POSITIVE ENERGY FROM AURAK STUDENTS

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN A SMILE

By Mass Communication Students
“Dreaming about future”

Photo Credits: Khaled Mohamad, AURAK Student
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“AURAK IS SACSCOC ACCREDITED”

“WHEN I FELL FROM THE SKY”

“Suddenly, I was outside the plane and it fell to pieces at the height of about two miles.”
Juliane Koepcke
Sole survivor of a plane crash
10 BEST MOVIES OF 2019

THE SPIRIT OF FASHION AT AURAK
The American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) has officially been granted institutional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Our dream was achieved in record time on this historical day. **Congratulations!**

December 11th, 2018

AURAK IS SACSCOC ACCREDITED

STUDYING AT A STANDARDIZED, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITY

By Maha Eid Alshehhi

The SACSCOC accreditation is undoubtedly a great benefit for us students. It means exceptional quality education and an open world of opportunities. It means that all AURAK students will be offered degrees equivalent to ones offered in the southern states of America.

Gaining the accreditation of SACSCOC is an outstanding achievement for the American University of Ras Al Khaimah! This is a goal the University has been working towards for so long with strong efforts to achieve! What does studying at an accredited university mean? This is a question that all current and upcoming university students ask. It means an exceptional quality education and an open world of opportunities. It means that all AURAK students will be offered degrees equivalent to ones offered in the southern states of America. The SACSCOC accreditation is undoubtedly a great benefit for us students. We are delighted to be part of a standardized, internationally recognized university. It is proudly stated that through the AURAK family continually contributing to make sure the university improves in order to maintain a high standard of education and ensure the well-being of the staff and the students, AURAK has earned the accreditation. Not only that, but AURAK also made sure that its campus honors the quality of education it offers.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) officially announced the accreditation of the American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK) at its 2018 Annual Meeting which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the United States of America, December 8-11, 2018.
AURAK has improved dramatically as we now have our own statue to present the mascot of our university; large fields to host events, sports games, and competitions; and indoor facilities such as gymnasiums both for games and equipment. To top it all, our campus dorms excel in ensuring that our students are able to come from all over the country and live comfortably only minutes away from their next class. The location of the dorms are also quite convenient as they aren’t too far away from anything: malls, supermarkets, restaurants, etc. The university has made sure it kept improving and in 2018 was able to introduce the new Business School building for a better educational atmosphere. All this has been done in the time span of a few years. It is obvious that the changes that have occurred are extraordinary. SACSCOC members are among many who can see the improved quality of our institution. Well done to the AURAK Family!

AURAK is the first institution in the Middle East to receive the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) institutional accreditation. SACSCOC is an American regional accreditation body of eleven Southern states of the USA and in Latin America for institutions of higher education, which awards associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and/or doctoral degrees.
BE CURIOUS AND THEN CREATE A STORY

THE BOOK “People of Ras Al Khaimah”, sponsored by the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation and Ras Al Khaimah Media Office.
The American University of Ras Al Khaimah’s Mass Communication Program, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art and Sciences, hosted on 14 February 2019 a guest lecturer, Mr. Jeff Topping - Photojournalist and Travel Photographer with more than 25 years of experience in more than 20 countries.

Mr. Jeff was based in Arizona in the U.S. prior to coming to the UAE in 2008 to work as a staff photographer for The National newspaper. In the U.S. he was a contract photographer for REUTERS, The New York Times and Getty Images and worked for a variety of national newspapers, magazines and public relations firms covering sports, immigration issues, travel and politics.

Mr. Jeff is one of the authors of the book "People of Ras Al Khaimah", sponsored by the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation and Ras Al Khaimah Media Office. People of Ras Al Khaimah presents a fascinating record of Ras Al Khaimah and its people in their own words and accompanied by stunning photographs.

During the lecture, Mr. Jeff spoke about the challenges of photojournalism, the way of creating photography as a historical monument to the reality in which we live.

Students, as well as professors, were very impressed by Mr. Jeff’s photographs, which represent the unique beauty of various people and places in Ras Al Khaimah.

