The 11th Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition (IPESC) took place on the 28th and 29th of November in Dubai. This year, the American University of Kuwait sent two teams, through Professor Don Prades, to proudly represent their university at the competition. Every year, about 60 universities take part in the IPESC, which is divided into four different categories, with 16 to 20 universities competing in each one. The competition is bilingual, and had four sessions: two morning sessions, and two afternoon sessions. Our first team participated in the topic “Recycling-Does it Really Matter?” The team’s speaker was Helene El Neaman, assisted by Marie El Neaman. As for the second team, their topic was “Development without Destruction-Is it Possible?”

Why would this equation mean ANYTHING to you as a student at AUK? What does it actually mean? It should be for you like this...6.5 is equal to less than 1% of 2288. OR...WAY fewer than 1% of the AUK student population showed up on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 to have a conversation about the future of the Student Government Association. SERIOUSLY?!! Of the 2288 students registered for this Fall semester, only 6.5 of you showed up? (No, we didn't have a pregnant student. Omar works for Student Life so he kind of had to show up but he is still committed to the cause!)

It would have been very easy to say that because there is minimal interest, the Student Government Association will no longer exist at AUK. It certainly makes life easier because then we don't have to worry about student complaints, don't have to worry about what's on the minds of the students, the staff can plan what they feel is best regardless of what students want, we can choose the students that we feel will represent what we want them to represent to outside agencies...Life would be much simpler...BUT THAT IS NOT COLLEGE LIFE! That is not what AUK is about! The voice of the student has been and always will be an integral part of the AUK philosophy. If only 6.5 students are willing to step up to the plate, put aside their personal agendas and priorities in order to ensure the collective student voice of AUK is heard, then that is where we will begin.

Even if ONE student stepped up to the plate and had the desire to work to ensure the students of AUK maintained a collective voice, that one person would be enough to serve as the Transitional Student Government Association. However, there are...
ON DECEMBER 7th, 2011, THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE ORGANIZED A TRIP TO THE PAWS SHELTER IN KUWAIT TO MEET ANIMALS AND TOUR THE FACILITIES THERE. THIS VIST WAS PART OF THE INITIATIVES OF AUK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM "REFUSE TO BE ORDINARY." THE VISIT PROVIDED US WITH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANIMAL CARE AND SERVICES ESPECIALLY IN THE GULF. MOREOVER, I FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND GOT TO KNOW THE CATS AND DOGS THAT ARE UP FOR ADOPTION.

AUK students had their smiles on the minute they entered the shelter till the last second they left. It is very satisfying as you feel the love and happiness when you first release dogs from their cages and walk them around the shelter. For that reason, shelters like these need young volunteers to help them care for animals, feeding, taking dogs for walks, giving cats some much-needed playtime, or even comforting pets that are sick or need surgery until they get a new home.

Throughout my experience, I realized that while this is community service it is also important to the animals because at the end of the day you are not just helping the community but also caring for abandoned dogs and cats which many people do not have the desire to do.

Due to the fact that there are so many animals in need of help and compassion, you should consider volunteering because no matter what your skills or interests are, there’s probably a way you can help your local animal-welfare organizations. To those of you already volunteering, our thanks to you for all you do. You make an amazing difference for homeless pets. Make a change in your life and theirs!

If you are caring, nurturing, patient and have deep love for pets, spread the word and help these pets get a new home! They deserve a life too.

If you would like to get more information on the volunteer program, email studentlife@auk.edu.kw. To get to know more about PAWS and how to help them, visit their website www.paws-kuwait.org or visit them at PAWS-kuwait.org or relsamad@auk.edu.kw.

Laveena with a pet dog at the PAWS shelter

THE VOICE OF AUK

BY LAVEENA LOBO

The Voice of AUK is a student-run, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communication among the entire campus community and keep it abreast of diverse and relevant issues by providing high-quality news and information in an academic context. Through this, The Voice also strives to heighten awareness of rights and responsibilities of membership in the AUK community. The Voice also espouses a commitment to philanthropy.

The Voice of AUK welcomes contributions from all registered students, faculty and staff members of the American University of Kuwait. Submissions should be emailed to voice@auk.edu.kw.

All submissions must be approved by the Editorial Board, in accordance with the Editorial Policy. The Voice of AUK offers no guarantee that any submission will be published.

For consideration for publication in the Voice, submissions for a given issue must be received on or before the published deadline for that issue. The views expressed in opinion columns represent strictly the views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Voice of AUK, nor those of the American University of Kuwait.

All submissions become property of the Voice of AUK, The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all submissions, including for grammar, spelling, style, and clarity. Writers have the right to withdraw submissions at any time prior to publication.

The Voice of AUK is published in ten monthly issues from September through October, and in a single issue for the months of July and August. Special non-news supplements may be published from time to time.

