

By Rama Sabano

Whoever described the general orientation process as "bo-orientation" must have been out of their mind. Speaking from the perspective of an AUK student, and an orientation leader, this writer felt that the well-planned orientation was anything but boring! In fact, the newcomers were on their toes all day, which was good because during the placement exam, the students seemed more alert. The staff of Student Affairs and the Testing Center encountered various obstacles throughout the day, yet managed to tackle these problems with skill, professionalism and more importantly as one team. Also had it not been for the combined efforts of Theodore Kruse, Alia al-Asaad and Fatma Hayat, the orientation would have been in absolute chaos.

Three days prior to the event, workshops were held by the staff of Student Affairs to train veteran AUK students who had volunteered to become orientation leaders. They were given instructions on where to go, and how to conduct themselves during the upcoming event. These soon to be leaders were bombarded with large amounts of information in such a short span of time, and yet they were able to quickly step into their roles and excel in their performance during orientation. Dr. Carol Ross-Black later rewarded each volunteer with an official AUK maroon colored t-shirt; the words "Fear the Wild Cats" imprinted on them.

The orientation was spread over the time frame of 2 consecutive days starting on September 9. New students checked in from 8 am to 9 am, before being ushered into the Multipurpose room and library for a short welcome delivered by the President, Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Ross-Black and SGA President, Jawaher Ali-Redha, after which the students headed out to the soccer field where their pictures were taken by Ms. Fatma Khamis, AUK's official photographer. At 10 am, the students were escorted to the computer labs for their English and math placement tests. After the tests and the lunch break, the students headed to their respective groups and classrooms for 'ice-breakers' – sessions where the new students got to familiarize themselves with each other and with the orientation leaders. The students were also given a brief tour of the campus, followed by short presentations that had basic information about the university life. Some of the students then continued, and ended their day with advising that took place in the Multipurpose room whilst others got the chance to register, and get their schedules for the fall semester in order. On September 10, the rest of the students received their advising, followed by more information sessions. A barbeque was set up outside the library for lunch and later in the afternoon the students set off to Cosmo's virtual bowling alley to enjoy the last social activity of orientation. Orientation was wrapped up with the parents meeting which was held in the multipurpose room, where the parents were briefed on the university's policies and overall system.



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AUK Provides Haven for Students Fleeing Lebanon

By Dina El-Zohairy

In light of the political and humanitarian crisis in Lebanon, the academic careers of many students in Lebanese universities were disrupted and for many it was a turning point in their lives. Those who were able to flee the war-struck country had to find an alternative place to go to until it was safe to return. AUK served as a feasible alternative for many students, especially those currently studying at the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese American University.

Through the Admissions Office, students were admitted to AUK as either visiting or transfer students. Visiting students may take courses for up to two semesters, and then have the option of either going back to their home university or of staying on and enrolling as regular students. Transfer students, however, whose admis-

sion procedures are more complex, have their awarded credits transferred in order to continue their studies and graduate from AUK. The Admissions personnel took into consideration the fact that the students applying probably had all their original papers back in Lebanon and could hardly communicate with their university's Registrar office. Therefore, the procedures were simplified and copies of required documents accepted.

Hasnaa Saab, a student majoring in Communication Arts at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, is one of many Lebanese university students who have come to AUK. Having lived and graduated from high school in Kuwait, she preferred AUK to the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where she had also applied and been accepted. Regarding her graduation plan, Hasnaa will continue her studies at AUK only if most or all of her 18 transfer credits are awarded.

Speaking of the transition, Hasnaa optimistically assures that "[it] was okay for me and I hope my career in AUK will be better than LAU".

She is also one of hundreds who fled the country by car and then flew safely from Jordan to Kuwait, where her family is living. Hasnaa recommends introducing the Communication Arts major to AUK and she admits liking the university so far, stating, "I have lots of friends here and I like it more everyday".

It was not only Lebanese students who sought educational refuge in AUK, but also Kuwaiti students who were studying in Lebanon at their own expense or as part of an external government scholarship granted by the Ministry of Higher Education. But all students coming in from Lebanon shared common ground: all had reluctantly left their studies there because of circumstances beyond their control.

Attention Students

Please note that class timings for undergraduate classes are going to remain the same until 5:00 PM during Ramadan. Any class regularly scheduled at 5:00 PM or later will be moved ahead two hours as indicated below:

Days	Regular Schedule		Ramadan Schedule	
	Start	End	Start	End
SMW	PM 05:00	PM 05:50	PM 07:00	PM 07:50
SMW	PM 06:00	PM 06:50	PM 08:00	PM 08:50
SMW	PM 07:00	PM 07:50	PM 09:00	PM 09:50
SMW	PM 08:00	PM 08:50	PM 10:00	PM 10:50
UT	PM 05:00	PM 06:15	PM 07:00	PM 08:15
UT	PM 06:30	PM 07:45	PM 08:30	PM 09:45

For timing of Intensive English classes during Ramadan, students should consult their instructors or Ms. Margaret Combs.

Food & drinks will be provided by Student Affairs and SGA on campus daily for fasting students.



Financial Aid for AUK Students

The Ministry of Higher Education announces new scholarship program.

By Dina El-Zohairy

This year for the first time in Kuwait, the Ministry of Higher Education announced an internal scholarship program for Kuwaiti nationals. The Ministry is known to offer yearly scholarships for academically talented Kuwaiti nationals who yearn to continue their studies in universities abroad.

Current AUK students, diploma holders and high school graduates applied in hope of being awarded the scholarship, which covers the cost of Intensive English courses in addition to the four-year program leading to a Bachelor's degree.

Students, who would only have to pay for their books each semester, could only apply to one of the three private, accredited learning institutions

in Kuwait, namely AUK, ACK and GUST.

The scholarship program was rolled out in two phases, each aimed at different student categories. The first phase began on the 1st of July and lasted for three weeks, during which period almost 200 students approached the Office of Admissions to apply. 157 students received the scholarship, of whom 140 have become part of the AUK family either as undergraduate or Intensive English students.

Diploma holders from PAAET (a public academic institution in Kuwait) and ACK in addition to summer graduates were eligible to apply during the second phase of the program, which started on the 27th of August and only lasted until the 6th of September. Since the

total number of AUK seats earmarked for scholarship recipients was only 35, the number of students who applied was also smaller.

Overall, the program posed a challenge for every administrative department at AUK but especially for the Admissions Office, whose employees regularly stayed late at work and came in on Thursday mornings as well.

In coordination with the Private Universities Council, AUK staff and student workers did a great job and were motivated to work through to the very last day. It is anticipated that the next scholarship programs will proceed in a smoother way after the experience gained from this summer's.

Keeping the Finances in Order

By Dina El-Zohairy

In light of the new finance regulations, Mr. Prem Kumar, Director of Finance, was interviewed to further explain and clarify the reasons behind the three major regulations, which will be implemented starting September 2006. The Finance Department has recently printed a brochure containing detailed information about the calculation of tuition fees and the methods of payment. It can be collected from the Finance Department or the Admissions Office.

Firstly, it is important to be familiar with the tasks carried out by the finance personnel. Their mission is to serve AUK community in the financial aspects, and their "prestigious clients", as Mr. Kumar stated, "are AUK students." Their day-to-day duties entail budgeting, costing, and banking. They are also responsible for collecting tuition fees when due – a challenging task, the difficulty of which has led to the introduction of new regulations.

Regarding methods of payment, paying in monthly installments is an available option, in addition to NBK loans

for Kuwaitis, or paying the full sum at once. Until now, the installment charge has been 10 KD per semester, regardless of the number of installments. Since it is difficult for some parents to pay the fees in two or three installments, such cases are allowed a slightly different installment plan that fits with their financial situation. In an attempt to achieve fair treatment of all parents following the deferred payment scheme, the charge has changed. Starting in Fall 2006, 10 KD will be charged per installment instead. So parents who pay the fees in three installments will be charged 30 KD, and so on.

