AUK Dominates Imagine Cup

BY SHAHSAVAND HAIDER

Four teams from AUK's Computer Science and Information Systems program, headed by the CSOS program leader, Dr. Amna Zeid, achieved a joint number one for the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2012 World Finals by winning the "People’s Choice" award on top of conquering all three positions, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. If that's not enough, AUK's teams will also represent Kuwait, for the third time in a row, in the World Finals scheduled to be held in the US in July 2012. Talk about winning a lottery, but in this case, a program designed to 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, for the Microsoft World Finals. The team consisted of senior AUK CSOS students, Khalid Al-Jaabari, Khaled Al-Qahtani, Mohamed Al-Shubb, and Abdulla Al-Subair. They developed and optimized software that can turn a Microsoft Surface into a 3D human voice from various languages, thus allowing bridging the communications gap between the deaf, individuals and the society encompassing them. Truly a technology that potentially solves one of the toughest world problems!

Next was the project titled the "Home Rehabilitation System", created by team "1307", composed of AUK senior students, Daour Al-Qahtani, Khaled Al-Hazem, and Mashani Al-Aleeli, that achieved second place. The remarkable project aimed at creating an application that allowed paranoid patients to do guided physiotherapy in the security of their homes by creating a link between the medical professional, who could monitor patients' progress and the patient. AUK seniors, Thaner Al-Majawar, Omar El-Ridwi, Tala Alyasreen, and Ali Al-Abbadi, the members of "Team 666", claimed third place and "The People’s Choice Award", with their impressive project titled "KINED", that integrated school learning with Microsoft’s Kinect motion active system.

The kinesthetic learning approach was emphasized with KINEO. In a not so least, AUK’s fourth team "Tri-Q" impressively came up with software called "Pheas", which 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 Wardha Al-Hajaj, Fawzi Karim, and Barrak Al-Sarraf.

The event was sponsored by Microsoft Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Burjman Bank, and Zain, and was hosted by Microsoft and the Central Agency for Information Technology. AUK teams, under the mentorship of Dr. Amna Zeid, have received the Imagine Cup for the second time, 1st Place Software Design regional award in 2011, and 1st Place Software Design local award in 2012, and 2nd Place Software Design regional award in 2011. Moreover, two AUK teams also qualified for the World Finals in Poland in 2010, and New York in 2011.

AUK’s third winning team pose for a victory photo.

Wolfpack Gives Blood (Lots of It)

BY DINAH ZOHARY

On Thursday May 3rd, the Multi-purpose Room at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) was transformed into a hospital-like setting, complete with needles, blood, and cameras. The spring blood drive was organized by the Voice of AUK, a student-run organization, and executed by Kuwait's Central Blood Bank staff.

The room was packed with people donating blood. Movable partitions divided the room into male and female sections, bearing four small sections, with each section in turn being divided into 4 parts, with each person in each section donating blood. People had only done it before, and hoped to be deemed eligible, if they had done it before, and were not on any medications if they were first-time donors.

The room was buzzing with activity as dozens turned out, with some friends, casual. Others were surprised when they learned it was their first time, or saw their friends giving blood. People donated for the process where a doctor asked a few questions and measured the donor. Movable partitions divided the room into male and female sections, bearing four small sections, with each section in turn being divided into 4 parts, with each person in each section donating blood. People had only done it before, and hoped to be deemed eligible, if they had done it before, and were not on any medications if they were first-time donors.

The event's organizer, Vice President, Maryam Al-Hajrah, said that this was the first time that the event was held in the university, and that the students were very enthusiastic about donating blood. The blood drive was held at the end of March, and was a huge success.

The Voice of AUK is the university's official student newspaper, operated exclusively by student board and volunteers, and contains diverse sections such as News, Arts, Health & Science, and an Arabic Corner.
Women as Global Leaders

BY NAIDA BURJ

During Spring Break of this year, five female AUK students were privileged to attend the 4th 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, economic, and environmental aspects that would lead to a sustainable future. In the conference, renowned guest speakers conducted keynote speeches on leadership, climate change, and women’s role in the society, amongst other things. The delivered speeches were motivating us as young women to make this world a better place and to contribute positively to the development of our communities, spotting one of the headlines, “71% of women in the best catalyst to promote a sustainable future.”

