AUK Students Live the Shakespearean Experience

Released by: the Office of Public Affairs

As part of his Shakespeare class, Dr. James Lambert, Assistant Professor of English at AUK, provided the students with hands-on experience in theatre techniques and acting skills by offering them an opportunity to participate in the “Julius Caesar” play performed at the British Embassy earlier in March.

Dr. Lambert’s Shakespeare students took a large role in putting together the main evening of the “Julius Caesar” play. They presented their class projects to the audience, they prepared and served Shakespearean era food, and they created and distributed programs for “Julius Caesar” with information on both the play and Shakespeare. Most excitedly, the students had the opportunity to personally involve them in the creation of theatre.

Students made their own Roman costumes out of bed sheets and worked on other Shakespeare themed activities. They also discussed their class projects that they presented at the British Embassy on the three nights of the “Julius Caesar” play.

After all, just imagine walking into the British Embassy, being immediately greeted by five men in authentic Roman garb talking about Roman honor, then being welcomed by “Roman actors,” then entering into a festival of food, costumes, paintings, documentaries, and architecture, all put on by AUK students for this class. And this was all before the actual performance began.

Prior to the “Julius Caesar” evening, Dr. Lambert invited evening, Dr. Lambert invited Alison Shan Price, Director of One World organization, to give the students a better understanding of Shakespeare’s plays and writing style. Price energized the class with a few acting exercises meant to personally involve them in the creation of theatre.

Students made their own Roman costumes out of bed sheets and worked on other Shakespeare themed activities. They also discussed their class projects that they presented at the British Embassy on the three nights of the “Julius Caesar” play.

Price explained how William Shakespeare wrote his plays, saying that Shakespeare always used history to inspire his works. According to Price, as history tends to follow patterns, the presentation of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” at the British Embassy was reflective not only of ancient history, but also the current “Arab Spring” conflict. According to Dr. Lambert, the students benefited by carrying out their own research about Roman politics, Shakespearean culture, and performance history in Kuwait, and One World benefitted by having a group of enthusiastic resident scholars to prepare the audience for the show. “It turned out to be an excellent service learning opportunity that, I think, represented well the kind of students we have at AUK.” said Dr. Lambert

“ONE WORLD” is an organization with “multi-cultural artists, performers and designers creating a work of art to present a professional performance” to their audience. They “introduce and sponsor new multi-cultural artistic talent in the entertainment industry. All nationalities are in harmony creating a work of art.” Most of their actors are international youth, who teach local actors their skills in acting.

2nd Lebanese Cultural Bazaar at AUK

Released by the Office of Public Affairs

The Lebanese Culture Club (LCC) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) organized its 2nd Annual Lebanese Bazaar. The event took place on the AUK Campus, and was open to the AUK community, friends, and family. The Lebanese Culture Club at AUK is a student club representing the Lebanese community and population of AUK, and aims to promote the country of Lebanon, its culture, and sell their various items.

The Lebanese Bazaar included different companies that showcased Lebanese products and services, such as restaurants, shops, artisans, and many more, that had the opportunity to promote These vendors included Lama Fruits & Produce, Casper & Gambinis, Falafel Nadia, Sandy Snacks, Arzet Lebnan, Let’s Popcorn, Bayt Al-Saboun El-Lebnany, Nazih Cosmetics, Beirut International Exhibitions Company, Buy2Best, and numerous vendors for hand-made accessories, jewelry, crafts, and souvenirs.

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Putting the AUK Mission into Practice

By: Naheel Ansari

I have been joining volunteering programs ever since I was young. I really enjoy it! It gives me a sense of self satisfaction, good feelings and a purpose in life. Helping people around you in your community and being there for them provides you with great experience and high self-esteem.

To enrich my volunteering experience and to expose myself to various disciplines in life, I have joined several volunteering programs and participated in various activities with a number of organizations. I helped the disabled and assisted in organizing exhibitions and I learned First Aid.

