



Black Box Repeats History with Trojan Women

By Fatima Ibraheem

Approximately 2500 years ago in 415BCE, the Ancient Greek poet Euripides wrote a tragic play set in the legendary city of Troy. Hecuba, former queen of Troy begs Zeus, the father gods at that time, for help as the befalling royal family cracks into pieces. Weeping women smother the tragic district, baby Astyanax gets taken away for Greek butchery, and the crash of the citadel comes into play.

Fast forward...

Approximately 1370 years ago in 680 CE, history repeats itself. A Muslim tragedy in Iraq's Karbala takes place. Zeinab, the granddaughter of Prophet Mo-

ammed (PBUH) begs God for help as the wailing women witness their husbands and sons being martyred, fatal thirst under scorching heat never being quenched, baby Abdullah being savagely killed, and then the burning of the tents...

Does history repeat itself? Shall we consider such stunning similarities as evidence of the very nature of human beings; that human beings, who are the source of such tragic events, can almost never learn from the past to avoid repeating the same mistakes over and over again? Do we learn from such unforgettable, indescribable stories?

When the production and act-



ing teams in the DRAMA 360 class, were given the script on the very first day, Professor Gottschalk gladly said "behind every theatre is a political agenda." As for the 'political agenda' of *Trojan Women*, it was valid and intentional indeed: the universality of women's suffering over time and across space, which is what we tried to capture in that play.

What does the 'universality of women's suffering' connote? Well, being forced to take care of herself as well as the weeping females surrounding her in a catastrophic environment is a responsibility that possibly outpaces a woman's normal strengths.

However, whether of Trojan or Muslim culture, these women proved brave in their ability to extend the 'natural, moderate' strengths of a woman into what we metaphorically describe as a mountain of patience, bravery and affection.

They've also encountered being, figuratively, butterflies who survived together with an injured wing...the wing that had no masculine support, whatsoever, by its side. The enemy was cunning enough to pinpoint a woman's weakest point by 'stripping' her from that support.

Again, history repeats itself.

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Pi Gamma Mu Honors Dr. Conerly Casey

By Walah Al Sabah

On Monday, 26th January 2009, the Pi Gamma Mu Chapter of AUK held a dinner ceremony in honor of Dr. Conerly Casey, who will leave AUK after the fall semester. Dr. Casey joined the ensemble of AUK faculty in 2005. She used to teach anthropology courses at AUK and has contributed greatly to its anthropological program. She has taught classes on psychology, genocide, ethnographic film, and many anthropology and psychology-related courses. Many of her dedicated students and peers joined in on the night to celebrate her achievements at AUK. The night was very emotional as many of her students and social science colleagues gave speeches about Dr. Casey and how she has impacted them on a professional and personal level.

The dinner was organized by the executive committee of Pi Gamma Mu, Abdulaziz Al-Mosallam (President), Farah Al-Shamali (Vice President), Nada Al-Hudaib (Secretary/Treasurer) as well as Professor Christopher Ohan, AUK alumna, Noura



Al-Alewi and many others. The buffet was provided by Ghina Al-Mutawa for the day.

Dr. Casey was awarded the Pi Gamma Mu medal, a souvenir with her name engraved on it, a token from the SGA (presented by Norah Al-Hilaly), as well as other gifts from other professors and students. The atmosphere of the event was cozy, relaxed and reminiscent of all the times the guests of the dinner had had with Dr. Casey. However, the night was also full of humor as a student of Dr. Casey's, Faye Al-

Obaid, entertained the guests and Dr. Casey with her funny speech and gave everyone at the dinner a good laugh.

Dr. Casey will be missed by all of us and the purpose of hosting the dinner in her honor was to show her that there are many professors, students and alumni who deeply appreciate and respect her, which was greatly accomplished and proven. Special thanks to the president, vice president, secretary and advisor of Pi Gamma Mu as well as the other students such as Noura Al-

Alewi and Ghina Al-Mutawa for contributing to the preparation of the dinner. Deep thanks goes to the SGA for the award they presented to Dr. Casey and to all the guests who enjoyed the night and united with Pi Gamma Mu to make this dinner a success. And successful it was.

Finally, the most sincere thanks goes to the star of the night: Dr. Casey. She has taught us a lot about anthropology throughout her four years at AUK. Her genuine teaching of this discipline to the students was the reason that many students did want to enroll in her classes. She is a dedicated anthropologist and humanitarian, and is one who respects people from all cultures, religions, and races. She will not be forgotten by her devoted peers and students and her absence will be keenly felt by all those who love and respect her. We wish her the best in her scholarly future and hope her path will be as successful as she wants it to be. She has given much to AUK and it is time, we as a whole, thank her for all that she has given.

Remembering Gaza



By Farah Al-Shamali

The year of 2008 did not end on "peaceful" terms. In fact, there is never really a moment of peace in the world. Rape, torture, murder, injustice, and all kinds of atrocities happen on a daily basis and it is often difficult to realize that there are many social obstacles that bar us from raising our voices and influencing decision makers that are capable of changing the current regional status quo.

On December 27th, 2008, the State of Israel began a ruthless military campaign on the Gaza Strip. No mercy was shown at all as hundreds of men, women, and children fell victim to these heinous acts of aggression. As ordi-

nary citizens, we do not have the necessary resources to influence states. Therefore, we do what we can by collecting donations and expressing ourselves through media outlets. It may not be much but it is something.

The SGA organized an event entitled 'Save Gaza' that hosted renowned Kuwaiti personalities, Mohammad Al-Awadhi and Ebrahim Al-Muhannae, a Palestinian news reporter who has been touring the region, a representative of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS), poetry reading, and a Palestinian Band that sang songs of nostalgia and patriotism

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Paradigm Shift in Project Management

By Emad G. Salamah

Two AUK students, Emad Salamah and Dina El-Zohairy, had the unique opportunity to participate in the conference “Dawn of a New Era: Paradigm Shift in Project Management” that took place at the Gulf Hotel, Manama, Bahrain, from 27th – 29th January, 2009. The conference was hosted by the Project Management Institute - Arabian Gulf Chapter (PMI-AGC).

The theme was carefully chosen to reflect the need to do things more innovatively in light of the huge opportunities and challenges for projects in the region. According to the program overview, the event served as “a forum for project management practitioners, engineers, planners, academicians, and management to interact, share their experiences, improve their knowledge and showcase their projects and best practices.”

The trip was fully sponsored by the Oil Development Company, one of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation’s ten subsidiaries. Three students from GUST, Hind Al-Amiri, Nadeen Al-Rushaid, and Hamad Humoud, formed the rest of the group of students who were accompanied by Mr. Abdulhamid Khajah. All stayed at the Crowne Plaza, a ten-minute drive away from the Gulf Hotel.

Day 1 consisted of the opening ceremony, which the students missed due to a delay in the flight. They arrived in time for the last keynote addresses and the serving of dinner to conclude the evening.

Day 2 was the longest and busiest day, starting at 8:30 am and lasting beyond 6 pm. 12 technical presentations in parallel tracks were spread across the day and the conference participants swiftly moved out of one hall and into another to make it to their preferred topic.

The topics addressed in the conference revolved around how project management and execution take place among current economic and financial situations. Project Portfolio



Management (PPM) is a key method used to ensure the organizing of requests and the management of work within a strategic context are mapped onto the needs of the organization. PPM entails increased visibility into spending, more transparency on selection, reduction of costs, risk management, and agility facilitation that enables businesses to make use of the resources they have. In the absence of PPM, incentives are poorly linked to strategy with little motivation to stick to core business procedures, understanding strategy levels are low, there is little discussion of true strategy and budgets are poorly linked to it.

Another issue that was elaborated upon during the conference was the degree to which Islamic banks were affected by the financial crisis and the availability of financial resources to help achieve flexibility in business operations. It was mentioned that Islamic banks currently have more available cash than do western banks, and that they haven’t been affected as seriously by the financial crisis as they don’t use interest rates to determine their cash flows. Instead, they charge fees, and they don’t allow for the resale of debts. The speakers on this topic also stressed the importance of purchasing future raw materials and resources from now to prevent adverse effects resulting from changes in prices.

As for the financial crisis and the economy in the Gulf region, it was expressed that people are

reacting to the crisis based on expectations and fear, and not based on supply and demand for resources. Also, with China’s strong demand of oil, oil prices are still in the safe range. However, the crisis is causing a drying up of lending in bulk; therefore, as a recommendation it was emphasized that owners should rationalize project costs and not rely solely on banks. This would allow for financial flexibility. Furthermore, the cost of having skilled labor is high, and therefore businesses need to choose between either cutting labor costs through downsizing and keeping low skilled labor that will need training and other enhancement methods to re-build human capital, or keeping high skilled labor at a large cost. Hence, a coordinated effort is needed to keep some workforce. A good example is, instead of having IT technologies and software supplied from an outside source, have them produced and used internally. This would allow for a more customized use of technologies and a reduction in costs.

