



Photographer Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan (right), musician Hamad Al-Qattan (center), with member of Student Council.



A general photo from the event

## Influential people inspire students to follow their dreams

# AUK Student Council holds a series of inspirational talks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Student Council kicked off a talk series dedicated to hosting various influential people in Kuwait's society — from entrepreneurs and musicians, to actors and athletes—to inspire students to follow their dreams and pursue their passions.

The first speaker was professional photographer Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan who recalled his journey that led him to pursue photography full-time. His interest began at a young age with art and drawing, which later prompted him to become an art teacher. Animation and science fiction characters caught Al-Duwaisan's attention, and he became interested in the creativity involved in putting together movie posters and using Photoshop to enhance various images. His work has become very popular on social media where some photos tackle social issues, and others have comedic aspects to them.

Musician Hamad Al-Qattan was the second speaker of the series; his journey began with playing football for the Kuwaiti Al-Kazma team, while also enjoying singing and music. Al-Qattan explained that his parents were conservative; therefore, it was difficult for him to pursue a career in music. After high school, he joined the military and also started to write music and lyrics for some well-known singers. Al-Qattan's passion for music soon completely took over, and he left the military to finally follow his dream. He had to overcome many obstacles that included negative critiques; however his perseverance rewarded him with successful projects with some of the biggest names in music, and high viewership on Youtube for songs he had written. Al-Qattan performed some of his songs to the audience and also answered their questions.

The two events which were held in the auditorium were open to the public, and attendees were welcome to ask questions and interact with the speakers. The talk series will continue throughout the months of October and November with many more inspirational guest speakers.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)

DAI



A section of the audience



Antal Zalai on violin and József Balog on piano



Dignitaries at the event

## Antal Zalai, József Balog give moving performances

# 'Waves of Balotan' entrances audience at DAI

By Cinatra Fernandes  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The audience at the weekly Dar Al Athar Islamiyyah Music Circle were enraptured with the moving performances by Antal Zalai on the violin and József Balog on piano in "The Waves of Balotan".

József Balog, one of the most talented pianists of his generation and praised for his sensitive musicianship and Antal Zalai is regarded as an exceptional violinist and appreciated for his technique, beautiful large tone that he renders off his 1733 "ex-Gary" Antonius Stradivarius, and for the musical finesse and maturity he displays.

The duo began with Erno Dohnányi's passionate and lively

violin — piano Sonata Op.21 and performed Liszt — Wagner's : Phantasiestück über Motive aus Rienzi S.439 as well as Isolde's Liebestod from "Tristan und Isolde" S.447, as well as composition by Bela Bartók, Jenő Hubay, bringing the evening to a close with "The Waves of Lake Balaton" Op.33.

Balog was born in 1979 in Budapest and followed in well-known Hungarian piano tradition established by Franz Liszt, Ernst von Dohnányi, and Béla Bartók, he has performed in a number of concerts, recital programmes and chamber music; along with the standard piano repertoire, he plays works by neglected composers as well as jazz, contemporary music and his own compositions.

Balog has over a 1,000 concerts as a soloist and chamber musician to his

accomplishments, having performed in 26 countries across Europe, America and Asia. He has appeared in great concert halls such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Chan Centre in Vancouver, Kensington Palace in London — in the presence of Prince Charles, Philharmonic Hall in Kiev, Palace of Arts in Budapest, Vredenburg Music Center in Utrecht, Musikhuset in Aarhus, Antonin Castle in Poland, Equinoxe in Chateauroux, Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Hall in Lodz, Konzerthaus in Vienna, Teatre de la Monnaie in Brussels, Philharmonic Hall in St Petersburg, and many others. His performance has been featured on radio and television in Hungary, Holland, Romania, Russia, Denmark, Poland, Turkey and in UK for BBC Radio. At the request of Dutch television VPRO in 2005, he recorded Liszt's Piano

Sonata in B minor.

He has eight CD recordings at Convention Budapest Classic, Hungaroton and Brilliant Classics. His first album — titled Hungaricum — won the "Liszt Grand Prix du Disque" in 2005, and his latest, "Transcendental Etudes" by Liszt was recording of the month in June 2015, on allmusic.com.

