**By Fatima Ibrahim**

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 god at that time, for help as the defiling 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 600 CE, history repeats itself. A Muslim tragedy in Iraq Karbala takes place. Zeina, the grand-daughter of Prophet Mohammed (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 vary 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 acting 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 muscular 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.

*Continued on page 2.*

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**Pi Gamma Mu Honors Dr. Conerly Casey**

By Waleah 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 personally and on a professional level.

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

*Continued on page 2.*
Paradigm Shift in Project Management
More Than Meets the Eye

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. This conference was hosted by the Project Management Institute - Arabian Gulf Chapter (PMI-AGC).

The theme was carefully chosen to reflect the need to do business 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 share 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, Hina Al-Kurdi, Noor Rashid, and Hamad Humoud, formed the rest of the group of students that was accompanied by Mr. Abdulkhaim Khash al-Abd. All stayed at the Crowne Plaza, a 15-minute drive away from the Gulf Hotel.

Day 1 of the conference lasted from 8 to 10:30 am and was the longest and busiest day, starting at 8:30 am for the last keynote addresses of the event. The trip was fully sponsored by the Oil Development Company, one of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation’s ten subsidiaries. Three students from GUST, Hina Al-Kurdi, Noor Rashid, and Hamad Humoud, formed the rest of the group of students that was accompanied by Mr. Abdulkhaim Khash al-Abd. All stayed at the Crowne Plaza, a 15-minute drive away from the Gulf Hotel.

Day 2 was the longest and busiest day, starting at 8:30 am and lasting beyond 6 pm. 12 technical sessions were held in parallel tracks spread across the day and the conference participants moved quickly out of one hall and into another to make it to their preferred topic. The topics covered at 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 orchestrate the 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 cost risks 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 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 companies who can 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 for oil, oil prices are still in the safe range. However, the crisis is causing a drying up of lending in bulk; therefore, as a result of this, some of the Middle Eastern banks were empowered to assist vendors by providing tables, chairs, and wire extensions. Therefore, the products were sold to be nearer to the 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 main accomplishments of the Market 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.

For AUK students, the most outstanding event was the Car Boot Sale. The event started by students selling their personal belongings. Other than having individual students sell products, AUK clubs and organizations also had the opportunity to market to their constituents. 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 began 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 offered an opportunity to describe the concept of volunteerism and community service to the audience. It was 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.

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By Farah Al-Shamali

On 10th January, 2009, the Marketing Club hosted the first 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 really excited to assist vendors by providing tables, chairs, and wire extensions. They would sell products to be nearer to the customers, the Car Boot Sale had officially commenced.

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Toward Palestine and the Dome of the Rock.

By Emad G. Salamah

Nizar Mishal, President of the Public Relations Officer hosted the event, which the SGA and The Marketing Club attended. President ended it with closing remarks encouraging students to support the people of Gaza.

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By Nur Soliman

When it comes to on-campus lectures, I always half-expect that a lecture on Islamic art history and conservation would attract lone Middle Eastern cultures would usually draw a small, though dedicated audience. But on the 23rd of January 2009, I was very much mistaken. Professor Bacharach, a professor 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. Jerre Bacharach was very well received. Everyone in the audience displayed evident interest and curiosity, eager to learn more. Prof. Bacharach deliver his lecture on “Conserving Middle Eastern Cultures: A Heritage and Cultural Heritage”.

Prof. Bacharach began with a description of how heritage and conservation approach towards heritage, architecture, and cultural artistic products. He explained that the modern concept of heritage when the attitude was generally that of “hoarding and stealing” precious artworks. In the 20th century, the concept of heritage shifted to the recognition of cultural and natural heritage of a given country, and the exchange of these entities. He also discussed the role of museums in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

The lecture was divided into three main sections: the first part focused on the history of conservation, the second part on the theory and practice of conservation, and the third part on the future of conservation.

In the first part, Prof. Bacharach discussed the origins of conservation, its development, and its role in society. He mentioned that the concept of conservation has evolved over time, from the early 19th century, when conservation was primarily about preserving art and artifacts, to the modern era, where conservation is a multidisciplinary field that includes archaeology, art history, architecture, and natural sciences.