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

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Our Mission

The voice of AUK

Experience Dartmouth

BY THEODORE KRUSE

The Dartmouth-AUK Student Exchange program has been sending AUK student to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire since 2006. The exchange provides the opportunity for Dartmouth students to spend a term at the American University of Kuwait and for AUK students to intern for one month in the summer at Dartmouth College.

The internships offered are designed to help the student’s academic and professional life, through handling tasks that stimulate creativity and critical thinking. This past summer five AUK students participated in the program: Sara Solomon, Hala Rostos, Nada Bedir, Thamer Al-Maryan, and Dalal Al-Qhatani.

By MUN, AUK

The Model United Nations club attended on November 24 and 25 the 7th annual Bahrain Model United Nations (BUMUN) in the Courve Plaza hotel. BUMUN was held under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Hisham Mohammed Al Jowar, President of General Organization for Youth & Sports. The guest of honor is His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Dhafer Al Umran, Director of Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The conference lasted for two days where many issues were discussed such as “Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental freedom while countering terrorism,” “Prevention of youth crime and the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth offenders,” “The Current situation in the Middle East, specifically the Gulf States,” and “The usage of Nuclear programs for peaceful purposes.” The MUN team from AUK represented the Russian Federation, South Africa, Egypt, Gabon, and Kuwait. The General Assembly was being chaired by Khalid Al Mutaaw, the MUN President.

Participants included: Khalid Al Mutaaw (President), Wadha Al Obaidaly (Secretary), Mark Rangel, Ahmed Taefik, Abdulaziz Jabr, Ahmed Khalil, and Mark Rangel. Ahmed Taefik, and Ahmed Khalil all received honorable mentions in their respective commissions.

The students of AUK attended and participated in student discussions and observing the teaching methods used at Dartmouth. They had also attended a meeting where many issues were discussed. Thamer Al-Maryan and Dalal Al-Qhatani participated in Dartmouth’s Secure Information Systems Mentoring and Training (SIMAT) program. Summer 2011 was the first time AUK students participate in the internet security programs.

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Earthwatching Dolphins in Greece

BY GHADIDA M HOHMAD

Prior to volunteering with Earthwatch, I had always been curious about what work volunteers can actually do, and if they could contribute in any significant way to the scientific work aimed at providing sound information for the conservation of the environment in various parts of the world. Joining Earthwatch last summer has proven to me how valuable volunteering can be—both volunteering time and money.

I joined the Dolphins of Greece Expedition lead by Dr. Joan Gonzalez, the scientist in charge of the expedition. We had two research-assistants, Giorgios and Ioannis, both students from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The boating experience on day one was magnificent. According to Gonzalez, we had one of the best dolphin encounters of the year—that was very exciting! At first, because of our lack of experience, volunteers were not very confident about how to behave onboard and about the best way of delivering our observations effectively to the research crew, but in no time we were all hunting out “Dolphins, 12 o’clock,” “Dolphins, 3 o’clock,” helping the researchers keep track of the dolphin movements.

Seeing dolphins at the front of the boat (called the bow) was absolutely magnificent. While bow-riding, dolphins would turn their heads and look up at us, and then go about their own ways. You can really feel the euphoria of establishing a rapport with such a beautiful animal. The surveys at sea were conducted during the first four days in the Amvrakikos Gulf, right in front of Volos, where the project’s field base is located, and the last two days were spent around the crystal-clear waters of Kalamos Island. Amvrakikos Gulf has mostly calm waters, with low wave agitation (called sea state). Typically, after the surveys at sea, we would come back to the field base for lunch and to process the data in the afternoon. Ioannis and Giorgios were great help. They showed us how to match the dolphin dorsal fin pictures taken during the dolphin sightings with the dorsal fin catalogue developed during several years of research work and over 500 dolphin sightings. It was rather difficult in the beginning, but with some practice we were able to identify the different individuals quite effectively.

This whole experience has been nothing short of magnificent in terms of its educational value, and its potential to hone your independent thinking abilities, especially regarding environmental and ecological concerns. The researchers were great teachers and showed enthusiasm and interest in helping the volunteers. I’m most grateful to them for this wonderful experience.

For more information on the Dolphins of Greece Expedition, please visit http://www.earthwatch.org/exped/gonzalvo.html , or email me at ghohmad@auk.edu.kw.
March 1, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

March 18, 1974 - The five-month-old Arab oil embargo against the U.S. was lifted. The embargo was in retaliation for American support of Israel during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 in which Egypt and Syria suffered a crushing defeat. In the U.S., the resulting embargo had caused long lines at gas stations as prices soared 300 percent amid shortages and a government ban on Sunday gas sales.

March 19, 2003 - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops. The troops made rapid progress northward and conquered the country’s capital, Baghdad, just 21 days later, ending the rule of Saddam.

March 26, 1992 - Soviet Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on board the MIR Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet Union (USSR) collapsed and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked “Et tu, Brute?” (Even you, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death.

March 13, 1843 - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.

March 10, 1876 - Alexander Graham Bell places the world’s first telephone call, to his assistant in the next room.

March 13, 1807 - The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

March 25, 1889 - The Eiffel Tower opens in Paris, France.