The second regulation deals with late payments. In the past, a grace period of two weeks was allowed before placing a financial hold on the student's account; no extra fee was charged. This, however, has not helped nor has it encouraged students to pay on time. Therefore, any payment paid later than the due date will be charged an extra 25 KD.

Finally, a new deregistration process will be implemented in the future, in which students who do not pay at least a third

of the tuition fees or make any effort to contact the finance department when classes begin will automatically be dropped from their courses by the system.

Talking of money matters, the issue of student workers' salaries was raised. Mr. Kumar commented that the 2 KD per hour was the rate decided upon by the President's cabinet and if students are not satisfied with their salaries, their official representative, SGA, could make a proposal to the Board of Trustees for increasing the rate, which many students think is not appreciative enough.

Mr. Kumar stressed that everyone in the department strives to provide the best service for AUK students by looking for ways to make life easier for them, so their cooperation by paying fees on time is expected in return. So if you pay fees on time you have got nothing to worry about regarding the new regulations.

Segregation is the Law

As noted in the catalog on page 24, "Asperlawno. 34 of 2000 on the 'Establishment of Private Universities: in the State of Kuwait (Article 6), private universities/colleges and branches of foreign universities shall abide by the following:

1. Operate its buildings to ensure gender segregation in all departments, disciplines, and student activities.

2. Observe Islamic values and time-honored traditions in

relation to students' costumes and activities.

Some students may have decided to attend AUK because being modeled after the American higher education system, they may have figured AUK would not segregate because it is not done in America. Others now realize we do segregate at AUK because they were dropped when they registered for single-gender class but happened not to be part of that gender! Some may

not care one way or the other. Some opinions may favor segregation and there is nothing wrong with such opinions. Others may think the concept is old fashioned. After all, at private school there was no segregation.

The fact of the matter is that AUK must abide by the laws of Kuwait. Students are well within their rights to debate this issue. It is not going away and until it does, AUK will abide!

Just "Click" and Check It Out

By Fahad al-Tukhaim

What if you had a universal remote that controlled your universe? Haven't we all indulged ourselves in that fantasy every now and then? Haven't we all dreamed about controlling time? Well, guess what? It isn't all fun and games—as you may find out after watching Adam Sandler's latest summer blockbuster, *Click!*

Thanks to director Frank Coraci, Sandler still delivers the goods' Happy-Gilmore-style. And I believe that shows shades of vintage Sandler, which is always good for the legion of loyal fans who've been with him since day one—this writer being one of them of course!

The movie basically revolves around a "universal remote" which controls the life of whoever owns it. As radically cool as that sounds, things go wrong... BIG TIME!

It is always fun to laugh at the expense of someone's troubles, but get ready to cry in this one. This movie is not simply one big sci-fi trip for it also serves

to the silver screen. Who could ever forget The Wedding Singer? Speaking of which, fans of 80's music will recognize some hits from The Cars, Tears for Fears and more by listening to the soundtrack of the movie. Again, it would not have been a Coraci masterpiece without some old school tunes.

Click features a distinctively dynamic cast ranging from Christopher Walken to David "Knight Rider" Hasselhoff! Not only that, but Hollywood's beautiful celebrity, Kate Beckinsale, serves as major eye-candy!

Of all the movies that I've seen lately, *Click* is my favorite of the bunch. True, I might not be doing all the others any justice by making such a bold statement, but you know what they say; seeing is believing. And I believe that once you've seen it, you'll know what I mean.



Maki Makes Waves

By Fouz al-Sabah

To the delight of many Maki addicts, Maki has finally opened another branch in the most recent addition to Marina World. The new Maki is now situated in Marina Waves, which is right between Marina Crescent and the Salwa Sabah al-Ahmed Multipurpose Hall. Maki goers were pleasantly surprised to find out that the recent location is a tremendous change from the old cramped one in central Salmiya. It boasts sea-side views from both sides of the restaurants with ceiling to floor windows. The interior still has the original Maki flair, darkened walls with wooden

emphasis all around.

With the new spot comes a new menu. Maki consistently makes sure to update its Japanese fusion creations by designing original platters. The Mango Maki for example was a fresh summer addition; lightly wrapped with an assortment of condiments it features a tangy sweet mango sauce. The Marina Salad signifies Maki's innovative presentation. This is served on top of a goldfish in a bowl. And not to mention that the salad is as good as the way it's served.

Maki is known for its incredible customer loyalty and that can be seen from the various Maki rolls that customers have

designed themselves. AUK student's such as Sara Taha designed the Taha Maki, "I was encouraged by my friends and Maki staff to create my own Maki roll. I went into the kitchen and picked out my favorite bits and pieces to make the roll. I mainly focused on the sauce since it determines the taste of my creation."

Even though the seating has nearly doubled make sure you have a reservation a couple of days in advance. Maki mania is the place to be for amazing food, service, and now an amazing view.

For reservations call 224-4560 or visit www.olivermaki.com



The news by students, for students.

Editorial Board

Dina El-Zohairy
Fatmah Hussein al-Qadfan
Noufa Ali al-Sabah
Sara al-Farhan

Opinion and Editorial Policy

The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions must be emailed to editor@voiceofauk.com.

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 no later than five days before that issue is scheduled to appear.

The views expressed in opened columns 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 material, in accordance with the Voice Stylesheet. Writers have the right to withdraw submissions at any time prior to publication.

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The Voice of AUK

The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through June, on or about the 15th of the month. The Voice is published in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements are published from time to time over the course of the academic year.

For advertising information, send email to sales@voiceofauk.com. Advertising deadline for regular issues is the 10th of each month. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Opinions expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

American University of Kuwait

Dean's Honor List

Spring 2006

It is my pleasure to announce the Dean's Honor List for the Spring 2006 Semester.

In order to be honored with inclusion in the Dean's Honor List, a student must meet several important academic conditions including a cumulative semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher. The students listed below have achieved an excellent scholastic record during the Spring 2006 semester and their fine work is certainly worthy of recognition.

Being placed on the Dean's Honor List is a source of considerable pride and satisfaction to the students, their families, and their professors. On behalf of the American University of Kuwait, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them continued success in their studies.

Sincerely,
Marina A. Tolmacheva
President
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
American University of Kuwait

