



# THE BALAMANDIANS

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# INAUGURATION SPEECH OF DR. ELIAS WARRAK

## كلمة الدكتور الياس وراق

رئيس جامعة البلمند  
في الاحتفال الرسمي لتسليمه رئاسة الجامعة  
يوم السبت ١ كانون الأول ٢٠١٨



صاحب الغبطة البطريرك يوحنا العاشر الكلي الطوبى والجزيل الإحترام  
بطريرك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق  
يسعدنا أن نرحب معكم بـ:  
فخامة رئيس الجمهورية العماد ميشال عون، ممثلاً بوزير الدفاع الوطني الأستاذ يعقوب الصراف  
دولة الرئيس الأستاذ نبيه بري، ممثلاً بوزير المالية العامة الأستاذ علي حسن خليل  
دولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء الشيخ سعد الدين الحريري، ممثلاً بالنائب الأستاذ سامي فتفت  
فخامة الرئيس العماد ميشال سليمان  
فخامة الرئيس العماد اميل لحود ممثلاً بالسيدة كارين لحود  
دولة الرئيس الأستاذ حسين الحسيني  
دولة الرئيس الأستاذ تمام سلام  
صاحب الغبطة والنيافة البطريرك مار بشارة الراعي الكلي الطوبى،  
ممثلاً بسيادة المطران رفيق الورشا  
سماحة مفتي الجمهورية اللبنانية الشيخ الدكتور عبد اللطيف دريان،  
ممثلاً بسماحة مفتي طرابلس والشمال الشيخ الدكتور مالك الشعار  
سماحة شيخ عقل طائفة الموحدين الدروز الشيخ نعيم حسن،  
ممثلاً بفضيلة الشيخ الدكتور سامي أبو المنى،  
أصحاب الدولة والمعالى والسعادة والسيادة والفضيلة وممثليهم،  
رؤساء البعثات الدبلوماسية والقنصلية وممثليهم،  
رؤساء الجامعات والبلديات، نقابات المهن الحرة، مدراء المدارس والمستشفيات والمصارف،  
زملائي الأطباء،  
وأخيراً وليس آخراً، أعزائي في العائلة البلمندية، عمداء، مدراء، وأفراد الهيئة التعليمية والإدارية،  
أيها الحفل الكريم.

يشرفني اليوم أن أقف في حضرتكم في هذه المناسبة المميزة لاستلامي رئاسة جامعة  
البلمند.

إنه لشرف عظيم، ومسؤولية أعظم.

إنه لحق يجب أن أحفظه وواجب يجب أن أؤديه بكل أمانة.

إنه إرث من أسلاف عمالقة، فمن معالي الدكتور جورج طعمة، إلى معالي الأستاذ غسان تويني،  
إلى معالي الدكتور ايلي سالم الذي كنت أتمنى أن يكون موجوداً معنا اليوم، إلا أن ارتباطه  
بمناسبة عائلية حال دون مشاركته معنا، ولكنه وكما أرسل لي، هو حاضر معنا دوماً قلباً  
وعقلاً.

إن جامعة البلمند في عمرها الثلاثين اليوم، قد شهدت سنين حرب ودمار، وبقيت شامخة  
شموخ هذا الجبل الأبدي التي بنيت من صخره. فلقد تمكنت أن تصمد وتتأقلم في زمن الحرب،  
وتتألق في زمن السلام.

ها نحن اليوم نقف في حضرة صرح أكاديمي أنشئ ليبقى ويزدهر ويلعب دوراً رائداً، حضارياً،  
وثقافياً متألّفاً في مشرق عانى وبُعاني من شتى أنواع الأزمات: طائفية ومذهبية واقتصادية  
وسياسية.

من هنا أريد أنؤكد أنّ دور الجامعات يتبلور ويصبح محورياً في زمن الأزمات، زمن جهلة دعاة  
علم، والعلم منهم براء، وزمن غياري على الدين، والدين منهم براء، وزمن دعاة الوطنية  
والدفاع عن الأوطان، والوطن منهم براء.



# INAUGURATION SPEECH OF DR. ELIAS WARRAK

في هذه الأيام الصعبة، والحقبة المأزومة، يبرز دور الجامعات، ليس فقط كصرخ أكاديمي لنشر العلم وإنما كمنبر يتوجه إلى أخلاق الطلاب ليحفظها من الفساد. يتوجه إلى قلوبهم ليُبقي دفة الإيمان الحق بداخلها. ويتوجه إلى عقولهم اليافعة لتبقى براقّة بعيدة عن غياهب الجهل والتعصب.

من هذا المنطلق، أعود فأشدد أن دور الجامعات يجب أن يتخطى المناطقية، والطائفية، والمذهبية، والمصالح الضيقة، لينطلق في مسعى واضحاً لخلق إنسان صالح في وطن صالح. فالمجتمعات تُبنى بالعلم، والأخلاق، والثقافة، ومخافة الله.

لذا فإن جامعة البلمند هي بمثابة هبة من الله، وهبة الله ليست حكراً لطائفة، ولا مذهب، ولا تحدّها جغرافيا ولا يحصرها تاريخ. لذا فإنني أعتبر أنّ جامعة البلمند، في كورة العلم، كورة الثقافة والإبداع، كورة المتعلمين والمتألقين، هي ليست جامعة للكورة فحسب، إنما نريدها هدية من الكورة إلى كل لبنان، وكل المشرق العربي.

لذا فإن هدفنا الأساسي في جامعة البلمند، كما يجب أن يكون في كافة الجامعات، هو رفع شأن الجامعة الأكاديمي أولاً لكي ترقى إلى مصاف الجامعات العالمية من حيث البحث العلمي والتفوق التقني. وانطلاقاً من هذا الهدف، يُمكن أن تقدم لأبنائها مستوى راقٍ من العلم والمعرفة يفتح أمامهم آفاقاً تساعد في خلق مستقبل لهم يرقى إلى مستوى أحلامهم وطموحاتهم في بلد يقتل طموح مواطنيه ألف مرة في اليوم، وتُدفن أحلام شبابه في غياب دولة ترعى أبنائها وتحرص على مستقبلهم. إننا نصبو أن نُخرّج أجيال علم ومعرفة تُفتح لهم مجالات العمل والإبداع لا أن نُخرّج أجيالاً أصحاب كفاءة ولكن عاطلين عن العمل. فإحدى أهم واجبات الجامعات هي خلق فرص عمل لطلابها في لبنان أو في خارجه، وذلك عبر إنشاء اتفاقيات مع مؤسسات وشركات لبنانية، وإقليمية، وعالمية، وهذا ما نحن بصدد إنجازه في جامعة البلمند.

وإنني في هذه المناسبة أقول لمن يُطلق العنان لمخيلته الدرامية الخصب، فيخلق قصصاً وسناريوهات أنني سأوفر عليهم عناء الإبداع لأقول إنّ ما جرا ويجري هو شأن بلمنديّ داخلي بحث، يهدف لتطوير وضع الجامعة الأكاديمي، والثقافي، والمالي بطريقة علمية شفافة لا خلفيات ولا أبعاد لها على الإطلاق. ولا ألوم كُتّاب المقالات الفضفاضة والتي مع الأسف أصبحت جزءاً من تقاليدنا، متمنياً أن يكف أصحابها عن تصويب أسهمهم على الجامعات بشكل عام، وعلى جامعة البلمند بشكل خاص.

إنّ جامعة البلمند، كانت ولا تزال وستبقى، تنأى بنفسها عن الفساد مهما كان طاعياً في المجتمع، لتنشئ أبنائها على ما لا يجب أن يفعلوه، وتنأى بنفسها عن التقوقع والطائفية، لتُربّي أجيالاً تؤمن وتدعو إلى الحوار البناء والعمل الخلاق ليجعلوا وطنهم لبنان بلد التعدد الإيجابي، تعدد الأديان والحضارات، فينتجوا مجتمعاً متماسكاً، بعيداً عن التناحرات التي نشهدها حالياً، وعن المصالح الفردية القاتلة للوطن، ويكونوا قدوة في مناقبيتهم وأخلاقهم، مما يجعل بعض المسؤولين في بلدهم يخلون مما يفعلون. إنّ الجامعات يجب أن تكون صمام الأمان للمجتمع والوطن، فدعوها تعمل لما فيه خير الطلاب وأهلهم والذين ائتمنونا جميعاً على مستقبل أبنائهم.

