



In the March 2012 Issue of the *Voice*, the author of the article 'Adopt a Pet' was mistakenly given as Laveena Lobo, and the person depicted in the accompanying photo was also identified as Laveena. However, the true author, and the person in the photo, is Raneen Al-Samad. The Editorial Board extends its sincere apologies to Raneen for this error.

# AUK Dominates Imagine Cup

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

Four teams from AUK's Computer Science and Information Systems program, headed by the CSIS program lead, Dr. Amir Zeid, achieved a mind-numbing victory at the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2012 Kuwait Finals by winning "The People's Choice" award on top of conquering all three positions, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. If that's not enough, AUK's team



Team coach, Dr. Amir Zeid.

will also represent Kuwait, for the third time in a row, in the World Finals scheduled to be held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2012. Talk about winning a lottery, but in this case, because of hours of grueling work, and sleepless nights!

Team Code Breakers won first position and the "Mobile Development Award," and will thus represent AUK of course, and the State of Kuwait in the Microsoft World Finals. The team consisted of senior AUK CSIS students, Khaled Al-Jassar, Khaled Al-Qahtani, Mohammed Al-Shatti and Abdulla Al-Shaya. They stylishly utilized Microsoft's Kinect to intellectually develop software that could turn sign-language into human voice from various languages! This allows bridging the communication gap between the deaf individuals and the society encompassing them. Truly a technology that potentially solves one of the toughest world problems!



AUK's three winning teams pose for a victory photo.

Next was the project titled the "Home Rehabilitation System," created by team "1337," composed of AUK senior students Dalaa Al-Qahtani, Khaled Al-Hazeem, and Mubarak Al-Enezi, that achieved second place. The remarkable project aimed at creating an application that allowed paralysis patients to do guided physiotherapy in the security of their homes by creating a link between

the medical professional, who could monitor patient's progress, and the patient.

AUK seniors, Thamer Al-Mayyan, Omar ElKhatib, Talal Alyaseen, and Ali Taqi, the members of "Team GG," claimed third place and "The People's Choice Award," with their impressive project titled "KINED," that integrated school learning with Microsoft's Kinect motion activate system.

The kinesthetic learning approach was emphasized with KINED.

Last but not the least, AUK's fourth team "TriQ8" impressively came up with software called "Phyzio" that kept the needs of pregnant women in mind by allowing exercises in the comfort of their homes under remote supervision of their doctors. This team composed of Wadha Al-Dalama, Eman Karam, and Barrak Al-Sarraf.

The event was sponsored by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Burgan Bank, and Zain; and was hosted by Microsoft and the Central Agency for Information Technology.

AUK teams, under the mentorship of Dr. Amir Zeid, have been receiving titles in the Imagine Cup Competitions since 2009, winning 1<sup>st</sup> place Mobile regional award in 2009, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Software Design regional award in 2010, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Software Design local award in 2012, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Software Design regional award in 2011. Moreover, two AUK teams also qualified to compete at the World Finals in Poland 2010, and New York 2011.

As declared on its website, [www.imaginecup.com](http://www.imaginecup.com), "The Microsoft ImagineCup is the world's premier student technology competition inviting all eligible students to use their imagination and passion to create a technology solution that addresses the Imagine Cup 2012 theme (for now) : Imagine a world where technology helps solve the toughest problems." Since inception, 2003, over 1.4 million students have been a part of the Imagine Cup, and with over 358,000 students representing 183 countries and regions having registered for the Imagine Cup 2011 competition.



# Wolfpack Gives Blood (Lots of It)

BY DINA EL-ZOHAIRY

On Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Multi-purpose Room at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) was transformed into a hospital-like setting from 11am-5pm to accommodate individuals who wished to donate blood. The spring blood drive was organized by the *Voice of AUK*, a student-run organization, and executed by Kuwait's Central Blood Bank staff. According to Ms. Hind, a PR officer at the Blood Bank, 170 people had shown up and 140 had donated blood at the end of the day.

The room bustled with activity as dozens turned out, usually with friends, casual if they had done it before, hopeful to be deemed eligible if previously rejected, and often anxious if they were first-time donors. Each person had to first complete a lengthy questionnaire, await their turn at the data-entry station, and then get their hemoglobin level checked by a device similar to the one diabetics use. If it was lower than normal, they couldn't donate. Otherwise, they moved on to the last step of the screening

process where a doctor asked a few questions and measured blood pressure.

Movable partitions divided the room into male and female sections, housing four blue recliners each. Each person had 1 pint of blood (1 pint ~ 450ml) removed from their body by means of a needle inserted in the arm. Some ten male and female nurses floated around in their white uniforms, starting the 20-minute actual donation in some and ending it in others. They also monitored the machine for alarms and donors for any symptoms of discomfort, such as light-headedness, which was more common among females. *Voice of AUK* members and volunteers, easily identified by their red shirts, helped greet potential donors, managed traffic, and made sure every donor grabbed a donut and juice to up their sugar levels, and a special badge as a token of appreciation on their way out.

The event's organizer, *Voice* Business Manager Hala Ahmed, said that after months of preparation, she was "absolutely ecstatic" at the large turnout. *Voice*



Event coordinator Hala Ahmed, flanked by volunteers Majid Mahmoud and Roland Lopes, presents blood bank staff with appreciative token.

faculty advisor, David Hart, stated that "Hala has done a fantastic job; this just wouldn't have happened without her tireless efforts. It's great to see those efforts rewarded with such great support from the community."

This is the fifth time since 2008 that the *Voice* has

organized a blood drive that one can safely consider it a trademark event. This author, an AUK alumna, originally conceived the idea of holding a blood drive to raise awareness among the community about the importance of donating blood to help make it readily available for cancer,

trauma and post-surgical patients, among others. Board members also found it an excellent opportunity to recruit potential *Voice* members, particularly writers, and increase the organization's visibility on-campus to promote readership, according to David Hart.

The *Voice of AUK* is the university's official student newspaper, operated exclusively by a student board in consultation with a faculty advisor. Issues are produced monthly and contain diverse sections such as News, Arts, Health & Science, Opinions/Editorials, and an Arabic Corner.



# Women as Global Leaders

BY NADA BEDIR

During Spring Break of this year, five female AUK students were privileged to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Women as Global Leaders conference that was held at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi. The event was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak. This year's conference theme, "Creating a Sustainable Future for the World," focused on the social, environmental, and economic aspects that would lead to a sustainable future. Throughout the conference, reputable guest speakers conducted keynote speeches on leadership, climate change, and women's role in the society, amongst other things. The delivered speeches were motivating for us as young women that aspire to make this world a better place and to contribute positively to the development of our communities; quoting one of the speakers, H.E. Raja Al Gurg, Managing Director of the Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, "An empowered woman is the best catalyst to promote a sustainable future." Being mothers, sisters, daughters, employees, or employers, women play a major role in shaping the future of our world. Another distinguished speaker, Sigourney Weaver, winning actress and environmentalist, mentioned that women are 14 times more vulnerable to climate change than men. This piece of

information made us realize the importance of women's role in the society. As women, we should be seeking education and competing to obtain decision-making positions because we are the ones who are going to be affected the most. According to Zeinab Badawi, BBC TV personality, one thing that makes women better leaders is their passion. This showed us that passion is a sign of success for a leader and not a weakness as many seem to see it.

In addition to listening to keynote speeches, delegates of the conference were encouraged to attend assorted workshops and panel discussions with a centric focus on the theme of the conference. The various lectures delivered were both practical and theoretical, engaging all participants to interact and integrate with each other towards sustainability. Dalaa Al-Qahtan, a senior at AUK studying Computer Science, was inspired by one of the panelists: "one speaker whom I won't forget was Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi, the head of TwoFour54 Tawassol and Human Development, who, prior to that, was an IT support manager at Zayed Military Hospital. The things she said were extremely motivating coming from another tech major, seeing that there is a future for female computer scientists/engineers in the Arab world, especially it being a male dominated field." In addition, Nada Bedir, a senior studying Finance and Accounting, was



AUK participants pose with one of the speakers at the Women as Global Leaders conference.

motivated after hearing the keynote speech delivered by Soraya Salti, regional director of INJAZ Al Arab. Nada says, "The reason behind Soraya's success is her passion towards what she does; she believes that youth can make a difference and this is how she was able to inspire all of us to follow our dreams."

One of the most rewarding aspects of this conference was having the opportunity to network with prominent women as well as female students from all around the world. During the evening cultural activities and breaks, we shared our college experiences and views on

women-related issues with other women from Mexico, the United States, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sweden, Singapore, Kurdistan, etc. Lujain Abu Zaid, an accounting and finance student at AUK says, "observing women coming from conservative backgrounds that fight for their rights, and wanting to leave their own fingerprint makes us wonder of the great power that lies within every woman."

This conference is considered a remarkable experience for all the AUK delegation. We had the chance to learn about women's status around the world, obtain a deeper understanding of

leadership education, and share our experiences with young women just like us. We are now inspired to take additional steps to fulfill the needs of our society and the world. May Omran, a sophomore student at AUK, says, "As a young woman, I believe I have the competitive advantage of taking part in the sustainability of the world's future." Listening to influential women has allowed us to draw a positive picture of the future. We are now filled with positive energy to experience new horizons and to continue learning in order to create a positive change.

