

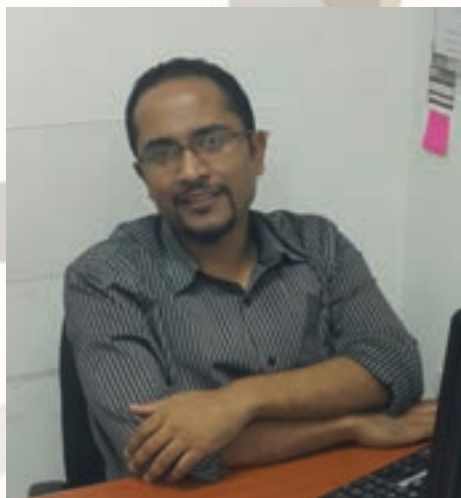
The Voice of AUK

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT • December 2015/January 2016 •



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The Voice Members



Editor-in-Chief
Paola Schietekat

I'm Paola and I was born and raised in Mexico. Now I live in Kuwait and study International Relations. I attribute my misanthropy to politics and gender inequality, but I still enjoy political, philosophical and theological debate. I have a book published and hopefully more to come. I love literature and football. I also like Lego, dinosaurs, eggplant, videogames and series like Game of Thrones and Adventure Time.



Graphic Designer
Alaa' Dashti

I'm Ala'a Dashti, a 25 year-old graduate from Box Hill College, Kuwait with a diploma Graphic Design. I enrolled in AUK to continue and get my bachelors degree in Graphic Design. One of my initial projects for The Voice of AUK was the logo, which was successfully changed. I designed it to portray that all AUK'ers have the right to express their opinions freely.



General Reporter
Huda AlKotob

My name is Huda AlKotob. I'm a rather ordinary 19 year old Palestinian girl. Currently, I'm an Accounting major who anticipates graduating later this year. I like puddles, trampolines, learning, food, and furry animals. I often get that I resemble Zooey Deschanel and Jonah Hill.



Reporter
Nathalie Matta

My name is Nathalie Matta. I'm 19 years old. I'm a sophomore majoring in Marketing and minoring in Graphic Design! I am obsessed with makeup and everything that has to do with fashion, thus I will be responsible for the fashion section in The Voice newspaper as a reporter. I truly hope this newspaper stands out.



Reporter
Abdullah A Al-Qouz

I'm Abdullah, a 21 years old junior student. Initially an English major with a hope to be an author/spokesman. I enjoy working in groups with saltiness, which is unaccepted quite often. I do it even when I'm working by my own and people think it's not funny. I won't stop because I think it is.



Reporter
Roua'a Diab

Hello. My name is Roua'a Diab, I am a computer engineer who surprisingly enjoys writing articles and sharing my views with the world. I am involved in several clubs, including the IEEE student branch in AUK and the Hummingbirds. I like to write, especially things that express my thoughts and opinions. Hopefully you'll enjoy my pieces!



Reporter
Sara F. Ayesh

إن شاء الله، I'm a 19 year old sophmore majoring in Management. I enjoy being a fact debunker, and taking photographs; ironic occurrences are my favorite subject, selfies are not allowed. I hope to be a writer in the near future.



General Advisor
Nour Jaber

I earned my Bachelors degree in Computer Engineering from AUK. Having always loved working with students, I now work as an Academic Retention Advisor in the AAC and spend my time outside of work with my husband, reading comics or trying to learn something new!



Graphic Designer Advisor
Patrick A. Makhoul

Patrick Makhoul is a graphic designer in the PR & Marketing department at AUK and the design advisor for The Voice. He uses the experience he's gathered over the years designing publications and layouts to give advice and suggestions on ways to make The Voice a more pleasant experience for the reader.

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What can I do with a major in ENGLISH?

By: Student Counseling Center

English is a major branch of the language arts and its main focus is on the written word. However, a broader, more commonly accepted definition would include the study of literature, speech, poetry, drama, and writing, in all forms. The study of English orients students to the discipline of thinking and communicating.

Related Career Titles

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Advertising | Freelance |
| Publicist | Interviewer |
| Copywriting/Editor | Project Editor |
| Sales Writer | Public Opinion |
| Columnist | Analyst |
| University Teacher | Proofreader |
| Editor | Web Designer |
| Interactive Media Specialist | |
| Foreign Services | |
| Writer, Editor, Graphic Designer | |

Related Skills

- Trainable
- Flexible
- Adaptable

Some Employers for Graphic Design Majors

- Book publishers
- Business and industry
- Colleges/universities
- Consulting firms
- Libraries
- Magazines and newspapers
- Non-profit organizations
- Public relation firms
- Radio stations
- Telecommunications organizations

Graduate School

- MA/PhD in Drama
- MA/PhD in English
- MA/PhD in Literature
- MA/PhD in Composition and Rhetoric
- MA/PhD in Communications

Outstanding Schools with Graduate Studies in English Literature and Creative Writing

MA in Creative Writing or English Linguistics
Birmingham City University
Faculty of Arts Design and Media



MA in Applied Linguistics, Creative Writing or English Literature
Cardiff University
Cardiff School of English, Communication & Philosophy



MA in Comparative Literature, Theater and Performance or Shakespeare Studies
King's College London
Faculty of Arts & Humanities



MA in English Literary Studies or Film and Literature
University of York
Department of English and Related Literature



MA Contemporary Literature and Culture or Creative Writing
University of Manchester
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures



MA English Language and Linguistics or English Literature
University of Sheffield
School of English: English Language & Linguistics



Arabic for Nerds

By: Paola Schietekat

When I booked my ticket and planned to move to Jordan, I was sure one year was going to be enough for me to, at least, be able to have a conversation in Arabic. Jordan is pretty far away from Mexico, but it was the only country in the region that was not war-torn or close to that where a Mexican can get a visa upon arrival without much hassle. Like many Westerners, I had tried learning Arabic online... typical, I started off with the highest expectations but as soon as I learned letters change shapes when connected to other letters, I gave up and cried a little. 'It's going to be different once I am in a country where I can learn in a classroom and practice outside', so I got on a plane and left to Jordan.

It took me about two weeks to learn the alphabet and how to connect letters; I felt like an artist when practicing my alifs, bas and tas. I was invincible, and although I sounded like an agonising lamb whenever I tried saying ع or غ, I was in the process of becoming the next Imam al Shafi'i. Two months later, the dreadful learning curve hit me with all its strength. I started to feel homesick, I was struggling with the grammar, the vocabulary and the pace of reading, and I had realized that the Arabic I was learning had nothing to do with the Arabic that was being spoken in the streets of Amman. I did try practicing, and when I told the taxi driver "أريد ان أذهب إلى المستشفى", he pointed at me, and cracked up. Then he apologized, flattered my attempt and said I sounded like a character from a translated Mexican soap opera. (If you're wondering why I don't practice my Arabic in public any more, there you go).

