

Nowadays, technology touches every aspect of our lives and is changing the ways we do things.

Although we in Lebanon have been quite adamant early adopters of many of the new technologies, we have remained dependent users and consumers, on the receiving end of industrialized countries from the East and West. One of the main reasons for this is the shortage of technologists that are suitably qualified and skilled to converse with modern day and highly advanced technical innovations.

Technologists are often confused for engineers and technicians; they should not for they are very different. Engineers are designers, analyzers and problem solvers; while technicians are skilled operators, trained to do specific tasks. Technologists, however, are well rounded individuals who understand integrated system designs and have multi-faceted skills that enable them to execute, commission and maintain systems and make them work.

The Issam M. Fares Institute of Technology at the University of Balamand was established specifically with the vision to produce for Lebanon its much needed technologists. The Institute will be anchored in Akkar; the region where technology is most essential for its social, economic and demographic development. The instigation of the Institute was made possible through the synergy generated by the union of two key players; the Fares Foundation and the University of Balamand.



In an unprecedented act of devotion towards his birth place and his people, His Excellency Mr. Issam Fares generously donated land and funds that will give Akkar its first center for higher education. The University of Balamand brought in its educational experience, its administrative knowhow, its standards and above all its spirit. The result was an Institute of Technology that is special in so many different ways. Through approved three-year programs, it will qualify young men and women to be at the forefront of technologies in the fields of Agriculture, Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Communications and Aeronautics. The Institute will empower them to actively contribute to the workings of modern day

Lebanese and regional enterprises, while their degree (Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT)) will further enable them to pursue higher studies, thereby leaving their career development paths open. The Institute will have two different campuses; an inland campus in Beino and a seafront compound in Cheikh Zennad by Kleiaat Airport. Construction at the Beino site has already started and is well underway while all designs for the Cheikh Zennad campus have been completed and construction is about to start soon. In anticipation of the completion of the Institute campuses, a number of technology programs have already started at the Balamand main campus in Kalhat and will move to Akkar once it is operational.

Alumni Corner

Class Notes

Shore. He is currently living in Boston. **Danielle Metni Chebli** (MFA in Art Direction) got married recently. She has been working as an Art Director at Saatchi & Saatchi since 2005. In March 2010, she moved to M&C Saatchi as Senior Art Director.

Class of '06

Lina Majed (BA in Physical Education) is now pursuing her PhD degree in Paris in Sport Sciences (motor control and perception) with a full French ministerial scholarship.

Adel Stayteh (MS in Electrical Engineering) joined Allied Maintenance Company in KSA by January 2007 as Assistant Area/ Site Manager. In 2008, he was promoted to Area manager. In July 2009, he got married to Leila Hamza.

Class of '07

Ahmad Sharaneq (BS in Computer Engineering) got married in August

2007 and lives with his wife and little daughter in Doha, Qatar, where he works as Relationship Manager at Commercial Bank of Qatar.

Sandra Ghosn (MFA in Illustration) lives in Paris where she learned printing techniques at ENSAD. She is currently studying modern French literature at Sorbonne Paris while she is still working as a freelance graphic designer for Lebanese clients. She also presents a kids show at Al Jazeera Children Channel twice a year in Doha, Qatar.

Class of '08

Joe Helal (MS in Mechanical Engineering) joined Kharafi National Kuwait as Site Engineer; Oil and Gas Department Construction for Aromatics project Equate area. He was recently promoted to Project Engineer, which involves many activities (mechanical, civil and structure).

Mary-Ann Jallad (BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences) is pursuing her Masters degree in

microbiology at the University of Balamand. She also works at the Microbiology Laboratory at St. Georges Hospital.

Class of '09

Nabiha Abdul Wahab (BA in Mass Communication) started work in July 2009 at the LDO (Local Development Office of Tripoli) in Tripoli Municipality.

Awuni Dib (BS in Mechanical Engineering) has been working in Dar Al Handasah, Lebanon as a Mechanical Engineer since his graduation.

Class of '10

Wissam Yamak (BBA in Business Administration) relocated to Dubai, UAE since September 2010 where he works for Starcom Company as Media Executive.

Toufic Issa (BS in Mechanical Engineering) relocated to Qatar after graduation where he works as Mechanical Engineer at the New Doha International Airport.

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The Cornerstone of the University of Balamand – Souk El Gharb Branch

Alumni Corner

Class Notes

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The Balamandians

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



Souk-El-Gharb campus

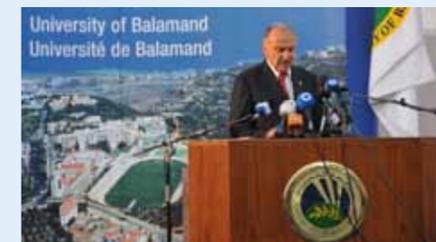
Projects

Laying the Cornerstone of the University of Balamand – Souk-El-Gharb Branch

On 23 June 2010, the cornerstone was laid for a new Campus in Souk-El-Gharb on a 48,000 square meter plot donated to the University by His Excellency Walid Beik Jumblatt in the presence of His Beatitude Ignatius IV, His Excellency Walid Beik Jumblatt, the President of the University of Balamand Dr. Elie A. Salem, and various personalities of the region. In his opening speech, Mr. Anis Nassar, a BOT member and instrumental figure in getting the project going, recalled old days at the Souk-El-Gharb High School, and expressed gratitude to His Excellency Walid Beik Jumblatt who brought hope back to the people of the region.