## Gives you Wings...

BY RAGHDA EL DEEB

On Thursday, March 22, 2012, Red Bull hosted an engaging event, the Red Bull Paper Wings, in the multipurpose room at the American University of Kuwait. Ninety-five AUK Students took part in the event across the three disciplines: the longest distance, the longest airtime and the acrobatics.

A total of 42 students from AUK were qualified to go to the National Final that took place at Kazma Club on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012. Nineteen AUK students surpassed the 10 meters benchmark and qualified for the National Final for the longest distance discipline; the top 15 times from AUK for the airtime discipline made it as well and 26 qualified for the acrobatic discipline (based on the design and skills of flying the paper plane) to compete with other universities for a chance to represent Kuwait in the World Final that is taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2012 in Salzburg, Austria.

The success of the event was evident from the number of students who came to the multipurpose room. Many students reminisced about childhood memories while they were making the Red Bull paper planes.

With the cooperation of the Student Life team and AUK, Red Bull successfully managed to gain students' interest and vitalized their bodies and minds with such a creative and engaging concept. This is their second successful event following the Red Bull Racing Can event that took place in Nov last year.

AUK students are looking forward to many events to come!

## THE VOICE OF AUK

### 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.

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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.

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## MEPI Deputy Meets with Alumni



MEPI Regional Office Deputy Director with alumni.

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

On March 12, Saira Saeed, the MEPI Regional Office Deputy Director, made a visit, as part of a regional tour, to Kuwait and made it a priority to sit down and meet with alumni of the program she works to promote and develop. Along with other alumni, I was fortunate enough to be invited to share my experience and how it has contributed to the desire to want to give back to this community, in more ways than one. Before that though, she thoroughly introduced herself and expressed joy at having the opportunity to visit Kuwait, hoping that the MEPI alumni chapter underway here will spearhead others in the Middle East and North Africa.

The program sends students from countries of the Middle

East and North Africa to select universities across the United States for the prospect of being instructed on leadership and civic engagement, thereby building/setting examples that populations across the region can emulate and learn from. Activities are also organized by advisors and performed as part of a practical approach to instill these values within participants. Alumni who attended the meeting mentioned having come out of the experience with determination to address and conquer some of Kuwait's most distressing problems, how to be self-starters even when encouragement is hard to come by and the importance of networking in their community because although a project can be initiated by one person's effort, seeing it through will take

a robust support system.

Time was also designated to discuss grant proposals in which alumni are able to apply for funding to support civil society projects. Many topics were brainstormed such as failed teaching patterns in Kuwait's educational system as well as giving rise to various forms of community service. Foreigners often mistaken Kuwait for a country that has it good, so to speak, but there are plenty of problems that present and future generations cannot adapt to. Institutional models set up in the 1960s and 1970s endure to this day and although obsolete, they and the methods that go along with them are put to use, much to our disappointment. Kuwait needs to be ushered into a progressive era and none but its youth can achieve that.



# International Worker’s Day at AUK

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

On May 3rd, the American University of Kuwait celebrated International Labor Day and held a Staff Appreciation lunch in the Auditorium and related activities to manifest and distinguish its appreciation of the services provided by the workers of the university. Workers were all present at the university in casual attire this day, and a sense of boosted confidence and gratitude could be felt in the air. The main event of the day, an appreciation lunch, was prepared by the AUK community members working in collaboration from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to assist in making the event successful and show their admiration for the services provided by AUK support staff. Dr. Carol Ross thanked Student Life, Community

Club, AUK Bookstore, Drama Club, and the volunteers for their diligent efforts and support on behalf of the campus, and in addition

each worker was handed a certificate of appreciation along with a food goodie bag and bingo prizes, on behalf of the faculty, student



organizations, and AUK students. AUK community also performed the setup and cleanup for the respective lunch, and greeted persons on arrival. Student, faculty, and staff volunteers who were trained as interim support

staff, helped supervise the AUK gates for the security personnel, and helped in picking up and collecting trash from the campus grounds and waste containers for the housekeeping employees in an effort to collaboratively

keep the campus safe and clean. The swappers wore orange shirts. The purpose of this event was to appreciate and express gratitude to the housekeepers, technicians, security officers, landscaping and office facilitators for their passionate and hard work in ensuring that AUK remains a secure and pleasant place for the individuals on the premises to both learn and work.

International Labor Day is a day that signifies giving gratitude to the laborers, which is usually held at 1<sup>st</sup> of May around the world but certain countries hold it around in accordance to their convenience. It celebrates the many contributions to society made by laborers and honors their dignity. This day is celebrated around the world and is also known as ‘International Worker’s day’, or ‘May Day.’

# Library Honors Young Writers

BY AMNA AL-OMARE

On Monday morning April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012, the AUK library, as part of its annual cultural season, hosted inspiring Kuwaiti writers Abdulwahab Al-Sayed and Abdulaziz Al-Hashash in a “question and answer” session, followed by a book signing. Students, visitors and faculty members attended the event. The event started with a welcome speech from Ahmed Al-Rifai, a student at AUK introducing the two authors. Abdulwahab Al-Sayed has a degree in chemical engineering, and is the first Kuwaiti author to write in metaphysics and horror. Al- Sayed published 13 books. Some of his novels are: “Unknown Dimensions”,

“Rare Cases” and “After Midnight”. Many of them became bestsellers. Abdulaziz Al Hashash has a BA in psychology and sociology. He is an author of a popular TV series. He wrote a number of plays and short stories, winning several awards in Kuwait and in other countries. His series include “The Eyes of Love.” It was preceded by questions for the two authors, followed by open questions from the audience. The two writers spoke to the audience about their experiences in writing novels and scripts. Both of them stressed the importance of reading as essential foundations of any good writer. Al-Sayed stated that one won’t be able to write

unless one reads. They advised students interested in pursuing the literary career to start by reading. They recommended start visiting the “Forum of Creative Writers of the Writers Association” where renowned Kuwaiti writers teach beginners and review their work. To provide further guidance, Al-Sayed holds workshops for young aspiring writers. When asked about inspiration, Al-Sayed pointed to Dr. Nabil Farouk, Dr. Ahmed Khaled Tawfik and Herbert George Wells, the author of “The Time Machine.” Al-Hashash mentioned Tawfik Al Hakim and Stephen King. Concluding their talks, Al-Sayed stressed the importance of commitment

and hard work mentioning the difficulty of writing as well as distribution. He stated that, “heroes only become heroes because they strive to reach their goals.” Al-Hashash stressed the importance of having an aim behind any work. He added, “dreaming is your legitimate right. To pursue your dreams, take advice from your elders, invest in your talents, and never get pulled back by frustration.” Amna Al- Omari, director of the library, and Asmaa Al- Kanaan, assitant director of the library, concluded the event by honoring the writers each with a shield. The event ended with the book signing. The authors’ books were on sale at the event.

# Finance Week’s Zero Degrees and Humbah!



BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

As a segment of AUK’s Annual Finance Week from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, The Finance Club proudly hosted Zero Degrees, a scrumptious frozen yoghurt business, outside the Academic Advising Center, and Humbah, a succulent fast food business, next to the Wolfpack Fitness Center. The AUK community was invited to “Taste their

Imagination,” and to devour the tasty burgers of Humbah’s creation! As proudly declared by the Zero Degrees’ staff, “Zero Degrees is not just a cold place or an extreme sports brand, but a planet that breeds super heroes, i.e. flavors! Those heroes, led by Captain Ore (the original flavor) have come to planet Earth to deliver satisfaction and fun to the frozen yogurt experience.”

What a philosophy! Humbah on the other hand served scrumptious burgers to the AUK community. As stated by them, “Humbah is a Kuwaiti fast food concept created, owned and operated by Kuwaitis. Humbah is a fusion of foods, with all your favorites but adding a unique difference... the HUMBAH way! Just one bite is all it takes!” Quite intriguing!

The Finance Week intellectually created quite a hustle and bustle atmosphere on the AUK campus. Flyers, posters, and stickers advertising the events were almost everywhere; even the elevators weren’t spared! To top it all up, it is inspiring how the Finance Club also kept in mind the necessities of life which are food and desert; Humbah and Zero Degrees did the trick. Way to go Finance Club!



# Beirut Unisports Festival



AUK participants pose with their trophies from the Beirut Unisports Festival 2012.

BY TREVOR TAYLOR

On March 15-19, the American University of Kuwait (AUK) participated in the Beirut Unisports Festival 2012 in men’s soccer, men’s and women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s table tennis competitions. A total of 32 student-athletes represented AUK while competing against 26 different universities from 10 different countries. The Université Saint-Joseph hosted the Beirut Unisports Festival 2012, allowing competitors to use their sports facilities and having their students act as guides for the visiting athletic teams. This 4 day tournament gave AUK student-athletes the opportunity to play against a more diverse group of competitors, in a tournament that is proven to have a higher level of competition than any tournament Kuwait currently

offers. At each and every game, AUK student-athletes showed an overwhelming amount of AUK and Kuwaiti pride that could not go unnoticed; the gymnasium was filled with energy from AUK’s cheering, drumming, and singing in support of whichever AUK teams was playing. There was no surprise when AUK was awarded a huge cup for the university with the Best Team Spirit. After this tournament, AUK student-athletes are ready to compete in the second half of the University Championship Cup (UCC). Starting in April, AUK will participate in soccer, volleyball, tennis, squash, and swimming. They will play against the Australian College of Kuwait and the Gulf University for Science and Technology to see which institution will be crowned the UCC Champion.



