

4th Edition

March 2007

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A Message from Dr. Marina

Dear AUK Faculty and Staff,

It has been a wonderfully busy winter, and I wish to congratulate everyone for successfully completing the Fall 2006 semester. The highlight of the semester was the Liberal Arts Week. Between December 9th and 13th, Liberal Arts Week brought together the Board of Trustees meeting, the Fall Academic Showcase, and many other cultural and academic activities. It culminated in the dedication and formal opening of the new Liberal Arts Building, bringing together members of the entire AUK community, important visitors, and the press. Among the guests attending the diverse events was Dr. Barbara Brittingham of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, who has now submitted the report of her AUK visit directly to NEASC. Our consultations with her on matters of accreditation will continue, and the AUK Accreditation Steering Committee will reconvene after we hear from NEASC subsequent to their early-March meeting.

At this midway point of the academic year, there are many future events that we are planning for and are involved with: the AUK staff dinner, faculty promotion, catalogue revision, and new faculty and staff recruitment. The search for a new Dean of Academic Affairs is continuing, the faculty contract renewal process is beginning, and the promotion review is underway. The 2007 – 2008 edition of the AUK Catalog include several new minors, while the Graphic Design Program is expanding to a major. Proposals developed after February 2007 will have a 2008 effective date. Recruitment for faculty vacancies is continuing, and candidate interviews will occur in Washington, DC in late March. Several staff vacancies are being advertised as well; all position postings are available on the AUK website.

This winter, increasing numbers of AUK faculty have been attending the cultural events sponsored by Dar Al-Athar al-Islamiyyah. It is a special pleasure to note that a great deal of favorable publicity surrounded Dr. Lisa Urkevich's DAI presentation of "Sawt: The Art Song of Kuwait." The spring semester allows several opportunities for student and faculty participation in conferences and showcases. The Spring Academic Showcase will take place on May 13 and 14. The Division of Business and Economics will hold the second annual conference on Liberal Education and Business later that week, on May 15th and 16th, 2007. Other academic conferences, field trips, and study-abroad programs are being planned as well.

AUK students are able to engage in more, and more varied activities on campus. The new tent, pitched on the northeast corner of the campus, will increase our capacity to house all sorts of student activities, with programming to be led by Student Affairs and by the Student Government Association. We look forward to these events, as well as the campus celebration of the graduation of a fresh class of eligible senior candidates. The graduation date for 2007 has been set for June the 19th.

This semester we welcome back Hema Mohan, our former Dartmouth intern who has returned to AUK as a Fulbright Scholar. We also welcome Dr. Michael Herb, a Fulbright Fellow from Georgia State University who is conducting his research in Kuwait and teaching a course on Arab Politics, and Dr. Richard Norton of Boston University (Political Science and Anthropology). Finally, "welcome aboard" to Dr. Ildiko Kaposi, our new Assistant Professor of Communication (Ph.D. Central European University, 2006).

Dr. Cripps participates in the Inaugural Kuwait Conference on Public Relations

Sponsored by the Kuwait Times, Dr. Jeremy Cripps was a delegate at the Inaugural Kuwait Conference on Public Relations. This conference, held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel highlighted the distinction between public relations and marketing. The Public Relations professionals in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf are beginning to recognize the weakness of their “pretend” society. The conference participants identified the need for companies to be more transparent. Outdated cultural norms are being challenged, and since knowledge is power, Public Relations professionals need to recognize corporate reality if their clients are to earn the trust necessary for commercial expansion in our

Dave McHardy and Jeremy Cripps attend Quality Assurance Seminar

Director of Continuing Education, Dave McHardy and Professor Jeremy Cripps attended the Quality Assurance Seminar “*The Methods and Approaches to Institutional Audit*” which was held at the SAS hotel from January 15 – 17, 2007. The conference was sponsored by the Council for Private Universities and the British Council Kuwait. The General Secretary of the Council for Private Universities, Dr. Imad Al-Atiqi chaired the conference. Mrs. Nicola Channon, Head of Operations at the Quality Assurance Agency, United Kingdom, presented the procedures adopted for the audit and accreditation of universities in the United Kingdom. The objective of the conference was for Gulf university accrediting agencies and associated personnel to compare and contrast operations and to share the experiences of the Quality Assurance Agency, United Kingdom.

AUK’s Marketing Club sponsors lecture by US Embassy Official

The Marketing Club, supervised by Dr. Mohsen Bagnied, invited US Embassy First Secretary and Commercial Attaché Eric Hunt to visit AUK and present a lecture on the practical problems of marketing and doing business in Kuwait. Secretary Hunt explained in detail the practical problems which have to be overcome in introducing high end cosmetic products into the Kuwait market. Secretary Hunt also identified problems in marketing an equine shampoo to the horsemen of Kuwait.

Florin Nichita at the Isaac Newton Institute

Florin F. Nichita, Ph. D. (Mathematics) attended the conference entitled “Trends in Noncommutative Geometry” at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, between December 18 and December 22, 2006.

