

AUK CHRONICLE

FALL 2013



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT GRADUATES A NEW CLASS

DARTMOUTH AND AUK
SIGN THE 3RD MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING TO
REAFFIRM THEIR PARTNERSHIP

AUK AND
ELLUCIAN,
10 YEARS OF
PARTNERSHIP



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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 of concern to Higher Education. The aim is to give Higher Education a voice and forum, whereby achievements, challenges, and debated issues can be published and discussed openly in an effort to further improve our knowledge and implementation of Higher Education. The AUK Chronicle is open to all faculty, staff, and other personnel working in academia, as well as major corporate stakeholders, to take part in sharing their research and articles and ensuring that Higher Education attains the appropriate attention as a tool of social change.

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Message from the President



The AUK Chronicle, our in-house magazine, publishes contributions by faculty and staff at AUK, as well as news and information about the university and higher education at large.

The Fall 2013 issue covers topics that include graduating a new class of AUK students, training partnerships, as well as articles and books published by our faculty, staff and students. This issue also includes updates on our activities with our partner institution Dartmouth, such as the signing of our 3rd consecutive Memorandum of Understanding, student internships, and AUK- Dartmouth fellowship Summer 2013.

Staff, faculty and student highlights receive significant attention and space in the Chronicle. Such highlights vary from accomplishments that include professional development, research, conference presentations, field trips, memberships on professional boards, art exhibitions and annual events. Equally important are the symposiums, lectures and talks organized by the Center for Gulf Studies, the American Corner, and the Center for Continuing Education. Activities of visiting researchers are also presented.

I am excited to announce that the upcoming issue of The Chronicle (Spring 2014) will be a special anniversary issue and will include special stories documenting the key accomplishments in AUK's history as well as our future aspirations.

For many of us, the Chronicle has become a part of our lives here at AUK. As such, we are very grateful to all those who have contributed to this issue. Also, I would like to extend our thanks to the Chronicle staff for their work and dedication. On this note, I would like to invite you to read this issue and share your views with us by writing directly to the staff of the Chronicle.

Enjoy, and best wishes,

A. Nizar Hamzeh

Dr. Nizar Hamzeh

COVER FEATURE



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The American University of Kuwait Graduates a New Class

“My message to you today is a simple one. Have a plan for your life, but be alert to new opportunities as they arise and be open to altering your path. And then, most importantly, be mindful that your successes are seldom, if ever, solely your own. Be aware of the role that others play in your success, and thank them. And, be sure to call your parents,” said the American University of Kuwait (AUK) Interim President and Provost, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh in the AUK 2013 Commencement Ceremony held on June 13th at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds (KIF).

The ceremony, which celebrated the graduation of 350 students, was attended by the AUK Chair of the Board of Trustees Shaikha Dana N. Al-Sabah, board members, parents and families, and numerous dignitaries and diplomats. The keynote address of the commencement was delivered by Dr. Dale F. Eickelman, Ralph & Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology & Human Relations, Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College, and Dartmouth-AUK Program Relationship Coordinator.

After the Kuwait national anthem and a recitation from the Holy Quran, the event commenced with the student processional, a moment anticipated by the parents and families. Led by the AUK President’s party, deans, and faculty members, the graduating class marched through the central aisle of the hall in a ceremonial atmosphere marking the official start of the event.

Delivering his opening speech to hundreds of students, parents, and guests, Interim President Hamzeh urged the graduating class to use their education wisely, believe in the future, and pay gratitude to those who contributed to their success. “As you walk the stage out into the world, I hope you will carry forward the spirit of AUK and the liberal arts education you have received. The future is now in your hands,” Said Dr. Hamzeh “For our faculty and staff, this is a day of accomplishment, of knowing you have mentored tomorrow’s leaders. And we thank you for your hard work and dedication.”



The keynote speaker, Dr. Eickelman, was next invited to the podium, where he spoke to the graduating class about the value of liberal arts education, referring to the historical background of the liberal arts philosophy that contributed to America's "unprecedented growth and expansion" in the early 20th century. "In a like manner to the US, Kuwait entered a period of massive and rapid growth—including in education—since the mid-20th century. Training in the liberal arts and critical thinking, analyzing the unexpected and assessing alternative solutions, offers a critical edge in thinking and acting in both local and global environments," said Dr. Eickelman.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Ross-Scott, then introduced the Class of 2013 Valedictorians, Huda Al-Rashid and Nada El-Badry who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 Summa Cum Laude (with the greatest honor). On behalf of the valedictorians and the Class of 2013, Al-Rashid delivered a speech calling on her fellow graduates to be "altruistically compassionate," to "treasure the gift of knowledge," and to use it "for passionate innovation and enthusiastic development."

The event proceeded with the main highlight of the ceremony, where the graduates walked on stage to receive their degrees, greeted with cheers and applause from families and friends. Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Rawda Awwad recommended the conferral of degrees for the graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences, while Dean of the College of Business and Economics, Dr. Doug Munro, recommended the conferral of degrees for the graduates of the College of Business and Economy, to Interim President Hamzeh, who then conferred upon the 350 graduates their respective degrees. Graduates were then awarded their bachelor's degree diplomas by Dr. Hamzeh, Dr. Doug Munro, and Dr. Rawda Awwad.

In keeping with the academic tradition, the graduates were then asked to move their tassels from right to left, thereby marking their official graduation from AUK. As the ceremony drew to a close, the graduating class celebrated the traditional cutting of the Class of 2013 cake, and took photos with their families and friends.

The AUK 2013 Commencement coincides with important milestones in the history of AUK as it overlaps with the 10th Anniversary of AUK and the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between AUK and Dartmouth College, the USA affiliate of AUK. Building on its academic excellence and leadership, the AUK has introduced academic expansion plans for the year 2013-2014, including the initiation of an academic degree in Electronic Engineering.

“Have a plan for your life, but be alert to new opportunities as they arise and be open to altering your path.”

AUK and Ellucian, 10 Years of Partnership

Throughout the past two years, the American University of Kuwait has significantly expanded its support for academic and student services through several IT infrastructure projects. The AUK Banner, powered by Ellucian, has accommodated new features and technologies that support today's fast moving technology, thanks to the scalable and extensible nature of the platform.

Among the latest upgrades AUK has introduced was the deployment of mobile applications powered by the Ellucian Mobile Connection framework providing smart phone and mobile devices access to useful student services. The performance reporting and analytics platform has been upgraded to the current versions in support of a push-to-open operational reporting to a wider range of end-users and a critical push to enhance the value of institutional research and planning.

As the partnership between AUK and Ellucian approaches its 10th year, Ellucian nominated AUK this year for the ACN Arab Technology Awards 2013 for Education Implementation of the Year. In addition, Ellucian has recognized its long relationship with AUK by publishing a case study about AUK's campus technology last September. The AUK Chronicle takes pride in republishing Ellucian's full length case study.

ellucian.



PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE NOTABLE FIRSTS IN KUWAIT

The American University of Kuwait has been breaking new ground since its gleaming new buildings first rose from the sand in 2004.

Patterned after the American liberal arts model of education, the independent, private university broke new ground when it offered admission to the nearly 40 percent of Kuwait's population who are not Kuwaiti nationals, a group that has historically had little access to public institutions of higher education in Kuwait. AUK was also the first university in Kuwait to have a fully integrated student services platform and the first to have a comprehensive mobile strategy. As it has achieved these notable firsts and built its reputation as a leading university recognized locally, regionally, and internationally, the institution has been supported by Ellucian.

"The demand for technology has increased and the needs of the institution have increased since we first opened our doors," said Rusty Bruns, IT Director at AUK. "With our partnership with Ellucian, we have been able to stay a step ahead of other institutions in the region. Ellucian provides us with help whenever we ask for it, and they upgrade their products to keep AUK on top of the latest technologies."

Forming the core of AUK's leading-edge technology infrastructure are Banner by Ellucian, the Ellucian Luminis Platform, and Ellucian Mobile.



PROFILE:

- Enrollment: 2,100 students
- <http://www.auk.edu.kw/index.jsp>

CHALLENGES:

- Meeting expanding and evolving needs of students and growing university
- Provide leading-edge applications that mirror university's reputation

SOLUTIONS:

- Banner® by Ellucian®
- Ellucian Luminis™ Platform
- Ellucian Mobile

RESULTS:

- AUK was first university in Kuwait to offer integrated student services platform
- AUK was first university to provide mobile applications
- University is meeting users' expectations for services



Ellucian worked closely with staff at AUK to bring up Banner at the same time the university buildings were being constructed. A rapid implementation made it possible for the university to offer the necessary administrative processes when it first opened. As the needs of AUK and its students have evolved, the institution has been able to bring on new functionality and integrated third-party software into the scalable and extensible Banner platform.

Today, students, faculty, and administrators can access all the resources they need through the university's Luminis portal. They also can execute many of their administrative processes through self-service applications. Ellucian recognized AUK's strong adoption of technology solutions when it presented the university with the Innovative Technology Award at the Ellucian Middle East conference in 2012.

SELF SERVICE MAKES PROCESSES CONVENIENT AND EFFICIENT

"The Luminis Platform and self-service applications are the main tools used by students to do all campus related activities. It's used by students to add/drop classes, check their grades and schedules, make online payments, and much more," said Bruns. "Today's students expect services to be available at a time and place convenient to them, and this requires putting services online. Having a portal where students can access all their services in one place increases their satisfaction with the university."

Faculty members use self-service applications to upload grades for students, check their rosters, and advise and interact with students. And they are assigned their schedule of classes through Banner. Faculty also take care of their personal administrative tasks online like checking leave balances and pay.

In the administrative area, all university financial transactions are done using Banner. Administrators can monitor their budgets, and gain electronic approval on purchase orders. They also can approve contracts and timesheets for their student workers online.

Users can easily find the resources they need through the consistent interface throughout the platform.

"Consistency is very important," said Bruns. "We want users to easily find what they are looking for and get things done faster. When you make things easy for people to do, they will use the resources online. But if it takes too long, they will take another route that is less efficient."

“The demand for technology has increased and the needs of the institution have increased since we first opened our doors. With our partnership with Ellucian, we have been able to stay a step ahead of other institutions in the region.”

Rusty Bruns
IT Director

Likewise, the consistent interface among the various Banner forms increases staff productivity, said Bruns. “One of the best things about Banner is its interface. The feel and look of Banner as you move from one form to another is consistent.”

“Consistency helps the user to concentrate on doing the work assigned to him instead of being distracted by the inconsistency between the forms. The user can focus on what he needs to do rather than think about how to do it,” added Hussein Diab, Senior Database Administrator at AUK.

Banner has enabled other productivity gains through automation of tasks. For example, IT integrated Banner with its active directory. When a new student is entered in Banner, a new email address is automatically generated on the active directory. Before, IT had to manually create the emails.

MOBILE APPLICATIONS SET AUK APART

The newest and most popular functionality brought up by AUK is its mobile platform. The use of mobile devices in the Middle East is among the highest in the world. In fact, in Kuwait, the number of mobile subscriptions far exceeds the country’s inhabitants, according to ChartsBin (<http://chartsbin.com/view/1881>). Once again, AUK was ahead of the curve, being the first university in Kuwait and the second in the region to offer mobile applications to students.

“It’s important to meet students’ expectations and to be ahead of our peers,” said Bruns. “Students from AUK are proud to show the university’s mobile apps to

their friends whose institutions don’t offer them. That status is very important in the region. As soon as we brought up our first apps, students started asking for more.”

In 2012, AUK offered its first mobile applications using Ellucian’s first generation mobile software. Now the institution is deploying Ellucian Mobile which helps AUK advance its mobile initiatives faster and extend applications and services to a broader range of campus stakeholders. AUK values the fact that the solution is available on the iOS and Android mobile platforms.

“Our students typically have two phones,” said Diab. “To reach the highest number of users, we need a mobile application that works on any type of device.”

AUK is leveraging the solution’s customization features to brand their mobile experience, and the university also likes the new solution’s slick user interface.