AUK athletes celebrating a victorious ending to the Beirut Unisports Festival 2012.

# AUK Career Fair

BY NADA BEDIR

As part of the Career Week activities, local and international companies were present at the annual Career Fair that took place in AUK’s auditorium. The participating companies set up their booths to meet students and provide them with detailed information regarding career opportunities in Kuwait. It is the time of the year when AUK students get the chance to explore different career options including: internships, part-time, and full-time positions. The Career Fair was organized by the Career & Wellness office, and is considered to be one of the most significant events of the year. AUK students came dressed in their business attire and brought their CVs to present them to the participating companies. Students had the opportunity to learn more about different companies’ recruitment policies and the current available vacancies. The Career Fair, being held towards the end of the Spring Semester, allows our graduating seniors to start searching

for suitable jobs that would meet their expectations. In the past, some students were offered full-time positions after handing in their CVs and networking with companies’ representatives, which were present in AUK’s previous Career Fairs. On the other hand, freshmen, sophomore and junior students get the chance to apply for different internship opportunities, where they can utilize the skills they gained during their study at AUK. All in all, the Career Fair is an important event that connects students with the professional world and captures their attention to plan for their future. The participating companies included Gulf Bank and Zain as Platinum sponsor, KAMCO and ABYAT as Gold sponsors, Impact & Echo/BBDO and Al Yasraa Foods Company as Silver sponsors. Other companies were Ali Abdulwahab Sons & Co., Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Ernest & Young, Borgan Bank, Hewlett Packard, M. H. Alshaya Company, LOYAC, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Kout Food Group, Wataniya Telecom, and AUK.



# Bionics Coming to Life: Surprise, Surprise?

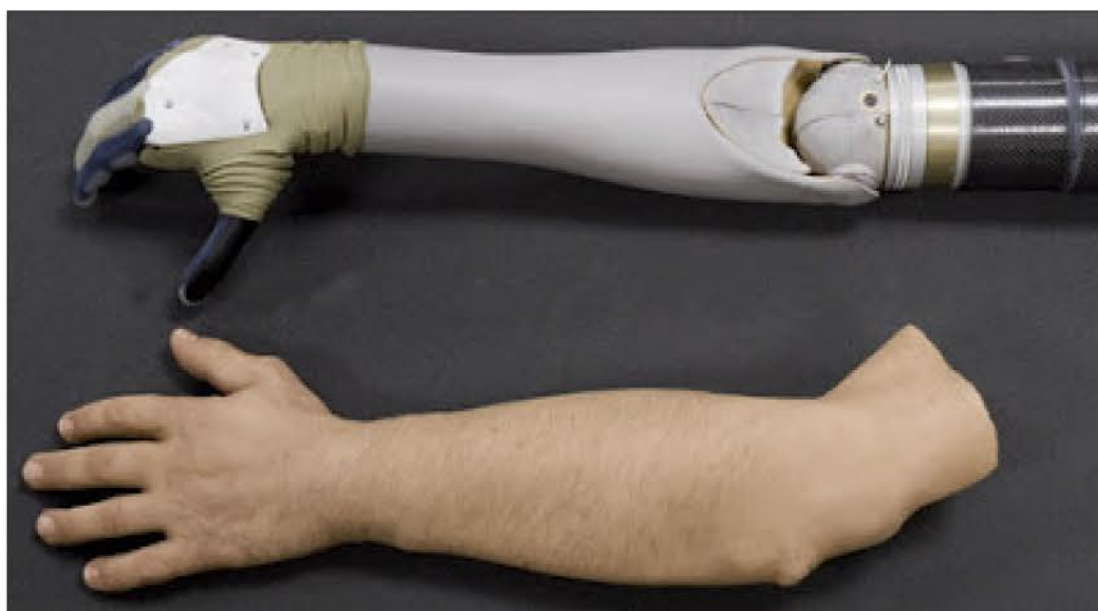
BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

Today's technology has almost surpassed human imagination and the mere question of what is possible and what is not. A new generation of bionics which can wirelessly connect with the nervous system and develop feeling are miraculously under development! This brings up the long awaited answer to the question of what is not possible; the answer being "Nothing!"

Tests on animals have already been conducted in which devices were directly implanted into the nerves to process and transmit signals wirelessly to an external device. The system works!

To top it all, researchers are also developing prosthetic skin which will be able to wrap around a bionic limb and transfer sensory information to the nervous system wirelessly, theoretically allowing users to detect and feel objects easily.

The present bionic arms can pinch or hold using electrodes fitted inside the portion of the prosthetic which fits over the human stump. They're positioned to pick signals up from the user's nervous system amplified by muscles in the respective stump. Progress seems to be continuous at the



Prosthetic limbs becoming ever more lifelike in form and function.

moment by German company Otto Bock developing a hand consisting of multiple electrodes which can drive wrist flexing and rotation. How magnificent!

The people with no arms at all are also not left out. The surgical rewiring of nerves in an amputee can offer much more than imagined, including those with no arms at all to drive bionic arms with elbow and hand movement.

Of course, with every good thing there's a bad thing. Sweat on the skin or any movement in the prosthetic might disrupt the signal to the bionic limb. The prosthetics can also rub against the skin and cause sores

or discomfort.

Let's talk about wireless bionics. Britain's researchers have already created the Intraosseous Transcutaneous Amputation Prosthesis (ITAP), a rod screwed into the bone of an amputee onto which the prosthetics can be fitted directly and safely, be they legs, fingers, or hands.

In the new bionics, since it will be a rod, higher loads can be potentially carried than with the traditional prosthetics which fit over the stump of an amputee like a glove. It will also avoid friction between the skin and the artificial limb.

Currently, Prof. James

Fawcett, a scientist of the Cambridge Center for Brain Repair is developing neural interfaces whereby prosthetics will be able to communicate wirelessly with implants fitted directly into the nerve fibers in the stump itself.

In the past we all had awed at the creations of mankind related to transplants for lost limbs, now we have even more

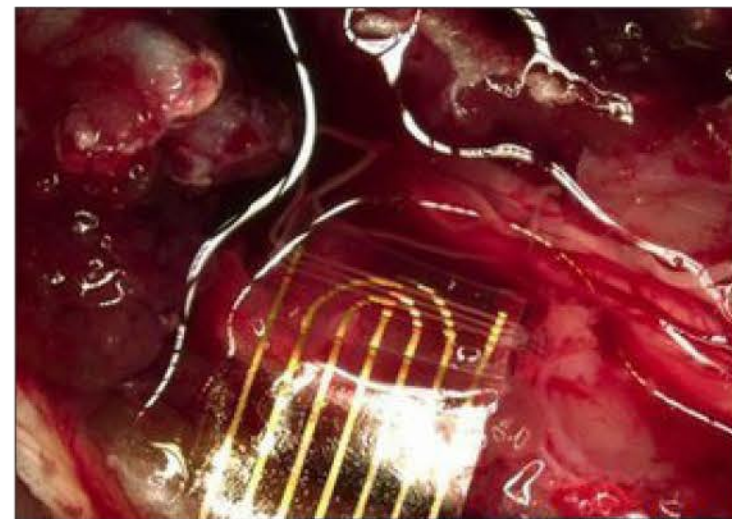
to wonder about, the successful link to the nervous system. It will almost be like regeneration!

How does the mechanism work? Once the device is inserted into the nerve in the stump, nerve fibers grow through it. Then, the nerve signals pertaining to specific movements are selected and transmitted wirelessly to a receiver in the prosthetic.

So far the device has been successfully tested on mice and

rats. Some potential concerns such as scarring within the device might strangle nerve fibers and disrupt signals are possible, but none have been detected so far.

We might one day limit the potential of human intellect by engraving a ceiling, but with developments like the above, we can only ask ourselves if one day we will have to walk amongst our bionic counterparts; with an ability to think?



Neural interfaces would be implanted in nerve trunks to read and transmit signals.

## Quit smoking RIGHT NOW!

BY ISHA SADIQ HAIDER

Unlike the conventional researched writing, I won't go into the preliminary detail about the "yada-yada" of smoking, but will just get right to the point. You're reading this because you either tried to give smoking up yourself, or have someone close to you who you want to compel to quit smoking but it just isn't working. Well, here's a little informative yet eye-opening insight for you about YOU. So, for a starter, let's grab that hopefully last cigarette and read on!

You'll be glad to know that about half of you, i.e. smokers, at least make one attempt to overcome the smoking addiction in a given year. Several actually do well at inception; scientific studies (Cochrane Review 2007) show that over 40% of those who use all available help, i.e. nicotine replacements and behavioral support, are successful; however, when it comes to 'quitting' smoking in its entirety, that's an entirely different matter. Long-term success is much less common and usually more than 95% relapse within the first year itself leaving only a few percent of those will unflinching willpower alone, without support from health professionals, replacement drugs, or medical treatments, to become successful long-term quitters. The million dollar question here is: How do



you JUST quit? Trust me; the answer will never be as simple as the question, but it's in you to JUST quit. Let's look at some of the strategies offered to help people quit smoking.