Another distinguished speaker, Simonyi Weaver, wearing a classic suit and environmentalist, mentioned that women are 1.5 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 have the opportunity and power to make a difference in the world.

AUK student, a senior at AUK studying Computer Science, was inspired by one of the prominent speakers who said, “We cannot fix climate change alone.”

Another remarkable speech was delivered by Sarah Saleh, a senior at AUK, who said, “We cannot solve the climate crisis without solving the social and economic challenges that we face.”

One of the most outstanding aspects of this conference was having the opportunity to network with prominent women, such as female students from all around the world. During the conference, several networking events took place, and we shared our college experiences and views on important issues.

MEPI Deputy Meets with Alumni

BY RAFAH AL-SHAMI

On March 12, Sarra Saeed, the MEPI Regional Office Deputy Director, made a visit to AUK, as part of a regional tour of universities in order to meet and greet alumni and other stakeholders. She introduced herself and expressed her hope for future collaborations.

The MEPI Deputy Director, a senior at AUK, was interested in discussing the importance of fostering relationships with alumni and other stakeholders. She emphasized the need for continuous engagement and collaboration in order to create a positive change.
International Worker’s Day at AUK

By ISHA SADIQ RAJDER

On May 3rd, the American University of Kuwait celebrated the International Labor Day and also had a Staff Appreciation Lunch in the Auditorium and related activities to manifest and distinguish the contributions 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 Brisked cordial gratitude could be felt in the air. The main events of the day, an appreciation lunch, and program, was prepared by the AUK community members working in collaboration from 9:00 am to 10:00 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 and a gift. Prizes were also available in a bag and bingo prizes on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students.

The purpose of this event was to appreciate and recognize the dedication of the housekeepers, technicians, security officers, landscaping and outdoor facilities for their passionate and hard work. In ensuring that AUK remains a secure and pleasant place for the individuals and 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 1st May around the world but certain countries hold it around to coincide with their convenience. It celebrates the many contributions to society made by laborers and honours their dignity. This day is celebrated around the world and is also known as Orange AUK Workers’ Day on May Day.

Library Honors Young Writers

By ARINA AL-OMARI

On Monday morning, April 2nd 2012, the AUK library, as part of its annual cultural season, hosted Inspiring Kuwait writers Abdulrahman Al-Sayed and Abdulrahman Al-Hashash for the “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-Tahke, a student at AUK introducing the two writers, Abdulrahman Al-Sayed who has a degree in chemical engineering, and is the first Kuwaiti author to write in metaphysics and horror. Al-Sayed published 15 books. Some of his novels are “Unknown Destinations”, “Rare Cases” and “After Midnight”, many of them became bestsellers. Abdulrahman Al-Hashash is a BA in psychology and sociology. He is the 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 collection 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 also advised students interested in the literary career to start by reading. They recommended starting with “The Various 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. Sabah Bawab, Dr. Ahmed Al-Amin and Herbert, George Wells, the author of the “Time Machine”. Al-Hashash mentioned Tawfiq Al-Hakim and Stephen King. Coinciding 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 idea 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.”

Al-Hashash, director of the library, and Asmaa Al-Amary, a student from the School of Liberal Arts, 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 Humbug!

By ISHA SADIQ RAJDER

As a segment of AUK’s Annual Finance Week from April 17th to April 27th, 2012, the Finance Club proudly presented “Zero Degrees, a scrumptious frozen yogurt business, outside the Academic Advising Center, and is a succulent fast food business, next to the Wolfpack Fitness Center.” A UK Food Club was invited to taste their "yum-yum experience." What a philosophy! Humbug on the other hand served scrumptious burritos to the AUK community. It was started by them "Humbug is a Kuwait fast food concept created, owned and operated by Kuwaiti. Humbug is all about the fusion of foods, with all your favorites but adding a unique dimension: the HUMBUG way! just one bite will kill it!" Quite intriguing!

