Two-Sun Phenomena: Twice the Rays!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI, AUK ALUM ‘11

A live vision of the two-sun phenomena.

Picture this: you are on some wild safari in the heart of Africa, you see nothing but sprawling green grass for miles and indigenous animals grazing on the open meadows; the ecosystem around you awaits the dawning of a new day – you perch yourself atop of a hill for some altitude and watch as the two suns rise into the effervescent sky. Ah lovely, is it not? But, I ask you to scratch the surface. What could possibly be wrong with this picture? I will not even try to beat around the bush here and insert some comedic reaction: it is the “extra” sun.

There have been strange inexplicable sightings of two suns seen around the world. No scientific element has been contributed to the amateur detections but they have been seen as early as August 2010 in the United Kingdom. Scientists have largely ruled out the possibility but it remains a mystery to us, especially when there is evidence to substantiate it. Some have suggested that the videos could have been professionally edited and reworked to add the extra ball of fire. However, its appearance continues unabated across planet Earth. If evidence can be deconstructed, the same cannot be said about personal, intense testimonies: they are difficult to play down.

University of Illinois scientist, Jim Kaler, has weighed in saying: “The double sun image is an effect of optical refraction but it’s a pretty rare one, and one not fully understood.”

Two-sun sightings occur when the Sun’s rays pass through layers of heated air that have different indices of refraction. The hot layers bend the sunlight as it passes through, creating an optical illusion. This phenomenon is often seen near the horizon during sunrise or sunset, when the Sun is low in the sky. The effect is called the suncrown or double sun. The rare phenomenon is said to occur only a few times a year and is known as the “Sun’s Finger,” “Bishop’s Finger,” or “The Double Sun.”

The Office of Student Life

BY LAVEENA LOBO, OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Student participants at the AUK Volunteer Program

Refuse to be Ordinary

The Office of Student Life launched AUK’s Volunteer Program “Refuse to be Ordinary” on the 18th of October, 2011. This event was an attempt to provide AUK students with the information and the opportunity they need to become significant contributors to the Kuwaiti community through service. AUK students are known for their immense generosity and fund raising abilities, and this was an attempt by Student Life to bring to campus, opportunities to engage in actual service.

Six organizations that perform exemplary services around Kuwait came to AUK: They were: Kuwait Red Crescent Society, K’s Path, Operation HOPE, PAWS, KACCH and the Kuwaiti Team 4 Global Warming (KT4GW).

The afternoon began with a short address by Dr. Carol, Vice President for Administrative and Student Affairs. She began by telling students that “There is a saying about to whom much is given, much is owed and in Kuwait we are very blessed and so that we will give the shirt off their backs and all the money in their pockets. She said that it was now time to take it to the next level and to help others. She reminded them that just by virtue of the fact that they are AUK students, they are extraordinary and that they would not be with AUK if there wasn’t something special about them. She ended by encouraging them to give of their time and effort to help others, to get involved with their hearts and hands because it will make all the difference in the world.

After this, each of the organizations made a short presentation about what they do, and what volunteers could hope to do at their organizations.
On 3rd of October 2011, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as a follow up on President Thompson’s statement to faculty and staff, announced that in addition to the ACRIP accreditation received by the university within 2010, AUK had now been approved for International Program Accreditation by the American Academy for Liberal Education. AALE. The Division of Social Sciences, the Division of Arts and Humanities, and the University General Education Program are the programs included in the accreditation.

Apart from several faculty and staff members, the contributors to the AALE Self-Study for AUK were: Dr. Rawa Aswad, Dr. Chris Olan, Dr. Craig Loomis, Mr. Chris Al-Binali, Ms. Amal Al-Binali, Ms. Ayahal Al-Khalili, Mr. Tadd Kruse, Mr. Ernest Cottin and Ms. Jeaniene Sullivan.

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 emphasizes a commitment to philanthropy.

The Voice of AUK, a registered student, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions should be emailed to voice@auk.edu.kw.

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of AUK offers no guarantee that any submission will be published.

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Refuse to be Ordinary

The Office of Student Life will continue to serve as a focal point for all these students and staff members who wish to find out more about the participating organizations or to volunteer. For those of you who missed the Student Life event and would like to know how to get involved, please stop by the Office of Student Life or email Lavena Lobo at llb@auk.edu.kw.

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Newly joined counselor, Abir Itani.