**1. Examination and Counseling:** Conventionally in most GP situations, there are doctors and nurses present to provide information about a smoker's addiction to nicotine after complete assessment. Surprisingly, this suffices to help 10% of smokers to quit smoking! Several studies also show that if you keep in touch with an ex-smoker, it increases your potential to give smoking up. Looking at a personalized self-help manual works miracles too.

**2. Behavioral Treatments:** These approaches combine assessment and advice with help on increasing people's willpower and skills to resist lighting up that so called 'last' cigarette. This usually involves joining a

'quit smoking' group or a similar group where special attention is put on the participants by a trained therapist. Study results show that about one person in a group of twelve is successful in quitting.

**3. Nicotine Replacement Therapy:** I have known people who use nicotine gums and have prevented themselves from smoking. It does work unless you stop. Nicotine replacements are effective measures of reducing withdrawal symptoms and cravings to smoke. Smokers get used to not having cigarettes, but still a source of nicotine, which they then cut down. With this measure, 10% stop smoking and become long term quitters. Some NRT options include lozenges, nasal spray, sublingual (under the tongue) tablets, nicotine inhaler, and nicotine gum. Combining these treatments is much more effective, as studies show.

**4. Other medicines:** Champix (Varenicline) and Zyban (Bupropion) are some medicines that can help a smoker give up their nicotine habit. These are the options available for people who suffer side-effects from the NRT. It's incontrovertible to remember that a doctor's consultation is imperative to ingestion of any medicine.

There are always steps right in front of you if you want to see. It's in you to quit! It always has been.



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A Great Journey in a French Experience

BY MANAL AL-JTAILI AND  
KUWAITIYA AL-JTAILI

AUK students from Professor Joseph Fiannaca’s 389 French class visited the French Short Film Festival that took place at the Laila Gallery on Monday the 9th and on Tuesday the 10th of April. The event involved displaying French short films for free and was organized in partnership with Cinescape and Le Festival Du Court-métrage De Clermont Ferrand. The French movies that were shown in the cinema were awarded by the International Short Film Festival of Clermont-Ferrand (France). Therefore, students had the opportunity to see the brilliant work of the French culture.

A highlight in this trip was when we went to see the short film, “Un Mardi.” Personally, we mostly were influenced by the music of the Arabian “Oud,” which we felt much related to, as being Arab. When the movie started, we realized that it was set in the streets of Beirut. Also, some of the actors were speaking Arabic which we enjoyed. We felt that they successfully reflected the Arabian society through the displayed music, behavior and clothes. We found the mix of the French-Arabian culture to be very interesting. The film was



only 20 minutes long, but the messages that it was sending were strong, especially in showing diversity in the French culture. Overall, we had a great journey; it was one of the most exciting

activities we have done this semester. We thank Professor Fiannaca for this entertaining event, and the opportunity of a being part of this French experience. C’est superb!



**So you think you can WRITE?**  
**or you think you can CREATE?**  
**What about just HELP OUT?** **If YES then The Voice of AUK is calling YOU**

The Linguistically Blessed, the Artistically Gifted, and the Major Free-style-rs. Sign up on the sheets present at the Voice of AUK Office door if you are a writer, a graphic designer, OR would just like to help out! **Raise YOUR Voice NOW!**

**Location: Clubs and Organization's area: Voice Office Door**  
**Time: 1st May to 30th May**

Active Career Week

BY ABIR ITANI

Career Week, at AUK, took place on April 8<sup>th</sup> - April 10<sup>th</sup>. On the first day, we had the Alumni Panel, where Alumni had the chance to discuss their AUK experiences and link it to their careers. They talked about the employers’ expectations and field values. They offered great advice to all AUK students and the number one advice was: BE ACTIVE during your university years because you will build your character, and be ready to work without knowing it. On the second day, two resume doctors were present on campus and helped the students build their resumes and write their cover letters. It was very useful

and had many students asking interesting questions related to their CVs. The number one recommendation was: limit your resume to ONE-PAGE because you are a fresh graduate. On the same day, April 9<sup>th</sup>, young entrepreneurs were on campus for the Entrepreneurship Panel. They talked about their fresh experience in opening a business and how to deal with people and ministry rules. They shared great ideas and their number one recommendation was: BE PERSISTENT. They closed the panel by collaborating together to start a recycling project and awareness campaign. The Career Fair on April 10<sup>th</sup> gathered recruiters from Kuwait and the region. Big

companies were present such as: Zain, Gulf Bank, KAMCO, Impact and Echo, Alyasra, Loyac, Ernst and Young, Pricewaterhousecoopers, KPMG, ABK, Wataniya, HP, Kout Food Group, Al Shaya, amongst others. The students were eagerly walking around and collecting information from recruiters and submitting their CVs. The companies who were present were very interested in hiring AUK students. In addition to the professional part, the Career Services and Wellness center had a raffle for students. The first prize was the New IPAD and the two other prizes included big Career Baskets. Congratulations to the winners!

Introducing the Kuwait Designers’ Club

BY THE KUWAIT DESIGNERS CLUB

The Kuwaiti Designers Club (KDC) is dedicated to provide a format for activities, lectures, workshops, and peer review of Graphic Design

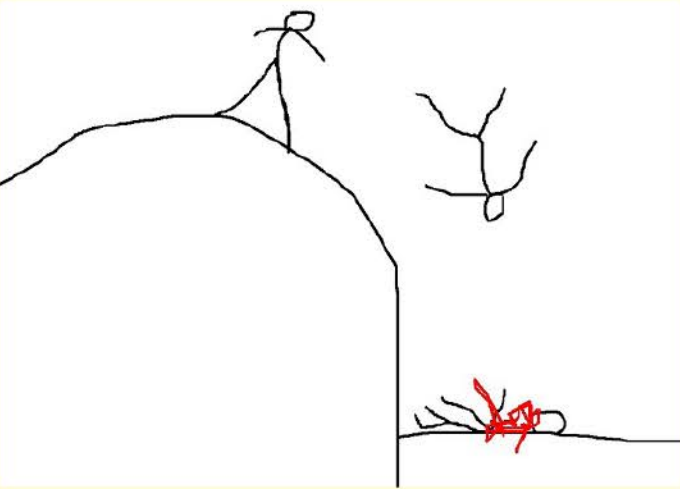
projects for students of the American University of Kuwait. This will give AUK students an opportunity to benefit from each other’s contribution, peer review and tutoring, friendships, and may allow for design

improvements to flourish here. Furthermore, this gives Kuwait’s designers a chance to be able to watch fun and informative films, interview professionals from around the world (via Skype), and even hold competitions.

Dr. Carol’s Corner

BY DR. CAROL ROSS-SCOTT

I will make my note to the Wolf Pack short and sweet... IF YOU STAND FOR NOTHING...YOU WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING. ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU STOOD UP AND BEGAN TAKING CONTROL OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR FUTURE? Backing out of the corner until next time...PEACE! dcars





**Student Leadership Position:**

President of SGA in 2006-2007 and held previous positions in 2004-2005; Peer Tutor at SSC 2004-2007; Facilitator and Alumna of Soliya Connect Program 2005-2007

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

Get active! Find something you're good at and enjoy and go for it. It is so important to be active. You'll get to know more people, learn how to interact with different personalities. These experiences will shape your character and help you deal with situations in the workplace. They will also give you a wider perspective of life. Do not limit yourself to being a good



**Jawaher Ali-Reda**  
Class of 2007

**Current Profession:**  
Youth Programme Associate at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

student. In this day and age, that is not good enough anymore. A good GPA does not get you very far anymore—not if you want to compete internationally anyways. I know that in my case, getting a scholarship and into a good master's program abroad had a lot to do with the fact that I was active on campus (which meant I was well-rounded) and served as a female leader in body that had not witnessed female leadership before. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy yourself because when you are enjoying what you're doing, you bring new ideas to the table and end up having a greater impact on the rest of the community.

**Current Profession:**

English Books' Publication Supervisor at the Ministry of Information\ MBA student at GUST

**Student Leadership Position:**

Editor of Auk Journal 2004-2005, Community Service President 2004-2006, Community Service Advisor 2007-2008, SGA member, PR & Advertising officer 2005-2006, Entrepreneur and Business club treasurer 2007-2008.

**How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?**

It gave me more confidence to pursue my dreams and believe in myself. Being active with clubs gave me leadership skills, and a technique in coordinating my tasks as well as my life.



**Esra'a Abdulredha Akbar**  
Class of 2008

**How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?**

The leadership skills I gained throughout the 4 years in AUK made me highly motivated and committed to pursuing my goals in life. At work it helped me take the role of a team leader and as well as a team player.

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

Live those days, take advantage of what Auk organization, workshops, professors and staff offers. Always remember, "You don't get what you wish for, you get what you work for."

**Current Profession:**

Assistant to the curators at Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah



**Fatmah Al-Qadfan**  
Class of 2008

**Student Leadership Position:**

Vice president of SGA (2004), Editorial board member *Voice of AUK*, Writing Center consultant

**How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?**

My involvement in different clubs helped build my character and confidence, I had to deal with problems and come up with solutions. The writing skills I developed as a writer and editor have really set me apart from others at the work place. I currently write for different magazines as well as for the organization where I work.