<i>Engy Abbas</i>	<i>Ebrahim al-Hajri</i>	<i>Abdullah al-Qatami</i>	<i>Mada Hammoud</i>
<i>Abdalla AbdelRahman</i>	<i>Athari al-Hamli</i>	<i>Abdulla al-Rahmani</i>	<i>Mirae Hanna</i>
<i>Amani Abdul-Rahman</i>	<i>Khaled al-Hashem</i>	<i>Mariam al-Rayes</i>	<i>Mustafa Husain</i>
<i>Rami Abdulsalam</i>	<i>Dalal al-Hendi</i>	<i>Hussa al-Refaie</i>	<i>Noaf Hussien</i>
<i>Maya Abou-Ismail</i>	<i>Norah al-Hilaly</i>	<i>Tareq al-Rifaai</i>	<i>Noor Kortom</i>
<i>Rawan Abulhasan</i>	<i>Sarah al-Hilaly</i>	<i>Dalal al-Sabah</i>	<i>Ahmed Lotfy</i>
<i>Ahmad Adi</i>	<i>Taiba al-Humaidhi</i>	<i>Fouz al-Sabah</i>	<i>Sami Maan</i>
<i>Mirna Agaibey</i>	<i>Anwaar al-Ibrahim</i>	<i>Hissa al-Sabah</i>	<i>Nizar Mashal</i>
<i>Kheiriyeh Ahmadi</i>	<i>Noora al-Ibrahim</i>	<i>Maryam al-Sabah</i>	<i>Fahad Mohammad</i>
<i>Amna Akbar</i>	<i>Ala'a Ali-Reda</i>	<i>Munira al-Sabah</i>	<i>Nawaf Najia</i>
<i>Ghada al-AbdulAaly</i>	<i>Jawaher Ali-Redha</i>	<i>Noufa al-Sabah</i>	<i>Maryam Naseeb</i>
<i>Bibi al-Ahmed</i>	<i>Ala'a al-Kadri</i>	<i>Noura al-Sabah</i>	<i>Mays Naser</i>
<i>Noura al-Aleiwi</i>	<i>Hamad al-Khader</i>	<i>Basma al-Sanee</i>	<i>Valentina Noronha</i>
<i>Daniya Alam</i>	<i>Fahad al-Kharafi</i>	<i>Manaf al-Sawaha</i>	<i>Hussein Nour-Elddine</i>
<i>Lulwa al-Anjari</i>	<i>Shoug al-Khatrash</i>	<i>Muneera al-Sirhan</i>	<i>Naser Quortom</i>
<i>Sara al-Ateeqi</i>	<i>Adla al-Madahka</i>	<i>Abdullah al-Wanayan</i>	<i>Rama Sabano</i>
<i>Areej al-Bader</i>	<i>Fawaz al-Maghrabi</i>	<i>Hanan al-Yousef</i>	<i>Emad Salamah</i>
<i>Maryam al-Bahar</i>	<i>Dalia al-Mahmood</i>	<i>Dana al-Zayed</i>	<i>Sally Saleh</i>
<i>Abrar al-Baqsam</i>	<i>Somaya al-Masri</i>	<i>Arij Awais</i>	<i>Amro Sarhan</i>
<i>Hebah al-Duaij</i>	<i>Nasser al-Monawer</i>	<i>Mubina Chogule</i>	<i>Khaled Shaaban</i>
<i>Ahmad al-Enezi</i>	<i>Abdulaziz al-Mossalem</i>	<i>Dania Dabliz</i>	<i>Shereen Shaheen</i>
<i>Latifa al-Falah</i>	<i>Abdulla al-Mulaiji</i>	<i>Christine El-Asmar</i>	<i>Mohammed Sulaiman</i>
<i>Sara al-Farhan</i>	<i>Noof al-Muzaini</i>	<i>Mohamed El-Kuishawy</i>	<i>Abdulla Taki</i>
<i>Abdulrahman al-Farra</i>	<i>Rawan al-Muzaini</i>	<i>Omar Elkuka</i>	<i>Amal Tawakuli</i>
<i>Nour al-Fulaij</i>	<i>Mishari al-Odah</i>	<i>Nour El-Shamsy</i>	<i>Suheil Taye'a</i>
<i>Enjood al-Ghanim</i>	<i>Fatmah al-Qadfan</i>	<i>Dina El-Zohairy</i>	<i>Bushra Zaher</i>
<i>Omar al-Haider</i>	<i>Budour al-Qassar</i>	<i>Heba Gabr</i>	<i>Sara Zakhari</i>

The Library: Your Partner in Education

By Ala'a Ali-Redha
and Fatmah al-Qadfan

Studying independently and being able to conduct research that complies with your studies is a major component of university life. That said, students are in need of a place that offers both the services and the resources to facilitate this profound learning process and turn 'success' from a vague and misconstrued word into a way of life. This 'magical' place is of course the library – a place "...where people, one frequently finds, lower their voices and raise their minds" (Richard Armour).

AUK's library provides all the aforementioned functions. It is available to the student body whenever they are in need of help with their studies, giving them a very spacious area to work in, resources such as books, periodicals, newspapers, a collection of DVDs and videos, computer access, and services that include assistance with class work. Another advanced service that the AUK library provides is AUKWire which can be ac-

cessed on campus through the AUK website. It links to various online databases including EBSCO, JSTOR, *Britannica*, *Philosopher's Index*, *Grove Music*, Project MUSE, *AnthroSource*, *LexisNexis Academic*, and soon *Oxford English Dictionary* will be available as well. In addition to all this, the library conducts instructional sessions to familiarize students with the available facilities.

Dr. Harvey Varnet, the director of AUK's Library, spoke to the Voice of AUK about the challenges of working in a newly established library. He talked about being able to experiment and make choices without being held back by tradition. A competent staff and rapid technological growth allow AUK's library to expand slowly but surely. The aim is to push students intellectually, to provide them with a place where they can do most of their coursework and receive help from well-trained, experienced personnel.

One of Dr. Harvey's visions is to connect the library to the

institution. His job is to ensure that the library becomes more than just a place where students come in to chat.

According to Dr. Varnet, what students need to understand is that this is their library. They should feel comfortable within its walls and be able to ask for assistance. The library is a partner in the education process, and so the student must be able to work with it. Students should also learn to own their education and take responsibility, because success or failure will only affect each person individually in the end.

In addressing the students, Dr. Harvey stressed that there is a "difference between effort and performance; and the amount and quality of work matters. You get to decide how good you are going to be and if you decide to push hard, you will find a lot of support from faculty. Always try to be as good as you can be and provide the best that you can. Try not to just be 'good enough' and settle for that; it is all about attitude."

Regular Library Hours:

Saturday to Wednesday: 8am – 8pm
Thursday: 10am – 4pm
Friday: Closed

Ramadan Library Hours

Saturday to Wednesday: 9am – 3pm; 7 - 10pm
Thursday and Friday: Closed

First AUK Intern at Dartmouth

By Hussein Nour El-Dine

I landed at 11:30 pm on June 19th, 2006 at Boston airport ready for a new experience. Waiting outside was the limousine that would take me to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. The trip was three hours long from the airport; by the time of my arrival in Dartmouth, I had already been up for 16 hours. The plan was for me to stay at the Hanover Inn—a beautiful old hotel just across from Dartmouth College—for three days until I moved into a dorm room on campus.

The next morning was a new day in life. I was met by a woman named Rose for a tour around campus and to meet the staff of the Rassias Foundation. This is a center at Dartmouth that special-

izes in language programs, and it is where I worked during my stay. At first I was shocked at how big and different the campus was from AUK, and it took me some time to get used to it.

Before leaving Kuwait I knew that this trip would carry lots of new experiences for me. One such experience was teaching Arabic to a class of seven students in which we only used modern Arabic as the means of communication.

Another experience was

hiking a 5000-foot mountain, which involved four hours of climbing at an angle which was close to being vertical, and of course drinking vitamin water.

Thirdly and most importantly, was laundry. It was my first time ever to do my own laundry and I had to go through training of separating colored clothes from white ones (apparently it actually makes a difference!). It was fun at first, but tiring after the third time.

During my visit to Dartmouth

I met great people and had many new experiences and moments which I will never forget. My trip taught me lots of different things (laundry!) and I hope that in the future I will be able to go visit again



An anonymous Dartmouth student shows a blurry Hussein how to do laundry.

Student Success Center
Fall 2006 Workshops

Academic Skills

Workshop	Date	Time	Location
What Faculty Expect	21 October	11am - 12pm	B409
Learning Styles	28 October	11am - 12pm	B409
Learning Styles	31 October	2pm - 3pm	B409
Note Taking Skills	04 November	11am - 12pm	B409
Note Taking Skills	07 November	2pm - 3pm	B409
Time Management	25 November	11am - 12pm	B409
Time Management	28 November	2pm - 3pm	B409
Educational Planning	09 December	11am - 12pm	B409
Educational Planning	12 December	2pm - 3pm	B409
Study Skills	06 January	11am - 12pm	B409
Test Taking & Survival	09 January	2pm - 3pm	B409

Careers

Workshop	Date	Time	Location
Interviewing Skills	02 October	2pm - 3pm	B409
Interviewing Skills	08 October	11am - 12pm	B409
How to Write a Resumé	16 October	2pm - 3pm	B409
How to Write a Resumé	17 October	2pm - 3pm	B409
Considering Graduate School	05 November	11am - 12pm	B409
What Can I Do with This Major?	19 November	11am - 12pm	B409
Considering Graduate School	26 November	11am - 12pm	B409

Healthy Lifestyles

Workshop	Date	Time	Location
Depression	09 October	2pm - 3:30pm	MPR
Anger Management	30 October	2pm - 3pm	MPR
Exercise & Weight Management	06 November	2pm - 3:30pm	MPR
Anxiety	13 November	11am - 12pm	A206
Recovery from Car Accidents	04 December	2pm - 3pm	A208
Skin Care	19 December	2pm - 3pm	MPR
Eating Disorders	08 January	2pm - 3pm	MPR

See You There!

