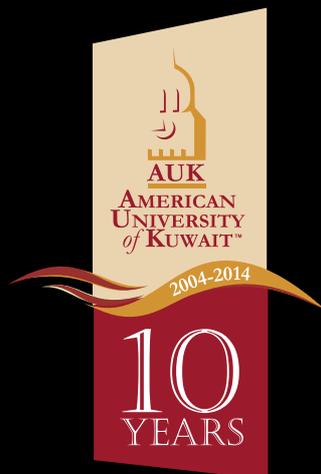


AUK

# CHRONICLE

SPRING 2014



*A Decade of  
Accomplishments*

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The **AUK Chronicle** is a fully licensed magazine dedicated primarily to matters of the AUK community and Higher Education in Kuwait and the region. Published on a quarterly basis, it features editorials and opinions, research articles, and subjects pertaining 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 share their research and articles, and to ensure 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

The Spring 2014 issue of The AUK Chronicle celebrates a milestone in the history of the American University of Kuwait; AUK's 10 year anniversary. In this issue, we reflect on the 10 years through the lenses of our students, faculty, and staff, who relay their personal experiences, the easy and not-so-easy times, and provide insights on what makes AUK the preferred private university in Kuwait.

Over the past ten years, we have obtained national and international accreditation for our academic programs, received institutional achievement awards, and won numerous inter-collegial competitions.

With my recent appointment as President of the University, I am confident that we will continue this path of excellence if we maintain our commitment to our mission, vision and goals. It is my firm belief that together we can take AUK to the next decade of academic excellence.

This anniversary issue of the AUK Chronicle features an important interview with our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah. Also, members of the AUK start-up team share their accounts of how AUK came into existence, accepting our first students and meeting our faculty as they arrived from around the world. Our alumni, many of whom are still active members of the AUK community, will also share their experiences and stories.

Also you will find dedications and congratulatory messages from our friends and associates, who have played active roles in the establishment, development and growth of the University. In addition, the issue includes a timeline highlighting major AUK accomplishments, along with a map indicating areas around the world where AUK has made its presence known.

As this issue of the Chronicle is dedicated to AUK's 10th anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to this distinct issue. Finally, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Chronicle staff for their hard work and diligence. On this note, I invite you to read this issue. Congratulations to all!

Enjoy, and best wishes,



Dr. Nizar Hamzeh



# SHAIKHA DANA NASSER SABAH AL-AHMED AL-SABAH

FOUNDER AND CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

**P**lease introduce yourself.

My name is Dana Nasser Al Sabah, and I am the founder of AUK and chairwoman of the board of trustees. I hold a degree in English Literature from Kuwait University. During the Iraqi Invasion, I studied for one year at Indiana Bloomington in the United States. I am also the proud mother of three young men.

**AUK has reached its 10th year. Can you share with us some reflections about the inception of the first liberal arts institution in Kuwait?**

What is special about AUK is the emphasis on liberal arts. We believe in liberal arts and critical thinking. Kuwait's educational history tends to favour rote learning, which does not hone the skills necessary for producing future leaders. We want our students to contribute intellectually to their own learning, gain the tools and skills necessary to seek answers that satisfy their intellectual curiosities, and apply critical thinking to their daily lives; personally, and professionally.

Eleven years ago, I received a proposal to start a new university in Kuwait; an engineering school offering a 4-year program between Kuwait and the US. The idea of starting a university based on the American model attracted me, but to be honest, the idea of an engineering school did not trigger my passion at the time. I wanted something bigger than that. I wanted to start a university that will produce critical thinkers who will contribute positively to the community across all areas.

It wasn't until one person joined the board, Dr. Shafiq Ghabra, who shared my vision, that I started putting my heart into this project. Dr. Ghabra came up with the revolutionary idea of building Kuwait's first liberal arts university. He articulated a dream I always had in mind; to create a well-rounded, global citizen who is a lifelong learner. I always give him credit for that.

**What made you believe in liberal arts education when it was such a risk to introduce a new style of education to Kuwait?**

When I studied in the States, I became exposed to the concept of Common Intellectual Experience (CIE), which is a curriculum designed to expose undergraduates to a broad range of courses in the fields of art, history, philosophy, and literature. The idea was to cultivate basic human knowledge that can help us examine our options and make the right choices about our future academic and career paths. This made me wonder why students in Kuwait are so keen to study one of two disciplines, either business or engineering, thinking that they are the gateways to the money-generating careers. Who said that a person with a degree in history is not capable of leading a successful enterprise?! Unfortunately, it is our culture that nurtured the misconception that specialization is better than generalization. AUK came in to challenge that misconception. Yes, it was a risk; we were exploring uncharted territory. But the risk was worth taking because we had a realistic vision to build critical thinkers, leaders, and human beings capable of appreciating diversity and tolerating differences.

**What has been the key to the university's success in your mind?**

Several factors, I would say; having the right start-up team, partnering with the right USA affiliate [Dartmouth College], seeking international accreditation, and offering an American education in Kuwait without compromising our own values and cultural norms. Above all, I believe that we are practicing what we preach in our day-to-day activities at AUK. We encourage critical thinking, not only within the confines of the classroom, but also at an administrative level.

**What has AUK given you personally?**

I always say AUK is my 4th baby. Being a parent, I can tell you that raising babies is a mutually beneficial experience; just as we teach and nurture them, we do end up learning a lot from them, especially about ourselves! As AUK began developing before my eyes, I too have grown more and learned a lot about life – and we continue to grow together.

AUK taught me a lot about academia and made me seriously consider pursuing a graduate degree in education. This experience has also provided me with an opportunity to apply some of the critical thinking skills I gained through my liberal arts education in the States. The fact that I am contributing to the education of human beings always gives me the drive to carry on.

**If you picture AUK across a timeline, what were the most challenging obstacles or struggles that you faced? How did you overcome them?**

Well, bureaucratic impediments such as obtaining the university license, construction permits, and funding the project were issues that were apparent from the beginning, and they are standard issues faced by any start-up organization, so I would not really call these “challenges”.

Perhaps the real challenge was to market the concept of liberal arts within a society that perceives the word ‘liberal’ as having a negative connotation, thinking that it clashes with our social norms. So we gradually introduced the concept, its history, and the thinking philosophy behind it. We were also lucky to be supported by a group of intellectuals, academics and businessmen who advocated the concept within public platforms. However, we still need to invest more into raising awareness about liberal arts. It takes years and years to redefine what ‘liberal’ means within our culture and society.

As for struggles, the only struggle I remember going through was a few years back when we had to switch from co-ed to gender-segregated classrooms. On one hand, I saw a contradiction between this system and the concept of liberal arts. Liberal arts is all about real life experience and critical thinking, and in real life there is no segregation. On the other hand, it put the institution under financial pressure because we had to duplicate the number of sessions per course and the faculty teaching loads. I remember releasing a press statement back then arguing that providing scholarships for our kids to study in co-ed schools in the US while enforcing gender segregation in Kuwait is a double standard.

**Which moments do you find to be most memorable?**

Each graduation is an emotional and memorable moment for me. Every year, as I proudly watch our graduates walk up on the stage to receive their diplomas, looking confident and well-prepared to face the world, I feel accomplished. I am moved to tears at every single graduation ceremony. And of course, when I hear the success stories of our graduates, I feel even more fulfilled.

**What memories or thoughts conjure up when you see the following photos [campus photos in 2004]?**

Those were the early days of our lovely Salmiya campus. I remember I had to go through a tiring process to obtain this campus in the first place. I remember falling in love with it the minute I saw it. It was a simple kindergarten surrounded by gardens. Then we created the master plan of AUK. I remember the construction phase took less than a year as we had to rush before our permits expire. I was involved in everything during the construction phase; I chose the materials, the furniture, even the AC and ventilation systems. By the time we were done, I was so exhausted, but I was so proud. I felt as if my baby is finally standing independently and ready to take her first steps.

A few years later, we had an idea to build a bigger campus in Ardiya. The idea did not flourish, which I was happy about. I always preferred our urban Salmiya campus and I feel it is now part of the spirit of AUK. We definitely have plans to expand and renovate our campus, but I do not think we want to give up our ideal location.

**What kind of changes have you witnessed throughout the 10 years?**

We have witnessed positive and negative changes throughout the ten years. The start-up years of AUK were very strong. We marketed the university and the concept of liberal arts really well. We hired the best faculty and we focused on building very sound curricula. As the university grew, we naturally slowed down a bit. We experienced bumps here and there and I still think we could have made better decisions in several situations. However, in retrospect it proved to be a learning experience, I have to say.

In terms of accomplishments, AUK has come a long way. We have grown from 400 to over 2000 students. Over the years we have earned international program accreditations from prestigious institutions, such as the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), the Commission on English Language Programs Accreditation (CEA), and International Program Accreditation from the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE). To me, earning these accreditations indicates that our hard work, commitment and the quality of what we are offering are all being acknowledged and recognized, and we are put in par amongst our peers.



Before and after images of the campus renovations in 2004

Additionally, we have witnessed some of our alumni taking steps towards becoming well-rounded members of the international community by pursuing graduate studies abroad and seeking opportunities in reputable international firms. Without going into facts and figures, I would say we are on the right track and we will continue to push our limits in order to reach new levels of accomplishment.

#### **Where do you envision AUK in 10 years' time?**

As I mentioned, we are constantly seeking to tackle new territories. Continuing with international program and institutional accreditation is a primary objective. I am not looking to increase our student body to 5000 students or something like that. Maintaining a controlled number of students and offering them the highest standards of education is what I aim for. This brings us back to the issue of liberal arts education. So far, I have not reached my desired model of liberal arts. I would like to expand it to incorporate more mind-opening and multidimensional courses. I would like to rectify the public perception of liberal arts and create a passion for it. This can be done by supporting our student and faculty accomplishments. For example, I would like to see our faculty members in the media talking about their personal research pursuits and activities.