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

The true university experience is about a student's involvement beyond the classroom. Students should take advantage of extracurricular activities - for they allow students to explore and engage with the community in a practical way.

**How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?**

The clubs I was part of taught me a wide range of skills, most importantly patience and flexibility. I can now bring people together as one interconnected group.

**Student Leadership Position:**

L.E.A.D. Facilitator, PALs, Student Worker, Soccer Team Captain

**Current Profession:**  
Graphic Designer

**How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?**

I think it gives you a jump start to your career.

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

Be as active as you can in university, the opportunities are endless and you have more time to try out new and different things. Don't think of it as a learning experience while you're doing it, just enjoy it but be aware of the things that you are learning. You will find that one day you will look back and see how being active contributed to where you are.



**Ala'a Ali Reda**  
Class of 2008

**How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?**

Being a student worker has taught me professionalism in the workplace.

L.E.A.D. facilitator gave me the background on how to communicate and coordinate with people in high positions and organize small lectures.

PALs helped me with mentoring practices and being more social

Being a Soccer Team Captain helped in realizing the importance of doing fun-related activities, which I also think is important in the workplace to create a stronger bond between colleagues. It also gave me the sense of responsibility in which your actions will directly affect your team members, especially when working on a project with others.

**Student Leadership Position:**

Captain of the volleyball team, President of the Marketing Club

**Current Profession:** Advertising & Promotions at Nestle Kuwait



**Munira Alanjari**  
Class of 2008

**How has being active through clubs/ organizations/ leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?**

Being active in AUK clubs and organizations has prepared me for the work environment and I could feel a difference in my attitude towards work in comparison with other fresh graduates who haven't been involved in any student leadership programs.

**How has being active through clubs and organizations assisted you with your work placement?**

Because I was a fresh graduate and had no real work experience, I noticed that potential employers often asked me about my involvement and level of commitment in student clubs and organizations.

**Tips for current AUK students?**

Get involved! Being active in student leadership programs ensures that you can experiment and eventually succeed in developing your skills and confidence level. And you will learn a lot about yourself and how to deal with difficult situations in the workplace.

And most importantly, be true to yourself and go after what you believe in no matter how "far-fetched" your dreams may seem.



# AUK's Leaders of Years Gone By

BY RAMA SABANO

“Why should I get involved on campus? Why should I be the President of this club? What good is it for me? It’s just a waste of time!”

I’m sure these are all thoughts and questions that go through your head when thinking of joining a club/organization.

Speaking as an alum, I would like to say that on the contrary, it would be a waste of time if you DON’T participate on campus.

A good friend of mine, who’s also an AUK alum,

and is currently the coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Employment Programs once said:

“When I was a student at AUK, I came to class and left campus. After working at AUK and seeing what is available on campus and how alive the student body is, I regretted not being involved. I missed out on a very crucial part of the university experience.”

Speaking from personal experience, I like to think that my persona was shaped by the time I put in getting involved on campus. I’ll admit I wasn’t really active within the

club arena, but I made sure I got student worker jobs around campus, played on the soccer and basketball team and served on the Student Government Association at least once. On that note, I hear a lot of you saying, “Why should I run for SGA when I know I’m going to lose.” I actually ran for the Vice-President position my senior year and lost. I was disappointed of course, however, the campaigning process was a learning experience for me. Try and make use of every opportunity given to you through your college years.

Come to think of it, when I got interviewed for my first job after graduating, I was asked to give examples of situations that showed my leadership skills. I was a fresh graduate, with no job experience! Luckily for me, I got to give examples of when I served on SGA, or when I was a co-chair in the campus activities board. Being active helped me look good in that interview!

Enough about me and my advice! It’s time to show off those female alumnae’s that made a difference on campus. Let’s take a look at what they have to say!

*How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?*

It is primarily outside the classroom and particularly as a member of the *Voice* that I experienced the opportunities and challenges of being a leader. In doing so, I sought guidance and learned a lot from the people I interacted with, including fellow *Voice* members, both older and younger, and our faculty advisor (David Hart). I stumbled, triumphed, and learned about myself along the way, ultimately realizing that to lead is to inspire and bring out the best in others with integrity, passion, respect and humbleness to achieve a common goal. These are the values I would bring to future leadership positions.

**Current Profession:**  
Graduation Coordinator,  
Registrar’s Office, AUK  
**Student Leadership Position:**  
Editor-in-Chief/Board Member,  
*Voice of AUK*



Dina El-Zohairy  
Class of 2009

*How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?*

Being an active member and team leader of the *Voice of AUK* throughout my undergrad years has helped me develop various skills that employers look for such as time management, effective oral and written communication, problem-solving, multi-tasking, and teamwork.

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

Make the most out of the education you’re getting here.  
Aim to learn something new from everyone you meet.  
Seek excellence, not mediocrity, in everything you do.  
Seize opportunities that come your way for they may never come again.  
Be active wherever you go, leave a (positive) print.  
“Aspire to inspire before you expire.”

*How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?*

I suppose what qualified me most was my previous experience, my knowledge, and my writing and composition skills. But my learning outside the classroom (as a volunteer, intern, student worker, or club member and active member of the AUK community) prepared me for these responsibilities in ways my classes could not have done.

Being active on campus definitely prepared me for life after AUK. Assignments and internships have all been instrumental to my knowledge and experience, but I also have my 4 years of club and organization activity to credit. Committing to activities outside the classroom means you learn about team work and interacting with people, managing time and projects, and communicating.

Working around the clock to meet deadlines and cover sections of the *Voice* really helped me get a good start in writing and copyediting for magazines, websites, and blogs around Kuwait and Dubai.

**Current Profession:**  
Cultural Affairs Assistant, U.S.  
Embassy



Nur Soliman  
Class of 2010

**Student Leadership Position:**  
Board member/arts section editor/contributor to the *Voice of AUK* for 4 years; editor-in-chief of the *AUKuwait Review* for 3 years (contributor for 5); member of Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society; assisted in student meetings with accreditation boards; interviews with AUK presidential candidates; helped interview and prepare future AUK-to-Dartmouth student interns, etc.

**Tips for current AUK students?**

Get involved! From the very first day of the semester, find out how to get involved. Visit Student Life and discover what various clubs and organizations are currently at AUK, or ask to create one yourself! Getting involved on campus as a club member, student workers, or getting involved in projects you are passionate about by helping others in the community will teach you the skills you can only learn outside the classroom.

Most of my good memories of being at AUK stem from my time with clubs, organizations, and leadership programs. Much of my time on campus was spent with the *Voice of AUK* and the *AUKuwait Review*, sitting in the clubs and organization offices racing to meet article or cartoon deadlines, cutting open newly printed piles of *Voice* issues for distribution, or proofreading the last drafts for the *Review*. It was often frustrating and stressful, but it was also always tremendously exciting.

**Current Profession:** Operations Analyst



Shahed Al-Wadani  
Class of 2010

**Student Leadership Position:**  
Head facilitator for LEAD at AUK, Senior Office Assistant at the Office of Student Life, as well as member in different clubs and organizations.

*How has being active through clubs/organizations assisted you with your work placement?*

While applying for work, it made me stand out from other students who didn’t have as much experience in leadership or participation in clubs and organizations. It also impressed most employers while I was being interviewed.

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

“Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.” Even if it’s something you’re not usually interested in, try it, participate and you’ll definitely learn something.

*How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?*

I participated in almost every clubs, organizations and events that interested me in AUK and by doing that I learned how to plan, organize and facilitate events, workshops and lectures. I learned how to work with a group of students in order to achieve one goal. But most of all, by being active on campus, I was able to know more about myself and find out what I really like to do in life and what I’m really good at.

**Current Profession:**  
M.B.A. student at GUST

**Student Leadership Position:**  
Head Facilitator of L.E.A.D. 2010-2011. President of Book Club 2008-2009

**Tips for current AUK Students?**

Whenever an opportunity arises, take it. Every time you participate in something it will increase your success in the future and your credibility. Enjoy your years at university and live it to the fullest.



Amal Behbehani  
Class of 2011

*How has being active through clubs/organizations/leadership programs at AUK prepared you for future leadership positions?*

I have a better grasp as to what my responsibilities would be and how to cope under stress. The clubs and organizations prepared me on how to effectively use my time when working on several projects. It also helped me with knowing how to motivate others to work and divide responsibilities among my team mates.



# The Artist Spectacular!

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Vive le cinéma Français! I have never really followed and favored a particular country's cinematic production but *The Artist* enraptured me, and I am already an avid fan of black-and-white movies so it was inevitable. People who are movie critics for a living have already raved about it and given excellent reviews so I will aim not to be repetitious but focus in on a fact that this marvel brought to life: we need variety. Blockbusters have been a fan favorite for the past decade and I personally would like to see a change. I know that movies like *The Artist* were fads in their own time but I cannot imagine that audiences would ever grow tired of them. If you missed it, that was the difference.

Eighty years ago, movies had a lot more substance and addressed social ills far greater than today; I may be preaching to the choir because it is a well-known fact that it has become about box office rankings and gross revenue but regardless, repetition is crucial. The visual element(s) of a movie is not less in importance than other factors that go into making one but some are just more important on a global level. The Harry Potter and Twilight movie franchises are



so insanely successful but peel off their publicity-oriented layers and you will find little to nothing at the core. When did it stop being about the powerful performance that an actor/actress is expected to give? Marlon Brando came on the scene in the 1940s and set the standard for a kind of acting that was all-natural; before him, everything was over the top. So why have things began to spiral out of control when they should, in principle, be getting better?