Not everyone made it past the learning curve, a lot gave up, a lot surrendered to the language and went back home; only the strongest survived. I barely made it. When I completed level 1, I got a scholarship to study Classical Arabic. Now, Classical Arabic is not Modern Standard Arabic, it's not "فصحى", Classical was the course for nerds, but fearless nerds who

are willing to sacrifice their sanity. Classical was Arabic spoken until around the Hijri year 200, and when I told anyone in the institute I was on that program, they went "Ooooh. You're one of them." with a tone that conveyed respect, but also pity.

The course was divided into 'Skills' and 'Sciences', the Skills section was dedicated to make us absorb around thirty words daily, feel comfortable with them and use them in written assignments and presentations. The Sciences section was taught in English because it was hardcore grammar: نحو و شرف و بلاغة (I can see Arab readers of this article cringing a little to that Arabic class flashback). Surprisingly, I loved that course; my professor was a Pakistani American who had learned Arabic himself and understood the hardships of having one's mind stripped naked and bent to its knees, so he was as clear as words could be and made his lessons fun, yeah Arabic grammar was actually fun with Ustadh Omair. Besides, students in my class were brilliant and there was certain joy in sharing that feeling of language piercing into our souls at the same time, and they were a support network that reminded each student that we were all getting mind blown (Plus, the professor had agreed in the beginning of the course to warn against mind blows before they actually happened).

By the end of my year in Jordan, I had barely grasped the surface of Arabic language, and I still could not have a conversation in Arabic, but I soared with graceful superiority while I schooled Arabs on the grammar of their own language: 'Did you know "يشفي" and "استشفى" come from the same trilateral root? The first one is Form one, which means 'he healed or cured' and the second one is Form ten; this pattern usually denotes that the subject is seeking to what form one states or believes in it, so it means "he looked for cure or regained health'. The responses I got were usually "I did not know that because I hate Arabic grammar, why are you doing this to yourself? Do you enjoy self harm?"

To be completely honest, I did suffer a lot while trying to get to the bottom of the language, which at times felt like

a black hole without an end, but those moments of beauty when everything made sense, when words were precise in a mathematical way, when declension (إعراب) could change the entire meaning of a sentence, when understanding a rule struck you like an epiphany... those were the things that kept me going. I don't blame Arabs for hating grammar. I blame the education system; while I once felt pride when correcting my Arab friends' grammar, now I feel sadness that the beauty of Arabic is so forgotten and forsaken, that many Arabic speakers prefer English or get so immersed in their dialect they can no longer recognize what they read in classic texts. I might never become an Arabic linguist (I simply do not have the patience), but I will continue learning until I achieve decent fluency. When that moment comes and a Mexican speaks more decent Arabic than you all, please go back and find the same passion I found in your language.



What Coffee, Photoshop, and Mascara have in Common

By: Sara F. Ayesh

Most of us love to take credit for things, whether we had anything to do with them or not. To all those naysayers, remember that 3rd grade science fair project? The one that your parents "helped" you with? It's apart of our human nature really. Nevertheless, here is something you can be proud of as an Arab; the fact that your grandparents weren't born at the time is irrelevant.

In the spirit of UN Arabic Language Day that took place on 18th of December. Here is a list of words from the English language that came from Arabic origins.

English Words

1. Alchemy/Chemistry; الكيمياء
2. Cipher; صَفْر
3. Nadir (the lowest point of something); نظير
4. Almanac; المنّاخ
5. Soda; صودا
6. Algorithm; خوارزم
7. Zenith; سمت الرأس
8. Alkaline; القلوي
9. Zero; صفر
10. Azimuth; السمّت
11. Alcohol; الكُحول
12. Coffee; قهوة (Fun Fact; Was called the "wine of the infidels" in Europe in the 14th century).
13. Gauze; غَزّة or قَزّة, the irony....
14. Mascara; مسخرة I'm not even going to go there...
15. Monsoon; موسم
16. Mummy; مومياء
17. Racquet; راحة from راحة اليد
18. Ream; رزمة
19. Safari; سفر still awaiting a share of the profits from Apple.
20. Talcum; التلك
21. Sofa; الصُفّة
22. Adobe; الطوب Photoshop, Indesign, and Illustrator, all originated from a brick.
23. Swahili; سواحلي
24. Tariff; تعريّف from بطاقة التعريف
25. Sash; شاش
26. Mattress; مطرّح
27. Cotton; قُطْن
28. Arsenal; دار الصنّاعة (do all you hardcore F.C. Arsenal fans know your history?)
29. Amber; عنبر
30. Alcove; القبة

Constellations

1. Altair; الطائر
2. Betelgeuse; بيت الجوزاء (House of the Gemini)
3. Deneb; ذنب
4. Fomalhaut; فم الحوت
5. Vega; النسر from الواقع

And many more, but you know, word counts...

Lastly, So long.... سَلام *

*The Penguin Dictionary of Historical Slang.
<http://www.zompist.com/arabic.html>

Arabian Nights

By : Abdullah A Al-Qouz

AUK was enlightened this fall by Dr. and Mr. Downs production of Arabian Nights with all the reinventions and hard work of the group students. As for every semester, Dr. Kathleen Downs prepares a theatre production in the campus and this fall with the cool weather it took place in an outdoor spot of AUK in a tent which was well-themed for an act like the Arabian Nights

The level of enthusiasm was on top, the actors were very energetic and well-prepared, the decoration and dresses were perfectly suitable for a play resembling Arabic features, the audience were thrilled to see what would happen every coming scene which showed them the actors delivering more efforts in their work.

Mohammed Al-Adl: Despite being a professional camera operator, Mohammed joined the acting cast this semester, and his role as a sage really showed an ancient Arab side of him with his original lineaments that were well-placed for his roles.

Hamad Al-Khaled: Also another sage played by the talented Hamad who did a great job playing the role of the pastrycook too, it almost felt like he is a real cook through his acting, but no one better step on the Madman's toes!

Nasser Zarooa: With the small parts Nasser got to act in the play, he was able to display the best image in the show for the crowds letting them realize what he can do with what he has. The part where he got to perform showing his musical talents was exceptionally outstanding and got the audience moving.

Nezar Al-Tabaa: This guy is really funny, he is a play himself! Nezar played various of roles as his second try in theatre with Dr. Downs he would be always playing the comedic roles which is where he is supposed to be. He is a very lively and fun guy.

Seham Ahmed: Seham had a lot to give in her act, and she had a role which was not easy to be played by anyone. She is really a brave girl with high performing abilities who knows how to make an act funny and transform it into her own.

