



Alice Awards Rock the Showcase

AUK's 4th Academic Showcase took place 10 – 11 December 2007 in the Liberal Arts Auditorium. It was a multidisciplinary festival of computer animation, public speaking, short stories and films, debates, fine art displays, and musical performances. According to event coordinator Dalia Hassan, "The showcase this semester witnessed the participation of more than a 100 students supervised by 18 professors."

Students displayed their work and talent in a wide variety of subject areas. Public speakers demonstrated their prowess at extemporaneous and impromptu speaking, while another group gave an outstanding talk on biodiversity and global warming.

For those interested in the Arts there were piano and violin recitals, short story readings, short films, and comedy sketches.

Business students shared experiences gained at summer internships, discussed entrepreneurship, corporate governance and fraud, and the energy industry.

In the area of social sciences, attendees were treated to presentations on media and identity,



A scene from Anurag Ghalotra's double award winning (Best Picture and Best Scene Design) production, *Written In Blood*.

pop culture in South Asia, an analysis of the similarities between Spanish and Arabic, and a debate on Kuwait's need for foreign support.

Intensive English students made their contribution as well, receiving outstanding achievement awards, putting on public speaking dis-

plays, and presenting on an eclectic group of topics ranging from music, insomnia, depression, and hypnotism.

One of the biggest crowd-pleasers of the event was the Alice Awards. The awards acknowledge the finest animation programming projects submitted in the CSIS 101 course. Students' programs are developed using the educational Alice software program. Originally designed as a rapid development environment for virtual reality applications, Alice is currently being used at a growing number of schools—including AUK—to revolutionize the teaching of computer programming.

The two-day event wrapped up on Tuesday evening with an Arabian Music Heritage performance in support of the Kuwait Orphanage.

Special thanks are due to Dalia Hassan without whose tireless efforts at scheduling and logistics the event would not have been nearly as successful. That being said, it was a team effort, and also to be acknowledged are Mazin Younes & All Campus services group, Louis Fernandes, Nezam Hamzeh, Zeina, Amer el Assaad, Fatma Khamis, 'Ray and the Boys at the Diner', Mr. Musbah, and of course, Ms. Violet and all the cleaning crew.

MUNAUK Triumphs at BUMUN

By Farah Al-Shamali

From 29th November to 2nd December 2007, the Model United Nations team at the American University of Kuwait participated in BUMUN (Bahrain Universities Model United Nations) Conference. For months, members of MUNAUK worked diligently preparing opening speeches, writing position papers, and formulating resolutions for the addressed world issues at the conference.

At BUMUN, there were four commissions: the General Assembly, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Each commission deliberated different world crises that pose a threat to international solidarity. Each MUNAUK member represented a different country and was placed in the above mentioned commissions as follows: Fahad Mohammad - Peru (Security Council), Fahad Al-Tukhaim - Panama (Security Council), Yusuf Al-Rashed - Peru (General Assembly), Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa - Eritrea (General Assembly), Rosemary

(Maryam) Santizo - Panama (General Assembly), Farah Al-Shamali - Kuwait (General Assembly), Dana Shamlawi - The World Trade Organization (General Assembly), Fatima Al-Qattan - Bulgaria (General Assembly).

MUNAUK delegates stood out at the conference due to their adherence to parliamentary procedures and their contribution to presenting operative resolutions.

Speaking for myself as the delegate of Kuwait, I had submitted a resolution concerning the empowerment of women which had been unanimously chosen to be debated but unfortunately was not debated due to time constraints. Maryam Santizo and Fatima Al-Qattan proved to be exemplary debaters and diplomats as they successfully rallied delegates to sign on to their resolution on "Trafficking of Light Armaments and RPGs". Yusuf Al-Rashed, our military strategist, offered effective containment solutions to the crisis situation, rise of the Kurdish PKK nationalist resistant group in Iraq. Dana Sham-

lawi cross-examined delegates professionally asking coherent questions with the objective of creating effective solutions and not repetitive ones. Abdulaziz Al-Mutawa proved to be a bold speaker and rallied for his policies. Finally, the President and Vice-President of MUNAUK, Fahad Mohammad and Fahad Al-Tukhaim, did an outstanding job in the Security Council passing clauses regarding the situation in Sudan. Fahad M., Fahad T., Fatma, Maryam, and Abdulaziz all earned diplomacy awards for their efforts and made our university and country proud.

MUN conferences add greatly to the experience of a student aspiring to a career in political science or as a diplomat. Fore most, it hones public speaking skills and bring about the capability of delivering a speech effectively and with passion. Aside from its benefits for a vocation in politics, it can be readily applied to all fields of work. We all deal with people of different backgrounds and

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Music to Wash Off the Sea

By Nur Soliman

In this lecture/concert, Dr. Lisa Urkevich, a "leading specialist in the music and artistic culture of the Arabian Peninsula" and professor at the American University of Kuwait, introduced the audience to the history of the sea-song tradition of Kuwait as a largely unique reflection of the hardships endured by the pearl-divers of the past.

Aided by evocative monochrome photographs, maps, and charts, Urkevich discussed the hardships of life on the sea, where hundreds of boats would sail off far into the blue waters to remain there for months on end, living under duress with meager provisions.

Urkevich then explained that to ease the harshness of the sea and the conditions they worked under, the sailors developed a great many songs to lift their spirits and instill in them the motivation to work from dawn to dusk. For instance, the *Dawari Yamal* (named for the capstan, around which the ship's rope is wound) was what the sailors would sing when they hauled in miles of rope and anchor.

The song is strong in rhythm to keep the sailors moving together, with the *Nahham*, or singer, wailing a lilting song, praising the Prophet and asking Allah to aid them, and the cool wind to blow over and soothe their tired spirits. After each powerful heave, the sailors would all emit a powerful grunt, similar to that of the camel when he finally settles down on the ground after carrying a heavy burden.

To aid Urkevich in her lecture was the renowned ensemble, the Bin Hussein Sea band. Composed of over 80 members (sons, grandsons, friends and relations), only a group of these attended, dressed in traditional sea attire with the head-cloth on their heads and a red cloth bound about their waists.

The Bin Hussein band was originally conceived in 1958 when the founder, Hamad bin Hussein, and his friends were asked to help preserve Kuwaiti musical heritage. The band has expanded enormously, creating a "long line of musical members who date back to the turn of the century".

After briefly covering the music of the sea, Urkevich came to the main topic of her lecture: the songs and

dance that the sailors would perform upon returning to land. Because they had undergone such intense experiences together at sea, the sailors, after greeting their families and loved ones, would immediately come together again to "wash off," as it were, the harsh memories they had and to forget the hardships endured.

In Kuwait, this ceremony is called *Uns* or enjoyment, as it is where they celebrate their survival and return to dry land. In Dr. Lisa's words, it is where the sailors finally "feel like humans and relax... [it is] a collective release of pent-up [experiences] of hardship."

The music of the ceremony is divided into three sections, each with its own particular parts which are always played in order. The first is music of the desert; the second is sea music proper; while the third incorporates city music.

The desert music is designed to pay homage, so to speak, to the land to which they finally return. The sand and heat are not kind to all instruments, but those that are suitable are used, such

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President's Progress Report December 2007

By President Marina Tolmacheva

Academic Year 2007-08 marks the achievement of the senior year in the AUK undergraduate degree cycle. Next semester the programs initiated in Fall 2004 will complete their four-year degree plans and graduate the Class of 2008. Commencement will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2008. The event will highlight the AUK-Dartmouth connection; the Provost of Dartmouth College Dr. Barry Scherr will be the keynote speaker. The year 2007-08 also marks two important institutional processes that require mobilization of our best efforts and resources: the re-accreditation review by the Kuwait Council for Private Universities and the Master Planning for the new Ardhya campus.

