



The Balamandian

Issue # 2

The University of Balamand Newsletter for Alumni & Friends

- President's Message
- University of Balamand Deals with the Difficult Situation in Lebanon

University Development

- Architectural and landscaping projects
- The Future Alumni Center
- New Student and Faculty Housing
- A New Center for Construction
- The Faculty of Medicine, a leap towards a prosperous future

Lectures & Conferences

- Seminar on Waste Water Treatment in Lebanon
- A Series of Conferences in the Faculty of Health Sciences
- "Gemayzeh Quarter" Swings between Antiquity and Modernity
- Dr. El-Hoz Award on the Role of Woman in Environment
- Dutch Ambassador Visits UOB
- Director of the Francophone AUF Visits UOB
- A New Center at UOB to Monitor Air Pollution

Academic Activities

- University of Balamand Celebrates 718 Students:
- Welcoming New Students
- Alba Students Present Their Projects on Byblos
- A New International Office for Foreign Students at UOB

UOB Delegation Visits UAE

Campus Events & Exhibitions

- Social:
 - Iftar
 - The Cinema Club once again at UOB
- Music:
 - Oriental Music Night
 - Classical Musical Evening
 - Musical Evening by Bassler, Zerikly and Primak-Khoury
 - Ghada Shbeir singing Ahmed Shawki poems
- Exhibitions:
 - Photographic Exhibition for the Artist Gilbert Hajj
 - Students of ALBA Photograph Byblos
- Sports:
 - (Trip to Al kornat Al Sawda)
 - International Student of UOB at the Cedars



President's Message

To Our Graduates:

"The Balamandian" Issue Number 2 reaches you at a most critical moment in Lebanon's history. This is a time of serious conflict on governance. Rarely before has the country been so divided and so mobilized. In the midst of this division the University stands united, determined to fulfill its academic mission and its national responsibilities. The academic program proceeds with virtually no interruption. The construction program, as the first phase of the Master Plan, is moving ahead at a fast pace.

A Vice President for Development has been appointed and a major developmental effort will be launched in 2007. Our objective is to enlarge the circle of friendship and support for the University and to benefit from friends throughout the world.

We aim first at organizing our Alumni and strengthening their role as ambassadors for their Alma matter.

Although Lebanon is now in tension, we are confident that it will overcome this crisis as it has overcome crisis before. The University and the country are inseparably connected and we are determined to contribute our share towards strengthening the country we all love and admire, by strengthening the University of Balamand and keeping its national objectives vivid and clear.

Elie A. Salem

The Balamandian is a newsletter published by the Office of Development at the University of Balamand.

Responsible Director:
Dr. Elia Elia

Editors:
Dr. Robert Betts
Dr. Shaun O'Sullivan
Mohamad Al Char
Dima Hamdoun
Sara Savva

Layout:
Graphic Design Department
(ALBA)

Address:
Office of Development
Administration Bldg. 2nd Floor
P.O.Box: 100
Tel: 961 6 930250 - Ext: 1660
balamandians@balamand.edu.lb



"Patriarch Ignatius IV presides over a meeting of the UOB Board of Trustees"

The University of Balamand Deals with the Difficult Situation in Lebanon

The Board of Trustees of the University of Balamand held its regular meeting on November 22, 2006. It was attended by the trustees and the President of the University, Dr. Elie A. Salem.

The meeting began with a speech by Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim addressing the trustees, the community of Balamand and the Lebanese in general, wishing them a stable academic year filled with success and prosperity, especially after the difficult circumstances that our country recently experienced during the Israeli invasion. He added that the University has not suffered as a result of the war but has been able to successfully overcome the challenge thanks to the ability of its President and staff.

Dr. Salem presented a detailed report on the development of the University's educational programs and accomplishments in the cultural and artistic spheres that have strengthened the connection between the University and its social environment. Student clubs also contribute to the University's campus life in diverse fields of education, sports and arts, allowing students to participate in developing University campus life. In addition, Dr. Salem presented an outline of projects taking place in the coming year.

The Board discussed the Master Plan for the coming years and was informed on the state of current and future projects. It authorized the construction of two new buildings for the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering. It also examined the report presented by the consultants Marts and Lundy, which examined the location of the University and studied the need for financial support offices and planning campaigns. Finally, the Board was informed of the decisions taken at the closed meeting of the Deans, which gave priority to development and to attracting donations. The Board then approved the following appointments:

1. Dr. Michel Najjar, as Vice-President of the University for Development and Public Affairs, while maintaining his position as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering
2. Dr. George Bahr, as Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
3. Dr. Karim Nasser, as Assistant to the President for Academic Advancement, while maintaining his position as Dean of the Faculty of Business and Management.
4. Dr. Haissam Haidar, as Assistant to the President for Information Technology.