وأخيراً آمل من الزملاء الأساتذة والطلاب الأعزاء، أن يتحملوا مسؤوليتهم بكل ضمير يقظ وعقل راجح، لكي يكونوا الحجر الأساس لبناء جامعة أفضل في مجتمعي أفضل.

عشتم، عاشت جامعة البلمند، وعاش لبنان.

# FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

A major goal that most students set their sights on during academic life is the quest for success.

The pursuit of this quest helps us confront major challenges in our region including sustainable development, environmental consciousness, jobs of the future and how artificial intelligence is changing the business landscape.

As modernization accelerates, and as globalization is changing the classical corporate route to success, the University of Balamand is dedicated to graduating well-rounded professionals who can embark on their journey equipped with knowledge and critical thinking.

As such, this issue, with its new design and format, is conceived as a platform celebrating the accomplishments and innovative projects of our students, faculty members and alumni.

In line with the University of Balamand mission, we will showcase the University's contribution to environmental responsibility.

We also give special attention to the partnerships and agreements signed this year between the University and multiple entities such as the Lebanese Air Forces, the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Global Compact and CSR Ahli Holding Group.

We are extremely keen to share all our developments with you and we hope to receive news from our alumni at large so we can feature them in our future publications.

Enjoy this new and revamped issue and stay connected with us.

## LEGEND

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND INAUGURATES ITS 4<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT, DR. ELIAS WARRAK



The inauguration of Dr. Elias Warrak, as the 4th president of the University of Balamand, took place on December 1st at the University of Balamand main campus, under the patronage and presence of His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.

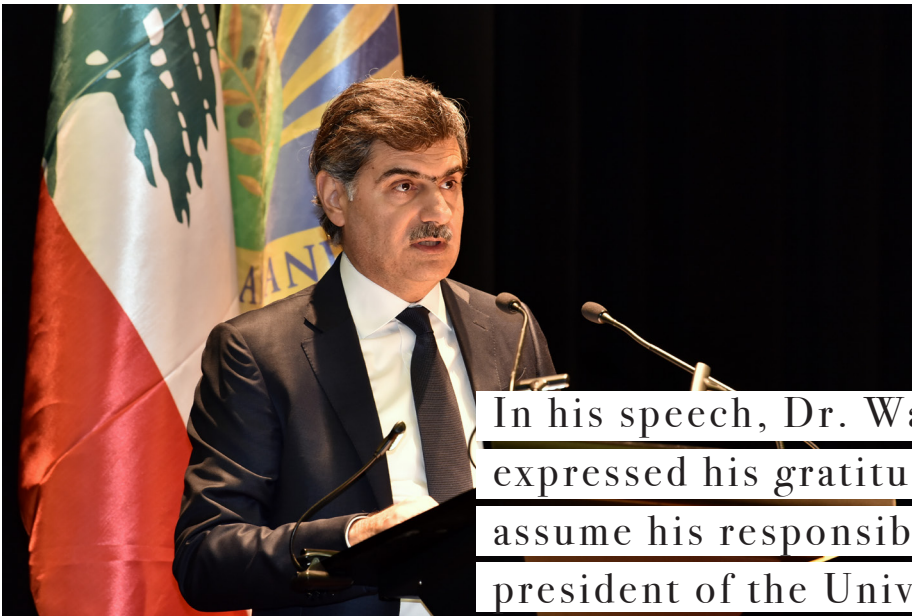
The ceremony was livestreamed with large screen viewing areas near Zakhem hall and in Hariri auditorium, to accommodate overflowing crowds and online for friends and alumni worldwide.

The inauguration program began in Zakhem auditorium, with the university anthem performed by the Choir of St. John of Damascus Theology Institute.

The welcoming note was delivered by Dr. Marlene Kanaan, the master of ceremony, who praised the academic accomplishments of President Warrak and his significant contributions in Ophthalmology.

# INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Founder and Medical Director of the Advanced Eye Care Hospital , Dr. Warrak previously held leadership positions. These included: President of the Lebanese Society of Ophthalmology, Founder and Board member of the National Organization for Organ and Tissue Transplant, Focal Point for the World Health Organization (WHO) for Vision 2020 program, President of the National Committee for Prevention of Blindness, and Ophthalmology Consultant to the Ministry of Public Health among other previously held positions, former President of the Middle East African Eye Bank Organization, Director of the Eye Health Plan of the Ministry of Health and the International Association for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), and the Collaborating Regional Chair in Ophthalmology for the Eastern Mediterranean Region at the University of Maryland in the USA.



In his speech, Dr. Warrak expressed his gratitude to assume his responsibilities as president of the University of Balamand, stating that :“It is a great honor.”

Dr. Warrak also praised the University of Balamand that was able to defy the harsh circumstances and proved that it is an oasis of peace on a holy hill. He stressed that the University of Balamand is an academic institution committed to uphold higher education, and to play a leading role in a region facing economic, political, and sectarian conflicts.

He also stressed the mission of universities, which must transcend regional, sectarian and narrow interests, and which should be dedicated to graduating professionals and active citizens in their respective societies.

Dr. Warrak concluded that the University is committed to the values of diversity, and service to Lebanon, the region, and beyond.

# INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT

In turn, Dr. Salah Ladki, President of the Lebanese Ophthalmological Society, presented an honorary shield to Dr. Warrak for his significant contributions.

His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East stated that as we came to the end of Balamand's thirtieth anniversary, we look forward to a brilliant future.

He also expressed his trust in Dr. Elias Warrak, in his capacity as president of the University of Balamand.

His Beatitude also praised the accomplishments of the past presidents of the University who gave their utmost to uphold higher education and its values, and affirmed the University of Balamand's enduring values of service.



At the end of the ceremony,  
President Warrak received the  
presidential medal from his  
Beatitude



### SCIENCE SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR DECISION MAKING

## DR. SABINE SABA

Science in Service of Mankind

Learn more in this interview with Dr. Sabine Saba about the Sustainable Action for Bioenergy Production project (SabiOP) that is implemented by the Environmental and Energy Economics program at the Institute of the Environment - University of Balamand (IOE - UOB) in partnership with Koura Municipalities Union (KMU) and El Koura Development Council (KDC).

#### DESCRIBE SABIOP AND THE SOURCE OF FUNDING.

SaBioP or Sustainable Action for Bioenergy Production is a project that is implemented by the Environmental and Energy Economics program at the Institute of the Environment - University of Balamand (IOE - UOB) in partnership with Koura Municipalities Union (KMU) and El Koura Development Council (KDC).

It aims to implement an action for bioenergy production in Koura, i.e. biomass briquettes production from pruning residues of olive groves and public forests, in order to provide support to KMU in facing energy sustainability challenges. The briquettes are used in typical Lebanese stoves and fireplaces as a source of renewable energy.

The project is funded by the European Union (EU) as part of the EU Regional SUDEP (Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects) Program which encompasses 12 projects in 6 countries around the Mediterranean.



*Dr. Sabine Saba, a strong environmental advocate is committed to conserving the environment and benefitting sustainably from all natural resources in order to strive for a better environment, and for the well-being of societies.*





**“The briquettes are used in typical Lebanese stoves and fireplaces as a source of renewable energy”**

#### **WHAT IS BIOMASS?**

Biomass is a renewable organic matter, i.e. biological material. It includes feedstock derived from animals or plants such as wood and agricultural crops, and organic waste from municipal and industrial sources.

Bioenergy is the energy that is generated from the conversion of solid, liquid and gaseous products derived from biomass..In our case, we are talking about solid biofuel derived from pruning residues of trees.

#### **TELL US MORE ABOUT THE BIOMASS PRODUCTION PLANT IN KOURA AND THE IDEA BEHIND IT.**

The Koura district presents high potential for bioenergy production. Agricultural lands, forests and other wooded and shrub lands that can generate pruning residues, cover around 64% of Koura's total surface area of 17,326 ha. Around 5,000 tons of olive pruning residues are burnt yearly in this region and potential quantities of residues from forests could reach 2,000 tons/year.

Those leftovers that are burnt on the field are therefore a nuisance for farmers and for the whole community of Koura, increase the risks of fire, and constitute a wasted resource that can be valorized. The construction of the “Al Koura Plant for Biofuel Production” responded therefore to the needs of supporting KMU in facing energy challenges and of finding a sustainable solution to the environmental issue of burning pruning residues on the field.