Yousef Nayef: Yousef played so many different roles in one play and he had to jump from forming one character to another, which is really hard to do for an actor. But someone like Yousef, he was able make it go smoothly and seem very effortless. He was a former member of The Voice who worked in poetry, and now he is taking the further step by following his passion beyond just the university paper, he will hopefully find path to be a playwright.

Eamon Issa: Is it a certain decision that a white guy with a pure British accent is a good fit for a show like the Arabian Nights? Well, Eamon has too much of a talent that led people to not really pay attention to the way he looks. He is so real and a very natural actors who can let his audience feel a connection to what is in front of them, and he played Harun Al-Rasheed and Sheik Al-Islam for those who wonder what can the British guy do, of course the beard did help a lot in this one.

Raghda Rustom: Raghda who had to play only one long role last semester in the "All in The Right Timing" play, had variety of things to do in this play because she is a girl with a lot of acting capacity to show. She was very entertaining, especially in her role as the deceptive woman who tricks the shop assistant as the daughter of the Sultan. Be careful, looks can be deceiving!

Maryam Hassanein: Maryam was not only an actress but she also proved that she is an excellent student through her acting. In less than five minutes, Maryam demonstrated the pieces of Qur'an, the perspective of life, and the meaning of a religion, all in an Islamic point of view. It would not be surprising if someone decides to drop the role because it did carry a lot of information to say and Maryam was able to memorize all of them

and make them look very natural and effortless and therefore educate the audience.

Rona Hasan: Rona played Dunyazade who is an interesting role in the Arabian Nights, and she has a really great delivery voice for portraying a notion to the audience and make them curious to know what is going to happen next.

Mohammed Al-Saeed (MT): This is king Shahrayar here! Mohammed has to do with the talent he owns, he is very good at showing the audience how much efforts are spent on shaping a character and he has the capability of performing by heart, voice, words and, body language.

Tori Danner: For anyone who does not know Tori, Tori is a very professional actress who performed in numerous plays in AUK and also

with One World Actors Centre. When Tori performs, she knows which center captures the audience's hearts in the right place and time, she does her work from the bottom of her heart and she has a very skillful emotion control ability in her acts. This semester is the last semester for Tori in AUK so it was her last act in Kuwait since she is moving to the States, so gladly she will be doing much more as she will start her graduate program and hopefully have a bright future.

The Voice of AUK would like to cordially thank Dr. Kathleen Downs for her constant support for the community and her embracement of drama production on the AUK campus. Dr. Downs always gets AUK and non-AUK communities thrilled and proud of the hard work she aims to convey to everyone. She is a very creative and entertaining person who knows how to reinvent things and make it her own.

Arabian Nights

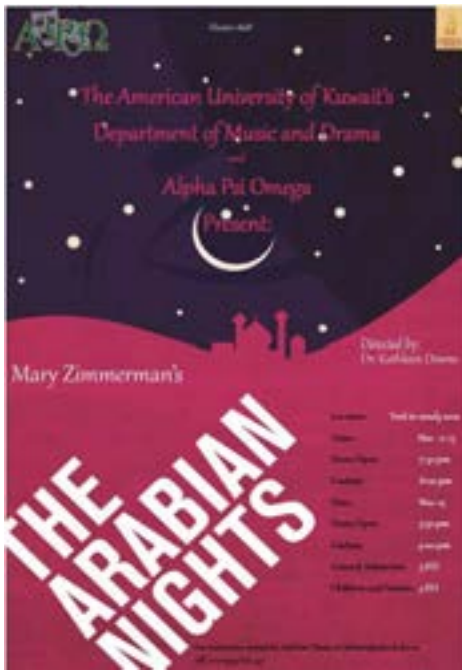
By: Roua'a Diab

The most important aspects of a good play would be the dialogue, scenery, and of course, the characters and how well the cast brings those characters to life. In all honesty, I can say that AUK's Arabian Nights play did the job very well. This play was based on the book "One thousand and One Nights", and another name would be "The Arabian Nights", which is centered around the heroine Scheherazade and the seemingly evil ruler Shahryār.

The main storyline of this book is that the ruler has been cheated on by his wife, whom he loved very deeply, so every night he marries a woman from his kingdom, and slaughters her the next day, because he does not want to get hurt again. So one day, he married Scheherazade, and every night she would tell him interesting tales that kept him wondering and wanting more stories to be told. So thankfully, she was not slaughtered because of the tales she told. The cast played their parts well, they were very convincing, not to mention

absolutely hilarious, yet professional. The setting was ideal, since they chose to have the play outdoors, in a tent, in order to really capture the essence of the old Arabian days.

Congratulations to Dr. Kathleen Downs for being such a great director, and Mr. Kendal Downs for the technicalities of the play. Congratulations to the wonderful cast for making the audience have a delightful time. Well done!



AUK Students at WIMUN 2015

A group of students travelled to New York City to represent AUK at the WIFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) 2015 that took place on November 10th-14th. The group, accompanied by Dr. Gholamreza Vatandoust from the International Relations Department, prepared to represent Tunisia, Morocco and Ireland in different United Nations Committees where students around the world participated to draft a resolution. This conference, which AUK hopes can be part of every year, is the closest simulation to the United Nations' processes, an experience that gave the participants a clear insight of what diplomacy feels like.

At the closing plenary, which took place at the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters, AUK was pleased to find that two of its delegates had been awarded diplomatic awards after having spent days negotiating for a resolution concerning the eradication of illicit trade in small arms and weapons of all aspects. Other delegates participated in resolutions that advocated for the stimulation of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and the rule of law at the national and international levels.

This experience is part of a wider program that the International Relations Department wants to keep structuring in order to give more

students, majoring in any field, the opportunity to represent AUK in international Model United Nations conferences and get invaluable curricular experience.

Below are the thoughts of some of the AUK students who participated in the WIMUN conference:

"It was a very empowering experience."

-Anjan Sethi

"I found the WIMUN conference to be a very enriching experience and particularly appreciate the effort made to create the UN4MUN format. Also, not only did the conference help us students hone our negotiating skills in a more UN-like setting, but it was a great way to connect with talented and passionate peers from around the world."

-Batul Sadliwala

"Our WIMUN experience was engaging, motivating and ultimately fruitful and rewarding."

-Nour Al Failakawi

"An experience I will always cherish and never forget."

-Abdulaziz Al Mahmeed

"Getting to know students from all around the world and their perspectives is a chance I hope everyone can have in order to become global citizens."

-Paola Schietekat



Religion, Politics and the Search for Peace

By: Paola Schietekat

The International Relations Department was honored to receive distinguished Dr. James Piscatori on November 22nd for an insightful lecture on the role of religion in attaining or preventing peace. Dr. Piscatori is a professor at the Center for the History of Political Thought at Durham University and is the author of *Islam in a World of Nation-States*, as well as co-author of Dale Eickelman's *Muslim Politics*.