My first experience was with LOYAC (Lothan Youth Achievement Center). When I first registered to volunteer, I wanted to work with the orphans at the Foster Care Center, but I was underage. The only option available to me then was to work with the disabled. I was scared as I had never worked with the disabled before; but soon after I started, I got used to them and I treasured all the time I spent with them. I volunteered at several NGO’s working with the disabled like Abeer 2, who work with the autistic children, The Khorafi Center and The Kuwaiti Society for the Disabled, who host children with various mental and physical disabilities. Our job was to feed them, play with them, read for them and do activities with them.

We were warned against being attached or becoming too close to the children, and that proved hard not to do. It was a fabulous experience! I really encourage people to volunteer with the disabled and care more about them. It gave me the opportunity to learn new skills in dealing with people with special needs. Also, it taught me to learn from generous people who donate their time and effort for a noble cause. In addition, I faced my fears and felt good about myself where I can bring joy and pleasure to a special needs person.

My experience at The Red Crescent was a special one as I consider it a must-learn for everyone as it could save many lives. I learned the important procedures of First Aid through a comprehensive program of learning about vital signs, measuring blood pressure and rescuing skills through breathing techniques. In another health related experience, I volunteered at HBK Hospital caring for children with cancer. Interacting with the children and their families and reducing some of their suffering was worthwhile.

The exhibition organizing experience involved a lot of team work, organization, planning, and task distribution. I worked with several groups like Spread the Passion, Shabab Al Khair and Stronger Together. It was an appreciated involvement in various teams organizing events such as exhibitions for youth entrepreneurs. Volunteering provides you with opportunities and open doors to further initiatives that enrich your life and add to your personality. As leadership skills are crucial for success in life and career, I have enrolled in several leadership courses like The 7 Habits for Most Effective People through LOYAC and at GUST University. I have joined in the Part-Time Work Program at Al Rai Media Group. I have learned a lot and gained knowledge and experience in office management and administrative skills which I can personally use and benefit people around me with. Engaging and getting to know new people opens your way to new adventures.

The more experience you have, the more you learn and the closer it makes you to achieving your goals. I was very happy when I received positive feedback from the management at the Scientific Center of how impressed they were by my CV and the appreciation they showed for the wealth of volunteering experiences I have listed on my CV.

I encourage everybody to go and give volunteering a try and see how your life will change positively. Volunteering and community service are moral concepts which are rewarding to the individuals as well as the community. More advocacy and awareness need to be spread around about volunteering and making good use of your time in bringing happiness and value into other people’s lives. It is a social responsibility to give back to our society.

Why We Die Before We Die

By Zeinab Mohammed

Every person in this life goes through three stages: childhood, teen, and aging. But what if we lost one part of those and we die from the inside, despite the spirit pulsates within us? That’s what happened to most of us.

Everybody at the beginning of his life got busy with how to build their own future and become an achiever. Then, when he finds himself able to introduce new members to this life, he gets married and decides to have children.

With this thinking, we have contributed to the murder of an important category of the society. The elderly people are able to give what young people cannot, because they have the wisdom and experience from the experiments that they fought through their life.

What we can do to help them to start their life again? There are many solutions, including: finding some habits that suit to their interests.

There are some elderly people who have a desire to complete their studies but they are afraid of society’s perception of them. We should take their hands and encourage them to do whatever they like or want to do. And we must always remember that life doesn’t know an old or young person. We all have the right to live.
The Tutoring Center: Get to Know Our Team!

By Najd Al Muhanna

In the previous issue, I introduced myself for the sake of making everyone familiar with “the person behind the desk.” I certainly believe in the power of words. A couple of words can make you know a lot about a person. So the best way to get you to know me and my colleagues in the AAC and the Tutoring Center is through these writings. I know for certain that words work like magic, so today, before you start reading the interview, I want you to keep this in mind. Pass by the Tutoring Center when you feel you need to discuss any topic that a course focuses on. These types of discussions would benefit you in stating what you have learnt and brain storming new ideas, understanding the philosophy of instructors and practicing what you have already learnt.