“Around 5,000 tons of olive pruning residues are burnt yearly in this region and potential quantities of residues from forests could reach 2,000 tons/year”

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EMBARK IN SUCH PROJECT?

The project responded to the call from the EU under the SUDEP program that aims at developing the capacities of local authorities to address and face local energy sustainability challenges.

### DESCRIBE THE PRODUCTION PROCESS.

The production process of briquettes starts on the field. Pruning residues with a diameter below 4 cm (usually burnt on the field) are shredded and transported to the plant located in Kfharhazir, for further processing. The shredded residues are then grinded, sieved and conveyed to the drier to reduce their moisture to around 12%. Dried residues are then pressed under high pressure and temperature into cylinders. Finally, briquettes are naturally cooled then packed for storage and distribution to the market.

### TELL US MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFICATIONS OF BRIQUETTES.

Briquettes are made from pruning residues of trees, such as olive, oak, pine, and other agriculture and forest trees. Those being produced at the Koura Plant are free from any chemical additive. They have a cylindrical form and the approximate weight of one briquette is 800 to 900 grams.



### WHERE CAN WE USE BRIQUETTES? WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THEIR USE?

Briquettes are recommended to be used in traditional wood stoves (“stouf” or “soubya”) and closed fireplaces. They have low moisture content, and produce little ash and smoke. They have uniform size making them suitable for storage and use, and most importantly they constitute a renewable energy source..

### ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY?

Sure, we are responsible for disseminating the project outcomes under the sustainable development, the climate change and the renewable energy scopes. We participated in several conferences and workshops, had several media appearances, and are currently preparing a raising awareness event for schools.



“Briquettes are made from pruning residues of trees, such as olive, oak, pine, and other agriculture and forest trees.”

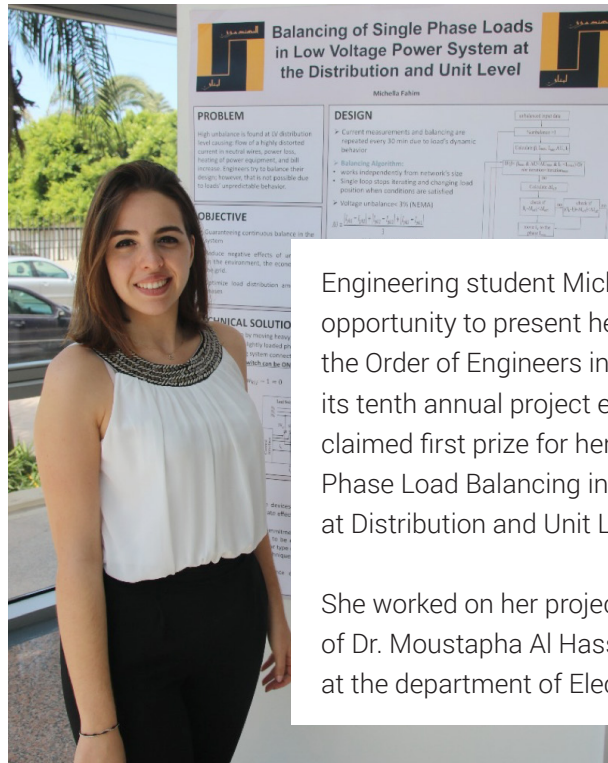
### ANY FINAL WORD YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS?

The goal of the Institute of the Environment is to provide solutions to the issues related to sustainability of natural resources within a complex human environment. What we all believe in and are promoting for is the fact that science should be the basis for decision making. We strive to respond to community needs as part of our research, and that is what the Environmental and Energy Economics program is working towards. The axis of research we are particularly focusing on relate to bioenergy, and from a wider scope to the valorization and valuation of natural assets.

## SINGLE PHASE LOAD BALANCING IN A THREE PHASE SYSTEM AT DISTRIBUTION AND UNIT LEVEL

### MICHELLA FAHIM

Engineering student, claimed first prize for her project



Engineering student Michella Fahim had the opportunity to present her innovative project at the Order of Engineers in North Lebanon during its tenth annual project exhibition, where she claimed first prize for her project entitled: “Single Phase Load Balancing in a Three Phase System at Distribution and Unit Level”.

She worked on her project under the supervision of Dr. Moustapha Al Hassan, Associate Professor at the department of Electrical Engineering.

#### DISCOVER THIS PROJECT IN DETAILS

System unbalance, explains Dr. Mustafa AL Hassan, is caused by both the utility and the customer, thus the responsibility of taking corrective actions falls on both parts. As mentioned in several studies, the balancing problem in the network itself is caused by commercial and industrial facilities bulk and continuously varying loads, single phase equipment distributed in an unbalanced way.

The major reason of unbalance is the distribution of constantly changing single phase loads among the three-phase system in an uneven way.

Operational unbalance results in power equipment deterioration due to the overheating effect, power system losses increase, and system stability degradation having a slower response to emergency load transfers.

The aim of the project, he explains, is to find the optimal consumer's load rearrangement at the installation level. These changes are made to achieve balance between the phases and guarantee a reduction in the electric bill. This method strength is that it can be applied on both the feeders and the unit installation level. The study is made on real data of different types of loads, i.e. houses, institutes, industries with different load profiles.

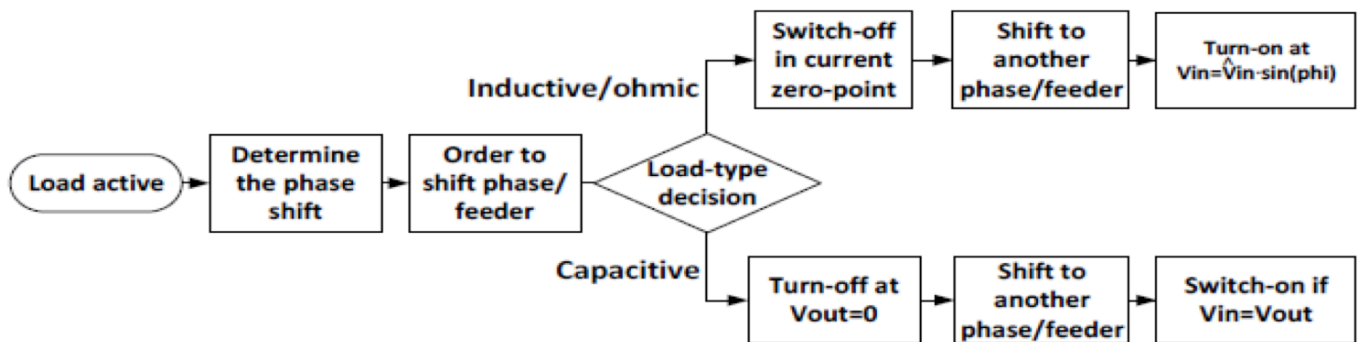
**WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND?**

I obtained my BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Balamand

**WHAT IS THE TITLE OF YOUR WINNING PROJECT? DESCRIBE ITS OBJECTIVE.**

My project is entitled Single Phase Load balancing in a three phase system at distribution and Unit level.

The objective of the project is assuring balance between phases such that current in phase 1 is equal to the current in phase 2 and 3.



**WHAT INSPIRED THIS IDEA?**

With the development of new technologies, the continuous changes in consumption trends, and the presence of unknown sources, the act of load balancing at distribution level and the feeder becomes more complex and much needed. Therefore, I decided to work on finding the best methods to achieve balance.

**WHO SUPERVISED YOUR RESEARCH AND WAS IT PART OF YOUR GRADUATION PROJECT?**

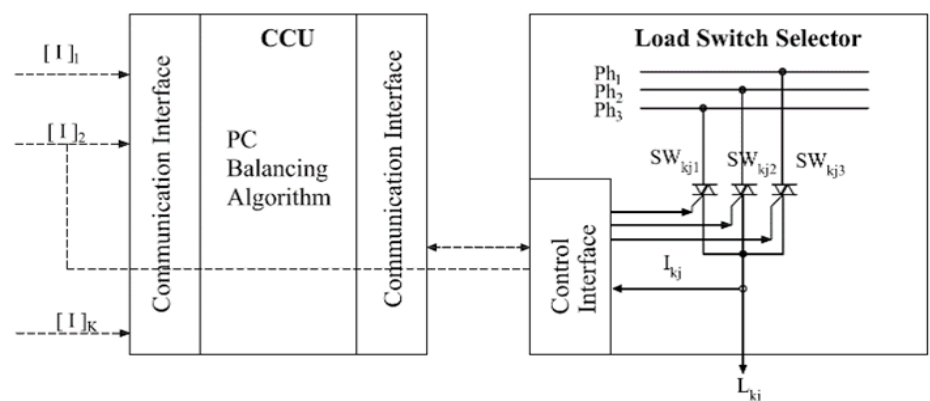
This was part of my thesis and Dr. Moustapha Al Hassan was my main advisor, Dr. Maged Najjar was my moderator.



