



Issue No. 15 - Winter 2008

Haigazian University

Herald

Special Issue **INSPIRIT**



The Technology Generation

Information Technology

IT Department description

The mission of the Haigazian University Information Technology (IT) Department is to provide the best quality, most efficient and time-sensitive IT products and services to Haigazian's entire family of constituents. Our vision is to become a best practice in the local and regional academic IT circles.

Our culture and identity is characterized by the following key traits:

- Adherence to Haigazian's overall culture and ethics
- Customer orientation
- Respect for each other and for our colleagues
- Competence in the business of higher education
- Competence in information technology
- Transparency
- Disciplined and methodical processes

The IT department at Haigazian University has undergone major changes in the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Key to this transformation has been the development of an IT strategic plan in 2006, which laid the foundation for implementing university-wide improvement projects. These projects have improved the quality, reliability, and access to information, and have led to improvements in communications and collaboration amongst the various constituents of the university. Prior to 2006, the IT department was comprised of 2 staff members, and a reliance on outdated applications and infrastructure. Today's IT department is 5 strong, and with the help



of key strategic partners, it has begun reengineering its portfolio



Nazareth Nicolian - Biographical Notes



Mr. Nazareth Nicolian attended Haigazian University as a Political Science major in 1977-1978. Soon after, he traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the USA to continue his higher education. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science in 1982, and a Master of Science in Information Science in 1982 from the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Nicolian remained in the USA until 2003, where he worked professionally for many large global enterprises, such as Price Waterhouse Coopers, American Satellite Corporation, the Walt Disney Corporation, Universal Studios, and Warner Brothers. He held many positions with these companies, including Manager of consulting, Director of IT, and Vice President and CIO. Mr. Nicolian returned to his native country, Lebanon, in 2003 and worked for the American University of Science and Technology as their coordinator and Lecturer in the Management Information Systems department. He joined Haigazian University in August of 2006 as the Director of IT and the coordinator and lecturer in the faculty of Business and Economics MIS emphasis.

Completed projects

- *Hiring new staff and completely re-organizing the department.* A new Director was hired, and a new departmental mission was created. Existing personnel were re-trained and given new and more focused responsibilities. And, a new Haigazian University alumnus, Harout Sahaguian, was hired. Additionally, the department began developing formal procedures to create a better sense of accountability. More effective communications channels were established to deliver timely and clear communications to all.
- *Phase I of an Oracle-based student information and Accounting enterprise application.* The Registrar's office, with the help of faculty and advisors, used the new system to register students in the 2007-2008 Spring Semester. And, the Accounting department used the same system to process their accounting transactions. Phase II of the project will begin during the Summer and Fall pre-registration period, and entails empowering students to self-register on the new system, and providing key academic and management reporting capabilities.
- In the summer of 2007, the IT department completely re-engineered their network and hardware infrastructure, and this project culminated in improving the security, throughput, and speed of its network, and it has created a platform of standardized services, such as Microsoft Exchange, Active Directory, File Servers, Backups, and redundant processing.
- In the Fall 2007-2008 semester, the IT department, with the help of the Registrar's office, implemented a new on-line course-instructor evaluation software. This software created efficiencies and provided the students with a secure, anonymous, internet-based solution to evaluate their courses and instructors.
- Also during the 2006-2007 academic year, the IT department, with the help of the Registrar's office, implemented a new system to provide on-line access and printing of manually preserved old transcripts.
- *Completion of the first phase of a new library management system "OLIB".* With the help of Library staff, the IT department implemented this new system to catalog the Barsoumian library and provide on-line and web-based access to this collection.
- With a donation from the Bin Talal foundation, an exam room (C507) equipped with 30 modern Dell PCs was successfully launched. In addition, each classroom was equipped with PCs and LCD projectors.
- *Purchase and implementation of a new academic information database "EBSCO",* to provide on-line access to thousands of peer-reviewed journals and periodicals to all Haigazian University users.
- *Implementation of a Global Messaging Software (SMS)* to provide inexpensive broadcast phone messaging capability to all Haigazian University constituents.
- *Implementation, support, and training for Blackboard -* our academic software for instructor to student communications and collaboration.