The Tutoring Center is not only a place where students in desperate need seek help or a place just for math and other science courses. We want you, as a student, to feel that this is a place that you would resort to if you need to practice and engage in the learning process. It’s not because I’m a Support Specialist that I would say that, but because we are here to listen and to learn from you. That’s why today I will be introducing you to my colleague, Hiba Bazzi, who certainly has a lot to tell you about herself.

Q: If you were told to give us an idea of how a student could be a critical part of AUK and enjoy their time here, what would you say? How did it work for you, as you were also a student here?

Hiba: AUK has become an inseparable part of my life. I started my journey with AUK as an undergraduate student in summer 2008 and graduated in June 2012 with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, double major in Finance and Management. I was a very active student during my stay at AUK; I had two on-campus jobs and was involved in various activities on campus. I worked as a Student Assistant for the Office of the Vice President for three years and as a Peer Tutor for other two and half years. I, at different points time, was an Orientation Leader, Student Ambassador, and an Event Coordinator for the Hope Club of AUK, not to forget to mention also the volunteer work. Joining the AUK community was a turning point in my life, one of the greatest challenges for me, the reason being that I graduated from an Arabic private high school system.

This is when I started to value the life experience that AUK offers to its students and the genuine support provided by faculty and staff to make the journey as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. And, yes I am very biased towards AUK!

Q: Now that we got to know about your own perception of AUK as a student, how does it feel to be back, but not as a student anymore?

Hiba: I interned in several companies after graduation, particularly in the field Finance, and I couldn’t get detached from my strong passion towards the academic environment, where you get to interact with students and faculty members. So, I wanted to start my career in Higher Education and here I am, back as a Support Specialist and an Academic Advisor. I find a lot of joy in passing on my own experience to students and encouraging them to “learn, think and become,” because nothing is impossible.

Q: Technically, what does your work offer you and what opportunities do you get by also being an advisor? Emotionally, does it ever drain you?

Hiba: Listen to this: “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” And I strongly agree with this quote. My job does not only offer me a position but I find myself in it. My work offers me joy, an opportunity to harmoniously work with two spheres, faculty and students. It is also a chance to work with professionals in a demanding field that is extremely broad. When I speak of myself as an advisor I certainly feel the students need guidance and assurance. The enjoyment and satisfaction in helping students plan the years ahead of them in their studies is unexplainable. These conversations bring out the passion in me towards education. I graduated with a perfect GPA, a Summa Cum Laude, and I still got the time to socialize and be part of this diverse community. For me, it was all about time planning and confidence, and last, but not least, the effort to show and present your inner potential. So when I advise students, I can see their potential, too. It’s all about communication. So, emotionally drained? I don’t think so.

Q: A few words that works for you like magic...

Hiba: I have faith in God and his will. I’m strong, I’m determined and I can sure make it happen. And you can, too!
Interview questions:

Scott E Berlin

Name: Sammi Nderitu
Age: 31 years.
Birthplace: Kenya, currently living in Nairobi, Kenya
Job/Occupation: Writer and Photographer
Email: snderitu@gmail.com
Facebook: Sammi Nderitu
Twitter: @SammiNderitu
samminderitu.wordpress.com

1. What motivated you to become a Writer/Photographer? Or how did you get started as a Writer/Photographer?

I grew up with a desire of wanting to know what is happening in my area, country and abroad. I would always listen to news on radio and admire how news was presented. I would follow major events in the country like live broadcasts of conferences, accidents, disasters and among other news.

After completing my High School, I pursued Media and Journalism Studies and that is how I ended up becoming a writer and photographer.

2. How long have you been a Writer/Photographer?

Professionally, I have been a writer/photographer for the last 11 years but I started taking photos before I was trained in media. My mum had a small film camera that I would use to take pictures.

3. What preparation, education, training is necessary to become a Writer/Photographer?

First, before any training, someone should have a passion for writing and photography and secondly, pursuing courses in media and journalism will be vital in equipping you with the relevant skills and knowledge.

4. What is the best part about being a Writer/Photographer?

You get the privilege to interview and photograph people from all walks of life including high-profiled personalities and get to learn so much, be inspired and challenged and in the process. Furthermore, being a writer and photographer gives you the opportunity to write and produce articles that inspire, educate, motivate and change people’s life. This is very fulfilling.