Ten years from now, I hope to see more undergraduate academic programs at AUK and the introduction of quality master programs. I hope to see our partnership with Dartmouth continue and prosper. I hope to continue attracting high calibre educators and researchers from all over the world.

#### **Finally, what would you like to say to the AUK community in commemoration of the 10th anniversary?**

Again, my only advice would be to embrace the real meaning of liberal arts education and to cultivate it within the coming generations. Educators in liberal arts schools are not only teachers; they are life mentors and role models who should themselves be lifelong learners.

All of us; Faculty, Staff and Administration should realize that we have just started and we still have a long way to go. We have to continue working in harmony towards a common vision to make this place stand out locally and regionally.

My advice to our students is to think differently. Specialization is important, but you do not get it only through undergraduate education. At this stage, you need to develop your curiosity to learn and grab every opportunity to expand your scope of knowledge and know who you are. After you graduate, you can seek training in any area you wish to specialize in. Kuwait has a lot of engineers and accountants, who would like to explore their roles in different industries. Studying the liberal arts and learning to think critically prepares our graduates to make life-changing decisions confidently and not limit themselves to the fields of their study. I believe the programs we offer at AUK hones these skills.

Finally, congratulations to you all on your decade of accomplishments....

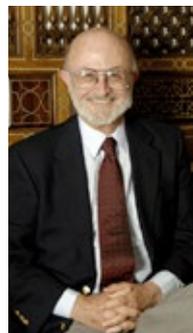
# TESTIMONIALS



**MR SAMER KHANACHET**  
KIPCO Group Chief Operating Officer,  
and member of AUK Board of Trustees

“Education is at the core of the development of society. I have seen AUK grow from an idea to a working, thriving center of learning, and a contributor to its community. The 10th anniversary is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the founders and of all those who

have contributed. It has been my privilege and personal pleasure to be part of this journey.”



**TIM SULLIVAN, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Provost Emeritus,  
The American University in Cairo.  
Interim President, 2010,  
the American University of Kuwait

“Although it is only ten years old, the American University of Kuwait has established itself as a leading, and indeed vital, institution of higher education in Kuwait. Thanks to the vision of its founders, AUK

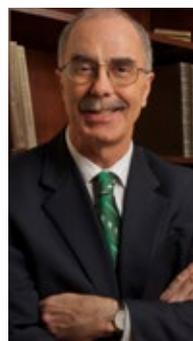
educates students broadly, as well as deeply, and prepares them for the rapidly changing environment in which they will live and work. As remarkable as the first ten years have been, I am confident that the next decade will be even more outstanding and that the graduates of this fine institution will continue to be a credit to AUK and to Kuwait.”



**Matthew Tueller**  
USA Ambassador to Kuwait

“I want to offer my congratulations and support for the American University of Kuwait’s tenth anniversary. The University is an important academic institution in Kuwait and offers students in Kuwait the unique opportunity to pursue an American liberal arts curriculum. Developing a liberal arts program

in Kuwait has helped hundreds of students become well-rounded, capable, and engaged learners and leaders who feel responsible towards their communities, and one only needs to look at the many successful AUK alumni in Kuwait and abroad to see proof of the institution’s success. The U.S. Embassy values our partnership with the American University of Kuwait through exchange programs, engagement with students, and our American Space, and looks forward to continued cooperation in its bright future.”



**Phil Hanlon**  
President of Dartmouth

“On behalf of Dartmouth, I congratulate you as you enter your tenth year. Your founder, Shaikha Dana Nasser Al Sabah, has from the outset sought to embed a liberal arts culture into Kuwait’s higher educational system, and we applaud her efforts.

Our relationship with AUK enhances the experiential, hands-on global learning of students, faculty, and administrators at both of our institutions. Working to build a new, strongly independent university in Kuwait encourages us to rethink the liberal arts and how universities work. We look forward to many more years of working and learning from each other.”

An inside view of the AUK establishment at KidZania. Photo courtesy of KidZania (M.H. Alshaya)



## ALSO IN KIDZANIA...

### A DEGREE FROM AUK ENHANCES CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

After travelling over 14,000 kilometers from Mexico and taking more than 60 days to reach to its final destination, the KidZania DC-9 airplane has landed safely in The Avenues Phase 3, marking the arrival of the first family edutainment center in Kuwait.

Operated by leading international franchiser M.H. Alshaya Co., KidZania introduces to Kuwait a new form of entertainment that is based on the universal kids' favorite game: role-play. This new concept fulfills the desire of kids to imitate adults within a kid-sized, miniature city that mirrors the real world of adults. Spread over 7,000 square meters, the replica city incorporates more than 70 establishments in which children can gain experience in a variety of professions such as pilots, firemen, doctors, secret agents, among many others.

To create a sense of realism within the city and bring the concept to life, KidZania has approached leading companies and sectors, local and international, in Kuwait to sponsor and manage an array of industries. The American University of Kuwait (AUK) currently represents the higher education sector.

“At the AUK establishment in KidZania Kuwait, children will be able to ‘learn, think, and become’ and get ready for a brighter and better future.”

AUK plays an integral part in the child-sized world within KidZania. It provides children with an interactive setting and the chance to pursue degrees in many fields including architecture, healthcare sciences and art. Upon completion of their university courses, the children will earn a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree certificates. By being more qualified academically, children will be able to earn extra kidZos, KidZania's official currency, and advance their career prospects in the city.

“AUK is proud to partner with KidZania Kuwait to be the only university in the child-sized city. We are excited to be contributing to the growth and development of Kuwait’s youth by providing knowledge, self-awareness and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication and respect for diversity,” says Shaikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Chairwoman of United Education Company (UEC) and Founder and Chair, Board of Trustees of AUK. “We also see this partnership as a valuable opportunity to connect with our prospective students and to encourage them to become leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.”

Fernando Medroa, Vice President of Leisure & Entertainment at M.H. Alshaya Co. said to the Chronicle that: “On board as the industry partner sponsoring the University establishment, AUK’s mission highly complements KidZania Kuwait’s educational model. At KidZania, children are immersed in an environment where they are allowed personal growth, character building, creativity enrichment, and promoting leadership skills. With AUK’s focus on preparing its students for a world where critical thinking and communication skills are a necessity, we believe their presence in the children’s city is an integral one. At the AUK establishment in KidZania Kuwait, children will be able to ‘learn, think, and become’ and get ready for a brighter and better future.”

From a marketing perspective, the new partnership is expected to associate modern education in Kuwait with AUK as a premier academic institution that employs advanced technology and modern teaching methods. AUK has always been proactive in approaching youth and school children through several activities hosted at the AUK campus. Previous school activities held at AUK include the Matt Lamb Umbrellas for Peace SM Project in 2011, a global art project involving painting and decorating umbrellas by children to represent their personal views of world peace, as well as the Annual High School Football Tournament, held at AUK to promote a healthy lifestyle and friendly competition among youth.

“At the AUK establishment in KidZania Kuwait, children will be able to ‘learn, think, and become’”



An external view and entrance of the AUK establishment of Kidzania. Photo courtesy of Kidzania (M.H. Alshaya)

# ABOUT KIDZANIA

Much more than a children's museum or family entertainment center, KidZania takes interactive entertainment and learning to an entirely new level by combining role playing with real life. KidZania creates a children-centric city experience designed to educate and inspire 4 to 14-year olds - from arriving at the airport, to visiting a city center to exploring the city streets. KidZania replicates the real world in a safe and self contained children-sized city. As in the real world, children choose activities - such as being a police officer, doctor, journalist or a shopkeeper - and earn money which they can then spend or save. KidZania operates just like a real city complete with buildings, paved streets, vehicles, a functioning economy and recognizable destinations in the form of "establishments" sponsored and branded by leading multi-national and local brands. The facilities are designed to educate through experience, fostering the development of life skills, but from a child's perspective - it's all about fun.

KidZania, Inc., headquartered in Mexico, is privately held. This award-winning concept is recognized globally for its unique blend of entertainment and education for children. The first KidZania opened in Mexico City in 1999. There are twelve other locations including, Monterrey (Mexico), Tokyo, Jakarta, Koshien, Lisbon, Dubai, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Cuicuilco (Mexico) and Santiago (Chile), Bangkok, Mumbai, and Cairo. To date, more than 20 million kids and parents have visited the facilities globally. The trajectory continues with more facilities in development, including locations in Jeddah, Bangkok, São Paulo, Moscow, , Istanbul, London and the United States.

KidZania Kuwait is a (7,000 square meter) facility, located in The Mall - The Avenues and is operated by M.H. Alshaya Co.

For more information about KidZania and the facility locations, visit [www.KidZania.com.kw](http://www.KidZania.com.kw)



# TESTIMONIALS



**Mathew Boice**  
Vice President, Middle East  
Ellucian

“Ellucian has a long standing partnership with AUK that is as old as the university itself. We celebrate 10 years of collaboration in 2014. The University redefined higher education in Kuwait for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis when it opened in 2004. It has been successful in incorporating technology into higher education and was the first establishment to offer a fully integrated student services platform. It has continued to enhance its service offerings, which include recent developments such as the introduction of mobile capabilities. We have had the pleasure of working with AUK to create solutions that respond to the demand of the community and create a more interactive platform for end users. Since the beginning, AUK has been a pioneer in regional best practices due to its visionary management. We congratulate AUK on its 10th anniversary and look forward to continuing our partnership in years ahead.”



**Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Rowaished**  
Businessman  
Abdullah Al-Rowaished Center

“First of all I would like to say congratulations to AUK, and thank you for giving my daughter Moodhawi her degree that helped her achieve her goals, and for doing the same for my second daughter Dana, who is currently an AUK student. God bless you! I would like to add that it’s been a pleasure to work with AUK throughout these years. Its a welcoming environment and it became my daughters’ second home. I wish you a lifetime of success.”

**Ayman Mattar**  
General Manager  
Xerox Division | Technology Division  
Alamana Industries

“At the occasion of the 10th anniversary of AUK, Xerox - Alghanim Industries would like to wish AUK every continued success in the years to come.

AUK has provided Kuwaiti society with an environment conducive to excellence in education for lifelong learning and professional success, by developing not only college graduates, but responsible leaders and citizens.

A warm congratulations to AUK wishing you every success in the next decades.”



**Fernando Medroa**  
Vice President of Leisure and  
Entertainment Division  
M.H. Alshaya Co.

“An integral aspect of the KidZania concept is its innovative integration of marketing partnerships. The presence of these marketing partners delivers a true sense of authenticity to the city experience, cementing the impression that the city is a real place.

The American University of Kuwait, a key educational organization in Kuwait, was immediately identified as an ideal partner that shares similar values with KidZania. Since partnering with AUK, we have not only seen the University establishment look more realistic and attractive, but have also witnessed over seventeen thousand kids learning and understanding the value of investing in self-development and pursuing a higher education.

More than just a university, AUK’s establishment in our park is a place where the young minds of Kuwait have a chance to truly learn.think.become.

Thank you AUK for being an active part of the community by helping the children of Kuwait develop, learn and find their paths at KidZania.”

# TESTIMONIALS



**Mohammed Hilili**  
General Manager  
Lenovo Gulf

“On behalf of the entire Lenovo team, I would like to congratulate the American University of Kuwait (AUK) on its 10th anniversary. The secret to AUK’s success is its unparalleled commitment to providing students with top education through advanced and innovative technologies. When it comes to state-of-the-art education, AUK is a pioneer and sets a high bar across the region. Lenovo has been a long-stand strategic partner of AUK and we look forward to the university’s success for many years to come.”

**Adeeb Abu-Ghazaleh**  
Managing Partner  
Khayal Consultants

“We are proud of our partnership with AUK during its pioneering first decade. It has been a pleasure seeing the University develop into a haven of academic learning with a uniquely engaging student and community culture. We wish the university and its students continued success in kindling the flame of learning in the decades to come.”

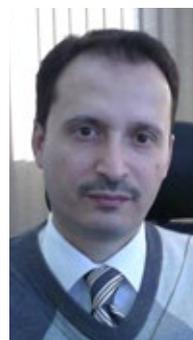
**Sandra Al Anjari**  
High School Principal  
American Academy for Girls

“On behalf of The American Academy for Girls, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate everyone at AUK on the occasion of its’ 10th anniversary. We admire your triumphs and your commitment to excellence in education. Please accept our very best wishes for a memorable year and continued success in the future.”



**Ahmed El-Adly**  
Managing Partner  
Bazaar Publishing & Bazaar Magazine

“I’d like to congratulate you, and more importantly thank you, for being a beacon of light and open-mindedness in Kuwait. Because of you there is a whole new calibre of graduates that come our way who are a pleasure to work with. Keep up the amazing work and looking forward together and my own kids going to AUK one day.”



**Reyad M. Abu Daqer**  
General Manager  
British Industries Printing & Packaging Co.

“British Industries has had a long-standing relationship with AUK. We very much value that relationship. They come up with innovative designs, sophisticated and functional. It is ever a satisfying experience when the customer is not only a demanding one, but also knowledgeable of what printing is all about. The AUK team members are supportive, positive and professional in their approach. We are pleased to extend our congratulations on their 10th Anniversary celebrations and wish the American University of Kuwait many more years of good work. We assure them of our best services as always.”

# TESTIMONIALS



**Zeina Mokaddam**  
Managing Director  
PH7 Group

“As the Managing Director of PH7 Group, publishers of STUDENTALK and several other titles, I would like to thank AUK for their contribution to the society of Kuwait.

Throughout the past ten years we have been following AUK students, interviewing them, featuring their activities and their growth. In the last decade we have given many AUK students an internship at PH7 as part of their coursework, and in the last few years, we also started headhunting AUK graduates! Indeed, AUK has helped in reshaping the workforce in Kuwait and we are all benefiting. So truly, thank you AUK, and congratulations!”



**Eman M. Al Awadhi**  
Group Communications Director  
Corporate Communications Department  
KIPCO

“Whenever we bring KIPCO Group companies to work together in a project, AUK’s team immediately pose the question, “What’s in it for our students?” and not how much exposure does the university get out of it. AUK graduates that I have interacted with - interns and employees alike - are always dedicated and willing to learn. Watching them at work and witnessing their achievements makes me proud that AUK is part of the KIPCO Group.”



**STARCOM Team**  
STARCOM, Kuwait

“As they say, things get better with age! AUK has proved this saying to be correct! Happy Anniversary AUK! It has been a pleasure working with you over the past 10 years. Wishing AUK all the best and further success to come.”



# AUK THROUGH THE EYES OF A GRADUATE

By: Hala Al-Awadhi

Over the years, the American University of Kuwait (AUK) has prided itself in being Kuwait's first Liberal Arts university; one that promises to produce critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and global citizens. To provide a well-rounded educational experience that merges academia with vocational training, students at AUK are encouraged to participate in the University's Internship Program, which embeds the students within administrative departments to gain insight on what it is like to be in the workplace.

Being a Media and Communications student, I was given the chance to undergo my internship at AUK in the Office of Public Affairs. The best part of that experience was that I got to work where I studied. It was a new experience that provided me with an opportunity to apply what I had learned in my journalism and PR courses into practice.

During my internship, I completed a wide range of tasks, from editing some articles, to reporting on-campus events, and writing press releases. It opened a door for me to learn how public affairs teams work together, and how each individual has a role in achieving a common goal. I also had the opportunity to generate and research my own story ideas.

Reporting events on campus helped me step out of my comfort zone, whereby I got to feel what it is like to be an actual journalist. Putting on a Press Pass and walking into an event, like an actual reporter, was a great feeling. I always enjoyed challenging myself with something new. I reported on a variety of events, including activities, documentaries, and lectures, from which I managed to meet interesting people through interviews.

As I progressed through my internship, I gained more confidence in my own abilities. I learned how difficult it is to manage the flow of information between AUK and the public, and that there's a lot of multi-tasking involved. It was a satisfying feeling to have finished writing an article and seeing it published on the AUK website and Kuwait newspapers for people to read. I felt I contributed to the AUK community as a professional, while as a Senior, I appreciated the opportunity to get to work where I studied.

In honor of the 10th Anniversary, I would like to thank AUK for instilling in me a strong sense of community where I developed my knowledge of the university and created a stronger connection with it. I got to meet a lot of people; students, event organizers, faculty, and staff working in different departments. I will cherish the memories I created here.

*Hala Al-Awadhi graduated from AUK with a degree in Media & Communications in Fall 2013. Before graduating, she spent her last semester interning at the Office of Public Affairs, where she wrote articles and handled media archiving.*

# AUK START-UP TEAM



**Dalia Hassaan (Since 2003)**  
Senior Faculty Support Coordinator  
College of Arts and Sciences

“Ohhh AUK, I watched you growing since I joined in October 2003 witnessed your first steps, first students calls and first class day... first... first of all, we shared together unforgettable memories and moments with the amazing start-up team.

Today I am fully proud of your achievement ,expansion and success in Kuwait and wish to see you a paramount educational icon of all the gulf region universities.

Congratulations my dear AUK , love you.”



**Amer El-Assaad (Since 2003)**  
Assistant Director, PR & Marketing  
Office of Public Affairs

“Sometimes I stop to think on how many times I have walked on this campus and saw the AUK Arch for 10 years. Time does travel fast! I’ve been walking into work for the past 10 years (going on 11), and still feel comfortable working here. AUK has grown so much in different ways, and I’m truly blessed to have witnessed

them. AUK has become my home away from home, and to be honest, I cannot see myself anywhere else. I’ve learned and grown a great deal from my career at AUK. Congrats to AUK for achieving 10 years of success, and looking forward to many more years ahead.”



**Dr. Carol A. Ross (Since 2004)**  
Vice President for Student Affairs

“I believe that students all over the world are the same; they have the same needs, desires, quirks and dreams. What makes the difference is understanding that each student is unique and that working together we can bring out the best in them. I have been blessed to be able to work and serve with an amazing group of people who have the passion,

knowledge and desire to make AUK a very special place. AUK has only just begun...as we learn life’s lessons of this decade, I so look forward to our future. Life in the Wolf Pack only gets better!”

# TESTIMONIALS



**Dr. Ghazi Q. Nassir (Since 2004)**  
Associate Professor of English  
Language and Literature

“I would like to warmly congratulate AUK on its tenth anniversary. AUK’s experiences of the last ten years are the foundational factors in its maturity.

As a member of the start-up team I can identify precisely what AUK’s core values are and what it stands for; quality of faculty members, creating academic environment, recruiting the best-prepared and most promising students, innovation, and service. The combination of these values, and their mutual interaction and support are the defining characteristics of AUK and will be the foundation of the University’s future.