### AND YOU CAME UP WITH AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION?

One of the best methods to achieve balance is finding the optimal reconfiguration. Therefore, automatic balancing is one of the best solutions and it is based on a switching technique following certain constraints and equations.

I wrote a code that assures the balance and that is able to achieve very good results compared to other techniques.



### WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROJECT ONCE IMPLEMENTED?

The project once implemented will help in reducing the flow of a highly distorted current in neutral wires, power loss, heating of power equipment, and the bill. In addition, it has a great effect on the environment.

### IS YOUR WORK PUBLISHED IN ANY JOURNAL?

I published my paper in the 19th international conference on industrial Technology (ICIT18) in Lyon- France. It can be found on IEEExplore ([Link: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8352365/](https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8352365/))

### WHAT WAS THE WINNING CRITERION IN THE COMPETITION OF THE ORDER OF ENGINEERS?

The grades were divided between the poster, the presentation ( skills and Q&A), the content (originality, scientific value, project applicability), and the environmental, social, and economic impact.

### IS THERE AN INDUSTRIAL PARTNER TO IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT?

At the moment there is no industrial partner. Hopefully when the implementation stage is done the next step would be to turn it into a business plan and find the right partners to it.

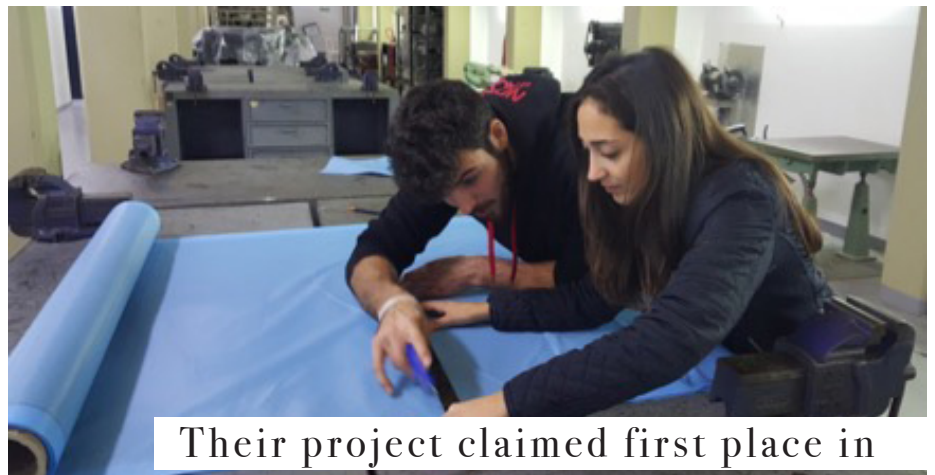
## DESIGN & FABRICATION OF A CARBON FIBER FLARE MAGAZINE

### **FADEL AUDI AND ELENA LAKKIS**

Engineering | Start - up

FADEL Audi and Elena Lakkis are Mechanical Engineering students at the University of Balamand who worked on the design and fabrication of a carbon fiber flare magazine under the supervision of Dr. Issam Tawk.

The objective of this project is to design and fabricate a magazine that confirms a safe ejection of the flares during a flight, create a durable and strong magazine, and facilitate the production process.



**Their project claimed first place in the order of engineers during its tenth annual project exhibition.**

#### **HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF THE CARBON FIBER FLARE MAGAZINE?**

The project's main purpose is to present a sustainable flare magazine for the Lebanese army, hence ensuring the safety of the aircraft's passengers. The Lebanese army addressed this request to the Balamand Institute of Aeronautics (BIA) and the mechanical engineering department in order to design and produce a mold to be easily assembled and disassembled.

As mechanical engineers, we decided to create a durable and strong magazine that can be manufactured with no difficulties in collaboration between the BIA, Lebanese army and the mechanical engineering department.

### WHAT IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF YOUR PROJECT?

The project's main purpose is to secure a sustainable flare magazine for the Lebanese army. Since the flares are ejected with high temperature and pressure, the magazine is chosen to be made out carbon fiber prepeg. This material certifies a safe range of endurance to both heat and high pressure at the discharging instant.

The second aim is to create a durable and strong magazine that can be manufactured with no difficulties.

### HOW IS THIS MAGAZINE DESIGNED?

The carbon fiber package is guaranteed to function several times on the long term. Moreover, to facilitate the production of the magazine, the mold was designed to be easily assembled and dissembled. Additionally, to reduce the budget of the production of the fabrication, the mold was made of aluminum, to withstand high temperature when curing in the autoclave and is definitely reusable.

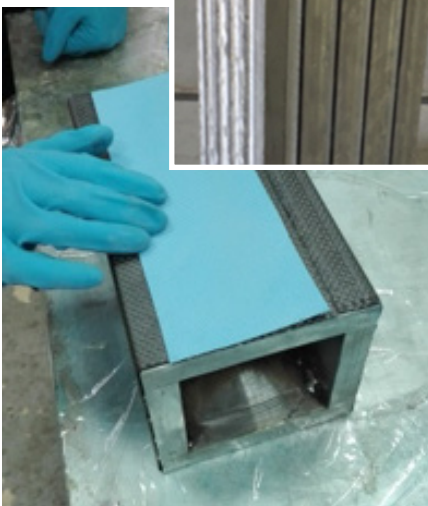
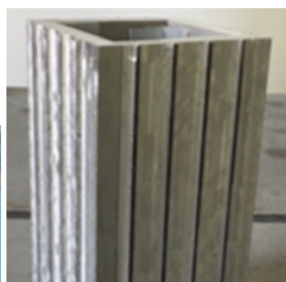
### WHAT ARE ITS BASIC PROPERTIES?

The magazine's properties permit it to serve for numerous times on the long term, tolerate the heat and pressure of flares' ejection, and to be part of the aircraft without surpassing the extra weight limit.

### WHERE DID YOU WORK ON THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF THE PRODUCT?

The experimental work was done in the composite material lab at the University of Balamand.

*Mold Aluminium*



*Layering*



*Magazine Flares - Carbon Fibers*





## CLEAN20

A Portable Water Filtration Device



*Clean20, a portable water filtration device*



Mohammad Fakhreddine, Maher Madi and Ramzi Bou Khalil claimed first prize in the Inas Abou Ayash Awards for their project Clean20.

“The project started following a class lecture which motivated us to propose new ideas related to our field of study,” says co-founder of Clean 20 Mohammad Fakhreddine.

The team came up with the idea of providing clean water for people in need, and was determined to create Clean20, a portable water filtration device, able to filter 500 L of water at a price of 8\$ .

The aim of the project is to introduce innovation in supplying drinkable water. The team’s expertise in engineering and design aim to bring clean and safe drinking water for people in need and create new unused water sources as a sustainable source.

When the team presented the idea, they were very delighted with the support of the University, so they proceeded.

The three chemical engineering students collected all the equipment and chemicals needed to pursue their project, and design their device that can kill bacteria and viruses, remove dirt and chemical toxins from water.

Currently, the team is working on developing their startup, hoping that Clean20 become the world leader in portable water filtration and provide clean water for everyone around the world.

## TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WARRAK



“Universities are not established to make money. They are established to invest money in students...”

President Warrak addressed students, staff and faculty members in the first Town Hall meeting held in Zakhem Auditorium on Tuesday February 12th, 2019. Dr. Warrak presented his new vision of the University which involves providing academic excellence and quality education, and building a culture of ethics and patriotism as opposed to the culture of mediocrity prevailing nowadays. The President affirmed the importance of securing accreditation from international accrediting agencies and promoting innovative and creative research.

Dr. Warrak also alluded to the various challenges facing the University, emphasizing the need to expand academic international affiliations with world-renowned institutions. He stated that investing in such partnerships opens up new vistas for research collaborations, provides students with job opportunities, and enhances the University's visibility. He also promised students to work hard on increasing funds for scholarships, state-of-the-art equipment, and lab upgrades, asserting that “Universities are not established to make money. They are established to invest money in students, faculty and staff... In raising the academic values of our diplomas, we will be able to offer our students with prospects of unlimited creativity”.