I am no respected movie critic but I do have a sturdy opinion about the industry, not a very good one as you may have gathered. This is why I love it when movies come along that are a breath of fresh air. I felt that way when *Slumdog Millionaire* premiered and *The Artist* is certainly no different. It stripped everything down to basics and the added component of it being silent meant that the actors/actresses had to prove themselves that much more. It is not about bringing back

a lost art, even though it has done that to a great degree. However, what movie-goers need to appreciate about this movie is its raw delivery and fearless experimentation. Every contemporary one looks and sounds the same but it does not have to be restricted to a time period. A movie can be just as successful regardless, once it sets its priorities straight. I, for one, would commend *The Artist* whether it was set in 1927 or 2007. All I have to say is *encore!*

## To Walk with Them

By Isha Sadiq Haider

Once again, their fingers entangle  
To walk above their shadows of timber  
Casted beneath their steps.

Once again, time converges their routes into an ending mirage  
With their every footprint on the shade of black  
Narrowing them into each other.

Once again, an austere collectiveness compels them to gather  
towards the heavens  
With entangled souls their promises, like bees, prepare to meet  
at the bend,  
And to walk with them to their end...

Image Credits: Majid A. Mahr

## O Silent Worshipper

By Yousef Maged Nayef

Distant stars may shine,  
and through the window  
of your soul, let mercy breeze  
so calm and cool.

O silent worshipper, why don't you speak?  
O fearful worshipper, be not afraid.  
Remember, as you walk upon the thorny way  
with swollen feet, that you are in the right,  
no matter what the envious people say.

In judgment day,  
your carpet shall attest  
to every letter you pronounced  
Upon its threads;  
and at that time you won't regret,  
you won't be sad,  
you won't be weak again  
because you'll know for sure  
that God is on your side.

So keep the faith; and shine.

# الركن العربي

## النائب ٥١

BY AHMAD AL-REFAI

حينما نقف قليلا أمام الشاطئ؛ و ندبر ظهورنا لمجلس الامه و نستعيد الذكريات السياسية سنجد أن شاطئ الشيوخ كان شاهدا على ما جرى في قبة هذا البرلمان من صراعات سياسيه و من مواقف سجلها التاريخ و من اعتصامات للشعب الكويتي الابي بشتى اطيافه . و كأن الشاطئ مشاهدا و ما يدور في مجلس الامه مسرحيه فكاهيه دراميه مأساويه كل انواع الدراما تمت ممارستها بداخل هذا المبنى المهول . مبني رسمت الكويت من خلاله مظاهر للديمقراطية و راحت تغنى بهذه الديمقراطية كالعروس ليلة زفافها و لكن دوام الحال من الحال . الفصول تختلف و الشخصيات تتغير . بالأمس كانت إحدى الشخصيات النسائية تهدد و تلوح و تمارس حقها النيابي و اليوم لا اثر لوجود المرأة في هذا الفصل. فصل مضحك مبكي و المفارقة صعبة جدا . عندما اقرت حقوق المرأة السياسية استبشرنا خيرا بتعديل بعضا من القوانين التي تهم المرأة و التي كانت عالقة بأدراج الرجال و عندما دخلت المرأة البرلمان تم سحبها نحو معتكر سياسي خطير نحن بغنى عنه. كل ما كان يشغل الأسرة الكويتية هو تشريع قوانين تخدم و تفيد المرأة الكويتية لا أن تتجاهلها. و لكن حينما ادارت المرأة ظهرها للمجتمع الذي تأمل خيرا بها أدار المجتمع ظهره لها عندما نادته كان الفصل الماضي من المسرحية مؤلم بعض الشيء. كانت المرأة مع الحكومة قلبا و قالبا و للأسف لم تقف الحكومة مع المرأة بقوانين حتميه . هل تستطيع أن تجيبي أي من اعضاء مجلس الامه

النساء ما عدا ” معصومة التي كانت تنجز بجوانب نتطرق لها لاحقا .

ماذا قدمتم للمرأة الكويتية المتزوجة من اجنبي . هل قدمتم لأبناء الكويتية من حقوق للتوظيف . هل قدمتم احصائيات للحكومة حول عدد ابناء الكويتيات الخريجين منهم و الخريجات لكل سنه . هل وضعتم خطط للاستفادة من تلك الكوادر الشابة . هل وضعتم دراسة حول الاثر النفسي المترتب على

الفرقة بين ابناء الكويتية و الكويتيين. لم و لن نستطيع الاجابة على ما طرحتم من اسأله فهي شغل شاغل لدى كثير من الامهات و لكن لله دركن فاصبروا على ما ابتلاككم به الزمان و ليعوضنا الله خيرا بأعضاء جدد يتبنون هذه القضايا . فاليوم الواضح من كتلة الاغلبية أنها تعمل نحو تشريع قوانين جديده من منطلق انها ستخدم المجتمع و لكن هل ستبنى هذه الكتلة قوانين المرأة أم انها ستعود ادراجها للأدراج.

اليوم نحن امام احد ابشع الفصول . التشريع سيد الموقف و الأغلبية تتحكم بزمام الامور و التجاهل يتم علنا من باب الديمقراطية و الضحايا كثر . لا نعلم ان كانت الفترة المقبلة ستقر و تثبت فوز معصومة المبارك و التي ستكون بمثابة خيط الامل المعقود عليه كثير من التفاؤلات و الأمال و لكن أن لم يكن و لم تفز معصومة و تم تغاضي كتلة الاغلبية لقوانين المرأة سيشهد هذا الفصل من المسرحية حضور عضو جديد مخترقا قبة البرلمان يرتدي ثيابا فضفاضة و يمشي بين الاعضاء متباهيا سريع الخطوات و يقف مع كتلة الأغلبية أنه العضو ١٥ أنه النائب ” بو قمعه ” الذي يقمع رأي الأقلية و لا يدبر لهم بال.

## في حقلنا دبابة.

بقلم يوسف ماجد نايف

في حقلنا دبابةً (مقبلة) في حقلنا أرجوحة زرقاء كم خاصمت نفسي بين أضلعها وتمتمت اعترافاتي الصغيرة كلما هل القمرُ في بيتنا كتب مترجمة وأعطية ورثناها كما ترث الورود رحيقها أعواد كبرت من المتشردين للماكين على الرصيف أمام منزلنا. وألعاب حقٍ كما نحنُ إلى الطفولة والأمل في حقلنا دبابة

## قولي،

بقلم يوسف ماجد نايف

قولي. وسأكتب ما تملين بحبر الفكر الدافق. أعتنق الكلمات. وأرسمها كرداد المزن على أرض جدباء. كسمفونيتنا المكنونة في أدني. أقتات الحزنَ من العبرات إذا انتحرت. من نعيها غيري؟ قولي وتناسي البرد. فأنت معي. والدفء لدي. وسرك بين يدي فلا تخشي شيئا. قولي. وسأحفظ ما تملين كطفل لا يتعلم إلا من أمة.

## أَمَامَ وَطَنٍ يَحْتَرِقُ.

بقلم يوسف ماجد نايف

طِفْلٌ لَمْ يَحِبُّوْ بَعْدُ.  
وَأَمَّ بَيْنَ النَّارِ وَبَيْنَ الْمَوْتِ.  
وَجُنْدِي الْأَعْدَاءِ لَدَيْهِ سِلَاحُ.

الطفل: أُمِّي. أَفَبِقِي إِنَّ مَوْطِنَنَا احْتَرَقَ  
الأم: آتَا لَمْ أَهْ عَيْنَايَ أَشْهَرَهَا الْأَرْقُ  
فَكَهْمَا رَأَتْ عَيْنَاكَ إِنِّي هَذَا رَأَيْتُ  
وَصَرَاحُ شُعْبِي هَرَبِي حَتَّى عَيَّبْتُ.  
الطفل: لَكِنِّي لَمْ أَكْ. أُمِّي. هَذَا أَبْتُ  
عَيْنَايَ دَلَّ الْحَاقِدِينَ وَأَجْدَبْتُ.  
أَنَا لَسْتُ لُعَيْتَهُمْ.  
الأم: بَنِي الْمَوْتُ أَتْ.  
هَذَا حَرْقُهُ أَمَانَتَا وَالذِّكْرَاتُ.  
حَرَقُوا الْكِنَانِيسَ وَالْمَسَاجِدَ. اعْرِفُوا  
كُتُبِي الْقَدِيمَةَ. وَالْأَمَانِي مَرَقُوا  
الطفل: أُمِّي. أَجِيبِيْنِي. أَلَا تَتَفَقَّيْسِيْن؟

## غبار.

بقلم يوسف ماجد نايف

غبار.  
ويريح تهب النوافذ ترجمها بالخصي.  
بينما الكون يزداد دفنا وعطفا.  
غبار يزعزع نفسا وقلبا.  
يزلزلني كلما اجتاح جسمي.  
يسمم فكري. يفجرني بهدوء.  
وأنت تراني. تراقب كيف أموت  
أمامك. تنتظر الحب من حواه الغبار



# Around the States in 45 Days

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

On August 15, 2008: it was all over, the most life-changing experience yet in my twenty-three years on this planet. Considering that it has been that long, I might be expected to forget most of it but it has left an indelible mark and this may sound painfully cliché but it turned out to be one of those periods of my life that had me fully believe that all good things [must] come to an end. What I have been keeping vague is a program sponsored by the Department of State called the Middle East Partnership Initiative and I will not get into painstaking details about what it constitutes/does for participants. There is always good old Google for that. I want to make this a purely personal account of how that summer went. It was the work of fate that I even had been given the opportunity to sign up and get selected so I really did luck out and am grateful for that. Because I made several stops on this journey, I have decided to categorize what remains of the article into the cities involved.