Some of Dr. Nichita’s research work was presented as a poster: “Yang-Baxter operators and Yang-Baxter systems from algebra structures” in collaboration with Dr. Deepak Parashar from University of Warwick, UK / Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Bonn, Germany.

The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences is a national and international visitor research institute in Cambridge, U K. It runs research programs on selected themes in mathematics and the mathematical sciences, with applications in a very wide range of science and technology. It attracts leading mathematical scientists from the UK and from overseas to interact in research over an extended period.

MUNAUK Wins at BUMUN

The members of the Model United Nations at the American University of Kuwait (MUNAUK) participated in an International Model United Nations conference in Bahrain on Saturday December the 10th and Sunday December the 11th, 2006.



Our AUK delegates, representing various countries from around the world, went to the Bahrain Universities Model United Nations Conference (BUMUN), and competed against fourteen other universities in parliamentary debate and negotiation. Issues discussed ranged from nuclear terrorism and non-proliferation in the International Atomic and Energy Agency Committee to the degree of acceptable intervention for humanitarian purposes, HIV / AIDS prevention, and the increase of the use of bio-fuels in the General Assembly Committee.

Despite there being over 200 students at BUMUN, AUK stood out and made a positive impression. The AUK delegates had spent weeks studying Parliamentary Procedure, debating styles, and public speaking skills under their faculty advisor, Ms. Shareefa Al-Adwani, a faculty member in the History and International Studies Department, and were confident about how to proceed during the conference.

Fahad Mohammed, representing Norway, won the General Assembly's First Place "Diplomacy Award" for passing his resolution on a crisis situation involving North Korea testing a missile off the coast of Japan, for leading debate on all issues, and for his exceptional diplomatic negotiating skills. Fahad Al-Tukhaim, representing South Korea on the IAEA, had single-handedly gotten North Korea to disarm its nuclear program, passed a resolution, and got several clauses and amendments passed.

Also in the General Assembly, Bader Al-Shammaa, representing South Korea, maintained a strong stance against North Korea, while Abdul Aziz Al-Adwani, representing Cyprus, brought forward key networking skills to unite the delegations during unmoderated caucuses. Abdulla Al-Shanfa, representing the Seychelles in the General Assembly, researched critical information to put forward when the crisis situation involving North Korea occurred.

AUK had received certificate awards for the participation of all MUNAUK delegates, and has been invited to return to Bahrain for its 2007 BUMUN conference.

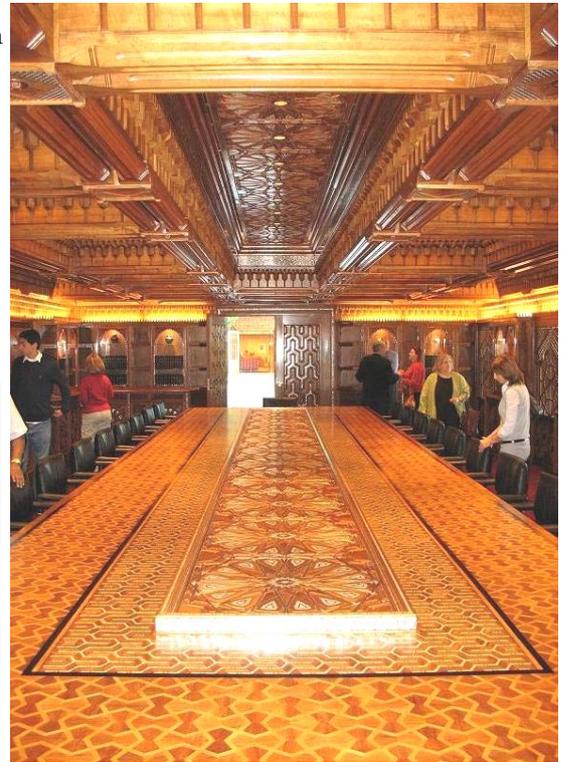
MUNAUK would like to thank the American University of Kuwait for believing in the team and for giving MUNAUK the opportunity to make a successful international academic impact.

AUK Group Tours Local Architectural Marvel

Dr. Pamela DiIulio led a group of AUK Faculty and Staff on a tour of **The Arab Organizations Headquarters Building**, situated outside Kuwait City in Shuwaikh. This is considered one of the finest architectural blends of modern building technique with traditional artisan crafts from Arabic cultures. The tour celebrated the visit of Dartmouth Professor Dr William Cook who was visiting the AUK campus and teaching a special course on literature. This was also an opportunity for AUK faculty to enjoy one of the world's leading examples of promotion of the Liberal Arts in the Middle East.

The participants were:

Dr. Pamela Allegretto DiIulio (Organizer); Mrs. Andrea P. Al-Adwani; Dr. Mohsen Bagnied; Prof. William Cook (Dartmouth); Prof. Jeremy Cripps; Mrs. Maria Efthimiadis; Dr. Nauman Farooqi; Dr. Christopher Gottschalk; Mrs. Maha Hurayki Khlat; Dr. Kevin Peppard



Our Visiting Fulbright Fellows

Dr. Michael Herb



Dr. Michael Herb

Dr. Herb will be with us during the spring semester conducting research and teaching a course on Arab Politics. His research is on Kuwaiti politics, specifically the relationship between the Majlis al-Umma (National Assembly) and the government, to better understand how this has changed over time, and the degree to which Kuwait is - or is not - moving in a more democratic direction. Dr. Herb received his PhD from UCLA, and is currently an associate professor at Georgia State University. He was in Kuwait as a Fulbright student in 1993-94, and later published a book that drew, in part, from his research in Kuwait titled "All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution and Democracy in the Middle Eastern Monarchies." Dr. Herb has also written on oil and politics, and democratization in monarchical systems of government.