“The GUI is the best thing about the Ellucian mobile application for users,” said Diab. “And it’s easy to bring up new apps and change the look and feel of them to meet our requirements and image.”

QUANTIFYING IT INITIATIVES

Meeting users’ expectations and delivering operational efficiencies are notable goals. In addition; however, AUK attempts to quantify its IT achievements.

“We take a strategic business approach to IT,” explained Bruns. “We ask ourselves, ‘what is the

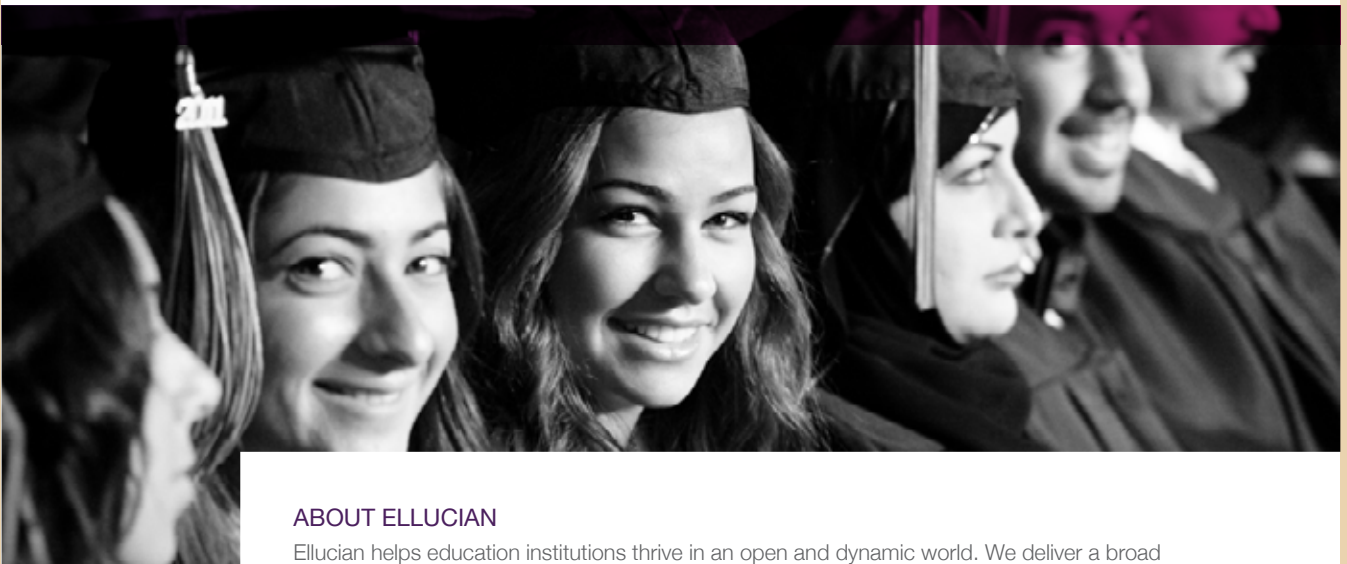
impact on IT, our customers, the business, and the university?’ If our business provides the best product, our customers (students) receive a quality education, find gainful employment, and make a difference. In the end, this brands the university as a successful higher education institution.”

Ellucian proved its ability to save the institution measurable costs shortly after Bruns arrived in AUK at 2011. He was asked to resolve a 5-year dispute with a vendor over licensing. The potential cost of resolving the issue was more than \$700,000. Bruns asked Ellucian if they could help address the issue. Within six months, the problem was resolved at a cost of \$375,000. And with the help of Ellucian’s technology, AUK has expanded its number of virtual machines from 20 to 34 in the last year, cutting costs by \$70,000.

“Right away, Ellucian showed me that they are a good partner. Ellucian is like part of our family. I can always count on them to support the university in what we are trying to achieve,” said Bruns.

“The GUI is the best thing about the Ellucian mobile application for users. And it’s easy to bring up new apps and change the look and feel of them to meet our requirements and image.”

Hussein Diab
Senior Database Administrator



ABOUT ELLUCIAN

Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world. We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their futures through learning.

To learn more, please visit www.ellucian.ae

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The Materiality of Paint



AUK's Assistant Professor Sharon Orleans Lawrence has published a book described by a reviewer as "An imaginative and masterful examination of painting's history in art, its death by art theory, and its resurrection in various forms in contemporary art practice." The title of the book, which was published in June 2013 by Edwin Mellen Press, is *How The Materiality of Paint is Intrinsic to the Work of Art: An Explanation of the Meaningful Placement of the Medium of Painting in Contemporary Art Theory*.

The book grew out of a passionate interest Professor Sharon has in paint, painting and paintings. "It's more like an obsession," she says. "I'm fascinated by painting, a method of artmaking that dates at least as far back as the Paleolithic caves. These decorated caves document the sequential thinking and high level of skill painters possessed tens of thousands of years ago. Using paints made with ground mineral pigments mixed with water or animal fat or even spittle, the paintings are powerful and resonant—so much so that Picasso and other artists of the early Modern era appropriated ideas from the cave paintings for their own artwork!"

Traditional easel painting—Professor Sharon's first love—took off during the early Renaissance with the ascension of painting in oils and reached a pinnacle of art practice that endured into the mid-20th century even after photography and motion pictures came into popular use. Then traditional easel painting hit a wall; actually, it was declared to be dead.

As the Modern era segued into the Postmodern era and into our contemporary society, nothing has occurred to restore painting's reputation as a viable player in contemporary practice, except that some painters just keep painting. Professor Sharon believes the endurance of easel painting in the face of its death in art

theory is tied to the paint itself and its characteristics that are distinct from other methods of artmaking, in other words, its materiality. Part of its material presence, in fact, is its art historical history.

The central theme of the book—painting's viability in contemporary art practice—is addressed through an exploration of what painting was and what it became, in order to contemplate a place for what painting is. Patiently, the author questions and discusses the key issues of pertinent contemporary art theory, attempting to see through to their limits and place them against a backdrop of her own actual painting practice. In the process, she builds a convincing case for the re-emergence of traditional easel painting—now as an avante-garde art!

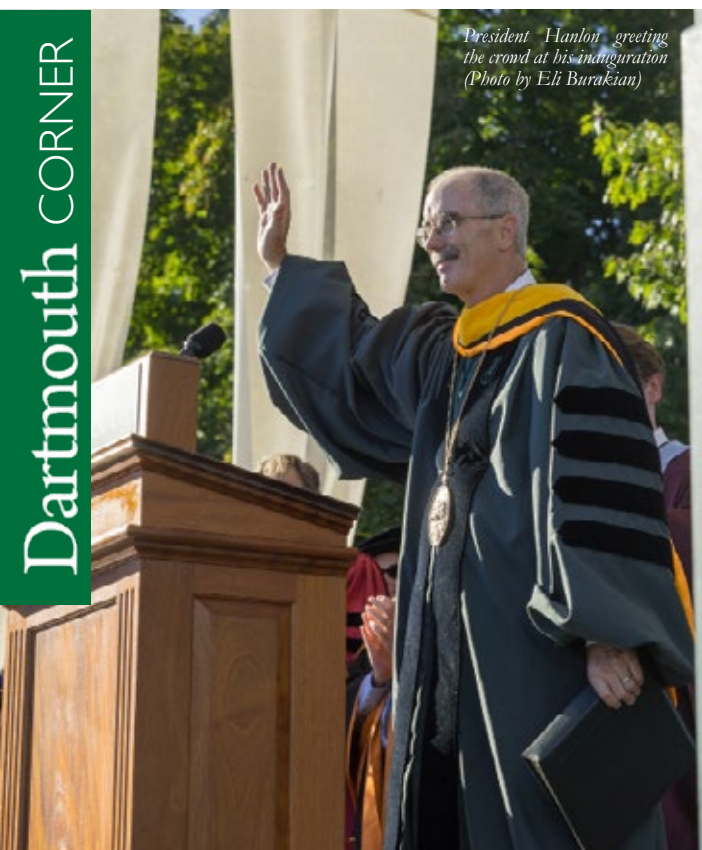
Dr. George Bauer, who wrote the forward to *How the Materiality of Paint is Intrinsic to the Work of Art*, says its author "connects art theory, art history and artmaking, providing compelling arguments to painters for their own entrée into the brave new world of contemporary artmaking." Professor John Rise of the Savannah College of Art and Design says the book "honors painting tradition and challenges it at once."

Professor Sharon, who has been at AUK since 2008 and is now the Chair of the Department of Art and Graphic Design, thinks she has a great life. "I love art. How many people find something they love, then get to do this thing they love, write about it, spend their vacations investigating it, and even their work life teaching others about it? Even as I teach art history and studio art subjects, I am adding to my thinking about art in general and painting in particular—and my students have taught me a lot!"

Her only regret is not having enough time to paint. "I have been invited a couple of times to do a one-woman show here in Kuwait in some very nice venues, but I just haven't had the time to paint enough paintings. I am a contemporary realist easel painter—I paint large and in oils—they take time!"

In the book's Acknowledgements, Professor Sharon notes her gratitude to the American University of Kuwait "and the freedom it has provided me to explore and develop synergistic teaching methodologies across the disciplines of art and art history, expanding the limits of understanding for both my students and for myself."

President Hanlon greeting the crowd at his inauguration
(Photo by Eli Burakian)



Dartmouth Celebrates the Appointment of its 18th President

Dartmouth College officially celebrated the Inauguration of its 18th president, Philip J. Hanlon '77 and the Convocation of the College's 244th year. Held on the Dartmouth Green, Dartmouth's central campus area, the ceremony saw a huge crowd of 2,800 that gathered to enjoy the pomp and circumstance of the event.

President Hanlon took the opportunity in his inaugural address to announce two new initiatives he is launching – the Innovation Center and New Venture Incubator for Dartmouth students and the creation of a Society of Fellows program, which will give emerging postdoctoral scholars the opportunity to “learn the art of teaching from the true masters on our campus, while bringing to Dartmouth their own unique passions and innovation.” Additional Dartmouth speakers were Interim Provost Martin Wybourne, Rabbi Edward Boraz, and Steve Mandel '78, chair of the Board of Trustees. The Governor of the State of New Hampshire, Margaret Hassan and Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, also spoke.

President Hanlon is the 10th Dartmouth alumnus to serve as its president. Prior to his appointment, Hanlon

has served in a succession of administrative leadership roles at the University of Michigan since 1986. He was appointed provost in 2010. President Hanlon succeeds Dartmouth's former president Jim Yong Kim, who stepped down to become president of the World Bank in April 2012.

As a tradition of the president inauguration ceremony, former presidents Jim Yong Kim and James Wright presented the Wentworth Bowl, a symbol of the Wheelock succession, to President Hanlon. The Wentworth Bowl was presented to the founder of Dartmouth, Eleazar Wheelock, by the Royal Governor John Wentworth as a gift on the occasion of the first commencement at Dartmouth in 1771.

Following his appointment, Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah, Founder and Chair, Board of Trustees of the American University of Kuwait sent a letter to President Hanlon congratulating him on the new post. In her letter she noted how AUK relations with Dartmouth have been productive and mutually supportive “I first visited your campus in 2003 and returned in April 2013 to renew our third five-year relationship agreement,”



she wrote “Dartmouth's commitment to global excellence—and our practical experience in creating a liberal arts university with Dartmouth's support from the ground up—makes us look forward to sustain a continued cooperation with you in the years to come.” President Hanlon wrote back to Shaikha Dana, stressing that Dartmouth's continuing relationship with AUK has been a critical part of Dartmouth's international reach “It is of the utmost importance to me to sustain and encourage cooperation between our institutions. I look forward to working with you and having many discussions on how we can support each other over the coming years,” he wrote.

Since they signed their first agreement in 2003, AUK and Dartmouth have been working on collaborative projects including cross-cultural internships and research fellowships. Since then, Dartmouth has offered valuable support to AUK, providing consultancy on academic curricula, faculty recruitment, and research collaboration. The two institutes have worked vigorously on establishing the concept of liberal arts education in Kuwait.

