

AUK CHRONICLE

MAY 2013

HIGHLIGHTING HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN KUWAIT

AUK
LIBRARY
ACQUIRES
A NEW
LOOK

THE WRITING CENTER:
AN EXEMPLARY MICROCOSM
OF INTERDISCIPLINARY
LEARNING



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The **AUK Chronicle** is a fully licensed magazine dedicated primarily to issues of Higher Education in Kuwait and the region. Published on a quarterly basis, it features editorials and opinions, research articles, and subjects of concern to Higher Education. The aim is to give Higher Education a voice and forum, whereby achievements, challenges, and debated issues can be published and discussed openly in an effort to further improve our knowledge and implementation of Higher Education. The AUK Chronicle is open to all faculty, staff, and other personnel working in academia, as well as major corporate stakeholders, to take part in sharing their research and articles and ensuring that Higher Education attains the appropriate attention as a tool of social change.

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AUK CHRONICLE

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Message from the President



This issue of the Chronicle covers not only activities planned for the upcoming summer, such as trips to Dartmouth by our faculty members, Drs. Ghazi Nassir, Amir Zeid, Roman Kulchitsky and Marcella Kulchitsky, but visits to our campus by Dartmouth interns Emily Estelle and Maggie Rowland.

It also highlights Dr. George Bauer, who joined the AUK faculty in 2011 and Mr. Abolghasem Alavinejad, who has served as director of AUK's physical plant since 2005.

As the university considers the initiation of a Human Resources Management program in the College of Business and Economics, we also take a look at human resource management in Kuwait through the eyes of our partner corporation, KIPCO.

Finally, congratulations are in order for Dr. Nizar Hamzeh and Ms. Amal Al-Binali for their recent promotions, and to Dr. Mohsen Bagnied and Shoma Munshi for their recent publications.

Enjoy, and best wishes,

Dr. Winfred Thompson

COVER FEATURE



Dr. Roman Kulchitsky presenting the textbook to Mr. Samer Khanaceht, KIPCO Group Chief Operating Officer. *Photo courtesy of KIPCO.*

Highlighting Human Resource Management in Kuwait

By: Aya Abdulhamid

Establishing a presence in the global marketplace is challenging, especially with the rise of different expertise and technologies that facilitate competition. The human resources department plays a crucial role in setting a company's strategies and facilitating a company's growth and achievements. Therefore, it is important to ensure that Human Resources textbooks reflect case studies that are relevant to all regions. Dr. Dmytro Roman Kulchitsky, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), attempts to do just that.

In his latest contribution to the *Human Resource Management* textbook published by Pearson Education in 2012, Dr. Kulchitsky uses KAMCO and KIPCO as case studies representative of the GCC region.

Dr. Kulchitsky began as a peer reviewer of the *Human Resource Management* textbook by Gary Dessler and Akram Al Ariss, where he provided numerous ideas and feedback. He also pointed out some of the strengths and weaknesses as part of his peer review. In an attempt to re-adapt the textbook to fit the learning needs of students in the Arab world, Dr. Kulchitsky was asked to contribute to the textbook with case studies, examples and stories, which are unique and relevant to the region, and this is where his model, KAMCO, was introduced.

KAMCO, an asset management company, is a local Kuwaiti firm, whose success along with their relevance in the region makes them an ideal candidate as a case study. As a representative of the region, KAMCO's inclusion in the *Human Resource Management* textbook will likely make it more comprehensive and more relatable to students from the Arab world, thereby enhancing the learning experience.

His contribution focused more on using KAMCO as a running case, providing different case studies that are relevant to the different chapters in the textbook. KAMCO was mainly used as an example of a company that implements high performance human resource management practices here in Kuwait. As a result, the cases show how KAMCO's HR department is using current concepts and techniques to create a human resource management system that helps the company achieve its strategic objectives

Dr. Kulchitsky's contribution is an important addition to the field of business and economics, as it puts more emphasis on the techniques and methodologies adapted to achieve a high performance approach.

In order for companies to succeed, Dr. Kulchitsky emphasizes the importance of learning from others' experiences. However, he adds that looking at how the company operates is "not a recipe for success, but a compass that can be used to navigate"

“That real life event is supposed to trigger a thought in the student that helps them better understand the concept they are learning”

in the market and be successful. Quoting one of his favorite economists, Ludwig Lachmann, who said, "The future is unknowable, but not unimaginable," Dr. Kulchitsky commented that the future can be imagined and predicted, but not with 100 percent certainty.