Accreditation

AUK accreditation by the Council for Private Universities is a pre-condition of its continued success as a degree-granting institution. Without national accreditation, AUK cannot expect to achieve international accreditation, and our graduates may have difficulty in having our degrees and coursework credits recognized outside Kuwait. The Accreditation Committee of the Council has reviewed the required Re-Accreditation report submitted by AUK as well as other documents. The Committee visited the campus several times during the week of November 18, requested and received additional information, and met with the Administration, faculty, staff, students, and the Chair of the AUK Board of Trustees Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah. AUK's continued ability to fulfill its educational mission is circumscribed by the Kuwait laws, accreditation requirements, regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education, and the directives of the Council for Private Universities. Foremost among these is Article 6 of the Amiri Decree no. 34 for the year 2000 on the Establishment of Private Universities in the State of Kuwait (cited on p.20 of the AUK Catalog). AUK Code of Conduct (posted on the website) requires compliance with Kuwait laws and regulations as well as respect for local traditions and values. The adherence to these values and the requirement of gender segregation by private universities has been a subject of concern to the members of the CPU Accreditation team, to the Council at large, and to the Parliament. The Committee will present its report and recommendations to the Council within the next few weeks.

International Accreditation.

AUK will continue exploring the possibilities for international institutional accreditation with the United State regional accrediting bodies. Dr. Patricia Read-Hunter, Senior Assistant to the President, will coordinate AUK's international accreditation efforts. We are proud to report that AUK has achieved notable success in its first attempts at obtaining international accreditation for individual academic programs. The Intensive English Program (IEP) has been admitted to the candidacy status with the US-based Commissions on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). Margaret Combs and Stephen Jacques are working on the self-study required for accreditation application. Dr. Jeremy Cripps, Division Head of Business & Economics, is directing preparations for the Business program's accreditation with the US-based Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). In the meantime, AUK has been admitted to membership in ACBSP. The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) has achieved formal approval as a Cambridge International Centre, authorized to offer English (CELTA) training and testing. They also have obtained authorization to offer Sales and Marketing certificate programs from the UK-based NCC Education Ltd.

Planning

The Master Planning process has engaged various parts of the University in reviewing our priorities, needs, and expectations. The obvious need for site planning on the new campus requires clarity about our enrollment targets, academic programs, and the range of student activities and support services AUK wants to offer.

Master Planning. The site planning is being undertaken by the Kuwait company Option 1 with input from Academic, Student, and Business Affairs. Plans include classroom and office buildings, sports facilities, a Student Center, and multi-storey parking. Site development will follow the submission of plans and receipt of necessary permits. Construction may begin in 2009 at the earliest. This means that for the next several years, programs on the Salmiya campus will remain unaffected by new campus development. No major new construction will be undertaken on the Salmiya campus in the meantime. The current facilities are capable of accommodating up to 2,200-2,400 students with good course and schedule planning.

Academic Planning. AUK plans for expansion and addition of academic programs are significant. Two major initiatives are in preparation. One involves the development of undergraduate Engineering programs, for which AUK is already licensed. The planning of program curricula and required facilities is being guided by Dr. Shereef Abu Al-Maati, Division Head of Sciences. In preparation for this major addition to AUK's Business and Liberal Arts programs, Dr. Shereef has visited several US universities with strong engineering programs, consulted with their faculty and visited their laboratories. The first Engineering program targeted for implementation will be Computer Engineering, scheduled to be opened to freshmen in AY 2008-09. The Division of Sciences is seeking additional faculty in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering to support the introduction of the new programs.

The second major academic initiative involves the proposed development of a Graduate School at AUK. Private universities in Kuwait are required to obtain a license for offering graduate degrees. At this time, the University is licensed only for undergraduate programs up to the Bachelor level. To obtain the license for Master's degree programs, AUK is required to undergo a feasibility study and to conduct a marketing study focused on the specific programs proposed. The feasibility study will be conducted by Ernst & Young; the marketing company will be selected through a bidding process. The academic programs identified for this license application include: Business (MBA), Communication, Computer Science, English, and International Relations. No Ph.D. programs are being planned at this time.

The process will require considerable effort in developing program curricula, course lists, and enrollment projections as well as identifying the faculty, financial, and equipment resources and facilities required. All four divisions have been involved in the preliminary steps; the College of Arts & Sciences will need much more faculty involvement and support to prepare fully developed program applications for submission to the Council for Private Universities. AUK aims to complete the proposal package in Spring 2008. Lead faculty in the five designated programs will be expected to develop the academic portion of the proposal with oversight from their division heads and the College Dean. Executive Director of Finance and Administration Mr. Ernest Conklin will oversee preparation of the finance and facilities sections of the proposal and help in the development of the appropriate space, equipment acquisition, and budgeting plans. Dr. Patricia Read-Hunter will serve as liaison to the President's office and support the overall package preparation for the Graduate School license. The University will need to hire additional faculty in all five areas qualified to teach graduate courses and guide graduate students through projects and theses required for degree completion. The University also anticipates a need for pre-Master's courses, especially in English and Mathematics.

International Outreach.

The first AUK study-abroad program was implemented in Summer 2007. Students in the AUK French class traveled to Cannes for a French in France program. Various student groups participated in international academic competitions and traveled or are planning travel to student conferences and seminars in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Lebanon, and the United States. Individual students traveled to summer study programs and internships in the United States, Germany, and other countries. Two US undergraduates are taking Arabic and Gulf Studies courses

at AUK as Visiting students this Fall (from the University of Washington in Seattle and Bowling Green State University in Ohio). Two AUK students interned with the Russian foreign-language program at Dartmouth in Summer 2007, and two Dartmouth interns worked in Student Affairs this Fall. Fulbright scholars have been increasingly seeking affiliation with AUK. Two Fulbright faculty and two Fulbright students were approved for affiliation with AUK for AY 2007-08.

On the institutional level, AUK has initiated conversation with a number of US universities regarding possible program cooperation, faculty recruitment, student exchange, and graduate study opportunities. AUK has also been approached by a number of public and private institutions interested in a Gulf destination for their students in Arabic, Middle Eastern, and Islamic studies and in International Business. AUK recognizes the positive potential of internationalizing institutional outreach, but we need to explore the benefits of such relations in each specific case. At this time, general MOU's are being developed with Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA and Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

On the regional level, in August 2007 AUK sponsored a high-level conference at the Rockefeller Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy. The theme of the conference was Liberal Arts Education in the Gulf. Dr. Dale Eickelman of Dartmouth and Mr. Clifford Chanin of the Heritage Project in New York were program co-chairs. AUK was represented by Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah, the President of the University Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, and the Director of PR & Marketing Ms. Amal al-Binali.

Closer to home, AUK took initiative to plan a regional conference in Kuwait to discuss the challenges of implementing Liberal Arts education in the Gulf with faculty and academic administrators of new regional institutions. A small grant from the Hollings Center for International Dialog in the US will support participation of US consultants and academic administrator teams from invited institutions at the May 2008 conference at AUK.

Transitions

This semester marks the transition of the offices of Admission and Registration to the division of Student Affairs. The current enrollment approximates 1,500 students, and we expect to admit 300-350 more in Spring 2008. The vacant position of Director of Admissions has been filled, and Maher Dabouseh will start in this post in January. Student Affairs has hired new staff in Admissions, Student Life, and the Student Success Center; one notable addition is our recent graduate Rama Sabano who will work as Admissions Counselor. Ms. Maha Khat, who served as Acting Director of IT last spring and summer, has been appointed Director. The AUK Librarian Dr. Harvey Varnet is completing his service to AUK his month and leaving Kuwait. Ms. Amna Al-Omare will serve as Interim Director of the Library while the search process is underway.