I am extremely pleased and proud of how far AUK has come during the last 10 years and I look forward to what the next ten years will bring for AUK and the State of Kuwait. After counting the blessings, it is also realistic to face the incompleteness. With new coach, I fully expect that with hard work, together we can win the Super Ball: THE ACCREDITATION”



**Dr. Farah Al-Nakib (Since 2003)**  
Assistant Professor of History  
Director, Center for Gulf Studies

“To me the soul of AUK lies in the corridor that now houses Admissions and Registrar. When we first moved to campus in fall 2003, before construction even began, that was where the entire staff was located. We started off as a small handful and gradually grew to dozens of people, working side-by-side every day for a

full year, building AUK to life. I have never bonded with anyone as strongly as I did with that start-up team. We became a family, and we have tried to instill that feeling in AUK ever since. The university has changed a lot in ten years, for better or worse, but I still feel that soul when I walk across campus.”



# THE PRACTICALITY OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

By: Dale F. Eickelman, Dartmouth College (USA)

There has been unprecedented demand for growth in higher education in all GCC states since the late 20th century, especially in private higher education. This growth has taken many forms, and much of the demand has been for undergraduate education in business, since this is seen as “practical.” There is an equally strong argument for the practicality of the liberal arts—which can include a business component—as even more adaptable to rapid change in technology and resources in today’s world. In some of the diwanias in Kuwait, and in some museums, there are photographs of prominent Kuwaitis from the early 1900s and the mid-twentieth century. I often wonder how many Kuwaitis of these earlier periods could anticipate the massive and rapid change in technology, entrepreneurial culture, and opportunities and constraints in the world in which we live today.

The sudden growth in higher education is not without precedent elsewhere. During the late 19th and early 20th century in the U.S., both universities and the U.S. economy grew at an unprecedented rate. Leading businessmen supported education, but not necessarily the liberal arts. Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), born into poverty in Scotland and self-taught—began his career as a telegrapher but later became one of America’s leading industrialists, was initially scornful of the liberal arts. In 1891, he praised the learning of “shorthand and typing” as a practical way to earn a living and, like other businessmen, was scornful of the “liberal arts,” which he said adapted students only for “life on another planet.” Yet, later in life he established free libraries throughout the United States and endowed the Carnegie Endowment; one of the leading international foundations for the advancement of learning and the public good. At its outset, the Endowment was established to facilitate universities to run more like businesses. Others, such as Richard Crane (1858-1939), another leading industrialist, said in 1912 that only those with “useful knowledge” had a right to happiness, he wrote, not those with an impractical “special knowledge of literature, art, languages, or history.”

As the first in my family to receive a university education, I recognize later versions of these arguments. I heard them when I first told my parents that I wanted to major in anthropology and not follow a career in business, law, or the military. So what are the liberal arts today? AUK’s distinguishing characteristic since it opened its doors ten years ago has been its commitment to the liberal arts. At the core of the liberal arts, is critical thinking (*al-fikr al-naqdi*). This involves the growing ability to analyze problems, apply knowledge, synthesize and evaluate difficult issues, recognize hidden assumptions, and communicate with others in both local and global environments. Critical thinking offers the keys to creating, adapting, innovating, and leading.

The liberal arts involve major debates about the goals of higher education. I have already evoked the debates in my country, and they will never end. At one extreme are those who felt that the only useful education is practical and utilitarian. At the other extreme are those who see higher education as a prelude to lifelong learning and an orientation to contribution to the nation, faith, and society—admittedly while not forgetting family and friends. These arguments will never end because each generation faces different challenges, and so does the right balance for the liberal arts.

Since coming to Kuwait for the first time in 1988, I know that there are enthusiastic supporters of the liberal arts, the arts, and creation of a knowledge-based economy in all walks of life. Education in the liberal arts means building a capacity to understand life on this planet, and this training enhances careers in business, technology, government service, education, and many other fields. To take only one example, students at my university sometimes take courses in both art history and computer science. The habits of close observation in both fields reinforce one another, and enable students to learn by practice the value of close observation and often new ways of knowing and visualizing problems and solutions.

The liberal arts do not imply a life lost in abstractions or the nonstop reading of Socrates, Ibn Sina, or Rashid Ridha, but a constant shifting back and forth between detail and practice, history and the present, routine and innovation, and art, science, and the hard surfaces of economy and society. I've seen the astonishment at AUK when students present projects in class using photographs from Kuwaiti newspapers from the 1960s. It is as if they were visiting another country, so remote are the images from today's experience. I've also seen AUK students present videos that adapt, in Bollywood style, a Shakespeare play and other classics to Kuwaiti social life, engage successfully in international computer science competitions and, after graduation from AUK, pursue meaningful graduate studies elsewhere.

AUK offers a model of education that extends beyond the classroom to experiential learning, combining knowledge and competencies in many related fields. For Dartmouth, our relationship with AUK has provided a model for a renewed global engagement. The learning is in both directions for students and faculty at both our institutions. For example, a shared videoconference between Dartmouth and AUK students in computer science impressed my Dartmouth counterparts by the numbers of Kuwait-based women in a field that at Dartmouth is dominated by men.

Crucial to knowledge generation and critical thinking is a simultaneous anchor in the local and global. This simultaneity is one reason why no one definition of the liberal arts encompasses everything. It is a form of education defined by scope and approach, not by a particular content. Local cultural knowledge, skills, discernment, good judgment, pride in one's own society and the ability to live and appreciate others have always been essential components of the liberal arts.

In contemporary universities, the skills of writing and thinking critically and in public, built into education at all levels and in all fields, can jump start the transition to knowledge based societies. AUK prepares its graduates for a lifetime of challenge, adaptation, leadership, and innovation, and to look beyond their first job—even as undergraduates—to realize their highest potential. To achieve this goal, AUK faculty and administrators, like their counterparts elsewhere, aspire to renew their own knowledge and ways of learning—and peer learning is a resource vital to making universities work. The liberal arts are the key to harnessing imagination and ways of knowing to shaping and responding to the world in which we live.

**Dale F. Eickelman** is Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations at Dartmouth College. Author of eight books, several of which have been translated into Arabic, and over 150 articles and book chapters, he is a former President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), and of the Institute for Advanced Study (Berlin), Professor Eickelman currently serves as senior advisor to Kuwait's first private liberal arts university, the American University of Kuwait. In 2011 he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association. He is currently also President of the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies (TALIM).

# DARTMOUTH

# TESTIMONIALS



**Elizabeth Hindmarsh**  
Program Manager  
Dartmouth-American University of Kuwait  
Program

“Congratulations to AUK on reaching the ripe old age of ten!

I have worked with the Dartmouth College – American University of Kuwait Program for 2 ½ years. What has made a big impression on me is AUK’s resilience in overcoming the problems that a new institution encounters. It has come far, in my opinion, in a very short period of time.

I was able to visit AUK several months ago after only knowing it via pictures, anecdotes and meeting the students who came to Dartmouth in the summer. I enjoyed very much seeing the “real” institution and I feel honored to be a part of the American University of Kuwait endeavor.”



**Emily Estelle**  
Dartmouth Intern at AUK in Spring 2013  
(Library, Writing Center, Student Life)

“To me, AUK is a place of learning and personal growth. The AUK family was my source of support during my time in Kuwait.

I especially enjoyed the parade of nations during International Week. It was a great introduction to the AUK community, and I got to participate right away by carrying the American flag.

Thank you for welcoming me with such hospitality, and best of luck in your promising future!”



**Travis Cramer**  
Dartmouth intern at AUK in Spring  
2011.

“AUK represents an opportunity for intellectual engagement and discovery that is both genuine and multifaceted.

My most memorable moment at AUK was a passionate discussion of 20th century poetry with a friend and co-worker in the Writing Center- exemplifying the intellectual growth and personal bonds I found at AUK.

Thank you for the opportunity to broaden my academic, professional and personal growth, and thank you for continuing to grant this gift to students at both AUK and Dartmouth.”



**Shloka Kini**  
Dartmouth Intern at AUK in Fall 2011

“AUK represents a diverse community of students, teachers, and staff that work to bring a liberal arts education to Kuwait. It is progressive, challenging, and genuinely fresh in its educational perspective in the Middle East.

My most memorable moment would be the Dartmouth-AUK recital. It was thrilling to bring music back into my life in such a collaborative, international way, working with AUK musicians and teachers to sing, play piano, and play guitar.

Congratulations AUK! Your warmth and community spirit is infectious. I hope you continue to evolve as an incredible institution for the liberal arts education in Kuwait.”



# THE AUK SEAL

“ After experiencing the real world, the way I look at AUK has changed. AUK is a “teacher” you will always remember. Through its Liberal Arts education, it equips you, not only with basic job-specific skills, but also with knowledge and insights that will help you excel and shine throughout your career. ”

- Feras Al-Husari, AUK Alumnus 2012

**AUK** prides itself with its commitment to equipping its students with the tools and skills necessary to become positive and proactive contributors to the community, regardless of their chosen fields of study or professional paths. The university years are formative ones for the students. They are the bridge between being fully dependent individuals, and fully independent young adults.

Although the education students acquire by pursuing the majors of their interests does guide them to realizing their professional aspirations, the values that AUK instils in its students go beyond the classroom walls.

These values are ones that encourage them to become critical thinkers, embrace lifelong learning, and become global citizens, while maintaining their identities and respecting traditions. These values will forever be engraved in one of our most recognizable symbols; the AUK seal.

**THE AUK SEAL**, which can be found gracing AUK’s diplomas, academic publications, and other official documents, is composed of four images; the open book, the dhow, the falcon, and the torch.

Each of these images represents one of the AUK learning values.

**THE OPEN BOOK** depicts the dedication to knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth.

**THE DHOW** represents aspiration, exploration, adventure, diversity and tradition.

**THE TORCH** stands for freedom and the passing of the light of knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next.

