Students Express Themselves…

BY NADA EL-BADRY

On Sunday 25th of March, all students were invited to grab some colorful chalk and draw to their hearts content on the floor of the square in front of the Liberal Arts building as a part of AUK’s International Week. Since it’s not often than an institution inflicts something that would normally be viewed as graffiti - also commonly known as vandalism, students eagerly seized the opportunity to express themselves on AUK’s campus. Both artists and the not-so-artistically inclined joined in the fun and, if you had happened to walk through the Liberal Arts’ main doors between one p.m. and four p.m. on Sunday, you might have seen clusters of students crouched down on the floor, keenly focusing on their art piece. In a country where art and creativity is not as appreciated as it should be, it was truly a heart-warming sight.

The illustrations varied from beautiful drawings, to words of encouragement (“all you need is love”, “better tomorrow”, “peace”, and “know thy self”, among others), to passionate words about current events (“free Syria”, “stop racism” , “stop discrimination”, “stop sexism” and “Kony 2012 is emotional blackmail”) to, finally, students merely expression their sense of humor on the sidewalk (“we’re awesome” and “no woman no cry”, to which someone responded with “no man no cry”). Whether they sketched a picture, expressed a thought or simply drew something for laughs, one thing was clear: the students were not afraid to express themselves on the halls of the American University of Kuwait. Here’s hoping AUK gives us even more opportunities to express ourselves in similar ways!

Meet AUK’s New Dean of Business

BY MAY OMRAN

“How long have you served in this specific field?”

I began my career as an academic and taught both full and part-time for seventeen years. I also worked for a multinational corporation for more thirty years on five continents, primarily in business development.

“What insights have you developed about the American University of Kuwait?”

Anyone who pretends to have great insight after only three works at an institution is not being truthful. However, I have found the faculty and staff to be highly qualified and passionate about their work. I see students who are energetic and purpose driven. And, I find a community atmosphere that is very comfortable. Ask me a year from now for insights.

“In terms of academic infrastructure, how does AUK differ from previous institutions?”

Other than the fact that we have a lot more sand, I wonder if you had happened to AUK’s campus to the US and we have a lot more sand, I wonder if you had happened to AUK’s campus. Both artists and the not-so-artistically inclined joined in the fun and, if you had happened to AUK’s campus to the US and we have a lot more sand, I wonder if you had happened to AUK’s campus.

“What are some of the key elements you believe are essential to be established in an academic institution?”

For the College of Business and Economics, it is simple. Our output must be outstanding graduates who are demanded by employers throughout the world. To accomplish that we need outstanding teaching supplemented by research that keeps our faculty at the top of their profession. To achieve these goals we need to be certain that we carefully focus our resources, and maintain a close external relationship with the business community.

As Dean of the College of Business at AUK, what initiatives do you plan to take?

We are just now in the process of creating the college. I am meeting with our faculty one by one to get their input as to where they see the institution moving. From this, I am gathering many data points that help me understand the needs of the college. Many good ideas have arisen from these conversations, and we are beginning through them in the coming months, and working with our faculty, the administration and our Business Advisory Board to develop short term priorities and a long term strategy.

How do these initiatives fit into the university’s long-term plan?

AUK’s history is as a liberal arts college. Even though we are creating a College of Business, I will not lose sight of our foundation. I believe that for a student to develop a competitive advantage in the business world, a liberal arts background is important.

Do you have any comments to emphasize on?

I spent the last three decades working in the business world. During that time, I was involved in hiring hundreds of university graduates. Those who were most successful after they were hired were those who graduated from programs that challenged them to think and analyze. A university education needs to be demanding. I want our graduates to be so well educated that employers will be begging us to hire them. This means that we will be holding to high standards throughout your tenure at AUK.

Transitional SGA

The Transitional Student Government Association has started operating and is at your service to improve your life here at AUK. We have set forth an agenda for the remainder of the Academic Year. Following are the main points of our agenda: amendment of the SGA constitution, clubs and organizations procedures, teaching methods, restaurants and vending machines inside the university campus, sports and sport teams at AUK, provide student supplies with ease, improve IEP experience.

