undertook was overwhelming but he delivered his piece with clarity and great enthusiasm. His part of the presentation consisted of contextualizing scientific facts within the realm of Islam thereby stopping any doubt dead in its tracks. The Quran, he explained, is filled with evidence supporting scientific research. In fact, there is a verse that encloses four principle laws of physics, the most

scientific findings, he gave a much-needed introduction to them because they may not be believed right away. I, 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 fact and once its magnitude is realized, one will grow deeply

THE VOICE OF AUK

Our Mission

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

The Editorial Board

Fatima Ibraheem
Amal Behbehani
Salma Tayeh
Nada El-Badry
Farah Al-Shamali

Layout Production Team

Yusuf Maimoon
Zahra Al-Abdeen
Dalal Marafie

Photography Team

Sarah Khalaf
Humam Shabani
Abdulkadir Al-Machhour

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. For advertising information, send email to voice@auk.edu.kw. Advertisements for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Opinions and/or attitudes expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

Copyright ©2010 The Voice of AUK



Dr. Mohammad Al-Awadhi and Dr. Sabry El-Damerdash being awarded by Cooperation Club President, Mohammad Al-Khulaifi.

“Discourse on the matter has become so intense in fact that the opposition does not correlate science with faith any longer.”

important being that the body is composed of the building blocks of life known as atoms. In terms of chronology, the Quran gave us such fundamental information by 632 B.C., long before the Greek philosophers,

attached to the idea of a Creator. With that, he enraptured the audience and proceeded to give other pieces of evidence. His carefully constructed sentences were saturated with such meaning and were at the

“The Quran, he explained, is filled with evidence supporting scientific research.”

Democritus and Leucippus, posited that all matter was made up of indivisible particles. That is almost a 1000 year difference. Before he shared other

heart of this event and thanks to his and Dr. Al-Awadhi’s sense of humor and the topic of their discussion itself, it was a pleasure to attend.

The Voice of AUK Holds 4th Annual Blood Drive

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI AND FATIMA HAJI

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 Multipurpose 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.



A student takes the mini-physical test.

AUK Students Participate in GUST Nuqat Design Conference

BY MARIAM HOSSEINIA

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, Farideh 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,

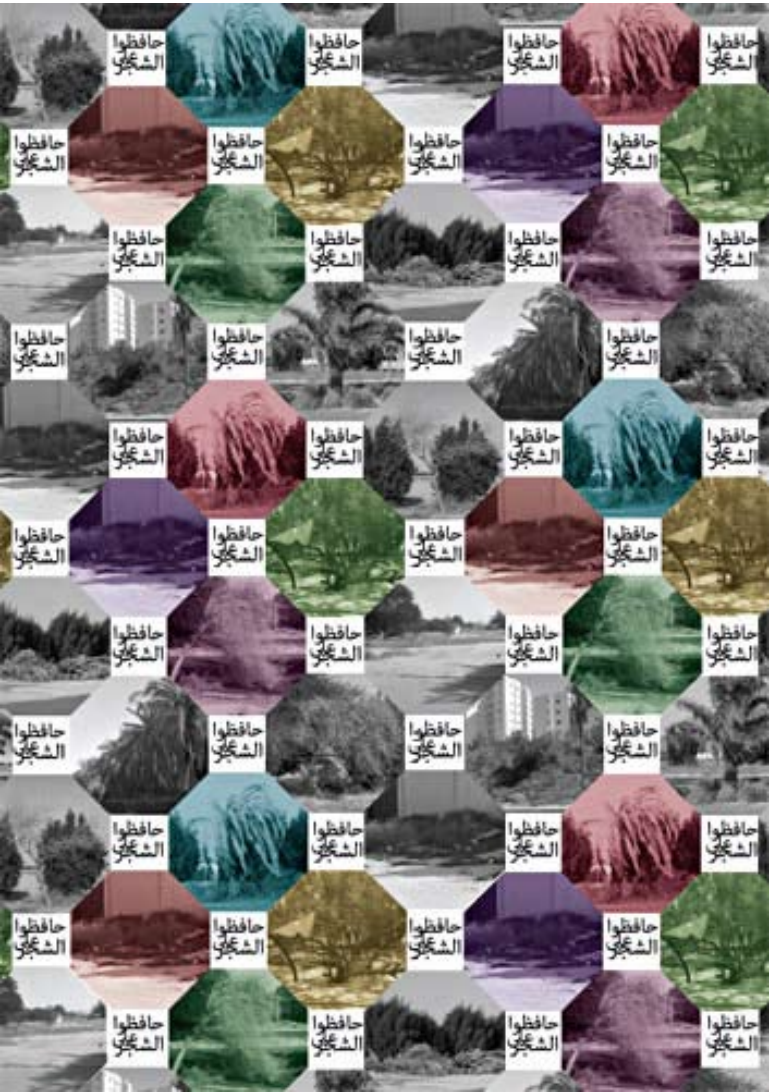
visual pollution. Their solutions tapped the notion of awareness. Sepideh Behbehani shared her experience: "In the two-day workshop, Mr. Tarek taught the students the most important thing any artist or designer could teach and that is how to sustain creativity during the creative process and to be able 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."



Model designed by
Fatima Al-Sughayer.



Model designed by Sepideh Behbehani.



Model designed
by Reem Al-
Huwaiddi.

Self Identity Poetry Competition

BY HAWRAA ASHOUR



Esraa Sherida and Yusef Nayef being awarded by Mr. Ayman Shouman after tying for first place in the Arabic poetry category

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 “Self Identity.” This theme in Social Awareness Week activities also included, but was not limited to, nationalistic 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 poem 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 on November 1st at the Auditorium where it was being hosted with the participants and three judges in attendance. The chosen judges for the task included Dr. Raymond Farrin and Dr. Khitam Al-Khouli from the Arabic Language Program and Dr. Kathy Nixon from the English Language and Literature Department.

The evening began with contestant Yusef 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

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, Hawraa Ashour came in first for her poem, Falcon. The

“After brief introductions, the eight contestants each got up and recited their poem of choice or poems if they had written more than one. The contest included a separate English poems category.”

continued until the end of the evening. The last recitation was by one of the Arabic Heritage Program’s leading coordinators and members, Al-Anoud Al-Najem.

As the judges deliberated, the students were treated to a recitation of one of Al-Mutanabi’s poems by contestant Yusef Nayef. After a short but heated discussion among the judges, they announced the winners. Esraa Al-Sherida and Yusef 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!

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 “Reflection Corner” 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; any blemishes have mysteriously disappeared, her eyes appear brighter, her lips more appealing – she has been completely transformed, as are the other girls in the rest of the posters. This is meant to represent how fake a lot of the advertisements and depictions of women really are today. Other posters include humorous cartoons and more serious ones show fruits that appear perfect on the outside 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 only skin deep, after all.

Along with the posters, there were two television screens showing various people, all of whom have different talents. This included the infamous Susan Boyle who, although

not aesthetically pleasing, blew 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.

AUK BLOOD DRIVE



Stop the Violence: Anti-Violence Forum

BY HUDA AL- RASHID



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. The speakers included Jason Sullivan, Dr. Juliet Dinka, Dr. James Rose, Dr. Pellegrino Luciano, and one of AUK’s students, Monica Matta.

Mr. Jason Sullivan started the forum off 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 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:

Tension building stage (where the abuser builds fantasies of their own, leading to the building up of anger and tension) →

Battering Incident (where the victim tends to be ashamed and is constantly blaming themselves) → Honeymoon Period (where the typical scenario of the abuser promising to “never let it happen again” takes place).

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:

- 1 in every 4 women experience domestic violence
- Less than 1/5 violence leads to the need for medical help
- 1 in every 6 women and 1 in every 33 men experience rape

As you can see, these statistics are alarming, and it is therefore needed for these types of issues to be raised for the public, since that can push victims to want to speak about their abuse, and to seek help even if certain societal issues (such as affecting the “family’s name”) don’t encourage this.

Dr. James Rose discussed the violent behavior in children and adolescents. It was interesting to see that aggressive behavior is actually found really early in life. This was shown in a video in which a one-year-old baby is aggressive towards another baby who took his toy and dismantled it in front of him. Verbal aggression is later on found with five year olds, in which gossiping and creating rumors is starting to occur. Also, Dr. Rose mentioned that behavior and genetics can affect how violent you are. So, violent individuals owe the violence to their accessibility to

violent behavior in their lives, or to their genes, or to both, which leads to pretty violent people who are most likely going to end up as serious criminals. Some interesting statistics proved this point, and really gives one an idea of where the essence of violence lies.

Dr. Luciano then goes on to discuss the issue of “structural violence.” Basically, structural violence is measured in a scale of what causes violent behavior based on an institutional framework. What this means is that how violent a situation is depends on the background that surrounds it. For example, boxing is a violent sport, but since it’s a sport (the institutional framework), it’s not looked at as potentially “violent”, or it is more or less acceptable. This also points to a picture of a starving child; is this violence? Based on the institutional framework involving certain economic factors, this can be considered as a form of indirect, structural violence.

Finally, student, Monica Matta ended the forum with certain steps towards reducing violence in society. She mentioned that there are two ways to do so, which is to first reduce the violence ourselves, and second is to reduce it for the next generation. We need to release our anger bit by bit and not let it proliferate into something uncontrollable (violent behavior), and to be sure to seek help, and report violent behavior. Also, try to reduce the amount of violent exposure in your households, like refraining from using violent vocabulary or violent media, and to speak to your disobeying child and not to physically punish him.

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 also mentioned 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.

Awareness is the Answer

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER



On November 1st, Equilibrium presented The Green Carnival Film Festival, as a part of the Office of Student Life's 5th Annual Social Awareness Week. 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-Samerai and Sandra Al-Saleh.

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 Cuadro, Dubai, UAE, on November 23rd. Kuwait University, the American International School, and Cinemagic 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 NGO's to inspire change through collaborative and interactive awareness-raising

a good medium to spread awareness regarding our environmental belonging, whilst Varmint provoked thought about the potential repercussions that can arise from our mishandling and carelessness. Both these tales present an imaginary world, which is also the known world in which we can all recognize ourselves. Both the 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

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 ice-cream were available as snacks during the entire event.

