

IN THIS ISSUE

- > Open Letters **p. 2**
- > OSU hosts a Photo Exhibition Contest **p. 3**
- > LSA Berkeley participates in International House event **p. 4**
- > OU Lebanese Club promotes peace through discussion **p. 4**
- > LCN provides resume workshops for students **p. 5**
- > CIA hosts on campus infossessions **p. 5**
- > