



Highlights

UOB Student Newspaper Issue 10 - November 2011

Highlights - UOB Student Newspaper  Like



Orientation Day by the Photography Club

Photos of the New Students



For your contributions and comments email us on highlights@balamand.edu.lb

هايلايٲس^٢

أمل ديب

أن يكون في جامعة البلمند جريدة طلابية قد لا يعني الكثيرين، أولهم الطلاب أنفسهم. فبقدر ما هي تمثّل فسحة كتابية وثقافية لدى البعض، بقدر ما هي «لزوم ما لا يلزم» أو مضيعة للوقت لدى البعض الآخر. وجودها أو عدمه لا يؤثر على الحياة الجامعية بالنسبة لهؤلاء. كئنا قد أشرنا في افتتاحية الجريدة في عددها الأول منذ عامين أن «هدفنا الأساس هو خلق مساحة للطلاب ليشاركونا مواهبهم واهتماماتهم». واطبنا منذ عامين على تأمين هذه المساحة مرة كل شهر، وقصدنا في كل عدد تسليط الضوء على مشكلات تواجه الطلاب من دراسية ونفسية واجتماعية. ولعل ملف «حرم جامعي خالٍ من التدخين» الذي تناولته الجريدة في أكثر من عدد شكّل نقطة انطلاق لحملة تدفع بهذا الاتجاه. فكانت النتيجة الملموسة تخصيص عدد من المباني كأماكن خالية من التدخين، والحملة ستستمر إلى أن يصبح كل الحرم الجامعي كذلك. للشباب دور ريادي في إحداث التغيير. هذا ما شهدت عليه الانتفاضات الشبابية والشعبية الأخيرة في العالم العربي. لطلاب البلمند دور أساسي في جعل الجامعة مكاناً أفضل، لأنهم المستفيدون الأولون من أي تغيير يحصل. وما هذه الجريدة سوى مدخل ووسيلة لإحداث التغيير. وقد بدأ التغيير في الجريدة نفسها، التي ستصدر منذ اليوم بثماني صفحات مرتين كل شهر، كي لا تغيب عن الطلاب وقتاً طويلاً وتضمن متابعة آنية لأحوالهم. الجريدة التي يديرها الطلاب أنفسهم تحت إشراف مكتب شؤون الطلاب، تطمح إلى أن تصل إلى كل بلمندي. والبلمنديون

المنقسمون في هذا الشأن شريحتان، الأولى تقرأ هايلايٲس، والأخرى لا تقرأها، هم من نتوجّه إليهم. للمتابعين نقول إننا لا نكمل إلا بدعمكم وتواصلكم معنا، وللذين لا يعلمون حتى بوجود الجريدة نقول إنها الآن بين أيديكم. هي لكم، من خلالها نسعى إلى أن نتواصل معكم، أن نعرف ما الذي تحبون قراءته، وأن ننشر لكم مساهماتكم. هايلايٲس ليست مجرد أوراق تتناثر في أرجاء الجامعة، إنها «صوتكم» كما أسميناها منذ عامين، صوتكم الذي يصرخ بمطالبكم وهمومكم ورجباتكم. ولنصل إلى أكبر عدد منكم، أنشأنا على موقع الفايسبوك صفحة Highlights - UOB Student Newspaper. هي صفحتكم أيضاً، انهلوا عليها بأفكاركم. هايلايٲس، كما الجامعة، موجودة بفضلكم ولأجلكم، اجعلوها تشبهكم.



Response to: Jessica Hanna “She’s 19 He’s 39” and Yara Nader “How Far is Too Far?”

Dr. Christine Lindner

In the June 2010 issue of Highlights, two op-ed pieces addressed the issue of romantic relationships between individuals of significantly different ages, one considering a teacher-student romance specifically. Both argued that such relationships should be accepted, for “[t] here’s no rule in love that states the perfect age difference between the two lovers” (Nader, 12). While I agree with the authors that we should accept individuals’ pursuits of positive relationships, I am hesitant to do so when such relationships are based upon unequal embodiments of power. The examples drawn upon for the original articles describe relationships between an older/teacher male and a younger/student female. I find this problematic for it opens up opportunities where gross inequalities of power can be abused. In all cultures around the world, Lebanon, the United States or Europe, men wield more power than women within society. This is often compounded by men’s easier access to positions of authority and increased cumulative wealth.