He also called the UOB community to benefit from constructive criticism and to discard all destructive rumors that distort the true image of the University.

The President's presentation was followed by a quick demonstration on the new features of the redesigned website, and a session of Questions and Answers that enabled the audience to raise their concerns on various issues pertaining to the University.

## ANNAHAR BLUE DAWN ROAD SHOW

“The University of Balamand is dedicated to graduating professionals and active citizens in their respective societies”.

*President Elias L. Warrak*



Questions of the jobs of the future and key trends in Lebanon made their way to the Nahyan auditorium on April 3rd, in a panel talk entitled: Annahar Blue Dawn Road Show.

Organized by Annahar, the panel talk featured Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Ghassan Hasbani, Annahar Editor-in-Chief Nayla Tueni, University of Balamand President Elias Warrak, in addition to a number of faculty members and students, who engaged in a debate on topics ranging from artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship to globalization.

Welcoming the attendees and participants, University of Balamand President Elias Warrak praised the role of Annahar in guiding students in improving their academic and career choices to adapt to the changing demands of the market. Adding, “The University of Balamand is dedicated to graduating professionals and active citizens in their respective societies”.

In his keynote address, H.E. Ghassan Hasbani addressed the audience stating that it is a great pleasure to take part in this initiative that focuses on the idea of youth empowerment. He added that it is important to prepare students to face the local and international challenges on their route to success.



Discussing the issue of Jobs of the future and key trends in Lebanon , the first session of the panel talk included the participation of President of the Lebanese League for Women in Business Ms. Asma Zein, Vice President of BIAT (Business Incubation Association in Tripoli), Mr. Nasri Mouawad, and Executive Director of Injaz Lebanon, Ms. Samar Dani.

With respect to the advances in artificial intelligence, the second panel was titled: How artificial intelligence is changing the business landscape, drawing on insights from Mr. Samir El Zein, expert and co- founder of Neotic.ai, and Mr. Tony Feghali, CEO of Potech.

Concluding the conference, the last panel focused on how globalization is changing the classical corporate route to success. It welcomed founder of NGNO (No Garlic No Onions) Anthony Rahayel , founder and CEO of OFF THE WALL Mustafa Dasuki, and University of Balamand student Mohamad Fakhreddine, co-founder of Clean20.



## TEDx CONFERENCE: OUT OF THIS WORLD



The TEDx club at the University of Balamand organized their second edition of TEDxUniversityofBalamand. This year's conference titled: Out of this world, brought together a number of speakers who addressed issues related to technology, cinema, and personal growth.

Held in Zakhem auditorium, the conference which aims at spreading new ideas, inspirational talks and insights on leadership gathered a number of speakers including renowned journalist, Raghida Dergham, Anthony Nahoul (Computer Scientist), Mayssa Raad (Cancer fighter and survivor), Alan Mehanna (Filmmaker), Sharif Abdunnur (Director and Professor), Sari Haddad (rural tourism specialist), Christianne Saba (Career and Business strategist), Omar Koussa (Pharmacist), and Danny Bou Maroun (composer and producer).

One of the most inspirational talks was the one presented by Anthony Nahoul, a computer scientist who spoke about his determination to achieve success despite his disability.

Another interesting presentation that received the acclaim of the audience was the one delivered by Raghida Dergham, a journalist who was named in 2018 as one of the 50 influential women in the Arab World.

The TEDX crowd was also delighted by the performances of magician and guitarist Ibrahim Abbas and gymnast Sami Naiyme.

## CLOSING CEREMONY OF SABIOP PROJECT

The University of Balamand celebrated the closure of the “Sustainable action for bioenergy production in Koura” project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Environmental and Energy Economics program at the Institute of the Environment in partnership with the Koura municipalities Union and the Koura Development Council.

SabioP implemented the construction of a biofuel production plant in Koura, that can process 1000 tons of forest residue into 700 tons of briquettes.

The closing event was held in the presence of President Warrak, Mr. Gianandrea Villa, Responsible of Local Governance and Local Authorities, European Delegation to Lebanon, Engineering Karim Bou Karim, President of the Koura Municipalities Union, Ms. Eliane Khawly, President of the Koura Development Council, in addition to a number of attendees.





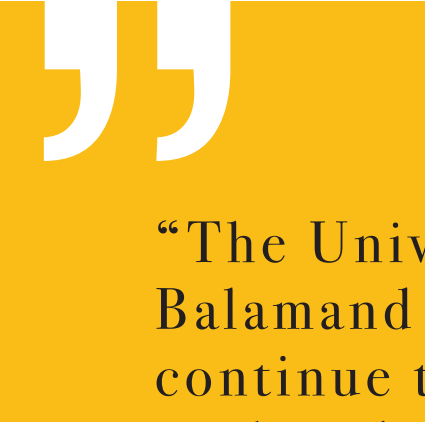
In his welcoming speech, Dr. Manal Nader, director of the institute of the environment (IOE), stated that the institute of the environment strives to promote effective decision making, supportive of sustainable development policies.

He also showcased the activities undertaken by IOE in order to disseminate the SABIOP project, starting by designing the biomass production plant and the feasibility studies undertaken at the Environmental and Energy Economics Program , and the scientific studies on the biomass briquettes production from pruning residues of olive groves and public forests.

In turn, Mr. Gianandrea Villa praised the efforts of the University of Balamand in this project. He also stressed the commitment of the EU in supporting sustainable energy actions to increase the energy efficiency and to the deployment of renewable energy sources.

For his part, President Warrak showcased the role of the University of Balamand in advancing environmental practices through the institute of the environment that raises awareness and provides solutions on issues related to sustainability of natural resources.

He concluded that the University of Balamand has been and will continue to be the pioneer in the advancement of environmental practices supportive of sustainable development providing better health care to humankind and empowering the community.



“The University of Balamand has been and will continue to be the pioneer in the advancement of environmental practices supportive of sustainable development”



## A DELEGATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AND BENTA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND

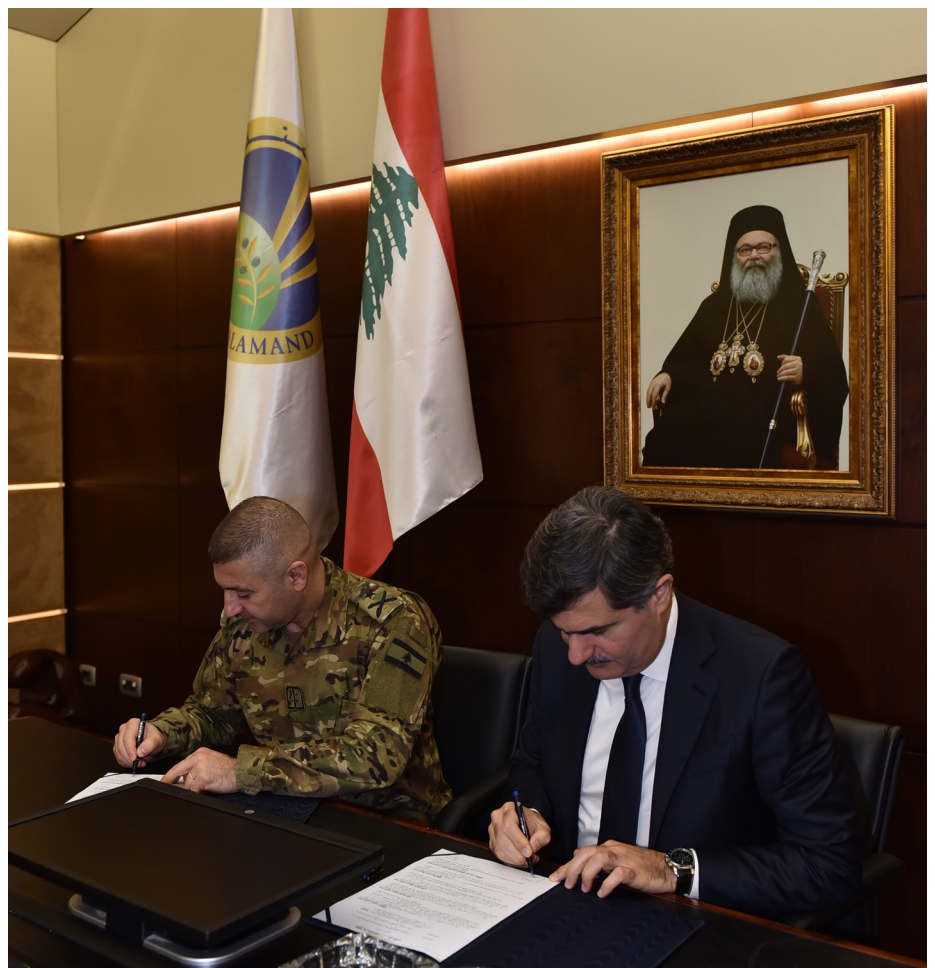
Upon the invitation of President Elias Warrak, Dr. Kennard Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, accompanied by Dr. Harry Kochat, Director of Business Development, and Mr. Bernard Tannoury, Chairman and CEO of Benta Pharmaceutical Industry, visited the University of Balamand on Tuesday April 2nd, 2019.