March 12, 1609 - The island of Bermuda was colonized by the British after a ship on its way to Virginia was wrecked on the reef.

March 11, 1818 - Frankenstein is published. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley published the world’s first science fiction novel.

March 31, 1889 - The “Iron Curtain” speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia’s control.

March 5, 1946 - The “Iron Curtain” speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia’s control.

March 27, 1964 - The biggest earthquake ever recorded strikes Anchorage, Alaska. It measured 8.3 on the Richter scale.
Last 48 hours on MBC2 they were playing Good Will Hunting, a movie I had heard about but never actually watched. I thought to myself, how can a movie be good when it completely consists of characters talking? How can a movie be good when there are no car chases or buildings blowing up? How can a movie be good when it was written by the two main actors, both of whom were relatively new to the scene at the time? And how could Robin Williams be playing a serious role? I decided not to watch it and kept it to myself.

The movie revolves around these three characters. Will Hunting is a new genius brain, Dr. Maguire dealing with his past and Will Hunting, and Prof. Cobble trying to help him research mathematics and show the world his capabilities. The movie has no violence but rather has some very intense scenes, such as the first time Will meets Dr. Maguire. Will is very cocky and makes a rude comment about Dr. M. Dr. Maguire answers by confusing grabbing Will by the throat and threatening him that if he ever sees him again he would "end him". The movie uses a strong dialogue and strong actions from characters to enhance the scenes that they are saying and to immerse the audience. The story is completely dialogue driven and in the movie the characters are animated very well and in doing so reflect the true nature of their characters.

Will Hunting develops an interest in a pre-med student by the name of Skylar. Will love and compassion, but Will retracts it, but an important note is that Skylar is a catalyst for Will’s brain. The movie then sees her, the more he wants to see his genius and help Dr. Maguire, and Will stops himself. He has fear of abandonment, and before Skylar has a chance about himself, he sees her push away first, even though she wants to be with him. When Skylar asks if Will loves her, Will says that he doesn’t, but because he may or may not love her, but because he wants a better chance at love, he decides not rejected it having a love interest and there being a chance of him being rejected.

Because of the love interest, one could perceive that the movie was a love story, especially given the ending, but actually it’s not true. This is the journey of a man who is trying to cope with his new found abilities and the people that want to exploit him. Though, the love story subplot adds a great deal of development and makes the viewer feel sad when that thing out during an emotional scene between him and Skylar that he.lost his father.

Towards the end of the movie comes an extremely emotional scene that even left me in tears. Dr. Maguire stands firmly in front of Will and keeps repeating “It’s not your fault”. At first Will just shrugs the notion off, but after Dr. Maguire says it to him enough times he starts to fall and starts crying while strongly begging Dr. Maguire. Will realizes that it was not him who first called the cops, but that those around him who have held him back.

But Will and Skylar, she has recently moved to California to continue her education. He leaves Boston to go after Skylar, but before he does he leaves a message in the mailbox of Dr. Maguire saying that he is ready to see a girl. The message that is after he goes after Skylar.

Good Will Hunting is a smooth, beautifully made film. The camera work is engaging, the dialogue is superb, and we actually care about what they are going through. The only negative thing about this movie is that it is a bit too hard to deliver messages to the audience, especially the scene where Will is looking for a job at the National Security Agency (NSA) and gives a long and convoluted (but nicely written) speech about people dying because of deciding something with numbers. But overall this does not hamper the story of the movie. I implore those who have not seen the movie to do so, but probably grab an uscic DVD version with the MBC2 version was saying with all the inconveniences cut out. Overall, I gave it a 4.5/5.
The Accounting Club

Club Mission: The Accounting club is an academic club that help students with accounting to make them better understand the material.

Email: accountingclub@auk.edu.kw

Alakhdar Environmental Club

Club Mission: Al Akhdar Environmental Club aims to implement schemes that enrich appreciation for the environment, demonstrating the link between environmental and social relations and enhancing environmental sustainability within Kuwait and the Arab Vicinity.

Email: Alakhdar@auk.edu.kw

Armenian Culture Club

Club Mission: Introduce the Armenian Culture to the AUK Community.

Email: ArmenianCultureClub@auk.edu.kw

The Human Rights Club

Club Mission & Club Description: The goal of The Human Rights Club is to raise awareness of human rights issues and to promote policies that address civil, political, cultural and economic rights. The club provides a platform for social activists, intellectuals, and artists, to come together to discuss issues that can help encourage change and build a greater understanding for a common humanity.

Email: humanrightsclub@auk.edu.kw

The Art Factory

Club Mission: The Art Factory Club operates just like an actual factory. Everyone together forms the “factory-like unit” where one can insert strong and creative energy into the factory’s machines which will be generated into something that can be enjoyed by many. By this, we are not only talking about artwork, but also one’s character for members will learn how to get inspired by their surroundings which leads to promoting a positive and peaceful atmosphere as well as learn how to see beauty in everything. While working and exposing one’s self to art experts, talented artists and various people outside the club that they have to work with, will not only help improve the member’s artistic skills but also improve in several other fields such as group work, meeting goals and budgets, time management, marketing projects and expressing ideas.