AUK faculty on continuing appointment from 2004 had outstanding success rate in obtaining contract renewal in Spring 2007. Contract renewal for faculty hired in 2005 will begin early in 2008. Another remarkable achievement was the promotion of six undergraduate faculty: four were granted promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor and two from Associate to Full Professor. Promotion applications received thorough consideration internally and externally, with outside review by established experts in appropriate fields. Three IEP instructors were promoted to the rank of Senior Instructor.



The news by students, for students.

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All submissions must be ap-

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Connect, Collaborate, Implement at AU Cairo

By Fatmah Al-Qadfan

From 13th to 17th November 2007, five AUK students, recognized for their leadership qualities, attended a conference in Cairo that aimed to promote interaction between student leaders from different universities in order to “connect, collaborate and implement”. The International Student Summit (ISS) was organized by the Student Union at the American University of Cairo.

The delegates represented various groups on campus, ranging from student governments to judicial board members. The participants from AUK were Sami Maan, Ala'a Ali-Redha, Nizar Meshal, Areej Al-Bader and Fatmah

Al-Qadfan. The conference focused on three areas: the student body, the administration and the community. The sessions began in the morning and continued until late afternoon, with coffee and lunch breaks.

The conference allowed delegates from Kuwait, Switzerland and from various universities and colleges in Egypt to tackle a set of common issues that faced student leaders everywhere. Significant time was spent defining the roles of the student union (or the student government) and the administration. Throughout the conference, students openly voiced their frustrations, exchanged ideas and learned from each other's experienc-

es. Each day came to an end with the students writing up a list of resolutions and the final day of the conference was dedicated to putting the resolutions in formal language and reflecting on the experience as a whole.

When asked how she benefited from the ISS, Areej Al-Bader said, “I have learned the importance of planning ahead and setting goals...anything could be achieved through (sic) the right incentives. When working in groups it is best to break things down and appoint people and make them responsible of certain tasks in order to motivate them.” Sami on the other hand, the president of the Student Government As-

sociation said that he realized that no university is perfect, but was proud that AUK, compared to other universities, is “one family”. Sami also feels that AUK could hold a similar conference next year.

The other participants also commented on SGA's potential. Ala'a Ali-Redha spoke about SGA being a liaison between the student body and the administration and she said that proper communication is essential to create link between the two.

In general, the participants returned to AUK with renewed energy and innovative ideas. They plan on implementing what they have learned for the betterment of AUK.

L.E.A.D.ing Students to Career Success

By Dina El-Zohairy

L.E.A.D.'s second workshop, “Running Effective Meetings”, was held in the Library Conference Room, Wednesday 28th November. In the presence of Ms. Joanne Hands, SSC Director, Dr. Jeremy Cripps, Business Division Head, and five students, a video was shown, after a brief talk by Dr. Cripps.

Titled “Meetings, Bloody Meetings”, the video pointed out the most common mistakes meeting leaders make in a funny, courtroom context. It revolved around the fact that a lot of time at meetings is wasted and outlined five principles that should guide every meeting.

To begin with, the leader must plan for the meeting by making sure it is necessary, deciding who to invite, and informing those who will be attending of the discussion topics and the meeting's objective in advance.

The second step involves preparing an agenda, which is not a random list of items. Instead, the agenda should list sufficient details in a logical order, allocating a time slot to each item based on importance. In the case that references will be made to previous discussions, all supporting documentation must be made

available beforehand to ensure a minimum level of knowledge among attendees.

During the course of every meeting, the leader must maintain structure and keep control. He or she must prevent others from jumping ahead and backtracking unnecessarily. In addition, the stages of presenting evidence, making interpretation and taking decisions should be covered separately and in order.

After the meeting is adjourned, it is the chair's job to write a summary of every topic covered in the meeting. Summarizing helps keep control and makes minute-taking easy. Usually, a secretary is assigned to record the meeting in the form of minutes.

L.E.A.D., an acronym for Learn, Experience, Achieve, Discover, is a Student Life driven initiative that enables students to gain knowledge, increase self-awareness and hone their critical thinking skills by attending relevant events and activities. Students can get a Leadership & Activities “passport” earn stamps by attending approved Student Life events. Attending a number of approved events will garner a reward that will be distributed at the end of the year.

Women's Rights in Iran

By Walah Al Sabah

On 27th November 2007, Dr. Gholam Vatandoust, a visiting professor of International Studies at the American University of Kuwait presented a lecture about the status of women in Iran. The title of the lecture was “Between Fundamentalism and Reform: The Status of Iranian Women Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution”.

Many people attended the lecture, including people from outside the university. Professor Vatandoust quickly captured the attention of the audience with the interesting facts and statistics he presented about women in Iran. He also talked about discrimination against women in areas regarding their physical sanctity, Iran's family laws, their education, as well as their mobility and employment. According to Vatandoust, the defenders of women's rights were silenced in Iran for “going against the sharia”.

Women are also victims of

rape and domestic violence and they are married by force. Vatandoust explained that sanctity of a woman's body can be violated by their husbands and family. He also elaborated on the fact that in the Iranian legal system, there is no such thing as rape and that if rapists were to be punished; they would be punished on the notion that they have violated “the property of another man”.

Additionally, Iran's family laws are patriarchal, meaning that only men have the right to initiate divorce and in such cases to acquire custody of children. Under the family law, polygamy prevails and “temporary marriage” which may last from a few minutes to 99 years, is legal. During the late 1980's, government deputies, concerned with the rapidly increasing population, reimplemented family planning, which had earlier been dismissed in Iran as a “plot”. However, family planning in Iran was not carried out in

recognition of the women's movement or their rights, but in order to alleviate the booming population.

Discrimination against women in Iran can also be seen in education. Females constitute 64% of the student population in the whole of Iran's universities. Women also surpass men in practically all fields and domains of education. Nevertheless, with the baby boom, discrimination against women prevailed despite the fact that women scored more than men in university exams.

Last, but certainly not least, Dr. Gholam talked about the mobility and employment of women in Iran. According to Vatandoust, women are not permitted out of the house without the permission of their husbands. There are no women who are judges, community leaders, or corporate presidents because of the traditional belief that women are “emotionally unqualified” and “mentally limited” to

occupy such jobs.

Vatandoust also pointed out initiatives by the government and by women to further women's rights in Iran. He went on to explain that the government granted women the right to vote in 1963 as well as curtailing men's unilateral right to divorce their wives. In addition, the women's movement in Iran was one of the earliest in the Middle East. Iranian women also participated in the constitutional revolution that occurred in Iran from 1905 to 1911. Thus, women have always had a *de facto* role in both private and public spheres in Iranian society.

Dr. Gholam concluded his lecture by stating that Iranian women have stood up for themselves. He also mentioned that women in Iran have always persevered and remained unwilling to surrender their rights and privileges despite the tough times they have been through. Thanks to Dr. Gholam for such an enlightening and informative lecture.

Runner-up for Public Speakers in Dubai

By Nur Soliman

On the afternoon of the 21st of November, AUK's representative team performed in the Public Speaking Competition in Dubai, run by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG). The team was made up of three members, Zainah Al-Rujaib, the speaker and speech-writer; Nur Soliman, researcher; and Shaza Ayesh, who worked on the technology. The assisting professor was Dr. Rawda Awwad, Professor of English Literature, who continuously supported the team. The three AUK Sophomores presented on “The Impact of Global Warming on Biodiversity.”

AUK's team developed the argument that the most effective solution to combat, or mitigate climate change is the mobilization of the populations through carefully researched incentives. The group conducted surveys, researched species that were under threat, and did a great deal of reading to back up their unique argument.