Architectural and Landscaping Projects at UOB



The University of Balamand is eager to increase the natural beauty of its campus through a series of architectural changes incorporating progressive technology in a way that combines modernity and the history of the University.

In the first stage, the University is undertaking a project to beautify the center of the campus by paving interior roads and pathways with basalt, refacing surrounding walls with natural stone, planting road-sides with plane trees and erecting street lights. In addition, clubs and playing fields allow students to pursue favorite sporting activities in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Aiming to enrich its students in body and soul, the University provides a calm and quiet



campus environment removed from urban noise and pollution.

The campus combines modern architecture with the goal of academic achievement, encouraging each student to pursue learning and success and allow him to feel at home.

In this way, the University mirrors the human being in formation and content, bringing together mind and body on one campus. Here students will not be pursuing their education in a small apartment but in a beautiful and expansive campus with green, open

University Development



spaces and spectacular natural scenery.

The University began the second stage of this project on September 1st 2006, with the aim of beautifying the entrances and interior campus of the



University from the main gate to the entrance of Fares Hall, home of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The goal of these stages is to reduce car traffic and pollution, encourage pedestrian traffic and provide a healthy environment.



The Future UOB Alumni Center



Interested in learning of activities at the University, the Office of Development interviewed the General Secretary of UOB Alumni Association Ms. Randa Al-Chidiac on 7th October. She spoke about the difficulties that the Association faced because they do not have a permanent home. Its members hold meetings and events at various locations on and off campus depending on the occasion and event.

The Association is seeking a permanent location, the Alumni Center, right in the heart of campus activity. Ms. Al-Chidiac added that the University of

Balamand has made their dream come true by agreeing to their project, which will be built on an area of 2000 m² in accordance with the 20-year Master Plan.

Mr. Sabah Haidar, a graduate of ALBA at UOB, has volunteered to present the University with the design of the Alumni Center to be built on campus. The design was displayed during the Alumni dinner in Dubai, where he showed the delegation and the students what the Center will look like. At the moment, we await feedback on the appearance and contents of the

Center, and on the ideas and suggestions of Alumni.

Ms. Al-Chidiac emphasized that the Alumni Office will contain room for administration and spacious areas for receptions, dinners, reunions and workshops.

University Alumni will be able to regard the building as their UOB "home" after graduation. It will offer a place in which to relax and remember the days of their student life, which can best be accomplished amid the busy activity of campus life as Alumni mingle with the new generation of UOB students – the Alumni of tomorrow. It will allow registered students to become familiar with Alumni programs and prepare them for their role in the future.

The main aim of the UOB Alumni Center is to aid the Alumni Association in fulfilling its mission, objectives and future plans: a permanent "home" for graduates and a bond between Alumni and University.

New Student and Faculty Housing at UOB



One of the important short-term goals of the University within the 20-year Master Plan is to provide additional student housing by constructing a new dormitory for women, in order to provide comfort and safety and to ease the stress of daily life for students who live outside the campus. It will also help parents in finding a convenient and attractive place for their children to continue their studies.

Work was begun on the new dormitory at an inauguration ceremony attended by Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim, President Elie A. Salem, Deans, Directors and students. The dormitory will consist of a three-story building set on a 6500 square meter plot of land inside the campus as part of the on-going 20-year Master Plan. The new dormitory will offer accommodation in single and double-room apartments that can fit



126 female students, in addition to some rooms designed for students who have special health problems. It will offer excellent amenities such as its own gymnasium, study rooms and entertainment facilities. Upon completion in October 2007, the new dormitories will double the number of the students living on campus.

The building process does not stop here, as the University is currently building two apartment buildings on campus to house foreign faculty and Lebanese faculty members living outside Tripoli and northern Lebanon. Each building is composed of six furnished apartments that professors can rent at an affordable price. There are four large apartments (165 sq.meters) consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, living and dining rooms. The two smaller apartments consist of a living room that can be converted to include a small bedroom, kitchen, two bathrooms, and a large bedroom. All apartments have central heating and air-conditioning, internet cable and satellite connections. In addition to these options, faculty who choose to reside on campus will enjoy a charming view and a natural environment far from the noise and pollution of the city.

