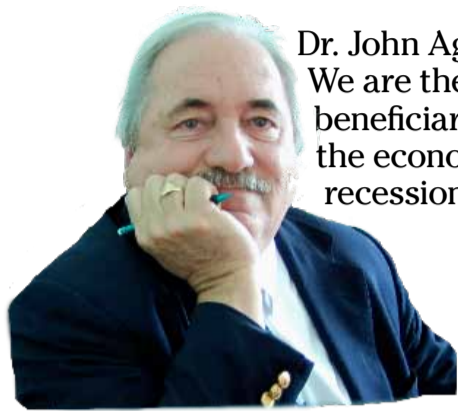




Arivan: A nationalist is a pacifist

Page 4



Dr. John Agresto: We are the great beneficiaries of the economic recession

Page 3



Thou Shalt not Access Facebook Page 3



Going overseas and meeting the Yankees

Page 2

AUI-S Graduates 27 MBA Students

\$1 Million in Scholarships to be Granted to AUI-S



Photo: Rawa M. Salth

BY AREZ HUSSEIN

The American University of Iraq- Sulaimani granted 27 degrees to its MBA students on Jan. 26, the first graduating class for a school whose fruits were planned more than five years ago.

"I watched as we added new programs and recruited new faculty. But I never actually knew that we would succeed before today," John Agresto, the provost of AUI-S, wrote in a letter to the students. The graduates are from different cities of Iraq. After completing 17 courses in 18 months, they got a Master of Business Administration in International Management and Leadership.

Joshua Mitchell, the acting chancellor of AUI-S, said the students will work hand-in-hand to rebuild the country and support it with the education they got.

"This will be the first of so many graduations," he said.

Barham Salih, Prime Minister of Kurd-

istan Regional Government and the head of AUI-S board, said this was the first step in building the university.

"I thought that it will be something impossible to send all Iraqi students to the US to study," he said. "So instead of sending students to the US to study, we provided them with an American University in Iraq."

In his student commencement address, Hawre Daro counted the changes that this group of graduates can make in the future.

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill used the graduation ceremony to announce a grant of \$1 million to provide scholarships for students who live outside of Kurdistan region.

Later, in an exclusive interview, Hill repeated his support for the Iraqis. "There will be no distinctions made based on their ethnicity," he said. "The message is that U.S. government will help to make this project a success."

Mitchell brought more clarification to the

mechanism in which the money will be used.

"The money will be given to the students who need it more," he said. "We are trying to encourage students from other parts of Iraq to come and study. The scholarships are for 20 students for five years of study."

Agresto told the AUI-S Voice that the money is an evidence of the university becoming famous, and it will help them more.

Ali Akha, one of the graduates, said getting the MBA was a real opportunity.

"If there was not AUI-S, we had to go abroad to study, and it is something not doable for all of us," he said.

The graduation news resonated at the AUI-S campus. Students said they are more assured of the future of their university.

"I am very happy to see my university's first MBA graduates," said Lana Kamaran, 22, Sulaimani. "I am happier for the scholarships, because I have been in Baghdad and I know how difficult is the situation there."