Got Questions?

Morgan Dollman, Director
Andrea al-Adwani, Counselor
Bibi al-Ghanim, Counselor
Joanne Hands, Career Counselor
Dr. Juliet Dinkha, Counselor
Dr. Karen Jordan, Counselor

Tel: 224-8399
Fax: 571-5863
Rooms A105 & A106





A Letter from Freshman Rep Tareq al-Rifaa'i

Dear new faculty, staff, and students,

Welcome to an academic year that has come too quickly for some, too slowly for others, but right on time for the Class of 2010. To the newcomers in our midst — I extend my warmest greetings. To the familiar faces, welcome back to what we have come to know as “the best old place of all!”

I would like to take this opportunity to say how happy I am to have the Class of 2010 on our campus. You have all prepared for this day in many ways and—it probably feels like—for many years. You have been chosen with great care and you will surely enrich the intellectual and social life of AUK.

Every class aspires to be known forever as great, and yours will be no exception. Greatness will lie not only in what you achieve while you are here, but also in the traditions and perspectives that you bring to AUK, and, most importantly, in how you use your AUK education in the future to make the world a better place.

This fall we welcome a number of new faculty members, a group of men and women who personify AUK's aspiration to com-

bine the commitment to education that is normally associated with a small liberal arts college with the scholarly rigor of a great university.

Our staff has also grown, ensuring that AUK's intricate gears continue to turn smoothly. The work of the staff is often performed in places and at times that shield them from the public eye, but all of us are grateful for their contributions, and all of us would very quickly feel their absence.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling month of Ramadan.

Sincerely,
Tareq al-Rifaa'i
Freshman Committee
Student Government Association



FINDING YOUR WAY

1 – Sciences Building

The main building where Arts and Science classes are held.

Ground Floor:

- o Student Affairs Office
- o Academic Affairs Office
- o Student Lounge
- o Testing Center
- o Students' Computer Lab
- o Starbucks Coffee

First & Second Floors:

- o Classrooms and Computer Lab

Third Floor:

- o Faculty Offices



12 - Kwik Kopy

Kwik Kopy takes care of students' everyday needs such as photocopying, binding, printing, etc.



MAP OF AUK!



14 - Soccer field

AUK's soccer field.



15 - Student Parking

A parking lot reserved (not!) for AUK students, faculty and staff.



13 - Courts

AUK has 3 courts which can be used for basketball, volleyball and tennis.



11 - Center for Continuing Education

An office for students outside of AUK who are interested in registering for continuing education classes.



3 – Center Classroom Block (IEP Classrooms)

Classrooms for IEP students only.



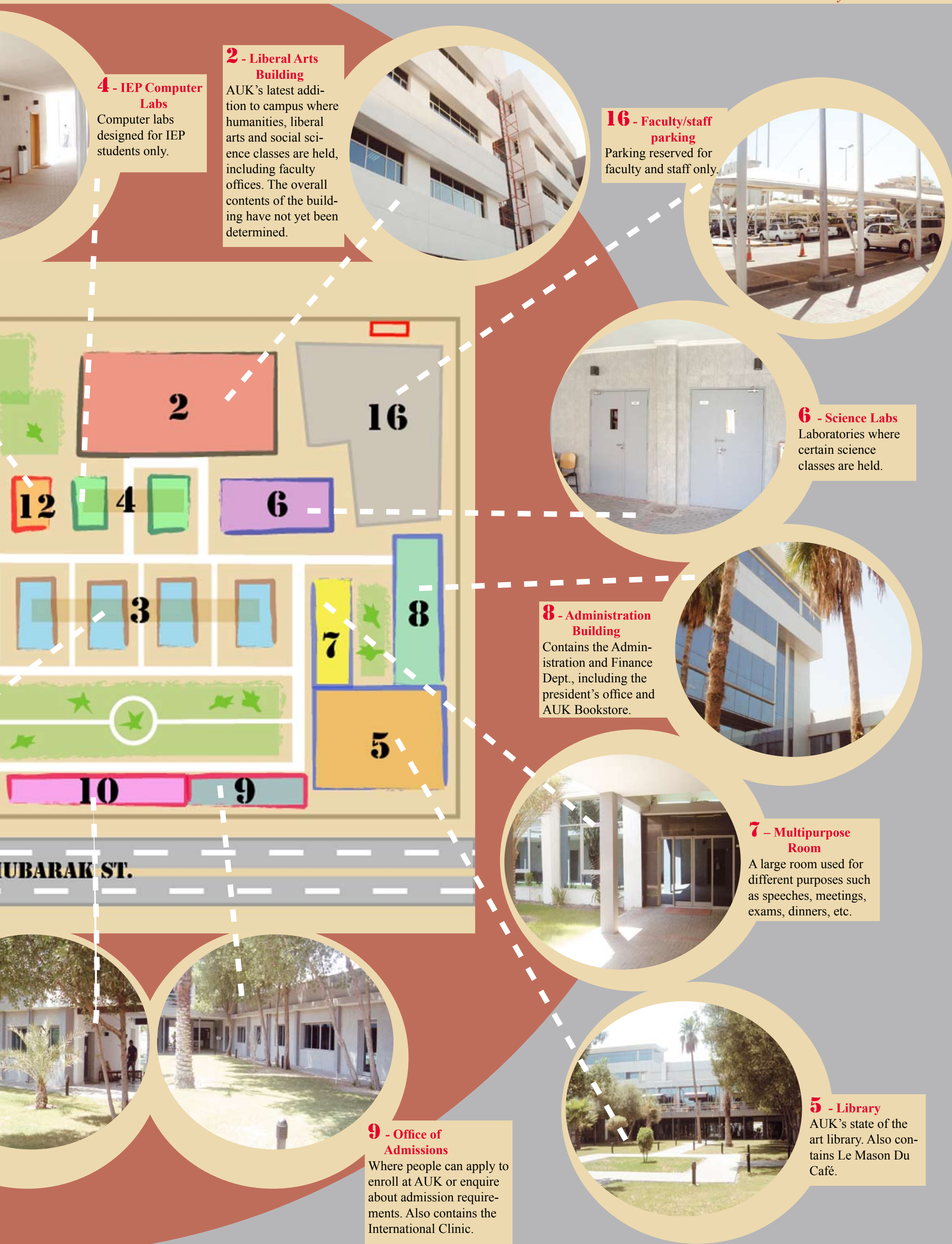
10 - Office of Registrar

Students come here to carry out registration procedures for courses, scholarships, etc.



Y AROUND CAMPUS

By Sara al-Farhan



College of Arts & Sciences

Business & Economics

Division Head: Dr. Jeremy Cripps

The Business and Economics faculty are delighted to welcome our majors back to our first full year of operation. With our exciting and well-planned program, we aim to prepare our students for employment in Kuwait's expanding private sector, and to a world of information that will be the key to future business success.

Our College is now 2 years old, but our programs have been accredited by the Council of Private Universities and we believe that our programs now rank among the best in the Gulf.

We already have more than 100 students who have chosen an academic career in Business.

The Business & Economics Division includes the following disciplines: Accounting (ACCT), Business Law (BEAL), Economics (ECON), Entrepreneurship (ENTR), Finance (FINC), International Business (IBUS), Management (MGMT), and Marketing (MRKT).



