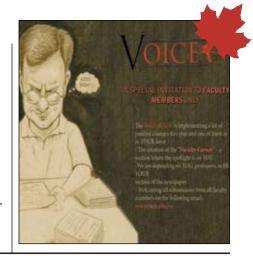




Dr. Carol Welcomes you! -Pg. 6

Dr. Gholam Reza Vatandoust's New Book -Pg. 6

Check out Pro. McDougall's Advice -Pg.12



Volume 7, Issue 2

The Official Student Newspaper of the American University of Kuwait

September 2010

Read this issue online at www.auk.edu.kw/Voice

#### Outcome of Presidential Search Process

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

T ast year has been a very dy-**L**\_namic one as AUK underwent several processes and stages for the President Candidacy search. As the Spring semester began, Dr. Tim Sullivan, the Interim President, held AUK's Presidency, and since then AUK began preparing a search for a permanent successor. As a student, I was more than privileged to personally meet with Dr. Sullivan regarding this serious matter to act as a liaison for sharing the information to the student body as it is their right to know of this search process and whether it was advantageous or not; in other words, knowing what the outcome of this process is.

Therefore, I began asking the direct question of: Does AUK have a permanent President for

Continued on pg. 2

## Warm Welcome from the Editorial Board

BY EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE VOICE OF AUK



To all returning and new students, faculty, and staff, the Voice of AUK would like to welcome you back to what is sure to be another exciting year at the American University of Kuwait! The Voice of AUK is the university's

student newspaper and was established as a communication channel for the AUK community endorsing and promoting its mission statement and relaying on and off campus events, news stories, and features to its reader-

ship.

Our mission statement is that the Voice of AUK is a studentrun, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communication among the entire campus community and keep it abreast

field. It's been one of my greatest experiences

to be living and working on this prestigious

campus. I don't consider it as just an intern-

ship but a month of life experiences that I

Teaching and Learning

Language at Dartmouth

BY ABDULRAHMAN AL-FARHAN

of diverse and relevant issues by providing high-quality news and information in an academic context. Through this, the Voice also strives to heighten aware-

Continued on pg. 5

#### SSC Welcomes **New Staff** Members

Student Success Center Welcomes Shaimaa El-Sherbine, Academic Support Specialist:

Shaimaa El Sherbine, the new Academic Support Specialist, joins AUK from the American University of Cairo, where she earned a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. She also completed her Bachelor's degree at AUC, majoring in Journalism and Mass Communication with a double minor in Philosophy and Business Administration. Shaimaa is responsible for all academic support services including the Peer Tutoring Program, supplemental instruction, and success workshops. If you need some help with your cours-

Continued on pg. 2

## Teaching and Learning Language at Dartmouth

The Dartmouth-AUK Internship Ex-**⊥** change was developed as part of the Dartmouth-AUK Memorandum of Understanding and has been bringing Dartmouth Students to AUK since 2005 and sending AUK students to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire since 2006. The exchange provides the opportunity for Dartmouth students to spend a term at the American University of Kuwait and for AUK students to intern for one month in the summer at Dartmouth College. While this experience is designed to assist with personal growth, it is also meant to build personal bridges between the AUK and Dartmouth communities and to encourage greater cultural understanding between the Middle East and the United States. This past summer, four AUK students participated in the program: Abdulrahman Al-Farhan, Fatma S. Mohammad, Shahed Al-Wadani, and Khawlah Tukhaim. Below are accounts of the summer exchange experience from two of the interns. The selection process for Summer 2011 will begin most likely in early November. In the middle of

nowhere, a 16 hour flight from the AUK campus in Salmiya to get to a place they call the green land. Welcome to Dartmouth College, an Ivy League school and one of the best universities in the linguistics



Shahed Al-Wadani and Khawlah Al-Tukhaim.

Tt was a really great experience to both teach **L**and study a language as a student. In the Rassias Center of World Languages and Cultures, I first started as a teaching assistant for

will never forget.

the Arabic language program where I taught the participants Arabic as a second language. It's more than just teaching, it's experiencing the happiness of helping other students speak my native language. It's also the self satisfaction of observing the improvement of

the participants day by day. The effort needed in this small time period is immense but it is enough to make a person happy and do

Continued on pg. 4

### What's the Proportion Between a Child's Neck Size and Future Weight Problems?

BY FATIMA IBRAHEEM

 $\mathbf{F}^{ ext{or}}$  years, we have been relying on the BMI (Body Mass Index) to indicate our weight range. However, recent study suggests that "measuring neck size could be as accurate as BMI", specifically for children at an early age, which is beneficial in the aspect that it helps in revealing any future weight problems the child might encounter. This, in return, initiates taking action for early treatment and pre-

According to studies and research-

ers at the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital, screening using neck size rather than BMI suggests more accuracy because BMI measures the body mass by a ratio of weight to height, which isn't entirely an accurate indicator, as doctors suggest, since it includes weight of both body fat as well as bones and muscles mass. "While adults may develop muscular necks as a result

Continued on pg. 15

#### Ten Brain-Destructive-Habits!

- Leaving home without having breakfast. This ▲ will cause a decrease in the level of your glucose, which prevents your brain from its reach for its food. If your poor brain does not have its own food, how do you expect it to function properly in your 9am Math class?

2- Excess sugar intake. Be moderate; your brain does not work either by not eating glucose-rich food at all or leaving nothing to eat on the table. Excess sugar intake, too, will damage the brain since it hinders the rapid

Continued on pg. 15

### Al-Akhdar Club Trip to Egypt

BY MARIAM K. EL-TEMTAMY AND SHAZA A. ZAKI

 $A^{ ext{l-Akhdar}}$  Environmental Club is designed to accommodate students and faculty who wish to make a positive difference with respect to environmental issues. This club is for people who are committed to taking action in order to protect and preserve the environment. Al-Akhdar Environmental Club volunteers and accepts any students who intend

to participate in activities that are «green» initiates on campus as well as off campus.

On the 17th of July, 2010, a group of Al-Akhdar Club members had their first trip to Egypt, as it is their first off campus experience to protect and preserve the environment. Their main aim

Continued on pg. 3

#### Hurricane Arabia Hits London

BY FARAH AL-SHAMALI

Whenever you're traveling and excited to discover new places, meet new people, and create/share meaningful memories with your loved ones, you shouldn't always expect everything to go right. I know, I'm starting this article out negatively but that's exactly what I realized a few months ago. This summer, my family decided to take a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland and London (of course, being one of the most populated cities on earth, I wouldn't need to tell you which country it's in). In the years leading up to my journey to London, Kuwaitis began to pick up the trend of making it a holiday getaway which then frightfully became one some people would visit on weekends. I'd always hear from my friends how they'd just gotten back from London and they'd seem to be caught up in the whirlwind of how much more exciting shopping was there while I'd secretly wonder why our malls weren't any better. Of course, I don't inhale shopping trips like most Kuwaitis

do but I felt Kuwait's shopping centers were not anything to complain about and drawing comparisons wouldn't really be fair on any level. Fast forwarding to now, I have to say that I was keen on seeing with my very eyes what exactly I'd been missing all those long London shopping-less years and here's my proud answer: absolutely nothing. That's right. Their shopping districts may be bigger and better but here's my argument: it's just clothes. They don't use any special sort of material to make them and we're not sewing palm fronds together for ours. I, for one, am not a shopaholic and will never understand people's crazed obsession with working their bicep and tricep muscles hauling all those shopping bags around for goodness knows how many hours. I know some people shop for necessity's sake and that's why I'd like to make it clear that it's not them I'm targeting. Anyways, time to get my train of thought back on track and tell you what really ag-

### **Outcome of Presidential Search Process**

Continued from pg. 1

next year or not, and who is it? "Yes" Dr. Sullivan smiled, "his name is Winfred Thompson." Winfred Thompson was the first candidate AUK invited, and he came back for a second visit, which was different from the first in many aspects as it was more specific. During the search process, selected AUK students who have been identified as student leaders on campus were included to meet with the different candidates to debrief and have their own feedback and perspective, sharing their thoughts, concerns and ambitions for a record in assistance of the process. However, due to final exams, these consistent students were unable to meet with Mr. Thompson for a second

With a PhD and M.A. in the field of History from the University of Chicago moving on to earn a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and advanced Law Degree (L.L.M.) from George Washington University, President Winfred Thompson served as Vice President of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and has also acquired several administrative positions in the same university. He served as Chancellor in American University of Sharjah, and took a presidency position in University of Central Arkansas (UCA) as the 7<sup>th</sup> President from 1988-2001. In regards to achievements during his tenure at UCA, Dr. Thompson encouraged the development of building conditions and renovations on campus, while also establishing the Community School of Music and the introduction of the Baum Gallery of Fine Arts, which goes hand-in-hand with

AUK's Liberal Arts education. In addition, in relation to AUK and the opening of new majors/minors, Thompson made UCA receive two doctoral programs, one in School Psychology and one in Physical Therapy. For faculty, he created two programs; one responsible for giving lectures and opening chances on a teaching profession named Instructional Development Centre (IDC), and, another, Sponsored Programs, related to assisting faculty in their search for grant money.

AUK's mission statement should and will be Dr. Thompson's priority; therefore, I couldn't help but ask the question: "How could he assist AUK and what kinds of goals have you brought to his attention in regards to AUK in this particular point in time?" Accreditation was the first issue brought up and since Dr. Thompson has been involved in accreditation processes, his past experience will hopefully have a hand in AUK's. As of the exhaustive issue of segregation, there will be an attempt to allow students to circumvent such decisions through more of out-of-class activities. "The Graduation!" Dr. Sullivan laughed, meaning that with what he has observed from the past graduation, he will make sure to enrich him with details and recommendations for improving next year's graduation ceremony through an elaborate and confidential memo.

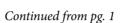
As President Thompson arrives to AUK, Interim President, Tim Sullivan will overlap for the first three weeks starting from September. Dr. Sullivan also added, in response to the question: "Based on what kind of criteria was Winfred Thompson cho-

sen?" that the Board of Trustees was careful to choose someone who is highly experienced and someone who would already know the job rather than someone who would "learn the job on the job", as he put it, since this is crucial for a six-year-old campus. However, with my follow-up comment which implied that experience isn't always the accurate basis for a candidate's evaluation, Dr. Sullivan assured me that Dr. Thompson is the "best fit" for AUK's current position and situation since, in addition to his experience, he is someone who has spent many years in the Gulf region and is eager to come back and work. "There is a difference between a candidate who wants to do it out of conviction, and someone who would like to do it out of chance if chosen," Dr. Sullivan gently added.

Time is always the annoying factor that ends such interesting talks. So with the end of the conversation, Dr. Sullivan commented that students act as building blocks of a university, and with AUK specifically, the best of students can be compared with any other international student and can be in the high end anywhere, though there will be a gap. "Students' comments were very thoughtful that included both pros and cons of each candidate and that's not always remarked by people on search firms attempting to be objective and dispassionate." Giving specific credit to those who participated in the Presidential Selection Process, he suggested that students should be involved in every important matter and decision such as choosing their own President.

## SSC Welcomes New Staff Members





es, please visit Shaimaa in the Tutoring Center across from Starbucks to make an appointment with a tutor. Also, check your email and the bulletin boards for announcements about upcoming academic skills workshops!

Student Success Center Welcomes Jason Sullivan, Counselor:

Jason Sullivan earned a Master's Degree in Counseling and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies. Jason has worked as a therapist in several private practice clinics. He has experience working with



many different issues such as anxiety, anger management, social problems, family issues, and addictions. He has also received training and certifications through various organizations, including Anxiety Disorders, National Organization for Victim Assistance, Childhood Disorders, Relationship Dynamics and Cultural

Please drop by the SSC on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Liberal Arts Building to welcome Jason to AUK and let him know if you would like to talk about any problems that are bothering you.

Diversity.

Student Success Center Welcomes Shoug Al-Oth-



shoug Al-Othman

man, Academic Advisor/ Government Scholarship Program:

Shoug Al-Othman, the new Government Scholarship Academic Advisor, earned her Bachelor degree from the American University of Kuwait with a double major in Finance and Marketing and a minor in Economics. Shoug is responsible for advising and assisting all Government scholarship students in developing educational plans and/or offering general assistance with scholarship guidelines and regulations. Please visit Shoug at the SSC to ensure that you are on track.



#### **The Editorial Board**

Fatima Ibraheem Amal Behbehani Salma Tayeh Nada El-Badry Farah Al-Shamali

#### **Layout Production Team**

Dalal Marafie Yusuf Maimoon Zahra Al-Abdeen

#### **Photography Team**

Sarah Khalaf Humam Shabani Abdulhadi Al-Machhour

#### 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.

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.

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.