5. What is the most difficult part of being a Writer/Photographer?

When you really want to write about something that is of public interest but you are unable to get factual information to back up your story.

6. Which do you like doing more; writing or photography?

I enjoy doing photography. To me, it comes naturally, without much effort.

Writing requires a little bit of research but it is equally enjoyable.

7. What would you recommend to a student who wants to become a Writer or Photographer or what would you say to a person who wants to be a Writer or Photographer?

Have passion for writing and photography, pursue relevant training and be interested in newsworthy things that are happening around you. Also, be analytical, friendly, a quick thinker, flexible and have the ability to settle and work in challenging environments.

8. What is it like living and working in Kenya?

It is exciting. Kenya is a great country that is a going through a rapid growth and development both politically and economically.

There is freedom of press and the internet penetration has opened the country to the outside world. This is good as it encourages information sharing.

9. What talent or skill do you think is most helpful to your job?

The ability to think fast, creatively and work within specific, sometimes pressured, deadlines.

10. Can you tell me one really amazing thing that you have seen or done?

Sometimes last year I went to cover an event at one of the country’s national park and was amazed to see fearless olive baboons posing for photographs. I got incredible pictures of them.

11. What was your worst (or most embarrassing) day/moment as a Writer/Photographer?

One day I went to do a magazine interview and photography and when I got to the client, a director of a big insurance company, I realised that the camera did not have a memory card and neither had I carried any with me. It was embarrassing to explain to him that I had forgotten to carry the memory cards as well as asking for another time to do the photoshoot.

12. What is your dream for the future?

I want to travel to various countries writing and taking photos that are educative, informational, inspirational and life changing. I want my work to be featured in various leading global publications.

13. If you could summarize all your knowledge and experience about life into one sentence that you would say?

Life is a journey, each day gives you the opportunity to learn and discover a new thing. Keep learning.

14. What is a typical “Day in Your Work Life” like?

I go to the office in the morning, read newspapers and online publications, catch up with friends on social media, go out for scheduled press conferences and booked interviews, take photos, research and write articles, edit photos and the day will be done.

15. What are the working conditions like (Stress, Pace, Physical Comfort, Travel, Environment? Relocation, Hours, Routine vs. Crisis, etc.)?

The working conditions vary depending on the assignments that you are doing. Some may require you to travel far from your home, work in dangerous situations, work for long hours, travel for many days without adequate sleep and rest, wake up very early in the morning and go to bed late at night, something that over-works your body.

Others may also require you to deliver news stories within very tight and pressured deadlines which may mean sacrificing your leisure or family time to do the job.

16. If you could go back in time, before you started your career; would you choose this career or a different one?

I would still chose this career. I enjoy it so much.

17. What do you wish you knew (but didn’t) when you first thought about becoming a writer or photographer?

When I first thought of becoming a writer/photographer, I thought that I could only work in a Newspapers, TV studio or radio station.

Later on I realised that there are many other fields that I could work as a writer and photographer. This include, public relations, advertising, online publishing, communications, and among others.

18. What are the best opportunities for someone wanting to become a writer/photographer?

You can work anywhere; locally or internationally.

When you really want to write about something that is of public interest but you are unable to get factual information to back up your story.

I would still chose this career. I enjoy it so much.
The Center for Continuing Education (CCE)

The Center for Continuing Education endeavors to enrich the lives of people of all ages in the greater community and beyond by providing a flexible and supportive learning environment at the American University of Kuwait. It is our firm belief that Continuing Education is a lifelong process that directly impacts workforce development in the Kuwaiti community. The demands in the workplace are changing at an incredible pace and coupled with strong technology, change in workforce development is paramount. To answer this demand, customized workforce development training is offered through AUK’s Center for Continuing Education.

In addition to our focus on the professional community, CCE offers a range of programs, courses and workshops tailored to meet the needs of the upcoming generation of college students. Whether the goal is to enter university or to maximize success within college or university, we provide exam preparation courses and workshops which will enhance success in your chosen subject.

