

## Summer 2011 at Dartmouth College: An Experience of a Lifetime



*The Summer interns from AUK at Dartmouth at the Hood Museum of Art.*

The Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange was developed as part of the Dartmouth-AUK Memorandum of Understanding and has been bringing Dartmouth students to AUK since 2005 and sending AUK students to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire

since 2006. The exchange provides the opportunity for Dartmouth students to spend a term at the American University of Kuwait and for AUK students to intern for one month in the summer at Dartmouth College. While this experience is designed to assist with personal

growth, it is also meant to build personal bridges between the AUK and Dartmouth communities and to encourage greater cultural understanding between the Middle East and the United States.

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## Kuwait Chapter of State Alumni Association and U.S. Embassy Co-Host Ghabga

BY MARIAM AL-SHEMALI

On August 17, the newly formed Kuwait State Alumni Association co-hosted a Ghabga with the U.S. Embassy that brought together a wealth of talented and capable professionals from the State Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. The event left the floor for the alumni to network and share their experiences and ideas gained through the exchange programs. Also, the attendees discussed future plans of the Kuwait State Alumni Association with regards to membership, alumni career

development, mentorship, civic engagement and partnering with nongovernmental organizations and and public/private sectors. Working closely with the local U.S. Embassy, a voluntary group of alumni took the initiative to establish the Kuwait Chapter-State Alumni Association to provide the state alumni in Kuwait with resources, networking and opportunities to help them mobilize their power

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## AUK Athletes are 2011 UCC Champions!

BY PR/MARKETING

After a month and a half of seasonal play and two weeks of playoffs, the American University of Kuwait (AUK) has won the 2011 University Championship Cup (UCC) for the fourth time. This year's UCC trophy race was extremely close; the outcome of the men's and women's soccer finals determined the winner. When the points were tallied,

AUK edged out the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK ) by one point and the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) only trailed by two points. This neck and neck competition showed the importance of each game. The four first places AUK received from tennis and basketball teams gave AUK a whopping 20 points. However,

the AUK women's table tennis team's key victory over ACK in the semi-finals made all the difference when it came down to the points' total. AUK athletics showed a tremendous amount of determination, spirit, and talent this year. They truly deserve the title, 2011 UCC Champions!

*Continued on page 13*

## Physical Wellness at AUK

BY TREVOR N. TAYLOR

In this article I am going to highlight some things that AUK offers that can benefit your physical wellness. Not that it is any more important than the other aspects. Physical wellness seems to be the first to go when people become overwhelmed while attempting to juggle all these aspects. For those who enjoy intense sporting competitions, consider

trying out for intercollegiate athletics. This is where a select group of students represent the university in competitions against other universities and colleges. AUK Athletics offers male and female student-athletes the opportunity to compete locally and regionally in the following sports:

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## Book Fair Art Pieces

BY HAWRAA ASHOUR



*Continued on page 10*

## The “Technological Evolution” Phenomena

BY HUDA AL-RASHID

With the new semester just beginning, most of you are probably getting all your “welcome back!” wishes out to friends or complaining that the time has come around once again to step away from the carefree summer lifestyle and make a dreadful return to the academic world. Of course, most of you would make these announcements either on your Twitter or Facebook accounts, or send them out through your Blackberry Messenger or the newly popularized Whatsapp. And, most of you would rather use your iPhones, Blackberry devices, Galaxy Tabs, or your iPads amongst others to fulfill that task. Now, if we take a little trip back in time with duration of about five years, we would see that a lot and I mean a lot has changed in the world of technology. The evolutionary process of today's technological advances makes it almost impossible to catch up with, usually ending up in taking a huge toll on our credit card balances.

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## Job Market Bias: Troubling Revelations

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM '11



This broken record has been playing for as long as Kuwait has been providing its professionals with “decent” job opportunities. I hate to state the obvious but for the sake of reassuring readers, I am in fact mocking the status of the aforementioned. I will not be discussing the woes of procedural matters because if I had resolved to, I would cease to write this article and dedicate a book of infinite grievances to

the social ill. No, I only wish to focus on the job market because it presently coincides with the end of my undergraduate life and what I have been for the past few months: unemployed. Like any sensible individual, I did what I deemed necessary to secure a respectable occupation and thankfully, that is made convenient via the Civil Service Commission: a service offered by the Kuwaiti government to

its citizens that does the job hunting for hopefuls like myself. I hate inconsistency, on any level. Unfortunately for me, Kuwait seems to be very good at it. I struggle enough as it is being a citizen with somewhat of a hybrid identity, having been enrolled in an American system of education since kindergarten and instructed in such a manner

*Continued on page 11*



# Kuwait Chapter of State Alumni Association and U.S. Embassy Co-Host Ghabga

BY MARIAM AL-SHEMALI

for meaningful contributions and positive changes in Kuwaiti society. Therefore, a set of ambitious objectives have been identified as follows:

1. Lay the foundation for a strong mutual productive relationship between the State Alumni Association in DC, the Kuwait Chapter and the local US Embassy.
2. Establish bridges and partnerships with various organizations and institutions in Kuwait to help the alumni achieve their goals.
3. Facilitate the implementation of the U.S. Government exchange programs.
4. Engage in community developmental projects/activities.
5. Foster a forum of dialogue on all issues of interest to our alumni through online discussion

forums, seminars, roundtables, annual conferences/gatherings and seasonal social events.

6. Provide assistance and support to the American participants in cultural exchange programs in Kuwait.
7. Connect new participants in exchange programs with potential Kuwaiti Alumni mentors who are able to provide mentoring and share their experiences.
8. Encourage the alumni to serve the civil society through volunteerism.
9. Provide an entry point for networking and career development opportunities to state alumni.

It is worth mentioning that the U.S. government sponsors a wide range of cultural exchange programs that offer invaluable experiences for worldwide

participants and provides them with opportunities to positively impact their communities. Some of the exchange programs include Student Leaders and Leaders for Democracy Fellows, ACCESS and YES students, Legislative Fellows, and the International Visitors Program that covers areas in human rights, youth leadership, women empowerment, civic education, economic/political reform, etc. Hundreds of Kuwaitis were awarded these programs and are currently effective members in the Kuwaiti community. Such cultural exchange programs are bilateral in broadening cultural, educational, political and economic contacts between Kuwait and the United States.



**KUWAIT CHAPTER OF STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*One of the Chapter organizers, Talal Taqi, conversing with one of the alumni students.*



**KUWAIT CHAPTER OF STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*Students registering upon entry.*



## Our Mission

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

## Editorial Board

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**The Voice of AUK** welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions should be emailed to [voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw). All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the Editorial Policy. **The Voice of AUK** offers no guarantee that any submission will be published. To be considered for publication in the Voice, submissions for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The views expressed in opinion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the **Voice of AUK**, nor those of the American University of Kuwait. All submissions become property of the **Voice of AUK**. The Editorial Board reserves

the right to edit all submissions, including for grammar, spelling, style, and clarity. Writers have the right to withdraw submissions at any time prior to publication. The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through October, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements may be published from time to time. For advertising information, send email to [voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw). Advertisements for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Opinions and/or attitudes expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

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**KUWAIT CHAPTER OF STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*Talal Taqi with another student.*

*“Some of the exchange programs include Student Leaders and Leaders for Democracy Fellows, ACCESS and YES students, Legislative Fellows, and the International Visitors Program that covers areas in human rights, youth leadership, women empowerment, civic education, economic/political reform, etc. Hundreds of Kuwaitis were awarded these programs and are currently effective members in the Kuwaiti community. Such cultural exchange programs are bilateral in broadening cultural, educational, political and economic contacts between Kuwait and the United States.”*



EDU, New and Improved

BY KIMBERLY AL-SUFFI

For several years, AUK students have expressed concern, wishing they had more time to build the academic skills that have been introduced in the old Gen Ed block course, EDU 100. This concern has been expressed repeatedly over the years by first year students who have generously provided feedback upon conclusion of this previously extremely brief course. Moreover, President Thompson immediately recognized a gap in AUK's EDU course, as it is far more common in many American universities to have comprehensive First Year Experience programs to fully prepare students for success at the undergraduate level that enables them to persevere through the full UG program. Therefore, it is our pleasure to announce that effective immediately, Fall 2011, the new and improved EDU course will be initiated. After a full semester of discussions with several AUK faculty members on the EDU Task Force in the Spring of 2011, the recommendations were to expand the course. As with all other UG courses, the new EDU course will extend for a full semester instead of the

previous block course format. Senior Instructor, Kimberly Al-Suffi, who had been teaching the previous version of the EDU course, as well as in the IEP, will serve as the course coordinator. She has been teaching college students in Kuwait since 1992. The newly reformatted Gen Ed course will occur in the typical UG format of either twice weekly for 1 1/4 hours or three times a week for 50 minute classes. The course is a co-requisite of English 101 and thus, should be taken in the first semester as a freshman. Additional topics will include an introductory exploration of the Liberal Arts as well as old favorites such as time management and testing strategies. In addition, as the previously required HFIT course is suspended indefinitely, EDU 100 will also incorporate physical, social, and psychological wellness concepts. It is our hope that this initial course offering will be the first in a comprehensive sequence of First Year Experience efforts. Further discussions will be underway this year to determine the future of the course and the FYE program at AUK.


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Physical Wellness at AUK

BY TREVOR N. TAYLOR

soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis and table tennis. Tryouts for each sports team will take place throughout the Fall semester. For more information about the tryout schedule, stop by the Office of Student Life. Intramurals sports are athletic competitions amongst the AUK community. It's a chance to get a couple friends and join a tournament or take part in an individual competition. No matter your level of physical fitness, you can find an intramural sport that is right for you. This semester, AUK is having soccer, dodgeball, 3 vs. 3 basketball, badminton, and a Wii sports competitions. All AUK students are invited to participate. Upcoming intramural sports will be advertised around campus.

If you are looking for physical activity but not competition, recreational activities are for you. Each semester Student Life offers fitness classes in the Wolf Pack Fitness Room. AUK offers kickboxing, yoga, and body tone to name a few. Keep an eye out for emails from AUK Sports with more details. If you prefer to work out on your own, the Wolf Pack Fitness Room is open to the AUK community throughout the week. Hours of operation for male and females are on the AUK website. Take advantage of all the opportunities AUK offers. Remember that university is a time for you grow as a whole, not just as an intellectual. Above all, try to find a balance in life and enjoy the entire university experience.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
KUWAIT CITY • KUWAIT

**U.S. Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)**  
**Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship**  
**Deadline for application: Not yet announced**

The Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship (CELF) provides an opportunity for academics in the social sciences from the Middle East and North Africa to engage *in 4-month residencies at the Maxwell School for Public Affairs at Syracuse University*. The program includes both group seminars and individually tailored components for each participant. The objectives of the program are to: 1) promote democracy and international standards in social science education at the university policy level; 2) enhance the quality of civic education through improved curricula development and delivery, increased institutional capacity, and expanded student and faculty engagement; and 3) fully develop the critical thinking and analytical abilities needed by educators.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
*The program is open to Kuwaiti citizens working at an accredited institution of higher education for a minimum of 5 years but not more than 10 years. Applicants must possess at least 5 years of experience working in social science disciplines, including political science, public administration, law, media, journalism, and communications.* Applicants that hold PhD degrees (completed or in progress) are preferred. However, the minimum educational requirement for candidates is a completed Master's degree in one of the aforementioned fields. Applicants must have English language fluency to participate successfully in a high-level academic and professional environment and will be requested to submit TOEFL scores. This program is subject to J-1 visa restrictions. At the time of application and while participating in the program, Fellows must be citizens of Kuwait and cannot hold U.S. citizenship or be a U.S. Legal Permanent Resident.