Email: artfactory@auk.edu.kw

The Voice of AUK

Club Mission: The Voice of AUK is a student-run, monthly newspaper that seeks to foster active communication among the entire campus community and keep it abreast of diverse and relevant issues by providing high-quality news and information in an academic context. Through this, The Voice also strives to brighten awareness of rights and responsibilities of membership in the AUK community. The Voice also espouses a commitment to philanthropy.

Email: voice@auk.edu.kw

The International Club

Club Mission: The chief objective of the international club is to apply what we have learned and accomplished from our educational journey at AUK through entertaining ways that tend to create not only an educational, but also an entertaining atmosphere between students, who belong to different nationalities and cultures. Moreover, the club also aims to create a connection between students and faculty, in which they can engage in educational and entertaining experiences.

Email: Internationals@auk.edu.kw

Alahrar@auk.edu.kw

Club Mission & Club Description: The purpose of this organization shall be to serve the entire community of the American University of Kuwait by promoting interest in the club’s activities. The organization shall strive to uphold the name and reputation of the University. Its purpose is, moreover, to provide a social atmosphere and knowledge about some special days in the Hijri calendar. Also, we will focus on some particular scientists in the Islamic history who had a big impact on science and how did they achieve certain goal which led us to this lifestyle today.

Email: alahrar@auk.edu.kw

MUNAUK

Club Mission: The Model United Nations provides educational co-curricular simulation events for students of all ages. MUN seeks to enhance leadership, communication, and debate among its participants through representing a variety of political positions in various inter-governmental organizations. A diverse student body will learn to negotiate and resolve socio-political issues and will assimilate their distinct academic backgrounds in their endeavors. MUN strives to provide the younger generation with the tools to comprehend their international world in its past, present, and future.

Email: MUNAUK@auckland.edu.kw

The Voice of AUK
**BY JASON R. SULLIVAN**

It was mid-July when we received a call from an old friend. He was planning a visit to his home in Fort Pierce, Florida, to celebrate his retirement from the US Navy. He would be arriving a day early, and it was ready to be taken out to sea. He had spent several months sanding, rebuilding and repainting this old shell of a boat and now it was something that he would visit. We were thrilled at the idea. What makes Rob special is that he thrives on the unexpected, in that sense we both do.

Rob made the ten hour drive to my house and as we sat down to dinner, we talked about his excitement over the three day trip they had in store. He had been doing research on Spanish shipwrecks as well. He had plotted a map that included several great fishing spots and had gone over the Spanish ship that had sunk just off the coast in the mid 1700s.

As the tide shifted and the waves died we decided to go fishing off the shore of our island. This is where our journey would begin. We lowered the boat into the water, loaded our supplies, and headed out. I started the boat and it really gained momentum as we headed forward through "Shoreys Slough" on the other side of the Port Pierce Inlet. Open water! Our first stop was the Spanish Shipwreck. We dropped anchor, put on our gear and jumped in the water. We looked over the reef for almost two hours before we finally saw parts of a broken hull still standing upright on the north side of the reef. It was amazing. We were looking at history. This ship had been sitting in the same spot for three hundred years and it was still telling its story.

Two days were much of the same, exploring, fishing, camping and diving. On the third day we were finally making our way back to the car and while we were swimming at the north end of the reef the motor died. I was relaxing on the bow and Rob was hovering over the engine trying to restart the motor several times but was unsuccessful. We finally just gave up. We reversed the motor and realized that one of the water intake vents had been blocked with sea grass. When we cleaned the filter Rob returned to the helm and turned the helm and turned the helm and turned the helm.

**BY LAVENIA LORO**

President's Lunch, Hun? Presidents' Lunch. You've probably heard of that somewhere before—received an email perhaps, just never knew the details. What is it all about? Which President? Who pays? What's the deal? How can I attend?

The Office of Student Life is happy to answer these questions through this short information piece. The President's Lunches were an initiative that began about 2 years ago, in an effort to present students with the opportunity to interact directly with the AUK President and members of his cabinet over lunch which they provided for by the Office of Student Life. This lunch gives students a chance to meet AUK President, Dr. Wulf-Thompson and his cabinet personally, discuss any issues they may be dealing with, share ideas, ask questions or give feedback. Students can also use this time to talk to the president about anything that is good at AUK, programs that should continue as well as share their ideas and concerns.

The President's Lunch is organized on the fourth Wednesday of most months whenever the university is in session. The lunch is held at the President's Residence Room. The next President's Lunch begins promptly at 1:00 p.m. Each lunch usually lasts for an hour and a half or two hours allowing for enough time to have a meaningful conversation.