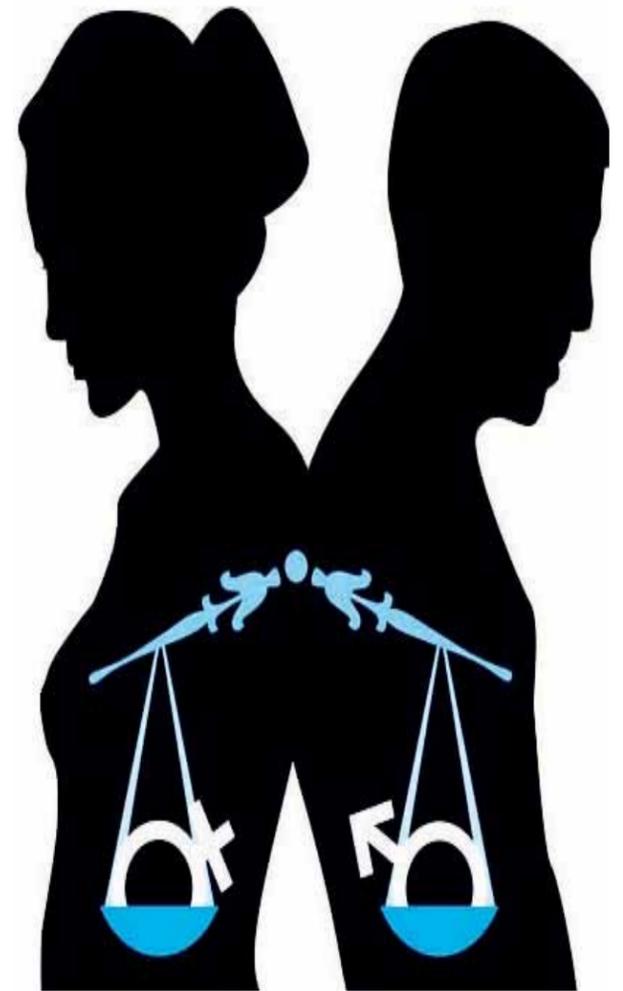
Unfortunately, abuse of such power is common, as seen with the case of Dominique Strauss-Kahn. A male teacher, who earns a salary, is in a position of power over all of his students, but particularly his female students. Such inequality of power cannot be easily erased, even within romantic relationships. As is also evident in the Strauss-Kahn case, when the disadvantaged within such power relationships complains that those in power have acted inappropriate, the disadvantaged is often not believed and the power relationship is strengthened—despite the hurt and pain caused. I am not suggesting that all men in power

will abuse their status but that romantic relationships should be based upon equal respect, which is difficult to achieve when gross disparities of power are wielded.

The reverse case, of a female teacher dating a male student, was not addressed by the authors. This is a situation that personally affects me as a female Assistant Professor. Due to global gender inequalities, women in positions of authority do not wield as much power as their male colleagues. When they do, such power is often challenged or rejected. This is evident in my students’ inability to address me as ‘Doctor’. When a male student pursues a female teacher for a romantic relationship, he is operating under the belief that she is his equal thus ignoring the power inequality that their teacher-student relationship should normally evoke. He is thus refusing to accept that she has power over him. Rather, the student perpetuates the gendered stereotypes that women are only objects of sexual/visual pleasure, and not wielders of power. Pursuing a relationship between a female teacher and a male student is thus, demeaning, for it disregards the hard work and ambition represented by the title of Assistant Professor.

Romantic relationships should be pursued for the mutual benefit of both parties, based upon equal respect and, in my view, embodiments of power. The inability to do so, due to discrepancies of inherent power, will not only create unhealthy relationships, but will encourage further abuses of power.

* Dr. Christine Lindner is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.



<http://pyramidzone.wordpress.com/2011/09/26/on-gender-equalit>

Careers

How to Benefit from your University Years in Building your C.V.