Applicants must demonstrate: a commitment to improving the quality and capacity of educational institutions in the region and in their fields of study; leadership skills; the capacity to apply opportunities presented in this program in a way that would benefit institutions, organizations and/or communities; and the desire to remain working in their field of study for the foreseeable future. A complete application includes an updated resume, a letter of support allowing the applicant to study in the United States from the Fellow's institution, and two essays of no more than 500 words each, written in English, which answer the following:

- **ESSAY ONE:** What has influenced your thinking about civic engagement? What are the prospects for greater civic engagement in solving problems and fostering participatory democracy in your country and how do you see the connection between your field of study and improving the prospects for civic engagement in your country?
- **ESSAY TWO:** What hopes and plans do you have for improving the quality and capacity of your educational institution in your field of study? How do you see yourself leading the change?

To apply or for more information, please contact: [kuwaitmepi@state.gov](mailto:kuwaitmepi@state.gov)



If you are interested in writing for

**THE VOICE OF AUK**

regularly, email us at [voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw)!



# Summer 2011 at Dartmouth College: An Experience of a Lifetime

This past summer three AUK students participated in the program: Sara Soliman, Hala Botros, and Nada Bedir. Additionally, two AUK students participated in a two week engineering workshop: Dalaa Al-Qhatani and Thamer Al-Mayyan. Canoeing down the Connecticut River, performing comedy skits in Spanish, and looking at paintings in the Hood Museum of Art storage are but a few of the many exciting events that made up the experiences at Dartmouth this summer. Although one month is a very short period of time, this summer's interns took advantage of every opportunity and made sure their experiences would be memorable. Below are accounts of the summer exchange experience from the three AUK students. The selection process for Summer 2012 will begin in early November, most likely.

A New England-Summer:  
Art, Film and Exploring at  
Dartmouth

By Sara Soliman

I began my internship at the Public Affairs Office, where I put together a film about international students at Dartmouth, from writing the script to shooting the interviews.

Although I learned a lot from our project, I also got an insider's look into how an office operates. As a Graphic Design major, although I was not assigned work relevant to my field of study at the office, I became part of an environment which I may find myself in the future.

The next two weeks were spent at the Hood Museum of Art. I worked on writing curatorial reports on recently purchased pieces, but in the process I met most of the staff and got the chance to see pieces of art up close. I saw art pieces such as the charcoal sketches of John Singer Sargent and a Maxfield Parrish oil painting. I also met the head of security, the exhibition designer, and even sat in on a dress rehearsal for an opera performance in one of the galleries. Working at the Hood has been a highlight of my experience, from looking at prints in storage and walking through the galleries with the exhibition designer, to listening to the curators talk about oil paintings and walk us through the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. I spent 9-4.30 of everyday at the Hood and at the Public Affairs office; outside this time, I spent hours reading in Sanborn

Library, leafed through music scores at the Paddock Music Library, got lost in downtown Hanover, and sat under the trees on the Green. I spent every Tuesday evening rehearsing in the Hopkins Center with three other flautists. Every Wednesday, I went downstairs at the Baker Library and took letterpress workshops, receiving lectures on design and printing and typesetting and printing blocks of metal type. In the weekends, I went canoeing for the first time down the Connecticut River, planned trips to Boston where I hopped the subway and walked through public gardens and streets lined with brownstone flats and trees, and was taken on hikes and treks in Hanover and in Queechee, Vermont.

The month has been an exciting one: I feel I have learned more about myself and understood my capabilities as a student and as a person. I am more confident about what I want to do and how I want to pursue my field of study. Although I was not a student at Dartmouth, I have gained and seen a lot of it and can say with confidence that this has been a month well-spent.

## HALA BOTROS

*Hala and Sara at the greenhouse with the rare Corpse Flower (Amorphophallus titanum, which is a giant tropical flower that rarely blooms).*



## HALA BOTROS

*Nada at the Town of Hanover's 250th Birthday and 4th of July celebrations on the Dartmouth Green.*



Exploring Dartmouth: A Place Full of Surprises

By Hala Botros

When I looked out from behind the large windows of my coach, I was mesmerized by the infinite green land and the grandeur of the trees. Dartmouth is very welcoming, especially in the summer where the sunshine is bright and elm trees are their best shades of green.

My experience began at the Public Affairs Office, where I was producing a video about "Internationalism at Dartmouth." I had the chance to meet students and interview them, and later deal with raw footage in the editing process to produce a final video. As a Communications major, I was very interested in exploring the Public Affairs Office and how it operates. This gave me the chance to help out at events and met many interesting people, such as an old Dartmouth Alum who lived in Kuwait in the 60s.

On Wednesdays, my friends and I visited the Farmer's Market on the College Green, where fresh products were sold every week and many people walked their dogs as they enjoying the sunshine. Being the dog lover that I am, I enjoyed playing with dogs such as Arthur (a Yorkshire terrier), Sandy (a Maltese) and many of their friends. I also munched on kettle corn (sweet and sour popcorn) and fresh strawberries. At 6 pm, I would start heading towards the library basement where I took letterpress printing workshops, dealing with moveable type on an ancient Gutenberg Press, and a more advanced 1920s Vandercook Press. It was both educational and fascinating! During the weekend, me and my friends planned a trip to Boston, where we took duck tours,

visited parks and museums, and dined at the city's Little-Italy. The second part of my internship was spent at the Hood Museum's Communication Department, where I designed ads for an upcoming exhibition. During my time, I was able to see the collection in storage, from directly viewing Rembrandt etchings to admiring handmade original pieces by Native American tribes. Other things I did while at Dartmouth included canoeing, throwing pebbles at the pond, watching an Opera performance, attending lectures about politics and policy and sleeping on the Green looking up into the deep, blue sky. It was definitely an experience of a lifetime!

Snap, Point, and then Look:  
My Experience at the Rassias Center

By Nada Bedir

I never thought a one month's stay at Dartmouth would expose me to a whole new world of experiences. Although I've been to the States a couple of times, living in the small town of Hanover had its own taste. My internship with the Rassias Center taught me how learning languages can develop understanding amongst different cultures and bring peace to the world.

For the first two days, I got to know the Rassias staff as well as the Spanish Assistant teachers who were very welcoming and friendly. I immediately felt as part of a team that is very dedicated, enthusiastic and passionate towards their work. Snap, Point, and Look is the energetic method used at drill classes to encourage students to practice the language. I was trained how the Rassias method works and how to drill by John Rassias himself and previous AT's. In

addition, I performed a comedy skit with the staff at the opening dinner of the Accelerated Language Program (ALPs).

For the next 10 days, I became a full time Spanish student where I got to experience every aspect of the Rassias Method from intense Master Classes to drill classes and evening cultural activities. The program also provided a suitable environment for learning the target language. For example, we were expected to speak in Spanish all day in order to master our pronunciation and vocabulary skills. In addition, I got to meet students from all backgrounds and ages; some were doctors, professors, college students, managers, and even FBI agents. In the end, we felt like a family: chatting, performing and singing together at dinner in Spanish.

When the ALPs program was over, I started interning at the Rassias Office. I was responsible with the staff to prepare for the "Inter-American Partnership for Education" program (IAPE) which was an upcoming training program for Mexican teachers to learn the Rassias Method.

Moreover, I was very grateful that I had the opportunity to audit two courses at Dartmouth. I attended 'Secrecy and Lies' with Dr. Dale Eickelman and 'Democracy in Developing Countries' with Dr. Misagh Parsa. I enjoyed participating in student discussions and observing teaching methods used at Dartmouth. Last but not least, I had time to explore the Baker Library, attend business lectures, play baseball on the Green, celebrate the 4th of July, and meet new friends at dinner which made my stay more valuable. Dartmouth, you are one place to remember!

## SARA SOLIMAN

*In Boston where the Summer interns met with fellow AUK student, Lamiya Baz, who took a class at Harvard and Chris Asmar, a Spring 2011 intern at AUK from Boston College.*



## SARA SOLIMAN

*The Dartmouth Green, a space where students are able to relax and/or study.*



*"The month has been an exciting one: I feel I have learned more about myself and understood my capabilities as a student and as a person. I am more confident about what I want to do and how I want to pursue my field of study. Although I was not a student at Dartmouth, I have gained and seen a lot of it and can say with confidence that this has been a month well-spent."*



# New Faculty and Staff Members

## Full-Time Faculty Members

	Name	Position and Dept.
1	Scott Berlin	IEP Instructor
2	Bashar Zogheib	Associate Professor of Mathematic
3	Benjamin Crace	IEP Instructor
4	Alice Kim	IEP Instructor
5	Michael Aristidou	Assistant Professor of Mathematic
6	Craig Bacino – S	IEP Instructor
7	Melissa Dykes – M	Assistant Professor of English
8	Antonia Stamos – M	Assistant Professor of Art History
9	Lisa Trago – M	IEP Instructor
10	Bethany Armstrong – S	Assistant Professor of Graphic Design
11	Yacoub Al-Jaffery	IEP Instructor
12	Marcelline Rita Fusilier – M	Professor of Management
13	George Bauer – S	Professor of Art History & Studio Arts
15	Virginia Bunker	IEP Instructor


## Adjunct Faculty Members

	Name	Position and Dept.
1	Virginia Bunker	IEP Instructor
2	Hanan Arnous	BAE instructor
3	Ahmed Adel Mostafa	BAE instructor
4	Jelena Lukic	TA – Math
5	Husni Khanfar	TA – Lab Instructor
6	Leen Taha	Teaching Assistant – BAE
7	Feruza Kadirova	Adjunct Faculty – H&A

## Staff Members

	Name	Position and Dept.
1	Heba Mansour	Academic Retention Advisor – Advising Center
2	Nour Mansour	Administrative Specialist – BAE
3	Abeer Tanir*	Counselor – Career and Wellness

\* Will join AUK in October.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
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### FOREIGN NATIONAL STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM AT AMERICAN EMBASSY KUWAIT

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait is seeking an individual for the position of a STUDENT INTERN (PART-TIME) to work in the Public Affairs Section.

The Student Intern Program runs from January - April 2012 and offers students the challenge of working in a Foreign Affairs arena.

**This program does not provide any benefits, compensation or future employment rights.**

The selected intern will work part-time hours (20 hours/week; Sunday through Thursday) and will engage with Kuwaiti youth through the Embassy's social media platforms and actively participate in Public Affairs programming and events and so must be comfortable dealing with the public. The intern will also work with the Embassy's MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiative) office on civil society projects and in the ongoing development of alumni outreach. **Applicant must be a self-starter and active problem solver.**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Candidate must be a non-US Citizen and at least 18 years of age.
- Must have completed high school education.
- Must be currently enrolled in, not less than half-time, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university or comparable recognized educational institution.
- Must be a student in good academic standing.
- Candidate must possess medical insurance.
- Must possess **Fluent** Spoken and Written English and Arabic.
- Must have experience with social media, basic computer programming, volunteerism and civil society.

**Application Process:** Interested applicants **must** submit the following or the application **will not** be considered.

1. Application for US Federal Employment (DS-174) which is available on the Embassy's site: <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov>
3. Certified transcript as well as a written permission from the educational institution, in order to enroll in the program.
4. Copy of the medical insurance card.
5. Copy of the passport including the residence permit page.

**Selected candidate will be required to undergo medical and security clearances.**

Submit your application to: [HROKuwait@state.gov](mailto:HROKuwait@state.gov) before close of business on **Tuesday, October 11, 2011.**

viva3G10:55 AM31%

ChatsKongonline

10:44 AM ?