His lecture revolved around the problematic conceptions of religion as the obstacle that hinders peace making and modernity. His arguments tackled long-held assumptions of secularism being the norm and religion being problematic and violent, by highlighting that it is the essence of beliefs what count, not their functions. Skeptical of the plausibility of attaining peace, Dr. Piscatori argued that religion can be an agency or instrument for peacibility; in other words, religion, which has been used for militancy, can also be used as an institution that calls for the disposition of peace.

Dr. Piscatori also raised the assumption of modernity and the unavoidable individualization it leads

to when identities like ethnicity, kinship and religion become less important and individual talents become that which defines new generations. Moreover, the assumption that the progressive nature of modernity and regressive nature of tradition (religion being part of it) would lead to the indisputable triumph of modernity, was also put into question.

The ethnocentric bias that has led the discourse of secularization was refuted during Dr. Piscatori's lecture with the evident observation that religion continues to haunt secular society and influence every aspect of it, not to mention the fact that the simplistic assumption of religion being causal of militancy completely neglects cultural and historical contingencies.

Dr. Piscatori admits, and everyone should do so too, that all religious scriptures, in distinct contexts, have called to arms, and since religion provides validation, it can mobilize masses ideologically. But since secularization does not eradicate the influence of religion, it is crucial to focus on religious agency as a platform where violence is refuted and peaceful coexistence is encouraged instead. This could happen, the professor argued, if a new generation of religious scholars eagerly engages in intra-faith dialogue, self-criticism and calls for progress and reform.

The audience was very responsive to the lecture, and although most of those who raised questions agreed with Dr. Piscatori's thesis, they stressed the argument that religion is being utilized as means to a merely political agenda, not that religion was the agenda itself. A very interesting point was raised addressing the patriarchal nature of religion and how static it has remained in empowering women and condemning gender violence. This statement, which Dr. Piscatori, and part of the audience conceded as a major problem, could potentially be the topic for another, more specific lecture that can seek to reconcile feminist and religious scholarship

Interview with Dr. Abid Vali

By : Abdullah A Al-Qouz

Dr. Abid Vali is a recent PhD graduate and was appointed writing coordinator for the English Department. The Voice of AUK would like to congratulate Dr. Abid Vali for his new position and wish him luck in this new stage of his career.

How did you become the writing coordinator?

There was a call for that because we all knew Dr. James is going to be the next chair and Dr. Craig wanted to have more research time even though he was the consensus choice by all us to be Chair so he continued for one year. As you know, the Chair is a very demanding position especially in English because we see every single student in the university, no other department can say that. So the writing coordinator position was offered to me and I thought if I don't do it I can't expect other people to do it, so yes it was sort of voluntary.

What is your degree(s)?

I have a bachelor's in English and History, MA in English and I have a PhD in English literature as well.

Are there any obstacles dealing with the basic English courses students?

It's both pain and pleasure. The pleasure is having genuine interactions with students, when you have real stories to listen to, real concerns to deal with, and real thanks that you receive from students from time to time for things that you helped them to do successfully. It's all their hard work but they are happy to tell you "it's all because of you professor" and that's not true, it's because the student worked hard and was dedicated to that work.

The pain comes from hearing the kind of the same excuses over and over again. As the writing program coordinator now, I'm not only listening to my own excuses, I'm listening to every students' excuses and that's really all it is; they are just excuses and it's part of my job to select the excuses that are valid and need proper attention from myself or the Chair or from the Dean, and then perhaps to reject those requests that are not. So in a sense I'm really the tough cop in this relationship because they will be wasting the Chair or the Dean's time.

But it's not a big deal and it's almost in the first registration week only. Most of the time the job is a pleasure because you deal with others who are trying to do their work as well as possible, and it's

always interesting to see the new challenges that come up.

When was your very first teaching experience?

My first teaching experience was when I was doing my PhD in the United States. We had a really great group of students in a small private college when I was doing my PhD work in the University of Chicago. It was a lovely location in the middle of the city. But it was very difficult because it was composition and, like any new teacher, I wanted to do everything at once. My students probably looked at me and thought "Oh my God another newbie..." so I'm sure it was as difficult for them as it was for me, but not really in the way it should have been because I always loved teaching, I even enjoyed being a tutor.

Did you teach anywhere else before being in AUK?

I have. I have taught a lot in the Middle East. At this point I have taught at a university level, I have taught in a university in a village in Oman for two years. That was interesting and full of challenges. Then, for three years, I was at the American University of Sharjah in the instructor and then senior instructor of composition classes very similar to the AUK classes. When I was completing my PhD in New Zealand I taught one literature and a few writing courses at the University of Otago in Dunedin, and I had a surprising amount of Middle Eastern students in Dunedin. Then I came to Kuwait to join AUK, first as an instructor in my first semester, but following that I became an assistant professor when my PhD degree arrived.

Do you find differences between AUK and the University of Otago?

Well, size, size is a big difference, you know University of Otago is the second largest university in New Zealand and the oldest research university in New Zealand established in the 19th century. But sometimes things are a lot easier, you know when I tell my students to write research papers and ask their professors to help them with issues within their major, I got a wider variety of papers, than at AUK, which is a very small university in comparison. But in AUK everyone knows each other and it's always easy to get things done. So institutionally speaking, it's a good thing to have a university connected to everyone, which I think is an advantage of AUK.

Which university would you consider more challenging between AUK and University of Otago?

That depends on what classes you are teaching. I have been as challenged by certain AUK students

in a good way. I have seen students here who are not only world class themselves, but at a level where they are challenging the professors in the best way possible and making them work harder and do their own work better. In Otago University, I had more facilities, but that's just a linguistic issue, because in AUK I often see students in classes, especially low level writing, who cannot express their great ideas fluently in English. No fault of theirs, but they grew up in the Middle East, and they grew up in an educational system that didn't give them as much exposure to English as a student growing up in New Zealand or Chicago would have had, so that's not their fault. They actually work twice or three times harder to make up for that fact, so in that sense no. But yes, it affects what I teach in classes because I don't want to use articles which I may have used in a 101 level class in New Zealand because students here shouldn't be so challenged by the materials and turn away and think they can never do this successfully. Do I move the level down a little bit? Yes I do, but I challenge them on that level when I bring something which students can understand, I expect students to produce and analyze something with the best possible quality.

Q7) Would you recommend to someone to continue their education in New Zealand?

I would, I think the country is absolutely beautiful. I think they have a very welcoming system, especially for postgraduate degrees; they actually treat you like a New Zealander. It's not only about the economic reasons, you should also think about the kinds of openings you are going to have, for example students who want to work in things like media, issues of the natural world, the environment, the sciences, humanities and literature. New Zealand is as good, and better than many other places in the world. I would absolutely encourage anyone who wants to apply and study for higher education plans at any level.

Have you ever seen any written piece from a student in the general English courses and thought: "why are they in English 101/102?"?