Mass Communication students had the opportunity to listen about the different approaches in the shooting process, the stories behind each photo, as well as the ambience and atmosphere for taking professional photographs, especially when it comes to people. Based on Mr. Jeff’s over 25 years’ experience, every person needs an individual approach, so the picture will have its own climate and character. As per Mr. Jeff’s advice: “In order to take a correct and good picture, it is necessary to find a subject you are interested in. You need to learn about it, be curious and then create a story.”

After the lecture, Mr. Jeff gave a significant number of the book "People of Ras Al Khaimah" to be distributed among AURAK students and also as a donation to the University Library.
Stress amongst university students is caused by multiple factors, all of which fall under two main categories: academic and non-academic situations. Students who age between 17-21 years old, particularly students who attend a university, suffer from stress despite their youth and the small number of responsibilities they have.

So why is life very frustrating for us even if we are dependent on a parent or a guardian? Why is stress a very normal companion to us in our lives? Usually, students tend to juggle multiple tasks at once. For example, we tend to worry about assignments, projects, and their due dates while we worry ourselves to sleep thinking about what the future has to offer. As a bonus to emotional and social problems and situations that we are put into, some of us also squeeze in part time jobs to be able to better support ourselves. Trying to manage all of these things at one time can become overwhelming. Not only that, but there are some invisible factors why most of us become so stressed. Some of those can be:

- Poor eating and sleeping habits
- Parental Pressure
- Environment
- Extracurricular
- Peer pressure
- Poor time management skills
- Financial and physical stress
- Love life, Self-esteem

How to overcome academic stress?
Here are a few tips to help beat frustration and get over stress as a university student:

Start off with a healthy meal plan
Many of you may confuse healthy eating with following a diet. However, they are worlds apart. Being on a healthy life style and filling your body with the nutrients it needs can drastically affect your mood.
Listen to music
Music plays a huge role in creating moods. Listening to calm music can help unwind stress and put you in a better frame of mind.

Laugh
They say laughter is the best medicine, and it’s actually true. Laughter increases the oxygen in the blood which automatically decreases stress.

Remember:
Your university experience is one of the most important times of your life where all opportunities are laid out in front of you at arm’s length. Do not spend them over analyzing and stressing every aspect of it. Enjoy the ride!

Common Mistakes Students Make
Not attending class!
Not taking responsibility for themselves!
Procrastinating!
Not asking questions when something is unclear!
Not spending enough time studying (for every 1 hr in class, should study 2-3 hours outside of class)!
Not getting help soon enough!
Not taking notes!
Not answering questions fully on homework and tests!
Not completing assignments and being up-to-date on material!
Being passive!
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have rights, but also responsibilities. In this issue of the “Voice of AURAK” we present the part of the AURAK Student Handbook 2018-2019 that refers to the rights and responsibilities of AURAK students.
AURAK adheres to the following values that underlie the philosophy and goals of the university:
• The importance of personal integrity.
• The right of every individual to be treated with respect and dignity.
• The freedom of intellectual inquiry in the pursuit of truth.
• The freedom of speech and the open exchange of ideas.
• The acceptance and appreciation of diversity with regards to race, gender, religion, age, disability, and ethnicity.
• The recognition that community service is an important component of the intellectual development of students.

Student Rights
• AURAK students have the right to pursue their education in a free and fair manner as long as they maintain their eligibility to remain as a member of the student community by meeting its academic and behavioral standards. It is the responsibility of students to observe the regulations imposed by the campus for the govern-
• Students have a right to expect AURAK to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning. University teaching should reflect consideration for the dignity of students and their rights as persons. Students have a right to be treated with courtesy and respect.

• Students have a right to reasonable notice of the general content of the course, what will be required of them, and the criteria upon which their performance will be evaluated. Students have a right to have their performance evaluated promptly, conscientiously, without prejudice or favoritism, and consistently, with the criteria stated at the beginning of the course.

• Students have a right to perform student evaluations considered in the retention and promotion reviews of faculty members.

• Students have a right to be free from discrimination and sexual harassment. Campus policy prohibits discrimination, harassment of a student because of his/her race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or status as an individual with a disability.

• Students have a right to privacy and confidentiality subject to reasonable campus rules and regulations, right to protection against unauthorized disclosures of confidential information contained in their educational records and to examine the information contained in their educational records.