Dartmouth College, founded in 1769, is a member of the Ivy League. Renowned for its focus on undergraduate liberal arts education, Dartmouth is also home to three historic professional schools: The Dartmouth Medical School, founded in 1797; Thayer School of Engineering, founded in 1867; and the Tuck School of Business Administration, founded in 1900. Its 4,300 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students hail from across the United States and around the world.

To read more about President Philip J. Hanlon's inauguration ceremony, please visit

<http://now.dartmouth.edu/2013/09/phil-hanlon-inaugurated-as-dartmouths-18th-president/>

The photo above is of former presidents Jim Yong Kim (left) and James Wright (center) presenting the Wentworth Bowl, a symbol of the Wheelock succession, to President Hanlon. The Wentworth Bowl was presented to the founder of Dartmouth, Eleazar Wheelock, by the Royal Governor John Wentworth as a gift on the occasion of the first commencement at Dartmouth in 1771. (Photo by Jeff Woodward)



From Kuwait to Dartmouth: *Students Learn About Cybersecurity*

Fidgeting with his hands, Khaled Al-Qahtani took a deep breath as he gathered the words to describe his experience at Dartmouth this summer.

As a spring '13 graduate of computer science at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), Al-Qahtani had a lot of experience in worldwide technology-related competitions. He'd participated in the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2012, in which he received first place in the software design competition and won Microsoft's Mobile Development Award.

The Secure Information Systems Mentoring and Training (SISMAT) program seemed like the perfect next step for him. SISMAT is run by Dartmouth's Institute for Security, Technology, and Society (ISTS). This year's program is the sixth SISMAT program, and the third in which students from AUK have been involved. There were 15 students in the program this year, from colleges and universities across the United States, India, and Kuwait. Because of the partnership between Dartmouth and AUK, the program is made available to AUK students by ISTS at no charge; they need only pay for their travel expenses. (Leaders from Dartmouth and AUK met earlier this year to reaffirm their partnership, which deepens and expands the liberal arts experience on both campuses, by signing a third memorandum of understanding between the institutions.)

Al-Qahtani applied, and eventually, he was on a plane to Boston, eager to plunge into the SISMAT program. "I remember when I was on the Dartmouth Coach—I didn't know whether to feel nervous or excited," he says. "I think it was a little bit of both because I really didn't know what to expect."

What he did know was that he was going to be part of a training program for cybersecurity tools. He would learn about cryptography, network security, and other topics that provide the necessary support for him to participate in future internships. Having just left the desert landscape of Kuwait, Al-Qahtani noticed a big difference in environment when he arrived in Hanover. His first impression of Dartmouth's campus was that it was "green—just very, very green."

He immediately felt welcomed. "Everyone is so outgoing here at Dartmouth," says Al-Qahtani. "They smile and even stop their cars when I want to cross the road. It made me wonder if people were plotting to run me over or were just being really nice."

He describes the SISMAT program as "hard to get used to at first, but toward the end, you grasp the concepts that they're trying to deliver." He stresses that the program isn't for students to absorb every piece of information given during the training and mentoring. Instead, it's about "giving students the skills to point out flaws in cybersecurity."

Michael Locasto, a SISMAT program instructor and an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Calgary, notes that "SISMAT is really intensive. Students have eight-hour days and so it's a fire hose of information. Students kind of get a culture shock in security."



Al-Qahtani says the SISMAT program is a great opportunity because “it teaches you how to hack into computers, which isn’t something that is taught at many academic institutions.” SISMAT instructors Locasto and Sergey Bratus developed the “hacker curriculum” to help students understand how a hacker would try to gain access to a computer system. With this knowledge, the students can then better understand how to secure systems.

Locasto says the aim of SISMAT isn’t to turn students involved into professional hackers or security experts. Instead, “the real benefit is opening their eyes to different areas of information security such as networking security, host security, privacy, and so on, just to give them an idea of how large the field is.”

Another benefit of SISMAT is the interaction with the other students, Al-Qahtani says. “SISMAT broadened my perspective and allowed me to understand how others have different methods of operating computer systems.”

“I learned a lot of stuff, like how to use a Linux operating system and how to use commands at terminals to do different things,” Al-Qahtani says. Most importantly, he says, he learned how to read information from a single network and got to see the way information flowed.

As Al-Qahtani immersed himself in the SISMAT program, he made new friends and was enjoying his stay. “One of the things I always did when I met up with a couple of friends was play billiards. Things were just going great.”


He was having a memorable time. However, there were times when Al-Qahtani felt out of place. Some social norms that he was accustomed to, such as smoking, weren’t widely accepted in Hanover.

“I guess you can say I was going through a bit of a culture shock,” Al-Qahtani says.

Despite that, Al-Qahtani says his time at Dartmouth College was extraordinary. “I’ve made great friends, gotten to know and respect a different culture, studied, and had a lot of fun. I’m glad I got the opportunity to be part of the SISMAT program and enjoy Dartmouth’s campus life.”

Stephanie Khalil is a student at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), majoring in communication and media. This summer, she worked in the Office of Public Affairs and the Hood Museum of Art as an intern with the Dartmouth College–AUK Program.

Article Courtesy of Dartmouth Now <http://now.dartmouth.edu/2013/07/from-kuwait-to-dartmouth-interns-learn-about-cybersecurity/>

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue blazer over a white top, stands with her arms crossed in an office environment. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background shows a modern office with large windows and other people working in the distance.

“ I’m a curious person and a life researcher who loves to know more about things I see in life. I love exploring countries and cultures, and I especially love beauty in everything, in people, nature, place or mind! ”



STAFF HIGHLIGHT:

Asmaa Al Kanan

Director of the Library (AUK)

1) Please introduce yourself?

I'm a librarian, a holder of Master's Degree in Library & Information Science and B.A. in English Language and Literature. I'm a curious person and a life researcher who loves to know more about things I see in life. I love exploring countries and cultures, and I especially love beauty in everything, in people, nature, place or mind!

2) What were you doing before joining the AUK community?

I was working as an Information Specialist in a privately owned public library "Al-Babtain Library for Arabic Poetry" where I was in the start-up team.

3) How long have you been a member of the AUK community?

I completed my sixth year at AUK last September!

4) What was your first impression of AUK upon coming to the campus the first time?

A melting pot! A diverse community with so many talents from students, staff and faculty. And also a great learning opportunity in Kuwait.

5) Which department/division did you start with when you first joined AUK? (If different from the current)

The Library! But as a librarian I reach out to/ work with different units and departments.

6) What was your role within the department/division when you first started?

I started work at AUK as a Reference/ Instruction Librarian assisting students, faculty, and staff in making effective use of library resources through virtual and in-person reference assistance, instruction sessions and one-on-one in-depth consultations. One of my major responsibilities was to promote information literacy skills and educate students on the necessary research skills. I have also worked on designing instructional tools and developing /evaluating reference and instruction policies and services.

7) Has that changed over the period you were in AUK?

In 2010, I was promoted to the position of Assistant Director for the Library, and in January 2013 I was appointed Director for the University Library after an international search.

8) For what reasons would you advise students/staff/faculty to come see you?

Well, my doors are open. AUK-ers can see me for any suggestions, complaints, prospectus collaborations with the library, or in regards to collections and services.

9) Are you currently a member of any AUK based committees? If yes, please identify which ones.

Library Committee
President's Award Committee

10) Do you have any commitments to any of the AUK student clubs/organizations? If yes, please identify which ones.

The library has collaborated with the Arabic Literature club on several events and sponsored another event for Al-Akhdar Environmental Club. This year I want to collaborate with more clubs! So I'd like to take this chance to invite clubs members to visit me if they need any kind of support or for new ideas.

11) Finally, is there a searching tip you would like to share with the community that would make it easier for individuals to locate research resources?

Well, there are a couple exciting of new tools we have introduced to the library which I would like to share with the Chronicle readers.

First, I am very pleased to announce that we have officially launched our AUK Library Mobile Application, which is available now in the App Store. It will enable users to access their library accounts, to place holds, check fines and receive notifications, and search for suggested titles.

In addition to the AUK Library Mobile App, we recently started using the Summon Discovery Service by Serials Solutions. Summon allows users to effectively search and navigate across almost all of the library's resources, whether physical holdings, such as books and DVDs or remotely hosted content purchased or licensed by the library, such as e-books and online databases. I encourage members of the AUK community to try it out. To begin using the Summon, go to AUK Library webpage and hit the "Search" tab. Then, you are ready to discover the whole content of your library!



Dartmouth and AUK Sign the 3rd Memorandum of Understanding to Reaffirm their Partnership

Leaders from Dartmouth and the American University of Kuwait (AUK) met April 25 to reaffirm their partnership, which deepens and expands the liberal arts experience on both campuses, by signing a third memorandum of understanding between the institutions.

Calling the partnership a “wonderful opportunity,” Interim President Carol L. Folt welcomed Sheikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah; chair of AUK’s board of trustees; Amal Binali, Vice President of Admissions and Public Affairs at AUK; and Earl (Tim) Sullivan, a member of AUK’s board of trustees.

“Global partnerships are critically important to Dartmouth in an increasingly connected world. We are so proud to partner and collaborate with an institution like AUK that values the kind of strong liberal arts education Dartmouth has been committed to for nearly 250 years,” Folt said.

“Since the first agreement was signed 10 years ago, Dartmouth has offered valuable support, providing advice on curriculum planning, faculty hiring, and research collaboration,” Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah said.

Each Memorandum of Understanding reaffirms the partnership for five years; the most recent agreement was signed in 2008 in Kuwait. AUK, which has graduated more than 1,000 students, was founded in 2003. That same year, Dartmouth began advisory, consulting, and cooperative projects with the university.

In the last decade, Dartmouth and AUK faculty and students have traveled between campuses to participate in cross-cultural internships, fellowships, and research. AUK students can earn a dual-degree in engineering, in which they study at AUK and at Thayer School of Engineering.

“Dartmouth has been on our side from day one,” Shaikha Dana said. “We do recognize the important role that Dartmouth is playing in AUK’s success. Dartmouth is a model to which we aspire in developing our own programs and curriculum, and creating the intellectual infrastructure of what we believe a liberal arts academic community should be.”

Shaikha Dana Al-Sabah also mentioned there have been challenges in positioning AUK, the first private liberal arts university in Kuwait. But Dartmouth, as “the partner in our



evolution,” has been pivotal to AUK’s success, she said. “As we prepare to celebrate AUK’s 10-year anniversary, we look forward to continuing this relationship as we seek to imbed a liberal arts culture into the Kuwaiti higher education system.”

Earlier in the day, Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah participated in an anthropology seminar, “Thought and Change in the Middle East and Central Asia,” taught by Dale F. Eickelman, the Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations.

Eickelman, the Relationship Coordinator for the Dartmouth-AUK Program since its beginning, co-signed the agreement and was joined by a group of Dartmouth colleagues, including Lindsay Whaley, Interim Provost and Professor of Linguistics And Classics; Ann Root Keith, Chief Operating and Interim Senior Vice President for Advancement; and Elizabeth Hindmarsh, the Program Manager for the Dartmouth-AUK program.

The meeting in the President’s Office included an exchange of gifts. Shaikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah presented President

Folt with a medallion of AUK’s seal, and Folt presented Shaikha Dana with a clock that has two faces, one set to the time at AUK and the other to the time at Dartmouth.

“Dartmouth’s entire community has benefited from the deep, symmetrical alliance that our two institutions share,” Folt said. “The breadth and depth of partnerships between the faculty, students, and staff at both schools serve as a powerful cross-cultural model for liberal arts education in the 21st century.”

The AUK leaders also met with students at a reception at the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, and attended a dinner at the president’s house.

Group photo on previous page of (from left) Dale F. Eickelman, Carol L. Folt, Sheikha Dana Nasser Al-Sabah and Earl L. (Tim) Sullivan

Photo above of Dartmouth Interim President Carol L. Folt signing the agreement.