A third Faculty Housing facility, identical to the other two, is nearing completion and will be available for occupancy by 1st January, 2007.



A New Center for Construction

With the cooperation of "Kobati-Lebanon", the Institute of Civil Organization of ALBA at UOB has established a center for construction in Lebanon.

An announcement from the University states: "This center constitutes a real laboratory. It aims to consolidate the information related to construction and

to provide optimum conditions for understanding the problematic of organizing natural sites. It also provides an advisory role through a group of local and international experts".

The goal of this center will be clearly defined by a bulletin published every six months and by an electronic website.

Furthermore, it will encourage discussion and the participation of the local community.

Surveys and studies will also be conducted in order to allow members to study the issues related to the organization of natural sites. The center will encourage interactions between Lebanon and European countries.

The Faculty of Medicine, a Leap towards a Prosperous Future



Since the Faculty of Medicine in UOB has become one of the most important Faculties in Lebanon, we were eager to examine changes that have taken place in this Faculty since its inception in 2001. To this end, we scheduled an interview with the Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Dr. Camille Nassar, who discussed the Faculty and the objectives of the proposed medical building included in the Master Plan. Dr Nassar began his interview by quoting the saying, "No one has taught unless someone has learned". He then added, "Teaching is much more than disseminating knowledge to students. It is a continuous challenge to direct the students in the path of learning. Medical education lies at the center of this concept. Since the beginning of the medical program, our faculty has laid the foundation for a state-of-the-art curriculum. Our main goal is to develop self-learning skills among our students. The integrated curriculum that we follow under the supervision of the basic Faculty of Science at Balamand and the Clinical Faculty at Saint George Hospital – University Medical Center,

provides our graduates with the necessary tools to allow them to pursue further training in the United States or Europe. We have built up a good reputation that has helped in placing our students in internships in prestigious medical centers in the U.S. Our students routinely secure residency training positions through the matching program (NRMP). Several of our graduates who received their M.D. degree in June 2005 have been successful in finding positions for postgraduate training in prestigious medical centers like Georgetown, Tufts and Emory Universities. Graduates of our Faculty who elect not to go abroad for training and specialization can join our residency and fellowship program at Saint George Hospital – University Medical Center. They can join the residency program in any of the following:

Internal Medicine

- Cardiology
- Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Hematology and Medical Oncology
- Gastroenterology
- Pulmonary Diseases
- Pulmonary Diseases and Intensive

Care Medicine

- Nephrology
- **General Surgery**
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery
- **Anatomical Pathology**
- **Anesthesiology**
- **Diagnostic Radiology**
- **Laboratory Medicine**
- **Obstetrics and Gynecology**
- **Pediatrics**
- **Psychiatry**

Our greatest strengths are the quality of our students and the dedication and commitment of our faculty. We have established an excellent track record in attracting the finest students to our Faculty. This is attested by their outstanding results in the United States Medical Licensing Exams that they take as a requirement for their applications to the residency program in the U.S.

A major goal of the Faculty of Medicine is to establish leadership status in medical research. Recruitment



of productive investigators will be a priority in the near future. Student enrollment, which began with 21 students in 2001, has increased to 150 students in 2006 and is expected to reach 250 students in the not-too-distant future. Therefore, a new medical building with the most up-to-date educational facilities is very much needed to continue the mission of the Faculty and promote the University. The current building provides adequate space for short term expansion but cannot cope with our long term academic plans. Dr Nassar, therefore,

stressed the academic needs in this new faculty building which will consist of four classrooms, two lecture rooms and four seminar rooms. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for teaching laboratories, including an anatomy laboratory with six dissecting tables. This lab will be designed to meet the standard ventilation specifications concerning positive pressure and removal of hazardous fumes. In addition, a multidisciplinary laboratory with a capacity of 60 working students for basic sciences (Histology/Pathology, Physiology and Biochemistry), and a microbiology laboratory with a capacity of 60 working students are also included in the new building."

Dr Nassar added that as research is considered to be the heart of our major medical strategies, there is obviously a need for research facilities, which will consist of three core laboratories: cell and molecular, immunology and microbiology, and physiology and pharmacology. Moreover, an Animal Facility, a cold room for common use (+4 C), a chemical storage room, a laboratory for handling and using

radioactive material and a safety center will be added to support the research programs. In addition to this, a floor will be reserved for offices for faculty members. A working room for graduate students will be equipped with PCs and internet connection to facilitate their work. In addition, seminar and conference rooms will be part of this floor. There is also a need for service facilities such as a computer laboratory, student lounge, a student study room, a locker area and a faculty lounge.