Student Responsibilities
AURAK students are required to maintain current contact information with the University, including permanent and local addresses, telephone numbers, student ID number, and legal name (as written in their passport). Each student must also maintain the University e-mail account assigned at the time of admission. Students are responsible for official communications directed to AURAK e-mail accounts. Students are responsible for providing a copy of their University when requested by AURAK administration, faculty staff members and/or security guards.
As Immanuel Kant pointed out, “Science is organized knowledge.” Its boundaries are not marked - it is boundless, without limits. Any science-related achievement is a pride for the nation, for the country, a great contribution to the whole world.”

On October 29, 2018, the United Arab Emirates marked a monumental moment for Emirati history and the scientific community with the launch of the very first Emirati designed and manufactured advanced remote operating Earth Observation Satellite, The KhalifaSat.

The launch of KhalifaSat represented a labor of true vision, patience, innovation, skill, and hard work from the dedicated people of the UAE. The satellite is set to take off in Japan at Tanegashima Space Centre and launch into space on an H-IIA rocket. It is the first product of the UAE that represents itself in advanced technological industry.

“Dream Team”
The journey to manufacturing and design began in 2006 when a team of highly skilled Emirati engineers called the “Dream Team” travelled to Korea and spent the next ten years working towards the goal. It is a breakthrough, not only in terms of science, but culturally as well. This satellite represents the fact that it’s not impossible to reach for the stars and, without a doubt, will serve as a beacon of motivation for young generations of aspiring professionals.

The manufacturing of KhalifaSat began in 2013 when its plan has been unveiled and approved. The ‘Dream Team’ made aspirations into reality and made KhalifaSat the most technologically innovative and advanced satellite till date.

UAE on the map of scientific greatness
Once in space, KhalifaSat will work towards providing high resolution imagery for a wide variety of uses that will be helpful to, not only UAE, but other countries in the world as well. It was fully managed and developed by MBRSC space technology labs in Dubai. UAE leaders have expressed their pride and marked the monumental moment as a turning point that will put UAE on the map of scientific greatness.

KhalifaSat proves that the limit is beyond the sky and the stars… in the wide infinity of the universe.
KHALIFASAT
One of the most Advanced Earth Observation Satellites

SATELLITE POSITIONING TECHNIQUE to allow the simultaneous capture of multiple 3D images

ENHANCED DIGITAL CAMERA with a sophisticated light meter for excellent resolution

Infograph: Advanced features of KhalifaSat
It has become highly noticeable that a large rift has been created between the past and present generations of our time. Different beliefs, principles, and personalities have caused constant clashes between the younger and older generations regarding the way that they believe life should be lived. This has kept our paths from meeting at certain points, causing the youth, or us students, to struggle with life and to figure out our own way of living. Consequently, due to the emerging issues that continue to grasp at the youth, students of this generation struggle with many issues such as expectations set by parents. Whether it be studies, beliefs, or achievements, parents continue to set the bar with their own mind set and never truly acknowledge the vast differences between this and their generation's aspirations. The thing is, we are not to be blamed, for each and every one of us needs a personality to admire and a life full of choices made by us and only us.

Finding middle ground, however, is easily achieved! Yes, it is a true challenge to juggle everything at the same time, but it is even a bigger challenge if a student's only motives are exterior. Back in primary, secondary, and high school, we were mostly extrinsically motivated by our parents to study in order to achieve high grades. Actually, most of us probably did it to please our parents, neglecting what pleases us! But the moment we stepped foot into higher education, we came to the realization that our parents cannot and will not be the only motivation to study. The problem lies in the old fashioned manner in which the parents guide. Unfortunately, it messes with our goals, plans, and expectations and leaves a mess of a student that does not feel like studying or achieving anything.

But this is only because this student is extrinsically motivated. Intrinsic motivation is all you need as a university student. If you convince yourself that by the end of the day, you control the steering wheel, you will be able to inspire yourself, motivate yourself, find a way to reach your goals, and please your parents with your own pleasure of success.
Since the beginning of the human civilization, up until present day, many people who have had a significant impact on the society in various fields have risen to fame. In each field, may it be literature, science, art, politics, or economics these people were well known for their creativity and innovation that enabled them to contribute actively in their domains. Ever since we can remember, their efforts have opened new horizons for human cognition and advancement.