Day 3 included a closing ceremony with a raffle draw for prizes such as laptops, mobile phones and much more. Emad and Dina would like to extend their fullest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Hashim Al-Refai, Conference Chairman and CEO of ODC, for his keenness to expose students to such important events by making this trip possible, as well as Mr. Abdulhamid Khajah for his continuous support and patience.

More Than Meets the Eye



By Farah Al-Shamali

On 10th January, 2009, the Marketing Club hosted the second annual Car Boot Sale in the AUK parking lot. As I was there from the very early hours when everything was being set up, it was noticeable that time and effort had been put into it. Members of the Marketing Club were ready to assist vendors by providing tables, chairs, and wire extensions. When the products to be sold were neatly visible to customers, the Car Boot Sale had officially commenced.

The variety of items available was so vast that it would be impossible to name them all—ranging from cosmetics, clothes, and jewelry to games, magazines, books, and edibles, even going as far as selling animals! One of the many accomplishments by the Marketing Club related to this event was the amount of advertising that had been done to attract potential customers outside of AUK. At the

height of day, the AUK parking lot transformed into a bustling bazaar of buyers and sellers. With music blaring from all directions, the Car Boot Sale was both a recreational and productive event.

Other than having individual students sell products, AUK clubs and organizations and new small businesses also had the opportunity to market themselves. This was a great opportunity for students at AUK to familiarize themselves with the various clubs and organizations on campus. I also caught a glimpse of a few recently begun businesses that may have decided to participate in the Car Boot Sale to determine either the success or failure of their products and services in the real world. In fact, it is exciting to think that non-AUK entities were interested in participating. This clearly signifies how important this event is and how crucial it is for it to become a tradition at AUK.

Furthermore, the Car Boot Sale

is an excellent prospect for students at AUK majoring in marketing, accounting, and finance. In fact, it is perfect for anyone wishing to improve upon their business skills. What better way to do so than apply those skills in real life situations? Especially within the realm of business administration, it is difficult to comprehend all that is entailed without experiencing it first-hand. Also, it is important that buyers be cordial, customers eager to buy, and both willing to compromise and negotiate a fair price. In more ways than one, the Car Boot Sale allows possible entrepreneurs to get a feel of how a business is really conducted.

Aside from that, it is safe to say that the Car Boot Sale was an event for all. What helped to make this so was the fact that prices were very reasonable—items were affordable. Many members of the cleaning and janitorial staff at AUK visited the Car Boot Sale and I was happy to see that they enjoyed themselves as well the products they bought. It was an event for all.

Frankly speaking, Kuwait, and not AUK, needs more of events related to the promotion of small businesses. In a world where monopolization by big business has become a frightening trend, it is suffocating for small businesses to see the light of day. By giving them a point from which to start, they could build more of a foundation and be well on their way to competing with business tycoons in a decade or so.

Remembering Gaza, from pg. 1

towards Palestine and the Dome of the Rock. Essa Al-Bloushy, SGA’s Public Relations officer hosted the event and Norah Al-Hilaly, SGA President ended it with closing remarks encouraging students to continue to donate in support of the people of Gaza.

Nizar Mishal, President of the Cooperation Club, offered to serve as AUK’s representative during the event. He spoke with erupting passion and fury about Gaza and

addressed his statements to Arab leaders and Israeli officials. In his speech, Nizar called for what many of us wish to see happen: an awakening to the massacres and the gross violation of human rights that occur in Palestine. We can only hope that these calls are one day heard and acted upon. The NUKS representative gave a brief overview of how the various colleges of Kuwait University have raised thousands of dinars

in donations to be sent to Gaza to alleviate the pain experienced by its inhabitants. Mohammad Al-Awadhi and Ebrahim Al-Muhanna commended SGA for organizing a rally in support of Gaza. With figurative language, they moved the audience. SGA had dedicated an entire week to selling Palestinian merchandise and collecting donations to be sent to Gaza. They succeeded in raising well over 1,600 KD.

Trojan Women, from pg. 1

We do observe inhumane disasters and wars that are very much parallel to the ‘old’ history. Do we not? Parallel, in terms of how woman can be easily beaten emotionally and exploited in her weakest points, yet she is victorious in the end. It is very difficult to categorise ‘old’ history from ‘recent’ history, since the very essence of the congruence is vivid while the layered difference is vague.

Now, back to AUK of 2009! The actresses performing to audiences over four consecutive nights at AUK’s Black Box Studio were unable to fail to live that moment; that paradoxically old, yet modern moment. They were able, on the other hand, to share the secretive feminine instincts ingrained in each soul. Their revival of some scenes of *Trojan Women* reminded the actresses of how worthy it is to feel for other weak women out there, whether in 415BCE, 680CE, or even

2009. These women live with us spiritually, if not physically.

I would like to take this opportunity to describe the co-operative, family-like teams that made such an experience possible. As for the acting team, consisting of Sukaina Ibraheem as Hecuba, who had to deal with constant misery throughout the entire play; Faten al-Kaderi as Andromache who successfully drew out deep emotional responses from the audience; Nur el-Huda Abdelhalim, who played the challenging role of being out of her “real” self by role-playing the insane Cassandra; and Mona K Hussein, portraying Helen as the typical, spoiled woman we observe nowadays, yet making us realise how old the character is. Furthermore, the six women of the chorus were triumphant not just in acting, but also in deeply role-playing the tragic surrounding women of Troy.

Backstage were the worried

production teams. Each team (Costumes, PR & Marketing, Lighting, Sets & Props) as well as the Stage Manager Dana Shamlawi and Production Lead Salma Al-Mishwat were anxious as to how well they had prepared the actresses. Dead silent in analysis, each pair of eyes bulged at the realistic stage...as if a pall had fallen over the room. For my own part, when I saw the performance of the first night, I examined each actress as if I hadn’t seen the rehearsals in advance whatsoever. It was an entirely newborn performance to me.

The question “did they really exemplify the spirit of the suffering women through history?” is verbally unanswerable, because they were successful enough to physically narrate a story and emotionally chain the knowledgeable to the ignorant. The women taught us that history repeats itself...it is ‘blindly radiant.’

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Brief Insights on the Road Yet to Be Traveled

By Nur Soliman

For someone who had virtually no experience in the way of economics, business, or politics, the Arab Social and Economic Development Forum, held 17th and 18th January 2009, actually proved to be a fascinating experience. The forum preceded the summit, which was held from 19th – 20th January for the first time in Kuwait, and was attended by representatives of the 22 Arab states, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Arab League Secretary General ‘Amr Moussa, as well as representatives from different international developmental organizations such as the World Bank, OPEC, and OFID.

As with any other international forum, the elegant, luxuriously furnished Arraya Ballroom of the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Kuwait City’s fine business centre was filled with hurrying photographers, busy journalists laden with notebooks and microphones, pulling cameramen behind them, and men and women, in dark suits, *dishdashas*, or traditional national costumes. They had come from all corners of the Arab world, from within Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, from Egypt to Syria, Sudan to the Comoros, from Lebanon to Morocco, Libya to Tunisia. They, along with representatives of local or regional branches of research and development groups, had all arrived to reach an under-

standing of the Arab world’s position on the global economic crisis, the economic development of the Arab world, in terms of jobs, employment, education, health, energy, and natural resources, and to reach definite points of agreement on the ceaseless attacks on Gaza that had been taking place for over a fortnight.

‘Amr Moussa stressed the importance of the summit in his



opening remarks, saying that it had been a whole year since the summit was conceived, and stressed the value of creating of an Arab “economic bloc” which would aid member nations in bringing different communities back to their feet, and work on successful developmental projects. He also remarked that the summit would be an ideal beginning point during which the representatives of the countries would form a uni-

fied bloc of opinion to resolve the then-mounting attacks on Gaza. For example, the presidents of Syria, of Egypt, and Kuwait’s Amir, among others, stressed the importance of resolving the Gaza issue with Israel, while UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon asserted that both Hamas and Israel should put an end to further attacks and violence. Other heads of state also presented lengthy,

informative speeches on other pressing regional issues, all of which were well-received.

The first two days were devoted to speeches presented by representatives of various organizations, banks, and institutions, such as Ms. Daniella Gressani, VP of the MENA Regional Offices of the World Bank, Dr. Kemal Darwish of UNDP, Dr. Anjilani of the Tunisian Union for Manufacturing, Trading, and Traditional Industry.

Thoroughly researched working papers were presented on topics like “The International Economic Crisis,” “Trade and Investment,” “Food Security in the Arab World and Agricultural Policies,” “Energy,” “Transport,” “Water Scarcity and Climate Change,” “Education and Science,” “Arab Youth, Employment, Immigration.” The final two days consisted of the heads of state and the esteemed



Ban Ki-Moon and ‘Amr Moussa delivering their speeches on the unity of the Arab countries in the sense of their working towards the resolution of the Gaza conflict, of unity in an economic bloc, among other pressing issues.