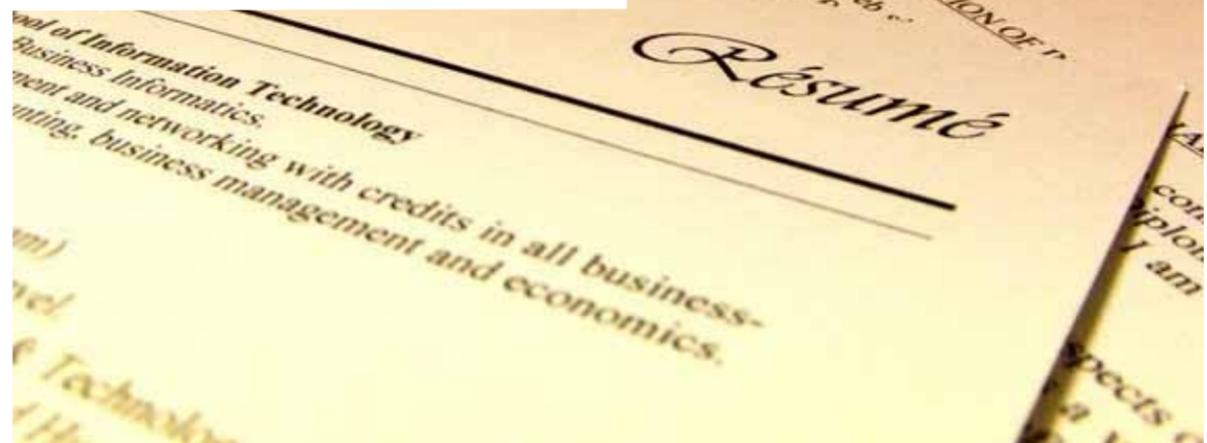
Samir Karam

When people think about writing a C.V., the first thing they think about is where they have worked, if they have been in scouts... They simply overlook their university years and their vitality in the prospect of building a C.V. In order to have a rich resume, many things can be taken into consideration.

On the one hand, life on campus offers many opportunities to build a C.V.: the clubs at our university give students the chance to communicate with people, volunteer with NGOs, create events and participate in them. Club activities add a lot to extra-curricular activities that are very important in terms of building a C.V.

Another thing students can benefit from at the University of Balamand is the Career Services Center, which hosts events related to C.V. writing, what to add, what to emphasize ...etc. The Center also offers job interview tips, mock interviews, lectures on the importance of volunteer work and the opportunity to take part in the yearly Opportunity Day that they organize.

On the other hand, the Student Work program also offers the opportunity to experience the life that is



similar to what you will be living in the future once you start working. For example, if you are an accounting student, you could apply for Student Work in the Comptroller’s office, and that will give you an idea about what your future work might be like.

Taken as a whole, university life offers priceless

opportunities. It is a transition between school life and labor life; it is the elevator that takes you from the world in which you learn to the one in which you work. It is an intermediate period that feeds you with all the ammunition and with everything you need to make the grade in this ever tough world.

Meet Our New Library

Jessica Hanna



Have we complained about the constant construction dust and noises facing the bus stop? This mess is fortunately over, and our new library is currently functioning, with all its available facilities. The edifice is more accurately referred to as the "Issam Fares Learning Center" as it consists of an open-stack-library, computer labs, study rooms, informal seating areas, and classes equipped for technologically advanced teaching.

Ms. Sameera Bashir, the library director who has supplied us with information about the Learning Center, expressed the importance of exposing students to stacks of books as they will have the opportunity to explore a wider variety of books and thus become familiar with more titles on every subject. As the old library lacked the open-stack feature, numerous professional librarians will be present to assist students through all the library's facilities. On every floor of the building, there are electronic

boards for announcements, and large informal seating areas with lights, colorful furniture and wide windows revealing the virgin landscape surrounding the campus. In these ar-

reas, students can sit comfortably and read a book or drink coffee. Some study rooms for group studies and individual tutoring are available and are equipped with interactive boards, as well as rooms for distance learning, which are equipped with video-conferencing tools.

The atmosphere of calmness and intellect spreads to the atrium located between the new learning center and the engineering building. This atrium will be complete after the opening of the library; however, it is currently being constructed and supplied with trees of various kinds. The purpose of the atrium, as Ms. Bachir describes it, is to be a meeting point for students and professors. It will be an internal garden with a glass ceiling.

Shelby Foote, an American historian, says: "A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library." Exposing almost every school of thought, a library must be considered the core of education that joins all the human minds across decades, centuries, and millennia.

We look forward to venturing through the new building and explore its facilities, hoping everything will be up to the administration's, the professors', and the students' expectations.



Photos by Photography Club

Can It Get any Worse?

Stephanie Issa

Dirt, a pack of cigarettes thrown on the floor, someone trying to hit on you, drivers smoking, texting, and speeding at the same time ... Welcome to bus world. Although she takes the 7:15 bus coming from Tripoli, a UOB student never arrives to her 8 am class on time because the bus driver decides to take a different route than the one it is supposed to take, just to pick up another student who had offered him more money. Another student, using the Amioun bus, spends almost an hour on her way back home because the bus does not leave on time since there are not enough passengers. She ends up taking a taxi, paying more money for the sake of her comfort. These two examples might seem unworthy of mention when compared to what other students experience when riding the bus.

Buses are supposed to drive on the right lane of the road and to respect speed limits since drivers are responsible for the lives of their passengers. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Almost none of the bus drivers abide by the safety rules and regulations. Instead, they enjoy speeding up and shifting between lanes, as if the road were theirs, trying to cover the shift in a record time.

Furthermore, a student using the bus to Beirut every weekend said that she has recently decided to use the Connexion bus company as it is the safest mean of transportation available. She made up her mind after she was sexually harassed by the bus driver of one of the small buses.