Future projects

- *Continuation of the implementing new phases of the enterprise software* – in support of enhanced Student Information and Accounting capabilities, including a new Human Resources and Payroll applications.
- *Implementation of a web-based portal* to further enhance communications and collaboration amongst all Haigazian University constituents. This will be a secure and personalized application to allow students, faculty, and staff at Haigazian University to access university products and services.
- *Re-engineering of Haigazian University's website,* which will further improve access to Haigazian University's academic and other services. This will transform the current website to a more dynamic, feature-rich, and interactive tool for current and prospective Haigazian University constituents.
- *Develop a training program and train Haigazian University constituents to become more information and computer literate.*
- *Develop Policies and Procedures* to reflect the new products and services offered by the IT department. This will ensure better understanding and enforcement of IT practices at Haigazian University.



Staff Biographies

Mr. Moufid Alam is the manager of IT applications, and holds an M.S. degree in Computer Science from the Lebanese University. He has been employed at Haigazian University since 1989, and has been instrumental in helping support Haigazian University's various IT applications.



Mr. Harout Sahaguian, the latest addition to the Haigazian University IT department, holds a BBA degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Management Information Systems, from Haigazian University, and has just joined the Haigazian University MBA program. He was hired in 2006 as the Hardware/Network Administrator, and has been a key in helping us to transform to the new IT infrastructure.



Ms. Aline Zeitunlian is the Database Administrator, and holds a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Haigazian University, and is currently completing her M.S. degree in Computer Science at the Lebanese American University. She has been employed at Haigazian University since 1998, and has also been a key in helping support the IT environment at Haigazian



University.

Mrs. Rozine Moughalian, was transferred on a temporary basis to the IT department to assist in the implementation of the new Student Information and Accounting systems. She is a Haigazian University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree



Cultural Hour

Haigazian University celebrates the 10th Anniversary of its Cultural Hour

Haigazian University marked the 10th Anniversary of its *Cultural Hour*, with an illustrated lecture entitled “The Ancient Glory of Yerevan-Ereponi”, presented by Dr. Arda Ekmekji, Dean of the University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences and organizer of the *Cultural Hour* at the University.

Dr. Ekmekji introduced to the audience the ancient capital of Armenia, Yerevan, concentrating on its early chapter in history, in the 8th century B.C. The audi-

ence was amazed looking at the beautifully ornamented walls covered with paintings dating to the 7th century B.C., featuring the major divinities of the city. Dr. Ekmekji also pointed out that the city of Ereponi survived throughout the centuries and developed into many names, such as Irvouni, Irpuni and finally modern Yerevan.

President Paul Haidostian expressed his gratitude in a word of appreciation, considering Dr. Ekmekji as the instrumental



force in launching the *Cultural Hour* at Haigazian University, its director, and administrator. Then he handed her a trophy of grateful recognition of her leadership in promoting culture and learning.

Zaven Vartan, the loyal photographer of the *Cultural Hour* events, was also hon-

Promoting a Culture for Free and Fair Elections



In January 2008, Mr. Richard Chambers, Country Director of International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Lebanon,

delivered a lecture on “Promoting a Culture for Free and Fair Elections”, tackling the issue of the Electoral Reform in Lebanon from an International Perspective.

Richard Chambers highlighted on the international benchmarks, without which no election can earn the name of fair and free. These criteria are embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Civil Rights. Chambers

also addressed the issue of the time interval between elections, as well as the notion of genuine elections in terms of adherence to the principles of legality, impartiality, transparency, accountability, and plurality.

Chambers acknowledged that Lebanon generally abides by the different covenants of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Civil Rights. However, Chambers criticized the genuine aspect of the elections: “the election law is flawed, with many omissions, holds no public confidence, does not guarantee transparency, openness or accountability, does not insure campaign fairness and regulations, and does not secure secrecy of balloting”, Chambers concluded.

Other Lectures

On Tuesday, December 18, 2007, **Dr. Raja Nasr** lectured on the subject “The Communication of Humor: A Socio Linguistic Approach”.

On Thursday, February 28, 2008, **Maestro Harout Fazlian** lectured on “The Secrets of Bethoven’s 5th Symphony: Challenging fate”.

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, **Dr. Kristine Ajrouch** lectured on “Building Civil Society through the Study of Aging”.

Miscellaneous News

"Here, There and Yonder" - The Recent Works of Missak Terzian at Haigazian University



On Friday the 18th of January 2008, was the opening of the painting exhibition of Missak Terzian, at the Haigazian University Art Center, Matossian Gallery, under the high patronage of the Ambassador of Armenia to Lebanon, H.E. Dr. Vahan Der Ghevontian.

Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian welcomed the audience and explained the new vision of the recently renovated gallery. "Named after the late Arthur Matossian, spouse of Maggie Matossian, the Matossian Gallery now operates under the supervision of a committee whose vision is to promote various forms of art, and to enrich the Center with an artwork collection, offered as a gift by exhibiting artists", stated Haidostian.

Ambassador Der Ghevontian delivered a short speech, congratulating Haigazian University for its leading role in promoting culture, as well as the artist for his creativity and the splendor of his work.

Terzian, who was exhibiting around 50 oil and acrylic paintings of various sizes in his 52nd exhibition, expressed of his pride and gratitude towards Haigazian University, for giving him the opportunity to introduce his recent works in the University's Art Center. Terzian shared with the audience the spirit of his exhibition, "Here, There and Yonder", stating that it represents the reality of the Lebanese and the Armenian people, who, due to wars, are spread apart in various regions



Committee members from left to right: Mrs. Maral Haidostian, Mrs. Mira Yardemian (Ex-Officio), Mrs. Yvonne Ohanian, Mrs. Emma Nigolian, and Mrs. Lucy Tutunjian, with the artist, Mr. Missak Terzian

Staff News



Ms. Sonia Sislian, a Haigazian University alumna and holder of an MA in Psychology from AUB, is the new librarian. She replaced Ms. Salpi Badakian, who got married and now resides in Yerevan, Armenia.



Ms. Salpi Jalian, an HU alumna with a BA in Business Administration, joined Haigazian University as the Human Resources Coordinator.

Ms. Tamar Berberian is the Library Assistant for Automation. She is a Haigazian University alumna, too, with a BA in English Literature.



Mrs. Marlene Kabakian, a Haigazian University alumna with a BA in Business Administration, is the new Student Information Officer (formerly University Recruiter).



Mr. Elie Massaad, a Notre Dame University graduate, with a BS degree in Computers and Communications Engineering, joined the IT Department as a Junior Hardware/Network Analyst.

Student Life News



The Desert Streams Club at Haigazian University Visits Needy Families and Celebrates Christmas with the Elderly.

After months of preparation, and fund-raising projects, both on and off campus, the Haigazian University Desert Streams Club members visited 20 needy families and provided them with basic necessities of food, clothing, blankets and carpets, helping them overcome winter hardships. The families were selected with the help of various social organizations active in Bourj Hammoud and Tarik Jedidi.

In addition, the “Desert Streamers” spent a day celebrating Christmas with the elderly at the Center for the Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL), after having breakfast with the 105 elderly people residing at the Center.



“Education Resources Exhibition” at Haigazian University

Under the theme of “Promoting Reading Awareness”, the Education Society at Haigazian University launched a three-day Education Resources Exhibition on Thursday, 28 February 2008, pooling together children’s books from English, Arabic and Armenian publishers.



Contents			
Information Technology	2	Cover Photo: Celebrating an IT milestone in the Accounting Department.	Editorial Team/Contributing Writers: Vartoug Balekjian <i>President's Secretary</i> Mira Yardemian <i>Director of Public Relations</i> Nazareth Nicolian <i>Director of Information Technology</i> Photos by: Zaven Vartan Mahmoud El-Kheir Haigazian University Staff Published by: Kardashian Printing Services Industrial City, Bouchrieb, Lebanon 961-1-484970
Cultural Hour	5		
Miscellaneous News	6		

Dear Alumni

With much appreciation, we recognize those who responded to our appeal during the last Alumni Gathering and sent in their gifts to support two major project/programs at Haigazian University: the financial aid and the new heritage building renovation.

Indeed, we thank three anonymous alumni (\$600 and LL652,500), Mrs. Roubina Artinian (\$200), Captain Rolando di Ferro (\$100), and Ms. Joan M. Morgan of Oregon (\$500), in honor of her mother.

May God bless all the donors.

Friends, supporters, and alumni of Haigazian University are invited to contribute generously. For ways of giving you may write to the following addresses:

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amaa@amaa.org.

Haigazian University is exempt from US Federal Income Tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

E-mail Addresses Requested!

As part of Haigazian University's effort to remain in touch with its worldwide family of graduates, all alumni/ae are invited to send their e-mail addresses to: vart@haigazian.edu.lb



Herald INSPIRIT

The Haigazian University Newsletter *Inspirit*, the magazine for alumni and friends of Haigazian University, is published by the Office of the President.

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