List of Graduates and their birth places

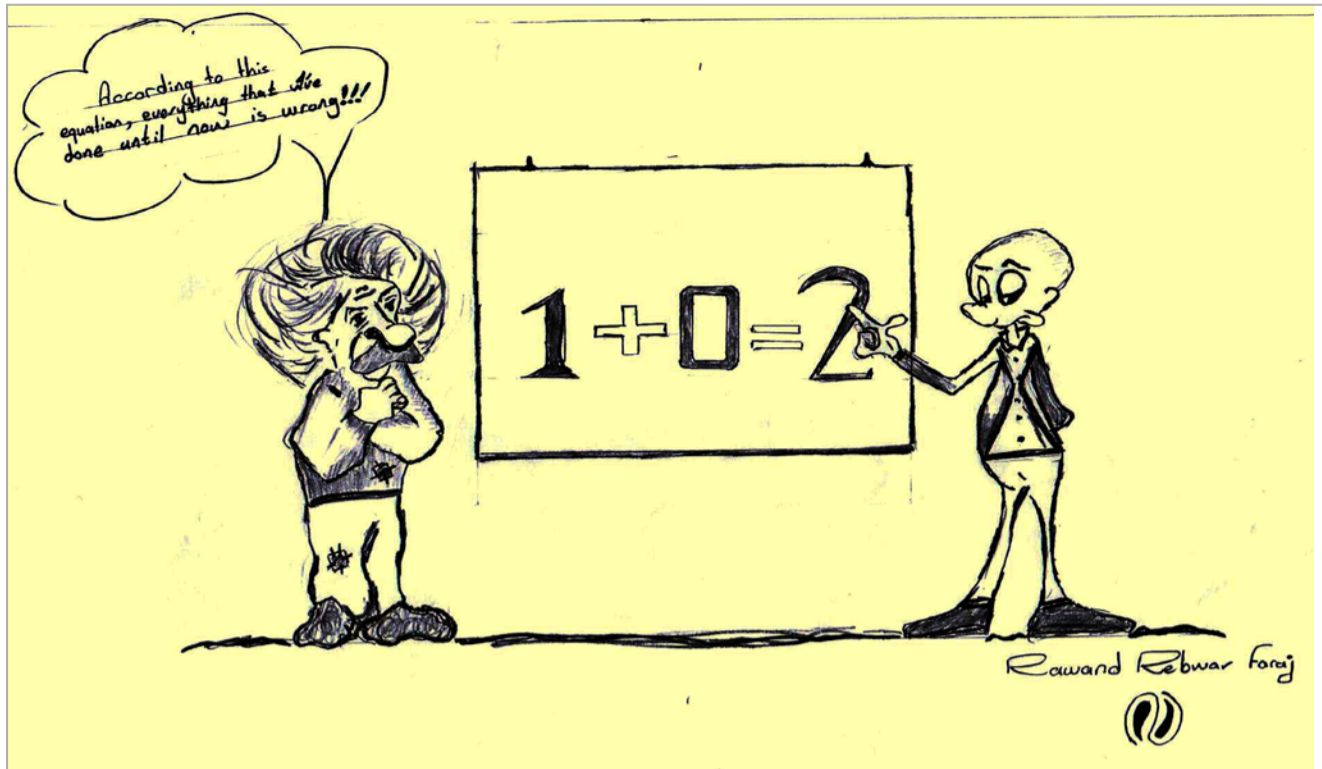
- Ako Ali Rashid, Sulaimani
- Alan Ali Awilkadir, Sulaimani
- Ali Hussain Tawfiq Agha, Sulaimani
- Ali Midhat Al-Ani, Baghdad
- Azad Mohammed Ali, Sulaimani
- Bnar Salahaddin Saeed, Erbil
- Govand Mohammed Hussein, Erbil
- Hawdang Mahmoud Baban, Sulaimani
- Hawre Daro Noori, Sulaimani
- Hewa Othman Faraj Darghai, Sulaimani
- Karwan Mahmood Salih, Sulaimani
- Kawa Omer Qadir, Sulaimani
- Kurdistan Salih Daloye, Sulaimani
- Lana Adna Arif, Sulaimani
- Mohammed Ali Mohammed, Beruit
- Muhammed Nizar Tawfiq, Baghdad
- Nabaz Jamal Fatah, Sulaimani
- Rebaz Hiwa M. Rauf, Sulaimani
- Rebwar Abu-Bakir Muhammed, Sulaimani
- Rozhgar A. Faraj, Sulaimani
- Sava Ezzat Rashid, Sulaimani
- Showkhan Mohamed, Sulaimani
- Soran Badeea Tawfeez, Kirkuk
- Tanya Fareed Mustafa, Sulaimani
- Tara Nihad Noori, Al-Anbar
- Werya Omer Abdulrahman, Al-Tamim
- Zardasht Kamal Banayee, Al-Tamim

Editor-in-Chief: **Dana Jaff**
 Editorial Page Editor: **Baker M. Alhashimi**
 Photo Editor: **Hazha A. Abdullah**
 Design Editor: **Yad Faiq**
 Web Editor: **Namo Kaftan**
 Senior Designer: **Omer Nihad**

The AUI-S Voice is a publication of the students of the American University of Iraq--Sulaimani. It is published weekly when school is in session. The Voice is a newspaper by the students and for the students at AUI-S. The newspaper is an independent publication and is not connected to any political party, religious group or ethnic group. An editorial that appears without a byline represents the views of the student editorial board of the Voice. Any other column, letter or cartoon is the work of the attributed author and does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Voice or of AUI-S. Contact us at editor@aui-voice.org.

