



## Projects

### Issam M. Fares Library Learning Center

Designed by Sasaki Associates, the new 5,900 square-meter Issam M. Fares Library Learning Center (LLC) is on course to start serving the UOB Community by this fall semester. With its prime location at the heart of the campus and opening to the Central Plaza, it will be a place of inspiration that will bring together students and teachers from all Faculties and encourage rich and open discussions and collaboration among disciplines. Combining the traditional functions of a library with the newest uses of technology and contemporary approaches to learning, the new LLC will have a good portion of

its holdings in electronic form, allowing for easy access, search and availability. The LLC also includes computer labs, classrooms equipped with the latest video conferencing technologies, interactive teaching, and individual tutoring. A very distinctive feature of the LLC is its Atrium. It is an open and pleasant space providing an informal meeting place for students and faculty. Its proximity to the major buildings on campus, its open stacks layout, bright colorful furniture, and the friendly and professional staff all guarantee to make the new Issam Fares LLC the intellectual hub of the UOB academic life.



## Alumni Corner

### Class Notes

#### Class of '01

**Rabih El-Khatib** (BS in Civil Engineering) got his MS in 2002 and MBA in 2005. He is married and is living with his wife and daughter in Beirut, where he works as a Project Engineer in the Transportation Department with Khatib & Alami. He is also a part-time Lecturer at the Lebanese American University Engineering Faculty, Byblos Campus and Hariri Canadian University Engineering Faculty, Mechref.

**Matilda Saliba** (BA in Public Health and Development Sciences) is married to Hicham Frem and lives with her family in Canada. Matilda has two kids, Huda 5 years old and Rawad almost 2 years old.

#### Class of '02

**Wissam Beiruty** (BBA in Hotel Management and Business Administration) joined Rotana Hotels, UAE in 2003 as a Human Resources Management Trainee. He is currently the Director of Human Resources at Amwaj Rotana, Dubai a preopening hotel for the chain. **Nabiha Mansour** (BS in Computer Science) got her MS in 2008. She has been working as Program Analyst at the University of Balamand in the Registrar's Office since 2003. Nabiha got married in 2010 and recently gave birth to a baby girl called Nay.

#### Class of '03

**Jihane Azizi** (BBA in Business Administration, minor in Hotel Management) has lived in Jordan since July 2006. She worked as an assistant housekeeper at the Royal Hotel in Amman. She is currently working as Public Relations Manager at National Integrated Industries Complex (NIIC) in Amman.

**Nancy Frangie** (BA in Languages and Translation) joined UNIFIL as a Language Assistant in 2006.

#### Class of '04

**Antoine Assaf** (BS in Mechanical Engineering) completed his MS in 2005. He joined Dar Al-Handassah (Shair and Partners), Beirut in November 2005 where he works as a consulting engineer in the Mechanical Department.

**Rima Najjar** (TD in Education) got a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Education (Counseling) in 2006 from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. She got married in 2007 and has been residing in Qatar since then, where she teaches at Qatar Academy in the Education City, aka Qatar Foundation.

#### Class of '05

**Suzan Marie Semaan -Moussallem** (BS in Biology) got married in August 2010 and received a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry in 2011 from Florida State University.

**Ahmad Chamsine** (BFA in Graphic Design) got married in July 2006 and is living with his wife in Qatar, where he works as Head of Design & Internal Communications with QPM (Qatar Project Management).

#### Class of '06

**Mohamad Hamze** (BS in Management Information System) worked as Key Account Manager for Mannai Trading Company in Doha, Qatar from Feb 2007 to Aug 2009, and then moved to the United Kingdom where he got his Master degree in International Marketing from Birmingham University. In March 2011, Mohamad relocated to KSA where he works as Brand Manager for HBH.

**Nicole Chamma** (BFA in Interior Architecture and Design) lives and works at Decorpoint International Company in Dubai-UAE.

#### Class of '07

**Joelle Farkh** (MFA in Animation 2D/3D) got

married to Joseph Saliba, an ALBA graduate and works as a freelance animator.

**Abdul karim Tayeb Rafei** (BS in Mechanical Engineering) got his MS in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Business Management in 2009. Abdul Karim is currently working for Saudi Oger Ltd as a Procurement Engineer in Riyadh, KSA.