I would like to introduce myself to the AUK student body. I am Abir Itani, a graduate of the American University of Beirut with an earned degree in Educational Psychology. I joined AUK on October 1, 2011. I have joined the Career and Wellness Center team as a Counselor. I will be providing personal counseling on issues related to academic concerns, interpersonal relationships, family and social issues and personal problems. In addition, I will be working with you on your career development and decision making as well as employment readiness. Please feel free to schedule an appointment or send me an email at "atania@auk.edu.kw".

The Arabic Literature Club

The Graphic Design Program at the American University of Kuwait hosted a design exhibition featuring the works of Stefan Kirov Kanchev on October 24-27, 2011.

The exhibition, which presented a large variety of trademark and logo designs from Kanchev’s extensive career, was appreciated by students, staff and faculty alike who enjoyed the works of one of the worlds most prominent logo designers. Kanchev’s designs are inspiring, educational and continue to be significant to graphic design practice and history.

Stefan Kirov Kanchev, (Aug. 6, 1915 - Aug. 22, 2001) was an applied graphic artist born in Kalofin, Bulgaria. He studied mural painting under Dechoho Uzunov at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. Kanchev is best known for his logo design work and has been referred to as the 'father of Bulgarian graphic design' and the 'master of the trademark'. In total Kanchev has authored around 1,600 logos and his work spanned most varieties of applied art, though he was most productive in his trademark and logo work and as a designer of book covers, posters, greetings cards, print advertisements, stamps, product labels and packaging.

As a designer, Kanchev was often inspired by traditional Bulgarian art and folklore. His works are imaginative, with calm and clear composition, felicities relation between forms and shapes, clear forms and creative ideas.

The Arabic Literature Club holds several annual events of an educational nature, which are usually very helpful to students who would like to enhance their skills in reading and writing the Arabic language.

Sara Qaddoura, a member of the Arabic Literature Club, said that "the purpose of the club is to enhance the Arabic culture and traditions among students around campus. Many students lack Arab identity," she said.

"Many Arab students live the identity of someone they are not, they know how to read and participate in the English language better than their own language," Qaddoura stated.

"The Arabic Literature Club holds many opportunities for those who would like to enhance their skills or simply want to enjoy the taste of Arabic literature, culture and traditions.

"As a designer, Kanchev was often inspired by traditional Bulgarian art and folklore."
location on the top floor of the Liberal Arts building to the building directly in front of Gate 3 (where the Center for Continuing Education once was), you can't miss it! The Academic Advising Center is also responsible for students on probation, orientation and the Peer Academic Leaders (PALS) Program. The PALS program consists of Dean’s List students who are rigorously trained to be some of the best peer advisors for freshmen; yet another group of people who are willing and able to help you out.

The Academic Advising Center prides itself in its friendly and helpful environment. This writer had the pleasure of interviewing two of the AAC staff: Hala Abdulrazzaq and Daniya Alam. Hala has been working at the AAC ever since she first came to the AUK in September 2008. She graduated from George Washington University with a Psychology degree and she admitted that she always wanted to work in the field of education, hence she wound up here, at AUK.

Daniya started working at the ACC just this semester, although she’s definitely not a stranger to AUK, having previously been a PAL when she studied here, and then gone onto working in the Business division until she moved to the AAC. Her reason for the shift was that she’d always wanted to be a counselor and help students, and the Academic Advising Center is clearly one of the best places to do so. When asked what they enjoyed most about their jobs, they both agreed that they loved helping students and feeling as if they’re making a difference, whether it’s by helping the students with their four-year plan or simply by setting them on the right educational path.

Finally, I begin closing this article with several useful tips that Hala and Daniya: Don’t lose your chance of registering for classes you want. ‘Thirdly, pay on time to avoid the hassle of your classes being dropped and the risk of not being able to register for them later. Fourthly, bring your checklist every time you come for advising; if you don’t have one or you have lost it, you will find copies of blank checklists inside the AAC. Finally, the Academic Advising Center will always welcome and respond to you, no matter what sort of questions or concerns you might have. They’re open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, from Sunday to Thursday, and can also be reached through phone and e-mail and will gladly receive walk-ins, so you don’t necessarily have to make an appointment to meet with one of the advisors. So, if you have any inquiries, or if there’s anything at all that’s troubling you, please don’t hesitate to ask them! They’re more than happy to help – it is what they’re there for, after all!

The club was created to increase the awareness of groups that have no voice in the society, and about human rights violations that have not been noticed before. Among other violations, labor abuse and unlimited working hours are discussed.