The Voice welcomes all contributions. All submissions become the property of the Voice. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and must include the name, hometown and contact information of the author for verification. The Voice reserves the right to edit all material.

© AUI-S-Voice 2010



'I Have Been There Before' Writer Offers Practical Advices To IYLEP Students



ROZA SAEED

In the summer of 2009 I decided to go to the United States of America for a summer school with the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYELP). I studied at the Indiana University/Bloomington for about five weeks. It was a life-changing experience for me, because I learned a lot, and in return I have given as much as I knew about my country to the Americans. The program encouraged me to realize many aspects of life and gave more value to my ambitions. I recommend this program and similar programs to other students like me, because it is really beneficial and will help their life in many ways. It is also important to experience life far away from our families, because it helps everyone

to depend on their own and feel more responsible for everything that is going around them. I took leadership, journalism and culture classes in the University of Indiana. My trip to USA totally changed my thinking and my view on everything. Now I believe in myself more than I used to do, and I think there is nothing impossible that one can't achieve. So I strongly recommend my friends to fill out the application and give themselves a chance to see outside world and work hard as much as they can.

Part of my recommendation is try to be honest when you fill out the application form and be yourselves, because they are looking for that. Let your application be simple and represent you in every way. As soon as you get there you will be welcomed by the staff there and be sure you will never forget the kindness of the Americans. I can hardly think of a moment when I felt that I didn't belong to that place. I felt I was home all the time so don't hesitate about that at

all. Some of you might be homesick, but you will get over it soon. All you need is to adapt to the new environment. This is due to the culture shock, and it's the same when you get back, because there is the reverse culture shock. Be open to everyone and accept the others. These two points would make it easier to adapt to the new culture.

Don't be scared; the program is not only about studying. There is enough time to have fun. I visited New York, Washington, Maryland, Ohio and Kentucky. It is going to be very fun and unforgettable. All you have to do is to give it a great effort and enjoy every moment you spend there because the time goes by very quickly. So live every moment as it never comes back. I would be very glad and available to anyone who has a specific question about the program or the way how to fill out the application. You can find me on campus like every other student. Wish you best luck all.

Delegation Criteria Student Calls For Selecting Students



SARBAST MAJEED

clubs and internships.

AUI-S, as the most notable institution in the country that runs on high standards, has the lion's share in these events.

Thus, the mechanism for choosing students to represent this institution is extremely important.

The main criterion should be the student's qualification such as her/his overall grades in the courses in general or at least those that are indirect link to an event.

It is also important for a representative to have high communication skills, and this means being able to write effectively, to have good oratory skills and to present reasonable points and logical arguments based on facts and statistics.

A representative should also have the ability to find the desired information to support his/her argument, making relevant points and bringing up relevant questions. In addition, a representative must be very good in rebuttal.

A representative student should

be able to work within a team, discuss, share and promote ideas. Working under pressure of time is also important, there are certain situations that the deadline seems to be impossible to meet, and there is a great deal of pressure on the representative in his/her competition that needs to be dealt with.

To make sure of taking all these criteria into consideration when appointing delegations, a committee from at least three instructors should be formed to test and evaluate the students who are willing to participate in such events.

And the list of the criteria could grow to include testing the ability of general information and social skills of the nominees for such events.

Facebook Dilemma: AUI-S Should Reconsider Ban

A social networking Web site that is blocked in China, Syria, Iran and Vietnam is now banned at AUI-S. The IT staff banned Facebook in all student labs this semester. This ban is not necessarily beneficial to the students.

Facebook previously was available for everyone during the whole day. Then IT blocked Facebook during the school time and it would be available after 5 p.m. However, this semester Facebook became totally banned.

When Facebook was available, students at the AUI-S labs were surfing the Internet freely and without any limitations. The students mostly were looking for a way to contact each other, and Facebook was the vital way, especially for students who never had Internet access. But when IT limited the hours, the decision primarily affected those in the dormitories. These students are unable to stay late at the university or rent a taxi to use Facebook after-hours. This policy discriminated against these students. Some of the students deactivated their accounts.

Others accessed Facebook through their cell phones, which is expensive. Banning Facebook altogether wasn't the solution either.

The problem was that students who are experts in computers figured out a way around the policy and continued using Facebook even during the class time. Ironically, the ban motivated some students to manipulate the policy.