There will also be an administration floor to house the administrative staff of the Faculty: the Dean's Office, the Assistant's Dean's Office, the Administrative Assistant's Office, the Office for Student Affairs, and the Office for General Services.

This new building will serve as a catalyst for promoting the growth and development of our medical program and will reflect on the growth of the University and the welfare of the community at large.



Seminar on Waste Water Treatment in Lebanon



On September 25th 2006, the Faculty of Engineering in UOB conducted a workshop sponsored by the European Union on guidelines for the problems of "Sanitation in Lebanon" and the need to solve them by the establishment of refineries. The meetings were held in the Jacobo Auditorium of the Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management over a period of five days. University professors attended the meetings along with specialist delegates from the Head of Municipalities in the North and the Ministries of Environment, Water

Resources and Electricity, and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

Introductory remarks were given by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Michel Najjar, director of the project to set up a model for training in refinery waste water. A speech was then given by Dr. Najeeb Gerges, the technical manager for the project.

The meetings focused on a variety of topics dealing with the treatment of sewage. The President of the "Foundation Byblos Ecology", Dr. Fifi Kallab, spoke on how to select multiple stages of the project, and the Chairman of the Development Council of Al-Kurah, George Jiha, discussed the importance treating wastewater and the need to take advantage of refined water and the sterilization of frozen solids. In addition, Dr. Mervat El-Hoz and Dr. Abdallah Shammass spoke about speculative approaches on the study and design of water refineries and the organization and development of standards.

A Series of Conferences in the Faculty of Health Sciences

Sésobel and the Faculty of Health Sciences of UOB have organized a series of conferences for the year 2006-2007. The sessions will begin on Saturday 7th October from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will feature the following programs:

- November 11, "Introversion and the Problems of Future Families"
- January 13, "Towards Social Integration"
- February 24, "Neuromuscular Diseases: Remedy-Treatments and Perspectives"
- April 28, "Handicap and Citizenship"
- May 25, "Living with a Handicap"

"Gemayzeh Quarter" Swings between Antiquity and Modernity

The School of Architecture of Alba at the University of Balamand has called for a meeting on the 14th of October, to discuss round table issues specifically related to the future architectural plan of the Gemayzeh Quarter in Beirut, aiming at protecting the remaining vestiges of the past. During the professional discussions that took place, it



was clear that one group opposed changing the old heritage of Gemayzeh while another one supported the new plan. The Director of the Urban Planning, Dr. Berge Hetgjan, the President of the Association for the Protection of Sites and Ancient Dwellings (APSAD), engineer Assem

Slam, the Director General of Antiquities, Mr. Frederik Housseini, the Director of the Institute of Urban Planning in the Academy, Mr. Ziad Akel, and the Architects Habib Debbes and Elie Jubran participated in the discussion. The meeting was presided over by the Ex-General Manager of the Urban Planning Mr. Mohammad Fawaz. Two years ago, the School of

Architecture in the Academy encouraged its students to become engaged in this problematic issue. This project was launched in collaboration with Belle Ville School of Architects in France at the beginning of the Academic year 2005-2006.

Dr EL-Hoz Award on the Role of Women in Environment



Dr. Mervat El-Hoz represented Lebanon in the fourth Euro-Arab Conference on Environment, held in Kuwait on November 27th-29th, 2006. The conference devoted one of its sessions to "The Role of Women in Environmental Development", at which Dr. El-Hoz was one of the five speakers. Dr. El-Hoz discussed the educational, cultural and operational role of women in environmental development and protection. At the end of the session, the conference organizers gave awards to each of the five participants for sharing their professional experience.

Director of the Francophone AUF Visits UOB

The director of the Francophone Universities Agency (AUF), Olivier Garro, was invited on 12th January 2007 by the Center of Research at UOB to give a lecture to students and meet the Vice-President of the University, Dr. George Nahas, the Deans of the Faculties and Program Directors. He discussed means of cooperation to allow students to continue studies and research in any of the institutions that belong to Francophone agencies, and to establish joint seminars with various academic institutions in Lebanon and abroad.