Public transportation is of vital importance in Lebanon, a country where, due to the increasing fuel prices and the aggravated economic situation, people cannot afford to ride in a taxi or have their own cars. The government, however, does not seem much concerned with the matter.



Photos by Photography Club

نادي السينما

آمال الغريشة

الاجتماع وغيرها من العلوم المتعلقة بالإنسان وحياته. وفي بعض الأحيان، تُعرض سلسلة أفلام للمخرج عينه. أما الحضور، فيتألف من طلاب من مختلف كليات الجامعة ومن بعض أساتذتها الذين يهونون السينما بشقها الكلاسيكي. وبحسب د.ديك فإننا «مع مرور الوقت، أصبحنا أشبه بعائلة، نلتقي، نتناقش ونشارك متعة أن نكون مجتمعين».

وفي ما خص مشاريع النادي السينمائي لهذه السنة، فستبدأ في شهر تشرين الثاني، وستقتصر على عرض الأفلام ومناقشتها. وبيحث النادي حالياً إمكانية إقامة مهرجان سينمائي، لمدة أسبوع، يتناول موضوعاً معيناً. وسيتم الإعلان عن هذه المشاريع من خلال الملصقات والرسائل الإلكترونية. إن هذه التقدمة المقتضية للنادي هي دعوة مني لكم للانضمام إلى عائلتنا، لنتنقل سوياً، من خلال الأفلام، إلى عالم خالٍ من المتاعب والمشكلات اليومية.

أعيد إحياء نادي السينما منذ سنة ونصف تحت إشراف د. شارل ديك، أستاذ التمثيل والإخراج في كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية في جامعة البلمند.

بدأ مشروع إعادة إحياء النادي بعد تلاقي كل من شوق د. ديك للتعاون مع الطلاب وتبسيط العلاقة معهم ورغبة عميد شؤون الطلاب د. طوني جرجس في إقامة نشاطات تهدف إلى تطوير الشق الثقافي للتعليم الجامعي؛ بهدف بناء شخصية الطالب.

يجتمع الطلاب ود. ديك مرة كل أسبوعين، يشاهدون فيلماً من اختياره، أو من اختيارهم، يناقشون الفكرة والتمثيل والإخراج ويترجون أفكاراً لمشاريع آتية، مستطلعين آراء الأغلبية. يهيمن النمط الكلاسيكي على غالبية الأفلام التي تُعرض؛ كونه الأساس في تاريخ السينما العالمية. كما أن اختيار الأفلام لا يقتصر على بعدها السينمائي فحسب، وإنما لمعظمها أبعاد في مجالات عديدة، كعلم النفس وعلم

Experiencing the US: A Student's Testimony

Raafat Kassem

Date: June 21st, 2011

Location: Dulles Airport, Washington DC

Once the airplane landed on American Territories, we realized that this is not a dream.

We were 5 students from different universities across Lebanon. On the larger scale, approximately 80 students from 15 different Arab and North American countries were present that day. The Lebanese and the University of Balamand's Flags were both accompanying me during my 35-day stay in the US.

The purpose of the program was to undergo Leadership and Civic Engagement education as well as communication, organizational and planning skills to be able to implement a social project back home. In total, 4 states were visited: New York, Boston, Washington and



the "Ocean state" Rhode Island.

Rhode Island's Roger Williams was my host University which soon became my second home.

Great staff and extraordinary people made my journey unforgettable. With every word I write, memories come rushing back to my head: from the reception at the airport, the Congress meeting, and the 9 to 5 classes, to the volunteer work we did at the Non-Violence Organization and the Water-Fire Committee and the negotiation course at Harvard University. Despite the intensive schedule I still found time to experience "The American Dream".

I will not forget the class I attended at the UN headquarters, where my fellow Arabs and I had the opportunity to let our voice be heard in the UN.

This annual program is a life-changing opportunity that gives young students the chance to explore the American way of life and have an excellent educa-



tion in the top US universities.

That was my experience at the Middle East Partnership Initiative Program (MEPI) Student Leaders' Program.

*Raafat Kassem is a U.O.B alumni, pursuing his Graduate studies at the University of Manchester.

Model United Nations: The Indian Experience

Tamara Hanna

Model United Nations is a renowned program on an international level. Not only has it engaged thousands of individuals in the work of the United Nations, but it has also provided an interactive pedestal for debating issues and negotiating solutions. In a typical Model UN conference, delegates, i.e. high school or university students, are assigned certain countries in certain UN-based committees. In these committees, the delegate, acting as an ambassador of a certain country, is expected to discuss a certain topic, usually an international issue present on the UN agenda, and formulate a resolution for it.