Take Shakespeare as an example…Who has not yet heard of him and how his extraordinary plays and poems have always been considered as a pillar of English literature? Consider Einstein, and how his genius theory of relativity has changed our understanding for the universe around us! Beethoven! His immortal symphonies! Walt Disney and his extraordinarily massive American animation industry!

All of them, and despite their different reasons that led them to fame, all of these great men had something in common: Excellence… Something that famous people lack nowadays.

Unfortunately, excellence is not necessary in order for someone to be famous anymore. All of them, and despite their different reasons that led them to fame, all of these great men had something in common: Excellence… Something that famous people lack nowadays. Fortunately, excellence is not necessary in order for someone to be famous anymore. Actually, the ridiculously easy access to the various types of social media and the growing consumption has made a dramatic change in our concepts and views. It is happening today that we know people with large fan bases on “Instagram” or “Snapchat” for reasons unknown as to why they are famous. For most of them, their lack of talent and their poor content attracts the masses’ attention. Usually, this happens due to the exaggerated consumption of food, clothing, makeup, and even feelings.

Andy Warhol said once, “The day will come when everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes.” This is what fame looks like nowadays, and whether we like it or not, it is mostly our fault… for famous people of any age are the very reflection of that age.
In my opinion, not to choose is also a choice. I think it is in our mind’s nature that we need to have a reference: a mixture of binary choices, of what is right and wrong, of whether to be or not to be…to choose or not to choose.

There is no escape from playing this game. Therefore, it makes sense to say: Nothing is true; everything is permitted.

The things that happen to us should not necessarily have a meaning to understand. To be honest, I think they have no meaning at all. We give them meaning. We give them assumptions depending on our mind and our past. I believe in that, because it gives us a new lens to define things in order to deal with them.

In the past, I may have been influenced by actions, no matter the meaning they indicated. However, now I take time to analyze the situation before I react to avoid being sad or angry most of the time for it is better than regretting anything later on.

Nothing is true. Nothing has a true meaning. Nothing has only one meaning. Everything is permitted. Every meaning is possible. Everything can be done to make the truth not true.

There are many ways to describe things around us, and, just like people can choose weakness, they can also choose strength. I can be angry, disappointed, or sad, but it is also possible not to be. It all depends on my choice and the reasons behind justifying it.

On the other hand, this philosophical approach is dangerous for it sometimes justifies a bad attitude. For example, a thief can justify his theft by taking the negative side of the phrase. Nothing is true; his poverty is not real. Everything is permitted; murder is possible. Again, this is his mind and his actions doing all the justification.

Thus, the point is we also get to choose between the good and evil; because both are available options at all times.

Once I began embracing this approach, I was able to change my reactions to all life situations. In fact, if we are to think about it, we can choose the game that we want to play most of the time, and our choices are the tools that help us stay in the game.
The winner in the photography competition

*Photo Credits: Dr. Omar Nass*, Mathematics and National Sciences Department AURAK
In this book review, I will discuss the first novel of the epic series that is George R.R. Martin’s A Song of Ice and Fire. It is one of a kind in portraying a mystical, medieval land in which the seasons shift between long, endless periods of summer and winter. The story takes place in the land of Westeros, which is divided up into smaller lands that are owned by large noble families. The book's point of view shifts between the main characters with every chapter.

The plot starts in Winterfell, the ancestral castle and seat of power of the House of Stark, which is considered to be the capital of the North. The first point of view is Lord Eddard Stark’s, the head of Winterfell and Warden of the North, who is set to have both internal and external dangers. Beyond the great wall that was built to keep ‘the others’ away from the kingdom; lies the foreshadowing of their arrival upon Westeros, while, in Westeros itself, the king of the realm is visiting Winterfell to ask Eddard to be the Hand of the King. The conflicts start when this honor weighs Eddard Stark down and drives him to leave Winterfell to begin his duty at King’s Landing (the capital), taking his two daughters with him and leaving the rest of his family back home. Eddard’s new position in the realm, accompanied by his extreme loyalty, nobility and honor, leads the kingdom to its downfall and unsettledness. This epic novel engages all houses of the realm in an endless, cold battle, amidst fierce and angry nobles, dark forces, and an intoxicating complexity of alliances and betrayals. Moreover, Martin’s vivid portrayal of the story is fascinating. You will be hooked within a few sentences. His capability to capture the essence of each plot element is what draws you to every line of this book. His special philosophy of not having a main hero and main villain is what leads this novel to be a bestseller. The uniqueness of not having a main protagonist and antagonist is what attracts you to know each character’s dynamic in the best way possible. Not only that, but Martin also strays away from the cliché stereotype that the hero always wins; he gives equal possibilities for the most ‘loved’ characters to die as he gives to the most ‘hated’ characters.