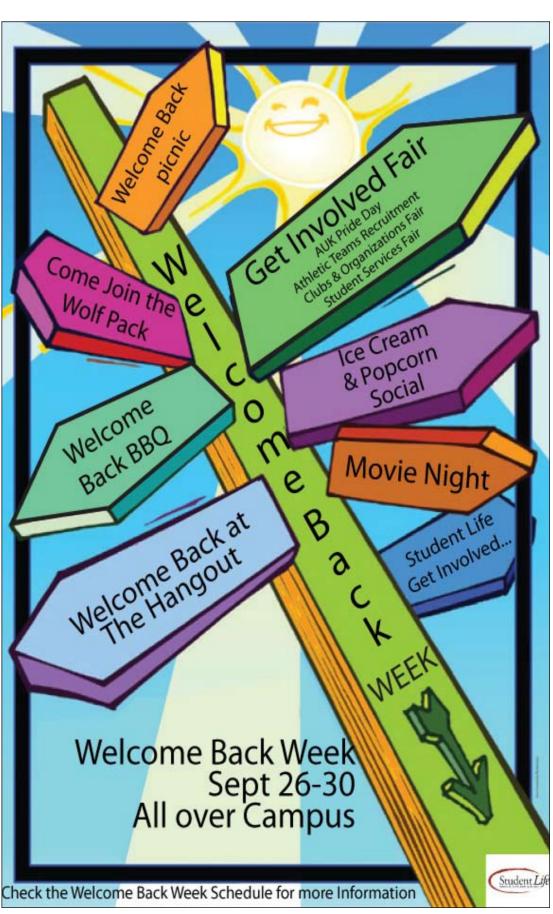
The views expressed in opinion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK, nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

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 nonnews supplements may be published from time to time.

For advertising information, send email to voice@auk.edu. kw. Advertisements for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Opinions and/or attitudes expressed in advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK nor those of the American University of Kuwait.



Copyright ©2010 The Voice of AUK

# Al-Akhdar Environmental Club Trip to Egypt



was to explore and investigate the conduct Egypt uses in greening the environment and then apply it to AUK's and Kuwait's environment as a whole. Furthermore, Al-Akhdar Club has a social aim, which is to enrich the relationSally Khalifa. She helped a lot in planning the events with the club's president, Fahad Al-Ammar.

The trip lasted for seven days and every day had its own enriching experience for the Al-Akhdar club members, whether on an enSound and Light show, which also enhanced their understanding of Egypt's earlier habitants (the pharaohs) and the techniques they used in building the pyramids.

On Monday, 19th of July, 2010, Al-Akhdar members experienced

resulted biogas as fuel. During the same day at Suez Canal University, Al-Akhdar members planted two trees, one by the male members and the other by the female members, as their first practical step in greening the environment.

had a tour of the Crocodile Lake longing to the council of the Arab in Ismailia, which is visually connected to the Suez Canal. Also, they were lectured on the history of digging the Suez Canal, which took ten years. In addition, the lecturer talked about the wars

League. This club was established in 2006 and it has flourishing activities in greening and beautifying Cairo. The lecturer also mentioned that Kuwait is one of the countries that seek the protection





Salah El Din Citadel, Mohammed Ali Mosque.

East. Professor Aly Mansour is the club advisor and he was one of the faculty members who joined

ships between Kuwait and differ- vironmental or social scale. Their their first visit to Suez Canal Unient countries from the Middle first visit was to Salah El Din versity Faculty of Agriculture and Citadel which has the main focus of Egypt's ancient history during the Ottoman reign. The architec-

Agronomy. They met faculty and students who were working on their senior waste recycling proj-

nal University for a second time. They met more of the faculty and attended seminars that discussed pollution problems, their causes and thought of reasonable ways to solving them. After that, they

Al-Akhdar group visited Suez Ca- dependence from the Israeli Oc- subversion of Mrs. Muna. cupation of Sinai.

> One of the most important figures the Al-Akhdar group had a chance to meet was Dr. Sami El-Felalli from Al-Arab Federation for the Protection of Wildlife be-

On Tuesday, 20th of July, 2010, Egypt went through before its in- of endangered creatures under the

In brief, the Al-Akhdar club's trip to Egypt was a positive step and, optimistically, a good start for a green future! Without the support of AUK and its faculty, it would have never happened.



Now Hiring for Fall/Spring 2010-11



Continued from pg. 1

a good thing for humanity. I was teaching students from all ages and the class was a mixture of cultures which made it even more interesting. Most of the students I met in the program graduated from top universities with high qualifications and were always open to talk about their life experiences. This program is a great opportunity for cultures to mix and it benefits all the participants. "We don't learn how to speak, but we speak to learn," is the slogan of the Rassias Center at Dartmouth. At the end of the first block of the program, I wished that the program would never end, because it was amazing.

I spent the second half of the program as a student in the French language program and was exposed to 100 hours in ten days. It is a lot even in such an intensive program. At the beginning, we were not able to introduce ourselves in French but by the end we were presenting skits up to 5 minutes. It's really interesting to start the internship as a teacher then switch to being a student and see how the participants feel during class hours. Also, the fact that my group members were from different parts of the world meant that I



was learning a lot from several backgrounds by interacting with them during the program.

To conclude, the result of this month spent at Dartmouth was the chance for great teaching, experience, and adding a language to your qualifications. Moreover, developing skills such as time management, working under pressure, tutoring, acting, being professional and socializing which was a big bonus. The internship has helped me reevaluate my future plans. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank AUK for offering this type of internship that helps students build their futures. I must offer another big thank you to the Management Department of the Rassias Center of

### Learning Art, Curatorship, and a Bit about Culture along the Way

BY SHAHAD AL-WADANI

Thad two reasons for apply-**⊥**ing to the internship at Dartmouth College; the internship was mainly at the Hood Museum and the Hopkins Center for the Arts and I wanted to gain a better knowledge on how museums work, and I wanted to experience being at an Ivy league university. But surprisingly, I never expected to be exposed to an entirely different

My internship started at the Hopkins Center for the Arts which is a wonderful place that supports all students that have an interest in Music, Film Studies, Fine Arts and Theater. They provide them with classes, workshops, events and basically anything a student could need to develop his or her skills. Fine Arts students have exhibition spaces for them to exhibit their work. Film students have an entire film society run by students where they have an annual schedule of films and events for the public. As for the theater students, the center provides them with a professional light and sound crew as well as their

own costume designers for each play and much more.

My next several weeks were then spent at the Hood Museum of Art, one of the oldest and largest college museums in the States. I initially wanted to know how museums are run and how exhibitions are prepared but instead, I received an amazing backstage pass to everything that goes on in the museum. I was able to meet the director, the curators, the designers, the head of security and almost every staff member. I was able to see some of the 60,000 objects from their collection, was in charge of gathering information and researching missing details of certain works, and was also able to assist in the set up of a couple of their exhibitions. I received so many other amazing opportunities that I never expected during my internship

But other than work, my free time at Dartmouth was as important since I had the chance to do things I never thought I would. At the Hopkins Center's jewelry studio, I learned how to make jewelry. Through the Tucker Foundation at Dartmouth, I attended the groundbreaking "Habitat for Humanity" project where they were building a house for a family in need. I was able to visit homeless shelters and learn a lot about how they are managed. I was also invited to attend one of the Rotary International Club meetings and a Board of Directors meeting for the "Listen" Community service organization. I even got the chance to do all kinds of outdoor activities that are not available in Kuwait. And of course, I got to meet so many different and interesting people.

At the end, I keep thinking to myself, even if I was a student at Dartmouth College, I would never have had this kind of experience nor the opportunities I received during this internship. It was not just interesting but very rewarding at the end.

resources play in some economies

### Highlighting AUK Student's International Internship

BY AMY KUSHNER



AUK Student, Talal Al-Yaseen

Talal Al-Yaseen is a junior at ▲ AUK, pursuing a major in Information Systems and a minor in Computer Science. He is currently doing a 6-month internship at Daimler (Mercedes-Benz) in Germany. Talal was awarded this internship after an extensive application process facilitated by the Young Arab Leaders program. He saw an advertisement sent out by the Student Success Center, and decided to apply. He is now in Germany, and having an amazing handson experience.

According to Talal, "The work I am doing here is mostly related to research and development. I have done internships before in Kuwait, but nothing can be compared to here. I am currently in my 6th week here, and the experience that I have earned so far cannot be compared to any length of studying at a university. The latest work I have accomplished here at Daimler was building a program which would be used in the car to diagnose and display the status of the new equipment that was added by our team. As an intern, I had never thought I would be making such applications/programs for a car. The good thing about this internship is that an intern is as good as an employee, thus the learning process is not limited and the tasks are not made easy. Last but not least, I personally would recommend that every student should go out of their comfort zone and

try to get an internship abroad. The experience earned is priceless and can majorly affect one's career life. I hope everyone begins trying to achieve more!"

In addition to this internship, Talal has been actively involved in activities both on and off campus. He has been a tutor at the AUK Tutoring Center since 2008, and competed with AUK's team for the ACM Programming Competition in EGYPT 2009. He has also done volunteer work with LoYAC for Aids Awareness. Talal is an excellent example of an AUK student who works hard, pursuing activities and opportunities, and reaping the benefits of a well-rounded education.

s a new fearture of the Voice, Athe WOLF PACK COMU-NITY introduces members of the Wolf Pack family. Whether you're involved in activities or

only have time for classes, we want to introduce you to the community. Each edition will feature nominated students selected by different divisions at

AUK, namely Student Life and the Division of Student Affairs - it's all about your profile! If you have someone in mind and would like to nominate them to

be featured or even wish to feature yourself, contact the Voice at voice@auk.edu.kw so that your nomination is considered by the mentioned divisions.

tion Regulations) exams in the

BY RAMA SABANO



Major: Graphic Design.

### Ghaneema Al-Qudmani

Minor in Communication. What do you love about

What I like about AUK is the atmosphere where everyone knows each other, the activities

and events that AUK provides. How do you want to get in-

volved at AUK? I want to participate in every

event that AUK provides by offering my experience in graphic design to help out designing posters flyers...etc, which helps me improve my skills.

What do you want to do after graduation?

Complete my masters outside of Kuwait to gain more experi-

Random tidbit about you? I'm a member of the soccer and basketball teams and I'm the secretary of the Graphic Design club. Moreover, I work at the SSC as a graphic design Peer Tutor and at the Office of Student Life as an office assistant. In addition, I work as a karate coach for young children outside the campus.



### Luke Rangel

Aquinas Luke displays powerful insight through showing how education works effectively and how it transforms the human persona. This creative individual wrote poems for school magazines and also developed scripts for school plays. He passed the JAR (Joint AviaUK, and completed a couple of flying degrees in the States. EXTROADINARY! He joins AUK with the intention of majoring in Computer Engineering and has later plans to pursue his Masters Degree in Mass Communications. Luke is certainly a determined student with diversified interests. His School Grade Average Point is 4.00 and his college placement results were fascinating. Luke chose to study in AUK rather than heading back to India to learn more in world politics and Middle Eastern affairs. Luke stated that 'strength lies in differences, not similarities'. Truly, none of us is as smart as all of us. Salute to Luke Rangel from the Office of Admissions!

### Yanjiao Chen Biography



Darmouth intern, Christina

**▼**anjiao Chen, Chritina, hailing **▲** from Irvine, California, is currently in her second year at Dartmouth College. She is majoring in Economics modified with Environmental Studies and is particularly interested in resource management and the improvement of such to Middle East offers her a chance to learn about the integral roles natural come to AUK.

and the effect a depletion of such would have on a country. At Dartmouth, Christina participates in the World Music Percussion Ensemble and studies classical piano independently. Her interests include microfinance and sustainability, thus she participates in the Dartmouth's Social Enterprise, the Economic Society's Consulting Group and the Environmental Conservation Organization. This trip to the Middle East is just an introduction to the region Christina hopes to have a more permanent connection with in the future. Christina will be working in a couple of departments on campus during her time in Kuwait through lessen world conflict. This trip to the late November, and she is the 21st intern from Dartmouth College to



### **Fatima Ibraheem**

Major: English Language and Literature.

What do you love about

I love an active campus life, one similar to AUK's since it leaves students with many opportunities to be active wherein many experiences are acquired. Honestly, I can't remember a day where I accessed my AUK email without being informed of an event that will be taking place around campus. I hope AUK maintains this attractive characteristic.

#### How do you want to get involved at AUK?

By engaging in activities for which I have passion and that fill my spare time wisely. The activities I am involved in are ways for me to not lose interest in some of my hobbies like reading and writing. They are also a good way of exerting the pressure from schoolwork. I realized that the large portion of the fun experienced in university life comes from activities beyond the classroom.

#### What do you want to do after graduation?

I would like to pursue my studies after graduation in my field of major.

#### Random tidbit about you?

I am an English Major, but you can't imagine how much I love Math and the Sciences. If there was a Major in Biology in AUK, I wouldn't doubt myself doublemajoring in English as well as Biology.