Dr. Kulchitsky was happy to be given the opportunity to make a contribution to the *Human Resource Management* textbook, emphasizing the importance of the use of real life experiences in textbooks. “That real life event is supposed to trigger a thought in the student that helps them better understand the concept they are learning,” stated Dr. Kulchitsky.

The usage of KAMCO’s as an example was made possible by KAMCO’s willingness to participate and share information, said Kulchitsky. More specifically, he emphasized that the participation of KIPCO’s Group HR & Administration Officer, Mr. Khaled Al Sharrad, and Senior Vice President at KAMCO’s HRMD & Administration Department, Mr. Farouq Al Oumi, led to the success of the study. Equally important, he added, the support of Ms. Amal Al-Binali, Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs at AUK, throughout the entire project made the initiative possible.

Commenting on the selection of KIPCO and KAMCO as case studies, KIPCO Group Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Samer Khanachet said, “KIPCO’s experience in managing its human resources has helped the Group continue to grow even during economic difficulties. We are delighted to be sharing this experience with tomorrow’s business leaders and to be contributing to their learning process.”



Dr. Roman Kulchitsky presenting the textbook to KIPCO’s Group HR & Administration Officer, **Mr. Khaled Al-Sharrad**. *Photo courtesy of KIPCO.*



Dr. Roman Kulchitsky also presenting the textbook to Senior Vice President at KAMCO’s HRMD & Administration Department, **Mr. Farouq Al-Oumi**. *Photo courtesy of KIPCO.*



The Writing Center

An Exemplary Microcosm of Interdisciplinary Learning

By: Margaret Rowland

“Fun isn’t always educational and education isn’t always fun, but when the two come together - it just doesn’t get any better.” – Tom Jackson

When it opened doors in 2005, the Writing Center had a far deeper vision than just being an academic writing lab or a meeting venue for student writing consultations and it has been very successful in this enterprise thus far. The Writing Center’s mission was to “create a lively spot on campus, where students receive professional academic assistance within a cozy environment,” and to make that environment a haven for innovation and creativity through the written word.

Research on education and learning has shown that games, visual cues, memory exercises, and interactive activities have proven to be very successful tools for knowledge acquisition and intellectual engagement. With this in mind, the Writing Center introduced a series of activities this semester to challenge students and foster their love of reading and writing. In creating these opportunities and other similar ones, Writing Center has now become an exemplary microcosm of the interdisciplinary learning that happens throughout the university.

The Writing Center’s kickoff of the spring semester was a fun, educational, and beneficial competition conducted through Freerice (www.freerice.com), a non-profit website that is owned by and supports the United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP). Participants play an interactive English vocabulary game in which each correct answer results in the donation of 10 grains of rice to the UNWFP. Both students and faculty attended the event, and tested the limits of their vocabulary from Level 1 through Level 60. “This was a very enlightening game - it broadened my horizons and I learned new words for my vocabulary,” one student commented after the event, while another rejoiced in saying, “I made a huge, big list of new words that I will use!” “This was the best AUK event ever!” a third student added.

We sincerely regret the retraction of the previous submission entitled, “The Writing Center Divaniya: Mission Impossible or a Vision of the Future.” This replacement was made due to the article’s submission to another publication without our knowledge. The AUK Chronicle is committed to journalistic standards, and without proper disclosure, does not accept submissions that have already appeared in different publications

The Freerice challenge designed by the Writing Center was far more than just a game, or a vocabulary lesson, or a small act of community service. As the sum total of those parts, it was an interdisciplinary learning experience, and a fun one at that. In participating, students and faculty realized just how quickly new vocabulary could be acquired if done in a fun way, and remembered the fact that learning is a lifelong process. They were also reminded of the idea that even the small things can make a great bit of difference. Ten grains of rice per correct word might not seem like much, especially when considering that it takes approximately 4,500 grains of rice to feed one person for one meal (According to Freerice). But the AUK community raised over 161,700 grains of rice during the duration of the two-week competition, which totals 16,170 words correct, and equates to providing meals for 36 people! Clearly, Freerice's two-fold goal of providing free education for everyone while helping to alleviate hunger was seized upon by the AUK community, and it is thanks to the Writing Center event that such simultaneous education and community service occurred.