The complicated masterpiece that is the characters will drive you insane with questioning morality and integrity, as well as justifying the concept of using bad actions as a ‘means to an end.’ You will find yourself falling in love with dark characters of your own choice, as well as hating “good” ones without even regretting it.

You will be on the edge of your seat while holding this book in your hand, worrying for each and every character and hoping for them to turn out alright. You will love the intensity and the depth of the events as every decision a character makes is either a life or a death sentence.

“When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die. There is no middle ground.”
- Cersei of House Lannister

George Raymond Richard Martin - an American novelist and short story writer in the fantasy, horror, and science fiction genres, screenwriter, and television producer
Book by Juliane Koepcke: A true story of a German 17-year-old who endured a tragedy. She was the survivor of a plane that crashed in Peru while crossing the Andes at Christmas.

“WHEN I FELL FROM THE SKY”

The True Story of One Woman’s Miraculous Survival

By Jawaher Sheerdal

After living through a plane crash that claimed 92 lives including her mother, Juliane went through eleven more tormenting days. She tells her own story after 40 years of silence and her 11 eventful days in the Peruvian rainforest. It also expresses her love for the jungle where she had been raised with her German zoologist parents and her struggle for survival in the Amazonian rainforest.

Her perspective was astonishing, as she is speaking to you as the narrator, she jumps from the present day to the time where she was in the jungle. The reader is able to understand her life before the crash, the graphic nature of the accident, the background of her parents, the duration of the 11 days after the crash, and her present.

The book is thoroughly enjoyable, as she continually engages the reader’s heart with captivating moments. Although the book is about Juliane, she is not only talking about herself, but also mentioning people throughout the book and how they left an impact on her life.

The reader also goes through the same heart-shattering description of fears, shock, and sorrows that Juliane went through due to the crash and the loss of her mother, as well as the heart wrenching guilt of being the only survivor of the 1971 crash while many others had passed away.
WHEN I FELL FROM THE SKY
Claudia Gray is a very talented and inspirational writer of young adult and paranormal romance literature who is known for her dashing Evernight series. Her book Stargazer hit No. 4 in the chapter book category in the New York Times list of bestselling children books in April 2009. The book A Thousand Pieces of You is a sci-fi book with a hint of the endearing complexity of physics. The striking first person point of view creates a cohesive and harmonious flow of events that will help catch the reader's attention through the entirety of the book as it travels through with the conscience of the characters, and argumentatively, the readers too.

The first book in the Firebird series begins with Marguerite Caine, an aspiring artist, who starts off her journey after her father's death by going after the prime suspect, Paul, her parent's excellent student assistant. The 18-year-old fights for the justice of her deceased father while getting caught up in a bigger conflict of power and greed that is born from the enchanting beginning of the book and bred through different characters and dimensional threats. Although the daughter of one of the most talked about physicists, she has no clue what so ever about their latest invention, the firebird, a set of metal pieces locked together in a puzzle that enables conscience, and not

Review by Lobna Tamer

Claudia Gray’s book about conscience travelling through dimensions is a splendid, imaginative, and mystifying journey across multiverses.
matter, to travel to other various multiverses.
Through the future, past, and present, Marguerite’s soul jumps from one dimension to the other searching for her father’s killer with the help of Theo, another more trustworthy student assistant, to bring her father justice after the law’s failed attempt of delivering what her family seeks most. As she is introduced to every new dimension possible, she meets a plethora of many Paul ‘versions’ that get her questioning her heart and, even more, her brain’s stability and endurance for pain.