Ms. Hema Mohan



Ms. Hema Mohan

Ms. Mohan will be at AUK through November 2007 conducting research on a system to standardize transliteration from Arabic into English. The first portion of her grant was in Yemen, where she attended Arabic language courses. Additionally, Hema is returning as an Administrative Intern in Student Life, where she first worked as a Dartmouth intern in the spring of 2005. Ms. Mohan graduated from Dartmouth College in 2006 with an A.B. in Arabic and Spanish.

Recent Talks by Lisa Urkevich

Lisa Urkevich, Ph.D. (Music) has presented a paper at the American Historical Society Conference in Atlanta, USA, on the "Battle Songs of Arabia." Following this, she gave a lecture at Dartmouth University on the "Sea Songs of Kuwait," and later in January presented her research on "Aswat: Art Song of Kuwait" at the Dar Al-Athar al-Islamiyyah which was well received locally.



Dean Sean Dollman Joins SunGard Advisory Board

Dean Sean Dollman has recently been appointed to the 20-member Unified Digital Campus (UDC) Advisory Board that represents SunGard Higher Education's global client base of 1,600 universities. The UDC Advisory Board is charged with providing critical product direction to SunGard Higher Education executives and product managers regarding the development, enhancement and implementation of all aspects of the Unified Digital Campus. The appointment is to fill a two-year term on the UDC Advisory Board beginning January 2007 and the Advisory Board is scheduled to meet twice annually. The American University of Kuwait currently utilizes several SunGard Higher Education Unified Digital Campus solutions including Banner Student, Banner Finance, Banner Human Resources as well as the Luminis portal.



Published Work

Marina Tolmacheva (president, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences) published two articles, "Cartography" and "Geography, Chorography" in *Medieval Science, Technology and Medicine: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Thomas F. Glick, Steve J. Livesey, Faith Wallis. (New



Ann Scholl's work named to YBP's "Core 1000"

Descartes's Dreams: Imagination in the Meditations, by Dr. Ann Scholl, philosophy, has been named to the Yankee Book Press "Core 1000." Each year, YBP selects 1000 books out of the approximately 50,000 academic books published per year as a purchasing guide for academic libraries. YBP describes the Core 1000 as a "service to aid academic libraries in assessing current collections and to allow smaller academic libraries the opportunity to benefit from participation with a seasoned vendor in collection development. Each quarter year YBP will release a segment of the Core 1000 list that will include 250 titles. The Profiling Bibliographers at YBP select these titles for inclusion on the list. The selection process is complex. The profiling unit, which describes each title book-in-hand, will maintain lists of titles each quarter within the subject matter specialty assigned to that Profiler. Thereafter, the titles selected are carefully screened to identify major titles that will stand the test of time and be expected to be contained within good collections. The four quarterly lists of 250 titles will be combined in February and form the Core 1000 for that year. The skill, judgment, knowledge and experience of YBP's profiling bibliographers are the foundation upon which the Core 1000 is built. Thus, the intellectual honesty in describing titles, a proud YBP hallmark, will remain and neither publishers nor trends will influence the selection of titles for the benefit of academic libraries."

For more information, see:

http://www.ybp.com/acad/Core1000/core1000_q3_2006.htm



New Appointments:

Dr. Marjorie Kelly has been appointed Coordinator of the Gulf Studies Program.

Mr. Fernand Tessier has been appointed Coordinator of the Math Program.

Recipients of Research Grants and Professional Development Awards

Research Initiation and Completion grants AY 2006-07:

Hesham Al-Awadi (History)

Conerly Casey (ANSO)

Juliet Dinkha (Psychology)

Christopher Gottschalk (Drama)

Lisa Urkevich (Music)

Professional development (conference travel, Fall 2006 awards only) funds:

Rawda Awwad (English)

Mohsen Bagnied (Business)

Charles Mitchell (Communication)

Florin Nichita (Mathematics)

Mary Queen (English)

Lisa Urkevich (Music)

Upcoming Events

March 2007

31 Sa Prophets Birthday. University closed.

April 2007

3 T Midterm grades for Fall semester courses due.

7 Sa Spring Break. No classes.

14 Sa Classes resume.

May 2007

30 W Last day of classes for Spring semester and 2nd Block courses.

Submissions



Dear colleagues,

If you would like to publish anything in the next edition of the **AUK*Chronicle***, kindly email me your submissions at:

rsamerai@auk.edu.kw

Deadline for submissions: *May 10, 2007.*

All photos courtesy of the Public Relations & Marketing Department.

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