CBIT-MUN (Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology's Model United Nations), the conference I participated in, was no different than the typical Model United Nations. All such conferences are held throughout the globe, but the added bonus to me was the fact that it wasn't held in my home country but in Hyderabad, India. Besides representing Lebanon and the University of Balamand, I was assigned to be the ambassador of Iran, with the task of negotiating and debating the issue of renewable resources. I was part of the Futuristic G-35 committee, which had the unique feature of being set in 2020, thus allowing us to expand our thoughts and imagine what things would be like then. The fact that I'm an Environmental Sciences student made the topic more interesting to me and allowed me to bring certain facts to the table. All the students' knowledge added to my own while allowing me to give something in return.

The most exquisite factor of the conference was the fact that all Indian delegates there came from the



various diverse 28 Indian states. I was thrilled to meet everyone there. The first night was an amazing one. As the opening ceremony came to its end, it was time for some karaoke. Though we all came from different places and had different viewpoints when time came for music, the universal language, we all sang in one voice. I spent a lot of time with interesting, fun, and intellectual people who will always remain in my memory. The remaining



nights were just as enjoyable as the first one, singing to the tunes of a guitar and mingling and playing games with all my fellow apartment buddies. One night stood out from the rest, as it was an actual prom night. We were supposed to be accompanied by dates and I truly had an incredible time dancing to the Punjabi music.

This experience has taught me a lot of things that will be useful throughout my life, no matter which path I take. CBIT-MUN has taught me tolerance towards other cultures and traditions and the importance of diversity, as each person has a lot to contribute and is a valuable asset in their own way. In addition to that, being in this MUN conference allowed me to meet unique people.

Drawing from my experience, establishing an MUN in Balamand is of vital importance to the university, because first, it is a means to be able to unite people from all over the region under one roof. Secondly, the UOB's reputation will become more renowned among the high school community as the students will be exposed to the campus life.

Facing Exponential Times: From Balamand to Buenos Aires

Rula Dahdal

Tarek Abboud, a senior Translation student, was chosen among hundreds of other applicants to participate in an annual event held in Buenos Aires called "South American Business Forum" (SABF). This program is organized by students of the Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires (ITBA). The program took place over three days and was filled with inspirational, intellectual and motivational lectures, activities and workshops, lead by a significant team, enriching their 100 chosen applicants with knowledge in certain topics.

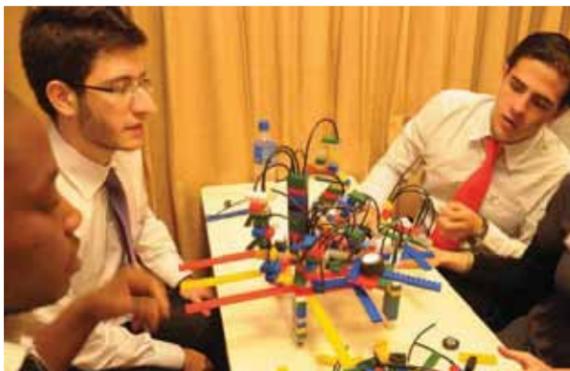
On the 5th, 6th and 7th of August 2011, the ITBA held the 7th edition of the event, under the title of "Facing Exponential Times." As the heading suggests, the main domain of discussions and debates was concerned with technology, economy and education, and how numerous innovations in these fields were booming in a short duration of time.

The first day's lectures focused on topics such as economy, business, education and technology. The program hosted professional speakers, such as Santiago Bilinkis, the co-founder and CEO of Officenet. Bilinkis'



lecture, entitled "The Future of the Future", discussed how technological progress is going to condense the innovations within the next 50 years.

On the following day, students had the option of choosing the workshop they want to participate in. Some participants got to present their own workshop, discussing their ideas and topics with their fellow participants. Other workshops included visits to successful and internationally recognized companies, during which the participants had a tour around their offices and held discussions with employees and managers. Fortunately for Tarek, he visited the famous search engine



"Google" at their Argentina headquarters. One would imagine that a prolific company such as Google must be extremely tight on the conventional rules, regulations, uniforms and office atmosphere. However, that is not the case. Google actually pays a lot of attention to the welfare of its workers since their job is all about creativity.



Therefore, the company has designated rooms such as "Game Room", "Think Room" and "Relax Room" in order to provide its employees with an ambiance that provokes creativity.

Finally, the third day was divided into sessions about Leadership Roles. The participants were asked to build, using Legos, a representation of the past and the



future through which the skills of leadership, teamwork and devotion were being mastered.