Dr. Elie A. Salem stressed that the University's philosophy of openness to others is being confirmed through establishing a new branch in Souk-El-Gharb. "... In fact, it's the University's responsibility to educate, build nations, and determine aspects of development and creativity..." His Excellency Walid Beik Jumblatt noted: "... Let us get this region out of the abhorrent residues of the civil war... and let this area be a place where ideas meet, not bombs".

While his Beatitude Ignatius IV stated: "We believe that we should move forward ... Only God is perfect, pray for us so we can offer our children the best". The new campus will be completed in a roughly three-year construction period. It is expected to open its doors to students starting January 2013. The University will offer in this branch Bachelor's degrees in majors associated with the following Faculties: Engineering, Health Sciences, Sciences, Business and Management, and Arts and Social Sciences. A freshman program will also be offered.



Launching the Institute of Aeronautics

In a ceremony held on 12 November 2010, the University of Balamand launched its Institute of Aeronautics, the first of its kind in Lebanon. During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), the European consortium of Airbus, Eurocopter, Astrium and Cassidian. The high profile event was attended by the Director General for Civil Aviation, Dr. Hamdi Chaouk, the Secretary General of the Arab Air Carriers Organization, Mr. Abdel Wahab Teffaha, the Commander of the Lebanese Air Force, Flight Brigadir General Ghassan Chahine as well as the Chairman of Trans Mediterranean Airways, Mr. Mazen Bissat, in addition to Mr. Mohammed Salem Al-Kuwari, the Director of Competence Center of Qatar (CCQ). In his welcoming statement, Dr. Elie Salem, the President of the University of Balamand, emphasized that the University has chosen to be the academic focal point of aeronautics in the country. A presentation followed by Dr. Oussama Jadayel, the Director of the Institute, in which he stressed that the partnership with EADS-CCQ in Doha is a first and a much-needed step towards a regional Arab Aviation Education Network.

The Director of CCQ, Mr. Mohammed Salem Al-Kuwari, stated that EADS is a major stakeholder in regional aviation and strongly believes that the sector should be sustained by its "owners". On the other hand, AACO's Secretary General Teffaha, elaborated that the future of Arab aviation hinges on three important pillars; Safety, Security and Efficiency.



Alumni Corner

Class Notes

Class of '92

Zeina Tahhan (BFA in Interior Design) has her own business based in Lebanon as a jewelry designer.

Wajih Noujaim (BBA in Business Administration) lives in Kuwait where he works as Chief Financial Officer with Bayan Investment Co.

Class of '93

Nathalie Serhan (BA in Languages) is married to John Karam, a UOB graduate. She lives with her husband and two kids in Amioun. Nathalie teaches Languages at the University of Saint-Esprit de Kaslik.

Gaby Nehme (BBA in Business Administration) lives with his wife and two kids in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He works as Senior Accountant for National petroleum construction company.

Class of '94

Rima Saifan (BBA in Business and Management) completed her MS in Computer Science in 1998. She worked for a period of 10 years at the University of Balamand as an Analyst Programmer. Rima moved to Beirut in 2005 where she works as an IT analyst.

Suzanne Hannouf (BA in languages) completed her BA in Library Sciences and MA in Christian Muslim Studies at the University of Balamand. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Muslim Christian Studies at USJ, while working as a reference librarian at the University of Balamand for the past 15 years. She lives in Tripoli and is a mother of 3 girls.

Class of '95

Dima Issa (BS in Computer Engineering) completed her MS in 1997. She works as Regional Marketing Manager at Karl Storz Endoscopy, Beirut.

Guitta AlAlam (BS in Computer Engineering) has also earned a "Certified Business Analyst" diploma and a Certificate in "IT Project Management" from the George Washington University in USA, through her work with The World Bank organization, where she has held the position of IT Analyst of the Lebanon Country Office since 2002. Guitta has been married to Joseph Saliba since 2001 and has two daughters.

Class of '96

Youssef Nour (DES in Architecture) lives in Lebanon and has been working for Nabil Gholam Architects as "Lead Project Architect" since 2005.

Carmen Issa (BS in Computer Science) completed her MS in 1999. The mother of two kids, Carmen is married to Dr. Hanna El Nakat, Chairman of the Chemistry Department and Director of Special Programs at the University of Balamand. Carmen teaches Computer Science at the Lebanese University and Balamand High School.