## Warm Welcome from the Editorial Board

Continued from pg. 1

ness of rights and responsibilities of membership in the AUK community. The Voice also espouses a commitment to philanthropy.

Since its inception in 2004, the Voice of AUK has come a long way and has established itself as a leadership organization on campus publishing news for the students, by the students. We welcome aspiring or even recreational writers to join our ranks or even write for us regularly. After all, most of what students learn to hone at university are their writing skills and what better way to develop them than by writing on subjects that interest them most? At the Voice of AUK, our newspaper consists of five main sections: Front Page, News, Opinions and Editorials, the Arts, and Community. The Front Page is generally reserved for recent, headlining news stories, the News section covers news related to happenings both in the AUK and Kuwaiti community, the Opinions and Editorials section is reserved for students, faculty, and staff to write on any subject they wish, provided that it does not conflict with AUK or the Voice of AUK's mission statements, the Arts publishes concert, book, movie and even play reviews or covering on and off campus events related to the arts, and the Community section is concerned with time-sensitive stories related to the AUK community be it university functions and endeavors or highlighting

student academic and extracurricular achievement. We hope to introduce new and exciting sections this year. Just as our title suggests, we are here to represent and have your voice be heard by the community you are now a part of or returning to.

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

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

Sciences building: This is one of the two main buildings at AUK where classes are conducted and where faculty offices are located at the top most floors. It is located next to Gate 1 and has a Starbucks available on the ground floor. Faculty offices are located on the third floor.

Liberal Arts building: The second of the two main buildings. It is located across from the Sciences building and houses the AUK Diner which we would encourage you to eat at during your stay at AUK. Faculty offices are located on the fourth and fifth floors.

Central campus: If you are enrolled in Intensive English Program courses, your classrooms will be located in central campus; that is, in the main hallway between the Sciences and Liberal Arts buildings. Be sure to ask anyone for directions if you can't find your class!

The Administration building: Many of the university dealings you will need to accomplish during your stay at AUK will have something to do with visiting the Administration building. It is located at the very end of the main hallway and is not far from the AUK Library. There, you will find the AUK Bookstore which is where you will go to purchase course textbooks, AUK merchandise, and stationary among other things, the Finance Department located on the first floor which is where you will be paying tuition

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

The AUK Diner: With a varied menu and hospitable personnel, the AUK Diner is an excellent eatery to spend time and eat at while at AUK. They have everything from chocolate and energy bars to main course meals even taking special requests from the AUK community. Indulge yourself and come to the AUK Diner!

The AUK Library: Nestled between the Multipurpose Room and the Office of Admissions, the AUK Library supports and advances the educational mission of the American University of Kuwait by facilitating access to scholarly collections and information resources. The Library provides a variety of resources to students such as circulation/ borrowing materials, reasonable loan periods, reference and reserve services, online resources, and the LibGuides, a link any AUK member can get to from the AUK website where s/he will find several subject guides that will help locate relevant resources

for study and research purposes. There are many more services provided by the AUK Library so be sure to stop by and make use

Computer labs: These are available around the AUK campus: a few computers are available at the Tutoring Center located on the ground floor of the Sciences building, computer classrooms in both main buildings are free to use if a class is not being conducted in them, computers are available in the AUK Library (females on the ground floor; males on the first floor), and the Open Lab is a space for students to use computers at anytime during the week and is located on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building.

Student Worker spaces: Several departments on campus employ student workers to take on functions and duties and whom are prepared to assist you if need be. If you would like to become a student worker, visit the Employment section on your Self Service account and follow the instruc-

Auditorium and Multipurpose Room: These are the two event venues available at AUK. The Auditorium is available on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building while the Multipurpose room is just outside the AUK Li-

Clubs and Organizations: Located opposite the Open Lab on the ground floor of the Liberal Arts building, this area houses the Student Government Association, the Campus Activities Board, the Voice of AUK and other prominent clubs and organizations at AUK. Feel free to step in and ask about any you feel interested to join.

AUK Website and Email: To get to the AUK website, type in: www. auk.edu.kw. Be sure to check the AUK website regularly for upcoming events, news, information on AUK departments, and much more. To get to your email account, type in: https://mail.auk. edu.kw. Anticipate the fact that your password will have to be changed every few months. The email is an important resource to utilize to be updated with university functions and communicate with your professors.

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

We hope the above information has been useful and we would encourage you to come back to it if you are stumbling during your first few days trying to locate departments and offices at AUK. Do not hesitate to ask returning students, faculty, and staff for assistance. We are all here to make your stay enjoyable. Once again, we are pleased to welcome you to the Wolfpack family!

## Welcome to the Dean of Student Affairs' Corner

BY DEAN CAROL ROSS-SCOTT

This little corner, given to me ▲ by the Voice of AUK, serves as my space where I get to share AUK hot gossip, dangle topics for debate, and talk about life at AUK. You can email me topics you would like for me to discuss. Look for my little corner of the Voice each edition.

It's the first days of the 2010. 2011 academic year. You are not expected to be totally perfect on your first day but we do expect you to learn, grow and get better from whatever stage of perfection you have begun this journey. And yeah, AUK students are on a journey of perfection! You may not truly reach total perfection, but what is most important is that you learn during this journey. You think about life along the journey and that you become wiser along the journey. This collegiate journey is full of excitement, ups and downs, frustration and work. It is a physical, emotional and intellectual journey. You must be accountable and mentor you... whatever it takes to get you there but YOU are ultimately responsible for how far you get. Remember that! This journey doesn't allow excuses like: "nobody told me; I didn't check my email so I didn't know; I never got the text message because I changed my phone number; I was tired; the group members didn't do their part; I was out of town so I couldn't study; I for-

got my books; I couldn't find a parking space"...excuses are monuments of nothingness and those who so often use them get their journeys cut short! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR able to endure. We will guide DESTINY! We can only ensure you along the way. We will the road ahead is clear and the push you, coach you, hold you directions are legible for you to get started.

When you pull up to campus to begin your journey, you will find that sometimes it is incredibly hard to park. When you do find a space, please park your car properly. Park between the designated lines. Don't draw your own lines with your inside imagination. If your driver is dropping you off, he must not park in a space and wait for you to get out of class! They can

double park so that they can readily move or go off campus and return when you are out. Parking is limited and if everyone is considerate of one another, it will be less frustrating.

Sometimes your journey gets telling you less is more. Remind the inside voice that AUK has a dress code and you can still be cool, literally and figuratively, when you cover the appropriate parts of the body.

There are certain rules of the journey in which you need to be mindful: you must have a valid identification card. Any university official, including security, is allowed to ask you for your ID card. Don't take a short cut and cheat; it only cheapens

awarded a scholarship, you must abide by the rules and regulations of the scholarship even if you don't like the assigned As undergraduates, you must make sure you reg-EDUC, English and Speech, or first year math during your first three semester of enrollment. If your admissions file is missing documents like civil ID, high school equivalency, or transcripts, a hold will be placed on your records and you won't be allowed to progress. Check the university catalog, student handbook, and advising handbook for directions; these are great road maps!

You have been travelling on

you r journey. If you have been this journey and you feel something is missing. GET A LIFE! This journey allows for not only intellectual development but personal development. Get involved in club activities, sports and events. Watch the heated and your inside voice is ister for any remedial courses, road signs from Student Life for detours that make the journey much more exciting and rewarding.

> Learning is a lifetime journey. Sometimes students want to speed through because it seems like it will take forever to reach your destination, completion of the degree. Pace yourself and enjoy the ride. Your journey is just beginning. Backing out of the dean's corner until next time...GO WOLF PACK! GO CLASS OF 2011! Dcar

### 2011 Grads: Get Ready!

BY THE OFFICE OF PARENT RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Are you an Alum? You've heard the word, but do you get it? Is it a secret society that only the privileged can join? The Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs is here to guide you on the path of becoming an Alumnus. Being an alum is about PRIDE. It's about staying connected. It's about the PACK.

Destination Alumni begins with a few easy steps: Step One: Attend Graduation sure you are on the right track towards Graduation!

Workshops and Rehearsals; make

Step Two: Stay Connected: Share your updated address and contact information with us so that you do not MISS important information, deadline dates and opportunities to get involved.

Step Three: Get Involved: Be on the lookout for senior related activities, volunteer or simply at-

Step Four: Meet your Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs Coordinator: It's easier to interact when a familiar face is involved.

Step Five: Graduate! Membership is only for GRADUATES!

Stop by the Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs and pick up an Alumni brochure today. Fill out the Registration form and take your first step towards becoming an AUK ALUM!

## The Tutoring Center

BY SHAIMAA GAMAL IBRAHIM MOHAMED, MPPA

### **Academic Support** Specialist

The Tutoring Center at the ▲ American University of Kuwait assists students to become better learners, to be more successful in their courses, and to guide them in their daily lives at the university through Tutoring

and Academic Skills Workshops. The Tutoring Center provides free services to the AUK Intensive English and Undergraduate communities. Our tutors provide those students who have a desire to enhance their academic performance with assistance in science and non-science subjects. Tutoring may be provided individually or in small groups. Our tutors are excellent educators with high academic

standards and exceptional leadership skills. Our services include explaining concepts that students have difficulty understanding, discussion of assignments, providing feedback on assignments, and reinforcement of classroom instruction. Peer tutors are available Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. The Tutoring Center is located on the 1st floor of the Science Building.

### Welcome from the Office of Registrar

BY THE OFFICE OF REGISTRAR

ear Wolfpack members, Dear wonpack ....
welcome back to another exciting year at AUK!

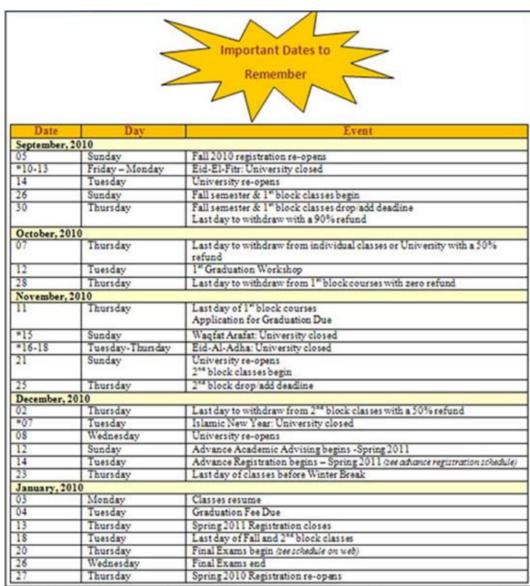
Whether you're a new or returning student, you will occasionally find yourself walking over to the Office of the Registrar, located across from the library.We are available Sundays to Thursdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to answer your questions and address your concerns regarding class registration,

graduation, scholarships, and transfer credit. This is also where you can request enrollment verification letters and official transcripts. Please make sure you have a valid ID with you when collecting documents or requesting information.

Clicking on our "Registrar" link (bottom-right hand corner of the AUK homepage) will take you to a wealth of information, including a list of commonly used forms (Application for Graduation, Authorization to Enroll, Credit Increase Request, etc.) and a copy of the final exam schedule. In addition, you may contact us at 22248399 ext. 214 or 254 or email us at registrar@ auk.edu.kw.

Wishing you all the best in the new academic year!

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:



Islamic holidays are determined after sighting the moon. Thus, actual dates may not coincide with the above dates.

### Welcome Back Wolfpack!

BY MAY OMRAN

**VV** outstanding academic year at AUK! I myself, as a new student, have already found AUK at a wonderful start. So prepare yourselves freshmens for a drastic yet smooth transition into your progressing stage of life.

Coming straight from a concise high school environment, you may find yourself somewhat hectic for a change into a diverse community. As people may fear change for reasons such as adaptation to new ideas, thoughts and environment as a struggling challenge, your collaborative confidence will help pave the way for an easy flowing pro-

Here are some tips for the big step:

Stay Cool! Yes, as silly as it may sound, keep your cool. You don't want to be a nervous wreck; a very bumpy road to take.

Be Diverse! All possibilities are out there. Being in a proactive environment is fundamental for your mind.

Get Involved! Getting in-

hobbies provides some fun time around the university. AUK offers many clubs/organizations and activities to fulfill students' extracurricular interests.

Touch Bases! Around the university you will find staff and faculty to assist your academic needs. Take advantage in obtaining all information needed about your program. Talk to your counselor in any difficulties you maybe encountering. It is essential to keep in touch with them.

AUK is a diverse community ready for your exploration! AUK provides the resources for students to venture into their own personality and build a personality with great standards. As a student you will find the university setting slightly different from the high school setting. In terms of studies, you will find it more appealing since you are centralizing your studies in a certain field at your choice. Attending free

**T** A Telcome to another volved in your interests and lectures (check your emails for various lecture scheduling) provided by AUK is also a great idea to put into consideration. Choice of fun electives may also be taken to add some tenderness in your studies.