The Writing Center "Who Said This?" quotation competition was yet another event hosted by the center that represents the integration of university-wide learning into their programming. Writing Center staff wrote out quotes from a variety of public figures, pieces of literature, and pop culture, and created a game in which students, faculty, and staff of the AUK community had to guess where the quote came from. On the day of the event, the Writing Center set up tables in different buildings across campus, and gave the AUK community the opportunity to choose three quotes at random and guess where they came from. The competition drew on students' knowledge of subjects from literature to pop culture, and thus again, served as a representation of the interdisciplinary microcosm of community that the Writing Center has created.

The Writing Center's largest activity of the semester, conducted through the Writing Center Diwaniya, was the organization of a trip to Dubai for students participating in the Diwaniya initiative. After reading about the famous Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta (1304CE-1368CE) during a February meeting of the Writing Center Diwaniya, students had a chance to visit the Ibn Battuta Mall in Dubai, which serves as a visual representation of his travels through Andalusia, Tunisia, Egypt, Persia, India and China; each part of the mall represents a different region. Dr. Mary Queen, Director of the Writing Center; Dilara Hafiz, Writing Center Staff and Diwaniya Advisor; and Prof. Maher Tamimi, Arabic Instructor, accompanied the five AUK students on their trip. "The trip was a worthy attempt to visually connect the written tale with the physical evidence of his [Ibn Battuta's] journey", said Hafiz. Students were also given the opportunity to explore the Emirates Literature Festival, where they attended panel sessions with various authors, enjoyed musical and dramatic performances, and marveled at the vast book collection provided by Kinokuniya, Dubai's largest bookstore.

Clearly, the trip to Dubai was a sensory integration of the Writing Center Diwaniya's reading of Ibn Battuta, but more importantly, it was a chance for students to actively participate in and seek enjoyment from their own independent learning. This philosophy has very much been adopted by the Writing Center this spring, and represents the best of the AUK ideals.

Highlights from the Writing Center Field Trip to Dubai



Dilara Hafiz and the Director of the Writing Center, Dr. Mary Queen (Photo courtesy of the Writing Center)



AUK students with Professor Maher Tamimi, Arabic Instructor at AUK (Photo courtesy of the Writing Center)

“The trip [Dubai] was a worthy attempt to visually connect the written tale with the physical evidence of his [Ibn Battuta's] journey”

AUK's Dr. Shoma Munshi Releases New Book



A new book, titled *Remote Control: Indian Television in the New Millennium*, authored by Dr. Shoma Munshi, Professor of Anthropology at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), was released worldwide by Penguin Books in December 2012. The book's focus is, "What do the TV shows we're watching tell us about ourselves?"

Munshi argues that television is the single most powerful and dynamic agent of change in India today. It is also India's most popular and accessible form of entertainment. The book examines three kinds of programming – 24x7 news, soap operas, and reality shows - that have changed Indian television forever, and analyzes how these three genres, while drawing on different sources, are hybridized, indigenized and manage to ultimately project a distinctively 'Indian' identity. Munshi's book shows us how everyday reality in India in the 21st century shapes television; and how television, in turn, shapes us.

About the release of her book, Munshi said, "This is my second single authored monograph since I joined AUK. I am particularly happy since this book is dedicated to my father, Wing Commander Anil Chandra Munshi, who came to AUK several times, and whom I lost two years ago, but my father read through and corrected the first draft of the book manuscript."

Munshi's book has already garnered extensive advance praise. Sunil Lulla, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Times Television Network, states "Shoma's book captures the rapidly changing pace in the Indian television domain. Big plots, subtle changes, new scripts, stolen ideas, factual updates, dreams, and disrupted plans - all neatly explained. Good if you know nothing about Indian TV. Even better if you think you knew it all." Professor Dale F. Eickelman, Professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College in the USA, and the AUK-Dartmouth Relationship Coordinator, notes, "*Remote Control* is the authoritative and entertaining story of India's rapidly evolving and hotly competitive television programming in the 21st century. A must read, it places Indian television on a worldwide stage, and is a model for comparable studies elsewhere."

Munshi is the author of *Prime Time Soap Operas on Indian Television* (Routledge, 2010); editor of *Images of the 'Modern Woman' in Asia: Global Media, Local Meanings* (Curzon 2001); and co-editor of *Media, War and Terrorism: Responses from the Middle East and Asia* (Routledge, 2004, 2006). She also has several publications in refereed journals.