**THE FALCON** represents the vision, pride, courage and leadership of the AUK family



# ART ADVOCATES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Over the past few years, Kuwait has been witnessing a rise in art-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that focus on cultural, environmental, and global issues. Through its support of youth programs that encourage creativity and talent, the business sector in Kuwait has created a new outlet to help spread awareness to the community and shed light on many pressing issues.

Community engagement comes as an integral component of the liberal arts philosophy adopted by AUK. Through its different programs and activities, the University strives to produce community-driven youth who can lead social change. When the AUK Arts and Graphic Design (GDES) program was introduced 7 years ago, one of its main goals was to refine and articulate student talent and creativity through community engagement. By their active participation in community-wide activities, the AUK GDES students have established themselves, not only as active community members, but also as leaders in art, culture, and social change.

2014 has been a special year of achievements for the GDES students, so far. In less than 2 months, they have won 3 art competitions of local and international significance. Each of the three competitions advocated a different cause; environmental awareness, supporting UNDP Millennium Goals (MDGs), and promoting cultural understanding.

In January, AUK GDES student, Moustafa Al Khashab won the REUSE Recycled Art Competition, an initiative organized by en.v, a leading organization dedicated to social responsibility in the Arab World, in partnership with Zain, a leading mobile telecommunications provider in Kuwait as part of a program that promotes environmental sustainability and community participation in Kuwait.

Al Khashab's entry, *Metallic Stallion*, is a sculpture he constructed using repurposed materials in his 3D design class under the supervision of AUK Art Professor, George Bauer. "I was inspired by the horse, as it is a magnificent creature designed for performance. As humans, we always try and mimic the creator's creations through machinery and technology, so I chose to represent the horse as a machine to emphasize its power and efficiency," he said. The exhibition and artwork assembly was coordinated by Professor William Anderson.

"This is the third year that AUK participates in our REUSE competition, and we have come to count on them as partners in our mission to promote environmental awareness and education in Kuwait," said Elisa Franceschinis, programs director at en.v. "We are always impressed by the creativity of AUK students as well as by the commitment of their professors. We are delighted that they won this year's REUSE Recycled Art Competition, as it seems a fitting way to celebrate this great university's 10th Anniversary, and we hope to continue our collaboration in the years to come," she added.



REUSE competition winners and participants with AUK President, GDES faculty, and REUSE organizers

In February, AUK art students Fatemah Al-Shobbar and Zahraa Hamadi won first and third place, respectively, in the Argana Universities Art Competition, an intercollegiate art contest co-sponsored by Argana Resorts & Hotels and the UNDP, to promote young artistic talents and support the MDGs.

Under the theme “The Power of Life from Generation to Generation”, more than 25 students from universities around Kuwait submitted artwork. Al Shobbar, the competition winner, expressed her thoughts about women empowerment through an image of a woman reading while sitting in the middle of a messy library, surrounded by books which were scattered around her. Al Shobbar explained that her painting represented the tough path of women seeking education. “Finding our desired path as women is challenging, especially in this community. I have witnessed and lived some of it. We grab books off shelves, shuffle through them, and flip pages. This journey continues until we find what we truly desire and what is right for us,” said Al Shobbar. Entries for the Argana art contest was supervised by AUK professor, Sharon Lawrence.

Later this month, AUK student, Farah Madi, will be flying to Pune, India, to showcase her winning artwork for the Typoday 2014 poster competition held alongside the ‘Typography Seminar and Workshop’ conference. Madi’s design has been selected, among 24 other art pieces, to be displayed during the conference. Madi’s entry was supervised by Graphic Design Professor Maryam Hosseinnia.

“I am very pleased to see that our graphic design major, Farah Madi, poster design submission was chosen by the jury members of the Typography Day 2014 conference for its high quality of representation. I am proud of this because there were 372 other very good poster submission entries at an international level, with which she competed. All the winning entries will be published and displayed in an exhibition during the event,” said Hosseinnia.

Typoday 2014 supports the notion of Art being the world’s common language. Through their poster designs, artists were asked to demonstrate an integration of two opposite words in two different languages, which delivers the message ‘we are different yet we complement each other’. This message supports the core values emphasized at AUK.

In today’s globalized world, art is increasingly becoming an effective tool for common dialogue and positive social change. To catch up with this growing trend, artists around the world have been competing, through their creations, to raise awareness about contemporary issues, needs, and interests. Through its ability to advocate moral values, social rights and ethics, art has become today’s means of communication used by different organizations to reach out and create community engagement.

“These initiatives are examples of perfect partnerships between the corporate and educational sectors in Kuwait,” said AUK President Dr. Nizar Hamzeh, who also highlighted the significance of such competitions to liberal arts education. “We at AUK endorse creativity and talent that contribute to the development of the community and the world at large,” he said.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT:

### Dr. Rawda H. Awwad

Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

#### 1) Please introduce yourself...

I'm Rawda Awwad and currently Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I came to Kuwait in April 2004 as a member of the AUK start-up team and as Assistant Professor of English and English Coordinator. When the idea of the University was first introduced to me at the time of my interview in Washington, October 2003, I had no doubt in the University's potential and ultimately in its ability to provide a unique educational experience in the region, serve as an important vehicle for academic, and professional progress, and ultimately partake in and contribute to the shaping of the professional, intellectual and cultural landscape.

#### 2) Describe your experience as part of the AUK start-up team, leading to the first day of classes

The invitation to having a hand in realizing an idea that will change lives, and impact families and communities for generations to come is nothing less than humbling, as well as overwhelming. What struck me the most was the level at which every start-up team member was committed toward a successful opening of the University, in the first instance; and developing a solid foundation upon which the University could begin to grow and expand, in the second instance. The University's start-up quickly became personal: in our attempt to give the University-to-be a life of its own, the team needed to go far beyond ploughing through their daily work routine. For me, as it did for many, it was an experience that was emotional, and with the celebration of every mile-stone reached as we were heading toward opening day, I became more aware of the enormous responsibilities that lay head of us.

I was scheduled to teach the first university hour of the first day of the University's opening . . . and as I walked into the classroom, these 25 students breathed life into the classroom, and that was, for me, the beginning of it all.

#### 3) At what point did you feel that start-up phase was over and AUK was able to stand on its own?

Start-up means for me operationalizing a new venture no matter the size of the resources and the project: thus the AUK start-up phase for me was over once classes began in September 2004. What came after was the development and growth of a University. In terms of me identifying a single point in time where the university stood or can stand on its own goes against the way in which I think about university life and culture. A university does not exist as an entity in, and, of, and for itself. From the beginning, the mission carried by those who conceived of it and those who followed through with it through its nascent stages and on, is the university. It

cannot stand simply on its own. It's a social entity with a culture and a soul that requires continued nurturing and commitment regardless of its age

#### 4) What, in your opinion, sets AUK apart from the other universities in Kuwait?

AUK is unique in terms of it being a private post-secondary institution of higher learning that integrates the American system of higher education seriously and deliberately with respect to its curriculum and standards of teaching and learning. However, more impressively unique is AUK's learning and teaching culture. Holistic education definitely has gained traction on campus: I have never had the pleasure of meeting and working with a faculty whose commitment toward undergraduate students continuously goes beyond the immediate classroom experience. We know our students by name, we know our student's strength and weaknesses, our student's goals and dreams or lack thereof, we speak with our students, we support them, we encourage them, and, above all, we never give up. We deal with one student at a time, one dream at a time, one success story at a time and one graduate at a time; over-time, this does have an impact. And so what is unique about AUK is that despite the challenges that it faced and will probably will continue to face, is has never lost sight of its mission.

#### 5) How would you describe the typical AUK student?

The typical AUK student is the typical student anywhere in the world. There is not much difference in that every student has the desire to succeed (no matter how nascent this may be), every student wants to be accepted by his/her own peers, every student has a dream he/she wants to follow and make it a reality, and every student comes with and/or encounters his/her own set of challenges.

#### 6) In what ways do you think the AUK community has changed over the past ten years?

Establishing a sense of community takes time, effort, and commitment on the part of every individual. What inform a sense of community are the relationships that we build which are not necessarily restricted to simply a place. For example, what does it mean to be an alumnus? And to what extent does a former student want to remain part of the AUK community? It appears that students today like at no time before want to remain connected with AUK. This desire is indicative of our ability as an institution to provide a space that encourages the development of the sort of ties with individuals (students and others) that are life-long. What has changed over the course of the past ten years is that we evolved into a more tight knit community than ever before. Respect, trust and professionalism are and should continue to be the fibers that tie us together.



**7) What has your experience at AUK given you personally?**

From the onset, AUK has been a calling rather than a profession or career. I breathe it, I dream of it, I feel it, and I'm passionate about it. I wish for it everything that is good in the world. AUK has consumed me and will continue to consume me, and I'm perfectly content with what has become my own personal reality.

**8) What do you hope to contribute to AUK in the future?**

Individual contributions are meaningless when they are not part of a broader institutional strategy. Can I continue to contribute toward advancing the mission and the future goals of AUK? Yes, I can. Whether it is in teaching, research, service and/or administration, the University has and will continue to have a need for it all.

**9) Where do you see AUK in 10 years' time?**

AUK is becoming a regionally and internationally recognized institution. It will continue to strive toward excellence in teaching, learning and research, and is already leveraging and will continue to leverage more deliberately the sort of intellectual and academic power that positively contributes toward sustainable regional advancements in post-secondary education.

**10) What would you like to say to AUK on the occasion of the ten year anniversary?**

I express my sincerest congratulations to all of who made AUK happen, and my best wishes to all who are continuing and who will continue to build upon 10 years of institutional history.

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**ENAS H. AI-HALAWANI**  
Administrative Assistant  
Intensive English Program - AUK

“AUK represents home to me, and because there is no place like home, to me there is no place like AUK. Thus, even after graduation I could not leave my Wolf Pack family, and I am proudly a part of it till now.

