

News and Events

Graduation Ceremony 2009
Abu Dhabi Gala Dinner 2009
New BOT Member
Upcoming Events

Projects

Alumni Center Campaign

Alumni Corner

Class Notes

Issue # 4 - Fall 2009



The Balamandians

The Newsletter Published by the Office of Development for Alumni & Friends



Message from the Office of Development

Dear Balamandians,

Another issue of The Balamandians is in your hands. Many developments have occurred at the University since the last issue. In each issue, we will focus our attention on one particular project that is of importance to you and your alma mater. Our focus in the issue is the Alumni Center, a project that is near and dear to your hearts. The Alumni Center will be your home at the University, offering you many comforts and amenities to make your visits to the University a most enjoyable one. This issue has in its folds some of the details about your Center. Please examine it carefully and contribute to this very worthy project. It is our hope that in a period of three years, we will be able to launch the construction of this project.

The University is seriously committed to making this project a reality. To this end, the Office of Development will be launching a fundraising campaign for the Center. You will also be receiving a brochure about the Center. In addition, you will be contacted by a staff member from the Office of Development to contribute to this worthy project. If you have already contributed to this effort, we thank you. If you have not, we hope you do in the near future.

We look forward to your support and feedback on this very important endeavor.

Sincerely,
Michel Najjar

VP for Development and Public Affairs



Graduation Ceremony 2009

On the beat of the music of the Internal Security Forces band, over 843 graduates from the class of 2009 threw their caps in the air at the conclusion of the 2009 graduation ceremonies held on the University Green Field on July 21, 2009, celebrating their achievement, with their parents, friends, and University professors and administrators.

This year, the University celebrated the graduation of its 20th class with pomp and fanfare. Under the Patronage of His Beatitude Ignatius IV, students received their degrees from Dr. Elie A. Salem, UOB President.

"We are here to thank the Founder of the University, Patriarch Ignatius IV, who founded on this hill, a University that realized, through two decades, what others have done through centuries," said Dr. Salem in his address. "We are here to pay tribute to parents of the graduates who accepted little for themselves in order to give a lot to their

children, as well as to greet the teachers, administrators, and workers who gave all their love and knowledge and experience to prepare our graduates today to adorn this podium," he emphasized.

Dr. Salem proceeded "As for our graduates, we are here not only to congratulate them

- this is obviously inevitable- but we are here to hold them responsible for the resurrection of Lebanon..." "We are not here only to prepare our graduates to fill jobs that provide them with a dignified life- this is normal- but to urge them to have the courage to go into the phase of creativity above all normality."



Alumni Corner

Class Notes

Class of '92

Rima Issa (TD in French literature) is married to Mr. Adib Kouteili and is currently living in Vietnam. She works as a Math teacher at the French Lycée for grades 6-7-8. This year, she started a mini MBA with the Royal Business School.

Class of '93

Hayat Nassar (Diploma in Translation) got married in 1995 and is living with her family in the State of Qatar, where she works as the Administrative Assistant of Citibank, N.A., Qatar.

Class of '94

Rola Elmourad (BA in French literature), lived and worked in the USA for 11 years, came back to Lebanon in 2005 and established a kid's club and day care center called "PEEK-A-BOO". She is the owner and general manager of EDUCARE, a center for kids with special needs. She is also the president of AFAQ association that helps needy kids at all levels.

Class of '95

Michel Elefteriades (Masters degree in Graphic Design and Communication Arts) is author and composer of more than 120 songs for European and Arab artists such as Tony Hanna, Demis Roussos, and Jean Jacques Lafon. He is also a music producer and arranger

whose creations are among the Arab world's most successful musical experiments of the last decade.

Class of '96

Jinan Jarrah Bacha (B.A. in Library Science and Archival Management) lives in Abu Dhabi with her family of one boy and two girls. She holds the position of Admin Manager with twofour54, the Abu Dhabi Media Zone Authority and is currently studying for a Masters in Human Resources Management at Abu Dhabi University.

Class of '97

Henry Abdel Massih (DES in Architecture) currently lives with his family in Qatar where he works as a Senior Architect at PORTO ARABIA Project with C.A.T International Qatar.

Class of '98

Georges R. Assi (D.E.S in Architecture) got married in August 2001 and is currently living with his wife in Algeria, where he works as Resident Manager with Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC).

Class of '99

Kabalan Aoun (MS in Civil Engineering) got married in January 2004 and is currently living with his wife (Rania - Pharmacist) and 2 daughters (Joyce & Nicole) in Doha, Qatar. He is General Manager at JAK Construction Co., a road works contracting company.



Rima Issa



Hayat Nassar



Rola Elmourad



Henri Abdel Massih



Jinan Jarrah Bacha



Shady Hallab



Ziad Khatib



Michel Elefteriades



Georges Assi

Abu Dhabi Gala Dinner 2009

Nearly 500 alumni and guests attended the second annual Gala dinner held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Abu Dhabi on March 5, 2009, under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The evening was kicked off by the President of the University of Balamand Dr. Elie Salem, who stressed "that the relations that were built brick by brick and in mutual cooperation between

Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates will last, and prosper in spite of external challenges". Sheikh Nahyan; "I consider my presence with you tonight a dear occasion, in which I would like to express my appreciation for the confidence and respect that identify the University of Balamand in Lebanon and the region due to its truthfulness and commitment that has been manifested during the past twenty years since its founding until this day". The event featured an exceptional presence for the well-known Lebanese media figure Ms. Joumana Bou Eid who was the Master

of Ceremonies. The dinner also witnessed a performance by the Lebanese group Al Fursan Al Arbaa "Four Musketeers". Ms. Magda Nassif, a UOB alumnus, performed songs by Fairuz and Majida El Roumi. A scholarship auction was held resulting in 17 scholarships being donated.