The speakers, as well as many of their listeners, were dedicated individuals representing organizations that devoted energy and effort to developing programs in the Arab world to combat is-

suces that affect us all, from the environmental to the economical to the educational. Scientific researchers from KISR, from Kuwait’s Ministry of Agriculture and Investment, and delegates from other non-profit organizations filled the auditorium and the exhibition hall eagerly searching for publications, reports, and papers that the World Bank, OPEC, and OFID had published on envi-

ronment, gender, health, energy, natural resources, and so on, and engaging in serious, interesting conversation with the delegates. As a volunteer at the World Bank stand, I witnessed the honest dedication and enthusiasm of so many different people from the very farthest ends of the Arab world and from our own peninsula so eager to make changes, some of these impressive, some only minor, but all with the goal of boosting up the

economy and resources, and aiding the people of these nations.

Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, president of the World Bank Group, made the following remarks on the penultimate day of the Summit: “The Arab World must be part of this global response to crisis. It is a region rich in natural resources, but more importantly in history, culture, and human potential. It is a region that can—and should—play a larger role in the global economy. This is necessary if the Arab World is to offer greater opportunities to its own citizens—especially young people. But it is also necessary if international partners are to make progress on shared challenges, from assisting fragile and post-conflict states, to promoting peace, to addressing climate change.”

That push is what the Arab world needs to get back on its feet, and for governments to wake up to an urgent discourse of change and improvement, to immediately make the most of its population, its promising citizens, and its own rich lands and resources. The way Mr. Zoellick puts it, it does not seem too implausible that the Arab world will participate actively as a member of the larger global community in reaching out and making a difference. Let’s hope that the changes get out of thick, colorful, and glossy reports into the streets and fields of Arab nations in the near future.

Bacharach on Conserving Middle Eastern Cultures

By Nur Soliman

When it comes to on-campus lectures, I always half-expect that a lecture on Islamic art history and the conservation of Middle Eastern cultures would usually draw a small, though dedicated crowd. Late afternoon of 25th January 2009, I was very much mistaken: Professor Bacharach, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Washington, spoke to an audience far larger than expected, with class-sized groups of students from our Islamic art history and Anthropology classes, and enthusiastic students and faculty members alike, including a previous student of Professor Bacharach, our visiting Associate Professor of History, Dr. Gholamreza Vatandoust. Hosted by the Gulf Studies Center and introduced by the Director of the GSC, Professor Hesham Al-Awadi, Prof. Jere Bacharach was very well received. Everyone in the audience displayed evident interest and pleasure in listening to Prof. Bacharach deliver his lecture on “Conserving Middle Eastern Cultures and National Heritage.”

Prof. Bacharach began with a description of how different the approach towards heritage, architecture, and cultural/artistic products was in the 19th century, when the attitude was generally that of “looting or stealing” precious, attractive objects or fragmented architectural units from Egypt, Mesopotamia, Iran, and the Levant, taking them back to Europe and the United States to be “put in museums” without any consequence or particular heed to

the way that the soundness of the area of origin was being neglected or destroyed. The later approach, particularly that of the earlier 20th century, was to restore neglected historic buildings, but then leave them to crumble away again in the decades to come. Finally, the 21st century brought about something of a revolution in the way people thought about and dealt with heritage, architecture, and historical objects.

Here, Prof. Bacharach stressed that this new way of thinking about heritage and historic con-



servation had to be delivered to and understood by the younger people, among others, of Kuwait and the rest of the Middle East. They had to understand, in their present time, the ability to preserve their past and thereby strengthen their own present reality and situation. All of this was to be realized through Prof. Bacharach’s compelling plan of action.

The five steps stated that one had to “research and figure out exactly what you want to do” when it comes to a historical site and so on, and come up with the

complete plan of action that anticipates all future steps in the process, then “document the current status of the place and the things there, with photographers, scientists, engineers, researchers,” and so on, so that one has as much information as possible as to what the place is like prior to action. The third step is to enforce “minimum intervention.” This is a crucial point for the 21st century, since in some parts of the world, until today, the approach to restoration is often fiercely scrubbing clean metal objects so that

the patina and rust is removed, or application of fresh paint to older buildings patched up with some thick cement. Although this restores some of the object’s or site’s original beauty to a degree, it also defeats the purpose of keeping something precisely as it stands, and risks altering its natural course of development. The fourth step consists of learning whether one can “reverse any of those procedures,” since sometimes the technology or resources used in restoring or strengthening part of a site might begin to corrode or damage it in the long run,

and one would need to remove as much of it as possible. The last step is the newest part of this recent way of thinking, and this posed the question “how do you use the restored building once you’ve finished it?” This question, Prof. Bacharach stressed, comes in tandem with the first plan of action, since one needs to know the fate of the restored building and how it will be presented to the public so that it is guaranteed a secure, well-preserved future.

Part of the new work that these



scholars and archaeologists do also includes documentation of their new finds or newly restored objects, resulting in the need to catalogue and categorize. Because publishing heavy volumes on objects is costly and not necessarily popular outside the small circle of museum staff, collectors, and scholars, a way to make it more accessible to the general public is through the Internet. Prof. Bacharach gave the example of the “Complete Catalog [Sylloge] of the Glass Weights, Vessel Stamps, and Ring Weights in the Gayer-Anderson Museum,

Cairo (Bayt al-Kritiliyya),” an online catalogue of some 6, 500 various glass coin weights, ring weights, and vessel stamps that abound all over Egypt and Syria. Scholars and interested students can now look up the objects, with detailed colour photographs, and information on provenance, date, inscription, size, and so on, in a way not possible before. Bacharach also mentioned the “Digital Catalogue of Islamic Coins in Egypt: 1890 – 1975” and the Bait al-Kritiliyya database, both of which make readily acces-

sible information otherwise difficult to obtain. Bacharach expressed hope that more Middle Eastern museums adopt similar approaches. One example of the new approach given by Prof. Bacharach was the site of Abydos, south of Cairo, close to the meandering Nile River. Here stand the magnificent, overwhelming ruins of a huge wall, fortification, dating back 5,000 years and attributed to Khasekhemwy, who ruled during the 1st Pharaonic dynasty. This monument, the largest standing ancient monument of its scale, was to be the site of a shrine to bury the rulers of the first and second dynasties. Instead, Khasekhemwy’s son decided to move north to Saqqara, near today’s Cairo, where the very first stepped pyramid was constructed. At any rate, the huge enclosure was framed by thick walls of sun-dried mud-bricks, with remnants of temple or palace designs. Cavities in the base of the walls were dug out by Christian hermits looking for places to meditate. Because the mud walls were packed with straw, bees were attracted to abandoned hollows and crevices to make hives. 21st century restorers visited Abydos and made sun-dried mud bricks in the traditional manner. Of course, minimal intervention was required, especially for the door and gateway which needed to be strengthened so as to survive. Also, plastic matter replaced the packing straw so as to prevent any more intervention from bees.

Particularly impressive were Bacharach’s clear love of the subject and his conviction of its importance, as well as his very open, impromptu manner of speaking. Walking about the front of the auditorium without a microphone, and freely gesturing with his hands, Prof. Bacharach attracted attention with his fine humor, clear enthusiasm and eloquence.

Prof. Bacharach succeeded in making us all realize the importance of heritage, and the intelligent care and documentation that we need to undertake if we are to preserve national historic sites.

Proustian Music: Eugene Ysaye Honored at the SAS

By Nur Soliman

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the pieces performed by Olga Guy on violin and Luc Devos on piano were nothing short of perfect, and that Marcel Proust could easily have had famed Belgian violinist and composer Eugene Ysaye (1858 – 1931) in mind when he described, early on in “Swann in Love” of *Remembrance of Things Past*, Vinteuil’s *andante* movement of a sonata for piano and violin. I say this on account of how the music tapped into an eternal, age-old essence of musical expression and of human feeling, in a performance that affected listeners in a way unlike any other concert at the Radisson SAS. This special chamber concert of the 30th of January was dedicated to Eugene Ysaye—pronounced *ižayi*—on his 150th birthday, and was organized with the honorary patronage of the Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait, H. E. Gilles Heyvaert, who explained in charming, heavily Belgian-accented English that “we are happy to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the great Belgian composer, [making a] habit for me to promote friendship and peace through music, with these fantastic young musicians who will play a tribute to Ysaye.”