“Let’s say we learn from the news that there is a problem in Bahrain,” Al-Otaibi said. “I would like to talk about how the problem is affecting civilians and whether any violations of human rights take place.” To achieve awareness of human rights issues, the club members plan to bring artists, filmmakers, social and human rights activists, and other important figures to AUK to speak on topics that concern each and every civilian. Students who currently participate in the club major predominantly in Graphic Design and Communication & Media. The club, however, welcomes students from different divisions and academic programs that exist at AUK.

“No matter what your background is, you can join to make a change because every human can make a change,” Al-Otaibi said.
“Pirates of the Caribbean: A Review”

BY DANA BANDDAR

“Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,” the fourth film in the series, was released in Kuwaiti cinema theatres this summer.

Although the director, Rob Marshall, and producers (Walt Disney, Jerry Bruckheimer Films and Moving Picture Company) created another blockbuster movie by maximizing the use of visual and sound effects, I believe there is more to it than just a collection of captivating effects that entertain the viewers of this fast-paced motion picture. The movie touches on important principles that matter in life. It is about aiming for the best, yet being satisfied with what you have. It also makes you think about different types of powers that Captain Edward (Ian McShane) and Sparrow (Johnny Depp) enjoy. Edward has power over other people’s lives; he brutally kills and defeats others, while Sparrow has the power over his own life: he makes sacrifices, knowing that it is for his best.

Captain Jack Sparrow’s character has significantly sparked in the entire film series. He appears to be different from other pirates in the movie because he does not try to overpower his crew. Even though pirates are superior by nature, he does not seem to be swayed by that. He swaggers and speaks his mind all the time even if it gets him into trouble. Sparrow said, “Better to not know which moment may be your last. Every moment of your entire being is alive to the infinite mystery of it all.”

In this scene, Captain Sparrow reveals why he sacrificed the chance of drinking from the fountain of youth for a girl from his past, Angelica (Penelope Cruz). Sparrow does not want to drink from the fountain and become younger. He wishes to experience the mystery of living one life without any extension or alteration to the experience.

Throughout the movie, Angelica forces Sparrow aboard the Queen Ann’s Revenge ship. She and Edward, her father, make Sparrow lead the voyage to the fountain of youth, which many other pirates compete to reach first. While Sparrow is thrilled about finding the fountain, he never kills pirates to reach his goal. Yet, the competition between Captain Hector Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) and Edward becomes fierce. Their rivalry highlights how two evil sides are ready to lose anything to prove their power.

Sonnet #1

The day must go with me before I cry
Much too heavy on me to take alone
I have no choice but to study the sky
To counter all demands the mind has blown

What does the sky imply to me at sight?
To leave or stay I do not know for sure
In spite of my steadfastness thought
I do not know if I must make him see
All my despair that he has sought and brought
Or leave him drown alone in thy dim sea

Not me who seeks what few succeed in game
For I excuse and leave them all with aim.

“Captain Jack Sparrow’s character has significantly sparked in the entire film series. He appears to be different from other pirates in the movie because he does not try to overpower his crew.”

BY HAYDEN

“Stolen Life” by Jaycee Dugard

BY SARAH AL-AJMI

“Stolen Life” by Jaycee Dugard

Take this distressful journey through the eyes of an innocent 11-year-old girl kidnapped from her house and held in captivity. Jaycee Dugard spent 18 years in a backyard dump under the watchful eye of a religious fanatic and his wife.

This heartbreaking memoir follows Dugard’s moving story as she experiences many intense life events alone. A pet cat was Dugard’s only real friend through pregnancy, childbirth, loss of identity, raising her two girls and many other firsts. The 273 page account includes excerpts from a handwritten journal, pictures, lists and other coping strategies, as well as Dugard’s reflection after each chapter. Brave, straightforward and honest, as she writes about herself, the author describes her ordeal, briefly touching upon her captors, who chained her to a bed at the beginning and only after a while provided her with books and television.

Don’t miss the horrific account of adaptability and personal strength of one child who grew up into a caring young mother regardless of her desperate situation.

“This heartbreaking memoir follows Dugard’s moving story as she experiences many intense life events alone.”

BY DANA BANDDAR

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For I excuse and leave them all with aim.
Where are the Female Leaders?

