As I write this message over the Thanksgiving weekend, we have much to be thankful for at AUK. With the Fall semester more than halfway through, we have strong enrollments, strong faculty, a healthy budget, and a growing campus. The AUK Annual Report for 2005-06 has been submitted to the Council for Private Universities and to the Board of Trustees, and posted on the shared drive.

We also are getting ready to embark on the NEASC accreditation process. As you know, Kuwait regulations require private universities to have an overseas cooperating institution, such as Dartmouth College in AUK’s case. In addition, the Ministry of Higher Education, through our Kuwait accrediting agency, the Council for Private Universities, encourages private universities to obtain foreign accreditation. This is a new international phenomenon, and out of six regional U.S. Commissions accrediting institutions of higher learning only three extend accreditation to foreign universities. AUK has chosen to approach the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the same one that accredits Harvard University, Dartmouth College, and other Ivy League schools. At this time, a draft Report of Eligibility has been submitted to NEASC. If found eligible, AUK will embark on a multi-year process involving your continued efforts and cooperation. We anticipate that the Director of the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) Dr. Barbara Brittingham will visit AUK during the second week of December. She will meet with AUK faculty, administrators, and students, as well as attending the meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for December 12-13.

The search for the new Dean of Academic Affairs has been advertised, and the faculty Search Committee headed by Dr. Lisa Urkevich is reviewing candidate applications. Effective this semester, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh has been appointed Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. The new Head of the Division of Social Sciences is Dr. Shoma Munshi (ANSO). The Division Heads with the Dean and Associate Dean comprise the Dean’s Council. Faculty vacancies for 2007 are being advertised, and several candidates were interviewed recently in Washington, DC. Please help AUK attract a strong applicant pool by contacting your former dissertation advisors and colleagues in the U.S.; the jobs are posted on the AUK website. In the meantime, Division Heads and the Policies and Procedures Committee have been working on the guidelines for faculty evaluation and promotion. For faculty now in their third year of appointment, the contract renewal process will begin soon after the winter break.

Many of you have been engaged in preparations for the Liberal Arts Week (December 10-13) and the academic Showcase (December 11-12). These events will celebrate the AUK teaching and learning excellence and showcase our students’ academic achievement and wonderful creativity. On December 10, faculty will gather for a dinner celebration to honor our faculty’s scholarship and to highlight AUK’s commitment to the mission of Liberal Arts education (read more about our faculty and staff elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle). On December 11, the campus will host a lecture on Liberal Arts in the age of globalization by Dr. Clifford Chaniin, president of The Legacy Project, a U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to understanding the challenges presented by the recent societal catastrophes around the world. Music and drama performances will round out the week’s program.
Dr. Raymond Farrin’s award-winning dissertation

MESA Dissertation Award for “Reading Beyond the Line: Organic Unity in Classical Arabic Poetry” by Raymond Farrin

“Reading Beyond the Line,” Dr. Raymond Farrin’s dissertation submitted at the University of California, Berkeley this past May, was selected by the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America as winner of the 2006 Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award (Humanities). The award was presented to Dr. Farrin November 19 at the MESA conference in Boston.

Also at the conference, Dr. Farrin presented a paper entitled “To Egypt with Love: The Poetry of Baha al-Din Zu’hayr.”

Dr. Farrin is Assistant Professor of Arabic at AUK.

AUK Professors take part in the First Kuwait and Middle East Conference Combating Money

Dr. Nauman Farooqi, Dr. Mourad Dakhlil, and Dr. Jeremy Cripps, most generously sponsored by the Kuwait Times, were able to participate in the First Kuwait & Middle East Conference for Combating Money Laundering which was held at the Arraya Convention Hall of the Courtyard Marriott in Kuwait November 4 – 6, 2006. The conference was held under the Patronage of Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait. Our AUK faculty were able to attend nearly all the sessions and so to keep up-to-date with trends and risks in the Kuwait financial markets. This experience provides an exceptional opportunity to bring current events into our business and economics classrooms.

Professor O’Meara participates in University of Mainz seminar

Simon O’Meara, Assistant Professor of History of Art at AUK, recently participated in a 3-day "Master's Seminar" held at the Kompetenz-zentrum Orient-Oekzident Mainz (KOOM), University of Mainz, Germany (September 7 - 9, 2006). The title and theme of the seminar was "The Islamic Paradigm: On the Relationship between the Social Sciences and Islamic Studies," and the most senior "Master" teaching and leading the seminar was AUK's very own Professor Dale Eickelman of Dartmouth. The seminar's aim was to develop a network of scholars working on the relationship between Islamic Studies and the Social Sciences, to sharpen methodological and theoretical tools, and to contribute to the advancement of an emergent field of investigation.