Munshi earned her Ph.D. from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), in Paris, France. Before joining AUK in 2006, she worked at the University of Delhi, University of Amsterdam, University of Pennsylvania, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New Delhi, India.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Shoma Munshi



Dartmouth's New President

Philip J. Hanlon '77, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan, will become the 18th President of Dartmouth College on July 1, 2013. He will be the 10th Dartmouth alumnus to serve as its president.

President-Elect Hanlon, 57, who is the Donald J. Lewis Professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. An accomplished academic and administrative leader, Hanlon has been a University of Michigan faculty member since 1986 and has served in a succession of administrative leadership roles at Michigan for more than a decade. He was appointed provost in 2010.

"At Dartmouth, I learned the power of the life of the mind, the power of the intellect," says President-Elect Hanlon. "It transformed my life. I know it can transform the lives of others. That's why it's such an important institution."

"Phil is an exceptional leader with a passion for higher education and its critical role in society," said Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan. "As Michigan's provost, he has steered the institution through some of its most fiscally challenging years, all the while advancing our academic excellence and impact. As a teacher, his passion for undergraduate education is palpable. As Dartmouth's next president, his vision, experience, and deep integrity will elevate its already exceptional standing in higher education."

President-elect Hanlon succeeds Jim Yong Kim who stepped down to become president of the World Bank in April of 2012. Carol Folt, Dartmouth Professor of Biological Sciences, has been the interim president and will return to her job as provost on July 1.

Meet The Dartmouth Interns

Arriving at the end of March, **Emily Estelle** and **Margaret (Maggie) Rowland** will be the Dartmouth interns at AUK this spring.

Emily is a member of the class of 2015 from Massachusetts. She is considering a major in Anthropology modified with Arabic, and studied in Tangier, Morocco this past fall term. At Dartmouth, she rides for the varsity equestrian team and tutors at Dartmouth's Student Center for Research, Writing and Information Technology. She is also a Relay for Life committee chair, doing fund raising for cancer research, and volunteers with local senior citizens through Dartmouth's Generations project. One of the things she is interested in when she gets to AUK is to understand perceptions of cancer cross-culturally. Emily is not sure what she will do after college but she is sure that spending 10 weeks at AUK will help her sort that out. And, perhaps, a childhood fantasy of riding a beautiful Arabian horse through the desert will be fulfilled.



Maggie is a member of the class of 2014 from California, pursuing a double major in Anthropology and French, with a minor in International Studies. She can also speak Spanish and Italian. She is learning about the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in her anthropology classes with Professor Eickelman and plans to take Arabic in her senior year. She is not sure what she wants to do after graduation but knows she wants to be involved in international affairs. Whether it is working as a foreign correspondent for a news agency or magazine, as an analyst for the federal government, or as part of an international organization, she believes she will likely live/work outside the United States at least once during her lifetime. She spent the first three months of 2013 in New Zealand on a Dartmouth Foreign Study Program so one could say she is getting off to a good start.

Summer at Dartmouth

It is going to be a busy summer at Dartmouth with AUK visitors. In fact, Dartmouth may be soon known as an AUK satellite campus!



Dr. Dmytro R. Kulchitsky & Ms. Marcella Kulchitsky

Two classes taught by AUK faculty are being held at Dartmouth this summer. **Dmytro R. Kulchitsky** from the Division of Social Sciences, International Relations, will run “PLSC 389 - Elections: Voting and Political Parties in the United States;” and **Marcella Kulchitsky** from the Graphic Design program will run “GDES 389 - Socially and Politically Driven Graphics.” Along with classroom and computer lab time, the students in both classes will visit Washington, DC and the state capitals of Massachusetts (Boston), Connecticut (Hartford), and New Hampshire (Concord), to experience federal and state government in the US. They will live in a Dartmouth dorm, eat in Dartmouth dining halls, and take part in the many summer activities around Hanover and the Upper Connecticut River Valley.

One Faculty Fellow – **Dr. Ghazi Nassir** – will be the 5th Faculty Fellow to spend time at Dartmouth this summer. He will work in the Department of English and be sponsored by Dr. Donald Pease, Ph.D., Professor of English, The Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities, and Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Program at Dartmouth. Professor Pease visited AUK in March of 2011.