Although the workshop lasted for only three days, the experience, Tarek mentions, is one of a lifetime. It must have been a privilege to represent one's own university, especially in a foreign country like Argentina. Not only was it an intellectual and educational experience, but it also broadened Tarek's horizons through learning about Latin American culture. The warm hospitality and cheerfulness of the people there was a delight. Tarek strongly recommends this program, so hurry up and apply for the next edition of SABF!





241 étudiants nous rejoignent cette année...Beaucoup d'activités ce mois-ci: La rentrée est bien chargée. Bonne lecture!

À L'INSTITUT D'URBANISME

• L'Institut d'Urbanisme de l'ALBA est fier d'annoncer le lancement d'une école doctorale d'Urbanisme.
M. Alain Bourdin, M. Bekhazi ainsi que M. Ziad Akl se sont réunis le mercredi 27 Août sur le campus de Balamand avec Dr. Elie Salem afin de signer l'accord-cadre de coopération entre l'Université Paris-Est Marne-la-vallée et l'Université de Balamand. L'accord-cadre stipule une collaboration entre les deux universités à tous les niveaux (recherches communes, échanges d'enseignants, d'étudiants, séminaires et cours mutuels...). Dans un premier temps, le doctorat se fera en cotutelle et le diplôme sera délivré par les deux universités.

À L'ÉCOLE D'ARCHITECTURE

Conférences:

- M. Tarek Naga a donné une conférence sur le thème "Of becoming: Syntagms & Paradigms". Vendredi 14 Octobre à 18h30
- M. Youssef Tohmé est intervenu le mardi 25 Octobre à 18h30 à l'auditorium de l'ALBA, sur la thématique suivante: "Béton Doux".

À L'ÉCOLE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS Section Arts Graphiques et Publicité

Séminaires:

- M. Christian Robin, du Centre de Formation et de Perfectionnement de Journalistes (CFPJ), a animé le séminaire "Rédiger un texte vendeur" adressé aux étudiants en première année de master, du 26 au 29 Octobre 2011.
- M. Eric Boisseau et Mme Emma Thieu, de l'École Estienne, ont animé un séminaire Multimédia, adressé aux étudiants en 1ère année de master, du 17 au 22 Octobre 2011.
- Du 24 au 26 Octobre, a eu lieu la première phase du projet "Écriture Transmedia" avec les étudiants en 1ère année de master multimédia. Ces ateliers s'inscrivent dans le projet DIA-SUD MED, projet qui vise à sensibiliser une vingtaine d'étudiants aux spécificités de l'écriture transmédia et à faire émerger des projets transmédiés et transnationaux qui seront écrits, développés et « pitchés ».

Section Architecture Intérieure et Design

- Nicolas Patrix, un étudiant de l'ENSAD, est en échange ce semestre à l'ALBA en master Design.

Rencontres:

- Le 25 Octobre 2011, M. Antonio Altarriba, bédéiste espagnol, a rencontré les étudiants en 1ère et 2ème année Master Illustration.

Conférence:

- M. Luc Schuiten, architecte belge visionnaire qui communique ses concepts par voie d'expression picturale, a donné une conférence sur l'architecture et l'illustration aux étudiants en architecture et en publicité et arts graphiques.

À L'ÉCOLE DES ARTS VISUELS

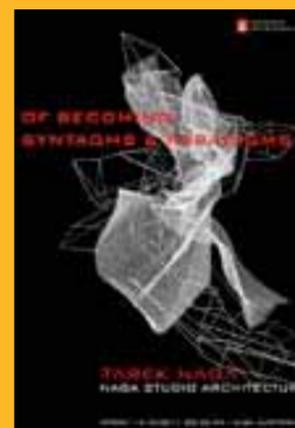
- Dans le cadre des conventions d'échanges pédagogiques, culturels, et artistiques signés entre l'école des Arts Visuels et les grandes Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'arts en France, deux étudiants (Mlle Philippine Jardin de l'École Supérieure des Arts Appliqués Duperré et M. Colin Lusinchi de l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris) sont venus à l'école des arts visuels de l'Alba, en échange pour suivre des cours niveau première année de Master pour le premier semestre de l'année académique 2011-2012.