BY DR. CAROL ROSS SCOTT

As we prepared for Student Government Elections, I watched something was visibly missing from OUR FEMALE STUDENTS! Not exactly sure why, perhaps because they are not capable of a leadership platform that represents the entire student body, there are no women being the majority of the student population and only 1 female sitting in key government leadership offices, we ask, where have all the female leaders gone?

So I GOOGLEd, you can find everything on GOOGLE! I could not believe what I saw about the world and got back from “listsUniverse.com” the following list. One may be curious as to why female leaders are listed on a “cartoon” site, women in leadership is certainly not a joke! But, nonetheless it was informative.

Female Leaders CURRENTLY IN POWER

The following is a list of female presidents and prime ministers who are presently in power as of AUGUST 9, 2011. For the last several years, we have been living in an era where a record number of female leaders are holding key leadership offices;

CURRENT TOTAL 20

Look at the table with the twenty listed leaders in this section of the world. Ok, AUK is not quite the world power just yet but we've already come a long way, especially after Kuwait’s independence 61, the women’s right to vote was taken away and for 54 years, the women’s right to vote was only reinstated in 2005 in time for the 2006 elections. Therefore, AUK is not a democracy, who FOUGHT for a woman’s right to VOTE and SERVE AS LEADERS. I was here at the time to witness the amazing hard fought victory of our former female students stood up for their rights.

Voting is but a small piece of the puzzle. The decision to take on the responsibility of leadership is a difficult choice to make. You make the conscious decision to serve. You make the conscious decision to speak up and do the best in your interest of the service. For you to make but women have served in the best interest of others since FOREVER! Who is really the head of the household? Your mom (even though not everyone is raised by a mom) should be the leader.

WOLF PACK WOMEN! Step out of your comfort zone and LEAD. Being a leader doesn’t make you less of a woman because you think you must imitate male characteristics to be a good leader. Leadership traits have no gender. Being a leader doesn’t stop you from having fun with your friends. Mind you, the responsibility requires time you need to learn how to balance. You will always find time for your girls! One of the great things about AUK is the support you receive when you make the decision to take on a leadership role. You LEARN the characteristics of an effective leader. You THINK about the impact of your leadership on the lives of others and act accordingly.

Believe it or not, YouTube isn’t just for cute animal videos, several muscularly talented (and some not-so-talented as well) people take advantage of the opportunity to get thousands of viewers by posting videos of their music. One such group named Boyce Avenue caught my attention. The band comprises of four young men - Alejandro Manzano, Fabian Manzano, Daniel Manzano, and Jason Burrows - who started off by posting a few covers of popular songs, along with some of their own, original songs in 2006. With their modern and yet unique sound, they were an instant hit and their videos spread like wildfire on YouTube! Yet, they would be considered “viral”, in a matter of fact, today, some of their covers have up to 11,000,000 views! Needless to say, they had quickly become a household name on YouTube, and it's duly deserved, too, since pure talent can be somewhat of a rarity on YouTube, and this writer believes that the online fan base they have made has a lot to do with how successful they are now. When observing the ratings on their videos, you can see the amount of likes the video far surpasses the amount of dislikes they received, so much so that music that indicates the negative view is practically insignificant, if even visible. While posting more and more covers on their YouTube channel, the band continued to work on its original tracks for its first debut album, All You're Meant to Be, which was released March 3rd, 2008. As well as covering songs and writing their own music, Boyce Avenue also performs with several other acts! Among them is the budding through YouTube such as Kina Grannis, Tiffany Alvord and Alex Goot. Shortly after their burgeoning success, Boyce Avenue performed a stand-alone show in New York City and, soon after that, they began touring, starting with four headline shows in the Philippines. Once they completed the four shows, they returned to the United States to begin their first tour in the US. They toured next in Europe, and since then have been frequently touring in the Philippines and the UK.

Currently, Boyce Avenue is considered the second most sought after band, after Linkin Park, with a staggering 300 million views on their videos collectively, and counting. They recently released their second album, All We Have Left, on June 15th, 2010, which contains a few reworked songs from their first album as well as several new tracks. They are currently touring the US, more once, and will begin touring in Europe in November. If you’re interested in hearing that the red band is known to YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/boyceavenue) or their website (http://boyceavenue.com/). You won’t regret it!

Arabic Language: Battling Its Way Through

BY AYA ABDULHAMID

Have you ever come across messages that you couldn’t understand? Probably because they were Arabic messages hidden under English letters and numbers? The new BB and iPhone generation is the one creating and sharing these messages, which undoubtedly transforms the Arabic language. Unfortunately, not for the best.