At each lunch, in addition to maintaining some amount of uniformity a particular cohort or group of students may be invited. Examples of groups have been student workers, athletes, seniors, freshmen, sophomores, honors program students, and commuters. Night awardees etc. Invites are sent out to the cohort via AUK email and hence reservation is on a first come first served basis.

Over the last two years we have received great feedback from students telling us that they received a listening ear and that many of their questions were answered. Others were simply glad to have had the opportunity to meet with the President one on one and share their ideas with him.

In the upcoming Spring semester, President’s Lunches are scheduled for 28th of March and 25th of April. So be sure to be there and you would be for a particular cohort/group of students you are a part of you will need to let email know by using theoblu@auk.edu.kw or studentlife@auk.edu.kw

If you have any suggestions, comments or queries please stop by our office which is open on all working days from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. or email us at studentlife@auk.edu.kw.

**President's Lunch, Hun?**

**What Lies Beneath the Ignition**

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It Must Be The Weekend Somewhere

BY CAROLyn ROSS

I fully understand that since the beginning of the term, you have considered yourself to be a full-fledged college student and are attending classes on time. And since you are footing the cost, you should be able to do this without any pressure from your parents. I assure you that it is your responsibility to attend class. You feel… Y O U N O T !

When I started college (TEP one of Dr. Carol's stories about her college life back in the old days) I was—and maybe you are—considered a full-fledged college student and are attending classes on time. And since you are footing the cost, you should be able to do this without any pressure from your parents. I assure you that it is your responsibility to attend class. You feel… Y O U N O T !

I lay it to you: I was—maybe you are—considered a full-fledged college student and are attending classes on time. And since you are footing the cost, you should be able to do this without any pressure from your parents. I assure you that it is your responsibility to attend class. You feel… Y O U N O T !

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There are many skills you need to consider beyond your academic achievement. To prepare yourself for a job you should develop your intellectual, personal, professional, and basic skills. A study shows that many job applicants have deficiencies in motivation, communication skills, and teamwork. Many employers are raising hiring criteria included those issues because job candidates need to know what are the Professional, Intellectual skills expected from you. To prepare yourself for a job you should develop your intellectual, personal, professional, and basic skills. A study shows that many job applicants have deficiencies in motivation, communication skills, and teamwork. Many employers are raising hiring criteria included those issues because job candidates need to know what are the Professional, Intellectual skills expected from you.

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By Abir K. Itani

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BY GLAYLA AL-DHAFIRE

Smoking has been known to be hazardous and addicting habit that has taken the American society by storm. It pollutes not only our human bodies, but also the environment in which we live. Smoking should be permanently banned within Kuwait’s campuses because it is merely an act of complete selfishness. Smokers might think they are just helping their friends but not the health of others like in second hand smoke. Smoking poses a lot of threats and it is not good for the reputation of a university, especially a university, that is trying to be in the upper ranks. With the evolvement of game consoles and accessories in 2009 video games themselves (without consoles and accessories) reached about 4,000 toxic chemicals classified as follows: mutagens, endocrine disruptors, allergens, and even staff under the age of 28 – a considerably young age. Smoking also affects approximately 45,000 heart diseases and deaths each year, and has been linked to stroke and hardening of the arteries. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids created a red keychain with the number 1,200 on it. The number 1,200 represents the average number of people who die each day due to smoking.

What is there to be said about “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2” that hasn't already been said? The first-person shooter game was called "the most anticipated game ever" by GamePro magazine, and for good reason but is it that good enough? Well, yes it surely is. “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2” which is the third sequel to the Modern Warfare series, was released on November 10, 2009. According to the game's publishing company Activision, the game sold more than 5 million copies in 24 hours of its release in the U.S., making around $400 million in just one day! Perhaps, because the game had the biggest entertainment launch of all time in history.

It is the game's depth that makes it engaging. The landscapes that the player can travel through are vast and detailed, and the missions keep you continually occupied. Also, the game engine used in the game picks up exactly where “Modern Warfare 2” left off. The game continues to improve on previous games; one can anticipate usual maps, unit models, and weapons, which is what keeps you picking the controller up time after time. A survival mode has been added to the game, where two online players take on waves of enemies which grows increasingly difficult.

The market for video games has been incredibly rising during the last years, especially with the evolution of game consoles such as the PlayStation 3 and the Xbox 360. In 2010, PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Global Entertainment and Media Outlook. The report projected that video games themselves (without consoles and accessories) reached about $621.3 million in the U.S. according to ELSPA gcf. Chart, in 2012, a report showed that 4.7 million copies worldwide in the first 24 hours of its release in the UK. For this year, Activision confirmed on their website that the game had sold over 22 million copies worldwide, as of March 2012. In the press release announcing the sales record of the game, Activision reported, “Call of Duty is more than a game. It’s become a major part of the pop-culture landscape. It is a game that core enthusiasts love, but that also consistently draws new people into the franchise.”