Recent News from the Center for Continuing Education (CCE)

In March 2013, the Center for Continuing Education moved offices, from the old office off-campus, directly across from the main entrance of the ‘B’ Building. This makes us easier to find, and we are now more accessible to students and visitors to the AUK campus.

We have also developed new courses, due to be launched in the near future, such as the Educator’s Night Workshops, specially designed to give teachers in Kuwait a place to meet up and network, while simultaneously increasing their knowledge and proficiency as teachers in the classroom. The GMAT Preparation course is tailored for graduates who wish to pursue a Master’s degree, while other new courses have been prepared in partnership with world-renowned organizations such as SHRM, for Human Resource professionals, and Dale Carnegie’s ‘High Performance Teams’, as a component of our collection of Leadership courses.

Courses in Finance and Accounting are currently under development. Our existing courses include the General English and Business English programs, the Leadership and Soft Skills programs, which specifically cater to the workforce in Kuwait, and exam preparation courses, such as our ongoing IELTS preparation courses (in partnership with the British Council and IDP), TOEFL preparation, the Cambridge International Diploma in Business, and many more. We are also able to customize courses on request to meet the needs of the individual client.

We have been pleased to develop and deliver programs over the last year to members of the Government sector, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Security, and have dealt with numerous private companies and banks as well as clients from the community at large. If you would like more information about courses at the Center for Continuing Education, please call in and see us, or call 1-802040 / (+965) 2224-8399 Ext. 3197 / 3198. The map of our exact location is at the bottom of the page.

Email Address: cce@auk.edu.kw

Center for Continuing Education

Hours of Operation / Registration

- Sunday through Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

AUK IT Exhibition

By: Carla G Saliba

AUK information technology exhibition presents a high level study from a wide range of technology, including the majority of the works that had been shown at AUK and have been completed in the past year; many are on view for the first time at AUK. Several activites had never been shown at all prior to this exhibition.

Our objective is to encourage the appreciation of contemporary technology among a diverse audience. The IT exhibition provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, explore, and engage our technology to facilitate and use it in their future study. AUK Technology has been selected from different companies to be published in there worldwide press releases.

- Apple TV
- Touch screen PC
- Mobile Laptop Cart
- Cisco Video Phone
- Smart Board
- Video Conferencing
- Animation
- Moodle, Netop
- Digital Signage
- Digital Signage (Faculty Announcements)
- Digital Signage (Faculty Announcements)
- Password Reset, Desktop Backup
- Document Camera
- Cisco Jaber chatting system
- IEP student video project
- BMC Helpdesk system
- iAUK (mobile app)
Meet Our New Staff Member!

Please join the team at the Writing Center in welcoming our new full-time staff writing consultant, Kate Azzouz. Kate is currently training with Dilara Hafiz, who will be leaving AUK at the end of April to join her family in the US.

Kate graduated from the University of Virginia in 2004 with a B.A. in Psychology. She was born in Hong Kong, but grew up in Connecticut and New York. She lived in Santa Monica, California for 3 years before moving to Kuwait in September of 2007.

Prior to joining AUK, Kate held positions in administration, sales, marketing, and student advising. She enjoys reading, traveling, exercising, and meeting new people. Outside of the office, you will most likely find Kate entertaining her 2 year old son, running on the Mishref trails, or relaxing at home with her family.

Week 1
The week of April 14th was a busy one at the Writing Center! On Sunday morning, we awarded the grand prize to the winner of the Diwaniya’s Ibn Battuta Scavenger Hunt. The Diwaniya members traveled to Dubai in March for the Festival of Literature and to visit the Ibn Battuta Mall. Abdulmohsen Al-Fares won the scavenger hunt, which was a fun exercise to explore the life of Ibn Battuta.

Week 2
Throughout the day Monday, we offered a “Who Said This?” Quotation Competition and received over 100 entries from students, staff, and faculty. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Suad Al-Mishwit, whose name was drawn from a pool of 28 contestants who identified all three quotations correctly.