This concert, the first for the Kuwait Chamber Philharmonic in 2009, was well-attended by familiar faces of Kuwait’s music-lovers’ circle, lovers of Classical music, teachers, as well as the usual diplomats from various countries. What was *not* familiar about the concert, though, was the nature of the pieces selected for the repertoire—lesser known pieces by Debussy, Chausson, Saint-Sans, Cesar Franck, and of course, compositions by Eugene Ysaye himself. These were composers whom Ysaye had striven to make better known and appreciated in his home country and who had in turn composed marvelous pieces dedicated to him or in honor of his marriage, and so on, paying tribute to the man whom violinist and student Natan Milstein called “The Tsar of the violin.” I had never heard of Ysaye before, but early on in the evening, I was very glad I had come to know him, a great composer in whose name great works were dedicated. Judging from their performance, the two musicians did great justice to Ysaye. Guy proved a wonder on stage, a real “little Menuhin” as she was called, her spare figure ris-



ing on tip-toe as she performed with an intensity and a marvelously fluid ease that captivated her audience. Devos, an equally accomplished Brussels pianist, also kept us rapt listening to his fluctuating, emotionally light scales and flawless harmonies.

The first piece, Claude Debussy’s *Sonata for violin and piano*, dedicated to Ysaye, impressed us from the onset of the performance with the unusual dynamics between violin and piano, where the soft, gentle touch of the piano keys coincided brilliantly with the rushing, plaintive melodies of the violin, almost tinged with the echoes of Michael Nyman and George Winston for its poignant, rather modern elegance. Guy’s fragile arm rose and fell with her bow in perfect ease in the second movement, “Intermede Fantastique et Leger,” an astonishing amount of energy reverberating through the beautiful poetic melody with Devos echoing her with the graceful weight of his ivory keys.

Chausson’s *Poème* was even lovelier. The gentle chords of the mellifluous piano echoed sensitively the slow, almost tragic notes that Guy drew from her

violin, with Celtic—or Breton—strains, where suddenly, Devos shifted to a more earnest tone, a lovely, melodic tone, with harder, more intense notes that introduced Guy’s breathtaking little phrases, a remarkable bumble-bee like rushing of scales, a very passionate phrase that she executed without flaw, making it sound like she was playing two instruments.

Saint-Saën’s *Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso* had typical, anticipated rhythms or melodic phrases, transformed into a profound melody, a theatric soliloquy in its poignancy and its joy, recalling Swann’s evenings at the Verdurin’s, accompanied by Devos’ talented hand, the high, staccato chords mingling with her own notes.

Guy then played a solo, the first Ysaye composition, *Sonata No. 3, Ballade*. This was more abstract, almost like 19th century Philip Glass, Guy all alone as the single sound of her violin resonated in the hall, now soft, deep, and intense, now accelerated with the brilliance of Vivaldi in minor, and then like a warm, gentle country ballad, a field melody. Devos respond-

ed in kind, performing a beautiful Chopin’s *Nocturne* which fluctuated from Chopinesque melancholia to beautiful cheeriness, higher keys tripping over deep chords. They resumed their duet with Ysaye, dedicated to Carry, his daughter. *Les Neige D’Antan* showed Devos’ delicate, rippling staccato notes, evocative of falling snow, while Guy’s violin was evocative of childhood memories of early snow, punctuated with happy, flourishing trills.

The final sonata, dedicated to Ysaye on his marriage, was by Cesar Franck, a real *tour de force* with which to end the evening. It was not just a symphonic poem relating stages of married life, but it seemed as though it spoke to stages in any ordinary life, with a cheery, light *Allegro moderato*, the sparkling, bright elegance of Guy’s melody coinciding with the rustling, deep chords of the piano running fluidly. What was remarkable about this Franck piece was the call and response of the incredibly beautiful, poignant melody, from the longing of Guy to the quiet of Devos. Her ringing tone lifted his deeper one. It was theatrically melancholy, the plaintive cry of the violin rising ever higher, so high it was inaudible, while the piano continued to escalate softly, gliding along with sensitive, deep notes, his harmony immediately touching. It had the audience captivated, so much so that my notes barely made sense as I scrawled them quickly. In the very end, I gave up writing notes altogether to simply enjoy the music.

For Proust’s M. Swann, Vinteuil’s sonata, “with a slow and rhythmical movement ... led him here, there, everywhere, towards a state of happiness noble, unintelligible, yet clearly indicated. And then, suddenly ... it changed its direction, and in a fresh movement, more rapid, multiform, melancholy, incessant, sweet, it bore him off with it towards a vista of joys unknown.” Similar feelings coursed through the audience, including myself and my companions, speechless with the thrill of it for the remainder of the evening. It is not often with the KCP that one feels so elated, as beautiful as the music is, simply because occasionally the concerts becomes an overt movement of positive image marketing among sophisticated, well-dressed diplomats, but not on this night. Let’s hope that the next concert will be just as rewarding.

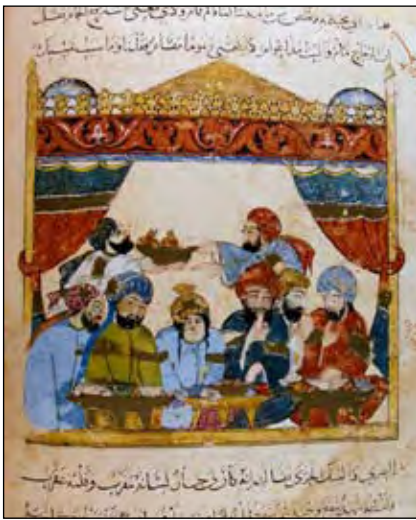
Image and Genre in Medieval Arabic Manuscripts

Nur Soliman

It is always an interesting experience to finally get to see the author of articles and book chapters you’ve read, annotated, and discussed in classes. Sometimes, it may prove a perfect delight, while other times, it may be a little disappointing. For several members of the Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah audience, including the reviewer’s colleagues, students of Prof. O’Meara’s Art385, “Art of the Persian Book,” listening to David J. Roxburgh, the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History at Harvard University, was a mixture of both. While the lecturer’s erudition and knowledge was unmistakable, Prof. Roxburgh delivered his lecture in a way that left even an earnest, careful listener a little bewildered.

The subject of the talk, on the eve of 5th January 2009, was “Image and Genre in Medieval Arabic manuscripts,” with a particular focus on the *maqamat* composed by Al-Hariri in the late 11th – early 12th century, especially the manuscripts illustrated by calligrapher and painter Yahya Al-Wasiti. This manuscript is now in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and Prof. Roxburgh put up some excellent reproductions of the illustrations to help illuminate his talk. The case study of the *maqamat* of Al-Hariri that was the focus of the evening’s talk was but one of many sections of Roxburgh’s upcoming book on the subject, although it took the audience a while to realize this.

The *maqamat* as a genre are brilliant feats of language and literature, making them some of the outstanding masterpieces of medieval Arabic



literature. In a discussion of everyday life and the almost Pickwickian adventures of Ibn Harith and Abu Zayd, Al-Hariri weaves into his rhyming prose complex metaphors and imagery, as obscure and sophisticated as the wily, Alfred Jingle-like trickster of 1230’s Abbasid Baghdad. The charming and clever recounting of such tales was appreciated, though what was not particularly well-received was the absence of any explicit connection to the thesis of the lecture.

After refuting the opinion of Richard Ettinghausen who treats the manuscript illustrations as nothing more than pictures to accompany the text, Roxburgh introduced his thesis that we need the paintings to clarify our understanding of the text; the succession of paintings through the book highlights the subtler themes of the stories. An examination of visual features supports this thesis. Strong, basic profiling of faces, characteristic, recognizable gestures of anger, surprise, supplication, ground



lines indicating the earth, bright, polychrome color schemes, basic positions of sitting and standing, animated bodies, particularly those of the illustrated speaker and audience, all lend more significant meaning, rather than being only visually pleasing.

Suddenly, the aesthetic in these Arab paintings was an intelligent one that made use of the inextricable link between word and image. The elements of the paintings made indirect reference to concepts at play in Abu Zayd’s discourse, fluctuating between the certain and the uncertain, truth and illusion, knowing or identification and the lack thereof, and—one particularly interesting point—the dynamic relationship between transparency, opacity, light and darkness in regards to truth and deception.

Let us take the final *maqama* retold by Prof. Roxburgh, the 18th in the sequence, set in a stop during a caravan journey from Damascus to Baghdad, fortuitously the final story since it re-



markably brought to light exactly what it was Prof. Roxburgh had taken well over 45 minutes to explain. Abu Zayd and Ibn Al-Hariri both attend a wedding where their caravan stops. Suddenly, in viewing the series of paintings, one realizes that Al-Wasiti has very clearly and vividly depicted the scene as it was—and as it was not. During the course of the celebrations, a beautiful glass bowl was presented, filled with “perfumed comfits with the scent of tasneem.” Abu Zayd then leaps up and attempts to flee the wedding. When asked for an explanation, Abu Zayd says he cannot eat anything in such a transparent vessel as it recalls the tragedy when he revealed his beautiful, delicate beloved to a friend who then tempted the young girl away, now exposed and away from the hidden obscurity that was Abu Zayd’s home. To appease the man, the father of the bride disposed of the bowl, compensating Abu Zayd with a precious metal tray with which to return home, only

to gloat over his victory in once more duping his crowd.

