

The Balamandians

SPEECH

CONFERENCES

EVENTS

Word of the President



Our Beloved Alumnae and Alumni,

This Spring semester has truly embodied the sign of Renewal and reaffirmed the unique identity and growth trajectory of the University of Balamand. You will notice as you go through this issue that for each local or national event or project there was an equivalent endeavor at the international stage.

First, we renewed our commitment to support access to education in Akkar by organizing the First Issam M. Fares Faculty of Technology Annual Dinner; the event raised funds in support of student aid.

And for the 11th consecutive year, the University of Balamand held its UAE Annual Gala Dinner where I was privileged to offer His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance in the UAE Cabinet, an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters in recognition of his charitable and humanitarian efforts.

In terms of Development, our University is building a state of the art University Medical Center to serve our immediate community, our Nation, and our region. Our major academic venture represented in the University of Balamand in Dubai, will open its doors in the Fall of this year.

At the National level, our University hosted an International Conference entitled "Sciences, Social Equity and Sustainable Development" that witnessed the participation of researchers from around the world. We also co-organized a conference on "Equality in Democracy" under the Patronage and Presence of His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun.

The University also welcomed our Alumni Advisory Council with whom we are considering a number of projects and initiatives.

I look forward to continuing communication with you in the hope of welcoming as many of you as possible on our spectacular Campus in Balamand.

Elie A. Salem

Alumni Advisory Council



At the core of the University's plan is the launching of the Alumni Advisory Council (A.A.C); a special body that will be working directly with the President and the Council of Deans on strategic assignments as well as represent the University in special events and social functions. The A.A.C is made up of 36 members distributed in different countries.



The goal of this council is to build an active global alumni network to support the achievement of the University's Primary Goals by providing leadership and support to a University-wide Alumni Relations Program that demonstrates the mutual value of engagement for Alumni, the University of Balamand and the wider community. Three committees will be formed: Alumni Ambassadors, Professional Development Committee, and Public Relations Committee.



The 18 members who were able to attend met for the first time with President Salem and the Council of Deans on 28 March 2018. This session was important in terms of showcasing the progress of the University as well as the challenges that await them. The day was concluded with photo opportunities and a luncheon at Salem House.

Akkar Fundraiser

On April 21, 2018, the First Issam M. Fares Faculty of Technology Annual Dinner, entitled "Supporting Access to Education in Akkar", was held in Greenland restaurant, Edbel, Akkar. The event was attended by His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan Baslios (Mansour), Beirut Governor Mr. Ziad Chbib, Mrs. Lilian Sajii Attieh, representing former Deputy Prime Minister Issam Fares, President of the union of the municipalities of al-Jouma Mr. Fadi Barbar, heads of municipalities and mayors, in addition to a large number of influential community figures who share the University's commitment in providing access to quality higher education to the young men and women of Akkar, as well as professors, administrators and students of the university.

In his speech, Dr Elias Khalil, Dean of the Issam M. Fares Faculty of Technology, thanked the attendees and the Akkar community for embracing the university that was found to meet their needs and became an integral part of the modern society of Akkar.

«We are here today to celebrate success despite the difficulties in order to achieve a noble goal of providing decent education to our students in the midst of the financial crisis. Despite the University's ongoing efforts to support the Scholarship Fund Program at the University, and the generous support of Mr. Fadi Barbar and Mr. Nijad Fares, our students suffer from financial hardship to pay tuition fees that are already supported by 50% from President Issam Fares". Declared Khalil.

The event aimed to raising funds that would specifically cover the registration fees of about 25 students. The audience enjoyed an unforgettable night with Lebanese well-known singer Zein el Omor.



Dubai Fundraiser

Under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance, the University of Balamand held its largest yearly fundraiser for the University, the UAE 11th Annual Gala Dinner on Thursday April 26, at Roda Al Bustan Hotel, Dubai, attracting an audience of over 500 of alumni and friends.

A delegation headed by Dr. Elie Salem, President of the University of Balamand attended the event that gathered around 500 prominent individuals including dignitaries from the public and private sectors of the UAE as well as alumni and friends of the University.

In his speech, Dr. Elie A. Salem expressed the University's pride to present an Honorary Doctorate to His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan in recognition of his charitable and humanitarian efforts. ... "It is a tradition of the prestigious universities to honor the person who honored humanity through various philanthropic acts, and who is better than His Highness. Since the name Al Nahayan means mind and understanding in our Arabic language, it reflects the position that His Highness occupies today as Minister of Tolerance. There is no deeper principle in social consciousness, or in dealing with people, than the principle of tolerance. Tolerance means forgiveness, and Sheikh Nahayan fosters the idea of tolerance and

dialogue at a time when we most need it". Said Salem.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award, which I consider to be a true reflection of the deep brotherly relations between Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates"... Stated His Highness. ... "I salute with you tonight, the strong commitment of the University of Balamand to the highest standards and levels, and its great interest in the development of positive spiritual energies of all its members, and its strong desire to cherish all noble human values that connect people everywhere - I also salute the University of Balamand in its relentless pursuit to preserve the culture of Lebanon and its heritage, and to promote the principles of peace and coexistence, and its strong commitment to the freedom of thought, expression, purposeful dialogue and the will to serve the human, everywhere". Added His Highness.

WAM group gave a special performance of mixed songs during the dinner. Other highlights included a Scholarship Fund Program conducted by Master of Ceremonies Dr. Hela Najjar, and a raffle. Since its inception, the Gala Dinner has raised vital funds to support student financial aid at the University. Guests were entertained by renowned singer Chadi Jamil who serenaded the crowd with a variety of well know old Arabic songs.



UOB Dubai

The University of Balamand in Dubai [UOBD], brought to the UAE by Dubai Investments PJSC and based at Dubai Investments House in Dubai Investments Park [DIP], offers a holistic education backed by the strong reputation and enviable legacy of the Lebanon-based University of Balamand [UOB]. The University of Balamand in Dubai is accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation [CAA], UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and offers a range of undergraduate degrees based on American model of higher education.

UOBD believes that learning occurs not only in the classroom, but also through engagement in campus life and in communities and organizations beyond the university. UOBD provides a holistic education that equips the learner with the necessary skills, knowledge, and abilities to build up a bright future for the student personally and for the community.



UOBMC

The University of Balamand Medical Center (UOBMC) is under construction on the periphery of the main campus in the North. It will serve as an extension to the Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences, its mission being to offer medical education and research opportunities to students, and provide effective and affordable medical care for all patients. A land area of 140,000 square meters has been reserved for the complex and its future expansion.

The Center will include a 37,000 square-meter general hospital. It has been designed according to the standards of the American Facility Guidelines Institute, and received accreditation from Joint Commission International (JCI) and Safe Health Design (SHD). It will accommodate one hundred ninety beds and thirty outpatient clinics, offering a full range of inpatient and outpatient healthcare services. Completion is expected by May 2020.



IF

- ▶ You have a success story that you want featured in our newsletter
- ▶ You are interested in becoming a mentor to one of our current students
- ▶ You can provide internship opportunities to new graduates
- ▶ You can provide job placement to new graduates and/or Alumni
- ▶ You want to deliver a seminar or a workshop or a master class on campus
- ▶ You have a project to present to the University
- ▶ You want a point of contact with a fellow alumni abroad or in Lebanon

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