The Diplomacy of the Holy See

Archbishop Petar Rajic

The Department of International Relations at AUK hosted a talk last October by His Excellency Archbishop Petar Rajic, Vatican Ambassador-Apostolic Nuncio in Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Apostolic Delegate in the Arabian Peninsula. The talk provided an overview of the Holy See as an active participant in international diplomacy. AUK Interim President Dr. Nizar Hamzeh attended the event and gave the opening remarks. The event saw a full-house attendance by the public community. The Chronicle publishes an excerpt from the talk in the following pages.

“Since the Holy See is an active participant in international diplomacy, it is only fitting to offer some brief reflections on the diplomacy of the Holy See.

***Papal diplomacy** is almost as old as the papacy since the Apostolic See has sent and received diplomatic missions from the early centuries of the Church. The Holy See’s diplomatic history began in the fourth century, but the boundaries of the papacy’s temporal power have shifted over the centuries. From the 8th century through the middle of the 19th century, the Popes held sway over the Papal States, which included a broad band of territory across central Italy. In 1860, after prolonged civil and regional unrest, Victor Emmanuel’s army seized the Papal States, leaving only Rome and surrounding coastal regions under papal control. In 1870, Victor Emmanuel captured Rome itself and declared it the new capital of Italy, ending papal claims to temporal power. Pope Pius IX and his successors disputed the legitimacy of these acts and proclaimed themselves to be “prisoners” in the Vatican. Finally, on 11 February 1929, the Italian Government and the Holy See signed three agreements resolving the dispute: A Treaty recognizing the independence and sovereignty of the Holy See and creating the State of the Vatican City; a Concordat defining the relations between the government and the church within Italy; and a Financial Convention providing the Holy See with compensation for its losses in 1870. A revised concordat, altering the terms of church-state relations, was*

signed in 1984. Created therefore in 1929, to provide a territorial identity for the Holy See in Rome, the Vatican City State is a recognized national territory under international law. The Holy See enters into international agreements and receives and sends diplomatic representatives.

What is the Holy See?

It could be cast as a hybrid of the global and the local - touching nearly one fifth of the world's population and reach into every local community - or a mixture of a state and a religion. Briefly, it is the universal government of the Catholic Church and it operates from the Vatican City State, a sovereign, independent territory of 0.44 square kilometres. The Pope is the ruler of both the Vatican City State and the Holy See. The Holy See acts and speaks for the whole Catholic Church. It is also recognised by other subjects of international law as a sovereign juridical entity under international law, headed by the Pope.

A question often asked is: "Why does the Holy See take such an active part in the international forum? And why do so many countries seek official contacts with the Holy See?" Political support or material aid they will certainly not expect. What they do seek is what the Holy See, by its very nature and tradition, can offer: orientation and spiritual inspiration that should animate the life of nations and their mutual relationships. The Holy See also consults and cooperates with States on international issues of mutual interest, including human rights, inter-religious understanding, peace and conflict prevention, development, and environmental protection.

Vatican City State

Vatican City is the physical or territorial base of the Holy See, almost a pedestal upon which is posed a much larger and unique independent and sovereign authority: that of the Holy See. The Vatican City State itself also possesses a personality under international law and, as such, enters into international agreements. However, it is the Holy See which internationally represents Vatican City State. In fact, when the Holy See enters into agreements for the Vatican City State, it uses the formula: "acting on behalf and in the interest of the State of Vatican City." States, then, do not entertain diplomatic relations with Vatican City State, but with the Holy See.

Holy See Diplomacy Today

180 independent States have diplomatic relations with the Holy See out of a total of 196 or 197 countries of the world if one were to include Taiwan. The most recent country to establish relations with the Holy See was South Sudan on 22 February 2013. 16 States have yet to establish formal diplomatic ties with the Holy See and they are: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Brunei, China, Comoros, North Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Myanmar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tuvalu, Vietnam.

*The Holy See has 110 Apostolic Nunciatures or Embassies throughout the world. Currently, there are 109 Apostolic Nuncios (or Ambassadors of the Holy See) stationed around the world, some of whom are in charge of more than one country. According to data published by the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire* (6 Jan 2013), just under half (48) are Italian, a lower percentage than in the past (in 1961, 48 nuncios out of a total of 58 were from Italy, that is, 83%; in 1978 there were 55 out of 75, or 73%). It was a tendency destined to decrease given that Pope Benedict XVI has raised 41 first time appointed nuncios to the episcopate, of whom only 15 are Italian (37%). However, papal representatives in ecclesiastically and/or politically important countries such as France, Spain, Great Britain, Poland, the United States, Brazil and Italy itself are still Italians. The other nuncios are mainly from Europe (26, of whom six are Polish, 5 Spanish and the same number French). There are also nuncios from Asia (12), North America (7, all Americans), Africa (5) and two from Hispanic America." The diplomatic corps of the Holy See is indeed unique in that it is comprised of archbishops and priest from every continent on Earth.*

The Holy See and the Countries of the Arabian Peninsula

The first country of the Arabian Peninsula to establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See was the State of Kuwait on 21 October 1968. Four other countries followed later in this order: the Republic of Yemen on 13 October 1998, the Kingdom of Bahrain on 12 January 2000, the State of Qatar on 18 November 2002 and the United Arab Emirates on 31 May 2007. The remaining two countries of the Arabian Gulf region, namely, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have not yet established formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See and therefore comprise the territories of the Apostolic Delegation.

In 1999 the Holy See sent its first representative here in the person of Msgr. Giuseppe De Andrea, who initially was Chargé d'affaires with Letters. Roughly a year later he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to the region and elevated to Archbishop. He remained until



his retirement in 2005 and was replaced by Archbishop Paul Mounged El-Hachem who was Nuncio from 27 August 2005 until his retirement on 2 December 2009.

The growth of the Catholic Church in the Arabian Peninsula has been exponential in the last decades. Taking the example of Kuwait, 40 years ago there were only 35,000 Catholics in the country, while today it is estimated that there are close to 350,000. The UAE and Qatar would follow more or less the same pattern. The Catholic faithful in the Peninsula are predominantly ex-patriots or foreign workers from Asia, but there exists a mix of believers from all continents.

The hierarchical structure of the Church in the region is organized into two Apostolic Vicariates, one based in Manama, covering Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, while the second is located in Abu Dhabi, which covers the UAE, Yemen and Oman. Two bishops are present in the region, one for each Vicariate, and the total number of priests is close to 90, along with religious sisters of various congregations. Kuwait has four parishes, Bahrain one, Qatar one, the UAE eight with one more in preparation, Oman four and Yemen four. Each of them is vibrant, very active and in need of more space in order to fulfill its proper pastoral mission. There also exist schools administered by the local Vicariates or religious congregations.

In conclusion, the Holy See has nothing to sell or buy. The Apostolic Nunciatures do not have any visa or consular sections, economic experts or military attaches. The Holy See diplomatic missions are unique in that they act mostly as a form of liaison office between the Holy See - Vatican and the local Churches. At the same time, they are active in contacting the local governments to which they are accredited, in order to strive together towards the noble goal of peace and goodwill, cooperation and coexistence amongst nations and religions, as well as assuring that the various needs of the Holy See, the Church and Catholic faithful are respected and guaranteed.”

His Excellency Archbishop Petar Rajic served as the Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature in Iran from July 1993, until October 1996, when he moved to Lithuania to serve until May 1998. Later, he became the Official of the Secretariat of State in the Vatican City, after which he was appointed as the Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Apostolic Delegate in the Arabian Peninsula in 2009. As of March 2010, he's been serving as Apostolic Nuncio to Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

CGS Visiting Researchers Program

The mission of AUK's Center for Gulf Studies (CGS) is to promote cultural understanding and intellectual interest in the Gulf, and to stimulate original research on Kuwait and the region. One of the important ways the Center supports research is through its Visiting Researchers Program, through which international scholars conducting research on Kuwait are offered an institutional affiliation with the CGS and AUK for the duration of their fieldwork. Visiting researchers may be recent BA graduates conducting preliminary research on a topic they may pursue at the graduate level in the near future (mainly through the Fulbright Student Program), MA and PhD candidates from international universities conducting fieldwork in Kuwait as part of their doctoral dissertation research, or post-doctoral scholars working on new research projects. Their length of stay can be as short as one month and as long as a full academic year.

Through this affiliation, visiting researchers get access to AUK's academic resources, participate in the CGS's activities, and contribute to the academic discourse CGS seeks to cultivate on campus and in Kuwait. They have an office space on campus which allows for direct interaction with students and faculty, which is always extremely interesting and fruitful for both the visitors and the permanent members of the AUK community. Scott Weiner, a 2013-14 visiting researcher and PhD candidate at the George Washington University working on family and kinship in Kuwait, says "My affiliation with CGS allows me access to archival records that are critical for my research on Kuwait's history. It also unlocks a network of scholars and other experts with unparalleled expertise on Kuwait and the Gulf region. Even in the short time that I have been in Kuwait, CGS has been an invaluable resource."

In exchange for their affiliation with AUK, CGS researchers offer service to the center and to the AUK community. This can involve teaching assistance for AUK faculty, conducting workshops and seminars with students, and/or providing administrative support to the CGS (e.g. planning events). They are also given an opportunity to present their research findings in the form of a public lecture or class seminar at the end of their time at AUK.

There is much flexibility built into the program to allow the researchers to shape their service to the university according to their own strengths and interests. "I had come to Kuwait to study attitudes toward women's roles in society and their involvement in political affairs," says Samyah Al-Foory, a visiting researcher at the CGS in the 2012-13 academic year who is now pursuing an MA at Georgetown University. "The CGS helped me meet young women who were the focus of my research. They supported and made possible my idea to start an open discussion forum for young women to discuss current debates on gender issues, and to share their personal experiences. Through the CGS, I was able to organize lectures and a panel discussion for International Women's Day, which helped me connect with politically active women."

The research affiliation between the CGS and visiting scholars is mutually beneficial. According to CGS Director Dr. Farah Al-Nakib, "The program keeps us in touch with the most recent research being conducted on the Gulf, while the opportunity to support new and innovative scholarship enhances the Center's own academic profile. Furthermore, having new scholars working with us keeps things fresh and interesting." The program also plays a key role in connecting young scholars from around the world with each other. "I was an extremely lonely researcher in Kuwait," says Emanuela Buschemi, a current visiting researcher and a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She then started attending the Center's public events and met members of the CGS team and AUK faculty who shared her interests. Her subsequent collaboration with a former CGS researcher encouraged Emanuela to apply for an affiliation herself this year as she researches contemporary Kuwaiti women's identities, and their attempts at/practices of alternative and dissenting forms of citizenship. "Now that I am affiliated with the CGS at AUK I feel I will be able to shape my PhD research in the proper way, under the guidance of Farah Al-Nakib, and with the most helpful insights and suggestions from other staff and visiting researchers."

The Center looks forward to continued affiliations with both emerging and established scholars conducting new and interesting research on Kuwait and the Gulf, and to thereby enhancing the scholarly discourse on campus and in Kuwait.



AUK Students Attend the 4th Annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Manila, Philippines

Humanitarian Affairs, a UK based organization that aims to initiate and support humanitarian relief efforts in countries that are poverty-stricken and disaster-prone, held the 4th annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium in August 2013, in Manila – the Philippines, where youth leaders from over 45 countries around the world met at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC). The American University of Kuwait (AUK) was the only university from the GCC to be present.

To represent AUK and Kuwait, six students were selected based on their commitment, involvement, and dedication to community service, through which each displayed leadership characteristics. The Office of Student Life received the invitation due to the success of its volunteer program “Refuse to Be Ordinary”, which is a program established in October 2011, to provide AUK students with information and opportunities to be significant contributors to the Kuwaiti community through service.