Washington D.C. The capital was one of the most exciting places right off the bat, mostly because I felt that residents were very much open to different peoples, more so than other parts of the States I ventured off to later, and that makes every bit of sense since it is a hub for diplomatic missions and receives the aforementioned on a regular basis. So that sort of culture, if you will, was honed over a good stretch of time. To get a sense of the political framework, we visited the Senate House where people who have made a living out of working for the American government were nice enough to break things down for us. Also there, I met organizers of the program as well as advisors who flew in from my host university and encapsulated what we were to expect for the next six weeks. Mine were from Wayne State University (located in Detroit, Michigan) and one of the first points they made to me, and which they were sure to repeat on countless occasions, was that Detroit harbors “the largest population of Middle Easterners outside of the Middle East.” They truly never made me forget it and to this day, I never have.

Detroit, Michigan. What is something anyone traveling abroad, regardless of the duration, looks for? Yes, a good time. But I have a different spin on this one: I want to be able to see and meet new people, not feel like I am still in my neighborhood back home. Some of the first people I met at Wayne State University were of Arab origin, even ones who were fresh out of the Middle East and trying to make something of themselves, however that may be interpreted and



The author seated at the Senate House in Washington, D.C.

understood. Then there were *halal* shops at every corner, sightings of women with *hijabs* on every so often and signs upon billboards catering to the Arab/Muslim populace.

Needless to say, it did not feel like walking down a street in the States. But what was remarkably atypical about being there is witnessing people that I belong to go about things with an exciting energy, nothing I had ever been able to locate in Kuwaiti society and even countries in the greater region I had visited. They upheld impressive work ethic and spoke of unification in a broad sense whenever they had the chance; when I compared that to unprofessionalism and divide-and-conquer methodologies sweeping through Kuwait, going back was not a priority.

While at Wayne State University, I attended compulsory classroom sessions that taught us, in our capacity as students, ways in which we can apply knowledge related to leadership and civic engagement to our respective communities. A lot of exercises were given and our critical thinking/problem-solving skills were put to the test. Professors with impressive credentials instructed these lessons and were of different backgrounds – their enthusiasm was infectious and a conscious effort into getting all this off of the ground was invested because we were the very first batch of participants of this program to be hosted by Wayne State University.

Apart from an academic environment on campus, we saw much of Detroit by way of visiting exceptional civil society and internationally renowned organizations. Off the top of my head, I remember Rotary International which stands out more so than the rest because longtime members in the chapter established at Dearborn made sure to introduce us to sights and sounds of the city and I even got to take part in a gathering of senior citizens, who began

that festive morning by singing melodies that I like to call old-fashioned. Myself and a few of our group who were with me did not attempt to mumble the words, just waving our heads to and fro.

At the time when we made Detroit our home for a mere few weeks, economic instability was prevalent and a lot of long-time residents had resolved to leave the city and look for better, more profitable opportunities elsewhere in the States. Also, the mayor of the city at the time, Kwame Kilpatrick, was being riddled with corruption charges and a variety of scandals all throughout this tenure – in relation to this, we were taken to meet Kym Worthy, the prosecutor of Wayne County, who was filing law suits against the mayor as early as March of that year. It was very exciting to meet and sit with her – she was incredibly humble and a woman of immense valor.

There were these excursions around Detroit having to do with stocking up on information about how civil society organizations are begun and maintained. Then there was the part where we visited landmarks, enjoyed the scenery (those of us from the Arabian Gulf appreciated

it more for obvious reasons) and outdoor activities. There were plenty of places that left lasting impressions but there was one that I ended up appreciating a lot more than the rest: the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. It is because there is more to it than walking through endless corridors of historical artifacts. Most people do not acknowledge the suffering that African slaves had to endure but this establishment went the whole nine yards in that department.

It was not merely a host of guided tours and educational workshops. When we walked down to a section of the museum that was designed to give the impression of rooms that would imprison the slaves, they had us tread into it in a familiar fashion as they would have: barely any breathing space between yourself and the slave in front of you. Next, we were told to stand pressed to the wall, as closely as possible to one another. This analogy has been repeated enough, I know, but it really did feel like being sardines in a can.

A good portion of the six weeks was spent at the host university but part of the program does include traveling to different states,

and selecting which ones to go to was dependent upon the overarching themes being communicated. As I am not certain what other host universities paid close attention to, I can only speak for mine: we looked into automotive industries (in Detroit), patterns of governance and the civil rights movement.

Chicago, Illinois. The Windy City worked its magic on us. A lot more metropolitan than Detroit, there was more to see in comparison and was vibrant in every sense of the word. I felt that it caters to tourists very nicely and even if it was for five days, we took a comprehensive circuit of the city. Looking into how it plays the important role of being an economic center, we made our way to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago where we were briefed on its history, relevance to the preservation of sound economic conditions and were given visual presentations because when things became far too technical, it was not always easy to grasp. One of our outings in Chicago included taking a very pleasant cruise along the Chicago River and sailing far enough to look back and see the skyline. It was breathtaking, to say the least.

New Orleans, Louisiana. At the time, only four years had passed since the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina so before crossing the state border into New Orleans, we had made plans to get a first-hand experience in helping out with disaster relief efforts. I assure you that they were still being funded and carried out and a testimony to this was driving through several affected neighborhoods. Divided into groups of two, we were each taken somewhere where our services were required. My group was to help clear out the backyard of a resident senior citizen whose house was caught up in the infrastructural damage. We got to know her as we hauled fairly huge pieces of

fallen branches and picked up debris. She was incredibly grateful and insisted that we get into a circle so that she may say a word of prayer. That was worth everything.

Other occurrences in New Orleans were as follows: trying my very first (and last, sadly) snow cone, meeting an ex-drug dealer who now helps get youth working in this shady business off the streets and into schools and being completely awed by two things: how much crocodiles are a delicacy and the fact that the heat wave that met us there rivals any we have had in Kuwait! It had me rethink geographical positioning and whether it has any significance ever since.

Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama. We then headed to this neighboring state which really is, in many ways, the birthplace of the civil rights movement, kicked into gear by the late Martin Luther King Jr. Going there was ultimately to get at its root and appreciate how much of a profound effect it had left on Americans, then and to this very day. We recreated the peaceful march by demonstrators on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and as we walked along it, our advisors and aids they had recruited in Montgomery who were well-versed in the history of the city would explain what happened in detail. It was a very powerful feat to have accomplished. I really never pictured myself going to the United States apart from as a tourist, let alone retrace the steps of a civil rights hero.

Washington D.C. en route to Kuwait City, Kuwait. This was obviously the bitter part, where we had to say our goodbyes and goodness knows that there are plenty of things that I did not mention but doing so would fill up another article. So this will suffice. I made a lot of lifelong friends, shared unforgettable memories with them and time flew by so fast that I could hardly believe it when I was on the plane, home-bound. Emotions ran high on the day we all caught our different flights but I am eternally obliged to have been lucky enough to become a participant and alumnus of this prestigious program.

I have to admit: I was not entirely ready from the onset and it felt like embarking on to the unknown but it was really that factor of what there is to expect and the thrill of it all that made every moment special. It helped me grow as an individual in every possible way and have what it takes to evolve into a contributor to my society. If after reading all of this, you are *considering* applying (if you meet the program's requirements), that is the biggest mistake you can make. Do not consider, do it without a second thought. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!



The author with other MEPI participants in front of La Pita restaurant in Detroit, Michigan.



# May Events



1. May 1, 1707 - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland. The union included Wales which had already been part of England since the 1500's. The United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2. May 2, 2011 - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The raid marked the culmination of a decade-long manhunt for the elusive leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization based in the Middle East.



3. May 5, 1893 - The Wall Street Crash of 1893 began as stock prices fell dramatically. By the end of the year, 600 banks closed and several big railroads were in receivership. Another 15,000 businesses went bankrupt amid 20 percent unemployment. It was the worst economic crisis in U.S. history up to that time.

4. May 6, 1527 - The Renaissance ended with the Sack of Rome by German troops as part of an ongoing conflict between the Hapsburg Empire and the French Monarchy. German troops killed over 4,000 Romans, imprisoned the Pope, and looted works of art and libraries. An entire year passed before order could be restored in Rome.



5. May 9th - Victory Day in Russia, a national holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany during the "Great Patriotic War" (World War II) honoring the 20 million Russians who died in the war.