One student, Marwan M. Hazim, pointed out that many students can open their Facebook through a couple of unblocked sites.

AUI-S is wet soil for students who want to express, explore and become leaders.

AUI-S should not deprive its students from their rights to access Facebook. Understandably, Facebook does shorten and consume the Internet strength.

As Matt Trevithick, the assistant to the provost said, the ban was designed to improve the basic internet services at AUI-S and anything that helped the Internet to be faster for academic purposes is a good thing.

The solution is to allow students to access Facebook after class hours. This would enable students to concentrate on the lessons during class hours and at the same get the benefits of Facebook.



At a minimum, Facebook is a vital site. Prohibition, deprivation and banning should not be part of AUI-S students' vocabulary.

Facebook has become a necessity for most of the youth, and it is better to deal with the dilemma through more rational and convincing ways.



AUI-S Voice On-line Poll

Source : Survey Monkey

1. Should AUI-S ban students from using Facebook on campus?

	Response	Percent
	Response	Count
Yes		32.9% 23
No		67.1% 47

2. Would you support a policy to allow students to access Facebook after class hours?

	Response	Percent
	Response	Count
Yes		85.5% 59
No		14.5% 10

Academic Students are Worried There will be Classes on Tuesdays

BY KURDISTAN FATIH

Beginning from the next semester, the AUI-S administration has decided to cancel the holiday on Tuesdays, and some academic students are upset with the decision.

Mary Van Houten, AUI-S registrar and director of admissions, confirmed the news for AUI-S Voice.

"There will be classes that meet only twice a week, and the others three times a week," she explained. "The four-credit courses meet only twice a week."

Van Houten said she is aware that the decision may cause inconvenience among the students. "The purpose is to make the quality of education better," she said. "Dr. John Agresto believes that the students will do better if the courses meet more often."

Some academic students are concerned about the decision.

Shwan Jamal, 21, Sulaimani an academic student, believes that it is always better

to have a day off between the class days.

"A day off between the class days provides an opportunity to access to the knowledge outside the curriculum. The decision will have a negative result," he said.

"The idea of having classes on Tuesday frightens me"

Niga Fatah, 19, Halabja, a student who will soon join the academic courses, said she needs more time to get used to the academic courses.

"The idea of having classes on Tuesday frightens me since I think that I need to study for my classes more than before," she said.

'I have lost 15 friends' Facebook Ban Makes Some Students Angry That It Is Off-limits During Day

BY HEMIN MUHHAMED

At the beginning of the fall semester, the AUI-S administration decided to ban Facebook use on campus. They already had blocked other social media networks such as Youtube before.

Students are mixed about the Facebook ban, which has now been in effect for an entire semester.

Rozhgar Akram, Sulaimani, 20, is a student at EWPLI-4. She said it was a right decision "because we wasted a lot of time for nothing. We couldn't concentrate on the lessons when we were at the labs."

But other students see it as censorship. "What is

the difference between Facebook ban here and Iran's decision to restrict the access to Facebook? I can't communicate with my friends anymore. I have lost connection with 15 of my friends," a student complains. Some of the students believe that there is no essential difference between Facebook and Yahoo or Hotmail webmails. Teachers, on the other hand, seemed mostly happy with the decision. Beth Newton, a senior lecturer, said she personally found Facebook to be a distraction to students in the classroom.

"Sometimes I would be speaking or explaining something or they are supposed to research, but the students are chatting with their friends and writing on their friends' walls." However, she said she was disappointed that she could no longer use Youtube as a teaching tool.

The department responsible for the Facebook ban was the IT department. Misel Jevtic, the Director of Information Technology at AUI-S, said the reason for the ban was the technical limitations of AUI-S.

"The university's Internet is limited," he said. "It is 2MB, so our ability to access and do our tasks will slow down if the students open anything they want."

Misel said tripling the number of the students enrolled at AUI-S had a direct influence to make the decision to ban Facebook.

"Last year we had just two labs, but right now the university has six labs," he said. "Also the number of users increased from 100 to 500 users."

He said if when a wireless connection is established, the technical issues that prompted the ban would be eliminated.

It is unclear, however, if the teachers and faculty would support lifting the ban.



More than 300 Professors have applied John Agresto : we will have major in Environmental Sciences soon



BY HEMIN HUSSEIN
TRANSCRIBED BY MAHDI ABDULLAH

PHOTO: RAWA M. SALIH

I would like to ask you about your works for the University since last year?

