

**Presenter:** A very special festival taking place at the American university of Kuwait (AUK) combining the past and the future. Our youth will talk to us about it:

**Presenter:** Welcome in our program, Khadija. I knew that you are the one in charge of the Media and PR of this festival. Tell me more about it...

**Khadija:** We started this idea in 2009 with Dr. Lisa Urkevich. She is an American Professor here at AUK (Of course, professors here have to be either American or have studied in the US).. So, Dr. Lisa comes from a different culture, which made it really surprising for a lot of us to find her interested in the field of Arabian Heritage. Dr. Lisa's has studied the Heritage of the Arabian Peninsula, covering a lot of countries like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait...She gathered her knowledge and summarized it into an Arabian Heritage course that she teaches here at AUK. Through her course we learnt about instruments like Mirwas, Tar,...

**Presenter:** How come an American can teach things like Mirwas, Sheila, tambura....

**Khadija:** She knows the terminology very well...of course she pronounces it in an American accent, but we understand her. The students here come from different countries and backgrounds. We have Kuwaitis, Lebanese, Americans, Indians...students from all over the world.

**Presenter:** How long did it take you to prepare for this festival?

**Khadija:** It took us the whole duration of the course. ..Normally, within a month and a half after we start our 3-month course, all preparations have to be finalized.

**Presenter:** We have noticed that the festival is growing bigger every year, new ideas are incorporated, new events...

**Khadija:** yes, this is due to the support of the AUK administration to this festival. Our faculty also are very supportive because they like Dr. Lisa. To them, she is an American and yet she is still interested in organizing Kuwaiti events.

**Presenter:** She must be an adorable person

**Khadija:** We like her so much. She is so kind and humble. She even attends Uns gatherings with traditional bands...

**Presenter:** That is interesting...how does she communicate with them?

**Khadija:** This is what is interesting about it..she manages to communicate with them..sometimes by collecting information about these people, sometimes she takes an assistant or a team with her.

**Presenter:** Does she accept recommendations and suggestions from you?

**Khadija:** yes, always. She accepts suggestions and writes them down because you know, as a professor she is always very busy with her scholarly research and these types of things. So, she writes our comments and also she gives us a chance to get involved.

**Presenter:** There is always a claim that AUK people are too modern and that they have forgotten about their past and their heritage

**Khadija:** This is what made Dr Lisa try to make students more aware about their roots. A lot of Kuwaiti students have very little knowledge about traditional Kuwait. They don't even know about the Kuwaiti Tagga, the Kuwaiti sharbaka. They don't know the names of instruments, Bahari or Badawi..they don't know...Bayt Al Shaar, they just know how it looks only. But they don't know its components and details.