The first screening, Lost and Found, served as

to return his surprising guest, an innocuous 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's 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 aka's 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. Trailers of both these animations can be viewed at www.thegreencaravan.com. These films were screened for the second season of the Green Caravan Film Festival.

Equilibrium's website, www.eqcco.com, states that they "bring together elements of art, culture, and the environment, to inject a much needed sense of fun, enthusiasm and passion into their mission to help the planet." Equilibrium states in its brochure, which was distributed during the event, that they "hope that this year's selections will be enjoyable and eye-opening, and will 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."

AUK Hosts the 5th Annual Social Awareness Week

BY OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE



Speakers at the Anti-Violence Forum.

equipped with knowledge, examples and resources on how to be model citizens.

During Social Awareness Week's first day, an Identity Development Exhibition entitled "Reflection Corner" was organized in association with the Graphic Design Club to promote self-awareness. Gulf Studies Center Director Professor Mohammad Akbar presented on the "Development of Social Consciousness." Mr. Khaled Al Roudhan, a founder of ZAWAYA, shared with AUK student the objectives of ZAWAYA and its campaigns: Oqsim & Moujat Attaghyeer (Wave of Change). These campaigns are aimed at raising awareness and publicizing human and civil values, more specifically, the values of tolerance and pluralism, and respect for others. Programs for the day included an Arabic/English poetry competition between students about "Self Identity" in association with the Arabic Literature Club

which involved the Division of Humanities and Arts professors, Raymond Farrin, Kathy Nixon,

On the same day, as part of the Office of Student Life's 5th Annual Social Awareness

evening, AUK hosted "The Green Caravan Film Festival" organized by Equilibrium.

Healthy Living Day on Tuesday included the Office of Student Life Activity, "Arrive Alive," which was organized to promote safe driving.

The Student Success Center organized its Annual Health Fair that included twenty plus health services providers and three hundred plus students participated in it.

"The week's programs strive to promote social responsibilities and a sense of community among the AUK population."

and Al- Khitam Khouli.

On the following day, Environmental Day, the AUK Campus Recycling Project was launched by Al Akhdar Environmental Club, it was followed by the participation of 38 students in designing environmentally friendly shopping bags. This was judged by Graphic Design professors, Maryam Hosseinnia and William Andersen. In the

Week, in conjunction with the Student Success Center's Health Fair, the Voice of AUK (AUK's official student newspaper) started its 4th Annual Blood Drive for three consecutive days from November 2nd to the 4th. The Office of Student Life and the Student Success Center co-sponsored the event with giveaways and refreshments. This year, a total of 116 members of the AUK community turned

out to donate their blood.

The Anti-Violence Day on Wednesday, in addition to the Anti-Violence Awareness Campaign, saw the hosting of this week's main event "The Anti-Violence Forum" in association with the Model United Nations Club. Mr. Jason Sullivan, AUK Mental Health Counselor from the Student Success Center, presented an introduction about violence. Subsequent discussion topics on violence were presented that included intimate partner violence (by Dr. Juliet Dinkha), family and violent behavior in children and adolescents (by Dr. James Rose), structural violence (by Dr. Pellegrino Luciano), and common practice towards reducing violence in society (by AUK student Monica Matta).

The final day was Community Service Day. On this day, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Advocate for Westerners-Arab Relations Center (AWARE), Operation Hope "Trash to Treasure" Project, and Zawaya Campaign, along with Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) and Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH), participated in the Information Resources Fair which was held in association with the Community Service Club. The fair aimed to highlight community service organizations and their activities to provide opportunities for AUK students to participate in volunteer activities. In addition, the Office of Student Life hosted its first AUK Chat Series session allowing for an open discussion with community service

individuals which included Ms. Riham Al-Rashid, UNDP Program Assistant, Ms. Cheryl Spessert, Coordinator of Trash to Treasure/ Operation HOPE-

about issues surrounding social interactions, group dynamics, and civil rights as productive members in society. The active participation of students through



Environmentally friendly shopping bags, judged by Graphic Design professors, Maryam Hosseinnia and William Andersen

Kuwait, Mary Dempsey-Booz, Coordinator of KACCH and Mrs. Fareah Ahmad Al- Saqqaf, Founder, Vice- Chairperson and Managing Director of LOYAC.

The week's programs aimed to raise awareness among students

the week's diverse programs and activities encourage life-long learning habits, and development of unique identities to become socially responsible citizens which is one of the Office of Student Life's goals.

POST CARD

COMMUNICATION

ADDRESSES ONLY

December 10, 1896

Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel died at San Remo, Italy. His will stipulated that income from his \$9 million estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity.

December 10, 1948

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

December 11, 1901

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

December 14, 1911

Anders Celsius (1701-1744) was Norwegian 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 15, 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, 1846

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 4, 1791

The Observer, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain.

December 5, 1492

Haiti was discovered by Christopher Columbus.

December 6, 1865

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery.

December 7, 1941

The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.



December 27, 1831

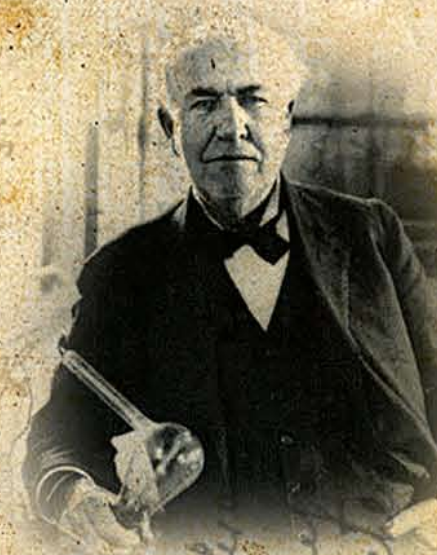
Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship HMS Beagle on his five-year global scientific expedition. Darwin collected fossils and studied plants and animals, gradually beginning to doubt that many diverse species of living things had sprung into existence at one moment (creationism).

December 29-30, 1916

In the waning days of the Romanov dynasty, Russian monk Rasputin (Grigory Yefimovich Novykh) was assassinated. A group of conspirators had lured him to a private home then 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.



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 transistor was 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 smashed into the shorelines of a dozen countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and Somalia.



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 Felo

Yes, I think there should be a unified Gulf currency considering the fact that people living in GCC countries travel a lot 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.

Abdulahman Saab

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 closed 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 but it 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 diverted. It is one currency and unified countries so why the problem just because of the Central Bank Head Office. I think Dubai is open-minded and we will all progress together; Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE should think again on their decision. It's for the future, to unify Arabs nations.

Lujain 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 an example like the European Union is considered, unifying the currency would be something ideal, plus we're a lot smaller as a region and number of nations. Then again, as a Kuwaiti, 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 losses for there to be a change. Also, Gulf countries may have the same customs and traditions but they aren't united 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.

Dar al-Funoon Exhibition: Anmatt

BY NUR SOLIMAN



Photo taken by Nur Soliman.

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 affectionate image of those depicted. “*Ghanni*” (‘sing’ in Arabic), for example, features the singer Sabah as she was illustrated on the paper sleeve of a vinyl record, the record entitled “Sing with Sabah,” or “*Ghanni ma’a Sabah*” from the *Voix D’Orient Series*. Al-Awadi multiplies Sabah’s figure in the image and six other copies of her stand behind her as in concert, all lit with a pastel like softness. The panel is closer to the bottom of the canvas, and is one of several repeated patterns, the others all charcoal-dark, lending the main panel a kind of spot-light, complete with Sabah’s charming smile.

On each side of Sabah’s canvas, brother and sister Asmahan and Farid al-Atrash are featured in paintings of their own, their faces multiplied and rotated in a rich cube-like pattern, Asmahan’s face solemn and captivating, Farid’s with a dreamy, faraway look.

Many images featured Fairuz, one of them with a doubled image of her singing, but so abstracted, while in the foreground are the doubled words to her famous “*Habbeytak bi-sayf, habbeytak bi-*

sheta.” Other paintings featured the lovely Layla Murad, Faten Hamama, Dalida, Samira Tawfik, and Hind Rustum, but the spotlight really went to Um Kulthoum in homage to her great place in Egyptian culture.

Scores of different images of Um Kulthoum stare out at the viewer from a dizzying jungle of shapes and colours, sometimes smiling to one side, or singing with her hands clasped, or wearing her familiar somber expression, behind her large sunglasses. The way al-Awadi layered text, abstract shapes, and figural art had regularity that gave the paintings harmony, but he also added whimsicality to the paintings with off-center elements, such as a geometric snowflake-star that seems to have broken off from its network of stars and is floating away in Hind Rustum’s painting, or the off-center strip in “*Ghanni*.” In the paintings of Um Kulthoum, there was more order to the design, but the lively movements of Um Kulthoum in various positions lent human dynamics to the stationary patterns.

While all of this seems to try hard to steer away from looking kitschy, it is hard to say the same after looking at the other objects displayed at the gallery which al-Awadi worked on in cooperation with Sarah Beydoun of “Sarah’s Bag.” Beydoun’s designs are known for uses collages of old pop icons, recalling the ideas of Egyptian-Armenian artist Chant Avedissian’s now very famous image of Um Kulthoum, his first stencil painting in a series of about 200 works



Photo taken by Nur Soliman.

capturing something of that golden age of Cairo.