A New Center at UOB to Monitor Air Pollution

The Acting President of UOB, Dr. Michel Najjar, welcomed the President of Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale of France, Edward Anthony, on 10th March, 2007 along with his two vice presidents, Fostan Essey, responsible for administrative matters, and Roger Doran, responsible for scientific matters. They were accompanied by Antoine Abu Quies, Head of the Environmental Lab and Edmond Abi Aad, Head of the Program for Higher Environmental Studies at Littoral University. This took place in the presence of the Deans of Faculties and Institutes of UOB. Vice-President of the University for Education Dr. George Nahas signed an agreement on behalf of Balamand University, and President Anthony signed on behalf of Université du

Littoral Côte d'Opale. The agreement emphasized the importance of establishing a center at the University for observing air pollution in northern Lebanon as well as outlining new educational and research programs to be shared by Littoral University and the Faculty of Science along with the Environmental Institute at UOB. In addition, UOB will establish a laboratory for scientific research and a higher-degree program specializing in environmental studies to promote specialists in the field. After signing the agreement, the delegation visited the University campus. They inspected the University labs and met the heads of different educational departments to discuss the agreement and means of implementation.

Dutch Ambassador visits UOB



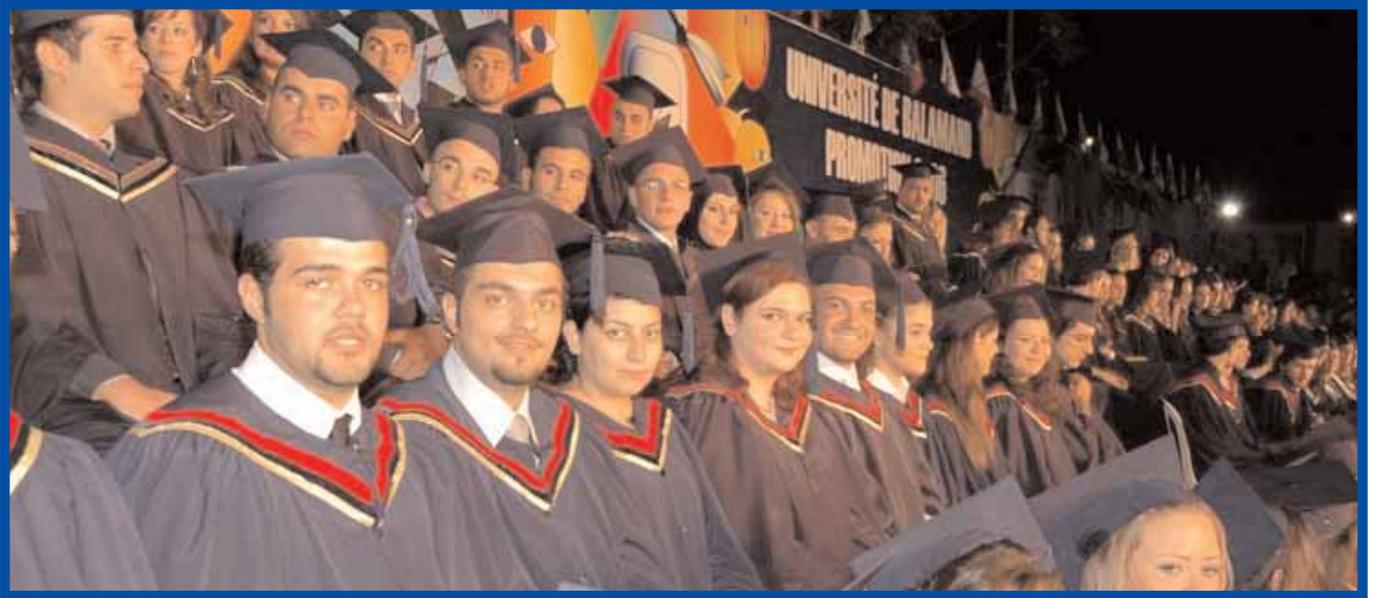
The President of the University of Balamand, Dr. Elie A. Salem, met with the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Gerard Van Essen on 1st February 2007 at the University. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Tareq Warghy, a business associate of the Netherlands Embassy, and Mr. Ton Van Essen, manager of the STC-Group. The meeting was also attended by the Vice-President of the University for Development and Public Affairs, Dr. Michel Najjar, along with other representatives.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of cooperation between the University and the STC-Group, which is located in Rotterdam. This city is known for its education, training and research methods in the domains of maritime shipping and logistic works along with petroleum and chemical production.

Agreements were made to pursue research, negotiations and future projects between the Faculty of Science at the University of Balamand and the STC-Group in order to prioritize and lay out a plan for maritime studies. After the meeting ended, the Dutch delegation visited the campus to inspect its recent developments and its scientific and technical laboratories.