In the second part, Prof. Bacharach explained the theory and practice of conservation, including the principles of conservation, the techniques used in conservation, and the role of conservation professionals. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between different disciplines and the need for continuous education and training for conservation professionals.

In the third part, Prof. Bacharach discussed the future of conservation, including the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. He emphasized the importance of integrating conservation into broader societal and environmental goals, and the need for a more inclusive and equitable approach to conservation.

Overall, Prof. Bacharach’s lecture was a well-structured and informative presentation that provided a comprehensive overview of the field of conservation. His knowledge and insights, as well as his engaging delivery, made the lecture a valuable learning experience for all who attended.
Proustian Music: Eugene Ysaye Honored at the SAS

By 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 Department of Islamic Art History at Harvard University, the lecture was a mixture of both. While the lecturer's eminence and knowledge was unmistakable, Prof. Roskosh dived into a cursive writing style that, even an earnest, careful listener a little bewildered.

The subject of the talk, on the eve of 5 January 2009, was "Image and Genre in Medieval Arabic Manuscripts," a particular interest of the speaker, Prof. Amy Al-Jazi, who had composed by Al-Hariri in the late 11th – early 12th century, especially the manuscripts written by the illustrator, Prof. Rachel Pollock, which she had published in 2008. The manuscripts are now in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris. Prof. Pollock had put up some excellent reproductions of the illustrations to help illuminate his talk, which was based on her study of Al-Hariri that was the focus of the evening's talk but was one of many sections she had devoted at least half the lecture to the subject, although it took the audience a while to realize this. The manuscripts are a genre of brilliant feats of language and literature, making them some of the outstanding treasures 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-trickster of 13th-century English literature. The charming and clever recounting of such tales was appreciated, though what was not particular well-received was the absence of any explicit connection to the thesis of the lecture.

Prof. Pollock then refuting the opinion of Richard Ettinghausen who treats the manuscript illustrations as nothing more than piecemeal annotations to accompany the text, Roskosh introduced his thesis that we need the paintings to clarify our understanding of the text; the succession of paintings through the book highlights the subterfuge themes of the story. An examination of visual features supports this thesis. Strong, basic profiling of faces, character, recognizable gestures of anger, surprise, supplication, ground lines indicating the earth, bright, poly-chrome color schemes, basic positioning of sitting and standing, animated bodi, 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 discussion of the curtain 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.

We let the final maqam retound by Prof. Roskosh, the 18th in the se- quence, set in a stop during a caravan journey from Damascus to Baghdad, fortunately, the final story since it re-markably brought to light exactly what it was. Prof. Roskosh had taken over 45 minutes to explain. Abu Zayd and Ibn Al-Harith both attend a wedding where their caravan stops. Sudden- ly, in viewing the series of paintings, one realizes that Al-Wasiti has very clearly and vividly brought to life the scene as it was—and it as it was. During the course of the celebrations, a beautiful glass bowl was presented filled with "perfumed comfits with the scent of taezem." Abu Zayd then leaps up and attempts to steal the platter. When asked for an explanation, Abu Zayd says he cannot eat anything in such a transparent vessel as it is an object of deception. 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. Roskosh did a remarkable job of explaining the unique forms we had established on the relation between illus- tration and text, of the content of the paintings, and also the metaphorical mean- ing 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- Harith about the mysterious Abu Zayd, the illustrations pick up on truth and deception, opacity and transparency, ve- racity and illusion, obscurity and univel- lage, anonymity and identity, and so on. They show us "what is meant to be real" but not quite, making them a visual "ex- tremity of meaning."

One wished Prof. Roskosh had devoted at least half the lecture to the same subject, and explored the fas- cinating new ideas further. He could have also expanded on the comparison of images and contem- porary shadow-theatre, which he men- tioned in the lecture. Also, it would have been interesting to see how even greater depth the composition of the paintings in a way similar to his comparison of the two forms, not only the book, but what we had studied and discussed. But perhaps Prof. Roskosh was aiding us in the understanding of the pre- liminary study with which he intended to conjure up something as insightful as he intended the lecture to be. For the Image Micrograph," or his book, Prefac- ing the Image. In a year or so then, with the publication of the book where he announced during the lecture, we all have the answers to all our questions, and perhaps more...
By Nur Soliman