OMG r u stil home? class in less thn 10m! on m waay ther ur not gonna find parkn

10:50 AM

Hiiiiiii10:51 AM

U at AUK?10:51 AM

lol turn the car around10:51 AM

Today is Sat, no class!!!!10:51 AM

laughin at you xD10:51 AM

10:52 AM

Srsly?? : < \*facepalm\* ths happns to me every smstr

Loooooooooooooooooooooo10:52 AM

10:53 AM :<<<<<

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# Warm Welcome from Editorial Board

To all returning and new students, faculty and staff, the Voice of AUK would like to welcome you back to what is sure to be another exciting year at the American University of Kuwait! The Voice of AUK is the university's student newspaper and was established as a communication channel for the AUK community endorsing and promoting its mission statement and relaying on and off campus events, news stories, and features to its readership.

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

Since its inception in 2004, the Voice of AUK has come a long way and has established itself as a leadership organization on campus publishing news for the students, by the students. We welcome aspiring or even recreational writers to join our ranks or even write for us regularly. After all, most of what students learn to hone at university are their writing skills and what better way to develop them than by writing on subjects that interest them most?

At the Voice of AUK, our newspaper consists of five main sections: Front Page, News, Opinions and Editorials, the Arts, and Wolfpack Community. The Front Page is generally reserved for recent, headlining news stories, the News section covers news related to happenings both in the AUK and Kuwaiti community, the Opinions and Editorials section is reserved for students, faculty and staff to write on any subject they wish, provided that it does not conflict with AUK

or the Voice of AUK's mission statements, the Arts publishes concert, book, movie and even play reviews or covers on and off campus events related to the arts, and the Wolfpack Community section is concerned with time-sensitive stories related to the AUK community be it university functions and endeavors or highlighting student academic and extracurricular achievement. We are open to suggestions from the AUK community and constantly try our best to evolve the newspaper and have it grow towards the better. Since its founding, the Voice of AUK has made many changes to cater to the growing tastes of AUK students and continues to uphold somewhat of an academic framework to its content and appearance. Just as our title suggests, we are here to represent and have your voice be heard by the community you are now a part of or returning to.

The Voice of AUK seeks to cover all news at AUK that is relevant to the members of the

community and their families. The Voice is fully operated by the student members of its Editorial Board. It can be accessed as a PDF file online at [www.auk.edu.kw/voice](http://www.auk.edu.kw/voice) or can be picked up at the designated magazine stalls around the campus. These are located in four locations: the lobby of the Sciences building, the lobby of the Liberal Arts building, the Administration building, and the AUK Library. Get into the habit of checking your student email frequently because that is primarily where we communicate with you regarding issue deadlines, issue releases, upcoming events such as our annual Blood Drive which first took place in 2008, and such. If you would like to send us a submission and/or would like to have any questions about the student newspaper, answered contact us at [voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw). Our office is located in the clubs and organizations offices area on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building.



Sciences building.



AUK Library.



Auditorium.



Open Lab in the Liberal Arts building.



Center for Continuing Education.

## PR/MARKETING

To do our part in welcoming and situating new students in their new-found university setting, we are pleased to present you with a concise, written map of some locations on the AUK campus as well as important online pages with short descriptions of each:

1. Sciences building: This is one of the two main buildings at AUK where classes are conducted and where faculty offices are located at the top most floors. It is located next to Gate 1 and has a Starbucks available on the ground floor. Faculty offices are located on the third floor.
2. Liberal Arts building: The second of the two main buildings. It is located across from the Sciences building and houses the AUK Diner which we would encourage you to eat at during your stay at AUK. Faculty offices are located on the fourth and fifth floors.
3. Central campus: If you are enrolled in Intensive English Program courses, your classrooms will be located on central campus; that is, in the main hallway between the Sciences and Liberal Arts buildings. Be sure to ask anyone for directions if you cannot find your class!
4. Intensive English Program: For all those enrolled, the program is designed to support students who need to improve their English language skills to the level required to study at AUK. Students are introduced to activities requiring them to

obtain a working ability to: read university-level materials, write, edit and revise academic papers according to standard American English, communicate ideas in a clear and logical manner in oral presentation and demonstrate academic skills in listening and note-taking.

5. Center for Continuing Education: For those who are interested in honing language skills and furthering personal and professional development, this is the place for them! It is right next to the Sciences building and offers programs and services which complement those of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Intensive English Program at the American University of Kuwait. Moreover, it has programs and courses to meet the growing demand for workforce development training.
6. The Administration building: Many of the university dealings you will need to accomplish during your stay at AUK will have something to do with visiting the Administration building. It is located at the very end of the main hallway and is not far from the AUK Library. There, you will find the AUK Bookstore which is where you will go to purchase course textbooks, AUK merchandise, and stationary among other things, the Finance Department located on the first floor which is where you will be paying tuition fees for your courses (unless you are here on a government

scholarship) and heading to for anything fiscal-related, the Public Relations and Marketing Department which is where you can go to have press releases sent for an event your club/organization will be holding, acquiring permission to bring in an outside vendor as well as other relevant services, and the Office of the President on the fourth floor where the President of AUK's office is located and where you can schedule an appointment to share a concern.

7. The AUK Diner: With a varied menu and hospitable personnel, the AUK Diner is an excellent eatery to spend time and eat at while at AUK. They have everything from chocolate and energy bars to main course meals, even taking special requests from the AUK community. Indulge yourself and come to the AUK Diner!
8. The AUK Library: Nestled between the Multipurpose Room and the Office of Admissions, the AUK Library supports and advances the educational mission of the American University of Kuwait by facilitating access to scholarly collections and information resources. The Library provides a variety of resources to students such as circulation/borrowing materials, reasonable loan periods, reference and reserve services, online resources, and the LibGuides, a link any AUK member can get to from the AUK website where he/

she will find several subject guides that will help locate relevant resources for study and research purposes. There are many more services provided by the AUK Library so be sure to stop by and make use of them!

9. Office of the Registrar: Located next to the AUK Library and the Office of Admissions, it facilitates the educational process by providing students, faculty and staff with accurate academic records and sound advice regarding policies and procedures in order to encourage informed academic decisions that support the goals of AUK. By continuously developing its services, technology and security standards, it strives to build a reliable and efficient communication structure to collect and deliver academic information to campus constituents.
10. Computer labs: These are available around the AUK campus: a few computers are available at the Tutoring Center located on the ground floor of the Sciences building, computer classrooms in both main buildings are free to use if a class is not being conducted in them, computers are available in the AUK Library and the Open Lab is a space for students to use computers at anytime during the week and is located on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building.
11. Student Worker spaces: Several departments on campus

employ student workers to take on functions and duties and whom are prepared to assist you if need be. If you would like to become a student worker, visit the Employment section on your Self Service account and follow the instructions.

12. Auditorium and Multipurpose Room: These are the two event venues available at AUK. The Auditorium is located on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building while the Multipurpose room is just outside the AUK Library.
13. Clubs and Organizations: Located opposite the Open Lab on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building, this area houses the Student Government Association, the Campus Activities Board, the Voice of AUK and other prominent clubs and organizations at AUK. Feel free to step in and ask about any you feel interested in joining. If you form a club and remain active throughout the year, you can go through procedural paperwork to get an office in the designated area.
14. Soccer Field: Just outside both the Sciences and Liberal Arts buildings, this venue is reserved for students who wish to play soccer for leisurely purposes and practice for local tournaments as well as hosting them.
15. AUK Website and Email: To get to the AUK website, type in: [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw). Be sure to check the AUK website regularly for upcoming events,

news, information on AUK departments and much more. To get to your email account, type in: <https://mail.auk.edu.kw>. Anticipate the fact that your password will have to be changed every few months. The email is an important resource to utilize to be updated with university functions and communicate with your professors.

16. AUK Self Service: This is an online portal where students can go to update their personal and contact information, register for courses, add/drop/withdraw from courses, view their academic records, apply for being student workers, and be updated on their financial statuses at AUK and make sure they have no holds placed on their accounts which would bar them from registration. Make good use of this service!

We hope the above information has been useful and we would encourage you to come back to it if you are stumbling during your first few days trying to locate departments and offices at AUK. You will need some time to fully adjust at AUK and to its services and facilities; we only hope that this hastens the process. Do not hesitate to ask returning students, faculty, and staff for guidance and assistance. We are all here to make your stay enjoyable. Once again, we are very pleased to welcome you to the Wolfpack family!



# Welcome from President Winfred Thompson



Dear students, welcome to campus for the Fall term, 2011. I hope that your summer was enjoyable and that you had a memorable Eid al-Fitr holiday. The year ahead will be a busy one. Much will remain the same for AUK, but you will notice changes also as we strive to improve university services and enhance the quality of your educational experience. Most of

# What is a Healthy Life?

BY TREVOR N. TAYLOR

Welcome back to AUK. I know many of you are excited about catching up with your friends after summer break, others are celebrating just being out of the house and away from the family for a few hours, a large group is debating which guy or gal is most pleasing to the eye, and hopefully a few are interested in starting classes; whatever your reason to be on campus, let's take a moment to focus on ourselves before we get too caught up in life at AUK. While education should be the main reason we are at AUK, the fact of the matter is that there are MANY others, and that is good thing. Obviously there are other aspects in life besides education, but what is less clear is how to balance all these aspects while trying to maintain a healthy life. So what is a healthy life? Some might say it's the freedom from illness and disease, and in many regards they would be correct. However, beyond pure physiology, there is quality of life, aka wellness. This is why many "health" classes have been renamed to "health and wellness." Quality of life is looked at as a person's sense of well-being; how a person feels about his or her life. With all the things flying through our heads, it can be difficult to measure your quality of life. To make it easier, some scholars grouped all the aspects of health and wellness into five major components: Emotional, Intellectual, Physical, Social, and Spiritual.

all, we want you to study hard and do well in your academic work, but we also want you to take advantage of your years at AUK to grow and mature socially and to take full advantage of the freedoms, challenges and responsibilities that are integral parts of college life. Best wishes on a successful academic year.

The idea is for a person to look at each component and determine how they feel about it, positively or negatively. For optimum wellness, a person should strive for a positive self-perception in each component, creating a positive total outlook. Will we be happy all the time? Most likely not. Do we measure our social worth by the number of our friends? That's entirely up to you. Do you feel fulfilled with your spirituality? I don't know, do you? What I'm trying to say is: your sense of well-being is YOUR sense of well-being. It is completely individual. Please keep that in mind. Another thing to keep in mind is that while each component is separate, they often affect one another. For example, playing on a sports team is a great way to improve your physical wellness. However, it also gives you a social outlet, invokes emotions, challenges your mind, and hopefully allows you to maintain some spirituality. Many of your choices in life will affect all components to some degree. Try to be aware that every action (or lack of action) has a consequence. I encourage you to take advantage of ALL the opportunities AUK offers. Remember that university is a time for you to grow as a whole, not just intellectually. Above all, try to find a balance in life so you can enjoy the entire university experience.

# The New Career Services and Wellness Center

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer break. You may have noticed a few changes on campus: a new floor on the sciences building, new expansions on the corridor, and a lot of new faces on campus. We would like to take this opportunity to announce the new Career Services and Wellness Center. We offer a variety of services and events.

- Services  
Career counseling  
Health Fair  
CV and Cover Letter critique  
Career Fair
- Events  
Disability services  
Career workshops  
Alumni affairs  
Healthy Student Living Workshops  
Personal counseling  
Alumni events

We have a lot planned for this year so stay tuned!