What I've been working for the most has been getting faculty members to come here. We are also going to the US to bring maybe another 10 or 12 faculty members for next September-October. I have in my computer in my office over 300 maybe 350 applications of people who want to teach at the American University.

Where are they from?

From America, from Canada, from almost everywhere. I have one or two from South Africa, one or two from Korea. This is amazing to me. The more teachers apply to teach here, the more students apply to come here. So, I have the chance to go to Washington in about three weeks. We will interview with maybe two dozen of these 300 people and bring people over here to teach. It will be in business IT, History, Science and English. That's No. 1. The other thing that has changed is that we have changed the curriculum this year so that in a coming years we will have even more courses and more field majors in IT and International Studies. The other thing that we've just decided on is that we are going to have a new major starting next year in Environmental Science. We will announce this very soon. You could be the first person to announce it. We want to have a science major that goes with a great benefit to Iraqis, Environmental science, ecology, biology. Depending on its success, it might even become the start of a pre-medical program here. So that people who take this science major might have a chance-I can promise-might have a chance of being competitive to the American medical schools in the future

Why there are so many applicants for the University?

There are many reasons for that. What we are doing here is very attractive for many American professors. People are attracted to a university that honors teaching and we do honor teaching here. If you are a great teacher, you will stay. The economic situation in the United States is difficult, and people who are working for teaching position, try harder to get a position in the United States. We are the great beneficiaries of the recession, not did I wish that America should stay in the recession, but the recession has been good for us in Iraq. That is why we get quite good applications from the professors back home.

Can you say AUI-S is a small Iraq?

Can I say AUI-S is a small Iraq? We still need to get more students from the rest of Iraq because we are still very much concentrated in terms of Kurdish students, especially students from the Sulaimani area. So I can't say that AUI-S looks like Iraq, but soon it will.

What is the difference between AUI-S and the other universities?

Unlike all other universities in Iraq, with my great respect, we have to say that, with all my great respect, they are looking for having experts, professionals and trained people, and I think they do a good job. We are looking to turn up people who are more broadly educated, who have some understanding of the character of other people and the character of other nations. Some people who do not just memorize, who can make an argument on their own. Who will say, 'Wait a minute. I need to think about that. I am not so sure about what you have just said.' We are really generating leaders.

What about student's activities?

You see we have basketball teams, we have a soccer teams, we have debate club, and we just started the newspaper. There are the students in the MBA program who have collected money to go to China for a trip to work with Chinese business. We have a very good MBA program. The IT students are all they have formed themselves to IT organization.

What about the exchange programs?

We had 11 students this past summer who have been to America. We are going to do that again this summer. We have a student in EWPLI program. He is going to study geosciences. The problem is, to be honest with you, this is the bad side of the American recession most colleges in the US cost \$30,000 to \$40,00 in tuition, and they can't wait, because they are not rich any more. So, we have some real difficulties. If I had money, I could help students go to America on exchange programs. But America right now doesn't have that kind of money to give scholarships to foreign students.

Hawre Daro is First of the First

BY HEMIN KHALAF

Hawre was the top student in the first class of graduates at AUI-S to receive a diploma for a Master of Business Administration in International Management and Leadership. He graduated from high school in Sweden and later in the pursuit of "the best possible business education," Hawre went to the United States for college and got his bachelor's degree from Hawaii Pacific University.

He is the chief executive officer of Faruk Group Holding.

"Working hard, reading very much, having a background in the field and looking at the subjects as fun, not boring," Hawre said, counting the reasons counted he excelled in his MBA class.

Hawre received his degree on Jan. 26 in a ceremony at the Sulaimani Art Palace.

He acknowledged that he had a tough competition because he was competing with some of the very smartest students. However, he said being first was not the purpose. "The important thing is that we all were able to accomplish two years of studying," he said. His next step is to pursue a doctorate in business administration.

Hawre said AUI-S is one of the most needed institutions in Iraq because the companies in Iraq, including his own company, need more good managers and employees.

"If you want to become successful businessmen, [you need to] read more and travel because we are no longer an excluded country from the international community," he said. "We are a



Photo : Rawa M. Salih

part of the global economy."

Hawre is very optimistic with the future of AUI-S and said the next generation of leaders will be AUI-S alumni.