I have lots and lots of memorable moments at AUK, but the most special one is when I shared my country’s sorrow (Syria) on AUK’s stage, where everyone showed support and love.

Although it is only 10 years old, AUK has an amazing and significant impact. Thank you for making every graduate a special one. In the future, I am sure you will become one of the leading universities worldwide.”



**HIBA BAZZI**  
Academic Advisor  
Academic Advising & Learning Support  
Services - AUK

“AUK is part of my identity, which I take pride in. My journey with AUK is 6 years old. It started with a step towards pursuing my degree, to graduating, and then becoming a staff member in its Academic Affairs Department.

With a smile on my face, I am recalling so many random pleasant memories which, if I had the chance, I would live all over again. After all, no greater satisfaction can beat how I felt during the Graduation Procession.

AUK, you have been a story of success to many. Wishing you a happy “Decade of Accomplishments”, and more to come.”



**KHEIRIYEH M. AHMADI**  
English Faculty (Adjunct) - AUK

“AUK has been true to the spirit of a liberal arts education since its founding in 2004. AUK represents a liberal arts college to me with unique focus on enhancing students’ critical thinking and respect for diversity that remain its main assets. My most memorable moment at AUK as a student was when I received Academic Excellence Award by

faculty of Arts and Humanities in spring 2006. Another more recent remarkable moment was in fall 2013 when I was hired as an adjunct faculty by English Department to teach AUK students and give back to this wonderful community. On AUK’s 10th anniversary, I’d like to reiterate how important it is to maintain the high status AUK has achieved during these 10 years since its founding and much endeavour must be exerted to preserve its positive image and quality education.”



**SHOUG AL-OTHMAN**  
Mathematics Teacher Assistant - AUK

“AUK is my home, my safe place and my sanctuary... I love it here. It is the place where all of my dreams became reality. I have had many memorable moments, but the one thing that brings a smile to my face and makes me thankful every time I step foot on campus is my first teaching experience in 2011.

I started as a transfer student and became a proud member of AUK’s community ever since. AUK transformed me from a young student to a mature math instructor. Thank you for all of the opportunities and I wish the entire AUK community a more fruitful harvest of learning and a brighter future.

“Lucky you, lucky me, to have AUK...”

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**NOUR M. MANSOUR**  
Administrative Specialist  
Office of the Dean College of Business  
& Economics - AUK

“I spent 10 years in AUK; first as a student, then as a staff member. The least I can say about AUK is that it is home to me. I still can't forget when I came in 2004 for the orientation and we met with President Ghabra and Dr. Carol. As always, Dr. Carol was spreading her positive energy around with each word and move she made that day. One of the things that I enjoyed is how all of us knew each other. Later on, being able to go on a trip with Dr. Athmar Al-Salem and Dr. Jeremy Cripps to Germany and France and visit many famous economic and financial companies and manufacturers was a great experience. This trip created a great bond between us and our professors. We will always have these beautiful memories that will remind us how we spent our time at AUK with faculty, staff, and our friends; the best times of our lives. I can't be more proud of being part of my University. Happy 10th anniversary, my precious AUK, and so many years to come with new students that will fall in love with you like we did.”



**SARA ALAVINEJAD**  
Administrative Assistant - Library - AUK

“AUK represents home! The experience I had in AUK shaped the most beautiful years of life. Here, I met people that changed my life forever.

There is a memory in every corner; Graduation day, the day I got appointed, meeting my husband & meeting my best friend. Along with other special moments I would never forget.

Congratulations, AUK for all the success you have achieved in the past years and wish you good luck for the future! I look forward to the day my twins study here ... love you AUK.”



**MARIE GEORGES EL NEAMAN**  
Administrative Assistant,  
Department of CSIS, ECE, Math & NSCI  
- AUK

“AUK was like a second home to me, and opened my eyes to many different ideas and experiences. The atmosphere was overwhelming at first, but that's a natural reaction to something new. Attending university is a giant leap for many- I know it was for me. There are many memories that I have gathered throughout my years as a student here, but one of the most memorable was attuned to competing at the EEG in Dubai, being a Secretary in my sister's Fine Arts Society Club, where we held unique events related to all corners of what we call 'Art'. Hands down the most memorable moment of my life was when I walked down those stairs at graduation. What made it even more special was that I was joined by my sister.

Thank you for everything! The journey that I'd walked within its halls was filled with adventure, inspiration, hard work, and knowledge. And though my plight as a university student is over, I know as a fact, it's only the beginning.”



**Maryam Fadhl '12**  
Corporate Banking

“AUK is one of the most important places that has guided me to success. I feel very proud when I remember that I was one of the founders of the Arabic Literature Club, and later president in 2012. The Club added credit to my biography as I am now a freelance writer for newspapers and working on my first book of poetry.

AUK is the best university, always focusing on the success of its students. I am so proud to be a graduate of AUK, and I wish all the best to AUK, all staff, professors and students.”



By: Stephanie Khalil

The International Data Corporation (IDC) granted AUK the Best IT Cost Efficiency Award of the private sector on its 'Going Green' initiative introduced by the AUK IT Department.

The IDC Insights IT Excellence Awards ceremony, held at Burj Al Arab in Dubai, celebrated IT leaders for excelling in six main areas: Best Innovation, Best Change Management, Best IT Governance, Best Business Enablement, Best IT Cost Efficiency, and Best CIO. After the review of the 40 nominations submitted to the IDC juries, AUK was named as winner of the Best IT Cost Efficiency award. AUK Chief Information Officer (CIO), Rusty Bruns, said that the initiative aims to "reduce printing, copying, cost, tree consumption, and increase efficiency."

The implementation of the initiative started in June 2013 as a result of a study, conducted by the AUK IT Department in collaboration with Xerox, showing that AUK campus users were copying and printing 3.4 million pages a year, leading to the consumption of an estimated 433 trees.

According to Bruns, 75% of the printing and copying assets at AUK were over 5 years old. Added to that was the complexity of the maintenance process for 190 devices, in 55 different models. The "campus-wide problem," as Bruns observed, needed immediate change.

In order to reduce waste, a three-step approach was designed. "First, Xerox multifunction printers (MFP) and copiers were deployed throughout the campus replacing old assets," Bruns said, and "the MFP's were coded so usage could be tracked." Secondly, the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) was introduced to enable documents to be saved online, thus reducing the need to print. Finally, the use of Inkjet printers was stopped at AUK since the cost of the Inkjet output was 300% that of the laser, according to Bruns.

The "Going Green" initiative marked success in decreasing the printing and copying total to 811,000 within the first seven months of implementation. "If the current trend continues," Bruns projects, "the printing and copying output after the first year will be approximately 1.4 million pages or a reduction of 2 million pages." Furthermore, printer and copier cost will be decreased from 34,000 KD to 13,000 KD.

Introducing the LMS benefitted faculty and students, not only as an alternative to printing, but also as a new online learning delivery system that better connects faculty and students. According to Bruns, Moodle LMS was integrated to AUK's Banner system to auto populate courses and students, as well as help in simplifying faculty work. "Classes can now be conducted on or off campus, and students have access to documents online instead of carrying printed material," Bruns said.

In addition to the more productive environment, the “Going Green” initiative created more environmental awareness and consciousness among AUK employees. Users now help one another to maintain waste reduction as well as work together to provide new ways of engaging with students on Moodle LMS. According to Bruns, student feedback shows satisfaction in terms of utilizing and incorporating Moodle LMS in courses.

The ‘Going Green’ initiative to reduce waste provided users with options on how to reduce waste, thus making it innovative, and cost efficient. The CIO observed that eliminating waste has created a larger opportunity for “investment in others to better provide instruction and create student success...The campus as a whole is more aware about conservation and the need to ‘go green’ where possible.”





## COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES AT AUK LAUNCHES THE “FACULTY SPEAKER SERIES” IN COMMEMORATION OF AUK’S TEN YEARS ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate AUK’s 10th Anniversary, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) launched the “Faculty Speaker Series”, an initiative aimed to highlight AUK faculty scholarly activities and generate discussion around topics relating to higher education within the region. The first panel discussion took place in February 2014 and was moderated by Dr. Christopher Ohan, Associate Professor of History. It was composed of six faculty members who discussed their research findings in different academic disciplines.

Dr. James Lambert, Assistant Professor of English, is currently researching the possibility of offering service learning and civic engagement in the teaching of humanities. During the session, he shared some of his findings which showed that educational activities conducted in community-based settings can motivate students to overcome major issues of commitment and engagement. Dr. Lambert used as examples two local productions of Shakespeare plays that AUK students participated in last year. According to Lambert, the students were required to create the costumes, design event brochures, and set-up booths for a play that was taking place outside the familiar territory of their campus. This connected them directly with the community. “The way to engage students in Kuwait is to give them the opportunity to display their learning in an environment that they feel connected to outside of the university. If they can not only imagine, but participate in, community achievement, they can visualize their own contributions as citizens,” said Lambert.

Dr. Kathleen Downs, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, relays a similar experience with her classes. Through her research on educational theatre production, she noted that putting together theatre productions in the Middle East can sometimes be challenging due to student commitment and discipline issues. “Strict adherence to the implementation of a Western-style educational theatre program based on a liberal arts model at AUK is problematic, but not insurmountable,” said Dr. Downs. Nevertheless, she noticed that one production from last year was so successful that the students fit another performance on a day when they had already performed. When put under this unexpected pressure, Dr. Downs noticed that her students managed to sustain their energy levels and dedication to putting two shows in one day and still produce excellent results. “The students had no option when they decided to extend the run. They mustered up the courage, discipline and commitment to give their very best. As a result, both the process and the product were successful,” said Dr. Downs.