One Faculty Fellow – **Dr. Amir Zeid** – will be returning to Dartmouth this summer – he was the 2nd Faculty Fellow to visit Dartmouth from AUK back in 2010. He plans to employ Ms. Shloka Kini, '13 who was a Dartmouth intern at AUK in the fall of 2011.

Three AUK students will be interns for a month this summer at Dartmouth. **Muneera Al-Khulaifi** will be helping out in the Rassis Center's Accelerated Language Programs. **Stephanie Khalil** and **Salem Al-Salem** will be working at the Hood Museum of Art and the Office of Public Affairs.

The Summer internship class will also include two AUK students, who will be joining the Secure Information Systems and Mentoring Program (SISMAT) offered through Dartmouth's Institute for Security, Technology, and Society. The highly competitive two-week program trains students on cyber security, a highly demanded field in business, government, and non-profit organizations.



Dr. Ghazi Nassir



Dr. Amir Zeid

Photos of President-elect Philip Hanlon, and Dartmouth Interns (Emily Estelle and Maggie Rowland) on the previous page are courtesy of Dartmouth College.





STAFF HIGHLIGHT:

Abolghasem Alavinejad

Director, Campus Services Department (AUK)

1) What made you decide to join the AUK community?

I wanted to be part of the American educational system in Kuwait and utilize my experience in an academic and intellectual community, while enjoying the university atmosphere of knowledge exchange.

2) How does your department fit into the long-term plan of AUK?

The Campus Services Department's obligations and responsibilities have an important role in short and long term plans of the university. The Campus Services Department is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment to ensure all the facility requirements of the Ministry of Higher Education are met.

3) What do you like most about your job? What do you like least?

I like everything about my job. What annoys me sometimes is when expectations of my colleagues are beyond my control.

4) Who were your childhood heroes?

A Persian fiction hero called Rostam. His story can be found in *Shahnameh*, by Hakim Abolghasem Ferdowsi Tusi.

5) If you could be or do anything else - what?

I am fascinated by astronomy and always wanted to be part of NASA.

6) If you could live in any other time, when might that be and why?

I am content with living in my time period. I don't want to go back, and supposedly, enjoy the good old days. Hearing about the olden golden days is enough, but I do wish to be able to have a peek into distant future to see the accomplishments or blunders of our fellow humans, and refer to the present as the good old days.

7) If you could have dinner with five famous people from history, who would they be?

I'd rather have dinner with 5+1 of my recent friends, have fun, and make history. If I must have famous people from history, I'd like Hakim Omar Khayyam to join and enlighten us with his precious poetry. Omar Khayyam, in addition to being a poet, was a mathematician, a scientist, an astronomer, and a philosopher. What else could I ask for?

Here is an excerpt from his poetry:

*Anxiously I began this course
With life my awe grew even worse
Unwillingly returned with force
What was the point, I ask my source
O Life, you put many traps in my way
Dare to try, is what you clearly say
All that is, thy command must obey
You lead me away and call me astray*

8) What are you most proud of?

I love people, I enjoy loving and respecting others, and I am proud of being able to do so. I don't see any strangers around me; everyone is great and so sweet; I am proud of knowing so many great lovely people.

9) What are you currently working on?

Thank God I have so many things to work on, and am busy all the time. Currently I am busy with enhancing the indoor air quality of AUK's campus. Soon the best available air filters will be installed all over the campus, and we will breathe much cleaner air within AUK buildings.

10) What are some of the difficulties you face living in Kuwait?

I consider myself a native in Kuwait and do not consider the routine difficulties very substantial. There are difficulties everywhere in the world, but one noble thing about Kuwait is that regardless of the difficulty's magnitude, there is always a way to resolve it. I do like Kuwait.

“ I don't see any strangers around me; everyone is great and so sweet; I am proud of knowing so many great lovely people ”



Professor Mohsen Bagnied Presents Paper at Cairo University

AUK Associate Professor Dr. Mohsen Bagnied, Chair of the Marketing and Management Department of the College of Business and Economics, traveled to Egypt during the winter break to present a paper at Cairo University entitled, “Arab Spring, Egypt and Economic Development.” The paper, which presented a five-stage model for the development of Egypt, was part of the Annual Egyptian American Scientists Association Conference, of which Dr. Bagnied is the Vice President.