Yes, I think that happens more often than not and in both ways. It could be in a negative way, I would see essays in a 102 class and think: "how did this student ever get to 102?". I also have the opposite experience, for example, I have students in 101 classes and I wonder why they didn't test out of this straight into 102. You often see those kinds of students, and that's great, it makes us pitch the class to a certain level where we see students with slightly more facility with English, slightly less facility with English, and we try to pitch the material we use in class depending on students' level.

Dr. Abid agreed to answer the following questions as additional questions:

Would you prefer being a faculty in AUK or student in New Zealand?

That's a tough ask because both had enormous benefits. I loved being a student and I love being a faculty member. I love having independence to do what I'm doing. I love making more money so I can enjoy my life with my family. I love living in the Middle East so I can have access to various parts of the world, but I like interacting with students, so it was fun to be a student. It's great to be in Kuwait in this position. I'm independent in my own classroom and that, to me, is a very important thing. It's one of the reasons why I would find it very difficult to go back and teach in school again, not because of the nature of high school, but because students are at a very low level and you have much greater demands placed on you. I think school teachers work much harder than university professors, it's just a question of degree of how much knowledge you have.

If you could go back in time would you still pick AUK as a place to work in?

Knowing what I know now, the first six months were so difficult because of documenting issues and

stuff like that. I had known that, I would not have come, but now, after six months, I'm happy I came and I'm actually happy to be here. I'm glad that the first six months didn't drive me away. Sometimes people could say it's too difficult and too irritating and who is to say that they are wrong? Happiness is very important in life. I have friends who have quit jobs within a month or two months of landing, but I'm happy that I sucked it up for the first six months which was somewhat difficult for me personally but not professionally, professionally I was doing fine and having fun. I would have missed a lot if I wasn't in Kuwait.

Would you prefer to swap your position as a coordinator with Prof. Benjamin Crace?

That's an interesting question, he has a lot more hands-on experience with his tutors, with the labs and so forth. I think I'd like to take a shot at it, but he does it so well that there is really no need for anyone to replace him. Some of the things he does I know I couldn't do well at all, like producing arguments to support the English 100 program and organizing statistics. I think he is doing it so well so why would anyone want to replace him? I think his job has a lot of interesting aspects, but I like my position as well, the coordinator position is not so much maybe, but again students are the subject here.

Interview with Dr. James Lambert

By : Abdullah A Al-Qouz

The Voice's reporter, Abdullah Al Qouz, conducted an insightful interview with Dr. James Lambert, Chair of the English department.

Why did you choose The Renaissance as a specialty?

Well, what I always say to people is that it chose me. When I was doing my master's degree in contemporary American literature, I wrote a little piece on Midsummer Night's Dream about the character of Nick Bottom, which I thought was a great character. I just wrote it when I was doing my master's, and I went to a conference to present on it. The conference was on Renaissance Literature, but again, I was an Americanist. I found that I wrote much more easily when it came to Renaissance, and I like reading American literature, but when it comes to produce work, it's easier for me to produce work on Renaissance Literature.

How did you become Chair of the department?

Each department has its own policy: it could be through voting or the Chair's decisions, but it should start by the department sending a recommendation to the Dean's office and the Dean approves or disapproves, so the Dean appoints the Chair.

Do you have any interests in doing that?

I believe in higher education. It's hard in the world to believe in things. Sometimes you have to believe in something in exclusion of other things and sometimes those beliefs make you compromise practices or time. But I believe the higher education system, in particularly American university system, is one of the great achievements of civilization. Although that sounds very broad, it motivates me to serve within it.

Did your experience in Iowa give you an enhancement for being a Chair in the department?

I would say the best experience in the department would be being the Writing Program Coordinator, which I was before I was Chair here. But in my experience in Iowa, I was the director of the speaking center, and I had fourteen general education literature teachers under my jurisdiction.

Do you have any plans for developing the English department?

I think the plans now for being a new Chair is to



maintain the department's integrity. The strength of the department is our amazing faculty, so as long as we get support, we will continue to be a great department. There is more administrative stuff that doesn't need to be mentioned--a plan to do full assessment, a plan to do accreditation, a plan to revamp the curriculum--and all this other boring stuff. But the main plan is maintain the strength of the faculty.

Do you have anything to say for the English majors/minors?

Yes, I have a lot to say. I think the best that liberal arts education has to offer is humanistic learning. Basically you get one chance to have unfettered humanistic learning, and the English department or any literature department is going to embrace that wholeheartedly. Many of our students are not going to get anything even remotely close to this outside of our department and university. Their careers are not going to be reading novels or reading plays or poetry. But I think taking advantage of that moment where all you do is read and discuss the ideas in books, the history of texts, words, and all that that entails combines to make a really rich and very unique experience, and to take advantage of this education is to really enjoy it. English literature is not a degree which will necessarily allow you have a job afterwards in English, but rather a student can gain an amazing knowledge of human beings, about how words work, how relationships work, about how we communicate about ideas, philosophy, and so on, and then you get a job to deal with computers or translation which is fine too. But this is the chance to study that stuff that is not economically feasible but absolutely crucial to being a human, and I think people should take advantage of that when they are in the English program.

Do have anything to say for the general English requirements courses now that you are not the coordinator anymore?

I guess what I can say is that those classes can be the most interesting classes you take. But any time you have a course that is a required course, people approach it as if it's not going to be the most interesting class that you take. But if you approach it as a moment to aggregate your knowledge and demonstrate it, then it could be the greatest. We, essentially in the writing program, give you tools to produce your own argument, and then we receive your own argument, a piece of yourself. But students take it as just a required course, and that's fine, but if you take as a moment to use your intellectual capabilities to produce something that is lasting then that's great.

Have you ever witnessed a student's written work that seemed like a work of an author?

Yes. I've seen a few essays that I think, with a little more development and with more research and some more polished writing, could be an essay that could be published. I have yet to see a piece of creative writing--poetry, stories, and those kind of things--that I think are worthy of publication. That might be a project that we're not teaching enough, but I haven't seen it.

Will you miss being the writing coordinator?

Yes, I do miss being the writing coordinator, because it had fewer meetings, while you still get to look closely at the curriculum, which I think is nicer.

Would you like to give any advice to Dr. Abid Vali?

He already knows everything he needs to know. I would just say trust the faculty, they are great teachers.

**Dr. James Lambert agreed to answer the following questions as additional questions:
B1) Would you appreciate an English major without studying any poetry?**

You could do that. You could conceivably work without poetry but my preference is that students encounter it. The reason is that I think poetry is the most basic of all human communication and the most primitive and the most thoughtful about human communication.

Do you ever wonder what is it like to be just an associate professor since you have been always a coordinator or a Chair after PhD?