AUK's mission is focused on creating leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibilities in their society. As a graduate of the American University of Kuwait, you have become part of a network of future leaders destined to positively impact Kuwait and global society. You are an AUK family member for life! We celebrate your achievements and will support you with challenges. You have made us proud.

- The Alumni Network enables you to:
- Stay in touch with former classmates.
  - Be involved with AUK.
  - Expand your networking.
  - Take advantage of benefits and services, especially for alumni.
  - Support current students by serving as a mentor, employing interns or donating to scholarship funds.
- Alumni Member benefits:
- Distinguished AUK Alumni University ID Card.
  - Bi-annual newsletter.
  - Library access and database privileges.
  - Alumni email account.
  - Career services support.
  - Center for Continuing Education course discounts.
  - Alumni Advisory Board.
  - Invitation to networking and university events with special access.

Welcome home!  
Without "U" there is no AUK  
alumniaffairs@auk.edu.kw  
Our office is located at the Office of Student Life, A004.  
Tel: 1-802040; Ext 256.

AUK's mission is focused on creating leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibilities in their society.

BY DR. CAROL ROSS



It's the Fall, AGAIN! Is this your year? Are you a senior heading out the door, a first year student nervous about what to expect or THAT student spending all your talent trying to beat the system...IT'S FALL AGAIN, the dawn of a new beginning and your opportunity to make the best of this collegiate experience. This new beginning is your New Year celebration. Of course you get all gussied up for the party (Wolf Pack students are fashionistas!) but this party definitely has a purpose. Party

metaphorically if you can stretch your imagination that much! Your collegiate experience should be beyond enjoyable... meeting new people, learning something new about yourself, stimulating conversations, and thoughts of never wanting IT to end. FALL into LIFE. Be daring. BREAK DANCE! Old members of the Wolf Pack, welcome the new members of AUK family to the party. Don't let your peers stand against the wall and watch the life of AUK pass by. Don't be a wallflower. Be

involved in your classroom. Be there by engaging in activities, events and organizations. Define your purpose. Write your lyrics. It's Fall AGAIN! Offices have shifted location, titles and reporting lines may have changed but the spirit of the WOLF PACK remains. We stand together as one community. Make this year YOUR PARTY... FLASH MOB! DANCE! DANCE to the BEAT OF AUK! Lovin' the Wolf Pack! Peace!

# Warm Welcome from the Office of Registrar

New and returning students, welcome to a new year at the American University of Kuwait! We hope you all had a relaxing summer, productive Ramadan, and a happy Eid. Now it's time to bid "holiday mode" farewell and go back to rising early, hitting the books, and managing your time effectively. Our services at a glance: As the word implies, a university registrar oversees registering students. Expect to encounter any of our front counter staff – Mr. Mohammed, Ms. Adhari and Ms. Najd, who among other tasks, handle processing of Authorization to Enroll forms every semester. When you request an official transcript via your Self-Service account, this is where you go to collect it after one business day. If you forgot your Self-Service password, we will reset it for you.

This is also the place to request enrollment verification letters used to apply for a driving license or renew your visa, for example. If you are a transfer student and have questions related to your transfer credit equivalency, ask for Ms. Areej. Think you're close to graduation? Based on your earned credit hours, expect an email from Ms. Dina who will guide you during your senior year until you officially become a member of our alumni community. The backbone of this office— Ms. Jill, University Registrar, and Ms. Hana, Assistant Registrar— work mostly behind the scenes. Last but not least, our indispensable student workers will be floating around the office ready to provide help. Here are a few pointers to help you sail smoothly through

AUK:

- Check your email regularly— do not ignore or delete messages without reading them and make sure your mailbox isn't full.
- Save important dates on your smartphones (see table below)
- Consult the university catalog or our office for questions related to academic policies
- Do not rely on what your friends tell you—consult the experts!
- Make sure your student ID is with you at all times.

Where to find us:

Our office is across the green field near the library. Our big red 'Registrar' sign is hard to miss. Working hours: Sundays through Thursdays, 8:00am-4:00pm. We wish you a successful and enjoyable year at AUK!

15 September	Fall Drop/Add deadline & Last Day to withdraw from university with a 90% refund
22 September	Last Day to withdraw from individual Fall courses or from university with a 50% refund
10 November	Midterm grades for Fall semester courses available to students via Self Service effective 9pm
17 November	Last day to withdraw with a W from a single class or from university
22 November	Registration for Spring and Summer 2012 begins
26-31 December	Finals
08 January	Final grades for Fall semester courses available to students via Self Service effective 9pm





Hello Everyone!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rama Sabano, and I wanted to introduce myself as the Coordinator of Student Organizations and Leadership Development.

Last year, we had around 30 registered Clubs and Organizations at AUK. A student club or organization is defined as a group of students who unite to promote a common interest. As a Liberal Arts Institution, AUK recognizes the vital contributions that student clubs & organizations make to the quality of life on campus and supports the mission and vision of the Office of Student Life. Why join or start a club? Joining or starting new clubs provides students with learning opportunities outside of the classroom such as developing valuable leadership and organizational skills. Student clubs and organizations also offer students a chance to network with faculty, staff and classmates who have similar career interest, cultivate their talents, and explore new interests. Stop by and see me at the Office of Student Life if you are interested in starting or joining a club, my office hours are from 8am to 4pm, Sunday through to Thursday.

# HOW TO START A CLUB

HMM... I THINK I WANT TO START A CLUB... MAYBE I'LL GO TO STUDENT LIFE

UHM..... YEA... GO SEE.....

**RAMA SABANO**

SO, I KIND OF WANT TO START A CLUB... WHAT DO I DO?

YAKHSARA OK, GO FILL OUT THESE FORMS

NO! MY OFFICE HOURS ARE FROM 12-3! SEE YOU THEN!

OFFICE HOURS 12:00-3:00

AUK Clubs & Organizations Clubs and Organizations Constitution Template

AUK Clubs & Organizations Clubs and Organizations Registration Form

Clubs & Organizations Registration Deadline: 20/09/2011 @ 3:00pm

# INVOLVEMENT FAIR

SEPT. 13<sup>TH</sup>

@ 12:00PM-3:00PM CENTRAL HALLWAY

DEPARTMENTS

STUDENT WORKERS

ATHLETES

CLUBS

ORGANIZATIONS



# STUDENT LIFE EVENTS FALL '11

For more Event Details please check your AUK Email

## September

11<sup>th</sup>

Welcome Back

B-B-Q

12<sup>th</sup>

Ice Cream & Popcorn Social



13<sup>th</sup>



Get involved Fair

14<sup>th</sup>

Welcome Back

@ Hangout

15<sup>th</sup>

TBA

25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

Wii Sports Tournament



## October

3<sup>rd</sup>

Tell it to the V.P of Student Affairs



16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Soccer Tournament



18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Social Awareness Week

## November

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

Badminton Tournament



14<sup>th</sup>

Tell it to the Dean of Student Affairs



17<sup>th</sup>

Monthly Ice Cream & Popcorn Social



29<sup>th</sup>

Homecoming

## December

1<sup>st</sup>

Homecoming

5<sup>th</sup>

Tell it to the Dean of Student Affairs



6<sup>th</sup>

Scavenger Hunt



7<sup>th</sup>

Basketball Tournament



16<sup>th</sup>

Monthly Ice Cream & Popcorn Social



26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

Food for Finals



# GET INVOLVED...



## Book Fair Art Pieces

BY HAWRAA ASHOUR, AUK ALUM '11



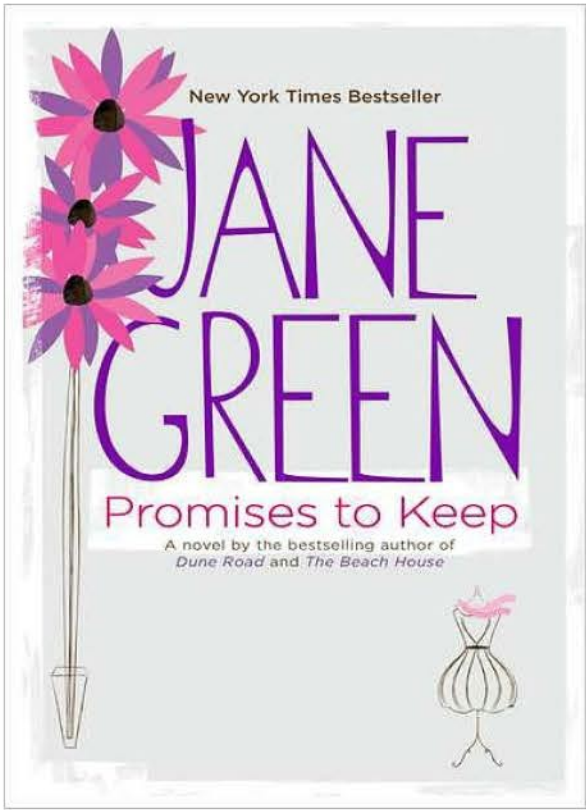
Every year without fail, I attend the annual book fair. As the years pass and censorship takes new courses of action, my desire to go grows faint, and instead of attending the fair two or three days each run, I settle for less and less. The quality of the books also change, the price range and the variety of topics. At the last book fair, stepping into one bookstore meant I had already visited 80% of the fair. It was when going to the fair became more a chore than a delight, that I finally noticed the gem hidden between showroom six and showroom seven. It is not that I have never looked fleetingly at the stands, but they had never consumed my thoughts as they do now. I'm talking about the art section. In the past, I would only go near to see enlarged photographs, where family's art resides; but as far as I remember, those were moved to a larger venue. Some of the pieces that replace their location though? Are a wonder to look at. I had never been so

consumed with the desire to analyze artwork, opting instead to dedicate myself to the written words, the literary art. But seeing the display took my breath away. In the last Kuwait annual book fair, I dedicated more time to studying this corner, and was lucky to be presented with a copy of the gallery booklet, where I found photographs attached to art pieces instead of just names. Out of an astonishing number of portraits, canvases and more, I saw the familiar faces of AUK students, whose works had been displayed there as well. Even though I cannot doodle to save my life, I felt a sense of accomplishment and pride at having seen AUK's students and their talents, represented in the fair. What I really appreciated about the display, was that it was not themed and offered me the excitement of not feeling bored when faced with two pieces next to each other. They were nothing alike, but somehow, they all had a connecting thread, like I'd

missed the reference and had to view the pieces more than once, spend time reading them to truly get at the meaning. It sometimes makes me wish books were larger beings, capable of showing so much, in such subtle ways. I loved so many pieces in the display, but my favorite, without question was a painting of Kuwait, personified into an ailing human being, covered so that it had no face, or gender to it. It spoke volumes about the political situation, corruption and the dubious future the country is headed towards and actually made me take a step back and consider these questions. Galleries of private collections, new artists and many others are so readily advertised and gather all kinds of audiences, but it's small, unassuming, unassuming displays like this one, that really made me interested in looking at art, attending art events and coming to appreciate the brush as equally as the pen.