> University is all about identifying and developing into the individual you are. As a high school student, you may have been excused for being naive. Now as a university student, you are in the progressing age of self-development in being a more mature professional. In the next ideally - four-year educational stay at AUK, you will advance yourself in many areas, including studies, social life, and professional growth; keeping in mind individualism is a number one priority amongst yourself.

> So, students, grab hold of this transition with ease and enjoy the university life; one of the most memorable aspects in a person's life.

Once again, warm welcomes to all new, current and prospective AUK students.

## The Transition

BY AMY KUSHNER, MA, CAREER COUNSELOR/SSC

 $\mathbf{E}_{ ext{first time can be an over-}}^{ ext{ntering university for the}}$ whelming experience. It is also an exciting time, full of new possibilities. You might be wondering what major to choose, or which activities, sports teams, or clubs to join. Maybe you are scared that the classes will be difficult, or maybe the idea of finding new friends is intimidating. Or maybe all of your friends from high school are already here, and you think that university will just feel like a continuation of high school. In any case, you are probably feeling a lot of different things as you embark on this new experience.

Moving from high school to university, or even from a different university to AUK, is part of transition. Transition means the act of passing from one state to another. It is an event that results in transformation. Starting university is a major life event, and it is normal that this transition comes with a sense of expectation, maybe a little bit of anxiety, and a lot of excitement as you think about what this new experience will bring.

As you begin your university journey, we encourage you to take advantage of all of the opportunities available to make the AUK experience the best it can

be. You have chosen to attend a Liberal Arts institution. This means that, in addition to your major courses, you also have the opportunity to take a broad range of courses in other areas that may interest you. Don't just take the easy classes...take the fun classes, the challenging classes, the classes that expand your knowledge of yourself and the world around you. Engage fully in the classes by attending, doing the work, and participating in class discussions. Take advantage of the people around you; learn from them, engage in discussions, and enjoy the diversity of our campus.

University is about learning, but it's also about developing as a person. Transition is about transformation. This does not mean that you completely change who you are, but it does mean that you grow and develop and learn more about yourself and your world. University is also about the social experience. AUK offers a broad range of extracurricular activities, including sports teams, clubs, and leadership and volunteer opportunities. Joining these types of activities will broaden your social horizons and will make your university experience more varied.

At the end of the day, transitioning to university life is what you make it. There will be hard and stressful times, but there will also hopefully be many fun and exciting times. As you transition to this new stage in life, please know that AUK has many resources to help you be successful during your time at the university. The Student Success Center offers a variety of programs designed to support you during your university career. If you need help with your courses, we have a tutoring center where you can receive free tutoring services. We also provide advising services for undeclared students, to help you pick your classes and plan out your next four years. If you are confused about your major, or want to know about career options for the future, you can make an appointment for career counseling. And if you ever just need to talk to someone, if you are stressed out or want to discuss a personal problem, we have personal confidential counseling available. Take advantage of your time at AUK, use the resources available to you, and enjoy the experience!

To take advantage of Student Success Center resources, please visit us on the 5th Floor of the Liberal Arts Building.

### **OPRAA Has Arrived**

BY THE OFFICE OF PARENT RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Af-I fairs is proud to announce that, starting this Fall, the Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs will serve two vital external communities: Parents and Alumni.

Our Mission:"The Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs develops relationships and life-long connections with Parents and Alumni by serving as their primary liaison to AUK. The Office promotes awareness and provides assistance through numerous programs designed to engage, educate, and support. celebrate their achievements, Graduation.

Through the cultivation of relationships, parents and alumni are able to serve as resources, advocates, and partners in our effort to support student growth and the institution's mission."

We are here to provide parents with the necessary tools to guide their sons/daughters throughout their years at AUK. Student success is a goal shared by the university and parents. Our office strives to build bridges and help parents stay informed.

relationships with our Alumni,

and support their challenges. The Office of Parent Relations and Alumni Affairs will begin reaching out to seniors in order to develop a strong connection with them once they leave AUK as alumni. We look forward to serving within the Student Affairs family!

Lookout for some of our events: Homecoming Week (Spirit Day, Senior Launch, AUK Event, Alumni Reception), I HEART AUK, Kuwait at 50, Par-We are also here to maintain ent Meet & Greet, Senior Day, Career Day, AUK Carnival, and

## Looking Ahead

BY NIZAR HAMZEH, PHD, DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Tt is my pleasure to welcome **L**all students to the 2010-2011academic year. On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, we seek to provide students with a well-rounded learning experience that motivates life-long learning and encourages analytical and critical thinking. Our curriculum is designed to inform, inspire and invigorate the intellectual, scientific, quantitative, cultural, health and creative potential of our students. Particular emphasis is placed on issues related to leadership, moral development and ethical practices.

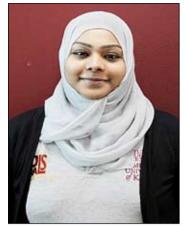
We wish to inform all students that a large part of their success at AUK rests on their utilization of the resources on campus. This comes by first, knowing the AUK 2010 - 2011 Catalog. In the Catalog, one will find regulations and guidance that will help clarify a variety of issues such as: major requirements, graduations, advising, grading, internship information and study abroad. Students will find that when they understand the rules and procedures for AUK's academic issues, they are expediting the solutions to their concerns.

A second invaluable resource available to all students is an academic advisor. Forming a relationship with an academic advisor is crucial while studying at a university. If a student has questions or desires further clarification that isn't specified by the Catalog, an academic advisor serves as the University's starting point for addressing concerns. Specifically, academic advisors assist students in: selecting appropriate courses, enhancing academic performance, planning for graduation, and maintaining an on-going dialogue about career objectives that commensurate with interest and abilities. To locate an academic advisor, all first year and new transfer undergraduate students are assigned to the Student Success Center (SSC), and declared students are assigned to a faculty advisor based upon their major and advisor avail-

The College of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Kuwait provides exceptional opportunities and experiences. It is an exciting place to be. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I extend to you best wishes for a successful academic year and continued progress toward your personal and professional goals.

# Welcome Aboard!

BY AMY KUSHNER



Moneba Iqbal, majoring in Management and Marketing

 $T^{
m he}$  Student Success Center gives a hearty welcome to all the new faces entering our institution for the very first time, as well as embraces the continuing students back to the American University of Kuwait: Where University Comes to Life.

Before we dive into the whirlpool of class registration, RAC numbers, credit hours and other college lingo, we will give you a little refresher of what the SSC is all about, and introduce for the very first time the 6 new Peer Academic Leaders joining our team.

The Student Success Center is committed to providing academic, personal and career support to all currently enrolled students and alumni. Located on the 5th floor of the Liberal Arts Building, the SSC provides services ranging from academic advising, academic support (tutoring center and various workshops), retention initiatives to personal and career counseling and disability services.

The Peer Academic Leaders, more commonly known on campus as PALs serve as Peer Advisors to freshmen students, catering services in areas of educational planning, course selection, and academic support before, during and after PAR sessions. PALs are not just here to advise you on



Omar Mehdi, majoring in Business Administration

what courses you should register for, or what prerequisites you need to meet, but instead strive to create that genuine mutual bond with the advisee, and delve deeper into what career paths they wish to pursue and help them meet their goal.

So, don't just see the PALs as another group of students on campus who serve you during registration or PAR events with the aid of the SSC Professional Staff, but instead see them as mentors who aim to guide you through your years at AUK, and make your transition to university life easy breezy. Being a PAL for the first time, I certainly hope my colleagues and I live up to the fine standards set by all the previous PALs.

Here are a few words you will hear more than you want to in your time at AUK, especially in your first year! So read along, familiarize yourselves with them, and pretty much commit them to your memory to make your life

Advising: This is the time you will meet with your academic advisor, who will tell you what classes work best for your degree.

RAC Number: Registration Activation Code- which you need in order to be able to register for courses; it is acquired after meet-



-Shahad Bin-Salamah, majoring in A

ing with the SSC (Freshmen & Undeclared majors) or your academic advisor (Declared majors)

Credit Hours: Hours you have earned by successfully completing a course. Credit hours range from 1 credit to 4 credits, depending on the course.

Drop/Add: The procedure by which you may change your class schedule during the 1st week of classes by dropping or adding a course (through AUK Self-Service) without penalty. Beware that dropping or adding courses after the deadline announced will result in you being penalized!

Freshman: First Time at College - A year of being in the wrong place, standing in the wrong lines, sitting in the wrong classroom, and having the wrong form. Luckily others are aware of this problem and will usually help.

GPA: Grade Point Average; a weighted average based on the grades you receive and the numbers of credits you take.

Major: Degree program in the university.

Minor: Not a degree program, but a limited focus in a program which enhances your major.

SSC -Student Success Center: 5th Floor of Liberal Arts Build-

UG: Undergraduate Student. Syllabus: Passed out by the fac-



Jassim Al-Fadhli, majoring in Computer Engineering



Nourin Tajani, majoring in Accouting and Finance

ulty member during Drop/Add week. It includes all expectations of a course, required assignments and due dates, the grading policy, and related information such as the required textbooks and the faculty's office hours, etc.

095 & 099 Courses: Preparatory Courses not calculated in the GPA and credit not counted towards graduation.

Academic Catalog: Serves as a tour guide of the university, filled with information ranging from university policies and procedures to general academic information and so much more.

Checklist: Serves as a guide to your 4 years at AUK; helps you see what courses you need to graduate in an orderly fashion.

## Welcome from the Office of Admissions!

BY MAHER DABBOUSEH, MBA

Dear AUK Wolf Pack, on behalf of the Office of Admissions, I would like to welcome all new students to AUK. Also, welcome back to all faculty, students and staff!! The college/university years are known to be the best years of your life. This holds true when you take advantage of the services that are available to you! Below are some tips to get the most out of your experience

Tip 1 - Explore the various clubs, organizations and events by visiting the Office of Student Life (located in the Sciences Building). Your ability to develop social skills now will lead to greater opportunities for you in the future.

Tip 2 - Play or watch intramural sports. Doing so allows you to get to know other students and it's good for your health!!

Tip 3 - Attend special lectures, panels, speeches, plays and/or concerts. The real-world knowledge, experience and outcomes of these events cannot be found in

Come & Update Your Student ID!!

@ Office of Student Life A004

Tip 4 - Go to see professors' after class and ask questions. This is an exercise that will help you build confidence and character over time.

Tip 5 - Eat at the Diner- We have a new chef and the food/ menu is incredible!

Tip 6 - Join a student group that is passionate about something.

Tip 7 - Express your feelings, emotions, thoughts and ideas freely and openly! This is what a liberal arts education is all about!!

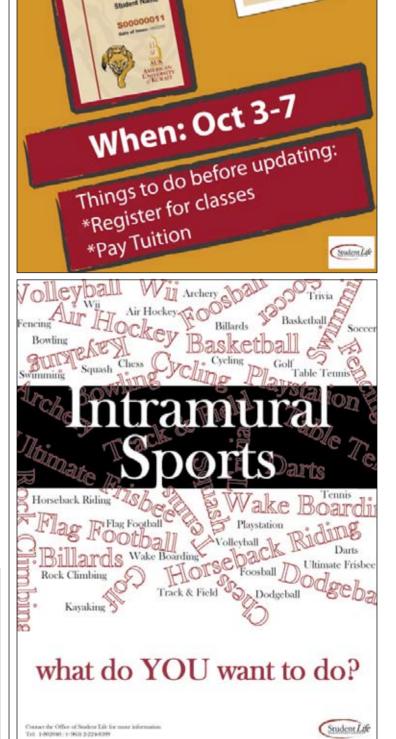
In closing, I hope you make the best out of your education.