The subject then shifted to discuss the behavior of students within the classroom setting. Dr. Bashar Zogheib, Associate Professor of Mathematics, discussed his research on students cheating behavior. “Cheating has become a serious issue in all universities across all majors, especially in engineering and economics, as literature reported,” Dr. Zogheib said. According to his findings, it is assumed that students are risk neutral and are bound to cheat if they believed their grade gain was higher than the expected penalties. During his presentation, he introduced a mathematical model he created that helps analyse student cheating behavior and suggests the level of penalties that should be applied to completely deter students from cheating.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amir Zeid, Associate Professor of Computer Science, spoke about his experience working on gender representation in the field of computer studies. “According to recent studies in the US, females are less likely than males to consider a career or a degree in computer-related fields. Contradictory trends have been appearing in other parts of the world, including Kuwait” said Dr. Zeid. Through his research, Dr. Zeid found that undergraduate female students in Kuwait who choose to major in computing fall within range of 40 to 50 percent, which is considerably higher than other parts of the world. By examining the reasons, he found that female interest in computer studies has been initially triggered by pragmatic reasons such as governmental incentives and the openness of the job market. “As female students developed more confidence in their computing abilities, especially among their male counterparts, the stereotype threat disappears and they begin to develop intellectual interest in the field,” explained Dr. Zeid. He also suggested that remodelling educational curricula or introducing female-only classes can help boost the ratios.

Dr. Issam Damaj, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering and Chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, discussed the term ‘sustainability’ from a new educational perspective. In his presentation, he explained that the term ‘Sustainability’ aims to describe the capacity of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future. He added that despite the predominance of the term and its use in practice in fields ranging from architecture to economic development, there hasn’t been a serious effort to formulate quality technical education based on sustainability and characteristics it comprises. “We define Sustainability of Technical Education (SoTE) as the ability to continuously improve without reducing the capacity to endure. In other words, the SoTE is Improvability and Endurance. Based on our definition, we refined a framework for measuring the sustainability of education in higher-education institutions,” he said. His presentation related the concept to practicalities exercised in the region and identified opportunities for improvement.

Finally, Dr. Hesham Al-Awadi, Associate Professor of Political Science, concluded the discussion by analysing the correlation between liberal arts education and the dynamicity of the job market in Kuwait. “Unless liberal arts is seen as a form of education that will help Kuwaiti graduates prosper in their careers, liberal education institutes will not flourish in Kuwait,” said Al-Awadi. He explained that the growth of the private sector, and Kuwait’s aspiration to revitalize its economy to become a world financial center, will ultimately bolster new kinds of job opportunities that will be best suited to graduates of a liberal arts education. “With the increasing number of graduates, and the inability of the state to continue to play the “welfarist” role its maintained since the 1960s, the state is encouraging the private sector to play a more active role in employing Kuwaitis. The private sector will be expected to create a new work culture that would essentially value more liberal arts education and liberal arts graduates,” he added.

The CAS Faculty Speaker Series was initiated by, Dr. Rawda Awwad, Interim Dean of CAS, to commemorate AUK’s 10th Anniversary. The ongoing program is coordinated by the CAS Faculty Speaker Series Committee, including Professors Maryam Hosseinnia, Mohamed Satti, and Raymond Farrin, who are also planning for a sequence of book presentations this semester, which will include talks by faculty members who recently published books. Signed copies of the authors’ books will also be made available during the events.

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Damaj, I., & A. A. Kranov. (2013). The Sustainability of Technical Education: A Measurement Framework. *The American Society of Engineering Education Mid-Atlantic Conference ASEE*, (pp. 47 – 59). New York.

Damaj, I., & Kranov, A. A. (2014). The Sustainability of Technical Education: Leadership and Governance. *The 8th International Technology, Education and Development Conference INTED*, (pp. 5825 – 5835). Valencia.

El-Bahey, R., & Zeid, A. (2013). Women in Computing A case Study About Kuwait. *IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)*, (pp. 1871-1877). Oklahoma.

“It has been ten years of institutional, professional, and personal growth. I am proud to be part of this institution and what it has become, and I am really looking forward to the next decade of accomplishments.”





# STAFF HIGHLIGHT:

## Amal Al-Binali

Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs

### 1) Please introduce yourself.

My name is Amal Al-Binali, and I am the Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs at the American University of Kuwait (AUK). I joined AUK in March 2003 as a member of the start-up team. I am a mother of 3; two boys and a girl. I studied Journalism at the University of Leipzig in Germany. Prior to working at AUK, I worked at the Centre for Strategic and Future Studies (CSFS) at Kuwait University. Before that, I spent 4 years as the Operation Manager of the Middle East & Marketing Research Bureau International- Lebanon branch.

### 2) You've completed 11 years with AUK. What is your story with AUK?

In 2003, Dr. Shafeeq Ghabra, who was the director of CSFS back then, approached Farah Al Nakib, Noushig Momdjian, Randa Ibrahim and myself, who were all employees of the center, to move with him to a new university that was being established, of which he was going to be the founding president. We all agreed to join him and were excited about being chosen to be part of a university start-up team. After settling our paperwork with KU, we moved to what would become the American University of Kuwait (AUK) as of March 2003. At that time AUK was operating from the American School of Kuwait (ASK) and we were only 9 people.

Later, when we moved to our current location in Salmiya, which used to be a kindergarten, the start-up team had grown to around 17 people. Our Offices were located where the offices of Admissions & Registrar are now. In the beginning, there were no specific responsibilities assigned to each individual; we were all working together towards establishing a university. We all had a hand in designing the brochures, going on the school visits to promote the University, and doing whatever was necessary to set up the University.

### 3) So you left your secure job to join a university that had no campus and no name? What kind of risk was that?

It had nothing to do with risks, to be honest with you. I was working at a KU centre that I did not find challenging before Dr. Ghabra joined. When he joined, he brought the centre to life, bringing with him challenging and exciting work that utilized all our mental resources.

When he extended an offer for me to move with him to the new university, I didn't think twice. Of course there was some risk

involved because I had a family to take care of, but I could not stand the idea of staying at the centre when Dr. Ghabra leaves and falling back into the bureaucratic style of doing things.

### 4) Did you ever regret that move?

There was a moment, around 3 months after I joined AUK, when I asked myself "*What am I doing here?! I come from a marketing research background, I studied at a German University, I have never been to the US, and here I am building an American institution!*"

But I never regretted it. On the contrary, I cannot imagine how my life would have looked like if I had stayed at my old job. I always wanted to thank Dr. Ghabra for recognizing my abilities and potential, and for offering me a wonderful opportunity for growth.

### 5) How was your first year at AUK?

There were many challenges. AUK was not just about building a campus that offered courses for students to earn their degrees; we had a mission and were committed to it! We were recruiting students for a new university that didn't have a campus and, at the same time, introducing the concept of a liberal arts education to Kuwait. When translating the words "liberal arts" literally into Arabic, you risk losing some of the key values and principles that a liberal arts education stands for. Part of our objective was to educate people in Kuwait about those values and principles.

I remember that we started promoting the University while the construction was going on. It was quite challenging to convince people that the campus was going to be ready to operate within a few months. The unique quality about the start-up team back then was their firm belief that the University would be ready to operate on time and would deliver on their promises. Because we believed it, it was easy to convince the public. I remember we had an open day at that time while the construction was going on, and it turned out very successful; we received more than 500 visitors. A few months later, when AUK finally opened its' doors, we had more than 400 students enrolled.

I can't remember the first day of classes because I was too busy running around with the journalists and photographers. But, I remember when the first day was over we had a sudden moment of realization that ...Oh my God! We did it!!

**6) At what point did your role as a PR and marketing person start to form? How did your career at AUK evolve later?**

The first real project I was assigned to was to develop a feasibility study for AUK. At the same time, I was working with someone from KIPCO on developing a marketing and PR plan to promote the University. After these projects were completed, a decision was made that I become in charge of PR & Marketing; this was how I entered the field. As more people were hired to work with me in the PR & Marketing Department, I was assigned more responsibilities. My career went through several milestones until I became the Director of Public Relations and Marketing.

In 2006, I was asked to attend a meeting about scholarships by the Private Universities Council (PUC) as they needed someone who can speak Arabic. During the meeting, I realized that we did not have someone at AUK who overlooked government relations; we didn't have a spokesperson to represent AUK with government agencies. At that point, I began to pay more attention to this area. That was when I found myself involved with something called 'government relations' and in 2008 I became the designated Government Relations Officer of the University. I can say with pride that we were the first university to realize the need to establish an office dedicated to government relations. I am proud that I contributed to building that area.

I later became the Assistant to the President for Admissions and Public Affairs, which led to my current position as the Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs since 2013. If you look at it, AUK offered me a lot of opportunities for growth and development. Maybe it took me a lot of time to be where I am today, but at the end of the day I think if you work hard, you reach places.

**7) On a personal level, what has AUK offered you?**

I got married to a Kuwaiti and I moved to Kuwait in 1998. Even a few years after settling in Kuwait and finding a job, I still felt lonely. When you come to a new country, it takes time to find yourself as part of the group or the community. So, to answer your question; family The people who I worked with from the KU days, and had moved with me later to AUK, became my close friends and extended family. To me, that was the most important gain on a personal level.

**8) What keeps you going when things get tough?**

When you are part of something from the very beginning, you can't help but establish an emotional connection with it. You feel protective over it. I think everyone in the start-up team feels a sense of ownership and loyalty towards AUK. Throughout our years here, our brains have become the archives of this place. It's a powerful bond.