The reader will get swept with the many times the word “quantum” was mentioned, and how Claudia projects and highlights the various characters’ emotions. Not only does the world of Marguerite Caine transform from peaceful, as shown in her memories, to chaotic; but also the reader’s, as they are pulled by the force of the sorrow, the anguish, and the love that Marguerite has to battle through.

As powerful emotions are expressed through the book, more captivating eras are introduced. Meanwhile, different multiverses are put in the spotlight; times in history were explored more and examined under the microscope of the canny Claudia Gray. Subsequently, the beautiful use of various languages adds an unquestionable flare to each multiverse and each period of history presented. The cacophony of verses used reflect upon the debated idea of alternative universes and the percentage of its possibility; in a shocking turn of events highlighted the reason many dimensions may exist, acted as the one pathway that could feature and navigate the different aspects of each character influenced by each of their surroundings.

The book also shines the spotlight on the several stages of grief as they are experienced by Marguerite throughout the whole book, which intellectually gets the character connected with the reader on another spiritual level. The embodiment of the character’s emotions is a fascinating one, as it creates more of an ‘omph’ to the edge-of-your-seat mystery, and innocent but complicated romance that includes Marguerite Caine.

In conclusion, the book is a great journey for physics junkies and forbidden love fans. There exist confusing moments in the book and a little collection of, more on the innocent side, swear words, but is a great free time activity that will grip the reader’s heart in an affectionate hug to carry along with it through the enticing series Firebird by Claudia Gray.
10 BEST MOVIES OF 2019

Prepared by Ana Christina

1 What Men Want
Since the 2000 movie of What Women Want was a big hit, a remake of it visualizing what men’s inner thoughts are is surely going to spill some tea. So Ladies! You better free yourself for a movie you did not realize you had to watch.

2 It: Chapter Two
If the first movie did not give you the creeps, the second one surely will. Based on the 1986 novel by Stephen King, The Losers’ Club are all grown up, and things take an unexpected turn due to a phone call. So calling out to all supernatural horror lovers: grab your popcorn and reunite with the sequel of the 2017 It film in 2019!

3 John Wick 3: Parabellum:
If you’ve watched the first and the second one, you will definitely want to watch the third one. Prepare yourself for the upcoming net-noir action thriller, John Wick, which is played by your all-time favorite actor Keanu Reeves.

4 Toy Story 4
This animated comedy film will be the fourth installment in the Toy Story series, and the sequel to Toy Story 3. Get your tissues ready, because this is going to be one heck of an emotional ride.

5 Dumbo
We all know the old Disney movie about the elephant whose oversized ears gave him the ability to fly which was released in 1941, so here is your chance to watch the live-action remake of the Disney animated classic this 2019.

6 Terminator 6 (Untitled Terminator Reboot)
This old American science fiction action film is making its way back to the cinemas in 2019. Arnold Schwarzenegger is going to make his appearance once again, and we are pretty sure it is going to be big. Get your guns ready boys; this is going to be wild.

7 Frozen 2
Let it go... Let it go... Well, it is coming back obviously. This 2019, Walt Disney Pictures is releasing its prequel to the animated motion picture Frozen. Will Elsa find her true love? Will we get a chance to see Anna and Kristoff’s babies? I guess we’ll have to watch to find out.

8 Godzilla: King of the Monsters
Your favorite star, Millie Bobby Brown from Stranger Things, is in the mix with this Fantasy-Science fiction to save the planet from a battery of god-sized monsters, including the mighty Godzilla. You better buy yourselves an upsized popcorn cup at the theaters, because this one WILL be a thrill.

9 Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker:
The year 2019 will include the final installment of the Star Wars saga, which follows The Force Awakens and The Last Jedi. According to the details that are emerging about the upcoming movie, there will be a popular former Doctor Who star acting as a key character in the movie.

If you start a sentence with a number, you have to spell the number out, which is painful when spelling out a year.)

10 Captain Marvel
Captain Marvel, the most powerful superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, is an extraterrestrial Kree warrior who finds herself caught in the middle of an intergalactic battle between her people and the Skrulls. Living on Earth in 1995, she keeps having recurring memories of another life as U.S. Air Force pilot Carol Danvers. Captain Marvel will surely make a huge thud once she comes crashing back down to Earth this year.
HAS MARVEL COME TO AN END?