Class of '97

Rami Al Ayoubi (MS in Computer Engineering) worked since 1997 in Saudi Arabia supporting the full range of Intermecc Technologies Products. In July 2007, he moved with his wife and two kids Ahmad and Asmaa to Lebanon and joined Maliatec - the company that represents Intermecc in the Levant area- as Product Manager.

Samar Mansour (TD in Languages) is a copywriter and a freelance translator who is currently teaching at NDU as well. Samar is married and lives with her husband and two kids in Rabieh, Beirut.

Class of '98

Ghada El Soury (BS in Computer Science) is married to Miled Mansour. She is a mother of a 6-year old boy and a 2-year old girl. She has been a math instructor at the "Ecole Secondaire

Launching a Pioneering Aeronautical Education Project



On 8 November 2010, the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Balamand launched a pioneering project in Aeronautical Education. "A Sustainable Framework for Higher Education in Aeronautical Technologies", SF-HEAT for short, seeks to put in place modern and much needed qualification programs that meet the requirements of the Lebanese and regional air transport industry.

The project, supported by a generous grant from the EU, is built around a Euro-Lebanese partnership of 15 specialized organizations from the academic, industrial and the public sectors. Led by the University of Balamand, the consortium includes establishments from Belgium, France, Italy and Bulgaria in addition to the Lebanese University, AUL, the Directorate General for Civil Aviation, Trans Mediterranean Airlines and Beirut Wings. The Lebanese Air Force and the Arab Air Carrier Organization also support the partnership. The launching ceremony included a presentation by the project manager Dr. Oussama Jadayel.

In his address, Dr. Aref Al-Soufi, coordinator at the National Tempus office, congratulated the University on its effort emphasizing that the project is the first national project for Lebanon under TEMPUS and a first ever to be managed by a Lebanese Institution. That in itself should be a challenge for Balamand to conclude the project to the highest of levels.

A statement from the EU delegation in Lebanon was given by Mr. Peter Christiaens in which he emphasized that the immense growth of the Aviation sector presents a great challenge for all and that the EU considers that on its agenda. Dr. Michel Najjar, Vice-President of the University and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, stated that it's the University's duty to face up to national and regional needs and aspirations.

Orthodoxe" in Tripoli since 1998.

Anis Sultanem (BBA in Business and Management) lives in Bahrain where he works as Executive Manager of MEM (Middle East Media).

Class of '99

Najib Saliba (BBA in Business Administration) got married in December 2007 and lives with his wife in Zahle, where he works as a Manager at Saliba Mills Company in Bekaa. **Simon Karam** (MS in Civil Engineering) has been working as a Project Manager since 2006 for a government agency called Waterfront Toronto in Canada. He has so far managed the construction and completed many iconic projects on the Toronto Waterfront. Simon is currently tackling new challenges for more construction work in the coming years.

Class of '00

Elias Azar (MS in Electrical Engineering) works at Mobilis Networks (New Zealand) as a Business Development Manager; however, he is based in Beirut. His work involves billing systems for telecom and ISPs. **Andreas Karkas** (BBA in Business and Management) currently works as Assistant Director in Ialysos Travel in Rodos Island, Greece.

Class of '01

Charbel Fares (MS in Electrical Engineering) holds a PhD degree in Computer Engineering. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of the Holy Spirit of Kaslik, Lebanon in the Department of Engineering. **Dia' Hazim** (BBA in Business and Management) completed his MBA in 2008. He has been working at Bank Audi - Audi Saradar group, Tripoli since September 2001.

Class of '02

Najib El Zoghbi (BS in Mechanical Engineering) is currently living in Brisbane - Australia where he works as Project Controls Engineer in the Energy & Resources Division in an engineering & construction company called John Holland Group (a Leighton Holdings subsidiary). **Sherine Abdelhak** (MS in Computer Engineering) is pursuing her PhD degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA. She is working on distributed computing and signal processing on wireless embedded systems.

Class of '03

Habib Akkari (BBA in Tourism and Hotel Management) works at Petrofac Company, Dubai in the Administration Department. Habib got married in July 2008, and he is a father of a baby boy. **Krikor Nerneklan** (BS in Computer Engineering) works in Kuwait for Honeywell Company as Project Engineer.

Class of '04

Georges El Ojaimi (MS in Computer Science) completed his MBA in 2008. He got engaged in August 2009 and he lives in Beirut, where he works as Senior Solution Developer at Dar Al Handasah. **Rabih Barakeh** (BS in Computer Science) got married in July 2009 and lives with his wife in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he works as Project Manager with (iNet), Integrated Networks LLC.

Class of '05

Othman Mohammad (MD in General Medicine) worked for 2 years at AUBMC as a researcher, and for another two years at UCSD doing more research as well. He started his residency in Psychiatry in July 2009 at Harvard South