The team arrived in warm, humid, and ever-active Dubai the previous evening, and spent the remainder of the night. Team member Shaza Ayesh was not able to attend, but was able, through phone-calls, to listen to Zainah speak in the conference hall. She also received a certificate along with the rest of the group.

The team was awarded the 2nd Runner-up prize, and received a generous round of applause and praise even though AUK did not have any local supporters. The girls had worked hard in a limited amount of time, and produced excellent material which elicited a good response from the judging panel and an enthusiastic response on the audience's part. Team members Zainah and Nur recall that the friendliness of the other participants throughout the two days at the conference was truly memorable, and made the experience more enjoyable on the whole.

The EEG is a non-profit NGO, and this year's competition was the organization's 7th Public Speaking Competition. Of the 47 participating universities, only 6 were from outside the UAE. AUK's team was the only team from Kuwait, while the other teams were from two Saudi Arabian universities, a Qatari university, and two from Bahrain. The whole event took place in Dubai's large development called Knowledge Village.

Overall, the team was proud of their achievement and hoped to develop and work on an even better team of students to send next year.

The team also presented their speech in AUK on 10th December to inaugurate AUK's Academic Showcase.

MUNAUK, and Political Awareness

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viewpoints at sometime in our working lives. We hope to draw upon our MUNAUK skills to speak persuasively to them. Another advantage of being in Model United Nations is that we are able to enhance our critical thinking abilities, recognizing it as one of the goals that AUK hopes to engrain in its students. When the delegate of a particular nation gives a statement regarding an issue, another might disagree and will have a “right of response” based on his or her country's foreign policy.

This directly points out, what is in my opinion, the most important gain in partaking in these conferences. Considering Kuwait's geographic location on the map: it is situated in a very volatile area of the world which is constantly erupting with disputes among nations, many of which have developed into military conflicts that have gone on for as long as half a century. Presently, we are witness-

ing wars in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq, and conditions there are exacerbating by the minute. With that in mind, I ask: Would it not be rational to have Kuwaiti individuals be politically aware of the events unfolding around them? How long will we be oblivious to the reality of our region and act as if nothing will ever happen?

I wish to stress upon the fact that Kuwait is in a critical position what with the instability that is sweeping across the Middle East. According to Realist ideology, all states look to their own self-interest when choosing to cooperate with other nations. This is only natural of humans and should not be viewed negatively. In the same way, Kuwait should be thinking more about decisions that will secure its wellbeing. While practicing for BUMUN by staging mock sessions at weekly meetings, members of the MUNAUK debated the issue of Iran's pro-

duction and proliferation of nuclear arms. The thought was raised that Kuwait should align with Iran instead of the United States. If Kuwait is not on Iran's good side, it will be wiped out. In that example, geographical significance was considered and in all truth, it may make perfect sense.

Apart from being immersed in typing up resolutions and debating issues, we had the opportunity to meet new people and acquaint ourselves with Bahraini culture and history. Maryam and I visited the Bahraini National Museum and pictures of it are displayed on the opposite page. Bahrain was a great experience that we will all remember and which has greatly augmented our skills as future diplomats of our country.

We were also able to meet Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain, who honored us by inviting us to meet him at the

Embassy and by attended the closing ceremonies. In a statement to KUNA, the Ambassador noted, “The abilities to communicate and exchange views with, listen to different views of, and convince others, shown by...the students, are all basic skills of diplomats and politicians.”

I would like to especially thank Ms. Shareefa Al-Adwani, our advisor, for making this trip possible and giving us the confidence to perform remarkably and Dr. Christopher Ohan for accompanying us to Bahrain. I would also like to thank Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, Dr. Shoma Munshi, and Dr. Lisa Urkevich who provided enough sponsorship for the team so that, combined with our earnings from fundraisers selling lemonade and Girgian treats, we could travel to Bahrain. Thank you everyone for believing in us and be assured MUNAUK will shine once again in many opportunities to come.

Burma: What the World Does Not Know

By Farah Al-Shamali

The country of Burma, presently known as Myanmar, is nestled in Southeast Asia and is geographically the largest in that area. For years, the Burmese people have been living the dark and harsh reality of a military dictatorship that has strained its relations with other nations. The anti-civil rights practices of the dictatorship are an outright violation of human rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, an organization of which the Union of Myanmar is a part. Much of the world is oblivious to the political oppression that has been taking place there. No

international relief effort has been arranged.

Members of the Model United Nations at the American University of Kuwait team gave a presentation during the AUK Social Awareness Week on 8th November, 2007, to inform students of the human rights violations that have been committed in this distant country. Democratic rule in Burma ended in 1962 when General Ne Win staged a coup d'état establishing the *Burmese Way of Socialism* - the nationalization of industries, the repression of minorities, and the formation of a police state. The government of the police state has been carrying out rigid domination over

the social, political, and economic life of a population. On 8th August, 1988, the infamous 8888 Uprising occurred among the Burmese civilians due to unrest over economic mismanagement and political subjugation by the government.

Demonstrators were tragically massacred by security forces. Video footage shown during the presentation illustrated the brutality with which citizens were treated as they were beaten relentlessly.

Burma is currently being controlled by a military junta—a government ruled by military leaders—which recruits children into the military. The military re-

gime ironically dubbed itself the "State Peace and Development Council" (SPDC). The SPDC is supplied with military equipment by its major allies (particularly China). It is very strong and resistant to internal and external pressures for change. Ethnic insurgencies are quickly cracked down by the SPDC and not much hope seems to be left for the Burmese people and their dream of a democratic nation or at least one free of military dictatorship.

The government recently raised prices on fuel. Several hundreds of civilian protests occurred. The Burmese monks joined in the protest in Septem-

ber 2007. Hundreds of people experienced harsh retribution from the government, including monks. The Buddhist civilians and monks have been placed under house (monastery) arrest, beaten, jailed, or killed.

Attempts to bring about change on the part of the international community such as imposing sanctions have failed to threaten the regime's survival. The challenge that the international community faces is to intensify pressure upon it to shift towards a more democratic route. Burma is in dire need of humanitarian aid. With the use of negotiation, there may be a possibility of securing Burma's future.

Operation Turtle

By Mohammed Alsayegh

On a windy, yet sunny Saturday morning, four great ones emerged from their humble abodes on a mission to save helpless animals, the weak, and the hungry.

Well, not exactly; they were the hungry ones, they were the weaker ones; they were assigned to Operation Turtle, mission impossible. Their assignment was to attack the grim and grime on Shuwaikh beach. With the support more than 200 people from across the world, Operation Turtle was a success this year, in creating more awareness for taking care of the environment here in Kuwait. After only an hour's worth of clean up, 80 bags worth of trash, from only one beach, were collected. (One team actually found a land mine too, but that's another story) Cigarette butts, broken bottles, diapers, you name it, and Operation Turtle cleaned it up.

They worked hard. They fought the enemy with passion and pride; they lost the battle. The opponent was the 1,000,000 man army. Sad but true.

We as an entire country need to respect the environment and withhold its serenity; otherwise, the trash will continually pile up.

Even our 4 super heroes, with all their conviction and passion for the cause, couldn't beat this malicious and not so delicious monster!

The battle was a success in bringing together 200 warriors to fight. To defeat this immense army, we invite our community to participate in such events as well as create their own.

'They' are AUK students Fatima Buhaimid, Munira Al-Anjari, Shahed Al-Wadaani, Mohammed Alsayegh

A Time to Celebrate: Respecting Traditions

By Tadd Kruse & Fatemah Hayat

The end of the calendar year is filled with a variety of celebrations, both religious and commercial, that create an air of excitement for many across the globe. It is a season to be thankful, to be joyous, and to share with family, friends, and those less fortunate. In short it is a time to celebrate humanity, respecting and celebrating our similarities as well as our differences.