AUK Professor Participates in Swiss Symposium

In August 2006, Professor Conerly Casey was invited to participate in a five day symposium in Ascona, Switzerland entitled “Children in Armed Conflict.” The symposium was sponsored by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation and convened twelve international scholars who specialize in studies of dominance, aggression and violence among youths. The symposium was so successful that the Guggenheim Foundation commissioned Professor Conerly's group to produce a book of original research. The group will meet again next summer to finalize their chapter contributions and to chart paths of future research in this area.
AUK Professors at the Kuwait-America Alliance Conference

(Left to Right) Dr. Mohsen Bagnied, Dr. Nauman Farooqi, Director of Continuing Education Dave McHardy, and Dr. Jeremy Cripps participated at the Kuwait-America Alliance conference. The conference reviewed changes in Gulf business and the resulting opportunities for foreign investment in Kuwait.

Announcement

AUK is in the process of developing an Arts Library Journal. We have had some minor success with this in the past. The editors of the Journal have been asking for submissions from students since the beginning of the Fall 2006 term for the forthcoming Winter issue. We have asked students to please send their poetry, fiction, one-act plays and creative non-fiction to Professor Craig Loomis, B505, and their drawings, photographs, sketches to Professor Dahlia Mahmoud, B513, by 1 December 2006. In the near future, if all goes well and the Journal does become viable, we hope to invite submissions from the entire AUK community.

AUK Theatre Club presents
a modern Kuwaiti adaptation of an Arabic classic:

1,000 and ½ Arabian Nights
“Bring your angels and demons with you”

Presented in Arabic
Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 PM
Auditorium, Liberal Arts Building
Over 75 Students Participate in US Embassy Mentoring Program

On November 7th, over 75 AUK students put their best professional skills, expertise, and image forward to represent the AUK business program to over 20 guests from the US Embassy. This was part of a program designed and conceived by Dr. Abigail Gray for her Business Communication students. The program, based on an award-winning program Dr. Gray ran at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, is designed to forge meaningful relationships and capture the ideas and experiences of US Embassy professionals in a setting that motivates young business students to learn from the experience, wisdom, and vision of their mentors.

The program develops leadership potential in business students and prepares them for the complex and highly competitive business world. The program goal is to nurture the personal and professional growth of young men and women at AUK through initiatives that instill in students a passion for life-long learning, academic excellence, professionalism, and leadership.

The program was piloted in the Spring of 2006 with 10 US Embassy Mentors and 20 Business Communication students. Since that time, the program has tripled in size, and this semester included opening comments by Mr. Matthew Tueller, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Kuwait. Mr. Tueller, a graduate of Brigham Young University and Harvard University and a member of the Senior Foreign Service, served as Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh before coming to Kuwait. He has also served in Yemen, London, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt.

During the session, members of the diplomatic corps spent time on-to-one with students discussing professional expectations in the workplace, providing advice regarding career opportunities, and reviewing student’s employment packages—which the mentors had critiqued in advance. Students also had the opportunity to ask numerous questions, which they had prepared in advance. Most importantly, students had the opportunity to revise their resumes, cover letters, and reference pages based on the feedback they received. Students have since sent both electronic and handwritten thank you notes, and several have scheduled follow-up meeting and interviews to continue to foster the mentoring relationship.

MENTOR 2006 was a huge success, providing insight into job roles and responsibilities in the international arena and identifying and addressing the challenges of the workplace. A special thanks to the US Embassy for their continuing support of this event. And kudos to the AUK business communication students, who shined as the dynamic, aspiring young business professionals that they are!

AUK's Community Organization raises KD600 in donations

On October 16 2006, AUK’s Community Organization gathered in the Multi-Purpose Room to package donated food items for families in need. The response from the student body was overwhelming. The collection drive lasted 3 days. Apart from the KD 600 students raised in donations, they also donated cans, packages and bags of food. Due to limited resources, the club had originally planned to prepare boxes for approximately 6 to 10 families. Thanks to the help of the student body though, they managed prepare over 35 boxes and also provided food for the campus cleaning crew and security guards.

Many thanks and congratulations on a very successful food drive!
An Update from CCE

On 17 October 2006, the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) celebrated the achievements of three of its inaugural students.

“These gentlemen were among our first registrants,” says Program Coordinator Dave Hart. “They joined our 6-level Improving Your Business English program in April and they completed their final level in October. When you consider that they came to school four nights a week for a lot of weeks, all while holding down demanding full-time jobs, it really is an accomplishment.”

One of the students, Mr. Mohammed Ismail, is a legal consultant with a major investment company in Kuwait. He became aware of the program when he read one of the university’s newspaper ads. Since he manages various large-scale projects in the Middle East and interacts with people of different backgrounds, he felt it important to improve his English language skills. So, he came into AUK, completed the pre-course assessment, and signed up immediately.