#### Class of '08

**Elie Haber** (MS in Electrical Engineering) has been working as Head of the Biomedical Department at St. Joseph Hospital, Lebanon since 2008.

**Samer Kesrouani** (BS in Mechanical Engineering) returned to Lebanon after he recently got his Masters degree from the University of Nevada, USA as a Research Assistant with the Composite and Intelligent Materials Laboratory CIML team in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

#### Class of '09

**Abdul Kader Nashar** (MS in Information Systems) lives and works in Saudi Arabia as a Professional Services Specialist for opentext (Edocs).

**Andre Saade** (BBA in Business and Management) worked as Audit Associate for Deloitte Qatar for two years. He is currently pursuing his MS in Accounting and Finance at the Manchester Business School.

#### Class of '10

**Abella Akkari** (BFA in Interior Architecture and Design) is currently living in Nigeria (Minna, Niger State) where she will design the new Club of the Golden Palace Hotel, a 4-star hotel, in addition to taking part in the management section.

**Josette Zeilah** (MD in General Medicine) is currently an Internal Medicine Resident at Henry Ford Hospital.

#### News & Events

- Graduation Ceremony 2011
- Abu Dhabi Gala Dinner 2011

#### Projects

- Issam M. Fares Library Learning Center

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Class Notes

Issue # 7 - Spring 2011

# The Balamandians

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



Graduation Ceremony 2011

## News & Events

### Graduation Ceremony 2011

The University of Balamand's 21st Commencement had the robes and vocabulary of a formal ceremony, but graduates added their own flare to the proceedings with a spirited and spontaneous round of Dabkeh to the beat of the music of the Internal Security Forces band accompanied by the Oriental Choir of the University. On July 15th 2011, the University conferred 1,061 degrees, amidst a crowd that filled the roughly 10,000 seats on Metropolitan Philip Saliba Green Field.

H. E. Bishop Ghattas Hazim, Abbot of the Balamand Monastery opened the ceremony with a prayer, followed by the students' speech by Karim El Ferh from the Faculty of Health Sciences. The event was also an opportunity for the University to honor one of Lebanon's luminaries and an influential figure in its history and that of the University, His Excellency Mr. Ghassan Tueini, who served as President of the University from 1990 to 1993. President Salem presented a memorial University Shield

to Mrs. Andre Fouad Tueni, who accepted on behalf of Mr. Tueni. "...When His Beatitude Ignatius IV decided to establish a University, Ghassan Tueni was there, helping, implementing, and making the dream come true; and when His Beatitude wanted to give the University a remarkable footprint around the globe, Ghassan was the right President because he is regional and global..." Said Dr. Salem.



Abu Dhabi Gala Dinner

On April 8th 2011, the University held its 4th UAE fundraising Gala Dinner event in Abu Dhabi at the Fairmont Bab Al Bahr Hotel, Saker Ballroom. The annual gathering is a chance for the University alumni and friends to support the Scholarship Fund at the University. His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the UAE, has graced the occasion every year since its inception by holding it under his patronage. A UOB tradition, the evening brought together around 500 Balamand students and friends, Dr. Elie A. Salem, President of the University along with a delegation from the University including Board of Trustees and staff members. Proceeds from the Dinner event grow an Endowment Fund established to provide scholarships for needy and deserving students at the University. Alums and friends danced through the evening on the sweet voice of Lebanese singer Hisham El Hajj, who charmed everyone with his outstanding singing, in addition to two other performances by UOB alumnus Magda Nassif and Mohamad Al Chaar. The great gift basket raffles and the live scholarship auction also embellished the event that had the well-known Lebanese media figure Ms. Joumana Bou Eid as its Master of Ceremonies.



Alumni Corner

Class Notes

Class of '92

**Liliane Maroun** (DES in Plastic Arts) is married and has two kids. She is teaching at LCU, Montana & Sagesse.

**Gina Assi** (TD in Education) is married to engineer Julien Chammas and has two children, Chayanne 12, and Ralph 5. She was a home tutor for 12 years in Douala where she lived with her family. In 2008, Gina came back to Lebanon for good.