6. May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.



7. May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.

8. May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.



9. May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

10. May 24, 1881 - A boating disaster occurred in Canada when Victoria, a small, double-decked stern-wheeler carrying over 600 passengers on the Thames River keeled over then sank, killing 182 persons.





# You’ve Got Mail!

BY SALLY ZAGHLOUL

I can still remember the first time I wrote an e-mail; I was 12 years old and it was directed to my friend, who had travelled abroad. It was simply: “Hi. How are you? I missed you so much. Reply to me soon.” I remember going through it over and over again, trying to formulate it in the best way I could. One time after the other, I cared less about how I wrote my e-mails and just wrote whatever came up to my mind, then hit the send button. I believe at that time-when e-mails first started, most people used e-mails to keep in touch with their friends and family, and not much of professional communication was involved. Nowadays, I believe it is the opposite. People catch up with their friends via SMS, WhatsApp, Skype, Facebook and many other communication means that involve more technology, while business is mostly done by e-mail. Think of AUK as an example: when you want to contact your friends or colleagues, you pick up your iPhone and which icon do you click, the WhatsApp or

the e-mail icon? What about when you want to contact your professors?

Having emails as the official communication medium at AUK, puts us all in situations when we need to send e-mails. This is actually how the real world works, via email; it’s more convenient. Assuming that the majority of e-mails sent by students at AUK are directed to their professors, here are some quick tips to keep in mind while writing your e-mails:

Never leave the subject of your e-mail empty: Type in a subject that defines what your email is about. You don’t want to just leave it as “question” or “question about assignment”. Your professor probably teaches more than one course with different sections and this title could confuse him/her. Therefore, writing your course name (e.g. ENGL 101) and section number (e.g. S02) before stating the purpose of the e-mail would be the best thing to do.

Start your email with Dear professor: Starting your email with directly stating your question without greeting your reader, might imply



rudeness. Hi Professor would be acceptable too.

Try to make your question as clear as possible: Because this is not face-to-face contact, if the professor doesn’t understand the question clearly, he won’t be able to answer your question properly.

Check your spelling and grammar: Try as much as you can to avoid spelling mistakes or grammar when sending an e-mail to your professor

(especially if it was for an English course) to imply professionalism and leave a good impression.

End your email by thanking your professor in advance.

After you finish writing your e-mail, read it once again before hitting the send button just in case of any typos.

In the end, I hope you take in consideration these points next time you write an e-mail. Let’s prove to our professors that we can be professional.

# English Major...Are You Insane?!

BY AYAT AL-BLOUSHI

I graduated from a public high school with a very high GPA in the field of Science, and my family was delighted by my achievement. The next step was to choose a major that would interest me, which wasn’t an easy thing to do since I did not have a clear vision of what I really wanted at the time. I had always been indecisive when it came to my studies or any future prospects. When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor because my late grandma used to tell me that she wished that I would become a physician. Then, I changed my mind; I wanted to be a vet! This was because I was addicted to a comedy TV show that revolved around a vet’s life, who was, coincidentally, played by my favourite actor. As a child, I identified with my favourite

character and wanted to be like him. However, when I got older, I was convinced that I would be an engineer, any kind of engineer; but what was important was to have that title. The reason, perhaps, was because my family, my high school teachers, and my friends believed that I could be an engineer. They believed that, since I was a hard working student throughout my entire academic life, I should become an engineer!

However, when the moment of truth approached, I realized that I was following a “socially constructed” belief, and that I might be making the wrong decision for me. I came to the decision that engineering was not for me because it contradicted with my own desires and interests. Then, I had to do some deep thinking and came to the realization that what made me happy

was English. I was overjoyed whenever I was participating in English reading and writing competitions in school, I was also a part of the English club, as well as being honored for my outstanding performance in my English classes. I was the English department’s “favorite” student. I said to myself, “that’s it; I’m going to choose English. I haven’t had enough of it!” Most people I knew later found fault with my choice and even went to the extent of calling me “stupid.” They believed that anybody could be an English major, but it was not a similar case for Engineering because it demanded a high GPA. They kept telling me - in fact, they still ask me till this day, “Why English as a major?” This is my answer to them, or to any other person who might be having the same question in mind:

When I’m studying what I love, I never actually study, but I’m enjoying my time reading things that interest me. To be an English major means to know and understand different cultures, conflicts in human nature and history, perspectives, and to develop the ability to interact with them and to understand life. I can wear different hats; once I’m a psychoanalytic, who understands and analyzes different characters of human beings. At other time, I might be a philosopher and try to theorize about crucial issues of human existence. I can be a social scientist, who understands different relations between societies, and I can be a historian, an artist, and a different person of a particular culture each time I’m interacting with a text of that culture. How can I not but choose English as a major?!

# Reflections of a Senior

BY JOSHUA WILLIAMS

As we come to the end of the semester, and I come to the end of my time studying at AUK, I think it’s time to do a little reflection on the road I’ve traveled thus far. While this may be just another step in the lives of some, I have come a long way...both literally and figuratively, of course.

Prior to my joining the student body of AUK, I was practically just a mooch. I lived in my father’s house, lived on his expense, and still managed to build up a debt that was beyond my means to pay. I was working a job with little room for advancement. I’d dropped out of university due to a lack of financial means and a lack of motivation. That was then.

Today, I stand – or, currently, sit – with much more hope for the future. I’m about to graduate with a full degree in English Literature, which I hope to serve me well as I seek to create literature of my own in the future. I have received honors that no one who knew me would have expected me to be able to attain. I have made friends that I would not have met had I remained in my dark room in Florida. This all came about from an idea my stepmother (y’all might know her as Professor Sharon Lawrence) had. She decided to give me a chance – despite the commentary of family and “friends.” Though

my progress has been made through my own effort, it is thanks to her that I even had this chance.

I have enjoyed my time at AUK, but I wish I had had more time to engage in the various clubs. The few sessions I could sit in with the Drama Club as they rehearsed potential skits and ad-libbed various theater games were a lot of fun. Even more than this, though, I have enjoyed the friendship of the Tabletop Club, who befriended me within the first week of my time here and without whom my experience would not have been nearly so interesting. Even after I leave, whatever the case of my employment, I certainly intend to maintain contact with them. These friendships are something that I would encourage anyone to discover, and thus I cannot recommend enough that my fellow students should find a club, any club that interests them, and join it.

Now, as I sit in the ever-crowded and noisy diner, bidding my time until class, I am glad to note that, in the past two years, my regrets are so miniscule. This, as trite as it sounds, is something I would also encourage in my fellow students. Don’t simply strive to succeed. Enjoy the path to success! With my journey through life becoming ready to enter its next step, it is the enjoyment of life that certainly has made the path worth taking – less traveled or otherwise.

# My Experience as A Consultant

BY NADA BEDIR

It seems like just yesterday when I first started my journey as a consultant at the Writing Center. I became part of the Writing Center family in the Spring of 2010. During my stay here, I have had the chance to interact with students from different backgrounds, majors, and classes. I feel fortunate that I had the opportunity to help AUK students with developing their writing skills because I believe that such skills are vital for survival at the university. In my opinion, writing expresses who you are as a person. When you apply for a university, you need to write a motivation statement; when you apply for a job, you need to prepare a cover letter. From these previous examples, one can see that writing is one of the primary basis upon which your work, your personality, and your intellect will be judged.

Writing Center? Well, just like the saying goes: “don’t give me a fish, but teach me how to fish.” We assist you with putting your thoughts on your paper in an organized fashion; we don’t write the paper for you. Therefore, at the end of the day, it is all your work and it feels great! The feeling that I experience after helping a student is remarkable. If students learn only one concept during the session, this is considered an achievement because they will carry what they learnt throughout their lives!

I worked with an amazing group of faculty, staff, and fellow consultants! We were all one dedicated family with serving the AUK body being our objective. I will never forget the great times I spent here working with fellow consultants to prepare workshops, attending meetings, and even chatting during our free time! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Writing Center family for their dedication and hard work; and thank you for being part of my amazing experience!

# A Peek into The Writing Center

BY STEPHANIE KHALIL

Before I worked at the Writing Center, I didn’t really know what went on and thought, “I don’t need their help- how much can they do for me that I can’t already?” Things changed this semester. I realized something that I believe many students at AUK are unaware of: going to the Writing Center actually does help!

Many students believe that the consultants at the Writing

Center aren’t as qualified to help them as they’d like. I can definitely say this is not true. The hiring process for Writing Center consultants isn’t taken lightly. Candidates are interviewed, trained, observed and evaluated before they are officially deemed capable of consulting students that seek their help. Employment isn’t like an exam you study for - you are assessed on the skills you demonstrate and on your competence in real

life situations. It takes a lot to be able to act on the spot and immediately make an informed decision about what suits you best - something every Writing Center consultant is capable of!

The Writing Center is a place for students to go to get an extra push for that one point that might earn you a higher grade. It isn’t a place where students should feel hopeless and demotivated, but instead feel glad that they are gaining a free learning service. Many students

don’t notice the mistakes they have in their work and simply need someone else to - that’s what we’re here for! We’re here to spot your mistakes and help you correct them so that you won’t make the same errors again in the future.

Come to the Writing Center! If you still don’t believe it’s for you, then stop by and meet the consultants and staff. What’ve you got to lose? Take a step forward and let us help you develop your writing skills even further.



# Thank-you Wolfpack!

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