Two chaperones joined the six students to form the AUK delegation:

- Fahad Al Khashti
- Fadwa Al Ajeel
- Fajer Ben Nasser
- Shereen Al Bloushi

- Abdulrahman Chowdhury
- Nour Jaber
- Laveena Lobo (Chaperone)
- Abdulwahab Al Khaldi (Chaperone)

The purpose of the symposium is to gather students from all around the world with the aim to train them to become leaders in their own communities, to exchange personal experiences, and to recognize the importance of leading sustainable, humanitarian projects.

Shereen Al Bloushi, AUK Alumna, described her experience in Manila as “absolutely incredible” with “over 700 delegates from different countries and backgrounds coming together and working towards one common goal. We were like one big family. Everyone was so nice and everyone seemed to be getting along with each other. The whole week was definitely a self-rewarding experience which I’m sure we will all cherish for the rest of our lives.”

The Learning Journey, an initiative by Humanitarian Affairs, brings volunteers from different national, cultural, social and racial backgrounds, and engages them with service projects which benefit local communities. As part of the field activities, which were organized by Habitat for Humanity, delegates of the symposium were assigned to volunteer in one of two areas; construction work, or teaching at an elementary school.



The AUK delegates were assigned to construction work in the impoverished area of Bistekville Payatas, in the outskirts of Quezon City, where they helped build housing for local teachers. The experience exposed them to what it is like to live harsh conditions as they witnessed first-hand how the people come together to make their community a happier and healthier place to live in.

Fajer Ben Nasser, a Sophomore student, was moved by her experience. "This week made me realize that we should all appreciate what we have now, because there are in fact bigger problems in this world, making ours seem way too small. This symposium was one big step towards our future plans," she said.

"The Habitat experience made me realize how lucky we are. We should all step in and help those in need," added Fahad Al Khashti, a Junior Marketing Major.

During the symposium, the participants also had the opportunity of listening to some key humanitarian and motivational speakers who have dedicated their lives to help others.

"After listening to the speakers, I know that there is so much we can do now, starting by helping everyone have a little more faith and a little more courage to make a change," said Nour Jaber, a Computer Engineering student.

AbdulRahman Al Chowdhury, a Senior completing a double major in Accounting and Management, explained that he found the speeches inspiring and insightful. "The speakers definitely moved us," he added.

At the closing ceremony, AUK's Fadwa Al Ajeel, a Junior Finance Student, along with Shereen Al Bloushi were



selected to participate in the final segment. Al Ajeel acted as a host in presenting the final speeches while Al Bloushi was asked to speak about her week-long experience in Manila.

Humanitarian Affairs offers an internship to a select group of applicants. Shereen Al Bloushi was one of the few delegates to have been selected by Humanitarian Affairs for a 12-month internship in Thailand. She will leave to Thailand in December 2013.

At the closing ceremony, it was announced that the 5th Annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium would be held in Taipei, Taiwan, and the board of Humanitarian Affairs, United Kingdom, urged young leaders to attend this upcoming event and be part of this educational opportunity.

Photos courtesy of Student Life, AUK



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT:

Marcella Kulchitsky

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design

1) Please introduce yourself...

I am an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design. I hold a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) from Boston University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I also studied in Parson's School of Design in Paris, in Yale University in New Haven, and in Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

2) What were you doing before joining the AUK community?

Before moving to the Middle East, I worked in the United States for 15 years as a designer and eventually as a Creative Director for two east-coast firms in the Washington D.C. area. My projects included, managing the design renovation of the Panda Exhibit at the National Zoo, developing signage systems for several office complexes and a hospital in Korea, as well as the design of brand identities for many multinational companies.

In 2002, my husband, Dr. Roman Kulchitsky, and I moved to Beirut, Lebanon to teach and work at the American University of Beirut (AUB). At AUB, I held the position of Visiting Lecturer, as well as Art Director for the University's Alumni Magazine. After completing the design and development of the Alumni Magazine, I began working on other University publications that focused on fundraising and University development. My last project involved rebranding the University's Hospital.

In addition to my responsibilities at AUB, I also put my expertise in corporate communications and environmental graphic design to work on outside projects. For example, I developed the brand identity and trilingual signage system for the Wellspring School, a private K-12 Academy in Beirut.

3) How long have you been a member of the AUK community?

After the war in Lebanon in 2007, my husband and I decided to move to Kuwait and accept positions the American University of Kuwait. We are now in our 7th year at AUK.

4) Which department/division did you start with when you first joined AUK? (If different from the current)

Since I joined AUK, I have been working with the Department of Art and Graphic Design. I have also served as the Department's Lecture coordinator from 2012; Internship Coordinator from 2009 as well as served as the Program Lead in 2011-12. These experiences have

enabled me to be tapped into the local design scene in Kuwait and in the Gulf region at large.

5) Are you currently a member of any AUK based committees? If yes, please identify which ones.

I have recently agreed to be a part of the steering committee for the Graphic Design Accreditation Committee within my department. I was also co-organizer of the President's Exhibition and am a judge and mentor for the graphic design Capstone projects.

6) What is your most memorable moment in AUK?

There are actually two moments so far; the most memorable moment for me personally was walking across the stage to receive my 5 year service award during the Faculty Awards night in 2012; the second moment was again on stage, but this time during an AUK graduation ceremony when a special group of design students were graduating.

7) What advice would you give to your students?

It has been a priority of mine, even as a student, and especially since I've been teaching, to push students outside their 'comfort zone; outside their immediate surroundings' to gain a broad view of design. I believe it's important as an artist, as a designer and as a human being not to just be aware of but to be a participant in what is happening in the world.

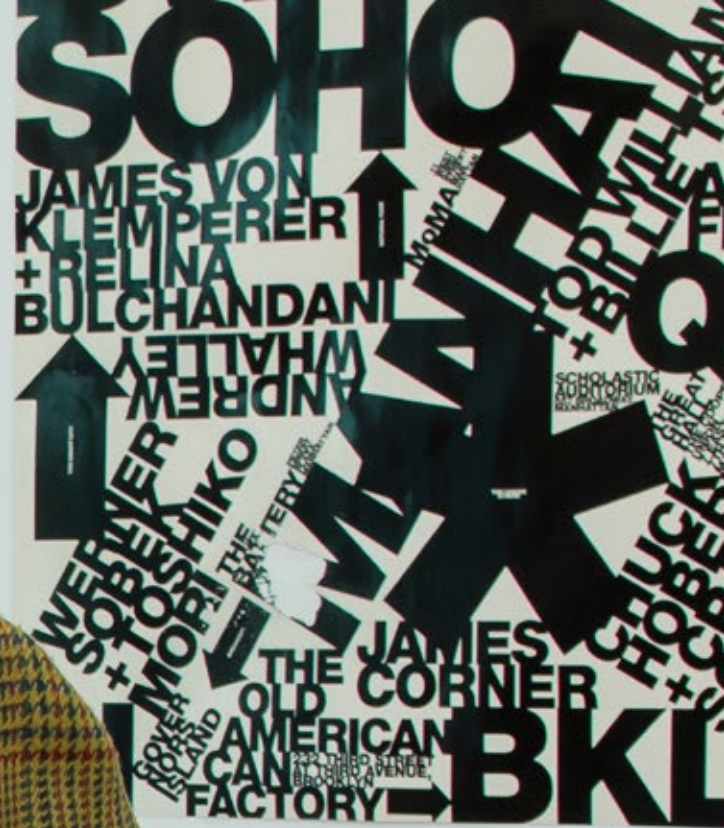
8) What are the achievements that you would like to share with the AUK community?

My recent appointment as a Board Member to the Middle East Design Educators Association, MEDEA is an exciting moment for me. MEDEA is a new association in the Middle East, mainly in the Arab region and the Gulf.

I genuinely believe that my appointment and association with the organization will help me make significant contributions to the pedagogy and learning experience of students in the GDES program at AUK. I have also been very appreciative for the numerous congratulations from design graduates and current students. Obviously, that is thanks to the announcement on AUK's website over the summer.

One of my contributions to the Board will be to spark an effort for collaboration and exchange amongst the regional schools and students participation in events across borders. The schools represented by the board are not centered on graphic design, rather a rich combination of interior design, product, fashion, jewelry, and fine art concentrations.

In November, during the first symposium, I will report on my experiences at AUK, and in Kuwait at large.



I think it's an exciting time to be in Kuwait, to be part of AUK and now with MEDEA. I look forward to drawing from my professional, academic and social experiences during my appointment.

MEDEA is now supported by the AIGA, American Institute of Graphic Arts, a well-established organization in the United States. In fact I've been a member of AIGA since undergraduate school. Sorry, I won't give you the "member since" date!

The AUK-to-Dartmouth Student Internship: “A Journey of Self Discovery”

“It was a pleasure to oversee the two AUK interns, because both of them were settled and well-rounded young ladies to handle both the transition and the experience of being abroad in a different culture and the full work schedule demanded of them. They were excellent emissaries to represent AUK.” This is how Dr. Ghazi Nassir, the Summer AUK fellow at Dartmouth, described the two Dartmouth interns for 2013, Stephanie Khalil and Muneera Al-Khulaifi.

Khalil and Khulaifi were the two students representing AUK this Summer at the AUK-Dartmouth cross-cultural internship program. Administered through the AUK Student Affairs Office - in collaboration with the Dartmouth-AUK Program office - the internship program aims to expose AUK students to the US culture and professional life through a one-month internship program in Dartmouth.

Muneera Al-Khulaifi, a Junior majoring in English Literature enjoys language teaching. Her internship with the Accelerated Language Programs at the Rassias Center for World Languages and Cultures has given her the opportunity to reinforce her linguistic skills by doing a Spanish immersion course. Al-Khulaifi also found Dartmouth a wonderful place to fulfill her photography interests. Her camera was always into position to capture her most memorable moments at Dartmouth.

As a third-year student majoring in Media and Communications, it was important for Khalil to get firsthand experience on the practice of journalism and public affairs. Khalil describes her internship at the Dartmouth Hood Museum of Art and at the Office of Public Affairs as a “valuable experience” allowing her to apply what she learned in class to real life “It’s safe to say that I gained a lot; I acquired the knowledge of writing for a nonprofit organization, something I hadn’t been exposed to before,” she says.

In the lines that follow, Stephanie Khalil shares her Dartmouth memories with the AUK Chronicle, advising AUK students to join what she described as “a journey of self-discovery.”



AUK student Stephanie Khalil



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Khalil

The Dartmouth Experience: A Worthwhile Chapter of My Life

By STEPHANIE KHALIL

Something I have had the privilege of partaking in. For a whole month, I became familiar with the beautiful green campus, the friendly students, and how unbelievably safe it is to cross the road.

Everything was both expected and unexpected. Regardless of how prepared I was when I left Kuwait, it still took me by surprise how every second of my journey was so valuable.

During the pre-departure meetings at AUK, previous interns expressed nostalgia and enthusiasm as they discussed their time at Dartmouth. I couldn't relate to what they were saying at all; it was difficult to imagine how an internship could be something so memorable.

All that changed the moment I stepped off the Dartmouth Coach. The two-and-a-half hour bus ride from the airport to Dartmouth's campus was worth the wait. Everything looked like it came out of a postcard.

After living in Kuwait, where the weather doesn't allow for much walking outside, Dartmouth's spacious campus left me with muscle cramps within the first couple of days. If you wanted to get around, it had to be on foot.

Throughout the internship, I worked with the Hood Museum of Art and Dartmouth's Public Affairs Office. I was given several tasks to work on. At the Hood, I researched time periods in which artists lived. This was compiled into resource guides for teachers. I also put together two press releases; one for an upcoming exhibition, and the other for an exhibition that was already on display.

I realized how I was applying material I learned from my public relations courses in AUK to real life. It's safe to say that I gained a lot; I acquired the knowledge of writing for a nonprofit organization, something I hadn't been exposed to before.

In the Public Affairs Office, I wrote two articles, one of which we were able to edit and get published on the Dartmouth Now website. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to go through the editing process for the second article.

Working there taught me how to go out into the real world and find stories. It opened my eyes to the fact that writing an article is a long process. Once you see the finished piece, you're left with confidence; you know that, through your efforts, you can and did accomplish this.



