

# INScription

Department of International Studies (INS)

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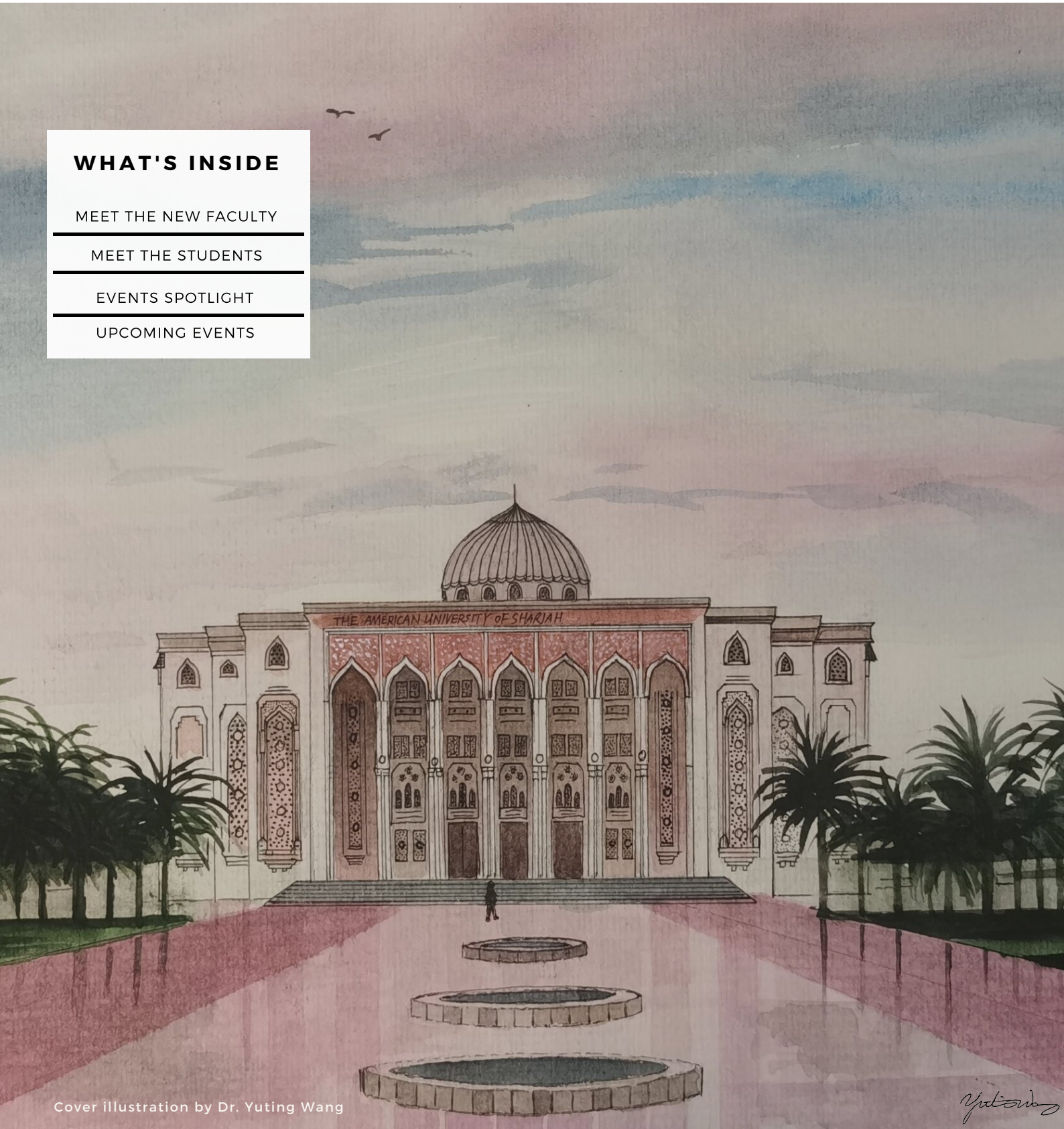
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# Meet the New Faculty

**In each issue of *INScription*, we ask one or two faculty members to tell us a bit more about themselves. In this issue, the faculty members under the spotlight are Dr. Mansa King and Dr. Katherine Green, who joined us in August.**