Also, I got to know the founder of this place, Shaikha Dana Al Sabah, and I respect her vision. Maybe many people do not know this fact, but behind this institution there is a woman who firmly believes in the benefits a liberal arts education can bring to the society and believes in investing in the future generations. As I developed my loyalty to the institution, I also developed a loyalty

towards the people behind its vision. No matter what obstacles I faced, I still supported and contributed to the fulfilment of their vision.

I can't say it was easy. There were, and still are, instances when I get frustrated, angry and disappointed, but I have a good support system around me that keeps me going; my husband, my friends and my team. As of today, we have graduated over 2200 students. Knowing that I have contributed one way or another to these people's lives is what keeps me going.

**9) In your opinion, what is unique about AUK?**

We are dedicated to a mission. Our mission defines our roles and our strategy. We are a liberal arts institution based on the American model of higher education. We want to create leaders, encourage respect for diversity, inspire social responsibility and stimulate critical thinking. None of the other universities operating in Kuwait has such a strong mission. In terms of our degree programs, we have 13 active degree programs, some of which are internationally accredited, and hold licenses for even more programs. All of the above, in addition to a vibrant campus life, provides us with a competitive advantage that makes us the best private university in Kuwait.

**10) When did you feel that the AUK start-up phase has ended?**

I think we are still in the start-up phase. I would say the start-up phase will be over when AUK graduates are blindly hired by employers just because they carry a degree from AUK. For me that will mark the end of the start-up phase.

**11) What would you tell your 20 year old self if you had the same experience back then?**

Do your Ph.D., or stay in Germany!

**12) What will you tell your 80-year old self?**

I would say to myself "I was part of the amazing experience of establishing a university".

**12) What would you like to say to AUK in commemoration of its 10th anniversary?**

It has been ten years of institutional, professional, and personal growth. I am proud to be part of this institution and what it has become, and I am really looking forward to the next decade of accomplishments.

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**Sara Essa Al-Ajmi '08**  
Final year PhD student at the University of Birmingham (Department of Political Science and International Relations)

“It was only during the graduation ceremony, during one of those long boring speeches that I realized that this was it; my time in AUK was coming to an end. It’s during moments like these that one begins to playback a mental tape of all the things they’ve done and experienced throughout the years spent at university. My mental tape of my time in AUK will be cherished for a lifetime. As a final year PhD student in the University of Birmingham, I would say that AUK represents the starting point in which my academic journey began. I would like to congratulate the entire AUK family on the successes that AUK has achieved throughout the past 10 years.”



**Khaled Essa Al-Ajmi '10**  
Masters Degree in Strategic Human Resources and Business

“The American University of Kuwait has enlightened me with invaluable knowledge, and has equipped me with the necessary skills that were vital to my academic progress. These skills helped me earn a master’s degree in Strategic Human Resources from a highly reputable university in the United Kingdom (Aston University).

I experienced numerous memorable moments at AUK. The entire learning process and the endless activities carried out by the institute has all been a pleasant and exciting experience that I will cherish for a lifetime.

I am proud to be among the pioneer students of AUK, and I would like to congratulate the AUK family on its continuous and outstanding success over the past 10 years. I pay great respect and gratitude for all those that have contributed in raising the University’s reputation. I wish AUK and its entire student body a prosperous future.”



**Adel S. El-Assaad '08**  
Brand Ambassador at Octium

“AUK is a place that truly encourages creative thinking. We were never once told never to think a certain way. In the classroom, every response and opinion was valid as long as it could be justified. AUK represents great memories and lasting friendships. The faculty was amazing and I have been blessed with their friendship since graduation. I was grateful to have been taught by a few inspirational professors.

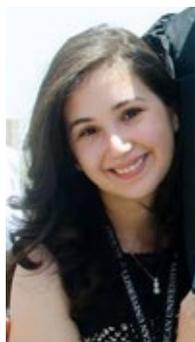
My most memorable experience would be the launch of a communications class project, The Dress for Success Fashion Event, which was probably one of the most buzzed about events in AUK History. It was as real as it gets in the “real world”. I now work in a similar field and can honestly say that the execution of that event was about as real as any event I have ever planned in my professional career. A heartfelt and sincere THANK YOU to AUK...for all the obvious reasons and for reasons I can only be proud of.”



**Helene Georges El Neaman '13**  
Graduate Studies in Machine Learning, University of London Royal Holloway

“AUK was more than an institution to me, it was a life changer; it is where I met great people (professors and friends) and absorbed insurmountable inspiration and knowledge. Interning at Dartmouth College, competing at the EEG in Dubai and founding the Fine Arts Society, were among some of my accomplishments during my time at AUK. My most memorable moment at AUK was graduation day. I was honoured to stand on stage with none other than my sister, Marie, while our proud family sat in the audience, and witnessed what was the most special moment of my life. AUK has helped me grow as a person and has given me the confidence to set my standards high. As one of my computer science professors at AUK once quoted, and now I quote, “Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you will land among the stars!” Happy 10th Anniversary AUK!”

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**Sarah Khalaf '14**  
Office Assistant in Photography and Media

“AUK is my idea of a university where you can have as much fun as you want and still maintain a high GPA during your 4 years at university. I was able to be a part of clubs, volunteer in many activities and even work at the university during my free time to gain experience and knowledge in my field. With all of

that fun taking up my time, I was still able to graduate with a high GPA thanks to the great professors at AUK. My most memorable moment was during the senior launch with my best friends – celebrating our final year at AUK. It has been a wonderful adventure during my 4 years at AUK and I will definitely miss everything about it, including the people I’ve met throughout the years.”



**Moodhawi Al-Rowaished '13**  
Marketing Communication Officer  
52 Degrees

AUK was my second home, I made friends that I work with today. AUK gave me an opportunity that I feel is lacked in other universities. The diversity of the students is something that enhanced my current work experience. Being able to understand people who are not from my culture added a perspective to my day to day

life. My most memorable moment at AUK was during my last day as a student, during my final exam; felt like I was truly saying goodbye. I would like to thank AUK for the opportunities and for the independence it granted me. AUK, you made me grow and you gave me a new home and a new family. Yes, it was tiring and hectic, but you stayed by my side and showed me the real world. Congratulations and I hope that the future generation gets to experience what I experienced.



**Aya Abdulhadi Abdulhamid '13**  
PR & Marketing Coordinator  
Mondanité Magazine

“AUK will always be the second home and family, which will always be part of me. Every moment I spent in AUK has a lovely memory, especially times spent with friends and the great people of AUK. One of those great memories was walking down the stairs and into the hall

on graduation day to the sound of music and cheer of family, friends and AUK family, marking a new stage in life. It has not been an easy 10 years, yet each year was exceptional.. with many more years to come! Happy 10th anniversary AUK!”



**Nur Soliman '10**  
Cultural Affairs Assistant,  
U.S. Embassy Kuwait.

“It’s been over three years since I’ve graduated from AUK, but it seems that every year I find a way to return to campus; either as a part-time staff in 2011, or as a cultural programmer with a local embassy - bringing speakers, artists, and musicians to share their thoughts with the students and faculty I know so well. My time

at AUK as an undergraduate was well-spent in every way, from my English literature and astronomy classes to my time spent on The Voice and The AUKuwait Review; from my exchange and internship at Dartmouth College to my time participating in the search for a new college president. All of this speaks of the live transformations that AUK experiences every year, from tumultuous challenges to energetic revivals and enthusiasm from the different parts of campus community. Each of these brings with it new meanings for the university, especially as it now sets into its second decade!”

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**Abdulkader Al-Mursal '08**  
Marketing & PR Manager  
YIACO Medical Company / Yiacco Apollo  
Medical Center

AUK represents home for me. I have been part of this amazing intuition from the get go. AUK offered me a place to grow, learn and be the best that I can be. I have a lot of unforgettable moments throughout my years in AUK. The most memorable two moments would have to be:

The first group photo for the first official class of 2008. Back then we were almost 400 students; friends and one family. The second memorable moment was our graduation ceremony for the AUK class of 2008. So, Happy 10th anniversary AUK. I hope you continue to educate, inspire and give your students the means and the tools to succeed and help them bring the best in them for generations to come. Happy Birthday WOLFPACKS!



**Feras Al-Husari '12**  
Business Development Executive  
Al-Essa Group

After experiencing the real world, the way I look at AUK has changed. AUK is the “teacher” you will always remember. Through its Liberal Arts education, it equips you, not only with basic job-specific skills, but also with knowledge and insights that will help you excel and shine throughout your career. The list never ends, but if I were to mention the most memorable moment for me at AUK, it would be the busy time of the final exams, everyone running around, lining up for printouts, last minute reviews, overdosing on caffeine... Beautiful days! I believe in AUK and its mission. I can say with confidence that AUK’s support system for students, qualified professors, academic advisors, and the never ending groups of people associated with AUK really helped to shape my personality. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the success of the University, and Happy Anniversary!

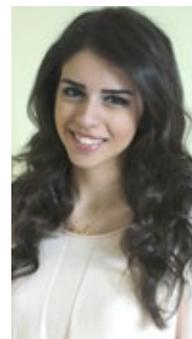


**Daniya Alam '09**  
Consumer Collecting Manager  
Red Bull Kuwait

AUK is a diversified playground in which students can discover themselves academically and individually; it is the building block to a successful future.

My most memorable moment was when I had been given the opportunity to join the academic advising team post graduation.

Congratulations to standing strong and giving a memorable experience to all AUKers! Good luck!



**Shahed Al-Wadani '10**  
Free-lance Artist

“AUK is where I learned how to achieve my goals, where I became proactive by participating in activities, sports and events, and where I gained organizational and leadership skills. As a student, I had the opportunity to work in the office of Student Life. Happy Anniversary and thank you for the unforgettable memories.”



## **AUK** CHRONICLE

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