The Qalawa Hero

BY MAHDI ABDULLAH

The Qalawa Refugee Camp has become a familiar word to all of us as AUI-S students. Almost everyone knows quite enough about the misery those people live in. There have been many calls for donations of money and cloths. The last one is the call made

by one of the EWPLI teachers to help the refugees with clothes. In the summer, some of our students opened a language course for the children of the camp. But have we ever asked how we knew about Qalawa Refugee camp? Pola Kamal, a 22 year-old boy from the small city of Kfri was the first student from



AUI-S to visit the camp and see the bad conditions there. "A woman was working for a refugee organization, and I went with her as a translator," Pola tells his first encounter with the camp refugees. He recorded some of the tragic scenes of the camp and showed them to Ryan and Peter, two former EWPLI lecturers. They felt the pain and decided to take immediate actions. "At first, my idea

was to collect money and cloths from our class and give it to the refugees, but then the idea developed and included all the university," Pola stated. After a serious effort to gather enough information about the camp, Pola and his friends decided to launch their campaign for the first and the largest dona-

tion on campus. They knocked at every door and visited every class performing small presentations about the Qalawa camp and the need to help them. In less than 2 weeks, 19000\$ was collected. There were also clothes and food. It was not the last thing Pola did to help Qalawa refuges. Since then, Pola has become a guide for

those who want to visit the camp and help them. Private Media School also helped the camp residents with Pola's help. Pola is a Level 4 student. He wants to study International Studies next semester. His dream is to represent Iraq one day. "My dream is to be Iraq's ambassador in one of the European countries. England is the first choice," Pola said.



PHOTO: DANA JAFF

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, KRG Prime Minister Barham Salih and AUI-S Chancellor Joshua Mitchel looking at the new campus map on Jan. 26.

Arivan Kamaran: A nationalist is a pacifist



BY DANA JAFF

Courtesy of AUI-S Debate Club

Could you introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is Arivan Kamaran. I was born in March 19, 1990, in Baghdad. I finished primary and secondary school in Baghdad successfully. The name of my high school was "Mutamayzin," which was accepting only smart and distinguished students. I have always looked for the better. I like helping others, expecting nothing in response.

How did you come to AUI-S?

I got a high mark in the Sixth class, and I was going to study in the Technology Institute here in Sulaimani. Due to my family's wish and guidance, I decided to study at AUI-S. My family is an educated one. They knew the value of the American University.

How do you do with reading?

I have read books since my childhood. I was coming back to Sulaimani in the summers and read tense political books in my dad's library.

They trusted me and allowed me to read them. I have read a lot of stuff about the Kurdish history and Kurdish revolutions, which led me to be a kind of Kurd nationalist, but I am not now.

Why?

Because I have a different interpretation of the concept. I think being a good nationalist is not to ask for an independent state but to live peacefully in the same country and work for the sake of the future. My father is Kurd and my mother is Arab, so I have affinity towards all. We can all live together in peace.

Tell us about your experience with AUI-S Debate Club?

Let me begin with those who have encouraged me to engage in debating. Nathan Musselman is the first one who have told me to improve my debating skills and helped me with that. Later, Nate Rosenblatt told me about the idea of having a Debate Club on campus.

I really liked the idea and became a member in the Debate Club. My friend Bayad has also helped me to improve myself in this field.

Last month, we went to Duhok to participate in several debate workshops arranged by Mr. Muhammad Duhoki. The lessons were told by experienced American judges.

You had a competition in Duhok. Tell AUI-S readers about that event?

It was a great experience. We became second among 7 Iraqi universities.

I can really say that we deserved being the first, but we have respect for the decision. We lost the final debate to Kurdistan University. We are going to have a debate with them after few weeks, and I promise to take the revenge and win.

I personally got the third place among the individual debaters. The difference between me and the second place was only half a grade. The important thing is that we worked as a team and won as a team. One of the judges called Alfred Scneider told me, "My son, I see your future in the debating field, and I hope we will meet again."

You were supposed to go to Turkey, but you didn't. Why?

It was really because of corruption. Although they lost the debates and didn't achieve anything, Duhok team was sent to Turkey. We were shocked by the decision and couldn't say anything. But I remember Nate's great act by telling them to send four people from those who were on the stage - UKH and AUI-S- but they didn't. We need great efforts to solve this problem of corruption that is spread in our political body.

What is the best advice to win a debate?

Control your anger; you are the winner.



Courtesy of AUI-S Debate Club