Allow me to present you with the members and their positions at TSGA: President: Abdal Aziz AL-Mutari, Vice President for Student Affairs: Ahmad AL-Rafai, Secretary: Lateefa Boutaib, Treasurer: Khalid AL-Mutawa, Programming Officer: Kevork Awakihian, Media Officer: Habiba El-Hobal, Public Relations Officer: Somaiah Al-Souri.

BY SUMAIAH AL-SOURI

Dr. Dong Munir, founding Dean of Business & Economics at AUK.


**BY SAEED SYED**

Ever wonder why a 6-cylinder Nissan GTR beats a 10-cylinder Lamborghini in a drag race sometimes? By the end of this read, you will know. Ok, so before I start pushing the presumably boring concept of turbocharged engines in your small and sophisticated brains, the following are 6 - 100 kph timings of some of the most advanced and modern supercars (of course fitted with turbocharged engines in their stomachs):

Bugatti Veyron – 2.5 seconds
Nissan GTR – 2.8 seconds
McLaren MP4-12C – 3.2 seconds
Porsche 911 Turbo S – 3.2 seconds
Pagani Huayra – 3.3 seconds
Mercedes SL 65 AMG – 3.8 seconds

So what makes a Bugatti Veyron one of the fastest cars in the world? Or, what makes a Bugatti Veyron reach 100 kph in just 2.5 seconds (top speed of 431 kph) even if being driven by the dumbest driver in the world? It is just 2.5 seconds (top speed of 431 kph)?

You may just know the answer to the question above by the end of this read. But before that, let’s see why a 6-cylinder Nissan GTR beats a 10-cylinder Lamborghini in a drag race! You may just know the answer to the question above by the end of this read. But before that, let’s see why a 6-cylinder Nissan GTR beats a 10-cylinder Lamborghini in a drag race!

**BY PARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM’11**

Having covered this story in two articles now, I have been paying close attention to just how it pans out since it is a developing one. The world went into frenzy when the news was announced but it seems there is no apparent match for the most fundamental law of physics. So, Albert Einstein will continue to posthumously polish his crown. Personally, it is a bit of a letdown: I honestly thought something innovative would come out of this discovery but like most people, was caught up in the hype.

Scientists have attributed the outstanding results to clever blinding, believing that technical difficulties were behind them. Yet, experts doubt if scientists in the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) will ever accept that it pans out since it is a sensational outcome. Even the news was announced that the experiment; they had to be quarantined as defenseless. Hence, a turbocharger increases engine power and makes his car go faster. Simply it keeps it energized!

**New Meningitis B Vaccine**

Just months ago, news swept across Kuwait of patients suffering from meningitis, a contagious bacterial infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known as meninges. Meningitis B is the type that is highly deadly but also rare. Thankfully, the six cases reported by the Ministry of Health were treated and citizens/residents were reassured that everything was under control. Of course, they had to be quarantined as being around a patient of this disease that so much as talks, coughs or sneezes will render one’s immune system defenseless.

Recently, scientists in Universidad de Chile made a major breakthrough, having developed a successful Meningitis B vaccine that has immunized nearly 100 percent of adolescents tested between the ages of 11 and 17. The disease regularly claims the lives of 170,000 people each year but this finding could change all that. It has been labeled an aggressive virus by the World Health Organization but the South American country does not have such counterparts carried out their own experiment, duplicating what was allegedly done to bring out such a sensational outcome. More specifically, it was a case of a loose fiber-cable. I will not attempt to get into the mechanics of the problem but the bottom line is that there certainly was one! I may just be drawing my own eccentric supposition but I feel like we are at a point in human history when foundational discoveries are not the norm; nowadays, there are merely modifications and/or enhancements of established ones.

Truth be told, it was bordering on the imaginary and it seemed that it was only a matter of time before the claim was falsified. It was even released in a statement put out by the scientists who performed the initial experiments, they reported there having been potential errors in their hardware. It takes great integrity to admit to a mistake of this magnitude. But the good news is that the world can once again have their hopes restored, at least for those who had got on that slower-than-light bandwagon.

Opinions are split about this discovery and as hypotheses are continually suggested, it may have been too early to wave the white flag and call it quits. Some say a chance should have been given to completely verify the results but what must also be kept in mind is that scientists are almost always in the limelight, pressured to deliver, without fail, conclusions to tested theories. This is also where the need for a content to be written and to contain in their defense physicists at CERN did invite their colleagues to affirm the findings. It was a conundrum from the very start but one I was (and still am) happy to write about. There are good and bad things to learn from this episode but I will leave that for you to look into. Debate about the lifeblood of science but it keeps it energized!