The two other program completers were Mr. Mohammed, a chemical engineer, and Mr. Charbel Khattar, an Assistant Manager, who both work at the same company. In addition to the Business English course, Mr. Mohammed also finished CCE’s Business Presentations course with Mr. Don Prades.

According to CCE instructor Dale Scroggins, the Business English program has been a success from many perspectives. Scroggins pointed out, “The students have shown great interest and willingness to learn. As a result, their language usage has clearly improved and these courses are a real pleasure to teach.”

The initial popularity and success of the Improving Your Business English program has led to a rapid expansion of Language programs offered by the CCE. Besides the aforementioned Business Presentations course, the Center now offers an 8-level General ESL program, two levels of Business Correspondence Writing, two levels of Business Report Writing, multi-level Arabic and French programs, and a specially-designed Survival Arabic course.

Hart notes, “The languages area has also quickly become the core of our corporate training programs. We have secured contracts with a number of Kuwait’s leading companies and we are continually receiving inquiries and writing proposals. Our plan is to expand our offerings soon to include a variety of English for special purposes-type courses and we definitely hope that our successes in the Business English area will help us broaden our corporate programs into areas such as Leadership, Sales, and Project Management.”
AUK Professor and Student team conduct public speaking workshop at Al-Bayan Bilingual School

On Wednesday, September 27th, Dr. Pamela Allegretto-Diiulio was invited by Mr. Ghassan Jilani, (Deputy Director/Arabic Program Coordinator) of Al-Bayan Bilingual School to conduct a three-hour workshop on Public Speaking to the Arabic faculty. Dr. Pamela's student, Hooda Qaddumi, a board member at Al-Bayan, and an instructor at Kuwait University, facilitated the workshop as an interpreter. Both Dr. Pamela and Mrs. Qaddumi provided a power point presentation, one in English and one in Arabic. The 26-member Arabic faculty enjoyed several group activities that enabled them to practice the concepts characteristic of informative and persuasive topics. Dr. Pamela designed special rubrics that were used at the workshop as learning guides and as peer critiques. These rubrics were also translated into Arabic so that the faculty can use them in their own classrooms for student presentations.

STANDing up with AUK students

A group of humanitarian students in AUK have decided that it’s time to spread awareness of the genocide that is still happening in Darfur, Sudan. The death toll is escalating to over 400,000 Darfurians who are the victims of a government-sponsored act of genocide.

STAND, which stands for Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, is comprised of dedicated and energetic students concerned with raising awareness, fundraising, and advocacy for the genocide and humanitarian issues in Darfur, and the world.

Seven AUK students have formed a new chapter in Kuwait called STANDAUK to help aid in the global effort to help raise awareness of the Darfur conflict.

The first STAND chapter was formed at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 2004, just a few weeks after President George W. Bush called Darfur “genocide”. STAND has become a student movement that encompasses over 600 college, university, and high school chapters across the United States and around the world.

If you’re interested in joining our fight please email us as standauk@gmail.com.

The following poem, written by Pamela Diiulio, won First Place in the state of Pennsylvania’s GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Festival of the Arts in 1999.

RIPPLES

Shyly, I watch you in Life’s treasured moment There In nature’s welcome waters Tossing line in eloquent Fashion - in a sport of Solitude Causing me to reflect on the Paths we’ve taken Each, separate in itself Yet in search for the same Peace. Just like the river’s rock That stubbornly expects dancing Ripples to move around it, We, too, go through life Moving around hearts Of stone, Cheating us from the steady Flow in the stream of happiness. A tugging on your line now Makes me ponder how the Hurts have pulled my heart strings And kept the ripples moving In a most unpredictable Journey into Life’s Unknown wilderness.

Pamela Allegretto-Diiulio
AUK Welcomes Guest Lecturer

On October 21st, the last day before the Eid break, the AUK family had an impressive guest lecturer from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ron Shafer, Professor of English and Comparative Studies was invited by Dr. Pamela Allegretto-Diiulio on behalf of the English Department to provide a few inspirational discussions on topics that students at AUK love. Dr. Shafer is an accomplished professor who has delivered numerous keynote addresses and lectures throughout the world. Additionally he has won many awards for teaching excellence and was earlier the 2nd Place Runner-up in the National Professor-of-the-Year Award sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Dr. Chris Gottschalk had invited Dr. Shafer to lecture in his Shakespeare class and reports the following: “I had the pleasure of having Dr. Shafer give a guest lecture to my upper-level English Literature course on Shakespeare. He spoke on the general topics of the Bard’s use of metaphor and the common usage of themes concerned with inward and outward appearances throughout the cannon. I believe my students particularly enjoyed a side debate Dr. Shafer and I briefly engaged in regarding the authorship of Shakespeare’s plays. His presence in my classroom was very much appreciated as he not only provided excellent insight for the students into the course subject matter, but it also afforded the students an opportunity to witness the sometimes more passionate and playful side of their professors when they engage one another in a casual round of scholarly sparring.”