"The Finance Week intellectually created quite a hustle and bustle atmosphere on the AUK campus. Flyers posted all over campus advertising the events were almost everywhere, even the elevators weren’t spared! With the excitement building, it is impressive how the Finance Club also kept in mind the necessities of life which is "Humbug and Zero Degrees did the trick. Way to go Finance Club!

AUK Career Fair

By NADA BEDDI

As part of the Career Week activities, several AUK affiliated 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 opportunities, including internships and part-time jobs, full-time positions.

The Career Fair was organized by the Career and 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 graduating seniors to start searching for suitable jobs that would meet their expectations. In the past, some students were offered full-time jobs even before handing in their CVs and networking with companies’ representatives, which were present in AUK’s previous Career Fairs. On the other hand, businesses, employers, and junior student got the chance to apply for different internship opportunities, where they can utilize the skills they gained during their stay at AUK. All in all, the Career Fair is an important event that connects students with the professional world and creates their attention to plan for their future.

The participating companies included Gulf Bank and Zain as Platinum sponsor, KAMCO and ABWAT as gold sponsors. Impact & Eco-BBDO and Ali Yassine Food Company as Silver sponsors. Others were Ali Abdulrahman Sons & Co., Ali Alhaf Bank of Kuwait, Ernst & Young, Morgan Stanley, Hewlett Packard, M. M. Alshaya Company, LOYAC, Preceptor Housekeepers, Cotton Field Gros, Western Union, and AUK.
Bionics Coming to Life: Surprise, Surprise?

BY ISHA SAUDI 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 miraculous 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 tap it all. Researchers are also developing prosthetic skin which will be able to wrap around a bionic limb and transfer sensory information in the nervous system wirelessly, theoretically allowing users to detect and feel objects.Solid-state circuits printed or built using electrodes fitted into the portion of the prosthesis which sits over the human stump. They’re positioned to pick signals up from the user’s nervous system and turned by muscles in the stump to operate limbs. Progress seems to be continuous at the 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 rooting 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 prosthesis might damage the signal to the brain. But the prosthesis can also rub against the skin and cause soreness or discomfort. Let’s talk about wireless bionics. Britain’s researchers have already created the Intracranial Transcranial Amputation Prosthesis (ITAP), a rod screwed into the bone of an amputated site which the prosthesis can be fitted directly and safely, be they legs, fingers, or hands.

In the new bionic skin, since it is hairless, loads can be potentially carried than with traditional prosthetics which fit over the stump of an amputee as a glove; it will also avoid friction between the skin and the artificial limbs. Currently, Prof. James Canton, a scientist at the Cambridge Center for Brain Repair is developing neural interfaces which, once placed on the stump, will be able to communicate wirelessly to implants fitted directly into the nerve fibers in the stump itself. In the past we all had sweat at the cretions of mankind related to transplants, just limits, now we have even more.

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Quit smoking RIGHT NOW!

BY ISHA SAUDI HAIDER

Unlike the conventional researched writing, I went into the preliminary details about the “yada yada” of smoking, but 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 want to quit. In this article, it is all about working. Well, here’s a little informative yet eye-opening insight for you about VAP or Quit smoking. So, for a start, let’s grab that hopefully last cigarette and read on.

You’ll be glad to know that about half of you, i.e. smokers, aren’t able to manage one attempt to overcome the smoking addiction in a given year. Several actually do well if it’s without scientific studies (ScienceDaily, review 2018) show that over 80% of those who use all available help for nicotine replacements and behavioral support are successful, however, when it comes to quitting smoking in its entirety, there’s an entirely different matter. Long-term success is much less common and usually more than 90%, even among those already quitting, leaving only a few percent of those who will successfully give up smoking on their own, 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 is in you. VAP: quit! Let’s look at some of the strategies offered to help people quit smoking.

1. Examinations 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 on trying to quit, it increases your potential to give smoking up allowing it a potential self-help manual which miracles too.