DIVERS

L'ALBA était présente au salon du livre francophone de Beyrouth qui a eu lieu du 28 Octobre au 6 Novembre 2011. Cinq nouvelles publications de l'ALBA y ont été à l'honneur:

- "Pointes sèches. Billets parus dans l'Orient-le-Jour sur l'environnement, l'urbanisme et le cadre de vie au Liban", de M. Grégoire SÉROF. Une séance dédicace a eu lieu au stand de l'ALBA le 3 novembre à 18h.
- "Formes urbaines et architecturales de Beyrouth. Depuis le XIXème siècle jusqu'à nos jours", de M. Antoine FISCHFISCH. La séance de dédicace a eu lieu le 29 Octobre à 17h au stand de l'ALBA
- "Patrimoine religieux en Orient chrétien. Tripoli, à la quête de traces chrétiennes" sous la direction de M. Elie Abi Nassif, qui a signé son livre le 4 novembre 18h
- "Specimen one" sous la direction de Messieurs Joseph EL HOURANI, et Samer EID. Une conférence a eu lieu le Samedi 5 Novembre 2011 à 19h, salle Schéhadé
- "Chocolat aux cèdres" sous la direction de M. Antoine Abi Aad, collection d'affiches à travers lesquelles des étudiants de l'ALBA ont exprimé leur vision de la Suisse. De même, des étudiants suisses de la Schule für Gestaltung de Bâle ont par le même biais, illustré leur vision du Liban.

Octobre
2011



Le vendredi 14 octobre, une soirée de rentrée a été organisée par l'administration pour tous les étudiants sur le thème : "Il y a 75 ans"

Community Service 101

Asma Kammoun

As our Arab world is in turmoil, our generation has a significant role to play, trying to direct this change towards a better achievement for the collective community. Democracy, freedom and human rights are among the few but major claims for which the Arab revolts are being fought, starting with Tunisia, passing through Egypt and reaching a climax in Syria and Libya.

Since we belong to this Arab community, we have the responsibility to contribute to its development, whether directly or indirectly. The best way to do so is through community service, which is a concept that has been recently introduced to the Arab World. Community service is strongly tied to promoting civic responsibility - especially when used with collaborative learning - and encouraging civic involvement, commitment to democratic values and promotion of the sense of leadership. This mode of active learning connects thoughts and feelings in a deliberate way, creating a context in which students can explore the relationship between their academic learning and their own values and commitments. Since learning should be directed towards the development of the human personality and the community as a whole, community service fulfills this goal.

In the face of the boom in higher education, it



<http://www.busanforeignschool.org/community-service>

comes as a shock to see that civic participation is actually declining rather than expanding. Therefore, what can be done by universities and institutions of higher education to reverse this disturbing decline and help generations of young people appreciate the value of and the necessity for political participation? Universities should act as a platform, building bridges between students and the community on one hand and helping students recognize themselves as members of a larger social fabric on the other hand. This way, students would become responsible democratic citizens and consider social problems as their own. In the Arab countries, the concept of citizenship is still modern and has not yet become part of the curriculum established in the educational system.

As a realization of what is happening, the University of Balamand took the initiative of contributing to the improvement of society. The Department of Political Science and International Affairs is in the process of introducing community service in association with taught courses, thus allowing students to integrate knowledge with experience. Drawing from my own experience in community service as a part of a course I took, my engagement in society gave me the opportunity to make a difference and therefore become a better informed and engaged citizen.

Waste

Adnan Bey

As I try to find my way through the crowded cafeteria, I notice that there is a growing problem on UOB campus. Apart from the environmental destroyers such as littering and whatnot, there lies another problem: Waste. Food is being wasted. When I say wasted, I am not talking about throwing it away after you have finished most of it. I am talking about ordering a large pizza, eating one piece and then, under the excuse of 'I'm on a diet,' leave it on the table for others to throw away. This is wrong because of the moral implications on one hand, and there being simple solutions to the problem on the other.

At first, I thought it was not much of a big deal. I thought just that one group did it once and it would not happen again. Then I started seeing it being done everywhere. Now let me ask, is this right? Let us use the common, typical argument. There are people in the world who would kill for a crumb of the food we order and then throw away, Isn't that right? Under any moral system, under any religious or atheistic belief, it is wrong to throw food away simply because it is already expensive to plant and farm. We are basically wasting some of our own dwindling resources. Are these two reasons not enough to stop you from wasting?

There are solutions. Order something small like a cheese sandwich. Why order a large pizza, eat one to three pieces and then leave it to be thrown away? Order a little bit, or if you are not hungry or on a diet, do not order at all or simply box and take home the remaining to eat later. Why waste food and money, inconsiderate of the poor?

Now the argument might be, 'We don't throw it away. It's the owners of the restaurant.' Well, what are they going to do with a half-eaten pizza or a burger with one bite taken from it? Keep it for someone else? Who is going to eat something already eaten? We pay for food, not leftovers. We don't need to throw away perfectly good food others would kill for.



<http://www.collegegreenmag.com/shively-dining-hall-food-audit-shows-students-waste-slightly-less-than-in-years-past>

Introducing the New Balamand Outlook E-mail

Many students seem to be confused when it comes to the new Microsoft e-mail system the University of Balamand has set up. What is better than an interview with Mr. Jamil Kobrossi, General Manager of the IT department, to clarify the matter?