**Faster-Than-Light Neutrinos an Error**

In his new book, physicist Brian Cox suggests, neutrinos can travel faster than the speed of light. But now, CERN and Fermilab carry out their own experiments to test Brian Cox’s claims, affirming that it is merely a coincidence and the speed of light is not broken. The news was announced that the experiment; they had to be quarantined as defenseless.

Hence, a turbocharger increases engine power and makes his car go faster. Simply it keeps it energized!

**The Voice of AUK**

The Voice of AUK is a student-run, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communications 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 Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the University of Kuwait. All 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 accept or reject any submission; The Voice of AUK 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.

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The National Bank of Kuwait began its initiative to clean up desert landscape in early last December that brought together volunteers to clean up campsites in the desert landscape in Kuwait. It continued through March and aimed to restore and preserve the beauty of an area of this country that many consider an enjoyment. The National Bank of Kuwait season takes place around these four months and the extremely pleasant weather enable people to experience the whole more worthwhile. After all, the scenery and beauty form part of the world does not exactly hard people a lot of options to choose from so we definitely should make the most of the ones we have been enjoying, safe cleaning.

People in Kuwait definitely know how to have a good time but not so good at tiding up after themselves – I have personally witnessed this at several of our beaches, in mid- ocean and wherever there is an abundance of large dunes of sand because garbage is frequently collected around them. There is an insatiable habit of littering in this country, but credit is due to NBK for orchestrating a movement that will lessen some of the collateral damage to the desert environment. Of course, awareness should be raised but that requires planning of its own. Upon arriving, it is no doubt a disheartening display of rubbish but the team went right to work. With garbage bags and bins in hand made available by Think Twice, a nationwide campaign with the same goal in mind, they proceeded with collecting debris left at desert surroundings that negatively affect the habit and make for a dusty sight. At times, harmful waste is left behind that would be made amok an otherwise fertile region, incapable of supporting various forms of plants who went on site, where NBK volunteers began the campaign, responded positively to their efforts and joined them. They need to be integral components of the solution.

This is essentially the first step towards education people who camp out frequently by having one-on-one conversations with them. This is part of the mission to take better care of our country’s environment. Of course, as mentioned earlier, measures need to be taken at some point to prevent these actions. No rule could have been any simpler: do not litter.

BY YARAJ AL-SHAMALI, AUR ALUM

The National Bank of Kuwait

BY DINA EL-ZOHARY & NUR SOLOMAN

Amr Khaled Speaks at Islamic Conference

The crowd that turned out for Dr. Amr Khaled’s lecture was huge; in fact, every seat in the University of Science and Technology (GUST) auditorium was taken, overwhelmingly by students who were expected for the world’s most popular and influential Muslim television personalities, the former government, to the highest number of people who listen to his stories of every knowledge byte he crossed. When he willingly left Egypt ten years ago, he was heading into the unknown. Too tempting as it was to stay with his family and keep his well-paying job, doing so would have been at the expense of bringing his hidden potential to maturity. Moving from England to Saudi Arabia to Lebanon, Khaled knew little what the future held in store for him. He would soon become an internationally known speaker and presenter of several successful TV programs. Had he chosen to remain an accountant, his primary profession which he didn’t particularly like, he wouldn’t have been here today. As Khaled explained, you find your calling in life by one of two ways: an expert will tell you what works for you, or, more commonly, you will strive to discover your hidden treasure until it reveals itself.

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, THE VOICE OF AUK

Amr Khaled explained, you find your calling in life by one of two ways: an expert will tell you what works for you, or, more commonly, you will strive to discover your hidden treasure until it reveals itself. Such experts are hard to find today, but the Prophets (PBUH) knew exactly where each of his companions fit best and guided them accordingly. For example, Khalid Bin Walid, dubbed “The Drawn Sword of God”, belonged to the battlefield. Abdullah Bin Mas’ud is one of the four, most-trusted Quran scholars. Umar Ibn Khatab (RA) became one of the righteously-guided caliphs, while Bilal was appointed as the Messenger of God’s sworn.