The second lecture was held in the library diwaniya area on the first floor. The relaxed atmosphere provided an appropriate backdrop to a well-attended session titled “Defining Love through Poetic Gems”. Between 90-100 students showed for this exceptionally interesting topic and discussion on the various uses and meanings of love. Students perhaps express this experience best. An English major, Hooda Qaddumi, eloquently states that “Dr. Shafer's poetry brought a sense of cheer and vitality as he spoke at AUK. His poignant poems on love carried gentle messages for all in the audience. His captivating style reached out to the minds as well as hearts of the listeners who felt they were engaged in a dialogue with him rather than being dictated to. I think his choice of poems had an appeal to all cultures despite being from the Western Tradition. Dr. Shafer's 'poetic gems', with their themes of the frailty of beauty and the transformational power of forgiveness and compassion certainly deserve to be treasured.” It is quite obvious that Dr. Shafer’s lecture gave a very memorable impact on students and faculty alike.

Another student, Anurag Galhotra, a musician and poet himself, states that “no one statement can actually encompass the entirety of love, and no one statement can reflect how touching, honest, and full of love Dr. Ron Shafer’s speech was. I hope I can experience something, anything as well-prepared as that night’s speech.”

Dr. Pamela states that “many students, after returning from the Eid break, remembered to tell me how much they enjoyed the lecture.” Additionally, she relates that many of the faculty were quite impressed with Dr. Shafer’s topic and delivery. The English faculty and Dr. Shafer finished the evening with a wonderful dinner at the “gabqa” at The Palms following the lecture. Dr. Shafer traveled on to Cairo, Egypt where he continued his lecturing and has now returned to Pennsylvania. In a final note, Dr. Shafer praises the vitality of the AUK students and mentions that he was extremely pleased to see such a great turnout for his lecture—especially on the evening before the Eid break! Furthermore he hopes to return again to the infectious spirit of AUK.
Published Work

In *Descartes’s Dream: Imagination in the Meditations*, Ann Scholl revises the traditional understanding of the role of imagination and sensory perception in Descartes’s *Meditations*. Traditionally, Cartesian scholars have focused primarily on sensory perception as the more significant of the two "special" modes of thought. In this work, Ann Scholl describes how a better understanding of Descartes’s skepticism and his arguments for dualism are reached when imagination instead is understood as the more primary of the two special modes of thought. The result is a fresh reading and interpretation of Descartes’s most influential work. (Source: www.amazon.com)

Published Work


Published Work

Dr. Urkevich’s article “Women’s Days at the Saudi Janadriya Festival” was recently published by *E-CMES*, the journal of Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Moreover, this Fall she was appointed Senior Fulbright Grants Review Adjudicator by the US State Dept. Council of International Exchange of Scholars: for the next three years she will assess the submissions of senior scholars and professors in various fields of music. Dr. Urkevich has also been appointed Film/Video Reviews Editor for the International Council of Traditional Music’s *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, the leading global ethnomusicology publication.

Published Work

Dr. Florin Nichita, who recently joined the Sciences Division at AUK as Assistant Professor of Mathematics, has been awarded the “Marie Curie Research Fellowship” by the European commission. Among the many papers he has published he has recently published a paper in a prestigious Math journal titled:

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2006

11  M    Academic Showcase (12:15-4:00 pm)
11  M    Clifford Chanin– Lecture (4:15-5:30 pm)
12  T    Academic Showcase (continued)
13  W    Board of Trustees meeting (10:00-12:30 pm)
13  W    Opening new Liberal Arts Building (12:30 pm)
16  Sa   1000 1/2 Arabian Nights play
23  Sa   Winter Break begins

JANUARY 2007

6       Sa                          Classes resume
10      W                            Last Day of Fall semester and 2nd Block courses
15      M                        Final Exams begin (see exam schedule)
20      Sa                        Islamic New Year. University closed
24      W                        Final grades for Fall semester & 2nd Block courses due

FEBRUARY 2007

10      Sa                        Spring semester and 1st Block courses begin
25      Su                        National Day. University closed
26      M                        Liberation Day. University closed

MARCH 2007

31      Sa                        Prophets Birthday. University closed

Submissions

Dear colleagues,

If you would like to publish anything in the next edition of the AUKChronicle, kindly email me your submissions at:
rsamerai@auk.edu.kw


All photos courtesy of the Public Relations & Marketing Department.

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