## Dr. Mansa King

Mansa Bilal Mark King was born Mark Alexander King in Chicago, Illinois. As the son of the rural South, he was comfortable with outdoor activities like fishing and American football. However, he also loved reading and playing games on the home computer or game console. Finally, his childhood was also spent immersed in jazz and soul music, later expanded to Golden Age Hip-Hop. More than Chicago, he grew up in Memphis, Kansas City, and St. Louis. Jazz and soul music defined his social life in these places. Then, in college, he became a regular in the Washington, DC, nightclubs and later expanded his dancing nightlife all the way up to New York. The same year in which he finished his PhD (2006), Mark embraced Islam and became Bilal (Mansa is a title of a ruler in the Mandinka language). Since then, he has married and become a father. This largely curtailed his recreational life to the occasional game of Pillars of Eternity, a fishing or hiking afternoon with his daughters, or marksmanship date with his wife. His research interest in Islam in Africa and the Diaspora, as well as Muslim minorities, has become part of his community service.



## Dr. Katherine Green

Dr. Kate Green is a professor in psychology, an author and a researcher. She has taught people of all ages, from preschool through doctoral levels, while living and working in countries around the world. She has a PhD in Child Development, MS in Educational Leadership, BS in Psychology, and AA degrees in Public Relations and Journalism, and was even a US Air Force military journalist for a few years. As an avid researcher in cross-cultural child development, she is a co-leader of the Attachment Parenting International Research Group, works with an NGO for women and children in Tanzania, plus an organization that helps refugees in Greece. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, exploring nature (even if it's as simple as lying on a beach with a good book), and cooking. She has five amazing and successful young adult and adolescent children who live all over the world, and one eight-year-old grandson (so far). She said, "The biggest joy is when we are all able to be together exploring new places or just hanging out and cooking and enjoying meals as a family."



# MEET THE STUDENTS



In each issue, we will invite one or two students to share their feelings about college life. Feel free to contact us if you would like to participate! We spoke to a first-year student and a graduating senior recently. Here is what they think about the return to face-to-face learning.



## Senior's Stories

*How a senior won the Junior Nobel Prize!*

Noora Almahri, a senior majoring in international studies, recently won the Highly Commended award at the Global Undergraduate Research Awards—also known as the Junior Nobel Prize! She received this award for her research on “Women’s Political Participation in Oman: The Roles of Ibadi Scholars and Tribalism” in INS 330 Women in Politics. Noora mentioned that her paper “highlights that Oman is heavily under-researched and that there is an urgent need for a feminist knowledge production from within to document Omani women’s many societal contributions as well as the confines they must negotiate.”

Evidently, taking up challenges and contributing to fields where more attention is due pays off in many ways! When we asked Noora if she had any tips for aspiring Junior Nobel Prize laureates, she emphasized the need to write a strong abstract as the judges read only that in the first screening round.

For more information about the awards and how you can apply, check out <https://undergraduateawards.com/>.



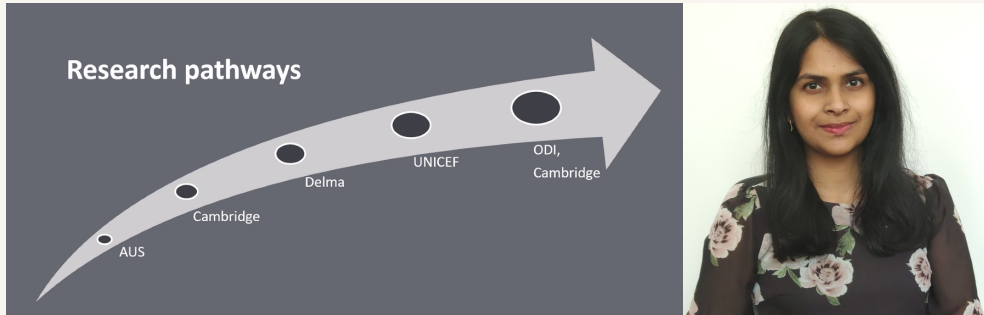
## Fresher's Fables

*Meet Ziyad Hamed, a first-year student majoring in psychology.*

Like the majority of students worldwide, I spent around a year and a half of high school strictly online. It was disheartening to go my full senior year without stepping foot on campus, but, if anything, it made me even more excited to start university. Hybrid and face-to-face learning helped me regain my motivation to study and work towards bettering myself.

