Q&A

What made you decide to join the AUK community?
After returning to Kuwait in 2006, AUK sparked my interest. Everything about AUK seemed a perfect fit. The location, faculty, staff, students, prestige and environment were contributing factors in my decision to apply at AUK. My career philosophy has always been you must like going to work every day; therefore, where you work, what you are doing, and the team and students you are working with are all important. After visiting AUK, I found it offered all the facets of my philosophy.

How does your department fit into the long-term plan?
AUK IEP is a wonderful place to work. I enjoy being in the classroom and working with faculty to facilitate a program that is advantageous to learning, and the finest in Kuwait. A prodigious program is always changing; therefore, my plans are to be an asset to the IEP for as long as I can, hopefully until retirement.

What do you like most about your job? What do you like least?
In my opinion, there are 3 elements that make my position perfect. The first reason is I am a people person; therefore, all activities involving students produce synergy. Next, AUK's faculties strive to build community on campus which makes working here a pleasure. In addition, their endless dedication is the foundation behind AUK's prestigious reputation. Finally, the administration makes the atmosphere and working conditions tremendous! All of these factors make my job enjoyable.

What do I like least: Well as Ernest Benn once said, “Our age will be known as the age of committees.” Committees are necessary to the success of any organization, and I enjoy doing my part, but I would like to find one person who actually enjoys them.

Who were your childhood heroes?
My childhood heroes were my mother, father, Mr. Hollifield, my 6th grade teacher, and Mrs Glimo, a 7th grade teacher. All four of these people had a huge impact on my life, and who I am today!

If you could be or do anything else - what?
All my life I have enjoyed the theater and spent many hours on stage and behind the scenes. If I could do anything else, I would be a film producer. For 12 years, I owned and operated a talent agency in Austin, TX. My talent has appeared in: The Life of David Gale, Miss Congeniality, Heroes, OC, Homeland security, Print ads, commercials, Fashion week NY, and the list of credits is long. Later, I became a casting agent, and finally worked on 4 independent films. Summer 2012, I will be shooting a horror film in Oregon. My hobby is my passion.

If you could live in any other time, when might that be and why?
I feel now is the best time to live. A quote from Epictetus (A.D. 200) “No great thing is created suddenly.” It took many years to create what we have today! Therefore, I enjoy what I have.

If you could have dinner with five famous people from history, who would they be?
I would want to have dinner with the leaders of the world and ask them one question. One world, one people, when will there be peace?

What are you most proud of?
One of my paramount achievements was to learn to deal with and succeed in life with dyslexia and go on to be the first person in our family to go to college and receive a graduate, and then post graduate degree. But, what I am most proud of is my family.

What are you currently working on?
Wow! I am working on a lot. As IEP Oral Communications Coordinator we have been charged with rewriting and piloting new textbooks and assignments, assessing the program for accreditation…Also, I sit on several department and university committees. In addition, I am working on a low budget independent horror film called The Hunger that will shoot in Oregon, June 2012. Since it is an independent film, I have several job roles such as: casting director, executive producer (means: finding investors to investor money in the film), line producer (the film must be on time and on budget).

What are some of the difficulties you face as an educator living in Kuwait?
One of the most difficult problems in Kuwait is book censorship or textbooks that have been blacklisted. If a citizen is truly free, they must have the right to choose what they read or don’t read, but it must be their choice.
It took many years to create what we have today! Therefore, I enjoy what I have.