## Delving into Every Family's Fear

BY AMAL BEHBEHANI, AUK ALUM '11



A New York Times Bestseller, Promises to Keep is Jane Green's newest personal novel. The story centers around Callie, a woman who dealt with a terrible blow to her short life. Her family and close friends take part in helping out as her life unravels. Taken from some of her experiences with her own best friend's fight against cancer, it gives a realistic glance as to what happens when bad news arrives. The first part of the book gives the reader an intake of Callie's life and of her friends, while the second part of the novel is how they deal with her sickness. It is a sensitive topic to discuss; nonetheless, Green depicts the events of the downfall very nicely without the overflow of superficial drama. She

takes into consideration each character's personal life and how it is affected by the bad news. The story does not only revolve around one person, but multiple diverse individuals that give a bit of depth to the story. For food lovers, there is Steffi, Callie's free spirited sister, who provides recipes after every chapter. She is the most interesting character in the book aside from Callie and in terms of progress, is the most to be seen throughout the tragedy. The recipes listed in the novel are good for parties and special occasions, so its better to keep them for if you are up for cooking. Even beginner cooks might be able to put something together with Steffi's recipes. The story gives a diverse look

into the complexities of every relationship. All aspects of a relationship are discussed and presented in Green's novel. From parenthood to single life, nothing is left unexplored. Callie's family seems the perfect unity, but when taking a closer look, there are some disturbances not shown. Green scrutinizes the workings of every kind of relationship while showing the hope and love that can still be found in times of despair. Green wrote it with her friend in mind who never gave up fighting against cancer until the very end. Callie's outlook as she fights the disease is an inspiration to all those who are fighting their own demons.

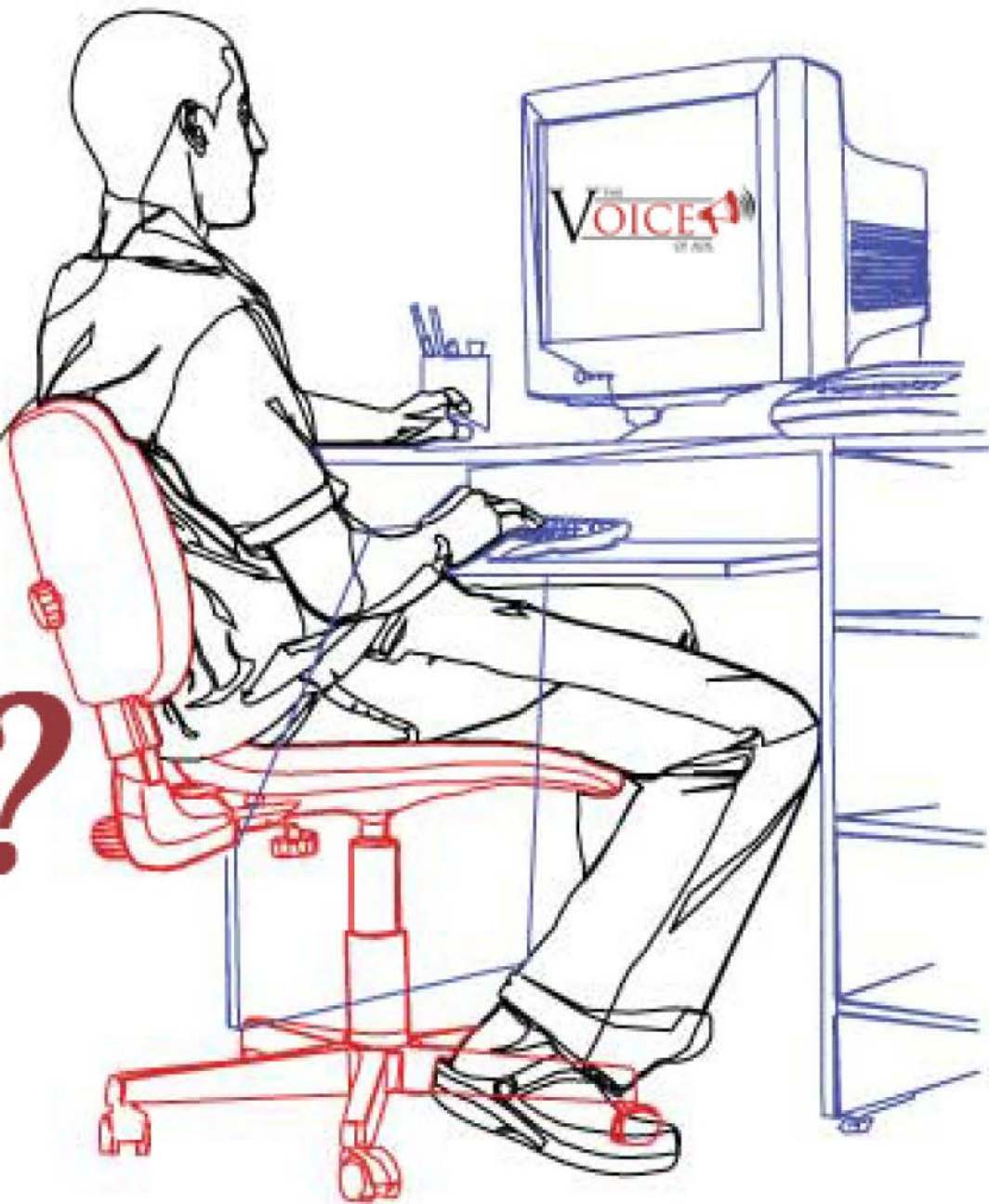
# Question:

Do you have a  
knack for..

# graphic DESIGN?

Then join the Voice of AUK's  
layout/production team!

Email us at [voice@auk.edu.kw](mailto:voice@auk.edu.kw).





Job Market Bias: Troubling Revelations

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM '11

that I am to value and seek out its ideals. Without notice, I find myself drawn to things of a Western nature and immediately light up when I see, hear or read anything having to do with the liberal arts. Whenever I attended an event or had a casual conversation with a professor at AUK, the notion is communicated to me, whether directly or indirectly. We were taught and trained to be devotees to this particular lifestyle in the realm of education. Even the mission statement is plastered all over the walls. Therefore, this consequence is purely natural. I have to say that after mulling the idea over and over in my head and being presented the oh-so-bitter truth this June, I feel cheated. The pillars of a Western liberal arts education are not applicable in the work force and I have a hard time coping with that. I wish I could say I had gathered this information from subtle happenings I had witnessed but they are anything but that. Jobs in the government sector consist of institutional units that dot the urbanized landscape of Kuwait. That is all fine and dandy until you consider how utterly notorious they are for being highly ineffective and in all honesty and for lack of a better word, boring. I have been programmed to be someone who

is on the lookout for a challenge, something of an adventure encompassed in but a job title; no one who has allocated years of study to a concentration wishes to feel unproductive professionally. But I was given that disheartening reality when I was nominated to work at the Ministry of Oil, when the employee I was dealing with to finish my paperwork said, “Don’t think working here is a joy; we don’t do anything.” She said that while simultaneously chortling and I could not help but feel sorry for her. I almost wanted to give her a hug. It is astounding how she would admit to that with such ease! As a graduate from the English Language and Literature department, there is absolutely no job opportunity that caters to my interests especially since all I hold is a Bachelors degree at the moment. Everywhere I apply, the job title remains unchanged: a translator. Ignorance on this matter is not to be pardoned. Translation is a whole other field of study; possible employers just stare at me in disbelief when I distinguish between the two during interviews. Even when their knowledge of this is disproved, I still like to call them out even further because it irks me to no end how little people know about my major. So then

I ask myself: how can I possibly pursue postgraduate study, excel and then come back to what is a biased, barren wasteland of job opportunities back home? Then, it immediately becomes about whether I want to secure a reasonable salary that I can permanently live off of or do something I feel strongly about where good pay would not be as guaranteed. Cue in the long, drawn out discussions with family about how I am being foolish by following a dream of mine. Now at opposite ends of the spectrum, I usually avoid these conversations because I know I can never make them understand. This is what introducing liberal art institutions has done: the principles promoted are not comprehended by earlier generations and what results is this frightening gap of varying mentalities. If Kuwait is not able to follow through and ensure that I can be something other than a university professor when I am completely finished with my studies, what exactly is the point? I desperately want my country to focus more on the liberal and literary arts and work towards being a full-fledged knowledge-based community but as the famed Arabic saying goes, “No voice is to be heard for the one calling out.”

“As a graduate from the English Language and Literature department, there is absolutely no job opportunity that caters to my interests especially since all I hold is a Bachelors degree at the moment. Everywhere I apply, the job title remains unchanged: a translator.”



### What is L.E.A.D. at AUK

L.E.A.D at AUK is a program overseen by the office of student life to provide information and skills on how to be an effective leader on campus and in the Professional world.

Presentations and workshops will be held throughout each semester. During these session, information will be cover a range of useful topics, such as proper business etiquette, communication skills, and effective delegation strategies to mention a few.

The overall series of the presentation and workshops will be provide a strong knowledge base of how to lead effectively in the workplace and life. continual involvement in the program throughout the year will offer special opportunities and reward for students at various levels based on participation

### How to Get Involved

All students are encouraged to attend L.E.A.D. modules; therefore there are no restrictions for attending a module.

There are three different ways for students to get involved with L.E.A.D. at AUK:

- 1. L.E.A.D. PARTICIPANTS\*** - students who attend at least 1 of the sessions. There are three different levels for the participants to reach which include Presidential, Executive, and Officer.
- 2. OCCASIONAL ATTENDEES** - students interested in only a specific session, or want to receive extra credit for a class. Extra credit might be gained pending on the professor's approval. We will provide extra credit slips when needed.
- 3. STUDENT FACILITATORS** - voluntary positions, chosen through an application process to organize, assist, and plan for L.E.A.D. events.

\*Please refer to "Roles and Criteria for L.E.A.D. Members" for more information about the different levels.

### Membership Levels

All levels at the end of the L.E.A.D. at AUK term will be invited to lunch/dinner with significant members of the AUK Administration.

**Officer Level** - students who attend 50% + of the L.E.A.D. at AUK sessions. The reward for students reaching this level will be an acknowledgement certificate for their participation in the program.

**Executive Level** - students who attended 75% + of the L.E.A.D. at AUK sessions . The reward for students reaching this level will be an acknowledgement certificate for their participation in the program as well as an additional reward.

**Presidential Level** - students who attended 85% + of the L.E.A.D. at AUK sessions. The reward for students reaching this level will consist of the same rewards given to the officer and executive level and supplementary recognition rewards as well.

### LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES PASSPORT

Get your free passport with L.E.A.D and start earning points!

All AUK students are eligible to collect a L.E.A.D. passport from the Office of Student Life or at one of the L.E.A.D at AUK sessions. The passport enables them to collect points and keep a record of the sessions that they attend throughout the year. Points earned from modules will expire after the end of the L.E.A.D. at AUK academic year.

Use this passport to earn points when you attend any L.E.A.D at AUK events. Have the passport with you in order to get it stamped.

**L.E.A.D. at AUK**  
Learn • Experience • Achieve • Discover

### Student Facilitators

- The role of facilitators will be to help coordinate and organize L.E.A.D. events throughout its term.
- Students that are interested in becoming facilitators for the program are required to reach one of the three levels and then fill out an application form. The appointment of facilitators is a selective process.
- Facilitators are voluntary positions but will allow individuals to apply what they have learned in L.E.A.D at AUK sessions to real organizational and programming experiences. This in turn will provide real life experience and be a great resume builder.