In my first year I was just a professor, but nothing really changes after you have an administrative duty. Yes you have more administrative duties but you are still a professor, it's all the same. After having all these administrative duties it would be nice to not have them so that you could focus on just teaching and research, but I'm young and I have a lot of energy for work.



Behind The Scenes

By: Omar Khalil
President of the Diwaniya Book Club.

With the hankering for competitive events that this university is known for and the intrinsic need for students to practice their intellect and prove themselves, we at the Writing Center Diwaniya Book Club had decided to curb this enthusiasm by hosting our very own QR code scavenger hunt, which we've dubbed as "The Grand Treasure Hunt."

I felt that there was a certain grandeur to be met while designing the event, not only to make it stand out from all the other flashy events that were happening at the same time, but also to ensure that those who would be participating feel like they are truly engaged in a treasure hunt is truly epic. So epic, in fact, so that they would feel as if they're in a race against time while locked in a battle of wits with dozens of other gusty treasure hunters where the wittiest and the fastest survive. That every cell in their brain and every ounce of intellect and intuition must be used in order to ensure glorious victory and vast riches. That every clue solved feels like a conundrum overcome and every new clue found is like getting closer to a hidden island, where X marks the spot. The event had to be grand, in every sense of the word.

The one thing we were all certain of was that all of our clues were to be scattered throughout the AUK campus, and not in one building or room. There is no better way to incite a feeling of adventure into someone than a sheer sense of scale and space, after all. This was accomplished thanks to the support of AUK, librarian Zainab Al Attabi, AALSS administrative assistant, Areej Awwad, and Tutoring Center

administrator, Yassmin Diab, who were all eager to provide us with all the help we needed in hiding our clues.

Then there was the issue of how the whole thing was going to look and feel. It had already been determined that grandeur, adventure, and intrigue were important themes that had to be injected into everything we were going to create. There were many (mostly rhetorical) questions that we've had to ask ourselves. Should the scrolls the players find be plain, uncentered QR codes on a white and sterile background, or should they have a rustic wooden texture to it, as if they had been lost and aged for centuries? Should the clues they contain be presented as simple instructions on where to find the next clue, or should those instructions be hidden behind a strange cipher that changes after every clue, emphasizing the importance of the lost treasure and rewarding those who solve them with a deep feeling of satisfaction and pride? Should the poster used to advertise the event contain nothing but the in-depth rules and description of the event, like the syllabus we receive at the beginning of every course, or should it contain an explosive background behind a large and enticing QR code with only four lines of bold text beneath: a calling for anyone brave enough to locate a hidden treasure? In the end, we came up with a grand design that I was pleasantly satisfied with. In this article are some examples of the materials we used throughout the event:

With all the clues compressed and uploaded to Imgur and all the QR codes hidden carefully in their designated places, it was finally time to put up the posters and launch the event on Tuesday the 24th of November. After a long day of advertising the event and guiding people through how to scan a QR code, I was surprised to learn that a

total of 14 students had signed up before the day was over, and a handful more the next day. The keen faces of those who visited the Writing Center to sign their names and the eagerness they showed before they left to search for the next clue were a satisfying sight to behold for me; to them, it really did feel like they were embarking on a grand adventure. What followed the next day was even more exciting. As expected, students had already begun the hunt.

The Tutoring Center, the library, the Writing Center and the Advising Center were all buzzing with energy as hunters came and left with the express purpose of locating the hidden clues. At Writing Center, treasure hunters composed funny (yet sometimes depressing) spine and blackout poetry in exchange for hints. But the highlight of that day was an especially memorable one when a pair of hunters stormed into the center claiming that they had found the treasure, before suddenly crumbling to the ground to catch their breath!

The next day commenced with us handing certificates and prizes (and tossing bagfuls of confetti) to the first three teams that had successfully completed the hunt. I'd like to congratulate them once more and thank them for participating and making the event the exciting success that it had been:

Yasser Elsherif
Huda Al Shemmari & Elham Hardan
Hala Al Faisal & Darin Kablaoui

And to everyone else who had participated, I hope you had as much fun taking part as we did making it all happen, even if you didn't win a prize in the end. It is important to break the monotony of academia and work, even if for only a couple of days. In closing, here is an inspiring quote that you may have encountered during your treasure

hunt: "It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end." - Ernest Hemingway



Natural Health Care- Body Scrubs

By: Sara F. Ayesh

Winter signifies a lot of different things; longer nights, new wardrobes, and freaky hailstorms if you're in Kuwait (I guess we are just too hardcore for regular old snow). Despite our delight in warming up with seasonal-only drinks in the winter months, every silver lining has its cumulus cloud. Winter also brings about chapped lips, dry skin, and scratchy winter coats. While I cannot really help you if you're still not old enough to choose comfortable outerwear by now, I can extend my limited knowledge of healthy and glowing skin in these upcoming winter months.

As we all know, temperature is directly proportional to pain. The colder the weather, the more injuries seem to hurt (remember that toe you stubbed while walking barefoot on the ice cold floor getting ready in the morning?). Now imagine that pain intensified by having cracked and dry skin. Never fear, natural health care is here! Below is all you need to know to create your own natural body scrub, free of all harmful chemicals; When you take out all the bows and frills, you really only need two things to make a scrub; an abrasive medium and a lubricant.

Abrasive mediums are what are going to exfoliate your skin, get rid of the dead skin cells, and prevent breakouts, giving you a healthier and refreshed appearance. Lubricators are needed to spread the medium on your skin and to help moisturize the skin while you're rubbing your scrub on in circular motions.

Nature had blessed us with many different options we can use to create our natural product, mix and match from the below columns to create your preferred combination!

Abrasive Mediums:

1. Sugar (brown or white)
2. Salt (fine or coarse Sea salt)
3. Oatmeal
4. Rice flour
5. Cornmeal
6. Baking Soda (lightens skin)
7. Ground Coffee Beans (Lessens cellulite and tightens skin with time)
8. Jojoba Seeds

9. Apricot Kernels (seeds)
10. Grounded Avocado Seeds

Lubricators

1. Coconut Oil (normal to dry skin)
2. Olive Oil (normal to dry skin, cleanses skin)
3. Sweet Almond Oil (normal skin)
4. Jojoba Oil (most skin types; esp. dry, damaged, and mature skin)
5. Grape Seed Oil (normal to dry skin)
6. Peanut Oil
7. Aloe Vera Gel
8. Shea Butter for a more creamy scrub

Extra Nourishment

If you're feeling extra loving toward your body, try adding some of these ingredients to your scrub.

1. Lemon juice (Lightens skin and helps fades blemishes and scars.)
2. Honey (great moisturizer, quickens cell regeneration and healing, lightens skin, helps fight acne).
3. Tea Tree (acne healing), Rose, Rosemary, as well as all other Essential Oils have great health properties.
4. Various extracts like vanilla, raspberry, and lemon to give your scrub a refreshing scent.
5. Vitamin E Oil to help skin rejuvenation, healing, and scar fading.