Since actress Monica Bellucci introduced him in Paris at age twelve, Zalai has performed in 38 countries on 4 continents, including the Berlin Philharmonie, Kölner Philharmonie, Wiener Musikverein, BOZAR Brussels, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Chan Centre Vancouver, Sala Sao Paulo, Moscow Conservatory, Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, MÚPA Budapest, Sala Radio Bucharest and released 11 solo albums on Hungaroton, Brilliant Classics and BMC labels

as well as his own label.

His list of performances includes a joint recital with Jose Carreras in Switzerland; a concerto appearance at New York's Central Park and a performance for Prince Charles in the Kensington Palace in London.

Antal Zalai has collaborated with such renowned conductors as Fabio Luisi, Paavo Järvi, Yoel Levi, Lawrence Foster, Gilbert Varga, Ludovic Morlot, Laurent Petitgirard, Shlomo Mintz, Enrique Batiz, Zoltán Kocsis, Tamás Vásáry and Gábor Takács-Nagy, among others. His festival appearances are many, including Istanbul, George Enescu, Budapest Spring, Yuri Bashmet, David Oistrakh, Al Bustan, Bellagio, Lago Maggiore, Sion Valais, Sarajevo Winter, Ricardo Castro International Music Festivals among others.

sociations in Kuwait will be released in the event as well.

Thanima in association with Asianet News is organizing an Inter-School Youth Festival for Indian School students in Kuwait, named 'Kalotsavathanima 2017' being held on Dec 8 & 9. The official logo of the

Continued on Page 23

click

Latest

Continued from Page 20

Oct 16

### Post Oil City Expo & workshop:

Join us for a workshop on outdoor comfort with Raphael Lafargue from Transsolar (Stuttgart, Germany) on Monday Oct 16, starting 7 pm at the Amricani Cultural Centre. The goal of the workshop is to explain and demonstrate that outdoor comfort is one of the main ingredients in successful outdoor space design and acts as a catalyst for social sustainability.

### IEI Technical seminar:

The Institution of Engineers (India), Kuwait chapter is pleased to inform that they are organizing a Technical seminar on Oct 16, 2017, Monday at Kuwait Society of Engineers Auditorium, Bneid Al Gar, Kuwait.

The topics of the seminar are "Total Productive Maintenance" by Engr Santhosh Kumar Shenoy, KNPC and "Industrial Safety" by Milton Edward Dana, Team Leader, BV.

The registration will start at 6:30 pm followed by seminar at 7:00 pm.

We cordially invite IEI Kuwait chapter members and ladies wing members to attend this health seminar. IEI, Kuwait chapter solicit the support of all the members and request their participation to enhance technical knowledge.

All those who are interested to attend the seminar are requested to confirm their participation by registering through email to [ieikwt@hotmail.com](mailto:ieikwt@hotmail.com) or by contacting Engr Mohandas Kamath, Ph: 67030055 or Engr Thomas John, Ph: 99723829.

Oct 20

**Onathanima 2017:** Thanima has announced their eagerly awaited mega event — Onathanima 2017 — the United Onam carnival of Malayalees in Kuwait, the highlight of which is the 13th National Tug o' War championship on Friday, Oct 20, 2017, at Raju Xavier Nagar (Indian Central

School premises), Abbasiya.

Tug o' war champions will receive cash prize and Sancelia ever-rolling Gold Cup. The three runners-up will be presented with Blue Line ever-rolling trophy, Jiju Memorial ever-rolling trophy and trophy sponsored by a well-wisher, besides cash prizes. Winning team members will receive individual medals & certificates.

Aji Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy will be presented to the fair play team of the tournament. The most promising team also will receive special trophy. Besides, individual prizes for Best front, best back, best coach, best all-rounder and best captain are also being distributed.

More than 16 teams will take part in the championship.

The coveted 'Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Pearl of the School' award, instituted by Thanima, will be presented to the best all-rounders from 21 Indian Schools in Kuwait.

Colorful cultural procession, march-past of the athletes, folk arts, musical fusion, food festival etc. are other attractions of the event. An updated Directory with details of Indian As-