The discussion centered on the potential cooperation between the University of Tennessee and the University of Balamand, especially in the field of Medicine and Medical Sciences, to promote the development of exchange programs, joint research and educational activities of mutual interest to both Universities.

A luncheon at the Presidential House was held in Dr. Brown's honor.



## **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND AND THE LEBANESE AIR FORCES SIGN AGREEMENT**



The University of Balamand signed an agreement with the Lebanese air forces represented by commander of the Air force, Brigadier-General Ziad Haikal .

The agreement stipulates that the University receives Officers from the Lebanese Air Force to specialize in aircraft Engineering technologies.

This agreement is under the terms of the MOU signed between the University and the Lebanese Army.

It is worth noting that the University has graduated to date about forty officers in the various aeronautics specialties.

# PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT



The University of Balamand partnered with the United Nations Global Compact UNGC in order to advance the international corporate responsibility and sustainable development initiative.

In this context, President Warrak received head of UNGC MP Dr. Dima Jamali, in his office.

The meeting revolved around the sustainable development projects that the University is already engaged in. It also tackled possibilities for future projects mainly in social entrepreneurship.



# UOB & CSR AHLI HOLDING GROUP SIGN AGREEMENT



The University of Balamand signed a memorandum of understanding with CSR Ahli Holding Group for the implementation of several social initiatives and social projects mainly in social entrepreneurship.

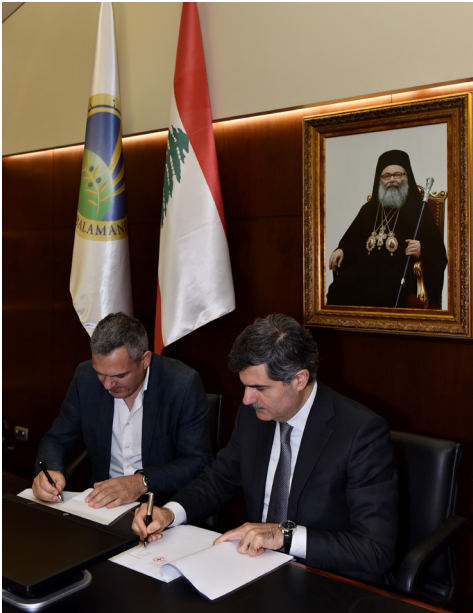
This program is designed to stimulate the potential of university youth and activate their role as social community leaders capable of leading the development of their community.

The projects will focus on the design, development and implementation of several social initiatives and social projects that will address and try to overcome the challenges present in the city of Tripoli and in the North province at large. Each project will be built in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will contribute to the achievement of the targets under each goal in an attempt of mainstreaming sustainability and social development in Tripoli and North Lebanon.

Acting dean of student affairs Dr. Walid Moubayed signed the agreement with CSR Ahli Group represented by CSR Division Director, Ms Lina Hourani.



# UOB AND ICRC SIGN AGREEMENT



The University of Balamand and the International Committee of the Red Cross signed an agreement to promote the development of studies and research for the achievement of social inclusion and physical rehabilitation for people with disability in Lebanon, and to support the Prosthetic and Orthotics in Lebanon.

On April 9, A delegation from ICRC headed by Dr. Zaher Osman, ICRC Health Coordinator visited the University of Balamand and met with President Warrak in the presence of Ms. Mariateresa Cacciapuoti, ICRC Head of Tripoli Sub Delegation, Ms. Aicha Benyaich, ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Program Manager, in addition to Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Dr. Karim Ehtay, and Ms. Habbouba, Director of the Co-Academic Programs at FHS.

In his speech, President Warrak expressed his enthusiasm for establishing an agreement with ICRC and indicated that UOB will do everything possible to ensure this success of this venture.

In turn, Ms. Mariateresa Cacciapuoti, praised this collaboration with the University of Balamand and emphasized the importance of this agreement in order to integrate people with disabilities in society, and to overcome the barriers for accessing to rehabilitation services in Lebanon.

The ceremony was concluded by the signing of the agreement.

## ENGINEERING & BUSINESS: A COMBINATION FOR SUCESS

## JACQUES W. NADER

Meet our alumni Mr. Jacques Nader.

A native of Kalhat , Mr. Jacques Nader joined the University of Balamand to pursue his studies in the engineering department. He says he decided to join Balamand, prompted in part by the location of the university that is few hundred meters from his home, and the scholarship that he was granted. One other reason Mr. Nader joined Balamand, he explained, is the reputation of the engineering department, that he describes as “excellent”.

In 2005, following his graduation from the University of Balamand with a BS in mechanical engineering, Mr. Nader, decided to leave for the United States to continue his education at the University of Maine. In 2007 he graduated with an MS in Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering, and then obtained an MBA in 2011 from the same institution.

Following his graduation, Mr. Nader Co-founded an engineering company in the state of Maine called Compotech Inc, which deals with the design and manufacturing of composite structures.



Over the years, Compotech has grown to a global company, which he says is a great achievement that he is extremely proud of. Today, he remains involved with Compotech as an executive board member and a shareholder. Currently, Mr. Nader is the executive director of Siemens’ Global R&D center for wind energy located in USA. The global center, he explains, is responsible for the development and design of all Siemens wind turbines around the world.

Mr. Nader says that pursuing an academic career in engineering and MBA contributed greatly to his success. “As engineers we are taught to innovate and solve problems and in business we are taught how to build and run companies. I am constantly using the best of the two worlds”.

As a result of his background and success, Mr. Nader is a board member of the Balamand Educational Foundation (BEF) in USA, a non-profit organization, that provides financial aid for deserving students based on need and merit. As board members, “ Our goal is to raise the necessary funds that make it

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*Mr. Nader is the executive director of Siemens’ Global R&D center for wind energy located in USA.*

*The global center, he explains, is responsible for the development and design of all Siemens wind turbines around the world.*

possible for every student to go to college, regardless of financial status”, we also provide support for students and provide them with the opportunity to receive training or work in the USA.

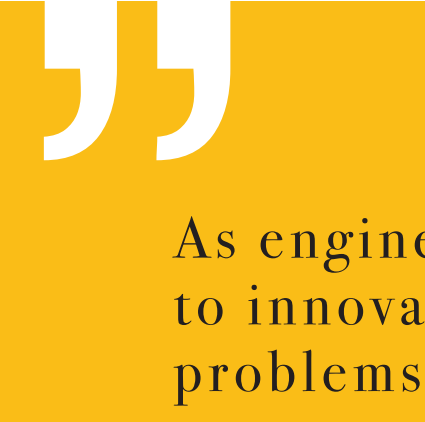
“The Foundation is a great way to give back to the community and stay connected with the University of Balamand”, he says, adding that it is a great honor to be part of it.

Mr. Nader is also member of the Balamand Alumni Advisory Council (AAC). He is honored and pleased to be member of this council, which offers him the opportunity to stay connected with the University and help advise its management team in strategic initiatives.

Mr. Nader is impressed by the growth of the University, and its accomplishments, and praises the university that has proven that it is a great place to study.

A world traveler, Mr. Nader lives in Colorado with his wife Amanda, and daughter Laiya. He says that they love traveling, and that their favorite place to visit is definitely Lebanon.

Asked to offer an advice to Balamand students and Alumni, he says: Choose a major you like, because if you like something, you can excel in it and become successful, and adds: Dear Alumni, stay in touch with Balamand, you are its true asset.