During his visit to Egypt, Dr. Bagnied had a chance to discuss the economic situation with several cabinet members, including: the Minister of Higher Education, the Minister of Scientific Affairs, the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Administrator of the Office of Consumer Protection. He also met with the former Minister of Economics, Dr. Mustafa El-Said, the former Prime Minister, Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy, and the former Director of President Hosni Mubarak’s Office, Dr. Mustafa Al-Fiqi. In addition, Bagnied met with the President of Cairo University, the Dean of the College of Economics and Political Science, and the chairman of the Marketing Department at the American University in Cairo.

Between December 26 and January 5, Dr. Bagnied had four TV interviews in Cairo. He was interviewed twice on the English Nile TV’s “Breakfast Show,” once on Egyptian National TV, and once on Al-Hayat TV. During all of the interviews, Dr. Bagnied discussed the economic situation in Egypt and suggested measures to save the Egyptian economy from the current crisis. The issues discussed included: the effect of security and political stability on investment and tourism, the importance of education on development, government taxation and subsidies, the IMF loan program, and the effect of low wages, inequality, and lack of accountability on corruption.

Dr. Bagnied also highlighted the need for major improvements in infrastructure, as well as in industrial and agricultural production; the necessity of exporting manufactured products instead of raw material; the needed focus on quality control; and the use of new technology in production and marketing. Dr. Bagnied argued that Egypt needs major economic, legal, political, social, media, and educational reforms in order to progress in its development after the Arab Spring.



AUK Library Acquires a New Look

AUK Library Team (from left): Thomas Kutty, Zainab Al-Attabi, Sara Alavinejad, Asma Al-Kanan (*Library Director*), Hana Kaouri, and Fahed Husain

After several months of planning, preparations and arrangements, the AUK Library has completed an expansion project on its first floor and has acquired a new look! The library has always been one of the busiest places on campus. With the growing number of students and library books, acquiring additional space to host the number of volumes and to meet the students' needs for more seating areas became a necessity.

Preparation started in the library during the summer of 2012, while work started at the beginning of November and was completed by mid-December, 2012. The process was challenging, as it aimed to transfer and move a book collection of over 30,000, without affecting the daily operations and services of the university library, and with a limited number of staff. The first step was to relocate both the journal and fiction collections to the new extended area on the first floor in order to free the central space on the ground floor for more seating. The circulation desk was also shifted to the corner to further open the central space, and to better serve library users. This move allowed the addition of 12 new tables on the ground floor.

In addition to books, the new space on the first floor now features a periodicals section, a fiction display, a reading space, a faculty books display, a staff station, and a terrace. More than 27 new bookshelving units were installed in the newly renovated space to hold the growing book collection. During the renovation process, every effort was made to minimize disruption to library users.

The Library officially started receiving visitors in the newly expanded area in an open house event on January 10th, 2013, to celebrate the new renovations and facilities after eight years of operation. The Library would like to extend thanks to the AUK administration for all the support received, to library staff for the hard work maintained, and to AUK students who were, and will continue to be, "our inspiration."



Images of the new section of the university Library



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT:

Dr. George Bauer

Professor of Art History/Studio Arts

1) What made you decide to join the AUK community?

I was invited by Professor Sharon Lawrence, Chair of Graphic Design, to teach as an adjunct in the summer, while I was still a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design. I came, I saw, and I was conquered by friendly and courteous students, and the opportunity to experience a new culture.

2) How does your department fit into the long-term plan at AUK?

It is always interesting to be a part of a relatively new and youthful university, and be able to help to form it and develop it into a great institution, which I believe we are well on the way to achieving.

3) What do you like most about your job? What do you like least?

It might sound like a cliché, but I do like the students the most. For the most part they are very respectful and personable and do their best. And again, the least likable feature would be that very small portion of students who try to negotiate their grades rather than to earn them.

4) Who were your childhood heroes?

“Wild West” characters, of course.

5) If you could be or do anything else - what?

It will happen when I stop teaching full-time, and will live off the land in the “American West” again as a hunter, fisherman, horseman, who also sculpts and paints, and who helps protect the wilderness.

6) If you could live in any other time, when might that be and why?

Well ideally, I would time-travel and experience eras, but if I had to choose one, it would be the “American West” of the 19th century, before it was fenced off and the bison were wiped out.

7) If you could have dinner with five famous people from history, who would they be?