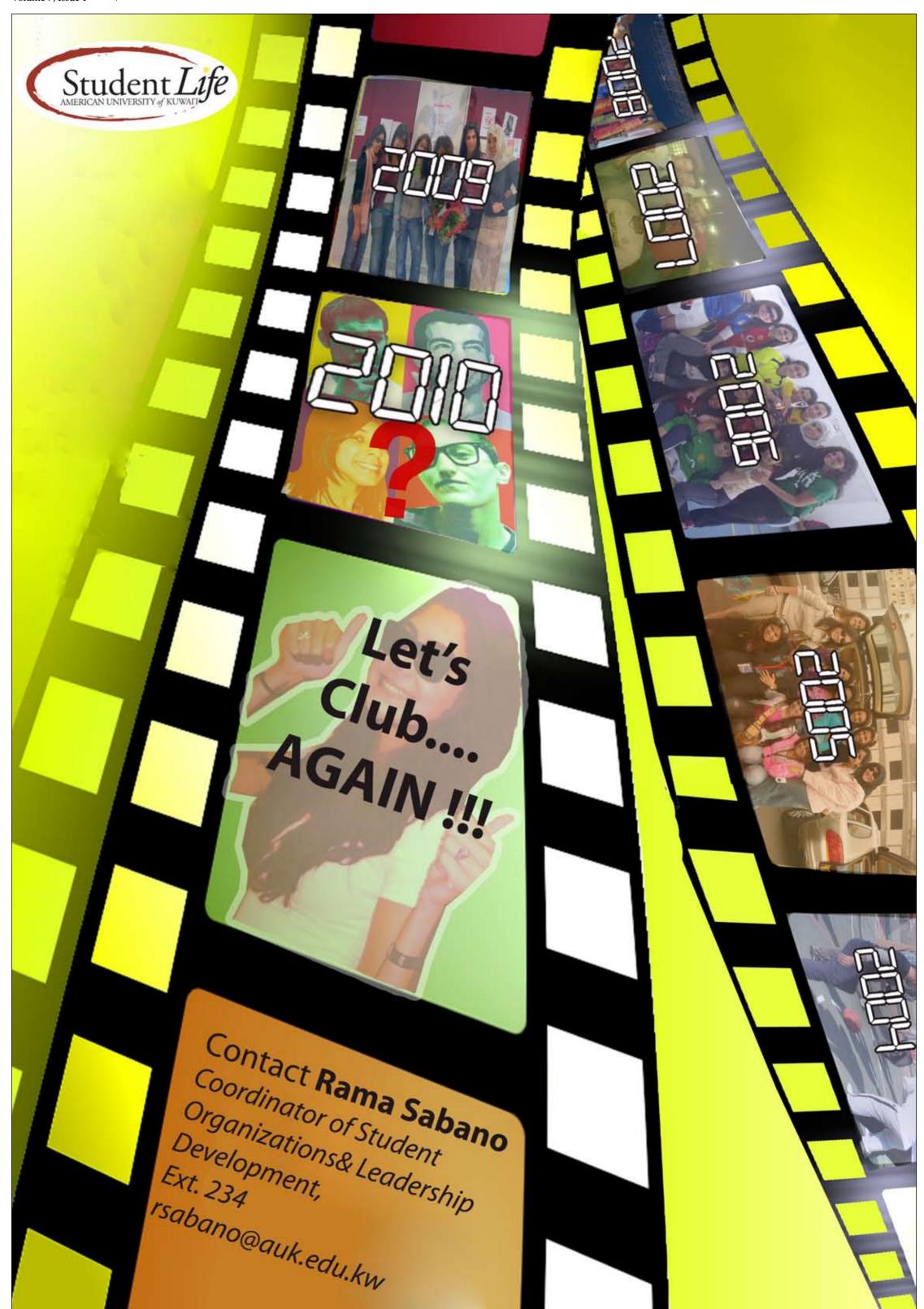
Learn . Think . Become.

P.S. Please check your selfservice accounts for admissions holds that may exist. Any missing documentation from your admissions file will prevent you from registering for classes next semester. Please stop by the Office of Admissions with any concerns that you may have regarding your admissions file.









## Notes After Graduation

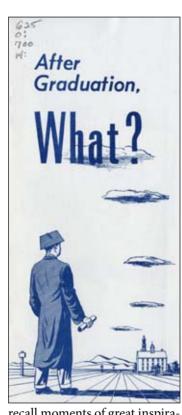
BY NUR SOLIMAN

This summer, since it is months before I'll be a responsible, busy employee-tobe, I have once again reclaimed many hours of the day for reading. As well as reading sensible and beautiful literature like Far from the Madding Crowd or other Hardy novels, I can also guiltlessly read all the mysteries, detective novels, adventures, and travelogues I want without deadlines or assignments, and enjoy every minute of it.

Recently, I was plodding through a rather impossible chapter in a book on theoretical physics also on my summer reading list, when I read about how time could hypothetically bifurcate, or fork, into several universes. This would solve Schrödinger's cat problem, which asked if it was possible that a cat could simultaneously be alive and dead. I suddenly realized that there were interesting papers to be written on the connection between theoretical physics and Jorge Luis Borges' "The Garden of Forking Paths," where anything that can happen happens, or maybe even the film Rashomon by Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, where we're not sure what really happened at all. And then I remembered that I wouldn't get the chance to write that paper anytime soon, considering I graduated in June. Although it was genuinely disappointing, in many ways it was a good thing.

Graduating has been so many things, and all through my last semester, even as early as my senior Fall, I kept going over my memories of being at AUK, from working through my first literature class in freshman Spring, to all my non-major classes in Arabic, Art, Religion, Astronomy, Biology, and Maths. I have very clear memories of taking notes in the cold Auditorium for lectures that I'd be writing about for the Voice, or grabbing lunch from the Diner before running to the library to catch up on emails.

In my four years at AUK, I can



recall moments of great inspiration, from highlights of brilliant lectures or conversations to my discovery of some incredible books at the library. I can also remember moments of deep frustration and disappointment, be it the apathy or arrogance in a classroom or minor administrative regulations that I failed to understand at the time. I discovered my love for astronomy and comparative religious studies, and discovered one of my favourite poets during my time in AUK. I got the chance to travel, through AUK's various opportunities, for competitions, projects, and internships, and joined numerous organizations where I met and worked with some of my closest friends, all of which has contributed to an experience which, in many ways, has changed the way I see and do things, and also understand myself and others.

To go back to the Borges paper I would have liked to write, I hope that that same desire to learn and improve will accompany me into the future. The time I spent on campus has reminded me how enriching writing can be, but also taught me that it needs constant improvement, aided by close research

and reading. It's not just about books either, but I am learning how to read and evaluate what I read on the news, or what I notice with my own eyes or ears. I try to analyze events and information for truths, and have developed the courage to read about - and enjoy - things I had never thought myself capable, such as Middle Eastern history and the sciences for example.

As I try and transition myself from "student" to "graduate" who will soon be working, I am also forced to face some of the questions I started considering while at AUK. What do I really want to do? What is it that I'd really like to study further? What is it that I enjoy doing, enjoy learning? I'd already begun to fret over these life-changing questions during my junior and senior year, but as family members and supportive professors and administrators have told me many times, life isn't planned out so methodically; it's okay that I don't know what I'm going to be doing in a few years from now; it's actually a good thing. This article cannot possibly include all the things that shift around in my mind as I write this, partly because even I don't know what half of those things are, but mainly, because the thoughts about the future and impressions of the past all collide together in a sometimes confusing, sometimes enlightening ways.

I've always been familiar with all my own interests and passions, but now I am warming to the idea that it will take a while to know which one(s) will come to prominence as something I definitely want to pursue further through higher studies, then a career later on. I hope to move forward and hopefully begin working, until I figure things out, bit by bit. In the meantime, though, I am trying to fully appreciate the fact that I had free time this summer - sometimes more than I knew what to do with, but enough to enjoy almost every minute of it.

## Arabia Hits London

Continued from pg. 1

gravated me most about London: Arabs who go there looking for 'opportunity' (I hate how much this word falls into use when immigration is concerned).

The first let down was discovering that there was such an ample population of my people because when you leave your country, the last thing you'd want to stumble upon is anything that reminds you of it. Don't get me wrong. I love Kuwait and everything it stands for, just not when I'm out to see the world. Then and there, the center of focus shifts as you're given time to learn different things and nothing is more rewarding than that. I respected the fact that pockets of immigrant communities are always existent in major metropolitan cities where people come to escape grim situations back home. I really did up until I walked along Edgware Road which magically transforms into an Arab hub by night. As me and my family struggled to enjoy this brisk walk, I knew myself well enough to know that an expression of disgust was forming on my face and my family thankfully felt the same way. There was an insane amount of 'shisha' places and it seemed to be the only enjoyable pastime. Something that swam around in my mind was whether we were the only sane people who thought this was out of the ordinary. Because it was. Let me try and paint a vivid picture of this for you (that is, for those of you who've never been lucky enough to see this marvel): Edgware Road is littered from start to finish while the rest of London's streets are polished and gleaming. Before I turn this article into a novel, let me just say that this description, however exaggerated it may seem, is truthful. I remember thinking to myself: What must the English think of this! Shame was overcast upon me and I wanted nothing more than to disassociate myself from this madness. I stepped into a McDonalds to look for a bathroom and let me just say that a jungle is more organized

and orderly. From where I stood at



the entrance, all that was really left was suspending a rope or two for people to swing around on from the ceiling to complete this image. The floor wasn't always visible but my sister and I fought our way through the insanity to the bathroom downstairs. This time, it felt like stepping into a zoo: garbage cans were filled to the brim and were overflowing, the floor didn't look any better as some of that garbage was transported onto it, the stalls were near impossible to get to because of, and it pains me to say this, the amount of women standing in front of the mirror grooming themselves. Really? This is the sort of nightmare I'd have to live through in Kuwait because our bathrooms turn into beauty parlors and this didn't feel any different. On the whole, the people in there looked like chickens with their heads cut off. Overcome with disgust, I had to leave.

Then came the finale of this spectacle and what officially inspired me to write this article. When I first landed foot into Edgware Road, I noticed that most Arab pedestrians were from the Arabian Gulf and I wasn't too surprised by that because we're notorious for raiding London in the summertime (more like, at all times). Before anyone thinks I could have avoided Edgware Road, I really could not have. It was right next to the hotel I was staying at and I'd have to pass through it to get to London. I heard what sounded like songs I hear back home but

convinced myself that this was all a very bad dream and I would soon wake up from it. I was wrong. Out of nowhere, cars sped through the area and had songs playing on an ear-deafening high. They were all top Gulf songs played in imported Gulf cars occupied by reckless Gulf youth. At this point, I just wanted out. All of what I laid eyes on that night drove me deeper and deeper into depression as to what Arabs had been doing in and to their part of London all these years. I was frustrated and had no way to express myself. I wanted to grab someone off the street and tell them that they had no right to come to a country and trash it. I took to my Facebook status to blow off a little steam but it certainly wasn't enough.

What I want my people to take away from this is the realization that when the Arab diaspora in London chose to settle there, they were not detaching themselves from their identities and that everything dim-witted they do reflects badly on us, not that we don't have our own bad habits. In recent years, matters have gotten worse because of some Arabian Gulf vacationers thinking they can go crazy without any repercussions. Well here's one and it may not create change but it's a start. London has a unique historical side to it and I would like to advise my people to try and look into it more often. It's really not the end of civilization if you don't get that designer bag.



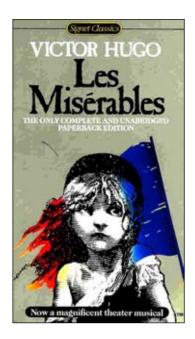




### Les Misérables - A Book Review

BY NUR SOLIMAN

es Misérables is full of Les Miserables is characters whose lives are linked together. Jean Valjean, the main character, steals a loaf of bread for his starving sister and her family and was incarcerated for nineteen years. An old rival, Javert, pursues him because Valjean breaks parole. Javert has disagreements because he sees the world in black and white and Valjean exposes him to the grays. While mayor, Valjean meets Fantine - an employee of his that used to work in his factory. He feels guilty because she is dying and promises to take care of her daughter, Cosette. Cosette is staying with the Thénardiers. The father and mother are villains and later drag their chil-



dren into it. After Valjean observes them abusing her, he buys Cosette from them and takes her to a convent

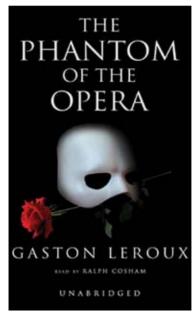
school where he gets a job. By the time she's a teenager, he feels safe enough to buy a house for them to live in. Cosette eventually falls in love with a revolutionary, Marius. Soon Valjean saves him from the barricade. Valjean also allows Javert, who is still chasing him, to escape from the revolutionaries. In the end, Javert's understanding of right and wrong is utterly destroyed and he cannot handle the gray, so he commits suicide. Cosette and Marius get married, and Valjean confesses to Marius of his past. Valjean removes himself from Cosette and dies of heartache. It is a lovely story, which is filled with detail and character.

## The Phantom of the Opera-A **Book Review**

BY NUR SOLIMAN

The Phantom of the Op-■ era is about a young lady named Christine Daaé, a ballet dancer at the Paris Opera House. She is the musical student of a repulsively malformed musical genius who hides in shadows, living beneath the Opera House. Most people call him the Phantom or Opera Ghost, but she calls him the Angel of Music. He has been secretly teaching her how to sing. When Carlotta, the main female lead at the opera, leaves, Christine is called upon to sing, and she does so gracefully. But this does not mean well for her.

Raoul de Chagny, a man whom she has known for some time, sees her sing and remembers her. He then becomes passionately interested in her, but



the Angel of Music does not allow it as doing so will determine the fate of not only Christine, but of the entire Paris Opera

House. Instead of letting them run away together, the Angel of Music kidnaps Christine in order to train her further. After unmasking him and revealing the horrible abnormality on his face, Christine runs away in astonishment.