University of Balamand Celebrates 718 Students

President Elie Salem: "Israel can delay, but it cannot cancel"



The University of Balamand rose to the challenge of war, holding its annual graduation exercises, originally scheduled for July 21st but postponed till September 22nd because of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. The ceremony was conducted in the absence of half of the graduates, who were unable to attend due to the exceptional circumstances. The founder of the university H.B. Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim was also unable to attend the ceremony because of previously scheduled Church commitments. Although only the graduates' families, local students, Professors, Deans, members of the Board of Trustees and President Elie A. Salem were able to attend, enthusiasm and motivation were as warm as they have always been.

Some three thousand graduates, their relatives, other students, Deans and professors filled the green-field stadium. After the entrance of professors and graduates, the Lebanese national anthem was sung, followed by a short prayer offered by Metropolitan Elias Korban of Tripoli and Al-Kurah, which blessed the ceremony and the audience. This was followed by a speech on behalf of the graduates given by Amalia Haydar, a student at the Faculty of Science.

President Salem then gave a speech of greetings and congratulations from Patriarch Hazim, stressing that the University of Balamand is a Lebanese University, a national University, a University tied to Lebanon's destiny and civilization and committed to Lebanon as a model and a message.

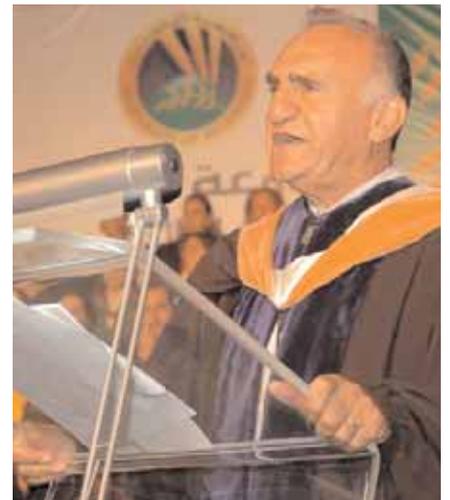
Dr. Salem stated that the Israeli attack on Lebanon that took place on July 12th had not allowed the graduation ceremony to take place as promised on July 21st, but this only proved that Israel could delay but could not cancel the ceremony.

"For the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Lebanon has resisted successfully. Since the University of Balamand is Lebanese, Lebanon is the basis of its identity and its Oriental spirit, soul and heartbeat. Those of us who work here should be responsible for challenging and correcting the Western view that tries to blur and marginalize Arab history and civilization." Dr. Salem added, "Eastern Christianity and Islam are two cohesive powers which have been living side by side since the seventh century and will continue doing so for the foreseeable future". Although we may know little about the West, we know a lot about

Islam and its role in civilization. We have a responsibility to correct attitudes and challenge political movements that view the Arab-Israeli conflict from an unfair perspective."

In conclusion, Dr. Salem referred briefly to the above issues, which may lead to regional and perhaps world wars unless the truth of history is revealed. At the University we have the obligation to promote the truth and fairly portray our society in which Christianity and Islam live and work together.

Following his speech, the diplomas were presented to the graduates by the President.



Welcoming New Students



The Office of Admission and Registration at the University of Balamand held a welcoming ceremony for new students on October 3rd 2006, in order to introduce them to the University's Faculties and Institutes.

The orientation began in Al-Zakhem auditorium, which was filled with new students, officials and a number of returning students. After a welcoming speech by the Dean of Admission and Registration, Dr. Walid Moubayed, Mr. George Farah spoke about the various majors and faculties at the University.

The Dean of the Office of Student Affairs, Dr. Tony Girges, then explained to the students the services provided by his Office. The financial director, Mr. George Dahdah, spoke on matters regarding tuition fees and methods for obtaining grants and financial aid. He also noted that the University had decided not to raise its tuition fees for the academic year 2006-2007, due to the recent war.

The new students were then split into smaller groups and were escorted by existing students around the University campus in order to view the faculties, institutes, administrative services, restaurants, libraries, laboratories and clubs. During the tour, the new students asked questions about the University life awaiting them.

At the end of the tour, everyone gathered in the Glass Room in Al-Zakhem building, where a cocktail reception was held.

The opening of the academic year began with a Vespers service in the Church of Our Lady of Balamand, led by Archimandrite Ishak Barakat and assisted by several priests. It was attended by the President of the University, Dean of the Theological Institute, monks of the Monastery, Deans of Faculties, Professors, students and University staff. After the service, everyone moved to the Great Hall of the Monastery, where the President of the University delivered a speech lauding the importance of Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology and its heritage of religious thought which goes back several centuries. Like other illustrious universities in the world, the University of Balamand promotes the progress of intellectual effort, which began in the monastery and continues to operate under divine guidance in the search for truth.