BY HAWRAA ASHOUR, AUK ALUM '11

The Call  
How traditional, I think while looking at the unknown number calling me, and wonder why people can't just email instead. Then I remember one email, brief, commanding, and the afternoon I spent calling every directory in the country trying to find directions to the interview location. I sigh and pick up the phone. I now sleep next to pen and paper, never have my phone on silent, and wake up in the morning to expect calls. I'm half asleep one time, scribble notes and pass out again. The next day, I remember that my caller left me no name, vague directions, and only a floor number. I go to the wrong company, same floor, and sit through an embarrassing revelation. Preparations  
Having attended L.E.A.D for one entire year, and then working as a facilitator for another, I've been treated to the interview presentation twice. Before every interview, the echo of Amy Kushner's voice as she tells me to remember to ask a question, avoid the topic of payment, and more, rings in my ear. I check to see if I'd brought more copies of my CV, I look at my right hand and make sure I didn't accidentally leave on my digital watch. The fact that I no longer know what time it is, is comforting. I walk slowly, trying not to trip because of the heels – my flats waiting in the car – and I readjust my suit jacket, wishing it was made of airy paper. Arrival  
Interviews are like public speaking classes. You go in, say your piece, answer questions and then leave. The only problem is that, the topic is you and your tone is persuasion. Once I'm inside the interview room, the world outside stops mattering. Sometimes, the audience you have to impress is comprised of one, sometimes five sets of

eyes stare back at you. I recite a well-memorized description of myself, decline any offers of drinks, and resist the temptation to call what I'm doing, an out of body experience. What do you know about our company? is my nightmare question. On one occasion, I mixed up the information I had about another company with theirs; on another, I attributed a brand to a company that didn't have them. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Retired is what I most want to say, retired with cash to spare. I smile and nod most of the time, sometimes I have no idea what the interviewer is saying anymore, they have lost me amid elaborate-most likely rehearsed descriptions of their company. I never object to a point: I'm a super being, capable of working whatever job hours, no matter how early, no matter how far, and no matter what the parking situation is. I smile again, ask one of them for a card and leave with many thanks. After  
On my way to the car, the sun reminds me that I am human and that for the millionth time, my suit will need to go to the cleaners. Once inside my car, gone are my high heels, replaced by my flats and then my suit jacket follows. I blast the AC and contemplate how I did. If the road is a long one home, I ponder how early I should wake up to avoid Salimiya's traffic and find parking. The last time I rolled out of bed at 7am was 4 years ago in high school. The last time I rolled out of bed even earlier than that was never; I write the company off in my head. Before I head home, I stop at Caribou and get a green tea and passion fruit smoothie: the smoothie and I compare notes on whether they'll call me back or not. My arrival home means I need to sit down and type a thank you letter; I used to write them with passion, until

one of them bounced back, then I stopped writing them entirely. Feedback  
I was told I talked too fast, my voice too low, and that I had the wrong major. It stings, but it hurts more that I had woken up early to receive my rejection call. Sometimes, rejection comes in the form of a long wait; once a month passes, it is silly to still have hope. Once it came in the form of an email and I thought: how impersonal. Then I have my share of rejecting people, in the name of courtesy, I do not give the real reasons why I said no. I cannot for example say: I refuse to be your slave and work 9 hours a day; nor can I say: your boss keeps picking his nose and that is disgusting or: you sabotaged my demo class by telling the students and me aloud that class will end in 15 minutes. So I make elaborate lies that hurt me more as I say them. I say I've received a – an imaginary – scholarship and can't commit to a year contract; I say I received an – imaginary – offer from a different place, with a promising salary. I then apologize into the shocked silence of the other party. Unemployed  
I nurse another medium sized smoothie, trying to achieve a sugar rush and tell myself there is a job out there with my name on it. I try to tell myself that my expectations of a job were not impossible and that my standards weren't high. I look at my BA and snort, maybe I should have pursued a major that made me miserable, but had an employment market. I water down my pride, open my browser and check for vacancies, copy down email addresses and send self-promoting emails about myself and how I fit the companies' needs. My phone rings, an unknown number; I pick up and wonder if this is the voice of my future employer.



# Diamond Planets are a Girl’s Best Friend!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM ‘11

Yes, you read the title correctly. Diamonds may have famously been on good terms with Marilyn Monroe but the priceless ornament that has the female of the species falling to her knees is apparently a planet now! I am honestly waiting in vain for when technology advances to the point where actual visits can be made there; human existence on planet Earth would cease because all us women would have found a new home. But all joking aside, there is a lot that astronomers have discovered this summer about this incredible sighting located in the far reaches of our Milky Way galaxy. The first piece of information to relay is that no human being (any living thing for that matter) can journey there because it lies 4,000 light years away from our planet! That is having to cross

nearly an eighth of our galaxy so the notion is definitely not a feasible one for execution. When I stopped to really consider the distance, my brain began to hurt just a bit. But this new find can go hand in hand with science fiction literature/movie franchises so it probably will not be long before something new unearths; thinking out loud, I could not help but deliberate the title: Diamond Wars. According to scientists, this new planet is dense, far more than any other known to humankind and largely consists of carbon because of this. If you are wondering why it has an outer crystallized layer: that was your answer. Australian Matthew Bailes of Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne had this to report about the substantial amount of carbon: “The evolutionary history and

amazing density of the planet all suggest it is comprised of carbon – i.e. a massive diamond orbiting a neutron star every two hours in an orbit so tight it would fit inside our own Sun.” This planet orbits around a star, a pulsar one at that. What is that, you may ask? In Australia, Britain and Hawaii, what are known as pulsars, dead neutron stars that emit beams of radiation by spinning a hundred times a second, are monitored by telescopes and what measurements have helped to reveal is that the strange planet’s mass is slightly more than that of Jupiter but in comparison to the largest planet in our galaxy, is 20 times as dense! Although information about chemical and physical properties of the planet are of immense interest to those with relevant career paths, everyone else is

curious about how it actually looks like up close. Until we can figure out a way to send artificial satellites 4,000 light years into space, that shall remain a mystery. “In terms of what it would look like, I don’t know I could even speculate,” said Ben Stappers of the University of Manchester. “I don’t imagine that a picture of a very shiny object is what we’re looking at here.” Regardless though, it will only be a matter of time until news of this very recent detection spreads and dominates the media. Then again, that will only ever happen when we are equipped with satellite images; the inhabitants of Earth are extremely visual at present. Whatever else may be found out about it, what we know now certainly makes it a fascinating discovery!



*“The first piece of information to relay is that no human being (any living thing for that matter) can journey there because it lies 4,000 light years away from our planet!”*

## Who Discovered Gravity? Newton? Wrong

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM ‘11



All those years when the subject of science was being taught to students in introductory classes around the world (and still are), we never stopped to wonder about the authenticity of what was being communicated. Time and time again, we are handed examples in life that go to show that history is indeed written by the victors and only recently did I find that it does not exclusively happen with social/political history. I figured this piece of information out randomly while watching a local game show this past Ramadan. It has become something of an old wives’ tale to hear about this but the only difference is that the following is anything but mythological: it actually happened. During the golden age of Arab/Muslim societies that spanned continents, many scientific discoveries were made that were of crucial importance to the world at large and helped for us to understand and see things around us differently. The Arab/Muslim people excelled in this respect but what they were not very good at was keeping a tight lid on having foreigners credit those discoveries as their own. The amount with which this happened was catastrophic and I would have had a word or two with these fellow Arab/Muslim scientists had I been given the opportunity to converse with them.

The Arab/Muslim contribution to civilization was enormous but the pen did not work in their favor and there are many discoveries that have since gone centuries attributed to Western counterparts. While home that day watching this game show, one of the questions being asked to the players came on and it said: Who discovered gravity 1000 years before Isaac Newton did? I was immediately intrigued and stopped whatever I was doing to pay close attention. The usual reluctance on the part of the players as to what the answer is went on and in that time, I could not get the idea in my head that there had been another scientist that called notice to the law of gravity before the famed Newton did. Speculation was over with and the players had locked in on an answer; the game show host created the necessary air of suspense and finally announced their answer as right. My eyes rapidly moved to the flashing green special effect, the name read: Al-Bayruni. I filed it away in my memory and sped to my laptop to find out more about the man. This accomplished ethnic Iranian scholar and polymath is considered to be one of the greatest of the medieval Islamic era and had written about the Earth’s gravitational pull long before the renowned Newton ever did in manuscripts.

I tried researching in Arabic and found several forums where the subject was calling on Arab users to reclaim Al-Bayruni’s “right” from Newton. The romanticized image of Newton sitting under the apple tree did not appeal to me all of a sudden and I was enraged; I usually am when it comes to things like this. I then read about how in the ninth century, Arabs had already known about falling objects being attracted towards the center of the Earth. I do blame my contemporaries for not saying or doing anything major to get the word out but Arabs at the time when Newton made his discovery take the cake. Having been equipped with documentation, they should have done something to counter his possession of the discovery! But even then, my people were highly complacent. I almost wish there was a system of patent for discoveries but that is just not a reality and there is no sense thinking about what could be or have happened. But the least I thought I would do is get to as many people as possible by writing it all down and hopefully, a movement will be spawned to salvage Arab/Muslim discoveries and credit them as such in the near future. In the meantime, I will keep watching more local game shows.

## The “Technological Evolution” Phenomena

BY HUDA AL-RASHID

As you all may know, one byproduct of evolution is the possible extinction of a particular “species.” In this case, many technological devices are approaching the extinction stage because of this super fast evolutionary movement. So, let’s take a look at some of the “extinct” technological creations and reminisce. First up is the evolutionary process of memory storage devices! Way back when computers were just making an appearance in our lives, the all-time most popular memory storage tool was the popular “floppy disk” if you recall. Unfortunately this species couldn’t withstand the overpowering existence of the “CD” and ended up finding its way to the extinction hall. CDs overpowered Mr. floppy disk because it could be easily used on laptops and computers, and stored more information. So, the competition was just overwhelming, but not for long. For the past five years of so, the CD has been introduced to a new competitor, the well-known, “USB.” Being smaller in size and having a greater memory capacity, it has begun increasing

in popularity. However, the CD hasn’t reached the extinction mark just yet, but has definitely decreased in common usage. Next up is the evolution of the “computer.” Once upon a time, there was a huge, wide, heavy “machine” called a computer. This device had gained the respect of the public and was treasured as a time-saving gift from the heavens. However, this device had gone through many evolutionary transformations over the course of twenty years or so. After the typical computer was created, researchers aimed to reduce its large size while still retaining its features. So, here came the creation of a super thin screen. Following that, researchers found it to be more efficient if there was a portable element to it, which ultimately introduced the laptop. Recently, all the functions of any computer or laptop have even been overthrown by the creation of Apple’s iPad and Samsung’s Galaxy Tab, which are even smaller, easier to carry around and still retain the effective functions of the prior devices. To sum it up, anything smaller and efficient wins the extinction battle and

the hearts of many customers. Now, these are just two examples of how technology evolves in an extremely fast way. This just goes to show how interesting it would be to even think about life after five years. Everything seems to be becoming smaller, thinner, and faster. Those are the three key traits a device needs to obtain in order to win the extinction battle. It surely is a cruel world out there in the technology market; if a device does not have what it takes, it’s automatically, ruthlessly extinct. Personally, I think that mobile phones are the victors in the technology market these days, especially since now they can also function as computers do and have the ultimate weapon of wireless internet access, which of course makes them automatic winners. So basically, we have to brace ourselves for what is yet to come because, honestly speaking, it is pretty exciting to see how much more these engineers of technology can go into creating something even more advanced than these “advanced” devices (that have every possible function in the book) are offering us.

*“Personally, I think that mobile phones are the victors in the technology market these days, especially since now they can also function as computers do and have the ultimate weapon of wireless internet access, which of course makes them automatic winners.”*

## Did You Know?

BY REMA OMRAN

- 1. Unless food is mixed with saliva, you can’t taste it!
- 2. Birds need gravity to swallow!
- 3. You burn more calories eating celery than it contains!
- 4. Sound travels almost six times faster than in air!
- 5. An octopus pupil is rectangular!