As engineers we are taught to innovate and solve problems and in business we are taught how to build and run companies. I am constantly using the best of both worlds

## ART: SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND UNCONSTRAINED LIFE

## HADIA KHOURY

Communication strategist | painter | Lebanon

Hadia describes herself as passionate about art which is a symbol for freedom and unconstrained life, and a reflective instrument for change in the world. She says that she always felt that society and education try to place the individual in a category where he is supposed to behave conventionally. Thus, she decided to invest her artistic skills into visualizing a better world. A holder of a BS in graphic design from Alba, (11) Hadia Khoury “always knew” she wanted to pursue a degree in art but didn’t know whether she wants to be a painter or graphic designer.

One of the reasons she decided to pursue a degree in graphic design is that she did not want to limit her career choices.

Today, Hadia is a communication strategist at a non-governmental organization, and held her very first exhibition titled: “Untaught lines”, in Saifi village- Solidere.



*Hadia, an Alba graduate, held her very first experimental and abstract exhibition titled: “Untaught lines” that features around 40 paintings that represent faces, feelings, and the unknown.*

*“Untaught lines” canvases are distinguished by a raw, spontaneous and stylized representation of fragile and human subjects.*

Art is a reflective instrument  
that provides me with the  
creativity to choose who I want  
to be and the flexibility to  
change the reality if it doesn’t  
match my dreams

”

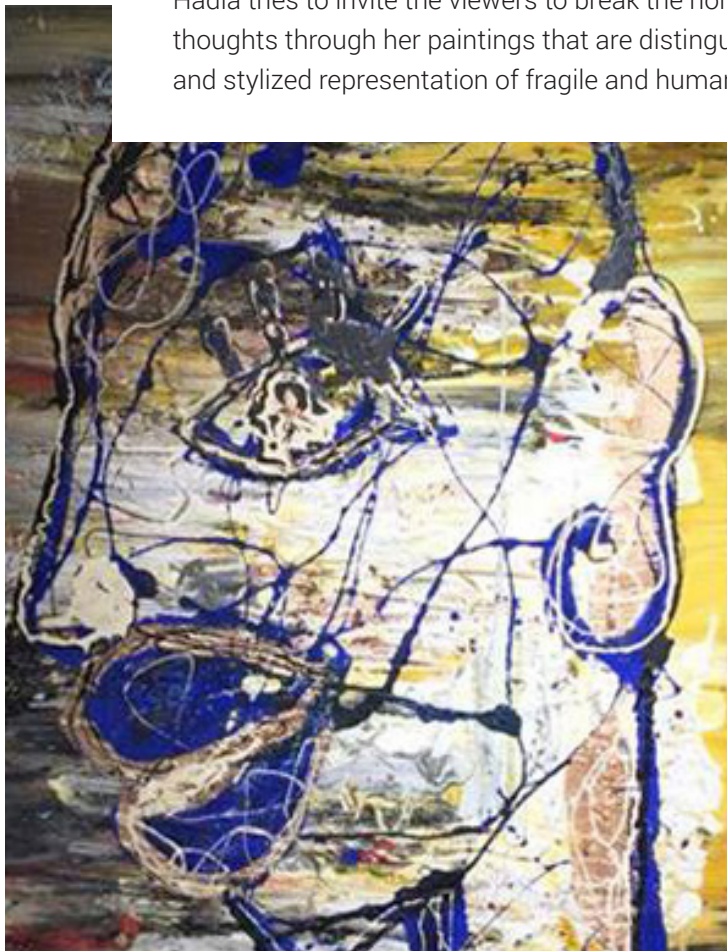




I named my exhibition  
“untaught lines” to  
express my emotions on  
canvas, and to invite my  
emotions to dictate what  
I will paint without any  
structure or restraint

The exhibition features around 40 paintings that represent faces, feelings and the unknown, and portraits of women. “Untaught lines” means the lines that were not taught to me, and that simply spoke to me or had power over me and influenced me to draw on canvas”.

Hadia tries to invite the viewers to break the norms and to express their inner thoughts through her paintings that are distinguished by a raw, spontaneous, and stylized representation of fragile and human subjects.





“My persistence on depicting faces as the solitary subject for most of my works implies my intention to drive the viewer into perceiving different connotations each time, as if these representations are related to our existence as helpless human beings in a giant social collective, searching for our own incentives in the noise of this world”,

Her desire to remember certain faces that she doesn't want to forget prompted her to illustrate them in her paintings.

Hadia's work is influenced by her father, her major source of inspiration. “The first attempt to start painting was probably after seeing my dad when he paints, plays a song on the piano, or sings. He is the reason why I paint freely”, she concluded.

The young artist is also influenced by international artists such as Egon Schiele, Modiglian, Frida Kahlo, Jackson Pollock, as well as some creative people that left their footprint in Lebanon such as Mario Saba and Mazen kerbaj.

Hadia is proud to be a Balamand graduate, because Alba, she says, equipped her with knowledge and creativity and shaped the person she is today. Asked to offer a word of advice to aspiring artists, she says: “Absorb as much knowledge as possible, because with the right skills, you will be able to confront the challenges existing in our modern society”.

## COMBINING LYRICAL MELODY AND RHYTHMIC VITALITY



*A top Composer and Pianist, Georges Tomb has been in tune with his inner musician since the age of four.*

## GEORGES TOMB

A young composer and pianist, Georges Samir Tomb, graduated in civil Engineering from the University of Balamand.

Member of a family of artists and musicians, Georges has been playing the piano since the age of 4 and composing since he was 6.

In 2014, Georges decided to follow his passion and pursue a professional musical career, and thus left to Vienna to study composition and Orchestration.

While in Vienna, Georges studied under Conrad Pope, the official orchestrator of John Williams; one of the top orchestrators of our time, known for his award-winning soundtracks for such box-office hits as "Harry Potter," "The Legend of Zorro," "The Hobbit" and many others.

He recorded for the first time his piece "Serene Vienna" with the "Vienna String Orchestra" under the supervision of Hollywood composer Christopher Young and Hollywood Violonist Dimitrie Leivici.

Known for his unique style and talent, Tomb is the youngest Lebanese composer to have his music performed by the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of the American Conductor Dr. Joanna Nacheff, (2014), and also in Amman by the Jordanian National Orchestra under Queen Noor's patronage at the Royal Cultural Center (2015).

Despite his young age, 26, Georges performed in many international orchestral concerts and at the San Remo Symphony Orchestra and recently the Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana, which he described as a "turning point" in his career.

Georges says he decided to stay abroad despite his attachment to his country. Nevertheless, Georges recently inaugurated with the Lebanese Philharmonic orchestra, and Conductor Joanna Nacheff the "Theatre du Boulevard" which he described as "a great success".

Tomb's music was also performed by the San Remo Symphony Orchestra; conducted by International Italian Conductor Francesco Attardi (San Remo Opera House, Nov-2016); who really believed in Tomb's talent and included for the second time his music next to pieces for Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi, Mendelssohn; in the official Christmas Concert of the "Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana" in Basilica Di San Marco Milano, on December 2018.



“Music for me is really something sacred, I honestly feel that it is a gift from God, a message He wants to share through me, it’s a divine gift. I never understood how I compose, or how I start a new composition, it was always here.”

The young pianist and composer did not stop there; he held a concert in LA at the Norris Theater for the performing arts with the Orchestra and Choir conducted by Maestra Joanna Nachev, where his musical piece “Promise” was world premiered by the LA Master Chorale Soloist Soprano Andrea Zomorodian.

Acclaimed French Lebanese Soprano Rima Tawil performed his music twice in the prestigious French classical concert hall “Salle Gaveau” alongside “Îles de France Chorale” and chamber Orchestra; and Tomb was the concert guest pianist.

Georges credits his father who has given him much confidence and furthered the faith in his work.

Today, Tomb is seriously pursuing music for scenes and movies, and is now working on Scoring movies and Ballet choreographies.

“I am composing a ballet “Pinocchio” with Balletto del Sud that will be premiered at the Opera in Lecce and scoring the new movie of the Emmy Award Winning writer Susan Marya Baronoff.

In the near future, Georges will be having a concert with Joanna Nachev and the Lebanese Philharmonic orchestra, and the American Grammy Award winning singer Hila Plitmann will sing his music in LA at the Torrence Theater with the Orchestra.

We wish him all the best!



“EACH ONE OF  
US SHOULD  
STRIVE TO BE  
A LIFELONG  
LEARNER” ....