Muneera Al-Khulaifi, a fellow AUK intern at Dartmouth that summer, and I always tried to make the best of every minute we had there. One of the many fun activities we took part in was canoeing.

It was so peaceful moving across the river whilst admiring the beautiful landscape that surrounded us. “We had many funny moments,” says Al-Khulaifi. “One of the many was going from laughter to sudden silence as we got closer to a strange object - only to find out that it was a log!”

It’s difficult to find the right words to explain how worthwhile those 30 days were. From getting drenched in June’s pouring rain to playing billiards every night, Dartmouth left me with strong friendships and beautiful memories.

It makes you grow intellectually and personally in ways you never expected. It opens your eyes to a different lifestyle, environment, and culture.

Dartmouth College gave me so much to remember and smile back on. What I can leave you with is this piece of advice: apply! It’s a month full of hard work, adventure, and laughter. Most importantly, it’s a journey of self-discovery.





AUK Students Discover the Wonders of Andalusia

Expanding the learning experience beyond the classroom walls has been always one of AUK's approaches to build globally competent students. ARAB 388 "Study Abroad in Spain" is one of those courses designed to augment the classroom learning by allowing the students to visit sites they have learned about in previous courses.

In order to further their understanding of how the environment of Al-Andalus helped foster creativity and cultural achievement, ARAB 388 students were offered the opportunity to travel to Spain after reading the course textbook *Durub Andalusiyya* by Abd Al-Wahab Al-Hamadi (Beirut: Dar Al-Farabi, 2011).

On the night of 28 March, 20 AUK students and faculty, along with some family members, departed Kuwait for a Spring Break adventure in Al-Andalus organized by the Department of Arabic and Foreign Languages and the Kuwaiti travel company Doroub Andalusiyya.

The group flew first to Madrid, where in the morning a bus was waiting for them for a scheduled four-hour drive south to Granada. This long drive offered them more than enough time to catch up on sleep and take in the scenery "We found Granada in a festive spirit, as our arrival there coincided with Good Friday and the beginning of the Easter weekend. Colorful processions filled the streets," said Dr. Raymond Farrin, Chair of the Department of Arabic and Foreign Languages at AUK and the trip chaperon.



The highlight of the Granada stay was the visit to the Palace of Alhambra (Qasr Al-Hamra). A notable feature of Alhambra is plentiful water, such that its fountains are always supplied by means of aqueducts and pipes. According to Dr. Farrin, the day of the tour was rainy and the group was soaked. "But the rain did not dampen our spirits, and we forgot it as we became increasingly amazed at the wonders of this monument built by the Arabs many centuries ago," said Dr. Farrin.

The group's next stop was Cordoba, former capital of Al-Andalus, site of the Great Mosque (now converted into a cathedral), and scene of the famous,



Photos courtesy of Abdullah Al-Shabeen

high-drama love affair between Princess Wallada and the poet Ibn Zaydun. As their hotel was conveniently located right next to the Great Mosque, the group enjoyed numerous strolls in the old city. They also spent an afternoon visiting the ruins of Madinat Al-Zahra’ and got invited for lunch by a Muslim family at their farm “that seemed more like a little paradise”. An interesting discussion followed about the state of Muslims today in Christian Spain.

From Cordoba, the group also took a day-trip to Seville, former home of the poet king Al-Mu’tamid ibn ‘Abbad, where they toured the palace and the large cathedral, and then took the opportunity to see more of the city by way of horse-drawn carriages. “Particularly beautiful was Seville’s park, which might remind one of an orange grove,” said Dr. Farrin.



On the last day in Spain, the group rode the bus north to Toledo, once a center for translation of Arabic books into Latin. Many of the group then chose to spend the afternoon and evening in Madrid. In that city, some of the group members visited the Santiago Bernabeu and even descended to the field where the Real Madrid players sit during matches. The tour ended at the press room and led into the team’s store. There, and also in the fashionable shops of Madrid, and likewise elsewhere during the visit, shopping opportunities were not missed by the group; “our suitcases came back fully packed,” said Dr. Farrin.

On Friday morning, April 5, it was time to return to Kuwait. The group left Madrid, excited and happy to be seeing family and friends again but sad to be leaving Spain, and filled with memories of a unique educational experience.

“The rain did not dampen our spirits, and we forgot it as we became increasingly amazed at the wonders of this monument built by the Arabs many centuries ago.”

“The Protégés” A Unique Learning Experience



As a liberal arts university, the American University of Kuwait strives to cultivate the concept of lifelong learning by supporting social responsibility initiatives directed to youth development. The third edition of The Protégés Program, held between Kuwait and the UK, is one of those initiatives that aim to discover youth potential and nourish their skills to help them excel in their future careers and contribute positively to the society. Powered by the Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO), the program was held over the course of four weeks and included only 25 distinguished protégés, carefully selected out of 700 applicants. AUK had the opportunity to support this program through allocating its campus facilities for The Protégés’ program activities.

In a press conference marking the official launch of the program, KIPCO executives stressed the company’s interest social responsibility projects that empower youth, highlighting the main objectives and advantages of the program.

“The Protégés is a mentorship program designed to reinforce morals, enhance social and life skills and develop self awareness. It also focuses on improving critical thinking and creativity. This is achieved through workshops, projects, debates and guest speakers who each share their own insights and expertise with the Proteges. It is truly amazing to see how these enthusiastic young people change and develop over such a short period of time.” - Alia Al-Qimlass, Executive Coordinator, The Proteges.

The first phase of the program, held in Kuwait, involved company visits and presentations given by young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, who shared their success stories with the protégés. In the second week, the protégés flew to London, where they attended training sessions and workshops held at King’s College, one of the leading universities in the UK. The protégés’ next stop was Stratford-upon-Avon, a town known for its culture and history being the birthplace of the English dramatist and poet, William Shakespeare. The visit to the UK came as an essential part of the program to engage the protégés in timely activities and life skills such as, leadership, project management, and elevated awareness. The visit also involved fieldtrips, tours to the main historical attractions, and entertainment activities. In addition, the program emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of discipline and commitment. During the program, each protégé received a booklet of rules and regulations coupled with a set of penalties upon violation.

The final week of The Protégés, held again in Kuwait, involved a practical application of the acquired skills, whereby the protégés worked together to plan a social service volunteer project. Over the course of one week, the protégés exhibited their leadership, teamwork, and social awareness skills in initiating project “Relief”, a collaborative volunteer project to support Syrian refugees. The Protégés program was concluded by a mini-graduation ceremony, attended by the protégés and their parents to celebrate their achievements and acquisition of new life skills.



In her closing remarks, Abeer Al Omar, KIPCO Corporate Communications Manager, stressed that “The Protégés programme encourages youngsters to discover their passions, how to relate to society and how to play a part in building Kuwait’s future. We were impressed by the caliber of those young people involved in previous programmes and how their lives changed as a result of taking part. That’s why KIPCO – and a number of Group companies – decided to support Protégés with a combination of funds, resources and practical help. The practical help included the American University of Kuwait providing its campus facilities for the registration, selection and Kuwait-based training, while OSN produced and aired the TV advertisement we broadcast during Ramadan. Apart from helping The Protégés become a big success, the sponsorship also shows what KIPCO Group companies can achieve when we work together as a team. I’m delighted with what we’ve done and I’ve really enjoyed working on the project with colleagues across the Group.”

Abeer explained that the companies backing The Protégés are Burgan Bank, KAMCO, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemicals, Gulf Insurance Group, OSN, Kuwait Hotels, United Networks and the United Education Company.

Guided by a team of mentors in various fields, “The Protégés is a program designed to positively influence the youth of Kuwait, through an inclusive program that combines travel, lectures, group activities, challenges, games and fun.” Participants of the program are “selected based on a thorough screening process ensuring that they meet high standards of excellence.”

As an educational institute AUK believes in the role of co-curricular activities and training programs in building resourceful individuals who can meet the challenges of life. Amal Al Binali, AUK’s Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs told The AUK Chronicle that “programs like The Protégés can make a huge difference in people’s lives. On one hand it offers the young generations a whole new world of opportunities and, on another hand, it benefits the society by creating new generations of leaders, entrepreneurs and socially responsible citizens.” Such initiatives go in-line with the core values of AUK, and thus, we are always keen to maximize our presence in such ventures.”

While The Protégés 3rd Generation has come to a close, The Protégés advise interested applicants to get ready and watch out for Generation 4. More information about the program and its events can be found at <http://www.theproteges.org>.



Global Islamic Marketing: A New Academic Perspective



The concept of modern marketing emerged with the beginning of the fifties in the 20th century in the United States and moved to Europe in the sixties as the industrial companies appeared and volume of trade increased. Since then, the concept of marketing has been developing and diverging to incorporate a range of concepts and activities to accommodate the growing industrial arena around the world. AUK Business Professor Hanan Arnous have introduced a new perspective tracking marketing activities to the early Islamic trading practices in her paper “Merchants’ Ethics and Marketing from the Islamic Perspective” presented in the Forth Global Islamic Marketing Conference (GIMC) in Istanbul, May 2013. In her paper, Arnous provides a comparison of marketing concepts from the western and Islamic perspectives, arguing that early Islamic trade activities incorporated the practices and ethics associated nowadays with contemporary marketing concepts, including marketing mix. According to Arnous, marketing from an Islamic perspective can be defined as “The necessary activities performed to facilitate goods and services via parties accepting to include Islamic codes of ethics to optimize on a

sense of belonging to their societies.” That includes all forms of marketing and advertising for goods and services, provided that they do not involve manipulation, fraud, forgery, or other unethical means.

The first three Global Islamic Marketing Conferences were held on March 2011 in Dubai, Jan 2012 in Abu Dhabi, and Dec 2012 in Cairo. This year’s conference built on and extended the successes of the previous conferences by strengthening its position as a major destination for businesses and academic institutes interested in Islamic Marketing including managers, policy makers, and practitioners. Held in the beautiful city of Istanbul, the GIMC brought together a unique group of academics, researchers, entrepreneurs from all 6 continents: Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America, and South-America.

Another research contribution presented in the conference was submitted by Dr. Aly Mansour, Associate Professor of Management at AUK. His paper, “Classic Banque-Misr as an Islamic Finance Model: 1920-1960” addressed the crucial role banks can play in alleviating socio-economic problems during financial crises, drawing on the example of Banque-Misr which played a pivotal role in sustaining economic growth rates in Misr (Egypt) during the great depression. According to Dr. Mansour, the approach adopted by Banque Misr , focusing on bank-owned projects, helped in addressing issues of poverty particularly that of rural communities in a manner that genuinely addressed the core socio-economic problems during that period. The paper suggests that models like that adopted by Banque-Misr during the period 1920 – 1960 need to be revived nowadays in Misr (Egypt) “... to end, or at least limit, corruption; and start a new era by reducing unemployment, offering better affordable health-care services, rebuilding its economy, education, and scientific research.” Dr. Mansour’s paper was received with great appreciation by the attendees who were impressed by the experience of Banque-Misr, and its survival approaches (93 years) through the times of economic upheavals.

In addition to the main conference, Mansour and Arnous also attended a mini MBA workshop on Islamic Marketing in Istanbul where they received “Certificates of Excellence” on their active roles and participation in all sessions. “The conference program was intensive and busy, we worked from 8am to 5pm everyday “said Dr. Arnous “... nevertheless, we got to release some of the pressure through visiting important tourist sites near GIMC conference site, known as Sultan Ahmet area. Sultan Ahmet area includes Sultan Ahmet’s huge and magnificent masjid, also known as Blue Mosque.” On his part, Dr. Mansour expressed his delightfulness about the overall experience “All in all, it was a great intellectual experience,” he said “we felt proud to represent AUK for the first time in such an important conference.” They returned with a wealth of knowledge and contacts to benefit our students and our colleagues at AUK.

Fifth AUK Fellow Concludes His Visit to Dartmouth College

Dr. Ghazi Q. Nassir, AUK's fifth faculty fellow at Dartmouth College, has concluded his summer at Dartmouth with what he described as prospects for a "life-long project."