ALBA Students Present their Projects on Byblos: the Cartoons and Video Clips are Close to Real Movies

The Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) organized a training session on October 2nd 2006 to view cartoons and video clips by senior students at the school of Graphic Design, Advertising branch. This session was organized by professors from several schools in France and by an artist specializing in cartoon films, Christopher Clamaron. This specialization has recently been integrated into Arts colleges including the Lebanese Academy. Present were the Director of Advertising, Alain Brunet, the artist Michel Stangovski, the video-clip course instructor and the instructor of cartoons made last year by participating students.

Special mention should be made of "The Image of the Mermaid" designed by student Tawfic Khayrallah, and "The Giant Deity" by student Ghadi Ghosn. All of these achievements offer proof that the current academic year has not suffered because of the war last summer, but continues without ill effects.

A New International Office for Foreign Students at UOB

On December 14th 2006, UOB opened an office for foreign students at the University.

This new office has been established specially to encourage the students to participate in University activities and to join the various student clubs.

A Delegation from the University of Balamand Visits the Emirates



Accompanied by a delegation from the University of Balamand, President Dr. Elie A. Salem visited the United Arab Emirates on 15th and 16th February 2007. The purpose of this visit was to strengthen communication between the University and its Alumni and to establish relations with the Lebanese and Arab communities in the Gulf.

The group had meetings with several influential directors of private and public organizations in the Emirates.

A meeting was also organized with Sheikh Nahyan Bin Moubarak Al Nahyan, Emirates Minister of Higher Education, in the presence of Dr. Hamde Shawk, Director General of Lebanese Civil Aviation. The meeting

discussed means of collaboration between the University of Balamand and other higher educational organizations in the Emirates.

Dr. Salem presented Sheikh Al Nahyan with the Shield of the University of Balamand as a symbol of appreciation for his support for the University

Dr. Salem and his delegation met the President of Civil Aviation in Dubai Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, head of Emirates Aviation Group. They toured Dubai Airport and met the manager of Emirates Aviation, who signed a cooperation protocol with the University.

The delegation held a conference with Mr. Jomat El Majed, owner of 'Jomat Majed Educational Center', who agreed on the exchange of books and manuscripts between the Center and the University, especially the Saint John Institute of Theology.

The delegation also visited one of the faculties of the Higher Colleges of Technology, where they were warmly welcomed and viewed the latest and most advanced methods of teaching.

A banquet was held by Dr. Salem in honor of University Alumni in the Emirates. The feast was attended by Mrs. Dona El Turk, Lebanese General Consul in the Emirates, as well as a

UOB Delegation Visit U.A.E.

to Reinforce the Relationship between the University and its Alumni

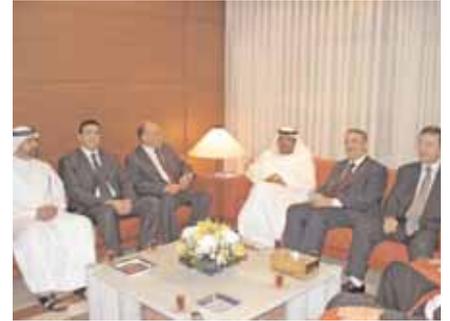


large group of graduate Alumni and friends of the University among the Lebanese and Arab community in the Emirates.

During the ceremony, a slide show presented the University's current situation and its ongoing 20-year construction plans. Some of these projects are now being undertaken. The strategy also included a campus center for Alumni.

A speech presented by Dr. Salem was directed to the Alumni during the ceremony: "They are our ambassadors wherever they land; through their work and education, they contribute to raising the university's name and the country's welfare".

A luncheon in honor of the Balamand delegation was offered by Mrs Dona El Turk prior to their return to Lebanon. It was attended by elite members of the Lebanese community who came to meet the delegation.



Social Iftar



On October 6th 2006, UOB held its annual Iftar dinner, attended by the University President, Deans, administrators and members of the Faculty and Staff in the dining room of the Miramar Beach Resort. President Elie A. Salem spoke on the importance of the month of Ramadan for all Lebanese and said, "We at the University of Balamand can not celebrate as Christians without Muslims or as Muslims without Christians because we have an Islamic-Christian heritage. Our University is a Lebanese University in all senses of the word 'Lebanese'".