At the end of 2018, we lost one of our most powerful comic writers and creators, Stan Lee, at the age of 95. The legendary writer, editor, and publisher of Marvel Comics was responsible for such iconic characters as Spider-Man, the X-Men, Thor, Iron Man, Black Panther, and the Fantastic Four.

Prepared by Ana Christina

Who was Stan Lee?
Stanley Martin Lieber (Stan Lee) was the man behind all those Marvel comics you may have read or watched as a motion picture. The classic characters, the plot lines, and the exceptional scenarios. If that does not ring a bell, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Hulk, or Deadpool might. This comic book legend has officially become just as mythical as the characters he created. It was always his idea to reflect his own life through his “graphic memoirs” as to what he used to call them.

The creation of The Fantastic Four superhero team for Marvel in the early 1960s with his colleague Jack Kirby is considered to be the most famous work of his life that made him into a phenomenon of the comic-writing world.

Short Bio
Stan Lee was born on December 28, 1922 in New York to Celia and Jack Lieber. His father was a dress cutter who did not get much work after the Great Depression. His family had to live in financial difficulties in a one-bedroom apartment. Lee attended the DeWitt Clinton High School in The Bronx and worked small jobs like writing obituaries for a news service and press releases for the National Tuberculosis Center, working as an office boy, etc. As a child, his life was influenced by reading and watching movies. He dreamt of one day writing “The Great American Novel.” In 1939 he was hired as an office assistant at Timely Comics and soon became an interim editor.
There is no better way to thank Stan Lee for his phenomenal work other than to talk about the best, yet simplest facts about him. Here are five facts you probably never knew about the legend who you most likely lived your life reading.

1) His confidence came from his mother.
At a very young age, Lee would read books by Jules Verne and Mark Twain, and often his mother would watch him read. His mother thought that everything he did was brilliant, especially for a young child to be reading such big books, and that is where he got his confidence from.

2) Captain America was his first big break.
His first full comic strip was published on August 1, 1941, and was under the title Captain America Issue 5. He was still new to his job at the Timely Comics.

3) Hulk is Grey, not Green.
Apparently, the printer Lee was using had a problem with the color consistency, and the grey Hulk was printed Green, so, when the second issue of the comic Hulk was released, Lee wrote down, “With no explanation, he turned green.”

4) His barber was his wife.
As funny as it sounds, Lee has never been to a barber, but instead had his wife, Joanie, always cut his hair. He mentioned this in his memoir, and that was his secret to his slicked-back mane.

5) He was an obituary writer.
Before he joined the world of comic writing and fictional characters, Lee would write antemortem obituar-ies (death notices) for the celebrities at a news-office in New York. He obviously quit the job later, because he found it too depressing and turned to comic script writing.

Famous Stan Lee Quotes:
“The only advice anybody can give is if you want to be a writer, keep writing. And read all you can, read everything.”
“Life is never completely without challenges.”
“I guess one person can make a difference.”
“With great power comes great responsibility.”
“I guess one person can make a difference.”
“We all wish we had superpowers. We all wish we could do more than we can do.”
“If you are interested in what you do, that keeps you going.”
WHEN STUDY IS NOT THE ONLY PASSION

ARTWORK OF MASS COMMUNICATION
AURAK STUDENT: MARIAM AL SHEHHI

Miriam Al Shehhi, besides dedicating time to her Mass Communication studies, uses her free time to enjoy her great passion and love - painting. “A painting is worth a thousand meanings,” she used to say. We agree and expect an exhibition of her artwork in the near future. In this issue of “Voice of AURAK”, she shares with us some of her favorite acrylic canvas paintings.

“Life is Only a Reflection of What We Allow Ourselves to See”
“The Earth Laughs in Flowers”

“For the Love of Santorini (2)”
POETRY IS AN ECHO

Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words.