Week 3 & 4
For those of you who missed it, Tuesday evening the Writing Center hosted a lovely evening event on the grassy area. The amazingly talented Nada Faris performed her unique slam poetry and was highly entertaining. She was followed by the local three-person band, Jelly Shot, who enthralled the crowd with original songs and even a rendition of “Born To Be Wild”.

Week 5
To culminate our week, we announced the winners of our 3rd Annual Creative Writing:

- Hassan Shah Hate Me – English Poetry
- Yousef Nayef (No. 3) – Arabic Poetry
- Abrar Al-Shammari Soldiers and Puzzles – Short Story (Tie)
- Meshal Al-Harbi The Unhappy Prince – Short Story (Tie)
- Sara Al-Hatem Why Did You Leave Me? – Personal Narrative/Reflection

Finally, thank you to everyone who stopped by the Writing Center to purchase a book or a basket during our sale – it was a smashing success.
Evil on the Loose in Kuwait

Noor A Kassem

“Disclaimer: The events presented in this story are entirely fictional.

A body believed to be that of a 21-year-old university student was found yesterday in the British port city of Dover. While a positive identification and cause of death have not been officially established, investigators suspect that the female student died from multiple stab wounds and a strong blow to the head.

This is only the latest in a number of similar murder cases that have emerged over the past three months, authorities say. There also have been reports of a strange, hunched male figure roaming the halls of university campuses around London. The team of detectives assigned to investigate the murder cases believes these events are closely linked.

They speculate that this male figure is the primary suspect in the recent homicides. After a series of in-depth investigations, authorities have identified the suspect as Dr. Henry Jekyll, a prominent medical doctor, academician, and scientist from London. As part of his research into the human psyche, he theorized that in each individual there lives a good side and an evil side that can be fully separated. By making this clear divide between good and evil, Dr. Jekyll postulated that the evil side would be fully contained and controlled—thus saving society from harm.

In an effort to finally test his hypothesis, Dr. Jekyll decided to experiment on himself. He mixed an array of potent chemicals in his private laboratory, arriving through and an array of potent chemicals in his private laboratory, arriving through

2nd Lebanese Cultural Bazaar at AUK

The Lebanese Culture Club set up a booth that displayed different Lebanese crafts, and created an array of potent chemicals in his private laboratory, arriving through a network of various social media accounts. One such account, @Jekyll_Hyde_AUK, was created on Instagram to circulate photographs of Mr. Hyde's possible whereabouts. A twitter account under the same name also was created to disseminate information regarding the latest case updates and recommended safety measures.

Students are strongly advised to take all safety precautions necessary. Remain vigilant. Keep your eyes and ears open at all times. Look for posters, flyers and other updates on the manhunt. Do not walk alone. He's coming.

This message has been brought to you by the COMM 402 public relations group.

Interview questions:

Scott E Berlin

...19. Are there any trends (e.g., demographic, social, legal, technological) that concern you? Are there any trends that will make this career choice more or less attractive in the future?

In the way he/she writes and take photos. God has gifted us differently.

20. What is the future outlook for writers and photographers? Currently is there a shortage or oversupply of people in this career today?

There is still more room for new writers and photographers. Each writer and photographer is unique in improving your writing and will inspire you to become a great writer too.

21. Does being a writer and/or photographer involving living in one community all of your life or is it necessary to move to different cities/states/countries every few of years?

No, it does not involve living in one society all your life. This is one profession that involves a lot of traveling and meeting new people regularly.

22. What are some related careers that students should consider?

This include public relations, communications, graphic design, international relations, video editing and information technology.

23. (Open comments. Please feel free to add anything you would like to say)

As a writer, I have discovered that you need to be an avid reader too. Read books as this will help you in improving your writing and will inspire you to become a great writer too. As a photographer, check out what other great photographers have done and desire to be a successful one as well. If you have a camera, never tire to take photographs, be enthusiastic and be creative with your pictures.
Food for Thought

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled “Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden”... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

Comic Strips

“Calvin and Hobbes” by Bill Watterson

“Garfield” by Jim Davis

“Dilbert Classics” by Scott Adams

“B.C.” by Mastroianni and Hart

Sudoku Puzzle

Food for Thought

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled “Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden”... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.