Another story illustrates the Prophet’s wisdom in regards to channelling youth’s energy into something beneficial. On the day Muslims entered Makkah, laughter was heard from the people of Quraysh as a young man mocked Bilal’s voice as he recited the call to prayer. The Prophet summoned him. He did not scold him as expected, but instead offered him to be Makkah’s mu’immar, which he gladly accepted. A message to parents: don’t suppress your children’s talents by asking them to focus on what is more important in your view. If your child draws well, help them develop their art skills. If they’re good with words, sign them up for the school’s football team. You shouldn’t know what your child is destined to become, so help bring out the best in them. Help them find their treasure early on in life.

Every Friday, we are asked to read Surat Al-Kahf (The Cave) to reflect, understand, and implement its teachings—not to mention reaping a reward. Its 110 verses tell the stories of men who implement these teachings—nor do the doers, not watchers. The Companions of the Cave took refuge in a cave from an unjust ruler to protect their religious beliefs. Prophet Musa (AS) set out on a long journey to meet Al-Khdir, a man who had knowledge that he was not granted. Dhu-Qarnayn (the two-horned king) traveled from east to west for the purpose of fulfilling its mission to take better care of their country’s environment. Of course, as mentioned earlier, measures need to be taken at some point to prevent these actions. No rule could have been any simpler: do not litter.
April Events

April 1, 1867 – Singapore becomes a British crown colony.

April 3, 1922 – Joseph Stalin became the first General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

April 3, 1948 – President Harry Truman signs the Marshall Plan which authorizes $5 billion in aid for 16 countries.

April 10, 1998 – Politicians in Northern Ireland reached an agreement aimed at ending 30 years of violence which had claimed over 3,400 lives. Under the agreement, Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland would govern together in a new 108-member Belfast assembly, thus ending 26 years of "direct rule" from London.

April 12, 1961 – Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person in space.

April 14, 1865 – President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C. He died the next day.

April 30, 1975 – The Vietnam War ends with the fall of Saigon (later renamed Ho Chi Minh City).
Why Hunger Should Be Your Cause

BY FAYHAA AL-Hashah

A stranded palm tree disregarded at no distinctive place in the desert waves its dry leaves vigorously, penetrating new heights of darkness, and waves as a sign of life and perseverance. The forgotten palm tree struggles each day, but doesn’t stop believing in its passion for the rain and water. It believes that its passion has reason and that is enough to justify its meaningful existence. If the palm tree stopped believing that the rain would eventually reach its soil, that would be the day the water never came back.

We, the people, don’t have a story very much different from the palm tree because we all have a dream, a passion. Deep within us, beneath the thick skin that covers our hearts is a reason we wake up – even if some days we painfully wake up to a blare of our fortune. Fatima Al Mosawi always had big aspirations which she wasn’t able to express while she was pursing her undergraduate and postgraduate education in the UK. However, when she returned to Kuwait, she knew that she was now ready to grow into her dreams which, at some points in her life, seemed bigger than her, more than she could envision. Fatima Al Mosawi is now the founder of Spread the Passion, an organization that recruits volunteers for community service. Fatima believed that giving back to the community is a duty for all.

Fatima’s passion originated from the culture she was brought up in. She discussed how volunteering in the UK was part of who people were, it was part of their life instead of an opportunity. When she started Spread the Passion, she got up to 60 volunteers, most of which were Kuwaiti. She addressed this statistic as a pleasant surprise, and she elaborated wholeheartedly on the fact that people wanted to volunteer and participate in the gradual change of the world, but they were waiting for someone to guide them and set the path for them – they were waiting for the opportunity to spread the passion.

Although Fatma stressed the fact repeatedly that a country can be judged by its sense of community and responsibly, she believed that community service must not be mandatory, but rather come out of deep-rooted, intrinsic motivation. Her mission is not to obligate the duty of community service, but to plant the awareness of giving back to people’s hearts. Fatima followed her dream and connected people; she changed many people’s lives by making this generosity a part of it. She never gave her dreams away, and her education first. Because she had a perception of priority. Fatima was patient and she waited for the right time and place. That is what dreams are about: everlasting patience and fortitude.