Samir Srour



Zeina Nasr



Ghassan Fayad



Tony Tanios



Hanadi Chaaban



Charbel Akl



Christina Nakhoul



Kabalan Aoun



Karen Feghali

Class of '00

Ziad Khatib (BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences) is currently pursuing his PhD in Global Health at Karolinska Institutet-Stockholm, in collaboration with Stanford University-USA and NICD-Johannesburg, looking at HIV drug resistance and adherence among HIV patients in Soweto-South Africa.

Class of '01

Samir Srour (MS in Computer Science) has been living in France since his graduation and been working for Capgemini as an ITIL consultant and approved ITIL V3 trainer for the past 3 years.

Class of '02

Zeina Nasr (BBA in Business and Management) is currently working at Bank of Beirut as PBR in the Jbeil branch.

Class of '03

Ghassan Fayad (BS in Mechanical Engineering) is currently working on his doctorate at MIT. He was awarded the Charles Zraket Award in February 2006 from the American Lebanese Engineering Society for outstanding academic achievements.

Class of '04

Charbel Akl (M.S. in Computer Engineering) finished his PhD at the beginning of 2009 and joined Intel Corporation in Austin, TX as component design engineer

Class of '05

Hanadi Chaaban (BS in Health promotion) got married in January 2008 and is living

with her husband in Kuwait, where she is an assistant accreditation coordinator at Al Salam International Hospital.

Class of '06

Tony Tanios (MS in Electrical Engineering: Biomedical) has joined (AMICO) a Medical Instruments Co.

Class of '07

Shady Hallab

(BA in Business Administration: Accounting & Auditing with Distinction) acquired his MBA (Finance) from the USA with Distinction and relocated to Kuwait last March, where he works as a consultant with Deloitte (ERS). He was recently awarded a double promotion.

Class of '08

Karen Feghali (BA in Art Direction) is currently working on her Art Direction Portfolio at the Miami Ad School Europe in Hamburg, Germany.

Class of '09

Christina Nakhoul (BBA in Business Administration: Management) works as an Economics teacher at Abu Dhabi International School, where she teaches grades 9, 10 and 11.

Due to space limitations, the editors of the newsletter apologize for not being able to publish all the class notes received for this issue. Those notes that were not published will appear in upcoming issues. Please keep sending your news to: development@balamand.edu.lb.

New Board of Trustee Member

Mr. Mounir Issa

On the first of October 2009, the University of Balamand welcomed Mr. Mounir Habib Issa as a new member to its Board of Trustees. Mr. Issa was born in Amioun, El Koura in 1935. He moved to Qatar in 1955, where he first worked with CAT for 16 years.

In 1972, he established TRAGS (Trading and Agency Services Ltd) in Qatar with the prime objective of marketing activities. The company diversified and achieved tremendous success in its specialty of civil engineering and construction, and engineering and maintenance in the oil and gas sectors. At present, the company employs a permanent multidisciplinary workforce of over 2,000.

Mr. Issa has received many honors including the Coat of Arms of the Presidency of the Lebanese Republic, the National Order of the Cedar of the Presidency of the Lebanese Republic, and the rank of Knight from the Italian Government. He is also



the head of the Lebanese community in Qatar, a member of the Qatari-Lebanese Friendship Committee and the Trade Committee of the Qatari Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Issa was also a major contributor to the establishment of the Lebanese School in Qatar. The University welcomes his presence on its BOT and looks forward to his help in fulfilling the University's mission.

Upcoming Events

- In continuing with the tradition established in Dubai in 2008 and Abu Dhabi in 2009, the Office of Development will be organizing two gala dinners this spring in Dubai and Qatar. Details about the events such as date, location and program will be sent early on next year.

- In the summer of 2010, the University will hold an open-air concert by a famous Lebanese singer at the University Greenfield. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Scholarship Fund at the University. Details of the event will be sent to you as they become available.

The Alumni Center

Thousands of Balamand alumni and friends depend on the University to stay connected to their alma mater. Now, alumni and friends will have a place to call home when visiting the campus. The University of Balamand intends to build the Alumni Center as a testament to the achievements of its graduates.

To be located on the upper campus between the Faculty of Business and Management and the School of Tourism and Hotel Management, the Alumni Center will be more than a building; it will be a welcoming and friendly place to relax and visit when you return to the University.

With more than 2,000 square meters of activity and office space, the possibilities are endless. Whether it is a spacious lounge, library, Business Center, Health Center, restaurant and café, or a general meeting space, the many flexible venues within the Center will likely fit your needs.



It is where you can reminisce with classmates and old professors, celebrate with friends, and network with colleagues. Now is your chance to write yourself into the narrative. You will be receiving a brochure detailing many features of the Alumni Center and announcing the launching of the Alumni

Center fundraising campaign. Should you require additional information on the Center or to make your donation, you can visit the Alumni Center Campaign webpage: <http://www.balamand.edu.lb/AlumniCenter>. We seek your help in this very important project and count on your support.