The Most Anticipated Video Game of All Time: Call of Duty: Modern

BY MIDH AMER M ABUL BURGHUL

As service consumers, we constantly feel the need to voice our feedback regarding service quality. With the development of the business market, we are bombarde with a vast array of brand options, which makes us, as consumers, picky about what we receive and expect. According to Service Hero’s website, it defines itself as Kuwait’s first customer satisfaction index launched in 2010 with a mission to provide consumers with an opportunity to be part of a nation-wide online survey that measures service quality across different sectors in Kuwait.

In 2011, Service Hero announced that its annual online survey is available to enable consumers once again to vote and rate their satisfaction about the services that they receive. Service Hero also revealed that regardless of good or bad service, people’s vote will allow companies from different industry categories to learn more about their strengths and weaknesses and compare them to competitors. It further emphasized that the final results of the survey will provide industry average and an overall country average, which will be compared to a global survey.

The representatives of Service Hero believe that the number of votes that one company will receive compared to competitors in the same sector can better help future consumers decide which company to select based on what they expect and need in a particular sector.

Service consumers can vote through completing the online survey to enable consumers once again to vote and rate their satisfaction about the services that they receive. Service Hero also revealed that regardless of good or bad service, people’s vote will allow companies from different industry categories to learn more about their strengths and weaknesses and compare them to competitors. It further emphasized that the final results of the survey will provide industry average and an overall country average, which will be compared to a global survey.

4.5 million copies only within 7 days of its release, but is it that good enough? Well, yes it surely is. “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2” which is the third sequel to the Modern Warfare series, was released on November 10, 2009. According to the game's publishing company Activision, the game sold more than 5 million copies in 24 hours of its release in the U.S., making around $400 million in just one day! Perhaps, because the game had the biggest entertainment launch of all time in history.

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Tips for a Safe Kuwaiti Winter

BY HUDA AL-RAHID

Brain Damage and Football: A Frightful Combination

BY HUDA AL-RAHID

Scientific Research and a Cure for Autism

BY HUDA AL-RAHID

Football is one of the most entertaining sports out there, especially because it has a magical ability to move a crowd of people in union more than any other sport. When players demonstrate advanced abilities such as scoring in a unique manner and around the crowd’s excitement. One of the most moving, exciting moves in football is a "header," which is known as a "header," we can imagine how much force would be exerted on the ball, both to and from the player demonstrating this action. Without going much into the physics of it, we can assume that exerting a large amount of force from a player’s head must make sure there is a certain amount of pressure on a player’s head. Therefore, for car acumen that there may be a link between potential brain damage and headers. Based on experimental research, it seems that a sample of amateur players had brain scans that reveal patterns similar to patients suffering from concussions! Some say that this research has maybe shown some light on a potential cause of death in English footballer, Jeff Astle, who was said to suffer from brain complications years after his football career ended.

Furthermorc, Dr. Michael Lipton of Montefiore Medical Center, presented certain research results on this matters, and concluded that by normal standards, the act of “heading” a football will not damage brain or for them be brain, but repetitive heading would lead to effects that increase risk of brain cells. However, many scientists are still skeptical about the link between heading and brain damage. Moreover, due to its potential threat, it is still unclear how changes in today's physical education, and other professionals have a profound effect on the biological environment. People do have a general understanding of the ways in which these ecological modifications did have a profound effect on the environment, which is likely to be more fixated and routine that human history.
THE WRITING CENTER

Advice for Writers

BY JAMES McDougall

As Writing Center Director I am often asked if I have any advice for writers. When asked, I often think of a little story I was told when I was a boy.

Along a time was there a tale of a labor strike spreading around a mill town. A few of the Italian migrants speaking croaky Jouf French were thought to be Wobbles—international anarchists. Evidence for this was circumstantial. Some say they argued with the fat priest who warned rocks would replace potatoes in the fields if they didn’t pay their tithes. Others say they were the ghosts of Sacco and Vananzetti—communists, agitators.

Two weeks after the Italians were chased out of town, there was still talk. The grunted foreman that clerked at the company store hearkened the grumblings as he darkened the red ink of the company ledgers. “I am sick of this,” said his first customer of the day. It was Jean-Philippe who owed the company two years worth of wages. He often joked that the mill would not let him quit even if he died, “old St. Peter would have to wait.” His wife would always retort, “You’d better have to work, he’d get fed up with you and everybody around would laugh except for Jean-Philippe.”

“The clerk might have been a statement, a question, a comma, the beginning of the alphabet song. The story concluded: it intended, it asked.”

“Screw this, you horse thief!” Those Italian migrants come back, they’re going to become troublesome agitators. He would have to make the most of the situation. So, I hear people want to organize; people want to complain, and bring everyone down. YOUR PAYCHECK depends on not doing things. Do what is right and work hard. Does anyone want to complain?” the mill boss asked a large flannel-clad lumberjack from Souris.

“The food,” the lumberjack grumbled. “The food is disgusting.”