“I wish I were a poet. I’ve never confessed that to anyone, and I’m confiding it to you, because you’ve given me reason to feel that I can trust you. I’ve spent my life observing the universe, mostly in my mind’s eye. It’s been a tremendously rewarding life, a wonderful life. I’ve been able to explore the origins of time and space with some of the great living thinkers. But I wish I were a poet…”

Jonathan Safran Foer, an American novelist
THE DREAM

By Amina Ahmad Sani

Born without a silver spoon,  
Left to rot by a dark lagoon,  
Waiting for a day my flower would bloom  
Hoping it will be anytime soon  
Suddenly a great ecstasy,

That occurred unknowingly,  
It came forward a glowing stallion,  
Seemed to me like one in a million,  
We slide through rainbows and busted windows,  
Landing in a pot of glorious rubies,

Happy I was for a long while,  
On my face was a big smile,  
Just then there was a beam,  
I woke up for it was a dream.

THE LINGERING VOID

By Anna Christina Mouzawek

A lingering void is all I feel,  
For something,  
Someone,  
Who's long gone

Why does everything we attach ourselves,  
Our souls,  
Our lives too,  
Always find its way to somewhat disappear

And I wake up, with this lingering void,  
This ache for something,  
That's no longer there

So why does it go, but keep all the pain,  
Right where it started,  
Right in the middle of the lingering void of my heart.
Fashion and style is a beautiful and creative way to speak about yourself and your attitude... your clothing and style represents who you are.

Fashion is a statement which defines who you are! Fashion is a desire and a passion, which includes style, charisma, and enlightenment! The latest trends can suddenly become an obsession, and this is what defines the beauty of fashion. Therefore, style is a reflection of your own identity.

Style is defined to be an appearance, habit, or an expression. It has a unique diversity which contains harmony. Many people can have different forms of style according to their personality or culture. Style is a way to communicate by your appearance, and it could be invented or created by one's character.

Fashion and style is a beautiful and creative way to speak about yourself and your attitude, because your clothing style represents who you are. That is the artistry of it.

Moreover, the world of fashion has had a huge impact on the entire world. It has influenced many people with a whole new energy full of inspiration and enthusiasm. For example, New York and Paris, the capitals of fashion, are the places where fashion events occur most often. At events such as the New York Fashion Week, where worldwide supermodels take to the runway, fashion shows advertising famous brands designed by worldwide fashion designers such as Donatella Versace and Tommy Hilfiger as well as Moschino have become an annual thing for everyone around the world to attend and watch live.

Style is crucial as it displays your personality as well as expressing your self-confidence and self-esteem. Dressing up in a good style makes you look presentable and feel special. Likewise, style is so much more important than your haircut, or trendy coat. It is a combination of the way you talk and how you dress.

By Bassant Magdy Hanafy

“Life is a party. Dress like it” - Audrey Hepburn, The Fashion Icon.

Celebrity Gigi Hadid stunning in a pink fashionable outfit. Photo: AKM-GSI (www.vogue.com)


The second day of New York Fashion Week (Sept. 2018) showed signs of spring, from the garden settings at Tory Burch and Jason Wu, the electric palettes at Milly and Cushnie, and the blooms throughout Kate Spade's Collection. Photo: Milly, spring 2019. Credit Casey Kelbaugh for The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
The style and fashion at AURAK is continuously growing as the fashion industry is evolving and spreading across many cultures. There are various popular styles at AURAK which are very modern and trendy whether it’s for the boys or girls. Many types and tastes of fashion coming from different traditions are all around the university. Here are a few examples of student styles at the University, and what they think about being fashionable.

“Being fashionable makes me feel good, puts me in a good mood, and gives me more confidence. Style defines who I am. There was this quote saying, ‘give a girl the right shoes and she can run the whole world.’” – Shereen Hanafy, an Architecture student.
“Style and fashion is important to me, because it makes me confident and makes me who I am as a person. I change my style according to my mood, and it shows people a little bit about my personality.”
-Diala Hindash, a Biotechnology student.

Student at AURAK, representing her fashionable style. Nourhan Alarousy, a Mass Communication student. (Photo credit: Sara Koka)
Frame me please

“Who we are?”
Photo Credits: Yaqout Alsafadi, AURAK Student

“Waste will kill you”
Photo Credits: Mohab Hamada, AURAK Student

“Home”
Photo Credits: Aamna Naaij, AURAK Student

“Challenge”
Photo Credits: Omar Altibawi, AURAK Student

“When you trust yourself”
Photo Credits: ANTONINO BENITEZ, AURAK Student
“Creativity”

Photo Credits: Fatima Abdulla Al Shehhi, AURAK Student