1- Why did UOB decide to partner with Microsoft?

- It is easier to find Outlook Technical Support in Lebanon than it is for the JES (Java e-mail server). There is no technical support for JES.

- It is a cost-saving decision. The old system had some problems and it would cost more money than a new Outlook to fix it.

- Most Lebanese and non-Lebanese universities are using Outlook.

2- What is my mailbox quota?

Students have 10GB of mailbox storage and up to 25GB of SkyDrive. SkyDrive is an online document storage and sharing facility; it offers private sharing and online security. Teachers, however, have a storage space of 2GB on Outlook. Each mail box account requires a user license.

Students, alumni and part-time professors have Imlail accounts. Former and current students can now remain in touch with all the on-campus events and to stay in contact with their professors. At the time of the Webmail, e-mail addresses of graduate students and part-

timers were deleted after they graduate or quit because the license was somewhat costly. The new Imlail offers a lifelong service to all students.

3- What about spam and virus filtering?

When sending an e-mail, Outlook stamps each message with an e-mail postmark which incorporates unique characteristics of the message. When the message is received, Outlook recipient e-mail will recognize the postmark which indicates that the message is not spam.

4- What about the benefits of Outlook live?

a. Easier password resetting by simply contacting the Help Desk.

b. Online document sharing and preview.

c. Synchronized e-mails: ability to add different e-mail systems on Outlook (Gmail\Hotmail) and to access them using only one password.

d. Trusted e-mail account format (https).

e. Integrated calendar and contact list which provide the following features:

i- Creating appointments and events

ii- Organizing meetings

iii- Managing another user's calendar (via sharing)

g. Organized folders: When a certain folder becomes overloaded, the content could be saved in an archive.

h. Linked to certain applications such as UOB home page, SIS and Moodle.



<http://browse.deviantart.com/photography/?qh=§ion=&q=email#/d19a52g>

i. Connected with MSN.

5- How many students have activated their new Outlook e-mail account?

Only 750 students have activated their new email accounts despite all the announcements, flyers and reminders on the UOB home page. ALBA has not joined Outlook yet. Hopefully, they will as soon as they hear the positive feedback coming from the new Outlook users.

6- And finally, why did the head of the IT shut down the Webmail service?

We shut down the webmail services temporarily because it created confusion. The Webmail services will be brought back up in the near future to allow all users to retrieve and delete their own e-mails.

Windows 8 ... Microsoft Re-creation



<http://geektech.in/archives/2030>

Two tech giants have asserted themselves into the new battle of establishing their supremacy in the tablet PC segment. Both Microsoft and Apple are ready to snatch greater market share with their feature packed OS for the tablet PCs which are windows 8 and IOS 5. In this article, our main focus will be on the features that will help windows 8 dominate in the market and compete bravely against Apple's IOS 5.

1. Windows 8 will function through two interfaces:

a. A desktop version similar to the traditional windows

b. A new tablet interaction called Metro (Metro technology is specifically built for touch screen devices but also usable on desktops\laptops)

2. Usage of lower power processors and its compatibility with processors which are designed by ARM technology (ARM chips are used for Smartphones, iPADS, iPhones and iPod...). Noting that several vendors are lining up to support it, and several companies such as Dell and Samsung are expected to bring Windows 8 tablets to the market. Therefore, android and IOS would face some increased pressure.

3. Launching of Windows Store will take place in 2012 as part of Microsoft's attempts to claw back from Apple and Google. The store will be selling touch-friendly and metro-style downloadable applications of different categories: productivity, photography, entertainment, social networking and games.

4. It performs faster by reducing the memory footprint, resulting in a shorter boot time in less than 8 seconds.

5. It is supported by USB 3.0 and hyper-V so that it can work as fast as IOS and Mac OSX Lion. (Hyper-V is known as Windows Server Virtualization, and is a hypervisor-based virtualization system for x86-64 systems)

6. Windows Live's cloud syncing: Address book, photos and SkyDrive data can sync up to the cloud with Windows Live. The address book also synchronizes with other services like Facebook and Twitter. In addition, we mention the ability of synchronizing all of the settings from one Windows 8 PC to another. All that is required is to sign in to Windows 8 with a Windows Live ID and

all the themes, languages, application settings, taskbar, and other preferences will show right up.

7. Windows 8 offers a system-wide spellchecking. Therefore, there is no need to rely on certain applications to keep the writing top-notch.

8. It also has an interesting feature called refresh your PC which enables the users to:

a. Perform a clean installation of windows with the click of a button

b. Refresh the PC to the way it was at a certain point in time That was just a small preview of windows 8 based on what was published on the web. All we can say is that there's a lot more coming.

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