The Arabic language is vanishing and gradually losing its uniqueness and value through the new styles of communication among young people. The Arabic language is a serious threat, and we need to work hard towards reviving Arabic back into our lives. It is not necessarily that the use of English or any other language is absolutely good for language development and literacy. Sending our kids to foreign schools helps them learn another language. However, understanding the importance of indigenous cultures and their languages should not neglect our language.

The causes of the problem may be the lack of children’s familiarity with their parents’ attention to the Arabic language. Some schools don’t emphasize its importance to students. Condense curriculum and the lack of interest in the students’ minds about the language affects their learning appeal. Moreover, if learning the Arabic language was not the priority for a child at a younger age, it might be difficult to introduce the language at an older age. Leaving the original language on the side results in losing the language skills; this will not help us recover the language. Numerous examples in which the Arabic language is not used can be seen in the new methods of communication that mixes me off and English. “I will visit the poster (at) and come,” texts one student to another. The use of ّ ( الحاء) in the Arabic language to identify the plural form. It is often used instead of an (s) that were not all to your favor. The word ملك is found on most social networks; isn’t it easier to replace it with “I miss you” or “I love you,” which might have a more proper meaning.

As languages cannot survive unless we practice and nurture them, we should create an initiative towards developing our Arabic language. Dr. Raymond Farrin, Professor of the Arabic language at the American University, suggests that we read the Holy Qur’an, because the Holy Qur’an is the ultimate source of the language and the reason for its importance and eternal existence. Dr. Farrin also invites students to enrol in different classes taught in classical Arabic as well as to read newspaper articles or short novels. This would definitely help solve the problem of losing our Arabic language and add to our precious sac of Arabic thoughts and vocabulary.

Don’t Diss My Major

BY RAGHIDA EL DEEB

Every professor implies that the major he/she lectures is imperative; every student or alumni emphasizes that the major they are studying is demanded in the market. However, who are they to decide what you should major in? Finance and Accounting majors attempt to place the image of being more superior than Marketing and Management. In addition, Business majors in general underestimate majors such as SBSA, International Studies or Law.

As a question until this moment remains unchanged, “what are you going to do with that major?” Deciding on a major takes more than just observing the degrees others are pursuing. This is not a fashion trend! It is about discovering yourself! Ask yourself two simple questions; what do you want to become in the future and how will you do so? Another way that you can decide on a major is by jotting down your skills and aptitudes. Read about each major and set which one is applicable to you. If you have an artistic sense and you want to spend your years drawing, then Graphic Design is the first suggestion. You might be one of those people who can build a computer when they are bored; go for Computer Engineering. You may also be aggravated from people coercing you with orders and you would like to experiment with that, Business Management will be interesting. Regardless of the reason, choose the major that corresponds with your characteristics, skills and abilities. You’ve lived your whole life from Kindergarten to High school studying courses that were not all to your favor. Now is the chance to study the one subject or major you desire most. Acquiring a degree just to make more money in the future will result in a disastrous failure in your classes. Even then there is a choice to major in Business or Law. The next time someone degrades your major, just reply with “don’t diss my major.”
The Voice of AUK

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Two-Sun Phenomena: Twice the Rays!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALLI, AUK ALUM 11

A student prepares day and night for an examination, he has passed creditably in all the class examinations but develops a kind of imaginary fear – examination fear as soon as he enters the examination hall, becomes nervous and gets confused. His hands tremble, he is not able to write. Thus, he fails in the examination! There is no end to such imaginary fears. Imaginary fears cause disease, deplete our energy, sap our vitality, shake our confidence and destroy our ability to function effectively. It breaks down the nervous system and is the biggest enemy of success as it kills all effort.

When it comes to overcoming fear, there are two ways of overcoming the fear complex. In the first case, one should try to metabolize the fat accumulation. In the second case, one should do Yogic practices. Through the power of Yogic practices, even a deep-rooted fear can be overcome. Many techniques can be used to overcome fear, i.e. Inner Silence (Aatkar-Mouna) – Inner Silence is an important technique for anyone with a disturbed mind, unbalanced emotions, and confused mental impressions. It involves observing the thoughts, the emotions, creating them, removing them, developing attention and developing awareness.

When it comes to the technique, the practice of Inner Silence (Aatkar-Mouna) can be done in any Yogic posture, such as Padmasana, Vajrasana, Sukhasana or, if these are not possible, in Shavasana – the lying-down posture. It can also be practiced while relaxing in an easy chair.