## DR. CARLOS CHIDIAC

An advocate of Healthcare simulation

Following his graduation from the school of medicine in 2007, Dr. Carlos Chidiac decided to pursue a career in technology and innovative solutions in health care. He took off his white coat, threw away his stethoscope and started with an incubator program in Florida which is a Robotics Simulation Company that manufactures robotic patients.

He then he moved to California San Francisco where he started his accelerator program, comprising mentorship, and connections to scale up his project. Founder and CEO of CME Hub, Healthcare incorporated, Simulead Consultancy, and Ambusim (ambulance simulation) in Florida, San Francisco, Qatar and Dubai, Dr. Chidiac is a strong advocate of education and believes that each entrepreneur should always strive to be a lifelong learner.

A serial traveler, Dr. Chidiac provides training on his products in several countries. He also visits his development offices in US and visits Japan and the UK for conferences.

Dr. Chidiac reconnected with Balamand two years ago and is currently a lecturer at the Balamand simulation center, where he is teaching the American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support courses, with emphasis on high fidelity simulation practice.

He decided to join Balamand, because as he puts it, he wanted to transmit the knowledge and expertise he had acquired. And thus, he contributed and supported the Balamand simulation center which is the modern setup used to educate and develop the skills of young doctors and nurses.

The simulation center, is a safe environment to learn, and is equipped like a hospital with patient rooms, operation rooms, and emergency rooms.

We can replicate cardiac arrests many times a day and train the trainees on how to manage a cardiac arrest ten times for each person, explains Dr. Chidiac.

“With hundreds of critical clinical situations that we can replicate, we can really enrich the exposure and experience acquisition of any trainee on an exponential pattern”.



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*Dr. Chidiac is founder and CEO of CME Hub, Healthcare incorporated, SimuLead Consultancy, and Ambusim (ambulance simulation) in Florida, San Francisco, Qatar and Dubai.*

*He is currently a lecturer at the Balamand simulation center.*

Fast paced and committed in everything he does, Dr. Chidiac is passionate about teaching. In fact, he believes that the approach to academics at the University level is to reach the trend of interprofessional education.

Any healthcare educator nowadays has a goal to reach which is IPE, interprofessional education, and the best place to conduct the IPE is the simulation center.

"This is where you put doctors, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists and other health practitioners in one place in a hospital-like environment where they can get introduced to how each practitioner operates, he concludes.

Dr. Chidiac feels like he belongs to the University. "It is my alma matter". The University of Balamand made him appreciate that modernity, knowledge should not only be restricted to cities. "Balamand is unlike any other institution, unique by its nature and people", he says.

A father of four, Dr. Chidiac says he is proud to be where he is today, both in his personal and professional life.

The secret to his success, he explains, is being innovative and exploring new horizons.

"What keeps you running and developing are the skills you have. Talent is one criteria but it is not enough. You should be continuously learning and acquiring new methodologies".



With hundreds of critical clinical situations that we can replicate, we can really enrich the exposure and experience acquisition of any trainee on an exponential pattern

“THE WAY  
BALAMAND IS  
GROWING AND  
COMPETING  
WITH OTHER  
UNIVERSITIES IS  
INCREDIBLE”

## WALID ACHKAR

President of Alumni Advisory Council Committee

Mr. Walid Achkar was recently elected as president of the Alumni Advisory Council Executive Committee which will work to represent the interests of the alumni and assist the University in implementing its plans for future growth. Head of commercial support unit at Bank Byblos , Mr. Achkar is happy that he is reconnecting with the University of Balamand and reuniting with his fellow alumni.

Mr. Achkar enjoys his experience in the business world , where he is responsible for planning, and implementing commercial strategies with the main goal to support the clients' demands and accelerate the growth of his company. Among his responsibilities is to follow up with his commercial clients regarding their business profiles and online banking.

Mr. Achkar is a dedicated professional who is eager to transmit his experience to the AAC executive committee.

“The way Balamand is growing and competing with other universities is incredible,” he says. And he believes that promoting the University of Balamand and encouraging people to visit it, is one of his goals.

His aim is to maintain contact with his colleagues and fellow alumni, and to create an access to a career's portal where he can share job opportunities through a unified database.

Committed in everything he does, Mr. Achkar says that the secret to success is expertise and enthusiasm. Asked to offer a word of advice to Balamand students, he stated: Benefit from every day in college life, and equip yourselves with knowledge and communication skills, to impact your future.



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*Head of Commercial Support Unit at Bank Byblos, Mr. Achkar was recently elected as president of the Alumni Advisory Council Executive Committee.*



# YARA ASMAR

Following her participation in an intensive news broadcast workshop, Mass communication student Yara Asmar has been offered the opportunity to take part in a paid three-month internship at the Parisian headquarters of the news station France 24.

Yara, (BA student in Mass communication) took part in the workshop conducted by Paris-based France 24 news reporter Aurore Dupuis. During the workshop, students had to produce their own TV news coverage of a number of subjects of their choice, and do so from A to Z, including scripting the coverage, speaking in front of the camera, and editing the footage. Students were also responsible for the camera work.

This was truly a wonderful experience for Yara, who described it as one of the best courses she has taken so far at the University. "The course is very informative, strenuous like almost every Mcom course, she said.

This opportunity with France 24 provided Yara with the chance to work in a cosmopolitan and fast-paced environment and produce work based on the highest professional standards.

While in France, Yara had the opportunity to film, produce and edit footage for France 24. "I covered several topics including 59 Rivoli- an exceptional place in Paris, that hosts artist collectives, where they exhibit their work. " I also went to Marseille and filmed Ai Weiwei's fan- tan exhibition." She also filmed a report on Afrofuturism and another one on art intelligence.

Yara describes this experience abroad as "challenging", because she was introduced to a new culture and had to find subjects of her choice to film, which she says was the hardest part.

Yara has a strong sense of belonging to the Mass communication department and is happy to have the opportunity to study in a nurturing environment. We wish her all the best!





# ROXANE DAOUD

Passionate about performing arts and filmmaking, Mass Communication student Roxane Daoud participated in an intensive news broadcast workshop in France 24. On this occasion, Roxane talks to Balamandians about her own experience at the Parisian headquarters of the news station France 24 and her journey at the University of Balamand.

### WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING?

RD: I am Mass Media and Communication student.

I am currently doing my Masters in Filmmaking at the University of Balamand.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN DURING THE MCOM WORKSHOP AT THE UNIVERSITY AND WHAT WERE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR?

My experience during the workshop in Balamand was very comprehensive in which I was responsible for filming the report, writing the script, editing, and voicing. Overall, I learned how to create a professional report from A-Z. In addition to that, we did a news bulletin simulation where I got the chance to learn the basics about news presenting and experience it as well in a professional atmosphere.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS COURSE?

I think this course is very essential for every Mass Media and Communication student since it allows us to have a detailed idea of how a newsroom operates, from preparing reports on the field to arranging a news bulletin in the studio.



I was able to learn detailed and complex approaches to journalism and various ways to improve my content through reports and articles through my internship with France 24

## **SHARE WITH US YOUR EXPERIENCE AT FRANCE 24 AND THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS**

My experience in France 24 was life-changing from a personal and academic standpoint. On a personal level, it allowed me to develop my character extensively and it increased my self-developing skills (time-management, teamwork and organizational skills). On a professional and academic level, I was able to learn detailed and complex approaches to journalism and various ways to improve my content through reports and articles.

## **CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SUBJECTS?**

I observed and participated in various departments that allowed me to have a better understanding to journalism in general, and to the structure of France 24 International Channel in particular. I gained experience and worked in departments that covered subjects ranging from culture and society to politics and security. I prepared several reports from scratch that were broadcasted on TV and on France 24's social media platforms as well as some articles. In a sense, I gained a very comprehensive experience in many departments that tackle various fields. I was also involved in creating live programs as well as creating communication networks with potential guests.

## **YOU ALREADY PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUR SHORT DOCUMENTARY "BURIED BLOSSOMS. WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER PLANS?**

My future plan for now is mainly to pursue a higher academic degree in Mass Media and Communication in the Filmmaking track. I am aiming to work on future projects that would hopefully gain success as much as my documentary "Buried Blossoms".

## **ANY FINAL WORDS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

I believe my field in Mass Media and Communication suits my diverse interests and my personality. I am passionate about performing arts and filmmaking. The MCOM department was the space that allowed me to develop myself professionally and personally. This is due to the efforts of Dr. Sharif Abdunnur. In other words, it made me the person that I am today and I am so grateful for that.



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