Social Sciences

Division Head: Dr. Shoma Munshi

The Social Sciences Division includes the following disciplines: American Studies (AMST), Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO), History (HIST), International Studies (INST), Political Science (PLSC), and Psychology (PSYC).



Sciences

Division Head: Dr. Shereef Abu al-Maati

The Sciences Division includes the following disciplines: Biology (BIOL), Chemistry (CHEM), Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS), Mathematics (MATH), Natural Sciences (NSCI), Physics (PHYS), and Statistics (STAT).



Humanities & Arts

Division Head: Dr. Lisa Urkevich

The Humanities, such as rhetoric and grammar, music, and philosophy, date back to ancient times and are at the core of a traditional liberal arts education. The "liberal arts" are named such because in antiquity they were considered skills and knowledge required for humans to be truly free. Today, by studying the Humanities and Arts, students explore ways in which people express themselves and students likewise learn to communicate effectively and share their ideas through many different subjects.

At AUK the Humanities and Arts Division includes the following disciplines: Philosophy (PHIL), Religion (RELG), Communication and Media (COMM), Education (EDUC), English (ENGL), Arabic (ARAB), French (FRNC), Translation (TRAN), Graphic Design (GDES), Art (ART), Music (MUSC), Drama (DRAM).



Dean Carol's "Big" Welcome

By Dr. Carol Ross-Black

For the newest AUK family members, welcome to the Dean's Corner. This little section of the *Voice* has been graciously provided to me, Dr. Carol-Student Dean, from the esteemed members of the *Voice of AUK*. This is "my" corner where I get to write about stuff like campus gossip, the latest AUK fashion statements or life at AUK. Moreover, because you are new to our family and hoping that our continuing students will not mind, I am going to dedicate this column to the new students.

Initially I thought I was going to write to you about the infamous "Freshmen 15!" The Freshmen 15 are the unwanted pounds (about 6 kilos) that first year students usually gain when they go to college. You gain that weight because there is so much free food and junk food in abundance, including coffee, sodas, etc., O MY! Then I was reminded that the Freshmen 15 generally happens on residential campuses and we do not have residential halls. We do have three food facilities to serve you however. Managing your food and drink intake and exercising (even if it means taking the stairs instead of the elevator or walking from the back of the parking lot) is important to college success. Your physical stamina is as important as your mental stamina. Just because the elevator is out does not mean you can skip class!

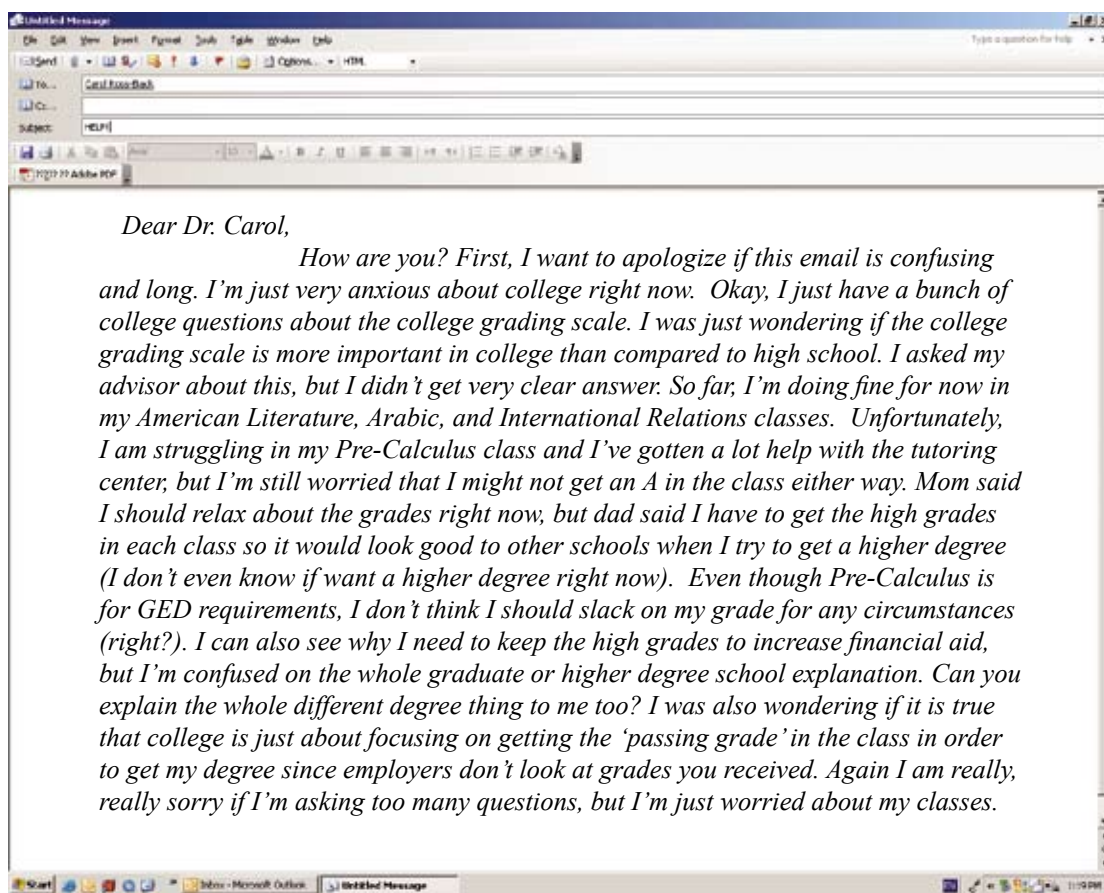
The other day, I received a letter from someone who is a first year student at a private liberal arts college in Northern California. She is having that first year student anxiety like many of you have or will experience. I thought this was perfect. In the picture is an edited version of what she sent and my response:

Such a typical first year student anxiety. And it is ok! My response to her and the new AUK family members...

BREATHE, You are ok. You are not babbling! I am going to respond point by point. If I missed anything just let me know!

1. Forget about what you did in high school or the grading scale in high school! College is a whole new bowl of beans! Your slate is now clean and you develop a history of academic success from scratch. Your instructor for each class has given you criteria for how you will earn your grades. (You *earn* grades; they are not *given* to you!) No one cares about your high school grades any more!

2. To be considered graduate school, you should have at minimum a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and 1000 on the GRE (graduate record exam). The program will focus on your last 2 years of college be-



cause they want to see what you have done in your major course of study. That is IT! Even if you don't have the above credentials, you can attend graduate school initially as a special student for the first semester, do well, reapply and have your status changed to regular graduate student. The better your grade point average and test scores, the more competitive you are with other applicants. Believe me, not everyone who attended graduate school was a super star student 4.0 student!

3. Your first two years of university are basically your general education classes. Graduate schools will focus on your major courses and the grades you make there. Your goal is minimize C grades in your major courses. Graduate schools understand that in the first and second years, many students are adjusting and finding themselves. It is natural that you may make a C or a D or even fail. If you make a D or F, you simply repeat the course. Another goal is to not have too many repeat grades because it shows that you are not settled or you don't have the discipline or study skills. What it takes to succeed in college is a little smarts as we will educate you and increase your knowledge, the ability to learn and the guts to stick with it. You demonstrate your smarts by achieving

decent grades

4. The fact that you are seeking help for precalc is excellent! You never wait until right before mid terms or finals to get help! Maintain that thinking and never be too embarrassed to ask for help! Heck, people are paid to ensure you have every opportunity for success in college. It doesn't matter if it is academic help or personal help. There are teams of people paid to assist you so find them and get all the assistance you need!

5. Financial aid and/or scholarship programs are based upon need and/or merit. Scholarships most often require that students maintain satisfactory progress. The scholarship program will tell you what kind of grade point average you need to keep the scholarship. Find out the requirements for automatic scholarship renewal.