I chose psychology as my major out of genuine interest in the subject. As I grew up, I progressively became more aware of and fascinated by my psyche and the psyches of others. I had so many voices in my head asking why humans are the way they are. Overall, I started to analyze almost everything, from day-to-day interactions, to movies and commercials, and all the way up to significant life-shaping events. These attributes helped me discover and understand myself as well as others. I truly believe that if we all knew a little bit of psychology, we’d be kinder to ourselves on top of being kinder and more empathetic towards others.

# EVENTS SPOTLIGHT



## Stepping Stones to Policy Research: A Talk by Alumna Vidya Diwakar | October 5, 2021

At a recent alumni speaker event, Vidya Diwakar talked about her research journey in international development and public policy. A 2012 AUS graduate with a double major in economics and international studies, Vidya has in less than a decade reached the final step of achieving a doctorate. Currently, she is working as a policy researcher at the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network hosted at the Overseas Development Institute in the UK.

Beyond speaking about her work and experiences after graduating from AUS, she also shared some advice about spending time at AUS and picking a master's program. She encouraged students to enjoy their senior thesis and to take advantage of research grants, awards and opportunities that can help them develop many useful skills and generate samples of work that can be used when applying for higher studies and job applications.

Shedding light on applying for a master's degree program, she recommended evaluating the type of learning experience one wants: a guided teaching-based program or an independent research-based program. Additionally, she noted that if students are applying outside the American system, they should be sure to account for the systemic transition.

Vidya said she wants no student to hold back from applying to a prestigious school or opportunity. She said, "Even if you don't meet all the criteria when applying for something, go for it!"

To read more about Vidya's journey, click [here](#).

## AUS Model Congress | November 19-20, 2021



The AUS Model Congress (AUSMC) is a simulation of the US Congress that takes place in November every year. The world is ever-changing, and AUSMC recognizes the constant need for change and advancements by upholding their theme as, "reflect, restore, reform," and their guiding motto as, "if you don't like the rules, rewrite them."

Delegates attending the AUSMC learn and simulate the proceedings of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the US government. As delegates enter committee rooms, AUSMC provides an excellent environment for development, debate, dispute settlement, brainstorming, problem-solving and teamwork.

Are you interested in learning more and immersing yourself in a field this dynamic? Check out [ausmodcongress.com](https://ausmodcongress.com) for more information.



# Upcoming Events!

Events listed below are subject to change

AUSMUN 2022 X Tea with Gen Z  
Diplomatic Diaries: Thrills and Tea Spills  
Monday, November 1 | 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Alumni Event  
Job Search Panel  
Tuesday, November 2 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) & World  
Mental Health Day  
Wednesday, November 3 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

AUSMUN Collaboration with Covestro  
Tuesday, November 9 | 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Psych Club  
Positive Psychology Workshop  
Wednesday, November 10 | 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Department Colloquium  
Dr. Anindita Chatterjee  
Tuesday, November 16 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Psi Chi Alumni Event  
Post-university Life for PSY Students  
Tuesday, November 16 | 5:00–6:00 p.m.

AUS MC - Public Speaking Competition  
November 19–20, 2021

Psych Club Event - Men's Mental Health  
Monday, November 22 | 6:00–7:00 p.m.

AUSMUN Panel Discussion  
Tuesday, November 23 | 5:00–6:00 p.m..

## Contact Us!



INSA - [@insa\\_australia](https://www.instagram.com/insa_australia)  
Psi Chi - [@psichi.aus](https://www.instagram.com/psichi.aus)  
AUS Model UN - [@aus\\_modelun](https://www.instagram.com/aus_modelun)  
Psychology Club - [@auspsychclub](https://www.instagram.com/auspsychclub)  
AUS Model Congress - [@ausmodcongress](https://www.instagram.com/ausmodcongress)  
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