

# Alumni Newsletter

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Professor Dennis J. Gayle  
Vice President of Academic  
Affairs



William R. Moore, President

## ALUMNI REUNION IN LONDON

### Message from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Since 1987, AIU London – initially known as the American College in London – has been producing graduates who went on to distinguished careers in many countries of the world. Many faculty members who have been contributing to our Campus for an extended period have fond recollections of such students and hear from them from time to time. Many alumni maintain treasured memories of their days as students, whether in Fashion, Visual Communications, Interior Design, Media Production or Business Administration,

at AIU London. It is only now, however, as AIU London marks its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary that we have returned to focus upon the development of an Alumni Association in a sustainable and sustained manner. To this end, the Campus has established an Alumni Development Task Force, including representatives of each academic unit, with a mandate to develop an accurate data base of our many alumni. As a result, we will be able to maintain systematic contact with the graduates, of whom we are so proud, by means that include the present Newsletter and the Alumni Appreciation Event scheduled on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March at the Russell Hotel in Russell Square, for those alumni who are either living in or passing through London. In



Russell Hotel, London

future, AIU London intends to identify means of reaching out to alumni groupings in other countries as well. But it is important to take the first steps in the development of our Alumni Association, and we are delighted to be so engaged.

By Professor Dennis J. Gayle

### A MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM R. MOORE CAMPUS PRESIDENT

Dear Distinguished  
AIU London Alumni

It is a great honour for me to recognise and celebrate the accomplishments of our AIU London Alumni. There is no greater group of people than

our AIU London Alumni for collectively you represent the unparalleled diversity of our institution. Your talents and accomplishments are a continuing source of pride for AIU London and all your colleagues.

I wish you all continued success in everything you do.

Sincerely,

William R Moore  
Campus President

*American InterContinental University London Newsletter is a biannual publication*



Fashion Design Department Students' work



Interior Design Department Axel Griesinger, Dean of Interior Design with students



Media Production Department



Main Library Students undertaking a research project

**SNAPSHOTS OF ALUMNI**

**JANNA Fortmann graduated with a business degree from The American College in London (later known as American InterContinental University London) in 1988 and she has not looked back since.**

She previously studied macro-economics in Germany, but it was during her time at the ACL that helped her define her career goals.

"I am grateful to the faculty at ACL for helping me develop a clear plan of what I wanted. Before then everything was vague and hazy," says Janna.

After working for some of the biggest management consultancies in Europe, she started her own management and personnel consultancy in 1999. The focus of her work is on corporate

strategy and business planning, which optimises a combination of market and company realities with a strong customer focus.

Janna said: "I'm also an expert in innovative management training and the provision of implementation assistance to companies and institutions. Within this capacity, I have advised numerous top managers in cross-border investments, business structures and channels, joint ventures and business process improvement."

She has also worked for an impressive number of international companies, namely, EBRD, British Telecom, Visteon, ABB, 3M, Shell, and Deutsche Telekom. In Turkey she worked with the Memorial Hospital in Istanbul and was involved in an on-going business de-

velopment project with a Turkish company in the tourism sector.

"I live in Germany with my two beautiful children—although my work involves a lot of international travel."



Mino and Almalina Fortmann

Janna adds: "I have implemented similar projects for KazMunayGas, Turan Alem Securities, Kazakhstan GSM, Kazakh Telecom, Mobile Telecom Service, Apple City and Asem-Ai in Kazakhstan, Obolon Breweries in the Ukraine, and various companies in Belarus, Russia and other East European transition countries.

**Keeping an eye on fashion**



Raakhee Raipanchola

**AFTER graduating from AIU London in 2004, Raakhee Raipanchola packed her bags and returned to Dubai, a country she had lived in all her life, although her origins are in India. Little did she realise that by 2006 she would have her own studio and design business, Revistee.**

She started supplying to S\*uce, a fashion and lifestyle boutique carrying an eclectic mix of international designer ready to wear and accessories, as well as lifestyle, art and design objects.

Twice a year at Dubai Fashion Week her clothes are on show. She sells through a growing variety of concept stores and private boutiques.

Raakhee says "I love being able to create. I always wanted to be in the creative field. I just couldn't see myself in a bank"

She starts the design process with thorough research and works in sketchbooks and journals, both practices which the AIU London Fashion Department instils in its students. "Research is extremely important and you have to keep pushing yourself" advises Raakhee.

Her design inspirations are drawn from art, architecture, and various cultures, which she then interprets into her own contemporary, unique and marketable designs.

She relished the opportunity to study in London, using her time in the UK wisely to gather ideas and inspiration.

Raakhee said: "A lot of the pieces I create are inspired by my time in London."