2. Behavioral Treatments: These approaches involve assessment and advice with help increasing a person’s willingness and skills to resist lighting up that so-called “last cigarette.” This usually involves joining a quit smoking group in a similar group where special attention is put on the participants by a trained therapist. Study results show that about nine persons 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, I also work with the same stop. Nicotine replacements are effective measures of reducing withdrawal symptoms and cravings to smoke. Smokers get used to having cigarettes, but all 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, inhaler (under the tongue) tablets, nicotine patches, and nicotine gum. Combining these treatments is much more effective, as studies show.

4. Other medications: Chantix (Varenicline) and Zyban (Bupropion) are some medications that can help a smoker give up their nicotine habit. These are the options available for people who suffer from effects from the NRT. It is nonetheless to remember that a doctor’s consultation is imperative to ingestion of any medication. There are always steps right in front of you if you want to see. It’s in you to quit. It always been.
A Great Journey in a French Experience

BY MANAL AL FALAH AND KOWATTA AL JALAI

AUK students from Professor Joseph Firman’s 200 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 Cinесpace and the 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 to this trip was when we went to see the movie, “Le Mariage”. Formally, 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 Arabic society through the displayed music, behavior and clothes. We found the mix of the French Arabic culture to be very interesting. The film was only 25 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 Firman for this entertaining event and the opportunity of being a part of this French experience.

Active Career Week

BY ABUFTAN

Career Week at AUK took place on April 9th – April 10th. 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 9th, 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 10th gathered recruiters from Kuwait and the region. The companies were present such as Zain, Gulf Bank, KAMCO, Impact and Elia, Alyessa, Loyale, Ernst and Young, Pricewaterhousecoopers, KPMG, AIA, Nasaqiyah, HR, Kosat 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 table for students. The first prize was the New WAAD and the two other prices included big Career Basket. Congratulations to the winners!

Introducing the Kuwait Designers’ Club

BY THE KUWAIT DESIGNERS’ CLUB

The Kuwait Designers Club (KDC) is dedicated to provide a platform 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 contributions, peer review and tutoring, friendships, and may allow for design improvements to flourish here. Furthermore, this gives Kuwaiti designers a chance to be able to watch and informative films, interviews, professional designers 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!
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?

I'm involved in different clubs that have helped build my character and confidence. I have had different experiences that have taught me different skills, and I have been able to apply them in different situations.

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

I have been active in different clubs and organizations, and these experiences have taught me valuable leadership skills. I have also had the opportunity to work with different people, which has helped me develop my interpersonal skills.

Tips for current AUK Students!

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AUK’s Leaders of Years Gone By

BY RAMA SAMANO

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 active on campus. 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 into getting involved on campus. I’m glad 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 teams 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, but the process was a learning experience for me. Try and make use of every opportunity given to you through your college years.

To 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 interview well, and my advice is to take those female alum’s tips that made a difference on campus. Let’s take a look at what they have to say.

Current Profession: U.S. Embassy

Dina El-Zahairy
Class of 2009

Student Leadership Position: Editor-in-Chief/Club Member, Voice of AUK

Current Profession: Operations Analyst

Shahed Al- Wadaei
Class of 2006

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.

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

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

Tips for current AUK Students:

1. What do you do 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.

2. Try and make the most out of the education you get here.
3. Learn to network, not mediocrity, in everything you do.
4. Take opportunities that come your way only once they become great.
5. Always be the one to open the door, once you go, leave a positive impression.

Tips for current AUK Students:

1. Get involved! From the very first day of the semester, find out how to get involved. Visit Student Life and discover which clubs and organizations are currently at AUK or ask to create one yourself. Getting involved on campus as a club member, student worker, or getting involved in projects you are passionate about will make your college experience more positive.

2. Take advantage of the resources offered to you. Make use of the library, attend events, and participate in clubs that interest you.

Tips for current AUK Students:

1. Know your limits. Make sure you balance your time between work, school, and personal life.
2. Seek out opportunities that align with your interests and goals.
3. Network with others in your field to gain insights and potential job prospects.
4. Stay organized and prioritize tasks to avoid last-minute stress.
5. Take care of your mental and physical health.