Two days later the mill boss died a violent death of food poisoning. I was first told of this story by my uncle after I had asked him for some advice about writing. I was only about seven years old, so as you can imagine mill-town polka music was lost on me. Great Depression, the paper industry, and why the mill owner was English and the lumberjacks were French Canadian. Overall, it wasn’t the greatest story to tell a kid who needed some help with the second grade assignment. Even though I was later to learn from my father that the mill boss never died of food poisoning, the way my uncle created a kind of moral universe out of a forgettable corner of Canada demonstrated to me how language is tied to power. Why were all those lumberjacks quiet? While the control of language is a sign of power, poor use of language can result in a loss of power.

For us in the university power comes in the form of mastery of academic language. Each piece that you write brings you closer to developing that mastery. Therefore, even if writing is something that you dread and loath, take every opportunity that you have to get feedback on your writing, and before you hand in a paper or send an email make sure it is free of mistakes and our ideas are clear to your audience. I don’t think the moral is of the story. Which always makes me think, when I asked my uncle for advice about writing, why did he tell me this story.

A look into online resources in general will reveal how the youth have conquered the cyber space, each using the online sphere as a palette for their artistic projection. Every minute hundreds of websites are created and each second new sets of media content are leaked into the online platform. Could we still live in oblivion and disregard these evolutionary changes that are occurring in our literacy cultures all over the world? The world has witnessed a shift from traditional literacy to media literacy where the means of education are no longer print texts and conventional classroom settings. Out there, there is a culture of knowledge that gets created, updated and remixed every minute through the Web. These are participatory cultures.

Henry Jenkins’ Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21st Century (2006) provides a new framework for the concept of new media literacy as a “paradigm shift” not “as an add-on subject.” He also argues that new media literacy should be understood as “operating within a social and cultural context,” which is not about individualized skills that gets used, but social skills and cultural competencies. He further lists the core media literacy skills that include: play, judgment, appropriation, networking, navigation, negotiation and what he calls “collective intelligence.” We need a more serious consideration of the place these skills should assume in educational spaces. Educators need to assume responsibility for helping students develop the skills necessary to participate in this social and cultural context, which is not about individualized skills used for personal expression but social skills and cultural competencies. He further lists the core media literacy skills that include: play, judgment, appropriation, networking, navigation, negotiation and what he calls “collective intelligence.”

The Writing Center looks forward to meeting students on the OWL. It’ll be a hoot!
third place out of eighteen other contestants! And, as per usual, AUK’s team has made us proud again!

This year, Luke, assisted by Marie El Namani, won second place in the speech competition on the topic, “Development without Destruction: Is it Possible?” beating twelve other universities who competed in this topic. Our other speaker, Helene, won third place on the topic, “Recycling: Does it really Matter?” among the twelve universities that competed. Evidently, this came as a surprise to no one, for AUK is known for its superior competition. As a matter of fact, the coach of Prince Sultan University – who is known as AUK’s fiercest competitor – stated that, “Every time we see the name AUK in the contest, we worry and expect a tough fight!” This writer also had the pleasure of asking the two students a couple of questions about the secret to their success!

Worth your first time total experience in a public speaking competition? Luke: Not really. I took part in a number of competitions in school. However this would be the first competition I have attended which was at an university level and challenging at best.

Helene: Yes, it was the first time for all who represented AUK this year. Marie, Luke and myself (Helene) Professor Don Prades, of course, has been into the Public Speaking thing for a very long time. A very experienced a professional coach.

If yes, this was also your first time competing for AUK! Luke: Yes, this would be the first time I have competed for AUK in any competition, and, I have to say, I feel proud. Helene: No, I have participated in a number of competitions that took place here in AUK, but none involved any traveling. I have competed in a Starbucks Painting Competition recently and my artwork is now displayed in Starbucks Flagship, opposite to Fanar mall.

How long did it take for you to prepare for this competition?

Luke: We have been preparing for this competition for a long time, since the beginning of summer break. Our coach informed us that we would have to prepare our PowerPoint presentations ready by the end of the break, and that’s what we did! However, after the break, it was intense preparations. We had speeches that spanned 4 pages but had to cut down to 3 to manage the time limit. And then there was the part of memorizing it. After memorizing, we had to perfect our actions and facial expressions. So yeah, I would say 4-5 months.

Helene: The team were expected to begin selecting our topics as early as April, here all our research done during the, and have a finished speech by September. There was only one team per topic, and only one team per department. This is where AUK’s teams had a clear advantage. Two of our teams consisted of two computer engineering students, one was Electrical Engineering students, and the third team was comprised of two civil engineering students.

Tony’s Risky Business

How did you prepare for the competition?

Luke: 1. I started working on the PowerPoint presentation during the summer break and finished it at the end of it. The speech was written while I created each slide. As soon as the break was over, I had to meet Professor Prades to discuss the speech. We discussed various weak points with the speech and PowerPoint and how they could be improved. I would go home after every meeting and rewrite it. After that, we would try to meet every Saturday to practice the coordination between the delivery of the speech and the transition of the PowerPoint slides. And from then on, we were meeting just to ensure the smoother delivery of my speech.