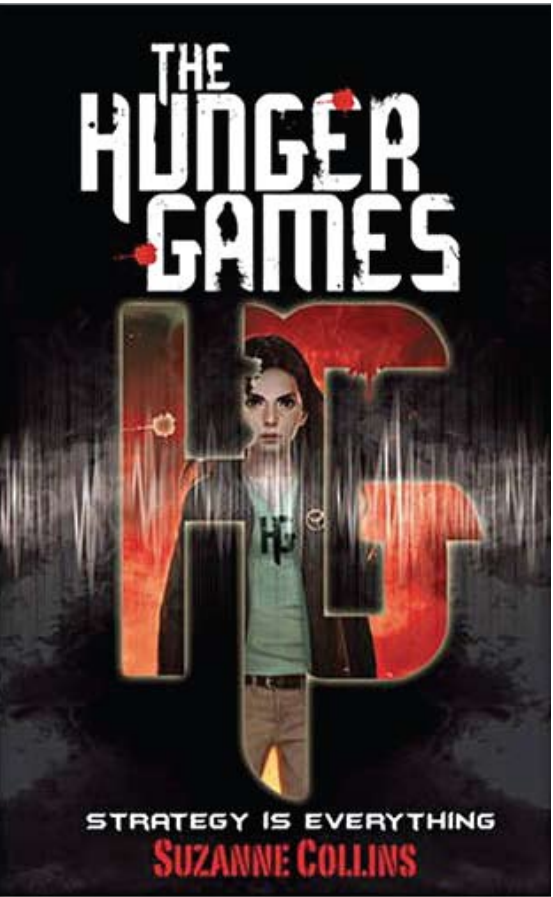
Looking at the bags makes one reconsider the commercial element to the art. Al-Awadi’s fresh take on the icons force the viewer to look at them in different, unusual ways as part of a creative, though not wholly innovative, design concept. But the addition of the purses and clutches with prints identical to the paintings makes one to think of consumerist tendencies in art and the need to transform art into business. Art probably sells better when it’s on pins, T-shirts, purses, and mousepads, and while all of Sarah Beydoun’s bags are very appealing and beautifully made, it adds a different edge to the exhibition that represents new shifting dynamics in art that is not altogether negative, just different.

Bags aside, however, examining the paintings proved to be a real trip into the past, looking back to the old icons of the Egyptian silver screen, and singers who reigned over the Arab world for generations, but because of the vibrancy of his designs, the reminiscence has a light, quirky edge to it.

The gallery is quiet as it is on most evenings, save for the artist showing a few visitors around, and the sounds of laughter coming from the courtyard where the gallery curator, Lucia Topalian, was entertaining guests. But one could almost hear the strings, tambourines, and *nay* in prelude “Enta Omri,” “Emta Hata’raf,” and “Ana La Habibi” in the halls, humming off the canvas.

The Hunger Games A Book Review

BY CHARAH RAJI



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, Peeta 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 pageantries 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 wakeup call, and almost a subtle threat. Pick up a copy of the Hunger Games, and prepare to be changed.

A
Book
Review

Jen Marlowe's "There is a Field" Strikes Chords

BY NUR SOLIMAN



Cast of *There Is A Field*. Photo taken by Professor Christopher Gottschalk.

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 intently, 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 our job to be there when they bring their memories to life.

We should never forget, but we should forgive."

Thus read Abdullah al-Bastaki in his role as Aseel Asleh, bringing his character's memory to life. Asleh, a 17-year old boy, was one of the twelve Palestinian Israeli citizens who were killed in October of 2000 during "Land Day" protests. He joined the US-based "Seeds of Peace" Arab-Israeli coexistence camp, where young men and women discussed their situations and challenges, but also hopes while living within the borders of Israel, Palestine, and the occupied territories.

Aseel was reportedly killed while tripping over himself in an olive grove just outside his village in a demonstration; the Israeli soldiers who approached

him struck the back of Aseel's head with a rifle then shot him, leaving him in the groves for his family to collect his body. After 8 years of contact with Aseel's family in their time of loss, and following the Israeli government's investigative inquiries, Seattle-based playwright Jen Marlowe put together the play. With the help of Ed Mast, she put together primary source material of emails, transcripts, and interviews. Soon, *There is a Field* would be read in nearly 20 countries, over 40 cities, from Alice Springs to Haifa, Brooklyn to Paris, Jerusalem to Dubai, London to Nairobi, Sarajevo to Valparaiso, and Kuwait.