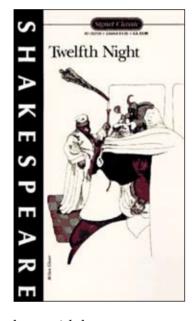
Now, she is the enemy of the Phantom. She must hide from him at all times when she is in the Opera House, which also makes Raoul afraid for her. In desperation, after another performance by Christine, the Phantom kidnaps her again. He tries all to get rid of Raoul, who follows them down under the Opera House. Instead of doing so, however, he ends up making Christine and Raoul fall further in love with each other, and even more desperate to escape.

## The Twelfth Night

BY NUR SOLIMAN

The play centers on the characters Orsino, Duke of Illyria, and the woman he believes he is in love with, Olivia, "a rich countess." After a shipwreck, twins, Sebastian and Viola, are separated, and Viola disguises herself as a young man and becomes Orsino's servant, calling herself Cesario. Orsino sends Viola to Olivia to reveal his passionate love for her; but when Olivia meets Viola, she falls in love with "him," assuming Viola is a male. During the course of the play, Viola also falls in

GRADUATION



love, with her new master,

Orsino. Meanwhile, the servants and other characters present additional comedy of confusions, disguises, and practical jokes, such as when Maria (Olivia's maid), Sir Toby (Olivia's uncle) and Sir Andrew (Sir Toby's friend) send a fake letter from Olivia to Malvolio (Olivia's steward), claiming that she is in love with him, and requesting that he wear some rather bizarre clothing for her sake. Illyria, in which the play takes place, is a fantastical world where time and wisdom do not exist.

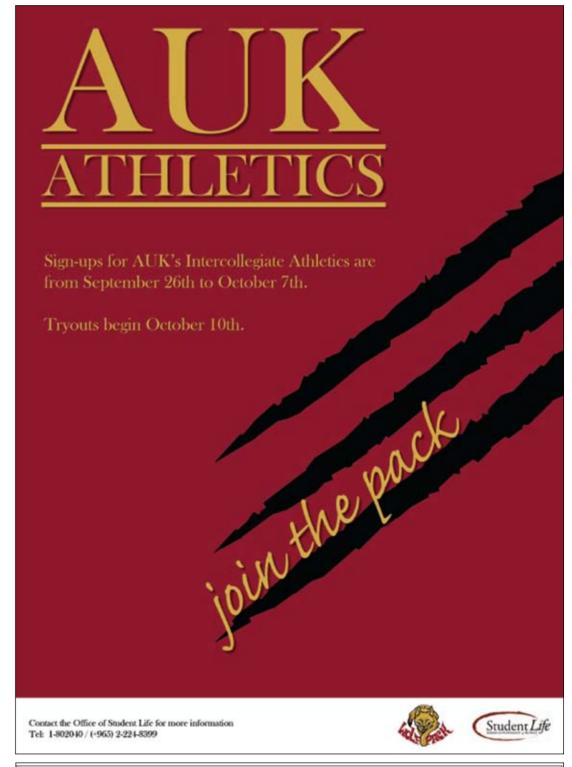
June 16, 2011

#### Timeline for Graduates

1st Graduation Workshop Oct 12, 2010 Senior Launch Nov 23, 2010 Application for Graduation Due Nov 11, 2010 Graduation Fee Due Jan 4, 2011 Deadline for missing documents TBA

Administrative Clearance Form Due two weeks prior to intended date of

Graduation, i.e. on the following dates: Jan 4, 2011 Fall Spring June 1, 2011 Summer Aug 8, 2011 2nd Graduation Workshop March 8, 2011 Career Day April 19, 2011 Senior Day May 24, 2011 Cap & Gown/Ticket Pickup June 9, 2011 Picture Day June 13, 2011 Graduation Rehearsal June 15, 2011



#### Do you ever wonder...

What major should I choose? What do I want to be when I grow up?? What kind of job would be the best fit for me???

The AUK Career Counselor is here to help you find the answers to these questions. In addition to providing information about current job openings and graduate school options, the Career Counselor can also review your CV, help edit your cover letter, and assist with the graduate school application process.

AUK also offers you access to FOCUS, an online career and education planning tool for YOU! It will enable you to assess your personal qualities and explore career fields and major areas of study that are most compatible with your assessment results.

#### Why use FOCUS?

It will help you focus on majors & career choices that are best suited for you. It can help you plan ahead so that you graduate on-time! It's a great tool to help you think through your future. And best of all...it's free for AUK students!!!

So please stop by and visit Amy Kushner, the AUK Career Counselor, at the SSC on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Liberal Arts Building. Pick up information about FOCUS, bring in a copy of your CV for review, or just stop to chat about possible career options.

# Summer Nights at the Dar Al-Funoon

BY NUR SOLIMAN

On opening nights, the Dar al-Funoon is usually crowded

with journalists, connoisseurs, and

clients who fill the white-washed

halls of the elegant, traditional

house. On the warm June evening

however, the gallery is far more

Lucia Topalian, who runs the

gallery, curated her summer exhi-

bition with a Zen-like, minimalist

sparseness that is characteristic of

her, combined with an air of spon-

taneity which occasionally distract-

ed the visitor, but definitely added

life to the display. With the season's

end, she put up the year's highlights,

showcasing the works of Kuwaiti,

Lebanese, Iraqi, Iranian, Algerian,

Leaning on the wall are window-

frames with tinted photographs

of a girl wandering a crumbling

Mediterranean house, lines of Ara-

and other Middle-Eastern artists.

crowded with art.



bic in white type as titles. Taken by Lebanese photographer Alfred Tarazi, they are from "The Quixote Project" of August 2009, in corroboration with Nur Kaoukji and Siham Nuseibeh, who designed the model's clothes. Dark and poetic, they contrast with the smooth jade sculptures of Jamal A. Raheem. "Hanan," or "tenderness," is veined and brown, polished on the top, with shapes emerging from the depths, recalling Rodin's 1898 "Hand of God." A bluish-green fish is suggested by a splashing tail and gently twisting body, reminiscent of much Gulf work.

A huge image of the famous Lebanese singer Fairuz looms up in the corridor. Known for her wry irreverence and fixation with portraits of women, local artist Ghadah al-Kandari describes her painting as the "beatification of a legend," and



it's obvious why: dressed in white, Fairuz looks ahead with large, expressive eyes, hand raised in classical saintly pose, her auburn head circled with a gold halo that barely shows against the multi-coloured, canvas-length drips in the back-

Calligraphic art features prominently in the Dar, where over the months, a dialogue emerges, reflecting regional dynamics as artists experiment with their rich cultural traditions while also expressing contemporary concerns and external influences. Ali Umar al-Ramid approached it from a classic, almost Chinese perspective, using a broad brush loaded with black ink for a single, graceful form.

Algerian artist Hamza Bounoua, bearing Berber, Arab, and Mediterranean influences, covered a Plexi-glass panel with translucent, perfectly drawn Arabic text that became more an image, while his other works featured a fictional geometric script resembling Amazigh, enlivened by African figures. Abdel-Rahman al-Attivah, a Kuwaiti sculptor, showed two blue and tan wooden pillar sculptures covered with lines of intricately carved Arabic text.

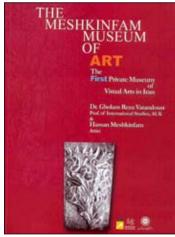
Himat, a Iraqi-Kurdish painter, approached text by incorporating poetry by Adonis and French, Russian, and Japanese poets into his works, or used the flowing aesthetic in his abstract works. Working on handwoven paper, cut into rectangles or "kimono" shapes, Himat covers them with red, pink, and turquoise, the silver and gold patterns brightening the chromatic

Three pieces by Reza Derakhshani, occupying the front wall of the main atrium, are infused with other elements of culture. In one, he uses the elegance of 15th century Persian miniatures for the encounter scene from the romance Khusrau wa Shirin, textured colour adding contemporary edge. The others depict warmly coloured silhouetted trees bearing leaves, flowers, and fruit, standing out against a radiant gold backdrop, the perched birds evoking Sufi metaphors for divine love.

Other artists also used rich colour; one work was all vermilion and alizarin crimson, Rothkoesque in luminosity, save for a patch of green, violet, orange, and yellow pattern, atop which stands an ultramarine blue swallow, not unlike Derakhshani's nightingales, a piece that reconciled the poetics of pure colour with the interest of articulated forms and patterns. Sinan's works were heavy with jewellike gold, while Ibrahim al-Attiyah used sophisticated rose, violet, and blue on his panels.

The fact that the exhibit did not always have a pulled-together look is not too significant as there is a definite energetic lucidity in the way the works congregated. As I stepped around the still-wrapped canvases and examined small, vivid panels in the traditional wall-niches, or leaned on the old teakwood doors leading to the courtyard, there was a parallel with the everchanging, cosmopolitan society in this country, a place that still holds on to its rich past. There is a vivid impression of the fluctuating dynamics of Middle Eastern art, no longer a monolith - even for us but a host of changing movements and traditions that contrast and even meet in galleries.

## Dr. Gholam Reza Vatandoust's New Book: "The Meshkinfam Museum of Art"



Cover page of Dr. Vatandoust's book.

#### BY NUR SOLIMAN

Earlier this year, Professor of International Studies and History, Gholam Reza Vatandoust published a new book entitled "The Meshkinfam Museum of Art: The First Private Museum of Visual Arts in Iran." In this book, co-authored by established artist and museum curator Hassan Meshkinfam, the museum's large art collection is described in some detail, highlighting the main types of objects housed within each sub-collection, namely, calligraphy, paintings, photography, and sculpture.

In September 2001, under the reign of former Iranian president Mohammed Khatami, the Meshkinfam Museum of Art was designated a newly renovated building by the Council for the Cultural Development of the Province of Fars, in order to house the Meshkinfam

art collection, the first private museum of arts in Iran. Housing hundreds of works from the 18th, 19th, and 20th century, from photographic collections to paintings, sculptures, and calligraphic works, the museum is curated and managed by Hassan Meshkinfam. According to Vatandoust, the meager state funding previously provided to this museum has now ceased. and the museum is currently in danger of shutting down due to lack of sufficient resources and local support, which may not improve under the current administration, despite the encouragement from the Iranian government to permit the establishment of private museums through its guidance since

Hence Vatandoust felt the need to prepare a publication that described both the efforts and the collection managed by Mr. Meshkinfam, who curates a collection that his family has been developing for over fifty years, a collection that represents a singular historic profile of Iran's historically vivid, lively cultural and artistic scene. In this sense, Vatandoust's book seeks to record or capture Meshkinfam's legacy and efforts, as well as providing an image of the collection as a whole, lest it finally shuts down, but also as a way to inform readers about this relatively new museum collection, should it be given the resources to be able to con-



Hassan Meshkinfam and his father, Maestro Habib Meshkinfam.

The main argument behind the book is that the Meshkinfam Museum of Art houses a unique and valuable collection of Persian art, from the 18th century to the present and that it should not be neglected and left to close down due to its recent loss of support, as the endeavor is one that should be followed throughout Iran in an effort to care for the many priceless and historically significant artifacts around the country.

The book begins with an introduction to the historic and cultural significance of Shiraz, where the museum is located, and Iran, or Fars in general. Vatandoust also sets up the context in which the museum was established, through new policy changes made by national councils and governmental organizations, and how Meshkinfam's collection contributes to the preservation of Iranian culture and heritage, which Vatandoust sees as very important to Iran's present cultural identity. The rest of the book is divided in four chapters each representing one of the four sub-divisions in the museum. The book takes a mostly descriptive approach, highlighting the main artistic figures in the categories and including a basic summary of the category.

The publication is bilingual, written in English and Farsi (English starting from left to right, Farsi vice-versa), which is initially confusing and disorientating to read, as Chapter 1 is meant to be "Calligraphy," for example, but if read from the English end first, seems to be the last chapter in the book. However, the inclusion of both languages has its definite advantages, as it becomes accessible

to a wider circle of readers, both those in the English-speaking world and those in the Farsispeaking world.

The book does not provide extensive information on the specific items of the collection, neither by their catalogue numbers nor their full set of information (e.g. artist, title, year, etc.), which may disappoint if others like him who support the reader was looking for further particulars about a certain artist or work which interested them specifically, but the sheer number of images, all taken by Hassan Meshkinfam, of many of the calligraphic texts, photographs, paintings, and sculptures provide a truly rich and insightful impression of the rich variety of artwork and perspectives that the museum's collection offers. Some of the older photographs, black-and-white images portraying some of the older artists and craftsmen of Shiraz, also offer a window into the past of artistic Iran, while the rich profusion of photographs of the diverse, colourful paintings or sculptures also represent Iranian art as rich and full of different styles and influences as other traditions.

With the publishing of his book, Professor Vatandoust also presented an article entitled "Recreating the Past and Embracing the Future: The First Private Museum in Iran" at the Eighth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies held in Santa Monica, California, from

27-30 May 2010 describing the collection and the museum's singularity as the first private art museum of Iran, as well as its initiatives, goals, and current challenges while facing potential closure.