Prof. Roxburgh did a remarkable job of forcing us to challenge limits we had established on the relation between illustration and text, of the content of a painting versus its ontological meaning and versus the visual elements that make it up. We saw how, through only illustrating stops in the stories where we knew as much and as little as Ibn Al-Hariri about the mysterious Abu Zayd, the illustrations picked up on truth and deception, opacity and transparency, veracity and illusion, obscurity and unveiling, anonymity and identity, and so on. They show us “what is meant to be real” but not quite, making them a visual “extension and resonance” of the text.

One wished Prof. Roxburgh had devoted at least half the lecture to the same subject, and explored the fascinating new ideas further. He could also have expanded on the comparison between the paintings and contemporary shadow-theatre, which he mentioned in the lecture. Also, it would have been good for him to explore in even greater depth the composition of the paintings in a way similar to his work with Persianate miniatures that we had studied and discussed. But perhaps Prof. Roxburgh was aiding us to understand the basics of a preliminary study with which he intended to conjure up something as insightful and thought-provoking as his article ‘Micrographia,’ or his book, *Prefacing the Image*. In a year or so then, with the publication of the book he announced during the lecture, we all have the answers to all our questions, and perhaps more.

Coffee's Conquest of Public Space

By Nur Soliman

On the coffeehouse, Turkish historian Pecevi wrote in the 1630's that there is "no place like it for pleasure and relaxation." Switch medieval Istanbul coffeehouse for downtown Kuwait Starbucks, and one would not be too far off. One would have to go a little back into the season to remember how many times a lecturer incited such genuine laughter and quiet remarks of surprise—even excitement—with his or her subject. On the subject of "Coffee and the Conquest of the Night in the Early Modern Era: From Yemen to Istanbul to London," Dr. Cemal Kafadar, the well-known Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies in the History Department of Harvard University, and Director of their CMES (Centre for Middle Eastern Studies) from 1999 to 2004, intellectually excited his eager audience with a new, critically thought-out commentary. At the same time, he amused them with anecdotes they could relate to on the topic of coffee and coffeehouses being an accompaniment to medieval phenomena that challenged notions of sociability, and enlarged public spaces and forums. Among the members of the evening's audience, one could easily note several AUK faculty members and new, interested students who have begun to make their way to the Dar.

Author of "Rebels Without a Cause? Janissaries and Other Riff-raff of Ottoman Istanbul," a work praised for its easy, fluid delivery and fresh, engaging dialogue with the reader on this unique class of Ottoman citizens, Dr. Kafadar encouraged his audience, through his lecture, to look back on history while stretching wide the limits of thought and different fields and phenomena, truly looking at the subject from multiple dimensions. He did all this with an easy flair and charming expression, quoting easily from important anthropological texts or 17th century Ottoman sources, while lecturing to the audience with an eloquence that lent itself well to his clear enthusiasm and love for the subject. The audience was more than usually receptive to the lecture, and several murmured in surprise or amazement at what Dr. Kafadar had to say. Laughter too rippled frequently through the crowd as they listened eagerly to the story of what has now become so important in many of our lives: coffee, Turkish or otherwise. But what was brilliant about Dr. Kafadar's lecture was that it was not simply the story of coffee, but also on the phenomenon of early modernization that spread over the medieval world in the most fascinating ways, branching out into trade, economics, art, crafts, and in our case, "social beverages." The institutionalization of the coffeehouse in cities across Anatolia, the Balkans, Arabia, and even Europe, accompanied the move towards the socialization and opening of public spaces, and the democratization of these same spaces. Dr. Kafadar quoted great French historian Fernand Braudel as saying "there is a danger that the history of coffee may lead us astray. The anecdotal, the picturesque, and the unreliable play an enormous part in it." He then ex-



plained that bearing this in mind, "social beverages" are not often taken very seriously. Instead, Dr. Kafadar proposed that he would demonstrate that the history of coffee is "fun," entertaining, "but will also open windows" for us in thinking about "cross-regional dynamics of society, culture, economy, and so on."

Dr. Kafadar began with a slide showing a Turkish miniature painting, a delightfully coloured, crowded painting completed in the 1580s and housed in the Chester-Beatty Library. It was an illustration of the activities at a medieval coffeehouse, or kahvehane, with men in colorful costumes and turbans holding porcelain cups of coffee to their lips, or to one side as they read from books, or bent over a wooden board for a game of backgammon. Later on in the lecture, Dr. Kafadar noted that red smears on the large white turbans of certain men represented the roses or carnations which were inserted into the folds of the turban of the elite. This indicated that along with the "pleasure-seekers, idlers, literati and men of letters," richer more noble men would also frequent the coffeehouse. He would later also demonstrate that men of all ethnicities, religions, and classes would spend hours in these coffeehouses.

In 1554, during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent, two Syrian merchants by the names of Hakm and Shams from Aleppo and Damascus, respectively, opened up their first shops in the district of Taht-i-Qal'aa ('Beneath-the-Citadel') of Istanbul. Quoting at length from Pecevi, a Turkish historian of the 1630's, Dr. Kafadar described the daily, everyday scene at a coffeehouse in 17th century Istanbul: "These shops became meeting places of a circle of pleasure seekers and idlers, and also of some wits from among the men of letters and literati, and they used to meet in groups of 20 or 30. Some read books and fine writings; some were busy with backgammon and chess; some brought new poems and talked of literature. Those who used to spend a good deal of money on giving dinners for the sake of convivial entertainment, found that they could attain the joys of conviviality merely by spending an asper or two on the price of coffee." It is in this love of sharing conversation, of providing a public literary forum, and a place for entertainment, as well as a milieu for good, friendly nights in "convivial" company, out in the public space of town square, port city, and elsewhere. Of course, with the introduction of coffee and the wild spread of



its popularity, resulting in hundreds of coffeehouses in Istanbul alone, there began to emerge a dissenting voice to this marvelous drink. In the time of Sultan Murad III, pious 'ulama and other figures protested that coffeehouses were houses of "evil deeds" and that they drew people away from the mosque and so on. When coffeehouses began to spread in Europe, similar issues began cropping up with members of the church. Dr. Kafadar noted at a later stage. However, this phenomenon of coffee grew to an extent that, Pecevi writes, "Among scholars of religion, the sheikhs, the viziers, and the great, there was nobody left who did not drink it," and dignitaries would even become patrons and build coffeehouses!

This fascination with coffee eventually led to its being a companion to the major changes that came along with it, "sociability in the early modern era; secularization of public space; literary activity; novel sites for the formation and manipulation of public opinion; tensions with the authorities; coffee as a commodity, driven to significance by growing demand and supply, and the coffeehouse as an investment." It all started in Yemen, where coffee was consumed far earlier, reportedly by Sufi mystics. At the beginning of the 1500s, news reached Egypt, detailing that coffee was being drunk by these Sufi sheikhs to stay awake for "devotional practices," as they found it an aid in dispelling fatigue and bringing about a stimulating, sober effect. Al-Chadhilliy, leader of a Sufi order in Egypt, then claimed that the drink "promoted wakefulness for performance of religious devotion," all linking back to Yemen in the 14th century. Mood-altering substances like opium and alcohol were increasingly popular in the late medieval era, and coffee was one of these. The difference, though was that coffee "survived ... never having the social stigma" as associated to wine and opium, since these put their consumers into drunken, lazy stupors, while coffee was known for its stimulating effect, and thereby linked to sobriety.

Dr. Kafadar then noted that with the introduction of this new, black "social beverage," a new "trend was indeed set, as coffeehouses spread like wildfire all around the empire." He then proceeded to verbally trace the map routes of coffee as it travelled from Yemen to Cairo, and to Mecca and Medina, and then how it travelled through Syria and bilad al-Sham to Istanbul, Constantinople, and other cities of the Ottoman Empire, finally spreading over to the Balkans, Hungary, and over to

Western Europe. All over these places, coffeehouses easily became new social institutions for men.

Suddenly, Dr. Kafadar began to challenge our traditional idea of a history of coffee by suddenly making brilliant links to art, entertainment, literature, society, societal norms and traditions, as well as trade, economic industries, all leading finally to that "conquest of the night," since it is at this point in time that people found pleasure in staying up late and going out for entertainment purposes (hence the crowds at our local malls on weekend nights). He proceeded to detail how bureaucrats and politicians looked with apprehension at these coffeehouses, where news spread like wildfire, and any public opposition to governmental decisions could easily transform into revolutions and rebellions. Dr. Kafadar showed this with the aid of a beautifully done monochrome lithograph showing an Ottoman coffeehouse, and the theatric horror and dismay on men's surprised faces as they circle around one who tells of the conquest of Acre, or 'Akka.