Close the eyes, and keep them closed throughout. Be aware of all the external sounds and sensations of the surrounding nature. Concentrate totally, until your mind is ready for inner silence. Now, become aware of your thinking process. Become aware of spontaneous thoughts that come and go of their own accord. You must remain a silent witness of every thought that is going through your mind. You should remain alert throughout, and get to know the thought. Now, allow good or bad thoughts to come spontaneously from your subconscious mind. Do not bring thoughts at will, look within, and be aware of the inner space. Keep yourself absolutely alert. If you think of any thought, dispose it off immediately, without brooding over it. Try to maintain a state of thoughtlessness, by remaining aware of one thought that – ‘I shall have no thought!’ This is the real state of inner silence, which is full of peace and love. This is the complete practice of inner silence. Now, you can open your eyes and relax your body.

When it comes to your willpower and positive attitude, put the seeds of courage in your heart. Allow courage to grow. Fear will die by itself.

Positive always overcomes the negative. Negative thoughts are the root cause of our fears. By cultivating courage, fortitude and firmness, in meeting danger we can overcome fear. This is an immutable psychological law. Try this method over and over again. You are bound to succeed at least once!

Kuwait’s Ecosystem in Danger

BY DALAL MARAFIE

The ecosystem in Kuwait has been damaged throughout the years. Dumping trash and waste will worsen this major issue. The government should implement a strict law or fine that could stop factories and citizens and educate them.

There are various forms of fear and at every step of our life, we face them – fear of disease, fear of insult, fear of death, fear of losing money, fear of losing children, fear of losing a spouse etc. Some people have a fear of riding buses, trains, planes and of enclosed rooms.

There are two basic reasons for such fears: one is an accumulation of fat in the nervous tissues and physical organs of the body, and the second is due to a physiological process that occurs in the body, as a response to a frightening or confusing situation.

Fear is of two kinds: normal and imaginary. Only five percent is normal and the rest is all imaginary. Normal fear is healthy. It purifies the way for one’s progress and preserves life. Imaginary fear plays serious havoc. Some people develop a fear that they will lose their job. Some fear thinking, “What will I do if my business fails?” A student prepares day and night for an examination, he has passed creditably in all the class examinations but develops a kind of imaginary fear – examination fear as soon as he enters the examination hall, becomes nervous and gets confused. His hands tremble, he is not able to write. Thus, he fails in the examination! There is no end to such imaginary fears. Imaginary fears cause disease, deplete our energy, sap our vitality, shake our confidence and destroy our ability to function effectively. It breaks down the nervous system and is the biggest enemy of success as it kills all effort.

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AUK's 2nd Annual WII Sports Tournament

BY MAY ROHAN

AUK Intramural Sports held its 2nd Annual Wii Sports Tournament from 26th of September 2011 to 29th of September in the Science Building lobby, which was transformed into a Wii Sports arena where students, faculty, and staff had the chance to compete against each other in hopes of becoming a High Score Champion.

The week began with a practice day, giving the AUK community the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the unique controls for the Wii Sports video game. When playing Wii Sports, participants must mimic the motions a person does when actually playing a sport. For example, when playing tennis on the Wii, players hold the controller in one hand and physically swing their arms as if they are hitting a forehand or backhand. Participants quickly realize that playing Wii Sports is not as easy as it looks; timings, control, and consistency are just as important in this video game as they are when playing the actual sport!

Once people had a chance to understand how the video game worked, the rest of the week was dedicated to a different high score challenge each day. Participants tested their Wii skill in archery, basketball, bowling and jet-skiing. At the end of each day, the male and female players with the highest score were crowned the “High Score Champion.” IEP Students, undergraduates, freshmen to seniors, and even the occasional professors and staff members participated in this year’s Wii Sports Tournament; over a hundred people tested their sport skills on the Wii, with many competing each day. AUK Sports Coordinator, Trevor Taylor, commented that “The Wii Tournament was a great opportunity for the entire AUK community to be involved in a sports activity, no matter their physical fitness level or physical limitations. It was great to see so many people engaging in a friendly competition.”