6. While you are in school, you need to be involved in some kind of activities outside the classroom. You may think you don't have time to participate in anything else, but you do. You simply need to manage your time. Research demonstrates time and time again, that students who are involved in university extra and co-curricular activities do better academically, manage their time much better and are happier in college! Whether it is community service, tutoring, work-study,

do something other than go to class and go home! In addition, when you are involved you will meet cool people and make great friends!

7. DON'T EVEN OBSESS ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL RIGHT NOW! You need to focus on your new environment while learning how to be successful. You need to focus on what you want from life. Not what your daddy, mama or grandparents want but **what you want**. Only you have that answer. Many will act as if they know what you want. They will have advice about what may be best for you. You are a young adult and have to begin thinking about the life decisions for you. You will have to dig in your heart and find it. You will be exposed to lots of stuff in university and it will just seem overwhelming. Nevertheless, it will be great because you are growing! You will learn things about yourself that you never knew existed. Once you begin to identify your passion, then you focus on your next steps and how to achieve your goal. Even figure out if graduate school is necessary. This is why we make students complete general education classes because it gives you a chance to explore, gain some discipline and thinking skills to prepare you for upper division courses and beyond. It gives you exposure. Your goal is to be a lifelong learner BUT that does not mean you have to go to graduate school! If you can live your passion without graduate school, so be it. I ONLY went to graduate school because I wanted to be a dean of students and didn't want to have to wait until I was 300 years old to be a dean. The doctorate degree would cut down my time to get there. Granted it cut it down much faster than I expected which is fab because my career has been fast tracked.

You won't be able to experience the beauty of learning if you obsess about the grades. I am not saying by any means to forget about the value of the grades. Strive for A and B grades, what you are quite capable of doing, with minimal C grades. Get involved so that you can grow and develop as a contributing member of society. That is what college is about!

I hope some of this helps you new students, even you continuing students, put college in perspective. This is a time of growth and development. Learn about yourself; begin to discover your place in this global world. Your college career is about YOU!

You got questions, Dean Carol's got answers! (Or, I know where to find them!) Backing out of the Dean's Corner until next time. Have a great semester! GO WILDCATS!

Appalling University of Kuwait

By Mohammed Taqi

On September 16, 2006 I came to AUK with a smile on my face, anticipating another great year. I entered our spacious parking lot only to find that it was full. Since last year, there have been reports that AUK was going to build a bigger parking lot. I believed these reports because it's only normal for a business to provide sufficient parking for its employees and paying customers. There are now well over a thousand students, staff and faculty at AUK but fewer than five hundred parking spaces. What do the own-

ers expect the other six or seven hundred people to do exactly? Park on the street and haul their books to campus in 40°C heat? Or shall they go off-road, leaving their cars in the sand lots around campus, and fight their way to class through garbage, construction debris and stray cats? This is not the sort treatment people expect when they are paying six thousand KD for a service.

Next, AUK decided to expand this year. Fall 2006 was to see the opening of the new Liberal Arts Building, but things did not seem to be going as planned.

As of the first day of classes, the building had no functional elevators; there was dust everywhere, creating a health hazard for students, especially those with allergies or asthma; the windows were covered in dirt and plastic; and the classrooms were lacking computers, projectors, and air conditioning.

Finally, it is interesting that AUK has segregated classrooms. Last time I checked this was the American University of Kuwait not the Taliban University of Kuwait! Our mission statement, which is the heart of AUK, states that AUK

“is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, communication, and respect for diversity.” It seems that AUK's actions contradict its words: it is difficult to see how segregating genders from one another achieves any of those objectives.

Is there any point in going on? By its words, AUK is constantly encouraging students to talk, speak their mind, fight for their rights and all that jazz, but by its actions (or inaction), AUK is teaching us that no one is listening.

Abayas and Bluejeans

By Fahad Mohammad

Black shadows walking side by side with women wearing Escada Jeans and tops while flaunting the latest Prada handbag is a typical scene in many of the oil-rich Gulf States' shopping malls. The abaya, a long, loose cloak covering the entire body from head to toe is often worn by Arab women. However, it has been forced to make way for the latest European and American haute couture. Just a few decades ago, most Gulf women were seen only in black abayas, but today denim and abaya-clad women are frequently found side by side. In both the political and economical spheres, women are bringing together the modern and the traditional, in unique and somewhat quiet ways.

Arab women are subtly incorporating Western fashion into their own styles, as if to send a message to the Western world that they can create a fusion between two opposing viewpoints. It is not uncommon to see women wearing brightly colored hijabs, some decorated with glitter and sequins, with tight, hip-hugging denim jeans.

In a similarly paradoxical way, Arab women are gaining access to other parts of society that were formerly closed to them without having created an overt feminist movement or even denouncing traditional roles, as feminist movements in the West did. Change just seems to be happening, as many Arab regimes are slowly embracing women's suffrage. Over a year ago, Kuwaiti women got the right to vote and run for parliament, a breakthrough political decision that was debated for years and one already enacted in Bahrain and Qatar. After decades of being a half-democracy, Kuwaiti women can now become involved in the political process. The involvement of women in politics is a must to show the West that Arab women are not oppressed, and

such political decisions will increase respect towards Muslim countries.

In the economic arena, however, women have made minimal progress due to the various social barriers observed in many parts of the Middle East. Nevertheless, there are some prominent exceptions to the rule. In several Arab countries, like Lebanon and Kuwait, women make up one-third of the workforce, and they are even holding male-dominated occupations as ambassadors, doctors and engineers. In addition, many women have started businesses and entered the stock markets, forcing their way into the patriarchal business sector and paving the road for the next generation of Arab women. Opening up the possibility of greater economic freedom for women could be the catalyst needed for gender equality in the region.

Flipping through Arabic TV channels these days, you are bound to see significant changes and paradoxes in Arab societies. There are elegantly dressed news presenters on Lebanese channels, raunchy, music video clips of Haifa Wahbi, Elissa and other female singers, and women speakers at financial presentations in Doha and Dubai. Change is both subtle and dramatic, and will no doubt always seem “odd” to Western eyes. It is inconceivable that the women in this region abandon the abaya and the hijab in favor of low-tops and skirts, but it is quite possible that women will rise to the top of the political structure. The world should not expect outcomes that parallel the development of women's rights in the West, and foreign values and ideologies must not be imposed on the region. Rather, we should celebrate that a balance has been struck between abayas and skirts.

Lebanon: The End of a Dream

By Bushra Zaher

Independence, liberty, democracy, peace, sovereignty and dignity are slogans that are often heard and repeated in every part of the modern world. To the Lebanese, and especially after the recent horrendous war, these slogans have become but a bunch of meaningless words and aspirations yet to be fulfilled and achieved.

The question today is will the Lebanese ever have a sense of peace and belonging to a sov-

ereign nation? Lebanon is a country that officially existed on the world map as a result of a war treaty and from that day forth the country has been the battle field of several internal, international and regional wars. Nonetheless, the Lebanese people have always fought for their rights and have always managed to hold their heads up high, hoping that Lebanon will one day be the land that every citizen in the world thrives to be part of.

July 12, 2006 is a day that



A bombed-out mosque in Sidon.

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will, undoubtedly, be remembered by the Lebanese for many years to come. The sudden attack came as a reminder—a reality call—that the golden era that was witnessed during the rule of the late Prime Minister Rafic al-Hariri was nothing but a dream. On July 12, 2006 the Lebanese people were woken by bombs; they woke up to the smell of death; young children's cries of fear. The people were raised from their sleep to be told that their hopes and dreams of a “Lebanon” had been shattered in a single night.

In the end, if one were to ask about the true losses of this war,

one would not have the correct answer. People might say what is destroyed can be rebuilt; this would have been true if only houses and bridges were destroyed. But that is not the case. Today if you were to stop any Lebanese in any airport in the world and ask them: “will you ever return to your country after the recent war?” the answer will most probably be: “what country?” Cruel words no doubt, but will the Lebanese ever regain their faith in their country? A question many would believe has no answer.