As yet another way of hopefully garnering more support for Hassan Meshkinfam and local heritage and arts efforts. Professor Vatandoust, AUK's own Art Club, and a few Art professors are hoping to organize a small conference on Persian art early this Fall at AUK, at which Mr. Meshkinfam will be invited to speak on contemporary art in Iran.

While the book does not have detailed information on the objects like the paintings, for example, it does provide sufficiently detailed summaries of the lives of artists by way of introduction to the featured objects themselves within each chapter. This is important when reading the book, as it is less of a museum catalogue than it is an introduction to the initiatives of a curator and his collection, as a first in Shiraz and Iran.

"The Meshkinfam Museum of Art: The First Private Museum of Visual Arts in Iran" offers an inspiring and in-depth look at a young museum whose curator has made lots of effort to showcase not only artists who may have become obscure even in Iran, but also the visual, artistic heritage and vigorous cultural scene of a changing, diverse Iran.

# STUDENT LIFE EVENTS 2010

For more Event Details please check your AUK Email

# September



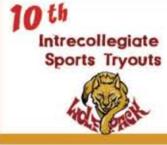




## October



















# November





















## December









Got Questions???....

Email us: studentlife@auk.edu.kw

phone: 1802040, Ext: 232



## Who We Are and What We Do

The following are general guidelines for visitors of the Writing Center: Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred. Appointments take precedence over walk-ins. We offer 30 minute sessions starting on the hour and half hour. Please sign-in on the computer before starting the session. You may visit the Writing Center for a total of two 30 minute sessions per week. Please bring your assignment explanation as well as your draft (if available). Students who are not working or waiting for a Writing Center consultant are kindly asked not to remain in the center. Students who are not working or waiting for a Writing Center consultant are not allowed to use the Center's printer or computers. Food and drinks are allowed, provided that students clean up after themselves.

The following are consultants at the Writing Center:

James McDougall is an Assistant Professor of English, Writing Program Coordinator, and Writing Center Director. He earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Florida, completing a doctoral dissertation on transnational modern American poetry; his current research examines Chinese-language texts produced within the United States and representations of immigrant experiences in modern Chinese literature. At the University of Florida, he also received training in TES-OL and served as an editorial assistant for the journal Early Medieval China. His teaching interests include: writing and rhetoric, poetry and poetics, second language acquisition, modernism/postmodernism, world literature, American literature, Chinese literature, and film. Before becoming an academic, he worked as a technical writer, journal editor, sailor, drive-in movie theater manager, bookshop clerk, tutor, ESL instructor, tree-planter, and Peace Corps volunteer.

Hanouf Al-Juhail is an administrative assistant and staff consultant at the Writing Center. After graduating with a B.S. in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, she joined AUK to continue her career in academia. She has a passion for knowledge and education because it is where she finds absolute freedom.

Jose Mangibin is an administrative specialist and staff consultant at the Writing Center. He has worked as an English tutor in the Philippines and has also worked as a journalist, proofreader, and copy editor in Kuwait. Jose likes helping students express themselves to the best of their abilities, being active in a lively environment.

Kheiriyeh Ahmadi is an administrative assistant and staff consultant at the Writing Center. She graduated in spring 2008 with a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the American University of Kuwait with a concentration in Arabic Language and Literature. As an ex-student, she has experience working as a consultant in the Writing Center for two years. She likes to read different perspectives on diverse issues and subjects and learn new points of view. She finds helping stua Bachelors degree in Business Administration along with a minor in Psychology. She defines herself as an adventurous, fun loving, and ambitious person. She remembers that in

#### **Mission Statement**

The Writing Center at the American University of Kuwait promotes an understanding of writing as a way of thinking, learning, and teaching. To serve this mission, the AUK Writing Center aims to cultivate an environment of collaborative inquiry with students seeking help with a variety of writing and reading needs, concerns, and goals, develop students' understanding of the variety of writing purposes, audiences, genres, and styles, develop students' strategies for critically reading and engaging with a variety of texts, support students' efforts in all stages of their writing processes, provide thoughtful and constructive feedback, support faculty efforts to develop and integrate a variety of writing assignments into their courses, and provide resources on writing for the entire University community.

dents bring out their best in their papers a most valuable mission. She is planning to pursue a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics.

Iman Zakaria Al-Khamees is a writing consultant at the Writing Center at AUK. Iman describes herself as a student writing consultant. Her major is Communications and Media with a concentration in Public Relations and she is also minoring in International Studies. She is currently a senior at the American University of Kuwait. She loves reading, relaxing, travelling, and shopping.

Amal M. Ahmed is a junior and a writing consultant at the Writing Center, pursuing grade 9, after observing teenagers bored at school while at the same time acting like kings of the world, she wrote her first poem 'Boring Eco Class', and as a writer she has not stopped since. She believes a piece of writing can mould an individual's character and she wishes to achieve that with her writing. Amal also believes that not everyone can become an awesome writer, but everyone can write awesomely.

Fatima Ali Ibraheem is a senior majoring in English Language and Literature. She believes that every single person has a privilege towards writing and its boundless realm. For that reason, she always feels

glad to assist ambitious peers who are willing to reach that target. During leisure time and with a suitable mood, Fatima enjoys reading books. It doesn't matter what type of book it is as long as it's a book, since a book is the only thing with generosity that has no limit in enriching you more and more, plus, expects nothing in return. Also, oil painting is something she enjoyably practices and hopes to prosper in utilizing this gift.

Kirsten Bartholome is a sophomore and a writing consultant at the Writing Center. She is currently working towards a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. She has a passion for learning and enjoys helping others. Kirsten also believes that with just a little hard work and perseverance, everything is possible.

Ahmad Abdel Naser Al-Karmi is a writing consultant at the Writing Center. He is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Management and is currently a third year student at the American University of Kuwait. His favorite pass-times include reading, automobiles, music, football, and writing. He never leaves home without common sense, logic, and his sense of humor.

Ahmad Fahad Jafar is a writing consultant at the Writing Center. Ahmad is currently continuing his education to obtain a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. As a transfer student from Richmond, the American University in London, Ahmad is currently enjoying his start at the American University of Kuwait. Currently, Ahmad is also working for an IT Consultancy firm called Smart Life, as he believes that one could never be too productive. Horace Mann once argued, "Virtue is an angel, but she is a blind one, and must ask knowledge to show her the pathway that leads to her goal." Ahmad is a strong believer in dedication and determination in feeding one's hunger for knowledge and passionately appreciates the value of wisdom enriched in the words of Horace Mann.

Location: The Writing Center @ AUK is located in room A207, which is on the second floor of the Sciences Building.

Working Hours: The Writing Center will operate from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on weekdays.

Appointments: You can make an appointment on or off campus by going to the AUK website, clicking on 'The Writing Center' on the right side of the page, and clicking on 'Appointments' in the drop down menu on the left side of the page. Login using your username and password. Next, click on the 'Make an Appointment' icon. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome depending on the availability of the consultants.

Email: writingcenter@auk. edu.kw

Telephone: +965 2224 8399

# Student Emails: A Service Announcement from the **AUK Writing Center**

BY PROFESSOR JAMES MCDOUGALL

Marhaba!
A new season of learning is underway—you can almost smell knowledge wafting down the wisdom-gilt corridors of the American University of

Kuwait.

The semester is on. Parking spaces dry up. There are ten things to do and you only have time for five. Your email inbox is suddenly full. You have to write to a professor quickly. You string some words together and are just about to press "send"... NO! STOP!

When used correctly, writing is a powerful tool for getting things done, bridging the limits of time and space—almost like magic. To be able to persuade through writing is to have great power, and can lead to a successful academic and professional career.

When used incorrectly, writing can be a curse, an affliction, and a nightmare combined to make us look bad and get us into trouble.

First day of classes, I fire up my AUK standard-issue HP; after 15 minutes of surfing sports scores, it is time. Click. Outlook is now up and running, and there it isemail #5 reads:

Hey Mister,

cant come 2 class first day cause taking my bro to airport

send me the homework pls. Do I half too write something fer next class?

Just a casual glance at this email reveals that something is wrong beyond the spelling and grammar mistakes. A text message to a friend might look something like this, but emails to staff and faculty at AUK should not. How, then, should this student have tried to represent her/himself in an email to a professor? And why would this email go into Outlook's "epic fail" folder?

First, we can see from the email that the student has not considered thorny problem #1: audience. To persuade you need to know your audience's expectations. Knowing an audience's expectations involves thorny problem #2: conventions.

For many students at AUK, their interactions with professors are their first professional communications. With this in mind, here is a little secretunless a professor tells you otherwise, s/he is expecting you to write somewhat formally, and to be treated somewhat professionally. It is a sign of respect, and a good way of earning respect.

What are the conventions for professional emails? These unwritten rules of writing are always changing, and everyone has their own special preferences. However, emails to professors should contain the following:

1. Correct salutation: Dear

2. Correct capitalization: especially at the beginning of sen- to question #2, "why would this tences and for proper nouns 3. Correct punctuation: at the

very least, end your sentences with a period. 4. Correct spelling: you might want to write your emails in Mi-

count does not have a spell check function. If it does, use it! 5. Correct grammar: remember that an email is not a text

crosoft Word if your email ac-

message, don't take shortcuts. 6. Correct line spacing: single space paragraphs with a blank line separating each paragraph.

Clear purpose: don't be afraid to simply write: "I am writing to ask..."

8. Organized content: in longer emails, make sure that you put like ideas together; sometimes the order that we think is not logical to others.

9. Respectful tone: don't be afraid to use "please" and "thank you"; be sure that requests are in the form of questions and not commands.

10. Proofread: when you are finished writing, don't press send. Rest your eyes for a couple of minutes, and read over your email making sure that you cover items 1-9. Even better, ask someone you trust to take a look at your email before sending it.

So we have answered question #1 about the email. This leads us email go in Outlook's "epic fail" folder?"

The student appears to be motivated by good intentions. For example, s/he alerts the professor to a class that will be missed, and responsibly asks for the missed homework assignments.

Unfortunately, these noble intentions never reach the audience, because the professor isn't expecting a text message, but an email. Moreover, making your reader wade through mistakes can be interpreted as disrespectful. It is not a good way to persuade someone to act.

Instead of being persuasive, the professor bangs his head against a filing cabinet and engages in a serious eye-rubbing session, and rereads the email, hoping to find:

Dear Professor McDougall,

I am writing to let you know that I will be missing class due to urgent family business. I understand the attendance policy, and I accept the consequences of missing this class.

Could you please let me know if I have missed any assign-

I apologize for missing class and taking your time with this request. Thank you so much for your help.