The Dartmouth-AUK faculty fellowship program is one of many collaboration programs that link Dartmouth and AUK. Since it started in 2009, five AUK professors have received this grant. This year, Dr. Nassir's research initiative has been hosted by Professor Donald E. Pease/Professor of English Comparative Literature/The Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities /Chair of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. "In spite of his busy schedule, Professor Pease has cooperated with me continuously and, indeed, his positive and supportive attitude and continuous encouragement, especially regarding my efforts to finish my book, were deeply appreciated," Said Dr. Nassir.

Over the course of 6 weeks, Dr. Nassir worked on collecting and investigating data (books, memoirs, articles, etc.), from Dartmouth's Library sources necessary to write his book, *Perceptions and Representations of Islam and Muslims in English Literature*, First Volume.

The book, which has been accepted by the Edwin Mellen Press, gives a historical overview of English writers' popular misconceptions of Islam which resulted in their often hostile attitude towards Islam, its founder, and its followers. It demonstrates, however, that in including a variety of prominent Muslim figures in their literary works, their treatments of these figures and events bear no trace of the folkloric or theological attacks on Islam and its propagators. The book also traces the origins of images of Muslims (Turks and Arabs) in English Literature since the Middle Ages to the present time. The works of literature are analyzed and viewed through historical, political, religious, and cultural contexts to show why these images prevail, and what changes, if any, have been presented.

According to Dr. Nassir, *Perceptions and Representations of Islam and Muslims in English Literature* will contribute to existing scholarship by, first, documenting and contextualizing Christian English writers' perceptions and images of Muslims, Turks, and Arabs over the course of their entire history of interaction, not just a single period. Second, in doing so, it will pay particular attention to continuities and discontinuities that have not been coherently studied in this context, primarily the gradual replacement of "infidels" or "pagans," "Hagarnes" or "Ishmaelites", "Mahometans," or "Saracens" by "Turks", "Arab Terrorists," or "Muslim Terrorists" at the center of Englishmen's fantasies about the Islamic World; the transformation of Christian historical narratives into the secular narratives of the Enlightenment and Modernity; and the roles accorded to Muslims, Turks, and Arabs in each. Third, this study attempts to show how this history matters today, with particular focus on the relationship between East/Islam and West/Christian. The findings reflected could be interesting to Muslims as well as non-Muslims.

According to Dr. Nassir, compiling the information required for his book was a challenging process. Throughout his stay in Dartmouth he read, annotated, and made reflections on hundreds of original sources and relevant texts. "The challenge in working on such an enormous project was the difficulty in obtaining the necessary documents and special collection works," Dr. Nassir explained. "I am happy that during the months of June, July, and August, I devoted full-time work to complete my review of the primary and secondary sources and scholarship that I had obtained from Dartmouth library, one of the leading academic research libraries in the United States, with over five million volumes."

Working with people from different parts of the world is an opportunity valued by many scholars, especially those investigating research areas related to diversity and human interaction. Within his particular field of research, Dr. Nassir sees his fellowship experience as a rich opportunity to meet with people and exchange ideas. "During my visit, I listened to different opinions that I had never considered before. This has helped me to develop new ways of thinking about the issues I have been studying. While the research I have done during this period was particularly important and equally substantial, I sensed that the 45 days of this fellowship period exposed me to experiences which have significantly altered my understanding of the perceptions of "others" by members of religions such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," said Dr. Nassir.



According to Dr. Nassir, the daily obligations of a full-time professor sometimes would slow down his research progress. So, having a full summer dedicated exclusively for research provides time to research in depth. “For me it has yielded all I hoped for and more. I can only encourage every professor at AUK to apply for the fellowship and go to Dartmouth College,” said Dr. Nassir. He also wishes that the two universities would work on extending the duration of the fellowship program to 10 weeks, and to send at least two faculty members, one from each college to Dartmouth.

The fellowship competition is open to AUK faculty members conducting research that can be facilitated by access to Dartmouth’s libraries and museum collections, or to senior administrators pursuing professional development projects that can be guided by Dartmouth mentors. The selection criteria include the proposal’s promise of research outcomes or professional development, alignment with the Strategic Planning Goals of AUK, a project timeline, and appropriate use of Dartmouth resources.

A Word of Appreciation

By Dr. Ghazi Nassir

My summer fellowship at Dartmouth College became possible thanks to my research collaborator Professor Donald E. Pease/Professor of English Comparative Literature/The Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities /Chair of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. In spite of his busy schedule, Professor Pease has cooperated with me continuously and indeed, his positive and supportive attitude and continuous encouragement, especially regarding my efforts to finish my book, were deeply appreciated. I would like also to thank the Professional Development Committee (AY 2012-13) for their vote of confidence. My great and deep gratitude goes to President Nizar Hamzeh for unwavering support to back up the Professional Development Committee’s decision.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Professor Dale F. Eickelman /Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations and Department Chair; Relationship Coordinator, The Dartmouth College – American University of Kuwait Program, and his wife Christine for their generosity. Eickelman’s valuable contribution and constructive suggestions have been certainly indispensable for my research. I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Beth Hindmarsh/Program Manager/ Dartmouth-American University of Kuwait Program. My wife, Janan, my kids and I were extremely touched by her professional dedication and diligent efforts in making this fellowship a tremendous success. Her efforts helped me enormously in my research and life during my stay at Dartmouth College.



The Gulf Studies Symposium Sheds Light on the Gulf Cities Space, Society, and Culture



“The Gulf region ranks among the most urbanized regions in the world, with an average of 84% of the population living in urban areas (which increases to 91% when excluding Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran). Furthermore, the cities of the Arab Gulf coast are currently setting global benchmarks in urban growth rates and city development projects. Given this distinctly urban identity, almost every aspect of Gulf society, culture, and politics can be analyzed and understood through the lens of the city,” said Dr. Farah Al Nakib, Director of the Center for Gulf Studies, in her opening remarks during the Gulf Studies Symposium (GSS) held at AUK last Spring.

Held under the theme “Gulf Cities: Space, Society, Culture,” the objective of the GSS was to analyze Gulf cities from both their historic and present-day perspectives, and to include cities in areas historically, geographically, and culturally connected to the Arab Gulf coastal region: Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and the Red Sea region of Saudi Arabia.

The three-day symposium brought together a total of forty leading scholars from Kuwait, the Gulf and Middle East, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States to present current and innovative research on the space, society, and culture of Gulf cities. The opening keynote speech was given by Dr. Nelida Fuccaro from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, a pioneering historian of Gulf cities and author of the book *City and State in the Persian Gulf: Manama Since 1800*. Dr. Fuccaro analyzed the growth of the field of Gulf urban studies over the past several years, and argued that the burgeoning research on Gulf cities (as demonstrated by the high level of interest and participation in AUK’s inaugural Gulf Studies Symposium on the subject) is helping to overturn the assumption that the rapidly-developing cities of this region are exceptional places that are difficult to understand or research. Dr. Fuccaro’s assessment of the increasing maturity of this particular research field was confirmed during the next three days. Over the course of ten panels (consisting of two to four paper presentations each), two roundtable discussions (with two presentations each), and two special presentations, historians, anthropologists, political scientists, economists, architects, and other scholars engaged in a vibrant and rigorous interdisciplinary discussion on diverse issues related to urbanism and urbanization in the Gulf and Arabian peninsula.

The unique feature of this symposium was that it was interdisciplinary. The panels did not simply examine urbanization in the Gulf from a spatial or architectural perspective, but rather analyzed the production, use, and transformation of space in the Gulf from the pre-oil period until today in relation to various social, political, and cultural dynamics. The



symposium covered many diverse topics—transnational migration, political economy, oppositional politics, social change, art, museums and theater, education—in all of which the city and urban space served as the referents for understanding how the Gulf functions and has changed over time. The papers showed that different actors and agents of city formation exist beyond simply state institutions, developers, and architects; artists, political protestors, and city residents all play important roles in shaping Gulf cities in ways that are starkly different from those presented in master plans. The various panel presentations and discussions gave Gulf cities the analytical depth they deserve by scratching below the surface of the region’s spectacular new architectural projects and analyzing the social, political, and economic strategies and motivations that drive the region’s fast-paced urbanization, and the ways in which the people who live in these cities (nationals and non-nationals) negotiate and/or transgress these strategies.

The first session on “Gulf Cities” included three panels: “Gulf Cities in History” highlighted the international significance of Gulf port cities before oil, “The Politics of Urban Development” analyzed the various political and economic structures, agents, and technologies of power that underpin the planning and development of Gulf cities, and “The ‘Other’ City” considered the recent transformations of cities that were relatively excluded from major state-led oil modernization processes, and their changing relationships with neighboring cities. The second session on “Space” consisted of three panels: “Spaces of Higher Education” examined the role of the college campus in the Gulf as both a social space of everyday experience and as a globalized space of transnational labor migration, “Making and Using Public Space” examined the creation, use, and management of urban spaces regularly considered “public” (namely parks, streets, and squares), and “Rethinking Residential Spaces” examined the social experiences and relationships engendered by the architecture, planning, and governance of neighborhoods (historic inner-city districts, modern suburbs, and gated compounds).

The two panels that made up the third session on “Society” dealt with “Strategies of Urban Control,” which investigated the use of space in state strategies aimed at governing and controlling urban populations and the social relations and experiences produced by these spatial tactics, and “Artistic Practices in the City,” which analyzed how artistic practices in the city counteract prominent narratives of sectarianism in Gulf societies and express political dissent, and how states incorporate works of art into official strategies of urban reconstruction. The last two panels in the session on “Culture” were on “Cultural Strategies of Urban Development” which examined the production of large-scale cultural projects like museums, theaters, and art galleries designed by “starchitects” for global audiences and its implications for local societies and regional dynamics, and “Official vs. Popular Identity Construction in Heritage,” which explored the tensions between dominant/state constructions of national identity and tradition as expressed in museums and sites of cultural heritage, and more popular experiences and interpretations of social belonging/exclusion.

The Gulf Studies Symposium also consisted of two roundtable discussions. The first was on “The ‘Image-ability’ of Gulf Cities,” which addressed the role of the “image” in the making of modern Gulf cities in relation to issues of identity formation, city branding, and spectacular architecture. The second was on “Exporting the Gulf Urban Model,” which addressed the diffusion of Gulf urbanity (commonly known as the “Dubai model”) on other Arab cities (specifically in Egypt and Yemen). There were also two special presentations given: one by Dr. Robert Carter on an archaeological project currently based in Qatar on “The Origins of the Gulf Towns,” and the other by Dr. Marjorie Kelly on “Public Art in the Gulf,” which was accompanied by a photo exhibition.



The symposium on “Gulf Cities” was closed with a concluding speech by Dr. Al-Nakib, in which she argued that Gulf cities, though experiencing a period of rapid growth and expansion, are in a state of urban crisis. Gulf societies’ historic urban identity was defined by their cosmopolitanism, openness to difference, and tolerance of foreigners. Gulf societies today, however, are more exclusive, divided, and intolerant of outsiders and difference. She associated this with their estrangement from city-living over the past half century with the move to the suburbs, and the segregation of people of different backgrounds into separate residential areas and the division of daily functions (work, residence, leisure) into separate zones. She argued that the city is the place where people truly learn how to live with and be more accepting of difference. Dr. Al-Nakib concluded that in the Gulf a restoration of the right to the city and a more rich and diverse urban life—one where people are not segregated, and where work, residence, and leisure spaces are mixed, as in the pre-oil period—is vital for restoring the region’s historic urbanity.

The inaugural Gulf Studies Symposium was extremely successful. In addition to being well attended by members of the public, the event’s high academic caliber cultivated innovative scholarly discourse on the Gulf, fostered new research collaborations between top local and international scholars, and placed AUK in a leading position to help shape the research agenda on the Gulf region.

The CGS will hold the Gulf Studies Symposium on a biennial basis. Each symposium will be based on a different scholarly theme that is timely to both the region and to the field of Gulf studies.