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Ruins of a highway between Sidon and Beirut.

What's Up with the Weather?

By Noufa al-Sabah

Instead of dodging this horrid heat for cooler surroundings this summer, I unexpectedly found myself like many other locals encountering the same thing I was trying so hard to escape: the heat.

A massive heat wave struck many renowned holiday destinations such as London, and Paris, which sent temperatures rising and spirits falling. For the first time in history, temperatures in London in July reached more than 36° C—yup 36 degrees Celsius! That's almost ten degrees less than the so called “stated” summer temperatures in Kuwait on that famous weather tower/building on the Fifth Ring Road (which, incidentally, always gets it wrong). Some readers might smirk and think that this is a fairly low temperature compared with the rising 50°-plus temperatures we experience on an average summer day in Kuwait.

But, this is not Kuwait we are talking about; this is London; the city of endless rain and greenery. A

city that has been known to experience harsh winters, infinite rainy days, and very mild summers. A place which is so used to cold, harsh winters, that everything is built accordingly. Their houses and apartments are built in a way by which heat is conserved, completely the opposite of Kuwait's airy and cool buildings which are all equipped with air conditioners. So when they get a heat wave, they get hit hard. Unlike Kuwait, in the U.K. you don't go indoors to escape the heat; on the contrary, people run outdoors.

I was there amidst the heat frenzy. Used to cool U.K. summers, I was dumbstruck with this unexpected weather reversal. I had never had trouble with heat before—being used to the high temperatures in Kuwait, and all—this summer was harsher than anything I had ever encountered.

No, Kuwait is not worse, and no trip from the AUK parking to class during the stifling Kuwaiti summer compares to that heat. Here, you step out of air conditioned spaces and go

into other cooler spaces. In the U.K., however, air conditioned places are rare; instead, your best bet is lounging under the shadow of one of the park's trees, and even that won't spare you the hot, windless air.

Everything was harder to do. Walking to destinations was like melting; riding the bus was like riding a heater; going to the cinema was suffocating and sleeping at night was a devastating experience.

Temperatures at night were not cooler, they were just as hot as the morning. And did I mention that there was no AC? I cannot stress enough about the importance of AC. In fact, I believe that the person who came up with that idea or concept of cooling should have been awarded the Nobel Prize, or better yet, be sent directly to heaven. He will be in my prayers always.

Even though that 7 to 10 day period of heat-hassle ended and things began to cool off, things were never the same. Even though temperatures were bearable again, they were still above normal com-

pared with past U.K. summers. The reason behind this increase in temperature and excessive heat was not what people thought: it was not Mother Nature, nor any divine law; neither a religious sign, nor some form of punishment aimed at humanity. Sorry to disappoint you guys: global warming was the culprit, a nasty little consequence of the industrial revolution and technological advance. The piled on pollution and frank disregard of our environment has not only wasted away many grasslands and rainforests, it has also forever scarred our weather systems.

Stifling summers in the capital of coolness and rain, London? Was that some kind of joke or prank? What's next? Snow in summery Kuwait?

It seems that anything is possible these days; I think I should start buying gloves and ear muffs. For wherever this global warming epidemic is taking us, it doesn't seem to be any good. Next time, I think I'll stick out this heat and live in my air conditioned haven instead of vacation in hell.

Eye for an Eye?

By Karim al-Majadi

Some may argue that Islamic judicial ideology is constructed upon the “eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth” principle; however, if we are to search clearly without discrimination, we might find out that Islam's judicial ideology is very much similar to the Christian “turn the other cheek” (if slapped, that is). Christian principles also teach the eye for an eye principle, yet follow the more forgiving and ultimately more rewarding “give the other cheek”.

As is known by historians and Islamic scholars, the Prophet himself was most forgiving. This can be validated by a story which has been handed down, according to which a Jewish man used to cause the Prophet harm, by throwing trash and waste on his door step every time the Prophet would enter and leave his home. One day, this individual who would constantly

cause harm to the prophet became ill. The Prophet became worried for this man and asked about him, till the neighbors told the prophet that he was ill in bed. The Prophet then went to visit the sick man in his home. The Jewish man was so astonished at how one human could have such a forgiving and caring heart, that afterwards he converted to Islam. This ill-mannered person became Moslem, because he loved the Prophet, the perfect example of what a Moslem should be.

As the famous philosopher and peaceful warrior, Mahatma Gandhi said “for an eye for and eye, the world would be blind”. It is our nature as humans of this planet to make mistakes and sometimes hurt others; yet those who make this world a better place are those who follow the ways of forgiveness.

Sciences Division Test-Drives Moodle

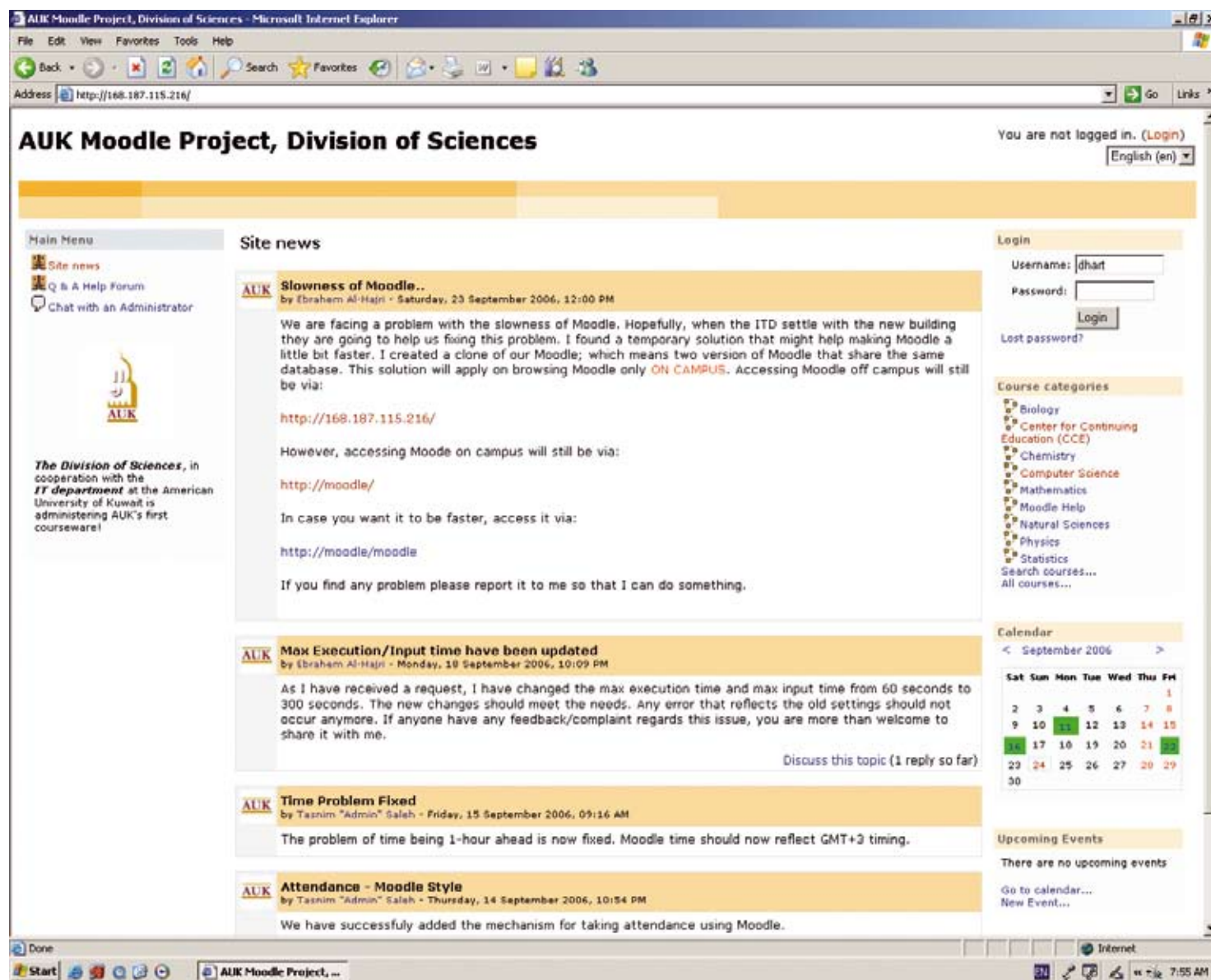
By Tasnim Saleh

After a long and tedious preparation process, AUK is now ready to welcome Moodle, the first real full-fledged network-based courseware to be used by AUK teachers and students. Other famous courseware products include WebCT and Blackboard. The Division of Science, led by Dr. Shereef Abu al-Maati with the help of the AUK IT Department, will be utilizing this product for the management of courses online.