I find women, in general, much more interesting than men, especially when talking about emotions and personal issues.

Maybe I would chat with Pocahontas about globalism and postcolonialism, and Cleopatra about Julius Caesar and their lives in that era. I would also want to speak with Artemisia Gentileschi, who won a rape trial back in 17th century, and “painted Judith,” who beheaded the Holofernes with such gusto. I should like to meet the real Judith at my dinner table, provided they both promise not to cut off my head. And of course I’d love to meet Sappho to hear her views on feminism. Maybe even Miss Universe to satisfy the aesthetic side of things. Of course, Miss Universe is number six, so if you have to skip her, so be it.

8) What are you most proud of?

I do not think of myself as a proud man, isn’t pride a sin?

9) What are you currently working on?

I just finished two large paintings, 6x5 feet and 10x5 feet, with horses as vehicles of symbolism and partially nude people as subjects. One is called “Leap of Faith,” and the other, “Four Horsemen.” “Leap of Faith” depicts men on horses charging into space (viewed from below) surrounded only by clouds. “Four Horsemen” also involves an extreme perspective; the viewer is actually sharing the last scene seen by the dead horseman on the ground, who is not depicted. We see only three horses with riders and the horse without a rider looking down at us, not unlike the view of an accident victim lying on the street surrounded

“...when I stop teaching full time and will live off the land in the American West again as a hunter, fisherman, horseman, who also sculpts and paints and helps protect the wilderness”

by gawkers. Hopefully, these paintings will be exhibited in the expatriates art show in the Museum of Modern Art here in Kuwait in the spring. I am also continuing my research and writing of a book on creative strategies of contemporary art, and I have

also recently produced two sculptures in the USA and France, in limestone and marble respectively, which are nudes freely floating through space in their tolerant exiles.

10) What are some of the difficulties you face as an educator living in Kuwait?

I would rather call them challenges. The biggest one, of course, would be my own limitations as a foreigner in trying to learn the mindset of my students: trying to find what their strengths and weaknesses are, and then attempting to facilitate their learning and conversion from the passive modes of study and thinking that they are often accustomed to, to a more active learning style.



AUK NEWS

FACULTY AND STAFF



Professor **Nizar Hamzeh** Appointed as AUK Provost

AUK President, Dr. Winfred Thompson, announced the appointment of **Professor Nizar Hamzeh** as University Provost, effective Spring 2013.

Hamzeh, who joined AUK in 2005, is an expert on Middle East politics, Islamic movements, international law, research methodology, and Western and Islamic political theory. Since he joined AUK, Hamzeh has served in various managerial positions.

Prior to joining AUK, Hamzeh was a lecturer at the University of Southern California from 1987 to 1989, Assistant then Associate Professor at the American University of Beirut from 1989 to 2004, and Chair of the Political Science Department from 1990 to 1999. Hamzeh also served as a member of the AUB Senate from 1997-1999, and as Acting Dean of Student Affairs from 1999 to 2000.

As a 1979 graduate of the Lebanese University Faculty of Law, Hamzeh pursued graduate studies at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science in 1982 and 1986, respectively.

The AUK Provost is the chief academic officer of the university, responsible for the academic and administrative functions of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Business & Economics. He oversees all other academic support units and centers, such as the Registrar, the Library, the Writing Center, the Academic Advising Center and the Center for Gulf Studies. With oversight of curriculum development and implementation; faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation; policy development; and budgetary and outreach supervision, the Provost works closely with the President and serves as a member of his leadership cabinet.

NEWS



Ms. Amal Al Binali – Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs

AUK President, Dr. Winfred Thompson announced the appointment of **Ms. Amal Al-Binali** as Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs. Assuming her new role effective this spring semester, Al-Binali will be supervising all admissions and public affairs operations, in addition to scholarships, financial aid, and government relations.

Amal Al-Binali is part of the AUK founding team. Since joining AUK in March 2003, Al-Binali has held various managerial positions at the university. Before joining AUK, Amal held the position of Media Researcher in the Center of Strategic Studies at Kuwait University (2000-2003). Prior to this, she was the Operations Manager of the Middle East Center for Research and Marketing in Lebanon. Al-Binali acquired her B.A. in Mass Communications from Leipzig University in Germany, and is currently finalizing her MBA. In addition, she is fluent in three languages: Arabic, English, and German.



AUK CHRONICLE

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