Also, entertainment became a staple for these coffeehouses; their cherished status as forum for the public drew musicians, actors, and shadow-puppeteers. "Recitation of books, epics, romances spread over many nights like modern soap operas," flautists and violinists would play in the evening, and shadow and puppet theatres (karaköz) also entertained delighted audiences. Dr. Kafadar showed colored engravings of coffeehouses in London where art would be auctioned at the same institutions, all of these in the hope of drawing in more customers.

The advent of coffee and the coffeehouse, accompanied by the desire to socialize in these public spaces in the night, led to an exponential increase in the manufacture and consumption of candles and oil-lamps with which to illuminate one's path and with which to light the dark sky. Strings of lamps tied across minarets would cast a cheery glow on the Ramadan festivities below, which also became a popular event and memorable part of the year.

The coffee industry also brought about shifts in trade balances, the dynamics between different nations, the cost of travel over sea, and colonization. To save on expenses accrued by purchasing Ottoman coffee (otherwise known as Turkish coffee), the Dutch began growing the beans in Java and selling them back to Europe, while France proceeded to grow coffee in the West Indies and even selling that back to the Ottomans!

Dr. Kafadar truly shed light on how a simple beverage can serve as a catalyst for fascinating changes in public space, sociability, arts and entertainment, and trade, all part of the remarkable shift to modernization, suddenly becoming "part of the story of modernity ... [that] is still unfolding" for us who experience these same remarkable changes. The reviewer can safely bet that many of us paused for a moment to think before sipping our Starbucks coffee or our paper-cup of tea.

CD Reviews: The Latest in Jazz

By Nur Soliman

Two albums released this year have proved popular on the jazz and pop charts around the US and Canada, both albums by female jazz vocalists, both barely into their twenties, who have proved themselves very sophisticated and gifted young musicians on the jazz scene. These are great CDs to listen to through these cooler months to keep you warm and smiling!

Esperanza – Esperanza Spalding



This album is a real pleasure to listen to, particularly if you are not accustomed to Diana Krall's gravelly, languid vocals, and if you like your jazz mixed with R&B, pop strains, or even Brazilian beats. Esperanza's voice is light and sparkling, bubbling up when she scats to her own bass rhythms or Genovese's piano, or belting out enthusiastically in real R&B fashion, recalling the style of Aretha Franklin or even Janet Jackson. However, Esperanza goes back to her jazzy sensibilities, racing across her notes with

fluent, infectious cheer through the catchy, Brazilian percussion and the samba piano. Her "I Know You Know" is truly enjoyable, almost like if Ella Fitzgerald were still with us and picked up a few tips from a few modern vocalists; very upbeat and quick, toe-tapping tempo. The classic "Cuerpo y Alma (Body and Soul)," similar to "Precious," takes on a distinctly more Latin rhythm than Benny Goodman might have anticipated, but Esperanza takes it on with real zest and energy. Esperanza is a must for any eclectic-jazz lover.

Worrisome Heart – Melody Gardot



Where Esperanza is effervescent and cheery, Melody is soft and quiet, like a very sweet Norah Jones, without Jones' lazy, modern sway, making music critic Michael G. Nastos describe Gardot as "part sophisticated chanteuse, college sophomore, and down-home girl next door." Her gentle, unassuming soprano takes on a charmingly sweet tone in "Worrisome Heart," a sparkling, fresh song performed beautifully, the louder, more passionate "Sweet Memory" or the lovely "All I Need is Love." Some singers fall into the trap of suspiciously

pop themes, throwing in the odd saxophone motif, but not so Melody—her voice sails with confidence and true jazz sensibilities, comfortable with riotous trumpets over a 2/4 percussion beat, in an enjoyable regale of polyphonic bebop. A traumatic accident left Melody injured a few years back, forcing her to walk with a cane, wear dark-shaded glasses in sunlight, and use a device to control painful muscular spasms. Despite this, she transcended what could have been a paralyzing experience by using her vocal gift to offer us an authentic jazz repertoire.

Intelligence, Innocence, Creativity

By *Nada Al-Hudaid*

When knowledge is mixed with innocence and good manners, a unique positivity is diffused into the surroundings, affecting the living souls in it. I am happy to have seen such a blend at AUK and it gives me great pleasure to write a little about a wonderful person named Rasha Abdul Al-Najjar.

She is majoring in Graphic Design although she would like to have to majored in illustration or animation had they been offered at AUK. Her biggest dream is to work on special effects in movies, such as the *Muppets* or *Story Teller*, and work at Jim Henson's Monster workshop. Among her hobbies, drawing, writing, and playing video games are her favorite—not to mention playing with her rabbit "Hoshi the Brat"!

Although she is a wonderful young artist, she has not yet participated in exhibitions except for the ones that took place at AUK after the graphic design classes and her final GCSE Fine art class at school. She envisions herself as a master in art, and has a secret pride of her knowledge of folklore and myth.

Making a shift from the world of tools to the world of animals, Rasha has a huge passion for horse breeding farms, despite being an art-oriented person, and wishes to someday open a race



horse breeding farm and have her own race horses. Her childhood dream was to have a caravan and a gipsy pony! Out of all animals, bears are her least favorite.

To Rasha, the most important thing in life is to be comfortable, stress-free, and do things that she enjoys. Her well-done work, paintings, or problem-solving are her means and sources of satisfaction and happiness. A list of some of her artwork can be found at the following link: <http://sleyf.deviantart.com>.

Rasha's delightful, funny, kind, and intelligent personal-

ity is a blessing and a rare gift to this community because it is exceptional to have these qualities assembled in one person these days. She is a lively young woman who is full of positivity and humorous remarks that keep you smiling whenever you think of her. Her wit and intelligence can be sensed through her comments and openness to discussing anything rationally.

Through Rasha's work that can be seen online though the link provided, one can see how rich her mind is, coated with an innocent personality and an outgoing attitude. I hope this rare beauty will be preserved well because soon she will be discovered as an extraordinary talented person. Keep up the good work Rasha; your work is a reflection of your beautiful mind!

عائدة إلى غزة

بقلم عمرو سرحان

رسالة بعنوان
حرب على الإرهاب

ماذا يفيد القول؟
وأمتنا مزروع في رحمها
آلاف الحراب
أسف يا غزة
لا تسألني أين نحن
ولا تصرخي في وجهي
قد جمعت لغات الدنيا
لغات الواقع والخيال
ولم أقدر أن أجد حرفاً
يحمل في طياته الجواب

غزة تحت النار
غزة تحت الحصار
وسأقولها باختصار
نحن أمة السراب
أمة اعتزلت الكبرياء
وقبّلت بفتات الرمال
فماذا تتوقعين يا غزة؟
وكرامتنا تسيل مع كل قطرة
والعروبة تبحث عن سبيل
فأجدها.....عائدة إلى غزة

غزة تحت النار
غزة تحت الحصار
وانهيار يتلوه انهيار
وغزتنا المريضة
تبكي على الظلال
ونعواها المعلقة
على جدران بيوتنا
وجدران قلوبنا
وجدران الحرمان
وفي أسفل النعوة
توقّع وتصريح من عربي
كان لقبه.....إنسان

أرجو أن تقبلي مني
قصيدة اعتذار
فلسيت أملك طائرة
ولا سلاحاً ولا جمره نار
لا أملك سوى قلبي
و بعض الأوراق
أكتب لك.....سامحيني
فأنا منذ الصغر
ضعيف في فن الأعدار
لا أدري ما أقول
قد وصلني خبر اغتيالكَ
في رسالة من نار

غزة تحت النار
غزة تحت الحصار
ماذا تنتظرون يا أجزاء الغبار؟
غزة تحت النار
غزة تحت الحصار
ونحن نتجرع سُم الإنتظار
أيام يا غزة
ونجوم السماء تبكي
وأشجار الشتاء تبكي
وانت تنادين
هل من مزيد؟
هل من جرح جديد؟
في هذا العام الجديد
لا تحزني يا حبيبتي
فخير أمة أخرجت للناس
لن تتركك...علك تنتظرين
ألف عام جديد

غزة تحت النار
غزة تحت الحصار
شكراً للعرب الكرام
فبعضهم يندد
وبعضهم يستنكر
والبيض الآخر
كأنه لا يعرف

Computer Addiction

By *Andrea Al Adwani,*
Counselor SSC

Most students try to start each semester by putting "their best foot forward." They start new classes with new notebooks, a new day planner, and a renewed resolution to get good grades. Unfortunately, many students also start each new semester holding onto old habits that continue to interfere with academic success. One such habit that lingers from semester to semester is an over indulgence of computer time. Computer games, online chatting, downloading and then watching lots of movies or anime all can contribute to excessive computer use. If this sounds like you or someone you know, please read this short questionnaire adapted from Dr James Fearing.