Congratulations to this year’s Wii tournament High Score Champions:

**Archery**
1st Ali Alhabib 102
2nd Abdulkhalej El-Kassem 88
3rd Kevork Avakian 87

**Basketball**
1st Nigel D’Souza 23
2nd Mark Rangel 23
3rd Ahmed Abutaleb 23

**Bowling**
1st Majid El-Kassem 215
2nd Ali Al Habib 201
3rd Jassim Al-Kazemi 182

**Jet-ski**
1st Ali Alhabib 191.5
2nd Aziz Al-Thwaini 181.9
3rd Abdullah Alshemmeri 176.9

**Basketball Men’s**
Finals 8:00pm GUST
Semis 7:00pm GUST
AUK v GUST 8:00pm GUST

**Basketball Women’s**
Finals 7:00pm GUST
AUK v GUST 8:00pm GUST

**Soccer Men’s**
Finals 9:00pm ACK
3rd vs 4th 7:30pm ACK

**Table Tennis Men’s**
Finals 8:00pm GUST

**Table Tennis Women’s**
Finals 7:00pm GUST

**Universities Championship Cup**

Name: Omar Mehdi
Age: 21
Degree pursued: BBA
Concentration: Management
Class Standing: Senior
Sport(s) team: Football (Captain) and Volleyball

How long have you been playing sports?
I have been playing sports for as long as I can remember and I have been a part of AUK’s sports teams since my freshman year.

What were your biggest motivations or encouragements to get involved in AUK Athletics?
I have been in school sports teams and enjoyed my time playing whether or not I was actually playing a sport. For example, when playing tennis on the Wii, players hold the controller in one hand and physically swing their arms as if they are hitting a forehand or backhand. Participants quickly realize that playing Wii Sports is not as easy as it looks; timings, control, and consistency are just as important in this video game as they are when playing the actual sport!

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Finals 8:00pm GUST

**Table Tennis Women’s**
Finals 7:00pm GUST

**Universities Championship Cup**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
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<td>Men's</td>
<td>AUK v GUST</td>
<td>ACK</td>
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Beat Assignments Before They Beat You!

BY DANA BANDDAR

Writing assignments and research papers is usually treated as a hassle in college days. Completing and submitting all what is asked by your professor becomes an inevitable destiny, and a good grade requires brainstorming ideas and looking up sources that could easily get hectic and time-consuming; this is how students such as myself could easily lose interest in writing.

This dilemma has challenged me to perceive writing differently. It all hit me during my sophomore year when I was determined to change the way I approached my assignments. It all hit me to perceive writing as a reflection of who I am, not just what the assignment instructions. The idea of writing for the purpose of experience suddenly appealed to me. I wondered why writing should be a must-do task, or at least I personally should not recognize it as such. It was amusing to change my idea, and every experience (assignment) taught me that writing is an attempt towards perfection and that there is no ideal way of doing it. However, my passion for writing has grown from mild to strong.

Gradually, I started perceiving writing as a reflection of who I am, not just what the assignment sheet dictated. In fact, my assignments and projects still take the same effort; however, I do not look at the clock eagerly anymore. When you enjoy writing, it does not mean there is a magic wand pulling ideas out of your head. Yet, there is a part of you that will be capable of keeping up with the hectic atmosphere of having too much writing to do for college. The magic is in changing the way you feel about it to get benefits from the experience. My last advice about writing is that you do not just aim for a good grade in college, but instead, make sure your assignments actually challenge you instead of letting them beat you!

Ten Writing Tips from the Masters Themselves

1. Cut the boring parts: I try to leave out the parts that people skip. – Elmore Leonard
2. Eliminate unnecessary words: Substitute “damn” every time you’re inclined to write “very” your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be. – Mark Twain
3. Write with passion: Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart. – William Wordsworth
4. Paint a picture: Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass. – Anton Chekhov
6. Do it for love: Write without pay until somebody offers to pay. – Mark Twain
7. Learn to thrive on criticism: You have to know how to accept rejection and reject acceptance. – Ray Bradbury
8. Write all the time: The way you define yourself as a writer is that you write every time you have a free minute. If you didn’t behave that way you would never do anything. – John Irving
9. Write what you know … or what you want to know: If any man wish to write in a clear style, let him be first clear in his thoughts: and if any would write in a noble style, let him first possess a noble soul. – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
10. Be unique and unpredictable: Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative. – Oscar Wilde

What usually occurs in your mind when hearing the words Student Worker? Young students wearing their ID and their heads held high? Maybe not, but that is how I used to see student workers before I became one of them. At that time, I didn’t personally know someone who was a student worker, so my judgments were based upon observing.