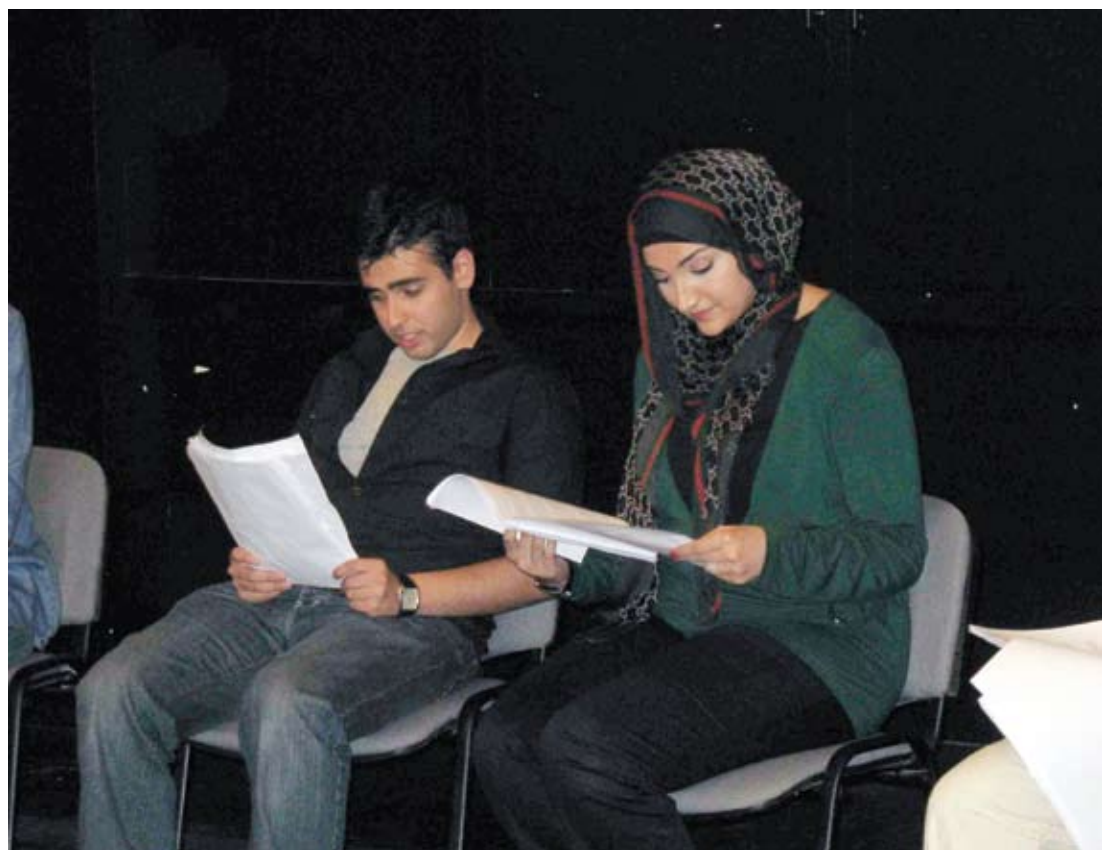
As part of the global theatre initiative, AUK's drama club soon tapped into the movement to contribute their support for the project. That evening, their audience listened attentively to seven voices broken with emotion, exaggerated, gentle, angry, and hopeful as the story of Aseel's life and death was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

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 single 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 Or Commission where actors Yusef Nayef, Zaid al-Kazemi, Nigel D'souza, 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

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



Abdulrahman Al-Bastaki and Faten Al-Kadiri. Photo taken by Professor Christopher Gottschalk.

emotionally drawn to the story.

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 with your back to the wall and shot!!!" Hassan and Jamila, Aseel and Nardeen's parents (played by Yusef Nayef and Sarah Raji) often press their children to prioritize their education so they can be capable, independent, and carve out a bright future for their community. Aseel carries this on without compromise, but without the anger and resentment that so often accompanies troubled national memories. Nardeen says of her childhood, "In our house there was this big map of Palestine before '48 with all the names of this destroyed villages. There were always stories of Palestine. Our life did not start when we were born."

"Out beyond ideas of wrong-doing and right-doing there is a field. I will meet you there." Some readers may recognize this as by Jalal al-Din Rumi. The inspiration behind the title, these lines are repeated often in the play, almost Daoist in transcending opposites and different camps in search for peace that everyone deserves in exactly equal measure. Aseel's last words in the play are, "Until we meet in the field, my friend, take care." It is as though the real Aseel knew that realistically speaking, the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts would continue for years and that those living there would still have to fight for their rights or fear for their security, but nevertheless he entertained a deep hope that eventually, we would all – everyone – meet in the field.

To learn about the play, the project, or the playwright, please visit www.donkeysaddle.org.

"As part of the global theatre initiative, AUK's drama club soon tapped into the movement to contribute their support for the project."

Say No to Professor-Based Course Selection

BY EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE VOICE OF AUK

that students must entrust their universities with the task of selecting and employing a credible professorial force to instruct them. No university on the planet would do otherwise. If that reliance is not established, then attention will be taken away from the most important ingredient: the education. So, trust that your university is seeking the crème de la crème of professors. At times, friends are not always a positive influence when course selection is concerned.

The people you commonly associate yourself with, your friends, are where you get information about professors you hesitate to take classes with. There are two cases to be looked at: friends who discourage you from taking a course with a particular professor

“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.”

because of what they conclude about them and friends who make you join a course they have enrolled in because, yet again, of what they conclude about them. Both instances display bias on the part of the friend regardless of whether one is positive while the other is gushing with negativity, respectively. The person asking is as much at fault as the one providing the prejudiced answer.

How can you be sure that your friend is giving you an accurate image of the classroom environment under the said professor’s guidance? For all you know, they may have had a rough start or not approve of the professor’s teaching methodology. But that is not a reason why you should opt out of registering for his or her course. You are your friend are not Siamese twins; you should be given the opportunity to formulate an opinion about the professor yourself and not have someone do it for you. It may be the case that your friend thinks less of something that the professor does in class that you actually enjoy.

The same goes for the second instance: your friend might think the professor is satisfactory but that may not be your trajectory on the

“How can you be sure that your friend is giving you an accurate image of the classroom environment under the said professor’s guidance?”

matter. It is even worse when students enroll for classes because they have friends in them. That becomes a serious concern because, as students, we must be responsible enough to schedule timely visits to our academic advisors and enroll in the courses we need to graduate. You can always see your friends outside of class; being away from them for a few hours will not reflect badly on your health.

The message of this entire piece is for students to grant themselves the opportunity to make up their own minds about professors. The door swings both ways: they should also be given the chance to present themselves, their teaching styles, and lesson plans before a judgment is passed. As for those who are allegedly giving advice, realize that you are setting up boundaries you are your friend that will not be in their favor. As for everyone, take this as a life lesson and not just one you practice at your university; be reasonable and choose the area of interest, not the person or group of people.