Things to Keep in Mind

1. Our skin, the largest organ in our bodies is a marvelously created miracle. Keeping that in mind, it has its limits. Some of these mediums are more abrasive than others. Try the softer exfoliators first (ex: Oatmeal, baking soda, rice flour, and cornmeal) and work your way up through the coarser ones (ex: Seeds, Sea salt, ground coffee beans).
2. The coarser mediums are not to be used on the face!
3. Start with a ¼ cup of medium and add as much lubricant as you want to get the desired consistency.
4. Keep away from water to increase shelf life. A fresh batch of scrub should be made every 2-3 weeks to get the maximum benefits of the ingredients.
5. When mixing ingredients keep in mind how their different scents will mix together. Peanut oil has a particular strong smell that might not mix well with others.

My Favorite Homemade Potion Concoction:

1. ¼ cup brown sugar
2. ¼ cup coffee grounds
3. ¼ cup Coconut oil
4. 1 tablespoon of honey
5. 3 tsp. honey
6. Few drops Tea Tree oil



We asked some of students and faculty of AUK what they would like to tell the AUK family, the responses were expectedly quite honest.



Nourah Al-Sulaiman, IR

"Stop blasting music in the hallways; I can't study. "
"Study now, live later"



Jaber Al-Mulla, IR

"AUK could use a hand full of improvements."



Emmanuel Joseph, CPEG

"Make people feel comfortable in campus."



Sumaiya Esnoussi, Finance

"I think it's important to always look at the bright side of things, especially people"



Ahmed Al Ebrahim, Electrical Engineering

"Get better parking"



Dr. Ralph Palliam

May your schooling never interfere with your education. -Oscar Wilde



Dr. Ali Charara

"Be responsible"

Dr. Neamat Mosaad

"Get rid of your mobile addiction."

Dana Ahmad, SBSA

"Don't give up, finish strong"

Malak Gharib, MRKT & MGMT

"Be more considerate to other people's feelings, also please manage your attitude and market your good deeds."

Fatemah Al Attar, Computer Engineering

"Stop spreading rumors"

Abdullah Al-Husain, Electric Engineering

"Please inform your drivers not to take up parking spaces when they're in the car waiting, and while you're at it please save a parking spot for me!"

"The education you have of traditions and culture at home shouldn't be forgotten in the few hours of schooling you have in university each day. - Ralph Palliam

Shorouk Al Sabah, IR

"The university regulations should be respected. For example: dress code, and smoking (some people have asthma!). Also, do put some space between you and whomever your walking next to! Nevertheless, what's great about AUK is the familial atmosphere we have with one another. "

Strained Relations

By: Jarrah Al-Khalifah

My phone broke and I don't enjoy listening to the music on the radio. Suddenly, I found myself listening to the news whenever I was driving; switching constantly between Voice of America (VOA) and BBC World Service. "The situation in Syria is escalating," "The world mourns with Paris," "Russia outraged at the shooting down of one of their jets by Turkey." Things are escalating quickly. Political ties are very strained at the moment. One main story that keeps coming up is the tension between Turkey and Russia.

On November 24, Turkey shot down a Russian fighter bomber near the Syrian-Turkish border. The two nations had been on good terms prior to the shooting down of the Russian plane. Now, however, Russia has

been expressing its anger about the issue day after day for weeks. Putin threatened that there would be "serious consequences." Turkey refuses to apologize to Russia and has been claiming that the pilot of the downed Russian plane was warned several times that he was violating Turkish airspace before shooting him down.

The U.S. has backed Turkey in their claim, saying that it was listening on the frequency that Turkey was broadcasting on, and it did indeed warn the pilot several times. Russia has been urging its citizens in Turkey to return, while continually expressing its frustration and anger with Turkey. On Tuesday, December 1, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev approved detailed sanctions to be placed on Turkey. Expected sanctions were put in place, such as "agricultural products that Russia would no longer import from Turkey from Jan. 1..."

(Reuters). However, after recent weeks of expressed outrage, the international community expected Russia to target more significant Turkish imports, such as the Turkish Stream gas pipeline or foods such as lemons or nuts. Reuters also reported that other foods that will be banned starting next year include "fruit and vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, grapes, apricots apples, as well as chicken products and salt." Other than food products being banned, the government also put a stop on an inter-governmental trade commission and placed restrictions on Turkish transport companies.

There is one issue, however, that keeps coming up. Turkey is the #1 destination choice for Russians. BBC Reported that 3.2 million Russian tourists flooded the country in 2014 alone. Antalya is the most popular city in Turkey in the eyes of Russian tourists, and the city shows just that:

Russian cafes and restaurants, and Russian-speakers all around. While some Russians agree with Putin and see it as a "stab in the back," others are getting restless with their government. Less than a month before the government's ban on holidays to Turkey, the Russian government had banned holidays to Egypt, Russia's second most popular holiday destination.

We have always said that the world is a small place, but lately it has been getting smaller and smaller. As ties, such as the one between Turkey and Russia, are broken, people become more and more xenophobic and unaccepting of others. We have come a long way to become more tolerant and accepting of one another. Now we must face our toughest challenge yet, to love and accept one another despite extremist groups and governments destroying these bonds in the course of their everlasting war with one another.



Sparks of Creativity is a space where students, faculty and staff can share anything their thoughts lead them to: a poem, a story, a sketch, or an experience that deserves a passive-aggressive rant about life and how much it hates you. English and Arabic entries are welcome.

Disappointments

By: Huda Al Kotb

Eva wished he would stop talking, or at least stop talking about himself. This was one of the worst dates she had ever been on. She nodded her head out of politeness and wondered why her mother said he would be perfect for her. They had nothing in common. He slurped his tea and she could not hide her disgust, so she excused herself and went to the washroom.

Eva looked back at her reflection. Her blond hair rested elegantly on her shoulders, contrasting well against her baby blue dress, reminding her of the beach. She looked at the time; the date should end soon. When she felt she could, she returned to the table.

"You women and your constant need to powder your nose, I just don't understand it," he said rather bluntly. She stared back at him and forced a smile. "I once had a cat with eyes like yours. She died, but I loved her big green eyes. A few days later I got another cat but he ran away, Bruce, I called him," he said. Eva looked at the time again.

"Sometimes I feel like I was a lion in a past life. I'm so brave and strong, would you like to feel my biceps? I can also run. Oh, and I love to hunt. I don't eat the animals I hunt, but it's all good fun when you're in the wild with a rifle," he spoke too loudly.

"I'm sorry, I just can't do this anymore, thank you for your time and dinner, but I have to go." Eva began to get up when he held her wrist and said, "Look

I'm just nervous, could you please stay a bit longer?"