He added: "What unites Christianity and Islam is much greater than what separates them. The differences are theological distinctions, but on basic issues, Christian and Muslim teachings are clear: One God, one man and one destiny."

The Cinema Club once again at UOB

The Cinema Club at the University of Balamand has been revived after several inactive years. The Club, directed by Dr. Saeed El-Weli, aims to show international films of quality produced by recognized directors and actors.

The Club was established in order to bring students together as an intellectually active audience, but it also attracts people from the surrounding areas.

Open discussions are held about the dimensions, problems and techniques used in each film in order to deliver the intended ideas and messages. Movies are shown weekly in the Al-Zakhem Building and are usually screened in the afternoon.

Music Oriental Music Night

On the occasion of Independence Day, December 13th 2006, the University of Balamand's Oriental choir presented a musical evening which included traditional and patriotic Lebanese songs



Classical Music Evening

On November 17th 2006, UOB and the German Cultural Center co-sponsored an evening of classical music by German artists Benjamin Hartung, violin, and Nadine Shob, pianist, in the Hariri Auditorium of the University.

Musical Evenings By Bassler, Zerikly and Primak-Khoury



The stage at the University of Balamand has become a meeting-place for lovers of classical music, where musicians and composers from East and West take the lead in performing great pieces of music. This event takes place once a month at the University. A marvelous performance was given on 7th February 2007 by one of the greatest Syrian pianists, Ghazwan Zarakly. Zerikly played various musical pieces by great world artists such as Isaac Al-pizar, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and others, during which he delighted the audience with a flow of emotions and imagination. The second fabulous musical night was given in honor of the



German pianist and musician Professor Klaus Bassler. It was organized by the German House of Music and took place on 14th February, 2007. The musical night included pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Bartok and Schumann. Professor Bassler has performed in various other events as a solo artist and has participated with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra. His records have been played by German television and radio stations.

Professor Bassler is now a professor at the Hanns Eisler Conservatory in Berlin. Last but not least, the talented artist Tatiana Primak-Khoury, (Artist-in-Residence), performed at UOB on 14th March, 2007, in a musical evening that honored the world composer Bechara El-Khoury who is currently residing in France. Tatiana played marvelous pieces of music that allowed the audience to learn more about one of the most talented Lebanese composers whose music has been performed by the Orchestre

Colonne, Orchestre Symphonique Français, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Ukraine National Symphony Orchestra, and many others.



Ghada Shbeir singing Ahmed Shawki poems:

On December 9th 2006, the well-known Lebanese artist Ghada Shbeir performed a concert in the Hariri Auditorium at 7:00 p.m, singing poems by the famous Egyptian author Ahmad Shawki, set to music by some of the greatest Arab composers of the 20th century, including Mohamad Abdul Wahab, Riad Sumbati and Halim El-Roumi. She was accompanied by instruments such as the oud and tambourine and was warmly received by the audience for her beautiful and sensitive performance.



Exhibitions

Photographic Exhibition for the Artist Gilbert Hajj

In the evening of December 7th 2006, the Lebanese artist Gilbert Hajj presented a photographic exhibition entitled "Homeland" in the Glass Room at UOB's Al-Zakhem Building. The exhibition continued every day from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m except for Sunday until December 14th. The principal photographs were taken in the southern suburbs of Beirut and displayed the Israeli aggression in July 2006.



Students of ALBA Photograph Byblos

An exhibition of photographs is about to be published as a book by the Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA). It presents photographs of modern Byblos, a town that dates back 7000 years, taken from different views and perspectives. The champions of this project are students who visited Byblos on November 14th 2006. They are now enthusiastic to transfer into print the images taken by their cameras in the streets and alleys of this ancient settlement. When the book appears, Byblos will be visible through the camera lenses of ALBA students.



Sports

The Physical Education Club climbs "Qurnat Al Sawda"

On November 18th 2006, the UOB Education Club organized a trip to climb Qurnat Al-Sawda. A large number of faculty members and

students joined the Lebanese mountain climber, Maxim Shaya, the first Lebanese to climb Mount Everest. On this expedition to the highest

summit in the Lebanese mountains, the faculty members and students raised the Lebanese flag and the flag of the University side by side.



International Student of UOB at the Cedars

The International Student Club at UOB organized a trip to the Cedars on Saturday 10th March 2007. A number of foreign Arab and European students took part in this trip along with students

from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology. The trip organized different activities such as skiing in the Cedar mountains, having lunch in one of the restaurants in the area as well as

taking a walk in one of the Cedar forests. The group of students took many pictures in remembrance of the trip.