Class of '93

**Rana Nehme** (BA in Languages) pursued her Master in Translation and Information Technology at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. Rana has been working as a translator at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Madrid, Spain since December 2003.

**George Wehbe** (BBA in Business and Management) is married to Nadine Accaoui and has two kids, Maria Celeste and Simon. He works as Country Manager for KGL logistics in Doha, Qatar.

Class of '94

**Fady Saliba** (BFA in Interior Design) is the head of the Design Department at 'Kafka Goes Pink', a union and fusion of an ancestral handicraft and a visionary designer. Fady carries out work in Lebanon and France. He is married and has two daughters.

**Randa Al Chidiac** (BA + TD in English Language and Literature) has a M.Sc. in Information and Library Studies from the University of Wales in Aberystwyth. She first worked as an English language instructor at UOB from 1995 – 2000. In 2000, Randa joined the staff at the UOB Libraries where she is currently the E-Resources Librarian. She has held numerous positions in associations and professional groups such as current Vice President of the Lebanese Library Association and Secretary of the UOB Alumni Association. Randa is also a member of the Gibran Khalil Gibran National Executive Committee.

Class of '95

**Samar Saba** (BA in Arabic Language and

Literature) works as an assistant in the Maintenance Department at Deir-Aamar Power Plant. She is married to Elie Matta who works at the University of Balamand. She is the mother of Ghady, a 7-year old boy.

**Hady Bakkar** (BS in Computer Engineering) completed his MS in 1997. Hady has worked with Saudi Inteltec in Jeddah, KSA, as Western Region Project Manager for 10 years. In September 2010, he was promoted from the Telecom/GSM Department to the MEP Projects Division under the Saudi Inteltec Group, Riyadh, KSA. He is married to Fadila Shaty, and they have two boys, Boudi and Omar.

Class of '96

**Jinan Jarrah** (BA in Library Science and Archival Management) got her Masters in Human Resource Management in 2010 from Abu Dhabi University. Jinan worked as Student Recruitment and Admissions Manager at Abu Dhabi University, and then moved to twofour54, the Abu Dhabi

Media Zone Authority where she works as Administration Manager. She is married and has one boy and two girls.

**Ghassan Abboud** (BS in Computer Engineering) completed his MS in 1998. He works with EMC Middle East in Dubai as a Sales Manager. Ghassan is married and has two kids Joseph and Lea.

Class of '97

**Michel Nader** (BS in Computer Engineering) got his MS in Electrical Engineering in 1998. Michel works for Hewlett-Packard in Dubai as Channel & Sales Manager HP Software - Middle East. He is married and has two kids, one boy and a baby girl.

**Jean El Tawil** (BS in Electrical Engineering) completed his MS in 1998. He works for MDS Site & Power in Abu Dhabi. He was promoted to many positions and is currently the Business Unit Manager. Jean has been married since 2008.

Class of '98

**John Zakhia Douaihy** (BBA in Business Administration) got married in June 2010 and has been working for the UN since 2003, where he had several missions in Iraq, Beirut, Cambodia, Guatemala, and the Ivory Coast. John has relocated to Afghanistan since April 2010. He is currently a Personal Protection Officer for UN high officials and a Firearms Instructor and Training Officer for Close Protection and Security Teams.

**Vincent Nassar** (TD in Physical Education) studied Advanced Master in Sport Administration and Technology at the International Academy of Sports Science and Technology in 2006, and recently got his PhD from École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland where he lives.

Class of '99

**Dina Nader** (BA in English Language and Literature) also earned an MA in Mass

Communication from the University of Leicester, UK in 2004. She is currently teaching Business and English at the American University in Dubai.

**Elias Jaalouki** (BS in Electrical Engineering) completed his MS in 2000. He got married in September 2004 and has a baby boy. He lives in Dubai, UAE, where he works as a Sales Manager for Dorma Gulf Door Controls FZE.

Class of '00

**Racha Baghdadi** (BA in Physical Education) is married and has been living with her family in Qatar for the past 4 years. Racha works at the Elite International School.

**Sherine Abdelhak** (BS in Computer Engineering) got her MS in 2002. She pursued her PhD degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA, and worked on distributed computing and signal processing on wireless embedded systems.