The holiday season kicked off with Eid al-Adha, one of the most joyous holidays and

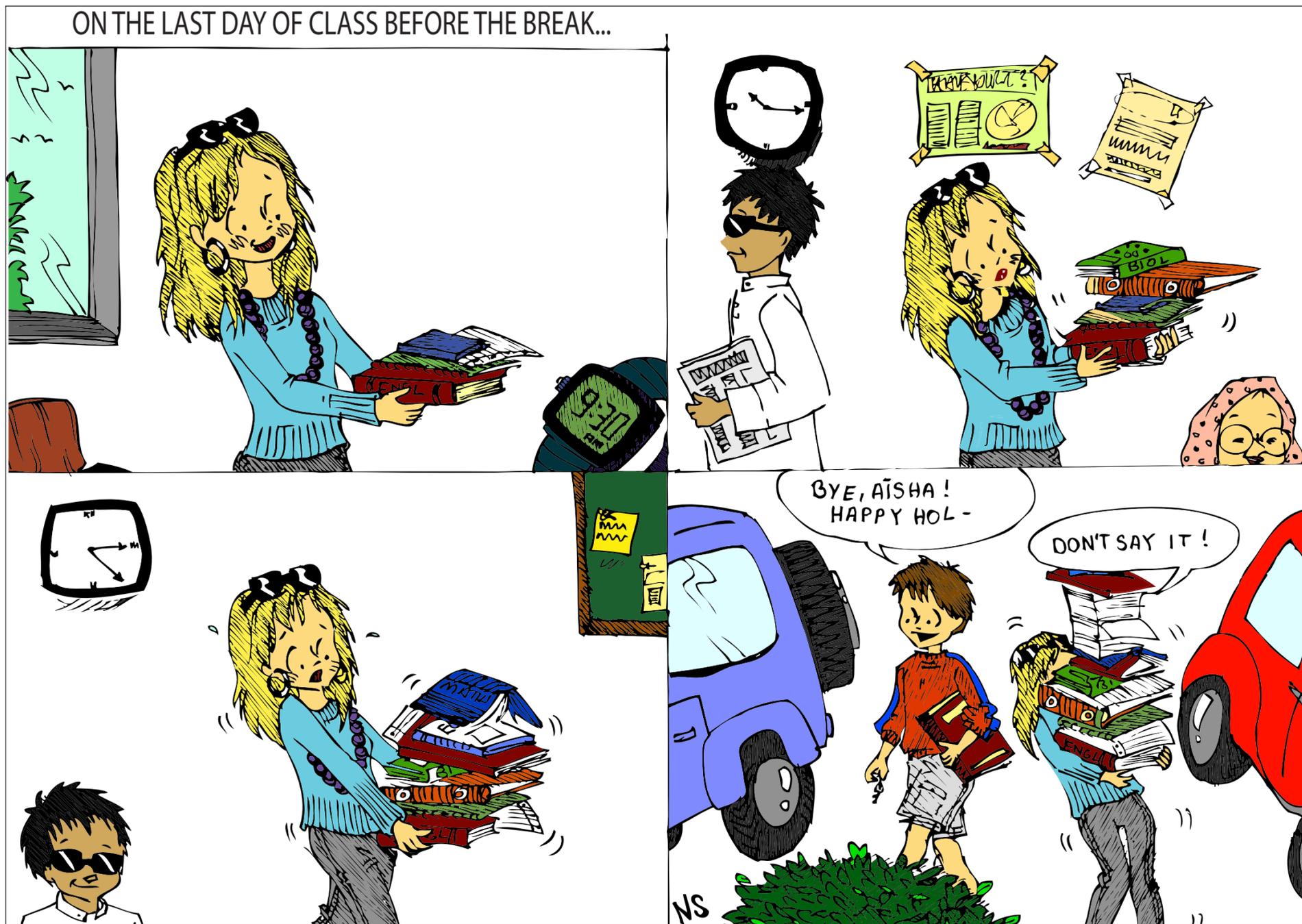
festivals celebrated by Muslims worldwide. Eid al-Adha, means The Festival of Sacrifice and is celebrated in remembrance of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismael for Allah. This four day long holiday is also special because it starts on the 10th day of the Islamic month Dhul Hijja which is the day after pilgrims in Hajj, descend from the Mount Arafah. The traditions and practices of Eid al-Adha bring people together in different ways as Muslims around the world who can afford to do so have to sacrifice a sheep, cow or camel etc.

According to Quran most of the meat must be given to the poor and hungry. It is also expected that men, women and children dress in their newest and finest clothing, perform the Eid Morning Prayer and later visit relatives starting with parents, grandparents and then friends.

Christmas was a few days after Eid this year, marking the celebration of the birth of Jesus in both the Christian and Islamic faiths. Christians around the world celebrate this holiday as one of the most significant of the year and many will attend special church ser-

VICES, often singing songs or carols as part of the festivities. They too will gather with family and with friends to share in a meal and to exchange gifts. In addition the weeks leading up to Christmas are often filled with charitable acts as Christians make contributions of their time or money to aid relief efforts which provide for those less fortunate. This season often brings together the religious celebrations with those of the commercial ones, often represented through Santa Claus and other seasonal characters used to delight us

both young and old. In addition early January brings both the New Year according to the Gregorian calendar and the Islamic New Year (Muharram), two more occasions for celebration of our humanity and the hope for a better tomorrow as a new calendar year unfolds. This year four major holidays are being celebrated around the same time over the course of a few weeks. It is important that each one of us learn more about traditions, both our own and those of others, so that we can live more harmoniously within our global society.



An Evening of Persian & Kurdish Music

By Nur Soliman

On the evening of 3rd December, the Al-Maidan Cultural Centre was packed to capacity, where the crowd had come to see the *Mehrbano* Musical Ensemble perform Iranian and Kurdish music. The crowd included DAI members and family, music enthusiasts, and diplomats from the Iranian embassy and others.

This was *Mehrbano*'s first performance in the GCC. *Mehrbano* Musical Ensemble is made up of five Iranian performers, all women, who come from different backgrounds but are together in their love for Persian and Kurdish song and music. The group leader is Roushanek Nori, who also plays the *santur*, similar to a zither, Korean *kim* or the Arabic *qanun*. Mojhdeh Jahangari performed on the *kamanche*, a string instrument, while Behnaz Bahnam Nia played the *'ud*. Naghmeh Mahmoud Farhamand played the *tonbak*, or percussion—one was similar to the Arabic *tabla*, while the other resembled the large Kuwaiti tambourine. The groups vocalist was the vivid Mahro Mostawfi.

The stage was set for the ensemble with a large rug covering a small table, behind which sat the five women, dressed in Iranian and Kurdish attire respectively. The group began with Persian music, which has developed from its roots in the Persian Empire. Its sound is occasionally reminis-

cent of classical Arabic; nevertheless, the music was largely unique in its style. The modal system of *maqam*, originally Arabic, was taken up from the 13th century onwards and spread eastwards. Under the Safavid dynasty, however, this modal system gave way to the new *dastagh*, which is also made up of different sections and modes. It is common—as in this performance—to have sections of a *dastagh*, like *reng*, *avaz* or *tasnif*, played as independent compositions.

The Persian Songs were rather slow and melancholy, with perfectly timed pauses and generous use of timing. The drums provided a beat to which the *komanche* sang a wistful, Oriental tune, keeping in time with the slow *'ud* and other-worldly, bright *santur* harmony.