The AUK Center for Continuing Education Expands its Scope of Collaboration



The Center for Continuing Education (CCE), AUK's multi-disciplinary training and development center, strives to cater to the dynamic demands of today's workplace through providing customized courses to professionals and students in various fields. The aim is to support the wider Kuwaiti community and help individuals successfully attain their professional goals.

This year, CCE has undergone a number of changes to meet the needs and interests of its clients. In addition to relocating to an easily accessible facility inside AUK, CCE has put an extensive plan for introducing a new range of courses and workshops.

Earlier this year, CCE started professional development workshops for teachers, covering a range of teaching issues, and hosting a number of

specialists in the different disciplines. "The new workshops generated positive responses among the teaching community in Kuwait, which encouraged us to expand it further to a Certified Teachers Workshop in collaboration with the Midwest Education Group in the United States," said Pareen Tajani, Assistant Director of Operations at CCE. Building on this, CCE is planning to introduce a complete, accredited TESOL program in the near future for current and aspiring teachers of English as a Second Language.

Other new courses on CCE's upcoming agenda include the Project Management Professional Preparation course, requested by several companies and professionals around Kuwait, and interestingly, an Aerophobia (or Fear of Flying) course, which will be offered in collaboration with the Kuwait Flight Simulation Center in November 2013. The course will be followed up by a Basic Flying Skills course, which involves a combination of theoretical and practical training at the Flight Simulation Center.

CCE services have widely penetrated the professional market in the past years to include private companies, banks, and individuals from different backgrounds. Lately, CCE has extended its services to the government sector, offering the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Security General English courses.

In addition to its new courses, CCE will continue to offer its traditional set of courses that attract participants from all ages and walks of life. These include, General English and Business English programs, Leadership and Soft Skills programs, which specifically cater to the workforce in Kuwait; and exam preparation courses, such as the ongoing IELTS preparation courses (in partnership with the British Council and IDP), TOEFL preparation, the Cambridge International Diploma in Business, and many more. The semester-long Bridge program also began recently with a large class of participants, many of whom aim to join the community as AUK students upon completion of their course.

CCE is looking forward with anticipation to this year as their courses expand and develop, aiming to strengthen its connections within both the corporate sector and the community at large.

For more information about the Center for Continuing Education (CCE), please visit its new location, or call 1-802040 / (+965) 2224-8399 Ext. 3197 / 3198 / 3199.

AUK Annual Dinner: A Night of Glamour and Arabian Flair

“Arabian Nights” was the theme of last academic year’s Annual Dinner which took place in May at Al-Fotouh Ballroom, Regency Hotel. Organized by the Human Resources Department, the event brings together AUK employees in celebration of their accomplishments throughout the year. The highlight of the evening every year is the awards ceremony, whereby AUK recognizes employees who have completed five years of service. This year, the awards ceremony was exceptional as it also included - for the first time - “AUK Ten Years of Service Awards”.

The evening commenced with an Andalusian performance by Jayeen Band followed by a welcome note by Mr. Ronald McNeill, HR Director, who then invited Interim President, Dr. Nizar Hamzeh to the podium. In his speech, Dr. Hamzeh acknowledged the attendees for their years of dedication, emphasizing the crucial role all AUK departments play in the continuous advancement of the institution. Dr. Hamzeh concluded his speech by wishing everyone another year of accomplishments and success.

This year, AUK has recognized 32 employees for completing five years of service at the institution. Ten employees comprising the start-up team who joined AUK in 2003 received the special “Ten Years of Service Award”. Following the awards ceremony, guests and awardees were treated to dinner and entertainment including a raffle draw. Sixteen attendees won special prizes offered by the event sponsors: ITC Promotions Co., aDawlah, GIG, IBIS Hotels, KAPICO Travels, Istikbal, Al-Yousifi, and KDCC. Prizes included, valuable electronics, trip tickets, furniture units, among others...

The Annual Dinner is one of the HR activities that aim to boost employee satisfaction and sustain a positive workplace culture within AUK. Every year, the HR team works for months to put together a unique theme for the evening that is meant to make everyone feel special and appreciated. Last year, the theme of the event was “The Red Carpet”, whereby AUK employees were treated as stars walking down the red carpet in a glamorous evening of fashion and flair.



New Staff (as of September 1, 2013)

Name	Joining Date	Position	Department
Einas Al Helwani	15 - Sep - 13	Administrative Assistant	Intensive English Program
Bader Al-Sayed Ahmed	1 Oct 2013	Coordinator of Student Organizations & Student Employment	Office of Student Life
Marie El Neaman	06 - Oct - 13	Administrative Assistant	Office of Dean College of Arts & Sciences (Sciences and Engineering)
Naji Dimachkie	01 - Oct - 13	IT Support Technician	Information Technology
Lama Abdo	29 - Sep - 13	Executive Assistant	Vice President for Student Affairs

New Faculty (as of Fall 2013)

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS (CBE)			
Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics			
Mostaq Hussain	Visiting Associate Professor of Accounting	Ph.D. in Accounting (Management Accounting Performance Measurement in Services), University of Vaasa, Vasa, Finland, 2000	Fall 2013
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES (CAS)			
Department of Computer Engineering (CE)			
Mounib Khanafer	Assistant Professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering	Ph.D. in Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Ottawa 2012	Fall 2013
Seyed Ebrahim Esmacili	Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering	Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, 2011	Fall 2013
Ashraf A. Zaher	Associate Professor of Computer Engineering	Ph.D. in Systems Engineering, Oakland University, Rochester, MI, USA, 2001 & Ph.D. in Control Engineering under a joint supervision from Oakland and Mansoura Universities; Mansoura University, Egypt, 2004.	Fall 2013
Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)			
M. Tariqul Hasan	Visiting Associate Professor of Statistics	Ph.D. in Statistics, Memorial University of Newfoundland, NL, Canada 2005	Fall 2013
Department of English			
Rosalind Buckton-Tucker	Assistant Professor of English	Ph.D. in American Literature, University of Leicester, UK, 1976	Fall 2013
Abid Akbar Vali	Lecturer of English	MA English, Loyola University Chicago, 2001, Certificate in TESOL, Dunedin, NZ, 2011 Ph.D in English, University of Otago, New Zealand (ABD) expected Summer 2013	Fall 2013
Department of Communication and Media			
Dominique Candace	Assistant Professor of Mass Communication and Media.	Ph.D. Mass Communication and Media Studies, Howard University, 2009	Fall 2013
Education			
Abdulaziz Abal	Assistant Professor of Education	Ph.D., Curriculum & Instruction, Florida International University, 2012.	Fall 2013
Intensive English Program (IEP)			
Rachel Sage	Instructor	MA Liberal Arts, International Affairs - Middle East area focus, 2006, Georgetown University, Washington, DC USA, TESOL Certificate, Thailand, 2007	Fall 2013
Mara Lee Blair	Instructor	Master of Arts, Applied Linguistics: TESL, 2009, University of South Florida, FL	Fall 2013

AUK NEWS

FACULTY AND STAFF



AUK Artists Come Together “In the Name of Peace”

As part of Kuwait's celebration of Global Peace Day, an exhibition entitled 'In the Name of Peace' was held at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) showcasing interpretations of 'peace' by local and international artists. The exhibition featured artwork by AUK Graphic Design Professors, Maryam Hosseinnia and William Andersen, as well as pieces by AUK alumnus Faisal Mohammad.

'In the Name of Peace' was launched on September 15th and ran through mid-October. Part of the proceeds collected from sold items were donated to Khair Al-Kuwait, a non-profit foundation devoted to the concept of volunteerism, and Loyac, a non-profit organization working towards the overall development of the youth. The celebration of Global Peace Day also included live music and activities for children, as well as, a 'Global Peace Ride' by the Kuwait Riders and Phoenician Riders.

NEWS



AUK Professor, Mohsen Bagnied, Discusses the Economic Implications of Arab Spring

Dr. Mohsen Bagnied, Chair of the Department of Marketing and Management, presented his latest research contribution in the 2013 Inaugural International Conference on Leadership, Management and Strategic Development. The conference was organized by the Global Institute for Leadership and Management Development on May 13-15 at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) in Saint Thomas. In his paper, “Economic Implications of the Arab Spring: A Framework for Future Development”, Dr. Bagnied and Dr. Mark Speece (the co-author of the paper) proposed a framework which can guide policy in the Arab Spring countries toward sustainable development and economic reform. The paper touches briefly on the implications of the proposed model in Egypt, considered by the authors to be the most important Arab Spring country because of its traditional leading role in the Arab world.

The conference was followed by UVI’s 18th Global Leadership Development Course, which included presentations by Scholars from different parts of the world. Representing Kuwait, Dr. Bagnied gave a talk on global leadership as it concerns U.S. involvement in world affairs. Dr. Bagnied stressed the importance of genuine involvement in human sufferings from a global perspective. “We need to fight for peace everywhere not just here,” he said “We need to fight for people in Burma and Syria or the same things that are happening there will come here.” When asked about the way to establish global awareness among American youth, Dr. Bagnied pointed to education as the gateway to establishing “dynamic leadership among communities.”

Alongside his scholarly contribution, Dr. Bagnied chaired 3 conference sessions on different topics related to leadership development. He was also featured in a morning radio show in Virgin Island, where he discussed his research, and talked about life in Kuwait. “I was proud to follow the reactions on my radio interview and find that some followers have actually expressed interest in visiting Kuwait,” said Dr. Bagnied.

NEWS



TESOL Kuwait – ‘Job-Alike’ and Toastmasters – at AUK

Since its launch in December, 2012, TESOL Kuwait, the local association of teachers of English to speakers of other languages, has become very popular, with approximately 500 members. On Saturday, October 5, 2013, TESOL held a highly successful open meeting hosted by the American University of Kuwait (AUK).

Educators had the chance to participate in a free event called “Network Connecting: Common Challenges and Sharing Successes.” The many teachers who attended this session had the chance to find out how professional development can be more than just workshops and presentations. The purpose of this ‘Job-Alike’ session was to provide an opportunity for teachers and administrators with similar job responsibilities to join together in a facilitated, highly interactive way. Participants in similar jobs gained the chance to network and develop connections with other professionals focusing on common challenges and successes.

TESOL Kuwait has a number of special interest groups, and one of them is unique in that it is the first in the world to combine the goals of TESOL and the international association for public speaking, leadership, and communication: Toastmasters. At the Saturday event, TESOL Toastmasters hosted an organizational meeting of Toastmasters. Distinguished Toastmasters provided highly entertaining demonstration speeches, and teachers had the opportunity to improve their public speaking skills.

For further information about on how to become a TESOL Kuwait member or to attend their conference please go the following website: tesolkuwait.org

NEWS

AUK Moves Toward Establishing Regional and International Presence

Having completed a decade of excellence in higher education in Kuwait, AUK is moving with steady steps towards expanding its presence both, on a regional and an international level. The expansion plan includes a campus renovation plan, introduction of new majors and programs, completing the international accreditation of existing programs (AACSB, ABET, NASAD), and introducing study abroad opportunities with selected U.S. universities for AUK students.

One of the new academic programs AUK is intending to introduce is Human Resources (HR). The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has recently acknowledged the AUK planned HR major as fully aligning with SHRM's HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates.

Throughout the world, 335 programs in 234 educational institutions have been acknowledged by SHRM as being in alignment with its suggested guides and templates. AUK has the first SHRM-aligned HR major in the Middle East.

The HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates were developed by SHRM to define the minimum HR content areas that should be studied by HR students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The guidelines -- created in 2006 and revalidated in 2010 and 2013 -- are part of SHRM's Academic Initiative to define HR education standards taught in university business schools and help universities develop degree programs that follow these standards.

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in 140 countries and more than 575 affiliated chapters.

AUK is institutionally accredited by the Private Universities Council in the State of Kuwait. Business Programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Programs in Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities are accredited by The American Academy for Liberal Education's (AALE). The AUK Intensive English program is accredited by the Commission for Intensive English Program Accreditation (CEA).



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