The more mention of the word “political” is bound to make many teenagers or university-level students fall asleep. Ask them if the members of the Kuwaiti Parliament or the ministers are doing a good job, they would probably just echo what their friends or family say, either completely uninterested or with a complete lack of understanding and research. However, if we asked university students about segregating schools and universities or who to vote for in the next Student Government Association campaign for example – they could go on for hours. But surely that’s politics, too? It’s a question of the chicken and the egg. Have university students switched off from the world of politics because they have no need to know about it, or because they’re just too oblivious to the world in general? It’s plausible to say that these students are barely aware enough about politics, and that they don’t know what’s right or wrong and they wouldn’t think – with reason – about why governmental decisions are made. Nevertheless, it is understandable that the true reason why there is such a huge lack in true political understanding within Kuwait amongst Kuwaiti youth is because there is no real inlet or outlet for politics for their age groups; there is no true active participation.

During the 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Kuwait, a vast majority of our youth’s population joined hand in hand to campaign for their preferred candidates, either because they are related to them, or they (or their families) have a good peer connection to them. Nevertheless, they might just prefer this candidate over others because they have put in the time and the effort into listening to their ideas and researching their achievements and educational records. However, I must say a minority actually did see this reason. Being our culturally-devoted society is so attached to family and peer commitment that it has overcome their reasoning, logic and wisdom in making the choices for our country’s benefits. Voting for a candidate based on an emotional attachment due to a promise or giving your word to a family member or a friend makes it a very much biased choice, regardless of who you know best. Citizens need to understand that inside the locked in 4-walled voting room on an election day, the only people that are in it are the individual voters, and judges behind individual counters that have no right to interfere with the little piece of paper that consists of candidate names. No one can see or know, so why the emotional commitment? Why are voters promising to vote without doing well-enough research or hearing out their candidates? It starts with our youth, our younger better educated and more experienced youth, they have the better advantage to do the better research, to take note and hear out what the candidates have to say, it is in the hands of the youth to differentiate between the well benefits for our country and the ones that can harm us. The youth may not know this, but they are the guide to educating the society with the right choices.

Other aspects that affect choice-making is the inevitable tribal and religious stereotypical belief. Voters think that if the candidates that relate to their tribe or religion, they will be more beneficial to them as a religious or tribal group. Little do they know that voting merely for the sake of stereotypes is not only a selfish act, but if this choice is bound to benefit only a certain sector of the society, then it is bound to cause rioting and uprising in other sectors that are not treated equally, and permanently eliminating the idea of equality, justice and even peace within the society.

The main idea is, our youth and our generation should be more educated and aware with today’s world of politics. It should start in academic places, such as the university, for example, allowing the students’ voices and opinions to be heard with respect to an opposing opinion or suggestion from peers and staff alike, or getting students involved with political movements and events (and I have to say that the American University of Kuwait is doing a very good job at this). However, with that being said, there are a few things the university should bear in mind, some clubs and organizations can or even may (although they may not seem to) represent a stereotypical group, which can cause an uprising and discrimination amongst students. Universities should be aware of the clubs and organizations on campus and what they may represent. After all, the main goal is to keep our youth in an academic environment that promotes justice, equality, freedom of speech and free will for the better future of our people, country and even our world.

The next time you complain about your food, remember that millions of people out there go for months without a decent meal. And even when they can eat, it is never exactly dinner at the Ritz. They have to plow through life, living on the margins of organized society and hoping that help will soon find them. People of these impoverished regions are victims of corruption – talk about first-world problems to them and they are likely to grinace. I have long pursued the humanitarian route and what I find is people refusing to give or sponsor aid and/or relief operations because those benefitting are not of the same religion or are in support of a fraudulent political system. And so, my sausage благи: It is a wonder to me why this message still needs to be put to people but we should seek to help others despite all of that. You see, doors are opening for the first time ever. Everyone want to help others despite all of that. You see, doors are opening for the first time ever. Everyone want to help others despite all of that.
Thirty years on and the Louvre Museum is still in possession of priceless Egyptian artifacts. I may just be beating a dead horse but Egyptian artifacts should consider materializing their rightful return. You have instances such as this; when historical objects are flagrantly stolen without any sort of serious attempts to regain them by the party that claims ownership. And then, there are similar issues that are riddled with sensitivity and an endless struggle. Some countries are not equipped for the building of museums and hosting scores of tourists to marvel at national relics.