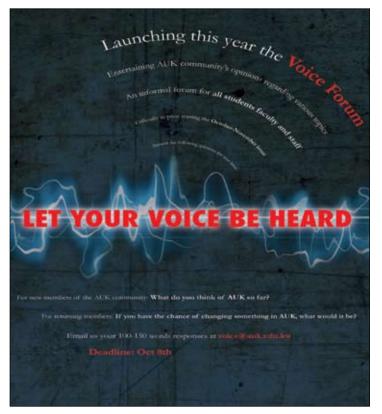
Regards,

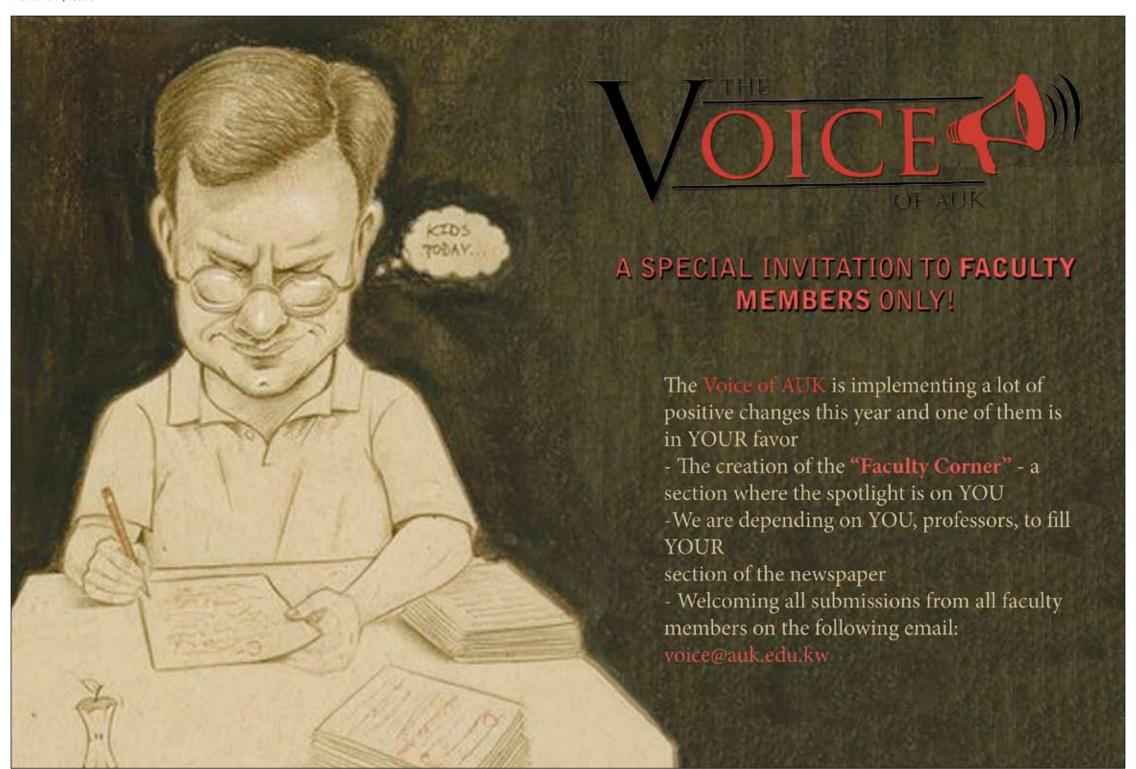
Star Student

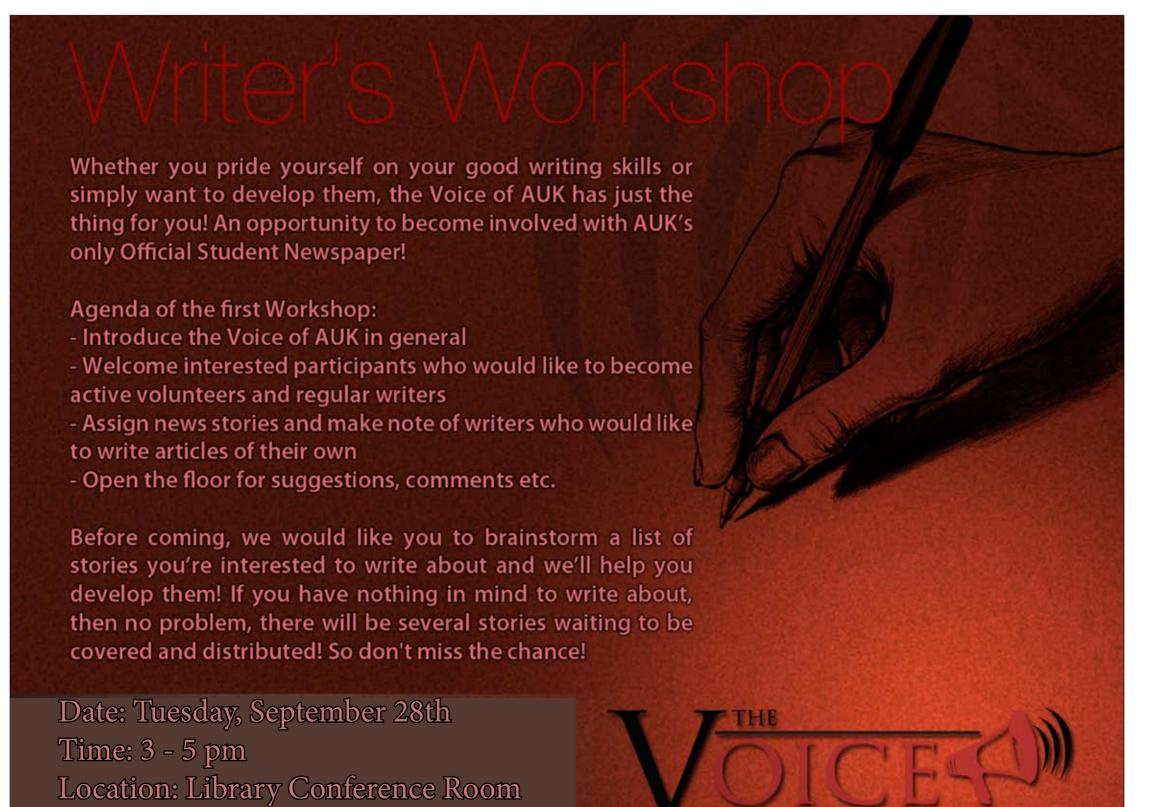
Much of the world's dreary, difficult business is worked through words. Knowing what to say and how to say it is not always easy, but by practicing at figuring out your audience's expectations.

In addition, one thing to remember at AUK: you never have to write alone. The Writing Center is available Sunday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm in room A207 in the Sciences building. Student and staff writing consultants are available to work with you on everything from emails to research papers.

I wish everyone all the best of luck during the Fall semester. Study hard and write well!







OF AUK

## Scalar Energy: the Energy of Health

BY MAY OMRAN



ll life matter is com-Aposed of energy; energy which is characterized by particle and wave-like properties graphed as hertizan waves. Energy waves differentiate from each other by their frequency and amplitude, how fast and intense the waves rise and fall. Several forms of energy include, but are not limited to, chemical energy, mechanical energy, kinetic energy, potential energy and....health energy?

By health energy, I mean scalar energy. The existence of scalar energy has been around since the dawn of time. It was until the mid 1800's that mathematician James Clerk Maxwell proposed the existence of scalar energy through four ground-breaking equations. After the vast breakthrough proposition, the demonstration of the existence of scalar energy took merely a halfcentury to be proven by Nicola Tesla. When Tesla died, so went along with him the knowledge of scalar. It took scientists yet another century to demonstrate the existence of scalar energy and prove its' miraculous benefits.

So what is distinctive about scalar waves and how they differ as oppose to all other waves? Scalar waves are composed of replicant waves that are in phase spatially and differ from the standard hertizan waves. Aside from wave formation, scalar waves are more field-like rather than wavelike, filling the surrounding environment with its' energy rather than transmitting them through wires or beams.

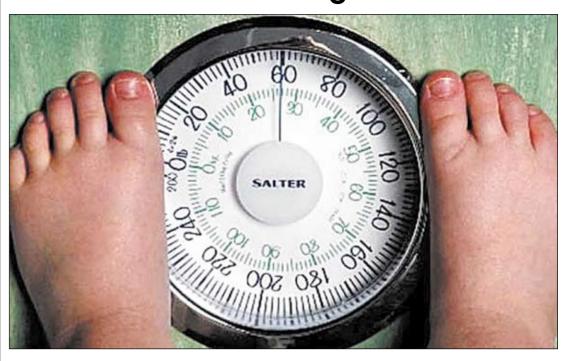
This becomes a beneficial mechanism for technology. As scientists further researched and experimented with the source, they became more aware of prospective developments in implementing scalar energy to energetically nurture the human body's cells.

What Tesla demonstrated before his death was the permeability of scalar waves, their ability to pass through objects without any loss of intensity and field strength. This vital demonstration made it possible for scientist to develop products which embed scalar energy for consumers. The energy fields are implanted on products through generation in the following ways: electrically, magnetically, physically, and optically. Once embedded, the energy regenerates indefinitely. As the human body ingests scalar energy, waves will diffuse within the cell's boosting energy levels with regular intake.

Now the surplus benefits of this health energy can further self explain itself.It detoxifies all body cells, cleanses the blood, increases oxygen to the blood, energizes the body, improving strength, flexibility, concentration and balance, decreases the surface tension of cells, thus absorption and assimilation of nutrients are enhanced and toxins are easily released, increases amplitude of EEG improving frequencies, mental focus, inhibits noradrenaline, working as an anti-depressant, strengthens immune system up to 150%, protects the body's cells from electromagnetic waves, increases cell energy level to the ideal 70-90 mill volt, thus preventing various diseases that trigger low energy cells such as cancer, and promotes healthier blood circulation and improves metabolism.

Arethesebenefitsnotenough to consider scalar energy to be very efficient and proactive towards the human body? Sufficiency can classify this vast mechanism as a nurturing tool for humans. Currently, many products are available in the market equipped with scalar energy embedded in products of various forms, including pendants, watches, bracelets and flasks. Along with having raised international standards, it has also caused awareness in beneficial use of scalar energy.

## Neck Size and Weight Problems?



Continued from pg. 1

of intense training or manual labour, possibility is negligible in children." Therefore, there has been intense research for a more efficient way of measuring body fat levels. With that ambition, researches have interpreted several ways for such measurement. One is through waist circumference, which can also predict future abdominal risks in adults such as hypertension, diabetes and heart attacks. Another strategy is measuring the neck circumference which, despite the fact that it is yet to be studied more, suggests that it can still be a "potential marker" of obesity and health risks in adults.

The Journal Paediatrics investigated this research in hope of finding whether or not this can be helpful for children on a specific level. Lead researcher,Dr. Olubukola Nafiu, of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, assured Reuters Health that "since BMI is not a precise indicator of body fat, adding a neck circumference measurement could improve childhood obesity screening." Also, if we think of it, compared to waistline measurements, measuring

the neck would be quicker, simpler, more comfortable and less embarrassing for children, since they can keep all their clothes on for the latter. In addition to its comfort, neck circumference adds more conformity and consistence for measurements as opposed to waist which can possibly increase in size after a meal, strictly speaking. These interpretations aren't merely the doctors' hypotheses, but, rather, based on solid experiments and results. For instance, after measuring the weight, height, waist and neck circumferences of 1102 children and teenagers between the ages of 6 and 18, Nafiu and his colleagues concluded that the neck circumference measurements "correlated well with both BMI and waist size in boys and girls, as well as younger children and teenagers."

Doctors have also created a "range" or "criteria" for such measurement of neck circumference that identified children with a high BMI. For example, a six-year-old boy with a neck circumference of greater than 28.5 centimetres (about 11.2 inches) was nearly four times more likely to be overweight or obese, based on BMI, as a six-year-old boy with a smaller neck circumference.

Other than weight issues, researchers note that neck measurements might also be useful for determining children at risk of sleep apnoea, a disorder in which tissues at the back of the throat temporarily collapse during sleep to create repeated stops and starts in breathing. Obesity is a contributing factor, especially if the excess weight is found in the upper part of the body. Nafiu said that, in earlier studies, he and his colleagues found that "children with a high BMI were at relatively greater risk of certain postsurgery problems; they tend, for instance, to take longer to wake up from anaesthesia because the drugs concentrate in body fat."

The purpose of all this research was to find out a more accurate way of measuring body fat while concentrating on children's cases for early treatment and prevention. So if you suspect that your child is overweight or obese and you sought a doctor, don't be surprised to find the paediatrician take out a measuring tape and wrap it around your child's neck to give you the answer!

## **Brain-Destructive Habits**



Continued from pg. 1

absorption of proteins by the brain. If you do not let your brain absorb its beloved proteins properly then you will not let its cells grow and prosper for your next pop quiz.

- 3- Surplus food eaten will inhibit brain function ng since it increases the chance of having vasoconstriction (constriction of blood vessels) in your brain, which reduces appropriate mental power.
- 4- Stop smoking! Smoking is a main cause of early Alzheimer's disease.
- Air pollution. Your brain is the greatest consumer of oxygen. So if you inhale polluted air, this will decrease your brain's efficiency and work output.
- Lack of sleep. It is not just you who needs to sleep after your back-to-back eve-

which has been faithful and working with you throughout the entire day, needs a minivacation to rest and relax. Insomnia fosters the rate in is found in their tongues. which brain cells die.

Covering your head while asleep. This concentrates carbon dioxide exhaled as you hide under your warm cozy blanket, which, in return, reduces the amount of oxygen available. This has negative side-effects on your suffocating brain.

Exhausting yourself during illness. Heavy work and extra load will act as a burden while you are ill. This is disadvantageous for your brain because it reduces the effectiveness and efficiency.

Being mentally lazy. If you don't bother to exercise your brain with simple Sudoko puzzles, newspaper crosswords or reading, then expect your brain to betray you when you're desperately trying to remember your childhood best friend's name as you bump into her/him in the grocery store.

10- Social isolation. Intellectual conversations and dialogues with peers help in energizing your brain and keeping it up-to-date. That doesn't mean that you be-

ning classes, even your brain, come a chatterbox though, alright?

Did You Know That?

- Snakes' sense of smell
- 2- An Octobus has three 'hearts.'
- A live cell of an elephant is the same size as that of a mouse.
- Frogs die if you keep their mouths open for more than a minute since they breathe with their mouths closed (through their 'gills').
- Snakes stay alive and their hearts continue to beat for almost 24 hours after their heads are separated from their body.
- Flies don't hear.
- The difference between the South and North Pole is that the ice in the North Pole is built on water, whereas in the (colder) South Pole it is on land.
- The gestation period of mice is 21 days only.
- The sky is seen blue because sunrays (which consist of the seven rainbow colors) lose all of their colors while they penetrate the Ozone layer, expect for the blue color.
- 10- Archimedes used solar rays as a weapon in war to kill his invader, the Romanians.