- Do you ever:
1. Feel unable to stop or limit the amount of time spent on the computer?
 2. Break promises to self or others to quit or cut down on computer time?
 3. Lie about the amount of time you stay on the computer, or lie about what you are doing on the computer?
 4. Have negative consequences for self, friends, or family members as a direct result of time spent on the computer?
 5. Participate in high risk or normally unacceptable behaviors when using the computer?
 6. Feel that the computer is an important part of your life?
 7. Defend your right to use the computer as much as you want, regardless of the fact that people in your life are feeling left out and neglected?

8. Deny there is any problem and justify the amount of time you are on the computer when other people say there is a problem?
9. Have mixed feelings of euphoria (a "rush"), combined with feelings of guilt over the amount of time spent on the computer?
10. Feel depressed, irritated or anxious when something interrupts your plans to use the computer?
11. Think or talk about the computer and its activities while away from the computer?
12. Find yourself using the computer at times when you are feeling uncomfortable, irritated, or sad about something happening in your life?
13. Experience financial concerns because of money being spent on computer hardware, on-line charges, or any other costs associated with computers?

If you said yes to one question you may have a problem with computer addiction.

If you said yes to two questions, there is a good chance you do have a problem with computer addiction.

If you answered yes to three or more, you are demonstrating a pattern of behavior which would suggest that you are addicted to your computer and/or the activities on it.

Using time on the computer is one way to avoid facing what is happening in your life, and the feelings that build up inside yourself. If you want help addressing a possible computer addiction and the issues that led to an addiction, please stop by the Student Success Center on the 5th floor of the Liberal Arts Building for referral to professional counselors on or off campus.

Student Ambassadors Needed

Student ambassadors assist the University in recruitment and outreach activities. Working through the Office of Admissions and Outreach, they provide both prospective students and the community with information on AUK programs. There are eight volunteer student ambassador positions available. Volunteer work looks impressive on student's resumes and in some cases, may lead to paid positions.

Qualifications	Duties
Be a college credit, degree seeking student. Maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA with at least 9 credit hours each fall and spring term. Devote a minimum of 10 hours per week with flexibility in schedule as needed (especially during outreach events). Provide own transportation. Must portray a high level of energy and AUK spirit Be familiar with campus resources.	Assist with admissions office and outreach events Lead campus tours Contact prospective and first-time enrolled students Assist with orientation, registration, open houses and special events Promote campus service learning and volunteer opportunities Assist in marketing activities Assist in recruitment efforts Participate in college wide Ambassador trainings

To Apply: Contact Rama Sabano at 1-802040 ext 206
or stop by the Office of Admissions.

SGA's Spring Agenda

Student Government Association

The following are some of the things SGA hopes to achieve during the spring semester.

We plan to continue working on the constitution, parking problem, anti-segregation, and the general assembly (see above for further detail), among other issues. Our main emphasis will be on the General Assembly and the constitution that will leave a long term benefit for future SGAs.

To better help communicate to the students, SGA has put together a proposal to get screens around campus to post flyers, events, information, etc. We are also working on getting a PA sound system around university that will allow SGA and AUK to

make important announcements, announce prayer times, news, etc. Although these might take time to install because of the complications and technicalities, we are pushing for them as much as we can to help with communication. We plan to hold more Open Meetings, Townhall meetings, start the General Assembly and provide students with information on SGA every week through *SGA Weekly* emails.

SGA will be attending an International Student Government Conference in Rome Italy to meet with other student governments around the world to exchange SGA views and to discuss major Student Government topics. SGA hopes to also hold a local conference.

We also plan to organize Na-

tional and Liberation Day celebrations.

Upcoming Events

15th Feb: SGA presents Betaqati Discount Cards to students. (15th to 24th Feb 2009)

17th Feb: SGA at Clubs/Orgs Fair. Come learn more about SGA and find out how you can get involved.

24th Feb: National and Liberation Day Celebration

3rd Mar: Town hall Meeting

8th Mar: International Week

5th Apr: SGA Election Announcements

7th Apr: Townhall Meeting

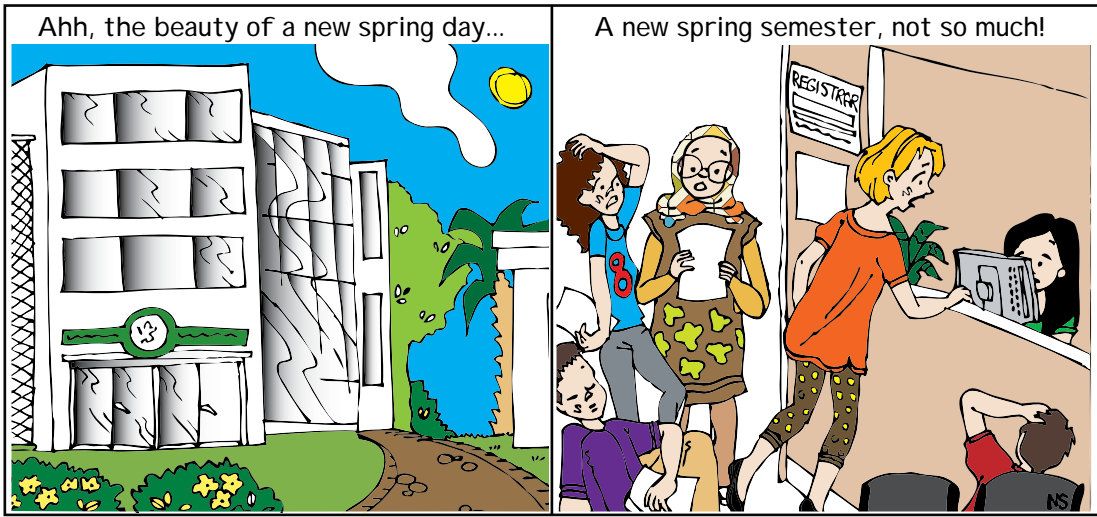
*Refer to SGA Weekly E-mails for SGA Open Meetings throughout Spring Semester.
** Dates are subject to change.
More events to be announced!
Stay tuned!

SSC Welcomes Cheryl Bunzenmeyer

Cheryl joins AUK from Canada where she earned a Masters of Social Work degree. Cheryl has worked as a therapist in a variety of clinics and hospitals as well as in private practice. She has experience working with many issues such as anxiety, anger management, social problems, family issues, addictions, learning

disabilities, family violence, and crisis intervention. She has also developed healthy lifestyle programs.

Please drop by the SSC on the 5th floor of the Liberal Arts Building to welcome Cheryl to AUK, and let her know if you would like to talk about any problems that are bothering you.



A Response to the Article "What Can SGA Do Anyway?"

By **Damian Medina**,
Director of Student Life,
Advisor to SGA

As this article was focused on a personal interview (as the advisor to SGA) regarding what SGA can do, I would like to further clarify points and better explain the American Model of Student Government. As our university, SGA is based upon The American Model of Student Government. Its role differs from the traditional role of student government or unions in Kuwait.

American models of Student Government are the leading advocacy group for the students who attend a university by representing the interests and concerns of the student body. SGA often serves as the official student body voice. Through the collective voice of the student body, compared to individual voices, there is a greater opportunity to influence decisions that impact student life. SGA serves as a vital link to helping ensure a positive learning environment.

The American model of SGA is based upon the premises that SGA helps to develop and enhance new experiences and relationships such as leadership opportunities, working in partnership with college administration, serves as the student voice in college decisions and provides service to fellow students.

Being the voice of students and sustaining partnerships are critical aspects of SGA. SGA plays a role in identifying and addressing issues concerning the student body. SGA can gather facts about the issues, advice about how many students it affects, and work cohesively with

the administration to hopefully find a solution or at least make sure the issue has been made aware to the decision makers. At times, students are not aware of university processes or procedures. SGA can play a role in communicating those to the students. Although SGA is here for the students, students must work with SGA and voice their concerns and work together for the betterment of the issue(s) on hand. Working together is the main reason why SGA's top priority is to create a general assembly. The assembly helps to ensure that SGA truly represents the collective voice of the AUK student body.

This brings up a point that needs further clarification. The article mentioned having SGA's constitution not being ratified after 4 years, which is actually inaccurate. To state this correctly, each year SGA, along with all organizations, must ratify and submit a constitution to be active, in which SGA has done this. The part that has not been ratified and completed after 4 years of work is the component of the general assembly within the constitution, not the constitution as a whole. As mentioned above, SGA has made this their priority due to the nature and importance of creating this representative body for the AUK student body.

AUK is very unique in many aspects. Our Division of Student Affairs is a unique model of service within Kuwait. No other institution of higher education in Kuwait has a Division of Student Affairs and an Office of Student Life that provides

programs and services that focus on social integration into the campus community based upon the traditional American model of service.

The Office of Student Life, an office within the Division of Student Affairs, focuses on the holistic development of students through activities that take place outside the classroom. By working closely with students outside the classroom there is more of an opportunity to understand their needs and serve as more affective advocates on student related issues. All are initiatives designed to enhance learning. In order to effectively enhance student's learning and development, AUK employs trained professionals to develop, implement, and manage a variety of programs and services. This affords students to be students. Students involved with Student Life programs focus on leadership development, communication skills building, and event planning to name a few, as part of the learning process. Students are guided by experienced professionals who have "been there, and done that."