As I carry out this description, one obvious nation should come to mind, the artifacts of which can take up acres upon acres of land. You guessed it: Iraq.

But once again, instability is all forms bar it from achieving the way to the supposed truth behind a murder. This character had appeared previously in what could be considered a prequel to The Da Vinci Code, where the main character, Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor and symbologist, finds himself caught up in a once-in-a-lifetime adventure full of ancient symbols and ancient clues to the way the supposed truth behind a murder.


Where There's a War, There's a Virtual Museum

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM '11

By Nada El-Badry

Hello, my name is... - irrelevant to what I have to say. If you read, you will understand that there's no need for my identity to be declared. Two years ago I hated myself. I hated my friends; I hated my family; I hated myself. I hated every breath of book. I blamed fate for every wrong in my life and I had no problem over giving it over again. I was depressed and looked for joy in trivial, superficial things.

Two years ago I went to sleep one night and woke up not feeling like myself. The feeling evolved further and deeper. A few days later I was totally ill. I could not breathe right. I wouldn't eat as my throat was too closed.

I could not sleep when I thought of my days and nights occupied with being a prisoner, and when I thought of my days and nights being a prisoner, I could not believe what was happening to me. In my twisted view of reality, I was the last thing I deserved. It was the universe trying to serve me a lesson, and me, I thought, was not even aware of it. I saw walking to the bathroom was as tiring as running to the finish line. I could not believe what was happening to me. I turned my head in a lazy slow motion to see a short old man in a hospital gown offering me a red soap bar. He did not have a single hair on his head but all white silver-like hairs. He had a very Albert Einstein sort of look about him that was so distinct long shaggy hair and big silver mustache. With an eyebrow raised I kindly refused his offering. Refusing to end the conversation he asked, "So what do you have? You sick or just trying to skip school?" he said with a poker face ever pretending to have the foggiest clue what the hell they were going to do. It was like pinning the tail on the donkey; basically. After the test I started getting sicker and turning from a patient with a decaying soul and prodded till they found the answer they wanted, stick a name on it, and send me home.

My depression grew with my pain and after a long time with my sense of interest in what they wanted to test me, they took me to the hospital. This symbolized that I was still sick, that I was still flawed and I had to be fixed. So every time I got wheel chair back in it, I turned my head in a lazy slow motion to see "Silver Mustache" and he simply declared. Two years ago I went to seek help for my identity to be declared. So, I asked a friend specifically to tell me how to get somewhere to somewhere to somewhere to somewhere to somewhere.

I got less sick with time but it wasn't easy all at it. I had to literally learn to walk all over again, since I had lost all balance in my body. I lost seemed like a mile to me. I got better I learned the true meaning of suffering as long as you make your own rules just like you. I learned not to take things for granted, as cliched as it sounds. I learned that there's nothing such as injustice as long as you make your own rules. I learned that God can take everything away from you at any given second, and you can't do a damn thing about it. At first this concept scared me, but it really meant that you should make the best of everything and everyone and every god.

I learned that you are not what kind of car you drive or how much sport are not what kind of car you have in your pocket, you are not what kind of hat you wear or how much you pay for your outfit. You are not what kind of car can you drive or how much sport can you do. You are a drop of heavy piece of carbon with a soul, sharing that soul is the only thing that makes you different as a rock.

Finally, walking out of the hospital door I learned that death is a part of life. I learned that fact struggling with its steps to the car, as I saw "Silver Mustache" being rushed back to the hospital on a stretcher, with blood running down the side of his mouth. It's been two years since Silver Mustache died. I got his son's number from a nurse that, let's just say, owed me a favor; but that's another story. I am having lunch with his son today, just because he got just back from where he had to go. I asked his son specifically not to tell me his family name and to always refer to him as either "dad" or the nickname, which is still quite hated. When he finally came to ask me what my own name was, I smirked and after a long silence and some thought, I finally answered, "I am Patient 107."
Feedback to Writing Center – Spring 2012

Helpful! Great! A confidence boost before my exam! – Sara Eng 415.
This is the best appointment I ever had. – Netol Eng 103.
The Writing Center helped me so much – AIOthman IEP 2.
It was so helpful. Thanks a lot. – Alaa’102.