Get Involved in AUK Sports!

BY MAY OMRAN



PR/MARKETING

AUK offers a selection of various sports and activities to get involved in, both on and off-campus for students to participate in. The Intercollegiate Sports Program engages students to compete against other universities across Kuwait in the following sports: soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis and table tennis. Tryouts begin early in the semester so make sure you stop by the Office of Student Life if you have any questions. Also, look forward to upcoming sports news through your university account. The Intramural Sports Program is also a great way for students to get involved in recreational sports and activities. These are on-campus events that are made up of student teams competing against each other. AUK holds tournaments on a monthly basis. This semester's tournaments include the following: Wii Tournament, soccer, badminton and basketball. Be sure to look out for advertisements via email, campus posters and SMS for sign-ups. For more information on the sports offered at AUK, stop by the Office of Student Life for further details.

*“The Intramural Sports Program is also a great way for students to get involved in recreational sports and activities. These are on-campus events that are made up of student teams competing against each other.”*

INTRAMURAL SPORTS  
FALL 2011

WII TOURNAMENT  
Basketball  
Table Tennis  
Archery  
Jet-Ski

September 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

SOCCER TOURNAMENT  
6 vs. 6 Tournament  
Single Elimination Bracket

October 16<sup>th</sup>

BADMINTON  
TOURNAMENT  
16 teams  
Single Elimination  
Tournament

November 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>

BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT  
5 teams  
3 vs. 3 Tournament

December 1<sup>st</sup>

\*The above dates are tentative and any changes to them will be announced.

AUK Athletes are 2011 UCC Champions!

BY TREVOR N. TAYLOR



PR/MARKETING

AUK winning athletes with Sports Coordinator, Trevor N. Taylor.

The UCC is currently a sports tournament amongst private universities in Kuwait. It was established in 2006 and has taken place a total of five times. Out of these five competitions, AUK has been crowned UCC Champion four times. GUST was the previous UCC Champion, making it the only other university to win. AUK, ACK, and GUST have competed in every UCC competition. Other universities have been involved in the past, such as the Arab Open University (AOU) and Kuwait University. With a new UCC committee organizing the tournament, it is hoped that next year's UCC will involve more private universities than ever before. The American University of the Middle East/ American College of the Middle East, as well as Boxhill College, are being considered as possible participants. It is even hoped that AOU will rejoin, once their temporary hold has been resolved. UCC 2011 involved five intercollegiate sports: soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and table tennis. Sport venues were provided by the participating universities, allowing the UCC to take place on various campuses. This year, AUK hosted table tennis, ACK hosted soccer and tennis, and GUST hosted basketball and volleyball. Next year's UCC may involve a couple of new sports. Swimming and squash are being seriously considered. The UCC begins with seasonal play for each sport. Universities play each other a number of times and are then ranked on their win/loss record in each sport. Once seasonal play is finished, playoff brackets are then created based on rank. During the playoffs, the universities' performances are recognized on a point basis. 1st Place = 5 points; 2nd Place = 3 points; 3rd Place = 2 points. During the conclusion of the playoffs, the points are then tallied up for every sport and the university with the most total points is awarded the UCC trophy. The UCC committee is already planning UCC 2011-2012. In addition to having more universities and more sports, they intend to expand the UCC from a two-month tournament to a year-long athletic competition. This would allow the UCC to be broken up into seasons, allowing each sport to shine in its own respect and giving student-athletes the opportunity to be involved in multiple sports. It would also create longer seasonal play, which means more games for each team to compete in. Hopefully, next year's UCC will be even better than this year's. A special thanks to all the students, faculty, and staff that came out to support the AUK teams in this year's UCC. Your cheering and motivation created an exciting atmosphere that pushed our student-athletes to perform at the next level. Thank you for showing your Wolf Pack spirit!

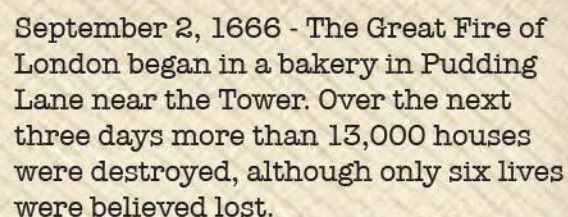


PR/MARKETING

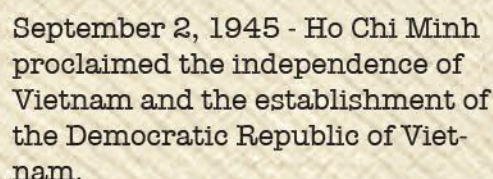
Former Director of the Office of Student Life, Damian Medina, with Sports Coordinator, Trevor N. Taylor.

*“In addition to having more universities and more sports, they intend to expand the UCC from a two-month tournament to a year-long athletic competition. This would allow the UCC to be broken up into seasons, allowing each sport to shine in its own respect and giving student-athletes the opportunity to be involved in multiple sports.”*

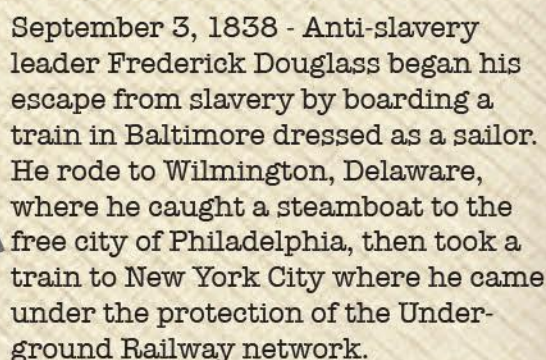




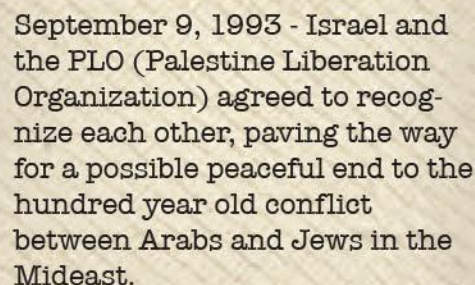
September 2, 1752 - The British ended their use of the Julian calendar, switching instead to the Gregorian calendar, resulting in a major adjustment as Wednesday, September 2, was followed by Thursday, September 14.



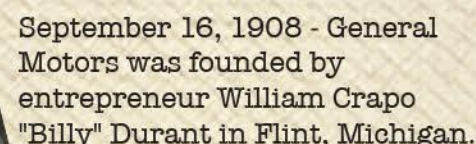
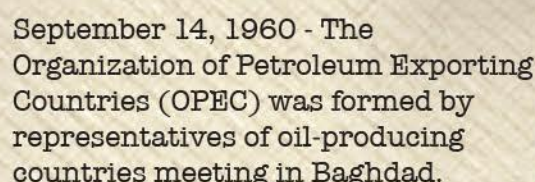
September 3, 1833 - The New York Sun newspaper first appeared, marking the beginning of the 'penny press,' inexpensive newspapers sold on sidewalks by newspaper boys.



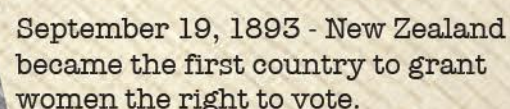
September 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



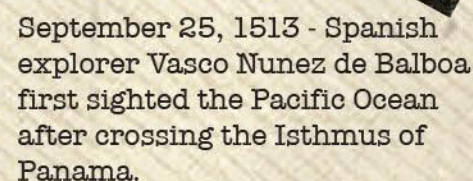
September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.



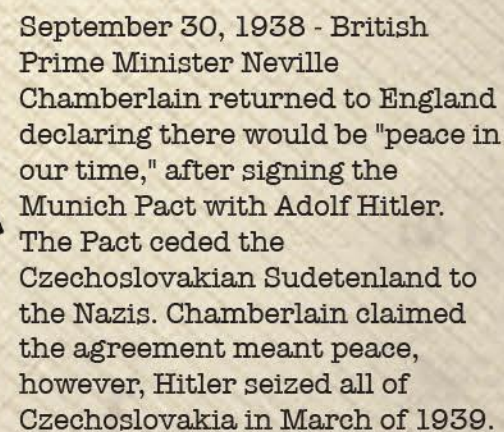
September 16, 1982 - Beginning of a two day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut as Christian militiamen (the Phalangists) entered Sabra and Shatila and began shooting hundreds of Palestinians, including elderly men, women and children.



September 24, 1980 - War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery.



September 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.





Share your recommendations to new students on how they can adjust to life at AUK and feel as part of the community.

**Heba**

My advice to new students is to participate in AUK events that are held permanently in the university because it is from my point of view helping to bring together students and make them feel like a part of the university.

**Hala Botros**

My recommendations would be to make the most out of your Orientation Week! It's the time to meet people and know your way around campus. Take part in activities and find out about the student clubs. In short, GET INVOLVED!

**Mariam Fadhl**

You can make your short life at AUK happy and feel as part of the community by joining clubs. In addition, if you need explanations to anything, feel free to talk to students and professors around. To remind you: shy/quiet students will not be successful but by sharing and showing others who they are in a humble way and making big achievements.

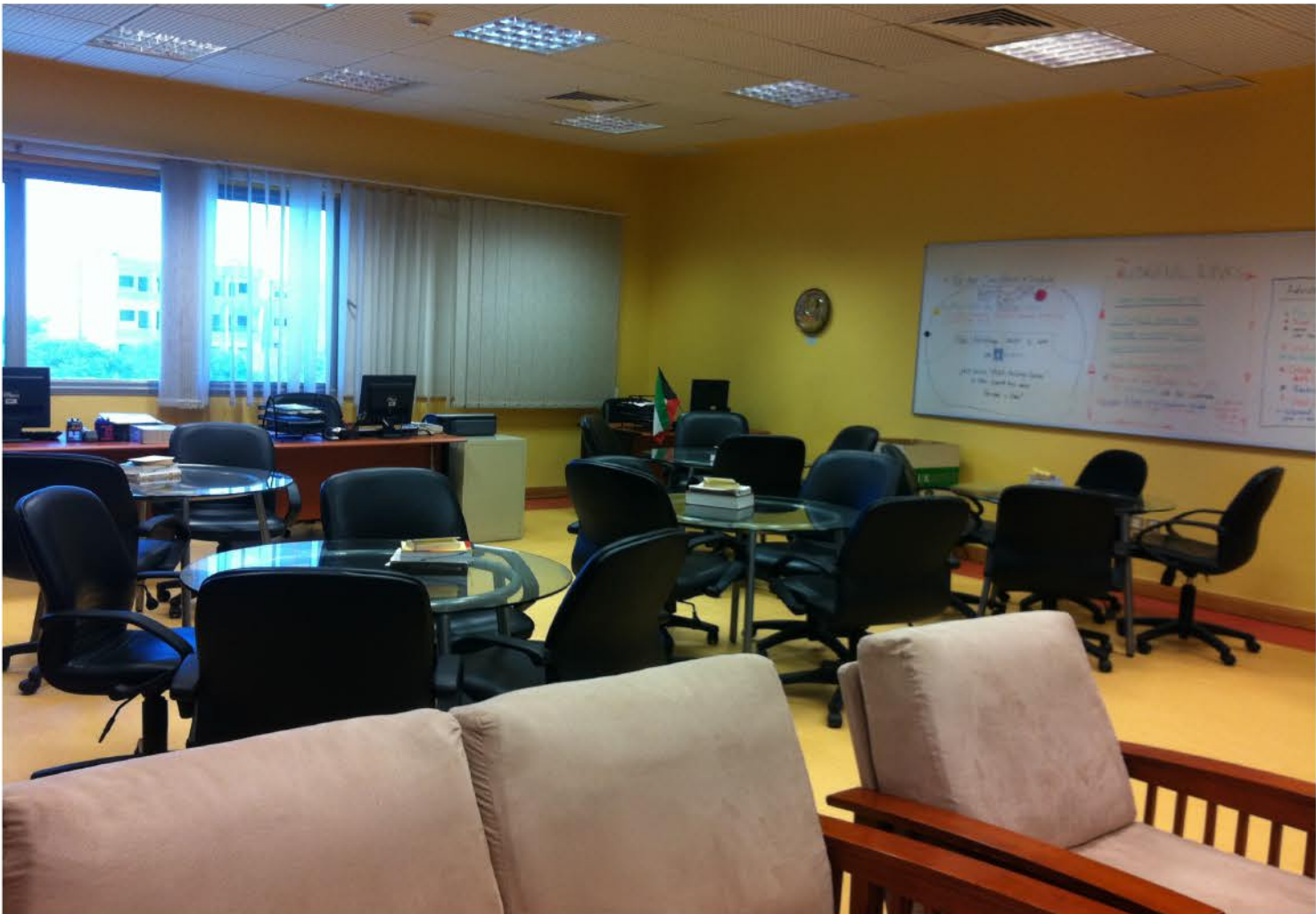
**Wala'a Al-Shaheen**

I recommend the new students to seek every possible opportunity to be part of every event held by the university especially during the first week where a lot of orientation events will be. Also, they can visit the hangout to have fun and meet new people.