Despite the wistful nature of the tunes, there is a clearly vibrant, powerful nature to the music and the voice of the *santur*, which was really brought to life, also, by the brilliant, passionate performance by vocalist Mahro Mostawfi, who was occasionally backed by the other performers in chorus.

Some of the pieces, like *Sharh Asheqi* or *Sarv Khuraman*, are poems set to music as arranged by bandleader Nori, with Mowlana and Sa'di as the respective poets, while others, such as *Reng Bayyat Turk* by Rawshank Nori or the traditional song by Aref Qazwini, were purely musical com-



Mehrbano Ensemble 'ud player Behnaz Bahnam Nia.



Naghmeh Mahmoud Farhamand



Roushanek Nori



Mahro Mostawfi

positions.

For the Kurdish music after the intermission, the ensemble changed their attire to more Kurdish costumes with more glittering dresses, and coins over their heads—however, they kept the same instruments.

Kurdish music utilizes the *maqam* system as well as all the diverse forms of the *dastagh*. A second form that Kurdish music uses is the strictly measured set of melodies called the *gourani*, meaning “closed” as it has a unique rhythm to be kept up. The oral tradition is very important, so Kurdish modal systems are passed down by generation.

According to the programme notes, the content of many Kurdish songs is largely to do with “romance and unrequited love,” made up of two verses. The lyrics are usually from the *Gathas* of the ancient Zoroastrians.

The music played here was much faster, and greater use was made of the percussion, which

then acted as a sort of marker of climax. The use of “microtonal tuning systems” had the songs punctuated with exciting leaps in the scale, or intervals, which kept up the excitement of the louder, more energetic music. Two traditional songs of Kurdistan were played, namely *Maryam Bawanam* and *Hani Guol*, both of which had the audience beating their feet or swaying their heads to the rapid rhythm. The singing was also melancholy, but slightly faster as was the music. Another piece which really won the audience was *Harireh*, a two-part piece with some very lively singing from Mahro Mostawfi.

Mehrbano had captivated the capacity crowd to such an extent that the enthusiastic applause continued for quite a while, demanding then that the ensemble play two encore pieces which were just as thrilling as the rest; truly an enlightening evening which gave the audience insight into the richness of the Persian and Kurdish culture and musical heritage.

Amato-Ionata Quartet Swings It



The Amato-Ionata Quartet. Photos courtesy of the Al-Babtain Library.

By Nur Soliman

All the way from Italy, the Amato-Ionata Organic Quartet played hard-bop and avant-garde Jazz to an enthusiastic audience on the cool evening of December 5th, in the spacious, elegant hall of al-Babtain Library for Arabic Poetry. Invited by the Italian Embassy and the Babtain Library, the Quartet was well-received, with the hall resounding with wholehearted applause.

The group is headed by the vivid Giovanni Amato, who played the trumpet and flugelhorn; and the energetic Max Ionata, who played the tenor saxophone. The rhythm section is composed of two brilliant, gifted performers: the Julian O. Mazzariello on the Hammond organ, and Nicola

Angelucci on the drums. There is no bass in this quartet, and so the rhythm section occasionally plays the part.

This Italian quartet was recently founded, and has already won audiences and critics over. They also made their first recording debut recently, with their album *Organica*; the Jazz quartet performed many of these pieces as well.

The music performed is reminiscent of Charlie Parker's and Dizzy Gillespie's relatively new bebop jazz; in fact, one of the pieces performed was a Dizzy Gillespie composition played with just as much enthusiasm as the quartet's own compositions, such as “Little Hand” by M. Ionata and “Gli Speechi” by G. Amato. Other pieces which

earned enthusiastic applause were Amato's “Blues for Elvin,” “You're the Sunshine” by Stevie Wonder, and “Yes or No” by W. Shorter.

Bebop Jazz, unlike Big Band Swing, is much more fluid and flowing, not strictly bound by the notes but open to flowering improvisations and rambling on by each performer, the solo spotlight shifting from one performer to another as was the case here. Amato would perform brilliant, high-scale improvisations and melody, his spotlight to be taken up by the rich, flowing sound of Ionata's tenor sax; after that, Mazzariello would perform an excellent solo on his organ, followed by a dramatic solo by Angelucci, and so on. Two pio-

neers of bebop Jazz are Parker and Gillespie, whose voice emerged in the Amato-Ionata Organic Quartet's spirited, vibrant performance.

The audience responded with accumulated enjoyment to the quartet's performance, who were enjoying themselves just as much – the energetic, vibrant atmosphere filled the mildly lit hall and resulted in cheers and applause.

“This quartet gathers the collaboration of four of the most appreciated talents in the circle of National Jazz.” The easy, improvisational nature of Jazz, and its voice of pure enjoyment and has made it so universal that it even entered the musical repertoire of Italy all the way back in World War II, and have its voice taken up by an enthusiastic quartet whose music truly embodies the flowing nature of this “Blue Art.”



Giovanni Amato. Photo by M. Mari.

Sea Music

continued from page 1

as certain types of drums. The more prominent rhythm used here is the *Khammari* which, Dr. Lisa explains, is a type of rhythm which every Kuwaiti should be able to play. Also incorporated is the powerful, intense clapping rhythm which breaks out with precise timing and synchronized perfectly with the instrumental music, singing, and dancing.

The second part, the sea music proper, is for them to acknowledge the life they have at sea, which is a huge, encompassing part of the sailor's life experiences as a whole. The water and sea air is kind to certain instruments only, so although they are performing on land, the sailors will use these instruments. Included here are the *hallah*, or clay jar; a metal mortar (used upside down by beating the surface); the *mirwas* drums; earthenware jugs (to tap the body and its mouth); *twysat*, or cymbals; and the *tabl bahri*, which is a type of drum designed to stand the test of wind and wave.

Within this second part are three specific sections: *Hadadi*, *Emkholif*, and *Hasawi*, each with its unique metrical structure. For the *Hadadi* section, for instance, a poem is sung, which is reminiscent—in content—to the blues, where the singer laments his losing the girl he loves due to his long months away at sea. The other sections also integrate great spells of clapping which kept the audience enchanted.

The last section of the *Uns*, to

truly wash off the experience of the sea, is the city music. Here, a special *maqam*, or modal system is used, as is the *'ud* which can only be well-maintained in the dry, slightly cooler conditions of the urban regions. Here, there is also singing, which in the city is usually exclusive to a single singer. The sailors, however, enjoying the style of music, transformed it and “made it collective,” including everyone in choral singing and vibrant, energetic dancing (where two men would dance in the middle between the rows of other sailors, then participate in this enchanting leaping between rows and shouting excitedly).

In the end, the audience—and apparently the musicians—had thoroughly enjoyed the entire performance that the band gave a terrific encore, with dancing and clapping. In fact, the Bin Hussein band had so won over the audience that even when the concert was over, both the band and a great number of the audience remained to watch them perform a more casual dance.

The whole experience of watching the huge ensemble, made of old and young men alike, leap up in their white and red robes and listening to the wailing *Nahham* sing as he strummed on his *'ud*, while the other men clapped or beat their drums with energy truly evoked the feel of the sea and land for the pearl-divers and sailors of the Kuwait.

An Inside Look at AUK's Recruitment Process



Office of Admissions

How do we recruit students? Everyone knows that the Office of Admissions is located on campus and is open for anyone interested in applying to the American University of Kuwait. But is that all the Office of Admissions does? Are we that boring? Never!

The Office of Admissions vis-

its both private and public high schools at least twice throughout the academic school year. Our target is to visit as many high schools as possible, before inviting them to visit our campus. In previous years, Admissions Counselors would visit various high schools and give informative presentations about AUK exclusively for the senior students. This year,

we tried a different approach. Rather than giving presentations, the team set up a small booth during the school's break-time. We catch seniors strolling by as well as any other interested students and share information and university publications. We provide general information regarding scholarships, both the government scholarship program



as well as the AUK academic merit based. The Counselors also provide a sneak peek at student life and all the support services available at AUK.