7 Tips for Student Writers

1. Start writing early: free write, outline, map ideas, type notes, start writing at the place in your paper where you have the most information, have a conversation about your paper topic with a classmate or professor, and read as much as you can about your topic.
2. Make sure your paper is organized. Give it a clear beginning, middle, and end. Use transitions and let your reader follow your ideas.
3. Follow directions!!! Read the assignment sheet carefully. If there is no assignment sheet, visit your professor’s office hours and verify her or his expectations. Make sure your essay answers the questions, or follows the assigned tasks in the assigned format. If you don’t know what these are - ASK!
4. First impressions matter: make the first page sparkle. If a reader struggles to understand your thesis, or any of your ideas because of wording, grammar, or unclear sentences, or if your readers see typos or obvious mistakes, especially on the first page, they might immediately make judgments about the entire essay. Start strong! (Of course, continue strong, and finish strong!)
5. Get feedback: go to a professor, a classmate, or the Writing Center for their responses to your writing.
6. Revise: revise from a printed out hard copy, read your work out loud to yourself, have a dictionary and your writer’s handbook (don’t have one? Get one!).
7. Walk in the footsteps of the masters: Read more! Look for examples of writing that you like or respect, and analyze what makes this writing good. Try to identify some of the things you notice these writers doing in their work, and try to use these techniques in your own writing. Writing is a craft. It takes practice. It is also a way of exploring ideas, and sharing what you learned with others. It is a way of building communities. It is a way of building knowledge, which is the ultimate goal of any university.

Start Reading Like a Professor

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

BY DINA AL-QASSER

Have you ever wondered why Harry has a scar on his forehead, and Quasimodo is a hunchback? Why the 33-year-old shepherd ends up being injured, maybe even crucified? OK, maybe you haven’t thought about that before, but you definitely should start listening to what the author is trying to tell you. Although you might enjoy a book without understanding these connections, recognizing them would make your reading far more enjoyable. And I promise it’s not as boring as it seems! Well, at least if you read Professor Thomas C. Foster’s absolutely amazing and insightful book “How to Read Literature Like A Professor”, you’ll be reading literature with completely different eyes.

The main concept that Dr. Foster discusses is Intertextuality, the fact that no work or piece of literature is 100% original, that’s why you have to look for patterns when reading. Intertextuality helps you understand the work you’re reading more, therefore adding depth to your reading. He states that all allusions and inspirations from Biblical, Shakespearean, from Greek or Roman mythology, folklore, etc. Examples include the story of creation of Adam and Eve, or Jesus Christ, Julius Caesar or Hamlet, Persepone and her pomegranate seeds, or Cinderella and Hansel and Gretel. Even if you don’t know these allusions, Professor Foster explains the main ones in a very explicit way that would give you the basic knowledge, in addition there is a list of books at the end that would help you with it.

This book is one that you really won’t regret reading, one that you’ll have many “ahh” moments. That’s why you should go and give it a try. And just keep in mind that “irony trumps everything.”

BY THE WRITING CENTER

I love the Spring! The sun is shining, weather is warmer. Those gorgeous and summery fashions from the magazines will soon be all at rage at AUK. Before you get on that Catwalk, think about the appropriateness of your fashion statement. Please remember that we have a DRESS CODE! There are VOLUNTEER FASHION POLICE responsible for ensuring that students abide by the CODE. We have a CODE because not everyone can wear all the latest fashions not because you may not look good in that style made for a bean pole and you have a pear shape, but because modesty is the order of the day. Guys can wear short sleeve and shorts must be of appropriate length. Those really cute leggings if the smock ends right shoulder. Those really cute leggings if the smock ends right before, but you definitely should start listening to what the author is trying to tell you. Although you might enjoy a book without understanding these connections, recognizing them would make your reading far more enjoyable. And I promise it’s not as boring as it seems! Well, at least if you read Professor Thomas C. Foster’s absolutely amazing and insightful book “How to Read Literature Like A Professor”, you’ll be reading literature with completely different eyes.

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BY DR. CAROL ROSS

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Reconsidered from an Old Voice Article

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It’s in you to give!

Please support the Voice of AUK’s Spring 2012 Blood Drive

Donor beds will be fully segregated.

Pre-donation screening process takes time, so please come early.

Thursday 03 May 10am-4pm
Multipurpose Room