On the coffeehouse, Turkish historian Peveci wrote in the 1630’s that there is “no place like it for pleasure and delight. When the Switch medieval Istanbul coffeehouse for downtown Kuwait Steiner was too far and too far off. One would have to go a little back into the season to remember...” How to say to a lecturer incited such genuine laughter and quiet remarks of surprise... but no one was listening to him or her subject. On the subject of “Coffee and the Contest of the Coffeehouse in the Ottoman 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 CMSK (Centre for Middle Eastern Studiess) from 1999 to 2004, unapologetically used engaging and new, with a new, critically thought-out commentary. At the same time, an anecdote, a picture, or a story could relate to the topic of coffee and coffeehouses being an introduction to the Ottoman phenomena that challenged notions of sociability, and enlarged public space... Apparently, to the members of the evening’s audience, one could easily notice several well-dressed men and women and, new, interested students who have begun to make their way to the lecture. 

Author of “Rebels Without a Cause?” Janissaries and Other Riff-raff Astray. The anecdotal, the pictorial, the democratization of these same institutions, all of these cities, political norms and traditions, as well as trade, economic industries, are linked to... so to lead in the way of turban-wearing 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; socialization of public space; literary activity; novel sites for the formation of public space”

Dr. Kafadar began with a slide showing a Turkish miniature painting, a delightfully coloured, crowded painting completed in the 15th and housed in the Chester-Beatty Library. It was an illustration of the activities at a medieval coffeehouse, or kaféhane, with men in colorful costumes and turbans holding por- 

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; socialization of public space; literary activity; novel sites for the formation of public space”

Dr. Kafadar showed colorful engravings of coffeehouses in London where art would be auctioned at the same time, all of these in the hope of drawing in more customers.

The adventure of coffee and the coffeehouse, accompanied by the desire to socialize in these public spaces in the night, led to an exponential increase in coffeehouses. The喜欢 them, infectious cheer through music, Brazilian percussion and the samba piano. Her “You Know it” is known. Enjoyable, almost like Ella Fitzgerald were still with us and picked up a few tips from a few modern vocalists; very upbeat and quick, to-tapping tempo. The classic “Cup of Tea” with Alona (“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. W arrenisone Heart — Melody Gardot

This album is a real pleasure for many people who are not accustomed to the jazz mixtures with R&B, pop strains, or even picked up a few tips from a few modern vocalists; very upbeat and quick, to-tapping tempo. The classic “Cup of Tea” with Alona (“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. W arrenisone Heart — Melody Gardot

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Intelligence, Innocence, Creativity

By Nada Al-Hudaid

When knowledge is no longer needed, it is no longer considered a positive thing. Good manners, a unique thing happening in your life? Want, regardless of the fact that people in your life are feeling...

4. Have negative consequences for self, friends, or family.

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 stop by the Office of Admissions.

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 good on resumes,’ one student said, ‘so it can be a good opportunity to get a job or get a good letter of recommendation because your life is full of unimportant things.”

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.

Upcoming Events

15th Feb: SGA presents Betaggali Discount Cards to stu- dents. (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 Celebra- tion. We will plan to hold more Open Meetings, Townhall meet- ings, start the General Assembly and provide students with in- formation 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 gov- ernments around the world to exchange SGA views and to dis- cuss major Student Government topics. SGA hopes to also hold a local conference. We also plan to organize national and Liberation Day celebration.

** Dates are subject to change. More events to be announced! Stay tuned!”

Ah! the beauty of a new spring day... A new spring semester, not so much!
Representing the interests and concerns of the student body, SGA often serves as the student voice. Through the collective voice of the student body, concerns are voiced and addressed on behalf of the student body. SGA serves as a vital link to helping ensure a positive learning environment.

The Student Government Association is based upon the premises that SGA helps to develop and enhance the social integration of students. SGA plays a role in identifying and promoting policies that will teach them how to best utilize the available resources to enhance their success. When students attend a university by representing the interests and concerns of the student body, SGA often serves as the student voice. Through the collective voice of the student body, concerns are voiced and addressed on behalf of the student body. SGA serves as a vital link to helping ensure a positive learning environment.

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