Another point I would like to mention is that we had a rehearsal in front of a Professor of one of the IEP classes, after which they were told to offer suggestions. By utilizing that, we managed to perfect our delivery and movement!

Helene: We began by polishing our speeches; we must have rewritten them a hundred times! We were under a strict time limit of no more than 12 minutes, but to be in the safe zone, we cut our speeches to 10. It was very important to have all the important information without making the speech too informative and boring. Next, it was memorizing and rehearse. The team were expected to show up between classes, after classes and even on weekends. It didn’t seem like a lot of work, though, because we loved doing it; we had a blast! When the competition was nearing, we began practicing with microphones and in front of audiences. There was no time to prepare once we reached Dubai.

Would you want to repeat the experience?

Luke: Yes! Definitely! The experience gained was well worth the effort put in.

Helene: Definitely, I wish to try out as a team member next year, previous speakers cannot compete as speakers again. However, I hope that AUK can have a bigger budget for this competition so that AUK can afford to send a full team by next year. It is a shame that AUK’s team actually was comprised of two speakers and one technical assistant. Not many universities at this level had only one technical assistant. Since our team comprises of two speakers, it is only fair that they have obtained this skill, you will be more successful in it! I encourage you to try it out next year.

In closing… congratulations to Luke Rangel and Helene El Numan… you have truly made AUK proud in this competition, 8 students who will comprise the transition team for Student Government for the remainder of this academic year, one showed up late for the discussion but has been added to the team. Luke was one a little bit nervous, like everyone who stands on a stage. But as Professor Prades puts it in his English 108 class, ”You must learn to convert your nervousness into positive energy and use it to charm the crowd”! And that’s what I did! After speaking the first few words, I found myself in a few laughs, but my confidence shot through the roof while delivering my speech. After we were done, there was all morning of the day of the competition, with a miracle curing the stress and tension I was feeling at the time. I was charged up and called upon for input. They are empowered to debate, program, allocate, resolve, and speak up and out. For this team, it is not about power or a resume perk. It is about a love for AUK and a desire to serve. The following individuals are members of the Transition Student Government Administration Team: Abdul Aziz Al Mutairi… has been a volunteer in last year’s competition, and/or once you have obtained this skill, you will be more successful in it! I encourage you to try it out next year.

The following individuals are members of the Transition Student Government Administration Team:

Abdul Aziz Al Mutairi… has been a volunteer in last year’s competition, and/or once you have obtained this skill, you will be more successful in it! I encourage you to try it out next year.

Hani Al Azzam. Hani is looking for a “new perspective” on the AUK student body, and his vision is to become the President of the AUK Student Government. He plans to “make the changes for this leadership role.”

AbduI Al Mutairi… has been a volunteer in last year’s competition, and/or once you have obtained this skill, you will be more successful in it! I encourage you to try it out next year.

Another point I would like to make regarding the speech, the star of the show… but Luke! Wish I was there to see it! When giving me time to get ready, Luke and Marie decided to go out and buy me some medicine. They talked to someone at the front desk asking them to give them directions to the nearest pharmacy. The woman in charge exclaimed that it was only a short 5 minute walk away. They decided to walk there and 20 minutes and they still didn’t reach the pharmacy.

Luke, you guessed it! Front desk member moisture of Marie and I didn’t get back to the hotel until 45 minutes later. Now, that’s a story right there! They were so supportive in making sure I get better and compete. And I have to say, we did it! Very well, Luke, Marie and I, we were quite a team, weren’t we? Once again, AUK proved its mark over the competition. Luke won 2nd place in his category, and I won 3rd. We were so happy and so proud of us. We didn’t get 1st, but hey… EEEG, we’ll be back. “Win or Lose!”

Helene: I think Professor Prades would probably appreciate that we didn’t get 1st, but hey… EEEG, we’ll be back. “Win or Lose!”

Speaking for the most part is a little easier than having to worry about hitting the marks for two different speeches… at least in my opinion anyway. The pressure of failing and then having your teammates down after suffering the agony of remembering and researching those many months- no matter how much I emphasize the importance of preparing and practicing aloud- not to mention the heavy weight of guilt for letting your down dragging like a chain on your ankles and having your team want to bite your head off. Ehm...

Anyway, as my sister had already reiterated, our journey began with the first step taken not far from the truth either. It was bumpy, we had our mishaps moments where we got lost and took over all the knowledge of ourselves- of not that anyone seemed to care…or didn’t. All we really cared about this thing, is being together. Anyway, on top of that we get adjusted with new people, styles, and just every other thing that keeps building up onto what we had already known. We want to see that we have learned to become independent, responsible and build up our confidence. By the way, I think a lot of our group is as since it is as empty as a blank book- you wouldn’t get the true meaning of it anyway. (Quote by me. (Marie)

In the end when push came to shove, we pulled through! In the ring- of ‘bad luck’ hadn’t held us hostage and we came back better and stronger.

Agony and Pride, from pg. 8

A special thanks to Marie for her ideas and support!