The Student Government Association, a Student Life program, is a learning organization. Its leaders have taken on the challenge of how to most effectively serve as the voice of the student body. It is supported by professionals who not only want the organization to succeed, but will teach them how to best utilize the available resources to enhance their success. When the mission is student success and students stand together, the possibilities are endless!

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association is closing one chapter, and beginning another. As many of you might have read in the previous issue of the Voice, some students were concerned about SGA's performance. First and foremost, it gives us great pleasure to announce that SGA has met with representatives from the proposal and the result of the meeting brought positive outcomes. We are happy to announce as well that SGA is ready to move forward and work with the AUK community to fulfill SGA's roles with the support of the proposal signatories as well. We understand that there was some miscommunication and misunderstandings and they were gracefully cleared up and now awaits a new chapter for SGA.

This being one of the elements contributing to closing up a chapter and beginning another, one other major important element can be concluded from it – is that SGA can improve on communication and this is something that we acknowledge and is something we are working hard on achieving. Closing the chapter of Fall 2008 means that we, as SGA, can learn from our mistakes and also look forward to working better. And beginning a new chapter for the Spring Semester, we would like to share with you some of the things we have been able to achieve/prepare so far:

SGA IEP/Freshmen Day: We welcomed new students to AUK by holding an IEP/Freshmen Day that included raffles, brochures on SGA introducing the organization, and a Trivia

Quiz.

SGA Day and Townhall Meeting: SGA Day included providing students with a brochure of SGA and our role, and also, we held a Townhall meeting on which allowed students to place their concerns to administration directly. Topics discussed: Parking Problem, Segregation, Food at AUK, and BBA Double Major Issue.

IEP Students: SGA decided to place more emphasis on IEP students and involve them more with SGA. SGA talked to IEP Classes about SGA and gave out surveys. Results will be communicated to other student clubs and organizations and the administration to help communicate IEP concerns and issues.

Parking Survey and Parking issue: SGA is currently working on the survey results with administration to see what can be concluded and what can be done. Also, SGA discussed the issue with MP Ahmad Lari. MP Lari gladly agreed to help and immediately called a contact person at the municipality who we will be working with to see what can be done to solve the problem.

Constitution and General Assembly: For the past four years, previous SGA's have worked to create a strong constitution. This year, one of SGA's main goals is to create the strongest constitution yet with the help of experts and opinions from active students. So far, SGA has created a much improved draft and are currently continuing to improve sections of the constitution, especially the section concerning the first General Assembly in AUK that will focus on a large scale representative body. This

representative body will consist of multiple representatives from various sections at AUK (e.g.: representatives from year groups – senior, junior, etc., and majors, e.g. business, social sciences, etc.) that will improve SGA's goal to represent the students and provide students with the chance to meet regularly with SGA to discuss student issues.

Anti-Segregation: SGA held an Anti-Segregation Week in which administration helped us prepare a form that students and their parents will sign to be presented to the Ministry of Higher Education to demonstrate AUK's stand against the law of segregation. The forms are being sent to the Ministry of Higher Education as soon as possible.

BBA Double Majors: The issue has now been settled – please refer to e-mail by Dean Nizar Hamzeh for further details.

Finding Classes for Business Students: SGA has voiced the concerns of Business Major students who were struggling to find classes. We communicated their information to administration which has aided add classes/sections to assist as many students as possible.

Open Meeting: SGA held an open meeting allowing students to come to SGA informally in the soccer field to speak to us about their concerns.

Sponsorships for clubs/organizations: SGA has sponsored and continues to sponsor clubs and organizations at AUK. SGA now has an official sponsorship application form available to all registered clubs and organizations.

Response to the Open Letter to the Dean of Student Affairs

By **the Office of Student Life**

This letter is to respectfully respond to the open letter to the Dean of Student Affairs to points that relate to the Office of Student Life.

It is foremost to note the Office of Student Life is here to provide guidance and advice to all student clubs and take into consideration the well-being of all as a whole than just each club individually. It is with every intention to have open communication with all clubs about decisions being allowed for input by organizations as appropriate. It also must be noted that with all decisions, not every club or every person is always satisfied. Student Life provides a structure that is fair and reasonable with high expectations and accountability standards for all student clubs and organizations. In addition, it provides an avenue for activities and programs designed to enhance the social integration of students. Our goal is to ensure a balance of academic and social integration because that is what enhances the collegiate experience.

The accountability for clubs, organizations, and activities rests with the Office of Student Life as designated by the Dean

of Student Affairs. Whether it is athletics, activities, club sponsorships, fiscal matter, voting, etc., it is the responsibility of the Office of Student Life to ensure that the programs are implemented by the standards set by professional student affairs associations.

The accusation(s) of the Voice stems from a disagreement about how stipends should be allocated to the Editorial Board. Each year, the university allocates funds to various campus entities based upon resources and requests. The Division of Student Affairs, in this case, provides the Office of Student Life with the authority to structure the stipend process from the allocated funds to clubs and organizations. The distribution of funds (in this case, stipends) is based upon requests, resources, equitability, and sustainability to name a few. The role of Student Life is to consider requests and the impact of such requests on the entire program (all student clubs and organizations receiving funds/stipends), not just one organization.

The dialog between the Office of Student Life and the Voice Editorial Board stagnated. After emails, meetings, personal contacts, and even meetings that

were declined, efforts to reach a compromise failed. It is the Voice's belief that the distribution of funds is their call. However, even though the Office of Student Life is committed to working with all clubs and organizations, the ultimate accountability for the distribution of funds rests with the Office of Student Life. The decision made takes into account the overall well-being of student clubs and organizations receiving stipends.

In an effort to provide resolution, Student Life offered the Voice options; however these were rejected (as per the Open Letter to the Dean of Student Affairs):

The following items were requested by the Voice and had the following outcome and impact:

1. Equal Payments to Editorial Board Members: Approved
2. Amounts Paid Reflected on Per-Issue Basis: Approved
3. Freelance Writer Stipends Paid on Monthly Basis: Approved
4. Voice Editorial Board Members Paid for Articles Printed in the Voice: Approved with Condition and Recommendations for the Future. Not approved as originally requested and made

recommendations as could create a conflict of interest due to the Editorial Board already receiving stipends and this allowing for 2nd form of stipend payment. In many other university newspapers, Editorial Board's writing for newspaper is part of their responsibility (when stories needed).

5. Stipend Bonuses: Some Approved with Conditions. Some bonuses were approved on the basis of the mission and purpose of the Voice and it's Editorial Board, but with conditions so as to not fall under the category of bonuses not approved. Bonuses not approved were due to being seen as either a conflict of interest or unfair.

6. Stipends Paid on Monthly Basis, Instead of End of Semester (Due to Voice being printed Monthly): Not Approved as stipend process is an accountability standard based on leadership and responsibilities for the semester for all student clubs and organizations receiving stipends. How an organization functions does not reflect when the stipends are paid.

7. Adjusting Amounts Paid (considering other stipend leaders within other organizations): Stipend process is measured against not only each organiza-

tion and their leaders, but as a university wide with all leaders and organizations receiving stipends to make it equitable and fair as these funds and the process were created on the basis of leadership and responsibility to the university.

8. Not Receiving Written Guidelines: This process is based upon requests and communication to make reasonable adjustments to individual organizations due to their uniqueness. If written guidelines were given, it would not allow for flexibility for reasonable adjustments, thus items #1 , #2 , #3 , #4, #5 would have not been approved as the original stipend process structure did not include these. In addition, these items requested and approved are unique to only the Voice at AUK and no other student club or organization receiving stipends due to the unique nature of the organization.

9. Reallocation of Stipend Amounts from the Student Labor Line to the Special Events (student activities) line: AUK Finance Department policy does not allow any office or department, in this case student organization, to move personnel (labor) funds to non-personnel/ labor lines. This is a common

practice with many institutions, not only AUK and educational, but also private sector.

10. No Willingness on the Part of Student Life to take Into Account the Different Needs of Different Student Organizations: Please refer to reasoning listed under #7.

After assessing the request(s) of the Voice, it was deemed the stipend allocation would be unfair to the other clubs and organizations. Student Life has and will always advocate and represent the needs of students and student clubs and organizations as a whole. Open communication and continual feedback and input with the entire AUK campus, but more importantly the students and student clubs and organizations, will always be at the forefront of all decisions. Student Life always takes into consideration all issues and everyone involved, but at times being in a role of leadership puts one in a position of having to make the most fair and best decision for the betterment of the group, not one specific organization or individual. It is our hope that this provides clarity to the issue and that is a better understanding of the role and responsibility of the Office of Student Life.