By definition, courseware is software that is designed to support educational programs. Courseware assists students in learning, teachers in educating, and institutes in managing the courses they offer.

Courseware can be used to conduct tests and assignments. It can also be used to store grades and course documents and data. Courseware may also be used to create online lessons and tutorials. Moodle specifically comes with a set of tools that enable instructors to post web pages, images, presentations, questionnaires, syllabi, glossaries, and exercises. Moodle also allows for interactive learning, through interactive lessons, chatting, and forums.

Instructors will find this courseware especially beneficial as it assists them in managing their courses using a single mechanism. Many instructors dread having to collect assign-



ments physically, grading them physically, returning them to students physically, and maintaining some sort of grade book, again, physically. With Moodle, assignments can be adminis-

tered over a network or over the Internet. Instructors have the choice between quick grading and detailed grading, and the grades are stored immediately so that no grade book is needed.

Lesson plans, assignments, announcements and news may all be posted from the comfort of the instructor's computer desk and grades are readily available to students. Instructors may cre-

ate a course-specific calendar, indicating course events and assignments. Moodle is equipped to give instructors complete control over their courses. Recently, Moodle administrators

at AUK also incorporated an extension to allow instructors to take attendance through Moodle.

The beauty of Moodle is that it is freeware. That is, it follows the Open-Source Movement, which preserves the rights of programmers without compromising the chances for development. Moodle is run by AUK Computer Science students which will produce a tremendous cost-savings for the university. Other courseware products sell for thousands of dollars and require professional administrators, while Moodle offers comparable services for free.

Among the services offered by Moodle, entire courses can be conducted online. Moodle offers teachers the ability to conduct virtual office hours through customizable chats. Course-specific forums offer students a venue to discuss course issues, and the value of the time saved by automatic grading and grade-book-keeping by conducting quizzes and assignments through Moodle is every teacher's dream. Moodle is simply a tool for comprehensive course management and it's high-time AUK got Moodle!

Hunting for Work on the Net

By Tasnim Saleh

Whether you are still a freshman looking for a part-time job or you're preparing to graduate from AUK and start your career, looking for a job is never easy, but maybe the search can be cut short by going online. Several companies now offer online applications for job applicants. This includes all major banks in Kuwait, all major telecommunication companies, as well as universities.

AUK offers its students a chance at a part-time job on campus through applying online. The next time you log on to Self-Service, click on the employment tab and apply for a

job as a student-assistant. Also check out the employment tab on the AUK website.

MTC went all the way to create a whole website for potential applicants. www.mtc-careers.com is a website entirely devoted to the purpose of displaying job opportunities for potential employees.

LOYAC is short for an outreach program called Lothan Young Achievements Center. The house of Lothan is a well-known center for crafts and training that was established long before the Internet was ever introduced in the Kuwaiti market. LOYAC assists young adults (up to the age of 23) to find part-time jobs at several

companies in Kuwait. Prospective participants can learn about the program through their website www.loyac.org.

While job-search websites are all over the western world, they are rather limited in the Middle East. However, one website, www.monstergulf.com, which is an extension of the well-known job search-engine www.monster.com, offers job seekers a venue to search for jobs in Kuwait and the Gulf region.

In addition to the online resources, AUK students must not forget our The Student Success Center's career consultant Ms. Joanne Hands, who may be contacted at jhands@auk.edu.kw.

It's my Life and it's Online

By Yousef al-Tukhaim

Back in the 90s, the Casio Magic Diary was a huge fad. As times changed, Sony has released its own version of the old Magic Diary called MYLO which stands for "My Life Online".

MYLO is a portable device that is only used for internet-based communications such as web browsing (using the Opera browser) instant mes-

saging, playback and sharing any kind of media files. However, this little gizmo will only connect you to the net if WIFI is available. The idea of having to use WIFI networks for internet connectivity is to reduce connectivity cost for the user, who will be able to avoid GSM, 3G or CDMA that uses cellular connectivity. The expected release date on this little gadget is on September 15, 2006.

Source: www.sony.com

MYLO Features:

- Built-in one gigabyte
- Memory Stick Pro Duo expansion slot
- Opera web browser
- Playback MPEG4, MP3, AAC and WMA
- Built-in WIFI card 801.11b connectivity
- Pre-installed softwares include: Skype
- Sliding QWERTY keyboard



AIM, MSN, Yahoo, Skype or Google Talk—Everybody Loves to IM

By Tasnim Saleh

Why wait for a reply through e-mail if you can electronically converse with a person and get instant replies? Instant Messaging is taking over the world. There is no mistake about it. No matter what an individual's Instant Messenger of choice may be, everybody loves to IM. In the United States of America, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) takes the lead. In the Middle East, it's fierce competition between Yahoo! Messenger and MSN Messenger, but MSN seems to be gaining an edge. However, the people are always looking for more in their instant messaging experience, and this article provides you with some useful IMing resources.

Many Instant Messenger users are faced with the public computer problem. Most public computers do not have Instant Messengers installed and users do not have administrative privileges to install IM software, and this need for instant messaging did not go unrecognized. Microsoft Networks provides a browser-based Instant Messenger to keep you connected. To use this browser-based Instant Messenger, simply visit

<http://webmessenger.msn.com>.

If MSN messaging is what you do, you might want to consider what is known to be the best extension package to the Microsoft Instant Messenger. Messenger Plus can be downloaded from <http://www.msgpluslive.net>.

The rise of Instant Messaging also created a multi-account market. Most IM users go for more than one account, be it Hotmail, Yahoo! or AIM. Multi-account IM software allows users to use one interface for all their IM accounts. The Most well-known browser-based multi-account IM is ebuddy, which can be used through www.ebuddy.com.

If you use your own computer but still want to use a single IM software for multiple accounts, you might want to try Trillian. Vowed to be one of the best multi-account IM software programs, Trillian can be downloaded for free from <http://www.ceruleanstudios.com>.

Now that instant messaging is such a breeze, new 3D IM software is also starting to become available. IMVU is a new messenger from <http://www.imvu.com> that allows for the use of 3D characters to be customized by the user

to be sitting in an actual setting like a coffee shop or at the beach and reflect the mood of the user. Conversations appear as bubbles of speech in lieu of the normal IM flow of conversation.

Another Instant Messenger that has emerged as a Beta-version is Google Talk, which can be used through a G-mail account using the browser or using Google Talk software. Google Talk seems to be taking over the American market as a replacement to the AIM very quickly despite the fact that it is still in the testing phase.

Skype offers yet another form of instant messaging software that is soon to make traditional phone calling obsolete. Skype uses voice over IP (VOIP) to enable the user to dial an actual number so it is not the traditional computer-to-computer voice conversation software. Skype offers computer-to-phone calling capabilities for very low rates paving the way to the future of international calling.

A person in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up, holding a large black megaphone with both hands. The background consists of concentric circles in shades of red, orange, and yellow, creating a sense of motion or sound waves. The text 'be HEARD join THE VOICE' is overlaid on the background.

be HEARD join THE VOICE

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