Taking Respect for Granted

CHARAH RAJI



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 sufficient 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 imaginable place other than my closet, never make my bed, never clean my own dishes, and never bother with chores like I used to.

We take our lovely maids for granted. We don’t realize that they have feelings, lives, dreams, hopes, memories, and brains. I see people here

“We need to start respecting everyone around us.”

disrespecting others because of their heritage. I’m sorry, I hadn’t realized we’ve suffered a time warp. Are we back in the 19th century? Is slavery back in? Is it a societal norm to mistreat people because of their work? I am currently working in an exhibition alongside a lovely lady from Manila named Karena. Whenever we get customers, they ask me about products and call me sweetheart,

whereas they completely disregard Karena’s existence. That’s not fair!

We need to start respecting everyone around us. We ought to treat our maids like we treat our mothers because they exhaust themselves looking after us. Take time to listen to your maid, say please and thank you, and never call her a ‘Phillipiniya Khaysa.’

Which Came First?

BY GHALYA AL-DHAFIRI

Which came first: the addict or the drug? You can’t have an addiction unless there’s something to crave; by the same token, a drug is nothing but a plant or a drink or a powder until someone wants it badly. The truth is, the addict and the drug came together, and there lies the problem of getting rid of both the drug and the addict in our real world. When you want something desperately, you shake with the need for it; you tell yourself you don’t need more than one sip because it’s just the taste you crave, and once it’s on your tongue, you’ll be able to make it

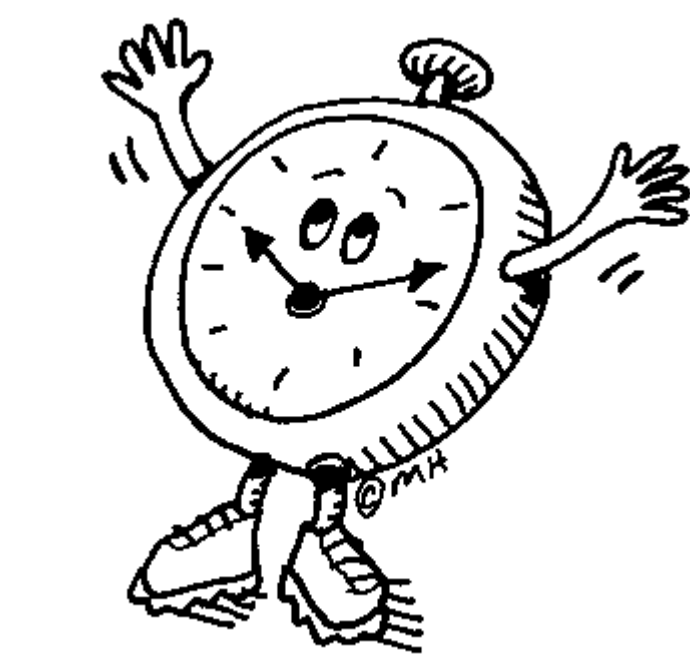
“When you want something desperately, you shake with the need for it.”

last a lifetime. You dream of it at night, you see a thousand mile-high obstacles between where you stand and what you want and you convince yourself you have the power to hurdle them. Love is the most dangerous craving and addiction of all, if you ask me. It turns us into people we aren’t. It makes us feel like hell or miraculously walk on water. It ruins, changes and even breaks us into anything for what we love, and with all agony in the name of heartache. If it hurts you to swallow every time you think of the feeling of falling into that person’s arms, then that love lasts forever.

Going Back in Time

BY SARAH JUMA, 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 suppose 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 saw what my options were. 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 sure we make the right ones. Graduating from university makes us able to take wise decisions for ourselves. Yes, it is difficult being an adult and we all wish to be young and tension-free. But the secret is even with all the challenges we face being grown ups, it only prepares us to be better individuals.

Writing Center Consultant Biographies



Writing Center Assistants and Consultants at the Writing Center.



James McDougall.

James McDougall 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.



Fatima Ibraheem

Fatima Ali Ibraheem is a student majoring in English Language and Literature and minoring in International Studies. Working as an English, and, recently, Arabic Student Writing Consultant, she believes that every single person has a privilege towards writing and its boundless realm. For that reason, she always feels glad to assist ambitious peers who are willing to reach that target. During leisure time and a suitable mood, Fatima enjoys reading books. It does not matter what type of book it is as long as it is a book, since a book is the only thing with generosity that has no limit in enriching you more and more, plus, expects nothing in return. Also, oil painting is something she enjoyably practices and hopes not to lose interest in.



Nader Abdullah

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.



Nada Bedir

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.



Clement Yu

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 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.



Kirsten Bartholome

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.



Hanouf Al-Juhail

Hanouf Al-Juhail 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 career in academia. She has a passion for knowledge and education because it is where she finds absolute freedom.



Jose Mangibin

Jose Mangibin 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.



Sara Soliman

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 AUKuwait 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.



Kheiriyeh Ahmadi

Kheiriyeh Ahmadi is an administrative assistant and staff consultant at the Writing Center. 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.