I also believed that all they were after was the money they got paid for their part-time job. Therefore, when I had the opportunity to become a student worker, I did not hesitate. I wanted to know more about them and here I am, one of them, wearing my ID, and my head held high. It is not like I had little confidence before, but being a student worker increased my self-esteem. I feel good when someone asks me a question and I actually know the answer. The feeling of helping others boosts self-confidence.

This is only the beginning, since working at the Writing Center has taught me a lot on both an academic and practical basis, though I have only been there for three weeks. One of the advantages of being a working student is meeting a large number of students from different backgrounds. How to make a shy person talk and how to make a lazy person work, are only the few things that you have learned till now but I am still looking forward towards learning much more.

As a Writing Consultant, I also gained academic knowledge because every day we face writings about different subjects and topics. Some are scientific and others are historical, political, psychological or even personal. This is beside the education that we get about writing skills and techniques. Even if you think you know it all, there will always be something that you missed.

However, there are a few challenges I faced when I started working. Being a student worker makes you responsible for balancing between working and studying. I faced this problem during the first week when I used to spend time training for sessions, but fortunately I was able to get things back on the right track.

One more thing that I find important is free time. You don’t want your day to be either at work or in class. Having some social time to catch up with your friends would renew your energy, help you perform better at work and attend your classes with enthusiasm. This is a number one rule personally followed by me, and I was sure of maintaining it when I chose my working hours.

After all what I mentioned from my little experience about the benefits and the challenges that student workers face, I would like to say that this could be a very useful and interesting experience in every student’s life. Going from a student to a student worker is fun, exciting and beneficial. Though money and status could be a motivation for students to work, there is a lot beyond that; I am glad that I had the opportunity to realize that a student worker is more than a title and a new ID walking around campus.

“As a Writing Consultant, I also gained academic knowledge because every day we face writings about different subjects and topics. Some are scientific and others are historical, political, psychological or even personal.”
November Events:

November 1, 1933 - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

November 3, 1534 - King Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church of England following the passage of the Act of Supremacy by Parliament.

November 4, 1922 - King Tut’s tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter after several years of searching. The child-King Tutankhamen became pharaoh at age nine and died around 1332 B.C. at age 19. The tomb was found mostly intact, containing numerous priceless items now exhibited in Egypt’s National Museum in Cairo.

November 4, 1830 - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed “Gunpowder Plot” to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 8, 1519 - Cortes conquered Mexico. After landing on the Yucatan Peninsula in April, Cortes and his troops had marched into the interior of Mexico to the Aztec capital and captured Aztec Emperor Montezuma.

November 11, 1918 - At 5 a.m., in Marshal Foch’s railway car in the Forest of Compiegne, the Armistice between the Allied and Central Powers was signed, silencing the guns of World War I effective at 11 a.m. — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In many places in Europe, a moment of silence in memory of the millions of fallen soldiers is still observed.

November 12, 1667 - A major eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Italy began, lasting several months.

November 14, 1666 - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs.

November 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.
What do you think of Palestine becoming a member of UNESCO?

Heba A. Al-Hindal
I strongly agree with that because the freedom of Palestine is very limited and, with taking this step, Palestinian people will have rights that will help them to deliver their voice to the world.

Seham Al-Obaid
Palestine becoming a member of the UNESCO would be something great for the Palestinian case, but some won’t really accept that (members in the UNESCO), for example USA and Israel.

Tareq Afla
I think that Palestine should be a member because the Palestinian people should have their rights like any other country and the people there should feel safe.

Mohamed Khuraiset
A great idea because Palestinian people will have more rights to speak and at least they will be able to defend their country. Secondly, Palestine has always been a victim, why not become a member of UNESCO now.

Zahra’a Al-Salman
It is a good thing because it will now be an independent country. Also, it may become a free country. If it joined with UNESCO it will take all its rights. We must cope with this problem. And I agree with that.

Ghadeer Abdali
I one hundred percent agree because if Palestine becomes one of the UNESCO members, they officially admit that Palestine is an independent country and deny that this land is for Israel. It is a really good thing I hope that will happen.

Bshayir Aman
It’s a good thing to be done, to make sure that Palestine is a free country.

Sara Al-Suwaidan
I think it’s a good start, it will be a new move for them to becoming an independent state their problems and opinions, even though it might start some internal and external controversy. As Palestine has been in conflict with or against that option, which will increase the possibilities of controversial thoughts, I agree and I’m with it, but I don’t think they’ll survive or move forward.