Tips for current AUK Students:

1. Identify your strengths and use them to your advantage.
2. Be open to new experiences and willing to step out of your comfort zone.
3. Seek feedback on your performance and work on areas for improvement.
4. Stay proactive and take initiative in your professional development.
5. Maintain a professional demeanor and approach all interactions with respect and integrity.
The Artist Spectacular!

BY PARAH AL-SHAMALL

Once again, they've created a masterpiece. I've never really followed the popular culture, but this movie left me speechless. The direction, the acting, the cinematography, it was all just perfect. I can't wait to see it again.

O Silent Worshiper

BY HOUSU MAHAR

O Silent worshiper, why don't you speak?

A 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 anxious people say.

In judgment day, your carpet shall attune
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 your in your side.

So keep the faith, and shine.

The Voice of AUK

The Arts

Volume 8, Issue 6

The Arts

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that God is your in your side.

So keep the faith, and shine.
Around the States in 45 Days

By SARAH M. SHAMIL

On August 19, 2006, it was the same three words changing experience yet in my twenty-three years on this planet. Consuming that it had been happening, it might have left an indelible mark and this was painted brightly else but I turned out to be one of these periods of my life that had we fully believe that all good things [must] come to an end. What I have been keeping vague was a program sponsored by the Department of State called the Middle East Partnership Initiative and I will not get into pinning details about what it constitutes does for the participants. There is always good old Google for that. I want to make this a purely personal account of that summer spell. It was the work of fate that I even had been given the opportunity to sign up for this program, but I did not think much about it. I was just grateful for that. Because I know, that had I not been selected by these criteria, I would have ending up 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 was witnessing people that I belong to going about things with an exciting energy, something I had ever been able to be broke in Korea society and even countries in the great region I had visited. They upheld impressive work ethic, socialization, and sense of achievement in a broad sense when they had the chance, when I compared that to unprofessional and rude and-consumer lifestyles sweeping through Korea, going back was not a pleasant experience.

While at Wayne State University, I attended complex classroom sessions that taught me, 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 our activities were geared towards helping others. One of our critical thinking problem solving skills were put to the test. Professors with impressive credentials instructed these lessons and were of great backgrounds in their enthusiasm, without infections and a communicative effort into getting all this out of the ground was covered, it was the very first batch of participants. The courses initiated by Wayne State University.

Apart from an academic environment on campus, we saw much of Detroit, by way of visiting exceptional underclass and international organizations. Off the top of my head, I remember Rotary International which stands out more than the rest because longtime members, in the chapter established at Detroit 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

The author with other MEP participants in front of a 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! Reflections of a Senior

BY ROBERTA ROLLINS

As we come to the end of the semester, and I come to the end of my years studying at AUK, I feel a little reflection on the road I've traveled thus far. While this may mean an end for some, it has opened the doors for others. In any event, I am here to share my experience. How do we do it? Let's get started.

Prior to my joining the student body of AUK, I was primarily enrolled in the online Bachelor of Science, which I did via email to my professor, who was located in the US. I found this to be quite challenging, as I was often interrupted by real-world responsibilities.

In my experience, I found that email communication was effective in keeping in touch with my professor, especially when I had questions or needed guidance. However, there were times when I felt that the email format was not as conducive to deep, meaningful discussions as face-to-face interaction.

Overall, I believe that email communication is a valuable tool for staying in touch with professors and classmates, and for keeping up with course-related matters. While it may not replace in-person discussions, it is a useful complement to them.

My progress has been made through my own effort, it is thanks to her that I even had this opportunity. I have enjoyed my time at AUK, but I wish I had had more opportunities to interact with other students and faculty members. The few seminars I could sit in with the Drama Club as they rehearsed potential scripts and ad-libbed various theater games were a lot of fun. Even more so than this, though, I was able to see the light of the students who carried all of the projects and ideas that I had seen the past few years.

I am currently working on my final paper, which is due next week. I am excited to see how it all comes together and to share my experiences with others. I am looking forward to the rest of my time at AUK and to seeing where my future takes me.