The Admissions and Outreach departments were also found at the Avenues mall "Giving the Gift of Education" to students and families. It was literally a gift, a box filled with brochures, a book

light, a pen and an organizer! We showcased AUK life via video and the amazing booth designed by the Public Relations and Marketing Department. The hard work really paid off. Many people were interested in joining the AUK family and we left a lasting impression with our gift of education! To this day, people we met at Avenues have come

to AUK to apply or get more information.

We are always looking for a few amazing volunteers to go out with us and spread the word. You too can give the gift of education by joining the Admissions team as a volunteer recruiter. Please stop by the Office of Admissions and sign up! Look for AUK out and about in the spring!

A New Generation of Kuwaiti Filmmaking

By Mohammed Alsayegh

The new generation of Kuwaiti filmmaking is here and AUK was lucky enough to host it.

Sharq, a movie produced by Kuwaitis, for Kuwaitis, was shown at AUK on Wednesday, 21st November in the Liberal Arts Auditorium. The event was organized by AUK Studios, a student-run club, and had a successful turnout of more than 200 students and faculty. The club's aim for this semester is to introduce the concept of filmmaking which many misunderstand in this country. Successful films take time and hard work. The organization hopes to enlighten the students and have them join in the experience.

"The movie was hilarious and the crowd went wild right from the start," said AUK Studios President, Mohammed Alsayegh. The audience had no idea what the movie was about when they entered; many students thought it was a documentary about the old times in Kuwait, while others thought it was an AUK made film and thought poorly of it. Alas, as soon as the show started, the entire audience was absorbed.

"The movie was inspired by our childhood favorite cartoon, Captain Majid, which was all about football and that is what many young Kuwaitis have in common," said Abdulaziz Al-Sharhan, producer of 'Sharq'. The idea was born in 2004, and the crew worked together in

the United States and arrived in Kuwait for two weeks in 2005, shot the film, and headed back.

The story entails six young boys that lived all their lives in Jahra. Their ball pops during a football match and so they set forth to get a new one. They set to go to Sharq in search for a ball 'that will never puncture' no matter what happens to it. They get completely lost and lose faith in the existence of this magical place, ending up in Sharq Mall asking for directions. Finally, they find themselves on a grass pitch and play a football game with the few kids. The boys forgot about their journey entranced from the joy of the match.

"Erik was very in tune with

all aspects of film making, and managed to extract wonderful performances from all the actors," said Club Vice President, Fatima AlQattan. Erik Sandoval, the director, is a young filmmaker who recently graduated. He met Al-Sharhan during his college days in Los Angeles. They came up with the idea, and the rest is history.

Some critics believed the film misrepresented Kuwait and attacked many issues that aren't true about Kuwait. Alsayegh disagrees in saying that a movie is made for entertainment, and should not be seen as a full representation of a culture.

"An enjoyable film and a must see for Kuwaiti film enthusiasts," Alsayegh said.

SGA Bake Sale



Nouf al-Muzaini, Lulwa al-Anjari, Latifa al-Falah, and Sahar Hussain

By Sahar Hussain

A Charity Bake Sale took place on the 11th of December in collaboration with the SGA, and coordinated by Sahar Hussain. The Bake Sale managed to raise a col-

lective amount of KD 73,250 from the range of baked goods and sweets, whereby the proceeds would be donated to the Shaikat Khanum Memorial Hospital, a cancer hospital in Pakistan.

2008 Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange

Office of Student Life

The Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange was developed as part of the Dartmouth-AUK Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed between the two universities in September 2003. The exchange gives Dartmouth students experience at the American University of Kuwait and AUK students the opportunity to visit Dartmouth. Twice annually two students from Dartmouth come to Kuwait for 10 weeks, in September and in March. Equally, since 2006 two AUK students have been going to Dartmouth (Hanover, New Hampshire) for four weeks in the summer to work with the Rassias Foundation's Accelerated Languages Program (ALPS).

The ALPS program is an intensive 10 day program in which AUK students serve as program assistants including teaching Arabic. Rama Sabano ('07) and Hana Ibrahim (Senior) ventured to Dartmouth as only the second set of representatives from AUK, Hussein Nour-Elddine was the first in 2006. The experience was mutually beneficial for the AUK students and their hosts providing a variety of cultural learning opportunities, including Rama and Hana participating in a July 4th Independence Day parade. Hana Ibrahim summarized her experience as, "breathtaking, but nothing compared

to the high I got when I first glimpsed cultural assimilation."

In addition to the two internships available with the Rassias Foundation, another new opportunity

for AUK students is available for summer 2008. The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, will offer two internship positions to students interested in art and art related educational programs for ex-



Rama Sabano and Hana Ibrahim march in a 4th of July parade in the U.S. while interning at Dartmouth College.

hibitions. Considered to be a model academic and regional museum by the Association of American Museums, the Hood has a collection of over 65,000 works, which it draws on for teaching and exhibitions. The Hood is now in the planning stages for a traveling exhibition drawn from the collections of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Kuwait.

When looking back on her internship experience Rama stated, "I feel that it helped me grow as a person and a better individual, as it helped me develop my social, mental and academic skills. The opportunity of being able to meet new people from all over the world, exchanging with them information about languages & cultures was priceless." While this experience is designed to assist with personal growth, it is also meant to build personal bridges between the AUK and Dartmouth communities and to broaden educational and cultural experiences for AUK students.

The selection process for those students interested in a Summer 2008 internship at Dartmouth College will take place this month. Applications may be picked up from Student Life A-004 January 6th - 15th. Completed Applications and supporting materials/documents are due by 5:00 pm Wednesday January 16th, 2008, with finalist interviews to take place during final exams.

Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating AUK's 2007-08 Peer Academic Leaders (PALs)



Fatema Al-Qattan - Merriam Rafehi - Daniya Alam - Shoug Al-Othman - Nadine Nour El-Dine - Mohammed Al-Muzaini - Bader Al-Ajeel (PALs Events Coordinator/ Creative Designer)

PALs will offer support and advice to freshman students in the areas of educational planning, course selection, and the utilization of academic resources. They serve as mentors and leaders to the AUK student body.



The Peer Academic Leaders program was created and implemented on April 2007 by the Student Success Center. The SSC is responsible for supervising the PALs program. If you would like to become a Peer Academic Leader look out for the application openings during the end of October 2007.

For more information contact Bibi Al-Ghanim – PALs Supervisor at Bghanim@auk.edu.kw.



SUMMER '08 INTERNSHIPS AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE



Dates: June 19th – July 16th 2008

Hood Museum of Art
2 Internship Positions Available

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, considered to be a model academic and regional museum by the Association of American Museums, has a collection of over 65,000 works, which it draws on for teaching and exhibitions. The Hood is now in the planning stages for a traveling exhibition drawn from the collections of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Kuwait.

The successful applicants should have an interest in art, museums, and in education and will be working on collections and educational programs as well as on the upcoming planned exhibition of Islamic art. English writing and public speaking skills are desirable, as well as knowledge of library research, basic office work, and word processing programs. Type of work may include organizational work for exhibitions and preparing educational programs for exhibitions.

Website: <http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/>

Rassias Languages Program
2 Internship Positions Available

The Rassias Foundation is committed to the effective instruction of language and culture. Originally developed during the advent of the Peace Corps, it has been adopted by language teachers in colleges, universities, and high schools in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The successful applicants should have a passion for languages and interest in culture. Strong English & Arabic language skills (written & oral) are required and students with an interest in language and language teaching are preferred. Interns will support the Accelerated Language Programs as Program Assistants & Assistant Teachers in Arabic (both interns will serve in both roles). Type of work may include preparing materials, teaching drill classes, giving individual tutorials, and participating in evening activities.