Sahar Tanweer

Sara Juma is a staff consultant at the Writing Center. Sara recently graduated from the American University of Kuwait with a degree in Business Management. Helping people and guiding students is what Sara likes doing best. She feels everyone needs directions and tips to improve their way of living. During her free time, Sara likes drawing and painting, reading a book, and going out with friends. Sara believes that working at the Writing Center has given her the opportunity to pass her knowledge to students and lead them in the correct direction.



Abdulrahman Al-Farhan

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's 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 Kuwait related to his interests and trying to participate as an audience or volunteer if possible. Finally, he is honored to be a writing consultant at the Writing Center and happy to help students improve their writing skills and papers.

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, when the time 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

Honor Bachelors in Computer Science. PhD in Biomedical Engineering.

Professional background

After graduation, I joined a university in Lebanon for five years. Next, I headed to the American University of Sharjah 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 it 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 when they are not interactive. The teaching should be student-centered, involving students in the learning process.

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.

Mohammed Al-Abd

Educational background

I graduated from Ain Shams University in Egypt in 1998. I completed my Masters in 2002 and then went to 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 Ain Shams University. I was also a teaching assistant for several courses at the University of Waterloo. I served as a sessional instructor for artificial intelligence course at the University of Waterloo

in Fall 2008.

How did you hear about AUK?

I heard about it from the advertisement when I was job-hunting. I did not know there was an American university in Kuwait, I only knew of the older knows such as the American University of Cairo and the American University of Beirut.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?

I like to get students interested in the material, how the course falls into the big picture, and how it is related to other courses. I change teaching styles. When I am teaching theory, I use slides and colorful figures. When there is problem-solving, I use the whiteboard. I usually switch between the two in one class. Lastly, I try to encourage students to ask questions.

How do you like AUK and Kuwait so far?

What interests me is that although it is relatively new university, AUK is trying to reach the standards set by other American universities in the region. Also since I'm serving in a very new program, this gives me the opportunity to learn a lot and provide me with a sense of stability. I like Kuwait and wanted to be closer to home. There is no language barrier and the system is relatively similar to that of Cairo.

James Goodpasture



Educational background

Four degrees beyond high school – Biology from Stanford University, Bachelors of Science in Nursing from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Masters in Professional Accountancy 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 the hours 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 I enjoyed nursing but I discovered that clinical/bedside nursing is physically taxing, 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 Accountancy. When I was getting my Masters in Accounting in the late 1980s, the Clintons suggested a national health insurance program in the USA. I felt that 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. A lot of my research has to do with healthcare access from a financial viewpoint. I look at healthcare a little differently than most.

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 am at a "free stage" in my life. My children can take care of themselves (or 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 in Saudi Arabia, but the "fit" 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 learners: 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 in class. I ask students to present problems in class; sometimes, students teach one 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 drive-in, all the workers were eating. As I was not in a hurry, I was going to wait until they were done; they invited me to eat with them. I also feel 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 congenial and well-mannered. I have not given any exams yet, so hopefully they are hard workers as well.

Anastasia Kononova



Education background

Graduate degrees in the U.S.: Masters 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 media psychology (I study how media messages affect

people), cross-cultural/international communication and new media. The dissertation study employed the method of experiment to explore how racial stereotyping in online media messages affects the process of making impressions on message characters.

Professional background

Worked as a print journalist and editor in Russia.

How did you hear about AUK?

One of my research interests is in cross-cultural and international communication. It has, to some extent, influenced my decision to work abroad. When on the job market, I was mostly looking for academic opportunities in foreign countries. One of the positions was at AUK. While here, I

plan to study how people in Kuwait use media, especially new communication technologies, and what the needs and motives that shape their media use are. I also should add that I enjoy teaching very much and would like to continue building my career in this area. I applied for the position at AUK because I knew that my American experience in teaching will be appreciated here. I think this university is a good place to become a better teacher.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?

I am trying to have dialogue with students in the classroom. My courses are interactive. Discussion is the basis of effective learning; it helps students develop critical thinking. My courses do not only involve reading textbook chapters and listening to lectures. They are designed for students to understand what has been read or heard, build on it and question it. In addition, one of my teaching goals is to explain to students how they can apply theoretical knowledge of communication and journalism in their professional lives.

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 though this is my first visit to the Gulf, I find it very easy to adjust. People here are very welcoming and helpful. I was also amazed at how diverse this country is.

Mohamad Awad

How did you hear about AUK?

I always wanted to go back to the country I loved, 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 vision and values.

What is your teaching methodology/philosophy?

I see the teacher as a guide to students rather than a knowledge giver. The guide shows the students the way to gain knowledge by providing all necessary key concepts and background understanding of the topic under study. I believe that leaning needs to be enjoyable experience, especially in courses that are related to students' chosen field of study.

Educational Background



Earned the B.A.Sc in electrical and computer engineering (communications option) from University of Windsor (Windsor, 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 Broadband Communications Research Group, University of Waterloo.

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 not only technical but also intellectual skills needed in the engineering field. Intellectual skills are analytical and critical thinking, unbiased judgment, curiosity, and many other qualities of a liberally educated mind which are very important for the success of engineers and computer scientists.