**Anonymous**

The most important thing to remember is to pay attention to academics first but still engage in several activities on campus. That way, your experience will be a rewarding one.





# Audience and the Great Abyss of Meaning

BY DR. JAMES MCDUGALL, DIRECTOR OF THE WRITING CENTER

In the 1970s, a quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs, a National Geographic photographer, and a writer from Rolling Stone magazine, received special instructions from the State Department to travel around the country. The title of the memo that was circulated within the PR department was titled “Bring Back America.” They were supposed to put together one of those glossy propaganda spreads. You can imagine some PR director envisioning the ball player throwing passes to flower children with the Golden Gate Bridge and an VW bus in the background, or catching balls tossed by Sioux in traditional headdress and regalia with vast plains of Buffalo and a small tent behind them, or walking out of a construction site into a parking lot wearing a union jacket with a group of construction workers—one of the workers is tossing a football in the air, the other guys looking like they are sharing a joke. These shots would be underscored by hip captions, like “Going Deep into America,” “Not a Mascot but a Baller,” or “It Doesn’t Matter Who You Are... It’s How You Play the Game.” The photos would be connected by a kind of faux-Gonzo journalism—just showing up and seeing what is out there, and capturing bits and pieces of America. While there would be no “sex, drugs, and rock n’ roll,” the writing would be edgy. Anything would go. In order to accomplish this, the three men set out on a six-month road trip around the United States determined to put together the America of the American Dream in a way that would put all the negativity of Vietnam, the stale economy, Watergate behind them in images to the rest of the world as imagined by the US State Department. What they eventually came up with was utterly unusable. The project became a state secret and the manuscript was burned. The ashes now sit in a crate

locked up in the back of a government warehouse in D.C. All three men never spoke publicly of their mission, why they were chosen, or what they found. By 1988, all three men had committed suicide after years of battling depression and alcohol abuse. Not long following their trip, the football player was cut, the writer was struck with a case of writer’s block that cost him his job and the photographer never took a picture again—he claimed his eyes had turned to glass. No one is quite sure what they saw, but whatever it was, for three guys who defined late-1970s cool in the United States, it was too much to process. This small episode was all but erased from the American mind until this past June when a reel-to-reel audio tape was purchased by a pawn shop owner outside of Tallahatchie, Mississippi, who sold it to the captain of a Great Lakes cruise liner, the M/V Nadir. The captain, who was a rabid collector of analog stereo equipment and vintage audio tracks, often mixed found recordings with choice Muzak and piped his creations through hidden speakers to give passengers the sense that wherever they went on the ship, they would find a warm glow of conversation. Soon after hearing the mixed track in question, a vacationing retired CIA officer asked his way around to the officer’s galley where he found the captain next to a large steaming pot. There, the ex-CIA man told the captain that he recognized the voices. Over boiled hotdogs, lukewarm Tang and stainless-steel kitchenware, the two discussed with relish the ins and outs of the now open case that he worked on, often stopping to go over some of the finer points as to why the State Department project had failed. After their snack, they retired to the Captain’s quarters to have a close listen. This is what they heard: Voice 1: Writing is a way to solve problems. If ever you have an

idea that you think is perfect, sit down and try to write it down. Whenever I do this, it always seems that the words begin to take over, and I end up following the words that I write, which when read are different than the ideas that were flitting through my consciousness like small fish through corral. Pinned to the paper, they never seem to be the right fish. Can you dig what I’m trying to say? The arguments that I imagined in my head never added up. Before this was never a problem. I would just follow the words until they came together. You know, it was always just getting a story out. The thing that kept you honest was remembering who you were writing for. If you had an audience, you knew when you were off track. You need a muse! You need to think about who is actually taking the time to read the words then you can think about how you want that person to react to what you say. Voice 2: What made it difficult for you during this assignment? Voice 1: There were a few things. First of all, what I was being asked to write made perfect sense to me, but I couldn’t picture who would read it. Voice 2: You mean you had no muse? Voice 1: Yeah, man. It was nonsense. Every time we tried to find out who this piece was for, the more insane it became. We didn’t even know if it would be in English. Voice 2: So what happened? Voice 1: Well, you know I was talking about words like fish, and you just kinda follow one that best matches the people that you think you are writing for? What ended up happening is that we couldn’t follow one. We had to follow all of them and follow each possible trial of meanings for each possible reader. There comes a point when you can’t tell where words start and you begin, and the opposite, without words you would begin to disintegrate into a vacuous nothingness. Voice 2: That’s insanity. Madness.

Voice 1: You don’t know the half of it. Say we backed out of a driveway on our first day and we found ourselves asking, “Is this an American driveway?” Is this driveway happening? Like when I say, “happening,” I mean that it is really vibrating with that essential thing that people would recognize immediately. You know, the State Department people and those kinds of people think that their ideas can magically manifest themselves anywhere in the world, instantly. Well, they kept saying—“you’ll know it when you see it.” I mean they have enough pictures of the Statue of Liberty and amber waves of grain to paper the Great Wall—they wanted a new authentic, I guess, like maybe that driveway. What if someone in Laos had the same kind of driveway? It wouldn’t be American, would it? If we were writing to a Parisian child or a German actress or a Soviet cosmonaut, what would the driveway mean? So basically it came down to these kinds of questions. Like, how can you really know what you mean to someone else when you have absolutely no parameters for understanding the comprehension of the people you are writing for—it is like writing for the stars, except you start imagining each unique star as needing its own special angle. Man, it was like we needed to come up with an infinite number of angles. Voice 2: Far out! You were really getting into the audience thing. So what did you do to try as a corrective to this space odyssey that you found yourself on? Can you talk a little bit about the abyss that you discovered? Voice 1: Well, yeah. We were kinda digging the possibility of finding out what people thought but we didn’t have the correct mechanism. So that’s when the project began to fail, so in order to overcome, we started what we called a... The tape began to hiss loudly, and the tape player shut off with a violet “clang.” “That’s all we got,”

said the captain... I’m James McDougall, director of the AUK Writing Center, and if you are still reading this article, and haven’t began cutting it into paper dolls, or into little strips to line a bird cage, I would like take this opportunity, first, to welcome you all back to AUK, and, second, to let you in on a dirty little secret about writing in college: you can earn higher grades if you know your audience. As you are probably aware, writing is a form of communication. Writing for a university course is no different. Writing assignments might seem like they are forms of humiliating torture that would make the Marquis de Sade blush, but actually these essays are merely a formal way of communicating ideas with your professor, classmates, and people that we like to call an “academic community.” Knowing what your audience expects is the key to good communication regardless what the situation. Knowing your audience when you write a paper can mean the difference between passing and failing. One of the best ways to prepare your writing assignments for success is to finish them early and then test them out on a few different audiences. Read your essay to your classmates, your family, your professors, and to anyone that will listen and give you feedback. Don’t just ask them if it is good, or if there are grammar mistakes, explain what you are trying to say and ask if when they read it if they get the idea that you are trying to express. Of course, we also encourage you to bring your writing to the AUK Writing Center where our staff and student workers will work with you in communicating your ideas. Once you test your writing on a few audiences, you will be able to find out the truth about your writing: does it communicate? Or is it merely a broken trail of words crumbling into the Great Abyss of Meaning?

## Fast Facts!

Hours of operation:  
Sunday to Thursday,  
9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Located on the 2nd floor  
of the Sciences building,  
room A207.

Schedule an  
appointment by visiting  
[www.tutortrac.auk.edu.kw](http://www.tutortrac.auk.edu.kw),  
logging in using  
your username and  
password, and selecting  
a day, time, and  
consultant.

You are allowed two  
half-hour appointments  
per week.

Should you have any  
questions, email the  
Writing Center at  
[writingcenter@auk.edu.kw](mailto:writingcenter@auk.edu.kw).

## Staff

Hanouf Al-Juhail:  
Administrative  
Assistant/Staff  
Consultant.

Kheiriyeh Ahmadi:  
Administrative  
Assistant/Staff  
Consultant.

Malik Mohammad:  
Administrative  
Assistant/Staff  
Consultant.

Nur Soliman:  
Administrative  
Assistant/Staff  
Consultant.





# Fall 2011 Schedule

## SEPTEMBER

***“Leadership”*** presented by Dr. Charles Chiemeké, Division of Business & Economics.  
Tuesday Sep. 27, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

## OCTOBER

***“AUK Library Resources”*** presented by Asma Al-Kanan, Assistant Director, Library.  
Tuesday Oct. 4, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

***“How to Solve Conflict Management”***  
presented by Tadd Kruse, Assistant to the President for Institutional Planning & Effectiveness.  
Tuesday Oct. 11, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

***“Abusive Leadership”*** presented by Dr. Rawda Awwad, Assistant Dean for Accreditation & Curriculum.  
Tuesday Oct. 18, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

***“Leadership: Power & Influence”*** presented by Dr. James Rose, Division of Social Sciences.  
Tuesday Oct. 25, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

## NOVEMBER

***“Setting Successful Goals”*** presented by Dr. Aly Mansour, Division of Business & Economics.  
Tuesday Nov. 1, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

***“Preparing a Resume”*** presented by Dr. Mary Queen, Division of Humanities & Arts.  
Tuesday Nov. 15, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

***“Tips to Overcoming Procrastination”*** presented by Jawaher Ali-Redha, Youth Programme Associate.  
Tuesday Nov. 22, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room.

***“How to Take Your Small Business to the Major Leagues”***  
presented by Essa Behbehani, General Manager of AlManar Food Company  
Tuesday Nov. 29, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room

## DECEMBER

***“Launch It: Secrets Behind MEGA Launches - How You Can Launch Your Idea or Business”***  
presented by Khalid Al Zanki, Founder & CEO of ALZANKI Enterprises.  
Tuesday Dec. 6, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Auditorium.

***Field Trip***  
Tuesday Dec. 13, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Library Conference Room













**Donation Facts**  
Serving Size: 1 Pint

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Giving blood will not decrease your strength. Not giving a thought to someone who needs blood, well, that's just plain weak.

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% Daily Supplies Low\*

5th Annual  
Blood Drive:  
*coming soon!*