She looked at the time, then looked back at him, sighed and sat back down. Eva signaled for the waiter to come, and ordered a coffee. She then looked at him and said, "Mark, there's no need to be nervous. I just didn't want to waste any more of your time, or mine for that matter, because I simply don't find us compatible."

"You could be right, and this whole thing could be a mistake, but can we start over? I have to be honest, I got really nervous when I saw you tonight; you're beautiful and I thought that I couldn't impress you if I was my usual self. I don't know what I was thinking, but could you just stay a little while longer and give me a second chance?" asked Mark.

Eva was taken aback; just moments ago he was a typical brute, but now his words have transformed him, as though he's been repainted with the brush of elegance and a sweet sorrow. She began to tell him about herself. Many cups of coffee and toffee desserts later, they were still there, talking and laughing like they'd known each other for years. Mark's eyes focused on hers, and she batted her eyelashes at him, and they both blushed. He told her stories from his childhood, and she told him about her hopes and dreams.

The conversation slowly came to a silence, and the lights of the café began to dim as it was about to close for the night. The waiter brought over the check and to Eva's relief, Mark paid it and gave a generous tip too.

He helped her up and gave her his arm as they left the café and walked into the starry night outside. The light breeze brushed their skin as cold fresh air entered their lungs. Mark turned to Eva and smiled, and she smiled back. Mark took a deep breath and said, "so your place or mine?" Eva's smile disappeared.

Untitled

By: Mohammed Al-Ajmi

Lying on the beach while staring at the stars,
With black holes in my heart and pearls on the sand.
A body so weak, filled with bruises and scars,
Listening to the waves but can barely stand.

Creating scenarios inside my head,
Of things that never happened.
Imaging them in my bed,
Or I might be even dead.

Are we really alive or is our existence just a dream?
Maybe it's just a nightmare at the end of the night followed by a scream.
As I lay here dying, looking at my own bloodstream,
Feeling the hell burning my skin, I can't handle this steam.

I wake up from this nightmare to see you sitting next to me,
Telling me that it's just a bad nightmare while patting my knee.
I feel like it's not real to find you next to me, or so I seem to see,
I might be there or I might be in my white room, wearing my straitjacket, just let me be.

Beautiful, Untranslatable Words

By: Paola Schietekat

Language evolves and it evolves according to the needs and wants of those who speak it. We know the Inuit have several terms to refer to snow because their experiences in the environment in which they live have taught them to identify different types of snow.

Could it be possible for different societies to shape language differently in more abstract matters like feelings, dreams and observations? Below is

a list of beautiful words in different languages around the world that are untranslatable in English.

Mamihlapinatapei (Yagan).

A wordless, yet meaningful look shared by two people who both desire to initiate something but are both reluctant to start.

Fernweh (German)

Feeling homesick for a place you've never been to.

Apapachoa (Nahuatl)

To caress the soul.

Aware (Japanese)

The bittersweetness of a brief and fading moment of transcendent beauty.

Tingo (Pascuense)

To gradually steal all the possessions out of a neighbor's house by borrowing and not returning.

Gökotta (Swedish)

To wake up early in the morning with the purpose of going outside to hear the first birds sing.

Hanyauku (Rukwangali)

The act of walking on tiptoes across warm sand.

Gattara (Italian)

A woman, often old and lonely, who devotes herself to stray cats.

Prozvonit (Czech)

To call a cell phone and let it ring once so the other person will call back, saving the first caller money

Iktsuarpok (Inuit)

The frustration of waiting for someone to turn up.

Ilunga (Tshiluba)

A person who is ready to forgive any abuse for the first time, to tolerate it a second time, but never a third time.

Te quiero (Spanish)

A way to show love and appreciation to someone, in a non-lustful, less romantic way.

Source: <http://100daysproject.co.nz/event>

Monthly Dose of New Series

By: Rouaa Diab

The Flash:

It is without a doubt that series based on superhero comics are becoming the new thing. However, very few really capture the essence of these superheroes, while making the series modern enough to fit our generation. The Flash is indeed one of those series that allows us to get a pretty good idea about the hero's life, childhood, and how he came to be the Flash. This series is highly recommended for any superhero-lovers who are into light-on-the-heart drama and lots of laughs.



Devious Maids:

This series focuses on the lives of several maids who work for highly sophisticated and rich people. Yes, the maids are indeed the main attraction of this series, but it really is more interesting than it sounds. The amount of shocking events that take place in this series will leave you wanting more and more, and anybody who has watched this show will surely recommend it. If I say anything else, I would be spoiling the show for you, but what I can share with you is that this show is the definition of pure entertainment.



Gotham:

Yet another series based upon a superhero; like I said, they are the hottest type of series right now! If you are a fan of Batman, which a lot of us are, myself included, this show is definitely worth the watch. It is currently at the state of Batman's childhood, so you see, as you progress through this show, how Bruce Wayne is growing up, and we are yet to see how he becomes the iconic superhero he is. What would a Batman fan want more than to see every detail of Batman's life?



Where to Go?

By: Paola Schietekat

Winter is here and so is Qout Market, the artisanal urban market where independent vendors can sell their products and occasional cultural and art events are featured. Qout Market has been organized for a few years already, typically taking place at the Arraya Center's carpark rooftop on the first Saturday of every month between November to April. This year it is different; Qout's new location is at Murouj, next to the Sahara Golf Club and takes place twice a month on Saturdays.

The pros: It is indeed an innovative project that has gained momentum throughout time. The variety of products guarantees a great family time and the opportunity to get original arts and crafts, unique artisanal products and organic food and ingredients. There is usually a music group invited to entertain passers-

by and it really brightens up the atmosphere.

The cons: The idea has been a little too marketized since its emergence and many vendors are restaurants and large scale shops that kill the whole purpose of an artisanal, local farmers market with overpriced, processed items. It is a bit too crowded, making it hard to walk, especially with children, and since everyone goes there, organizers should consider getting a larger location. The parking! You'll be hating life when trying to park, especially if you go in the afternoon.



To contact us, Email us at voice@auk.edu.kw

Call for February Submissions

The Voice of AUK is now accepting submissions for our February edition. The deadline for submissions will be on **Thursday 22nd Jan.** The Voice will be publishing relevant information about a **career in CSI** in our Academic section.

The Voice also regularly accepts submissions concerning politics, sports, fashion, poetry, opinion piece, shealth & beauty, etc. from students, faculty and staff.

Email your submissions to:
voice@auk.edu.kw

Submissions should be 1000 words or less. If pictures are attached, they need to be in a JPG format and attached in a separate file.

The Voice of AUK is the official student newspaper of the American University of Kuwait.



THE VOICE IS LOOKING FOR NEW WRITERS!

If you are interested to become a general reporter or volunteer, contact us at voice@auk.edu.kw