Website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~rassias/>

For application forms and additional information and details, visit Student Life A-004.

**Application Deadline:
Wednesday 16 January, 5:00 PM**

New and Not So New Members of Staff

Director of Admissions, Maher Dabbouseh.

Maher comes to us from American University of Iraq by way of the windy city Chicago! He began his admissions career at Robert Morris college as an undergraduate student worker. He completed his MBA at the University of Phoenix. From admissions student worker to founding Director of Admissions and now a member of the AUK family, it is a fab to have Maher as part of the team. Good people come to those who wait!



Director of Human Resources, Cecil Hill

Effective January 6, 2008 Cecil Hill joins AUK as the new Director of Human Resources. Cecil holds an MA degree in Human Resources Management from Washington University and has been a senior Human Resources Officer for over 12 years including two years in the Middle East. Cecil and his wife, Rochelle, presently reside in St. Louis County, Missouri. Mrs. Hill plans to join Cecil at a later date in Kuwait.



Assistant Director of Human Resources

Norma Baden has been appointed the Assistant Director of Human Resources-Logistics. Norma has been working in the AUK Human Resources Department since March 2005 as a Human Resources Consultant. As

her new title implies, Norma, with the aid of her assistant Dalal Al-Hubail, will be responsible for all non-salary logistical matters affecting our faculty and staff. These include, but are not limited to, visa issues, residency permit requirements, accommodations, business travel issues and personal concerns.

Student Success Counselor, Vanessa Breslin

Vanessa is from Oklahoma, where she completed her Master's of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. Her career has been

with the community college system in Tulsa where she served as an assessment specialist and academic advisor in all facets including educational planning, career counseling and job placement, graduation audits, transcript evaluation and test site administrator.

Admissions Receptionist, Amal Jaber

Amal used to work in Academic Affairs. It is our pleasure to have her as a member of the Student Affairs family serving as the Admissions department receptionist.

Her smiling face and great demeanor will be the first encounter for prospective students as she helps them begin their AUK journey. We are confident she will ease their anxiousness about applying for college.

Serious

Join a community of fellow writers of poetry, prose, fiction, drama, etc. to share ideas and display your talents.

Present your work in progress at weekly meetings for peer review and critique.

See your work and your writing skills improve with each session.

Individual readings will be followed by discussion and constructive criticism by members of the group.

The workshop will consist of 5 Saturday meetings, from 10 am - 2 pm, from 26 January to 23 February, 2008.

Registration fee: 129 KD.

Space is limited - Register Now!



Antony Johae earned his Ph.D in Comparative Literature from the University of Essex, England in 1980. He has taught in Germany, England, Ghana, Tunisia, and for the last 16 years in the Department of English Language and Literature at Kuwait University. He is a founding member of the Kuwait Writers' Workshop, which has been meeting weekly for the past 15 years.

Creativity





Baby Bath — Ranya Al-Mastaki



Midnight Girl — Shaha Al-Khaddah



Panda — Esraa' Al-Sherida



Sharing — Meshari Al-Muhaini



Ethnic Dance — Shahad Al-Wadani



Reflection — Mohammed Al-Bader



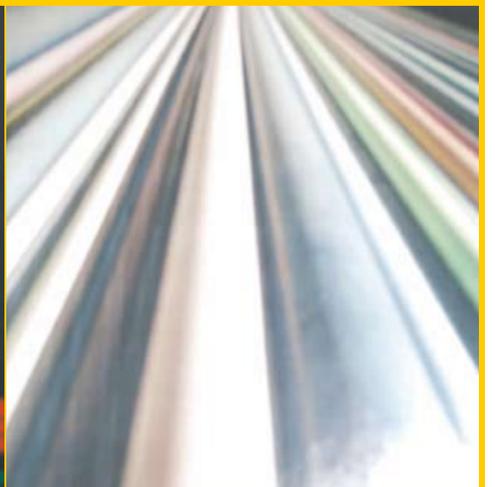
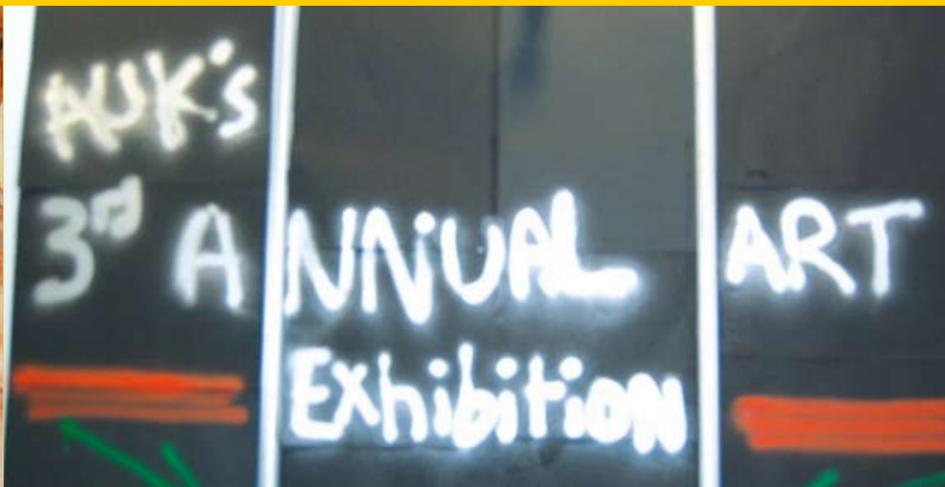
Disturbance — Amina Al-Ansari



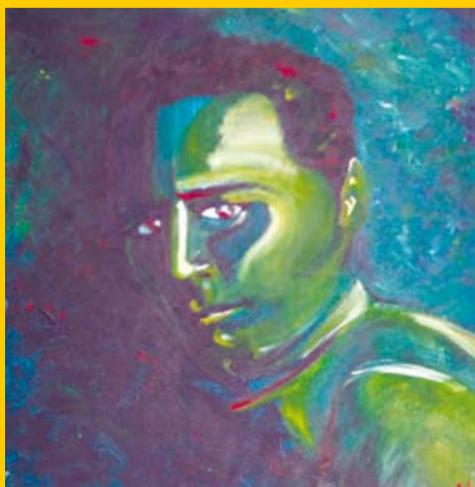
Oriental Express — Sahar Hussein



Inaperçu — Faye Al-Obaid



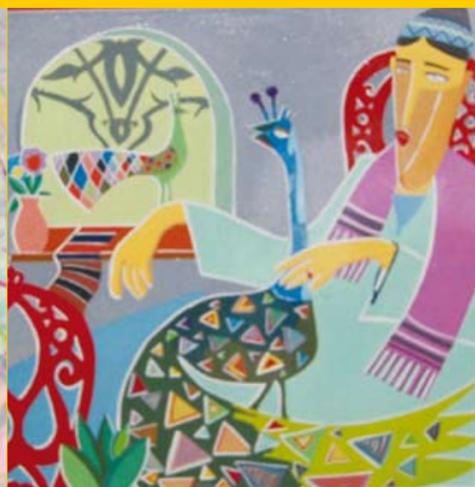
Modern Abstract Sculpture Pipes — Bader Al-Ajeel



Green — Mariam Rafehi



Untitled — Khalid Al-Shammaa'



The Peacock — Ali Al-Jelijel



Kenya — Fatima Buhaimeed



Oppression — Aziz Al-Muthaf



Friday Market - by Ala'a Ali-Reda



Modular Origami — Nur Soliman



Drawing — Noura Al-Sager