Right: Raakhee's designs at Dubai Fashion Week



## FROM STUDENT TO PRESIDENT

### HH SHAIKH DR. MOHAMMED BIN SALEH AL SHARQI



HH Shaikh Dr. Mohammed

**HIS Highness Shaikh Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al Sharqi is a modest man. At 26 years old he is a rising star in The Emirate of Fujairah.**

He said: "When I joined AIU London in 2001, people told me that the courses were too difficult and I would fail and get

kicked out. They were wrong. I took the challenge and studied visual communication. I enjoyed it so much, particularly as the lecturers were so friendly. AIU is an experience I will never forget."

He went on to gain a Masters degree and a PhD.

This educational background laid the foundation for his present role as owner and President of the American University of Fujairah.

He has a good track record to go into the business of education.

He said: "I first went into properties, investment, hospitals

and construction. I have diversified my skills and

learned the basics to succeed in life. Being a student is different than being a businessman.

"Facing life is hard, but in order to win and be successful you need to learn from scratch and develop yourself. You can't wait for people to tell you what to do or how to do it.

"I have built schools, language institutions and an Aviation Academy.

"What drove me into higher education was the challenge to improve education in Fujairah, so I decided to set up the American University of Fujairah (AUF).

"The United Arab Emirates is an education hub for the Arab world."

*"I want an excellent quality of education for those in the UAE who can not travel abroad for it."*

**HH Shaikh**

**Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al Sharqi**

## ANNE JOHANSSON ASSISTANT PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

**SINCE Anne Johansson graduated from AIU London in 2004, she has accomplished a lot.**

She now works as Assistant Production Director at Matthew Williamson, a leading fashion company that produces upmarket women's casual wear. Anne grew up in Stockholm, Sweden, and has been interested in fashion for as long as she can remember. Her mother taught her to sew and knit as a girl, and she was always painting and drawing new design ideas for clothing. Anne's mother worked in the business department of a fashion company, where Anne helped out during school holidays. One day, a Parisian designer visited the Swedish company and advised Anne that if she

wanted to study fashion seriously, the best place to go was London.

Anne learned about AIU London at a university fair in Stockholm, and decided to enrol in the Fashion Design and Marketing programme in January 2001. "I was thrilled to live in London, and I immersed myself in the fashion world, learning as much as I could.

"Fashion was a small department, so it was like a family. I really got to know the lecturers. My pattern-cutting, fashion sketching and illustration, and women's wear were revelations, because they gave me the basic techniques for developing my skills in a number of areas."

While at AIU, Anne also worked for London Fashion Week and other shows, including Matthew Williamson and Burberry, whenever possible.

After graduation she found a job in London with a small Swedish fashion design company, Pia Hallstrom, where she learned about administration, designing, production, selling, and packing and shipping.

She has come a long way since then. In 2007, Anne started working for Matthew Williamson full-time. This gave her the opportunity to work with a larger company. Her job includes being in charge of coordinating materials, sourcing materials, liaising with the factories, and quality control for the entire production.

*'My pattern-cutting, fashion sketching and illustration, and women's wear were revelations because they gave me the basic techniques for developing my skills in a number of areas.'*

By Dr. Kathy Tidman

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#### Alumni Association

Membership provides:  
Alumni network files  
Industry contacts

#### Alumni events:

Lectures  
Workshops  
Seminars  
Outings

*Please complete  
the attached  
Alumni Membership Form.  
Keep in touch by joining  
our International  
Alumni Association*

## AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY LONDON

### History of the University

American InterContinental University (AIU) was founded in Europe in 1970 on the premise that universities should transcend the bounds of the traditional theoretical approach to education by providing students with a curriculum that prepared them for successful, productive careers. For more than 35 years, AIU has offered this innovative approach to education at its campuses in London, Atlanta, Buckhead and Dunwoody, Los Angeles, South Florida, and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

### AIU Mission Statement

American InterContinental University's mission is to provide for the varying educational needs of a culturally diverse and geographically dispersed student body with the goal of preparing students academically, personally, and professionally for successful careers.

## ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Professor Dennis J. Gayle, Vice-President of Academic Affairs  
Dr. Zoheir Mouaziz, Director of IT Services  
Dr. Susan Marchant-Haycox, Faculty & Staff Development Committee [Chair]  
Dr. Kathy Tidman, Lecturer, School of Liberal Arts  
Ms. Laura Croucher, Administrator, School of Business  
Ms. Barbara Kaluza, Personal Assistant to Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Hala Thompson, Assistant Dean, School of Business  
Ms. Michele Turner, Dean, School of Media Production

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



### Dear Alumni

**NOW** that the Alumni Association has been established, we will be offering you a selection of reunions and events—including guest lectures—taking place throughout the year.

If you are interested in participating in any activities at American InterContinental University London, do let us know.

We welcome your valuable feedback and ideas for future events and activities. Please keep us informed of your whereabouts and send any news or comments to:

[alumni@aiulondon.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aiulondon.ac.uk).

Best wishes, we hope to hear from you very soon,

**American InterContinental  
Alumni Development Task  
Force**

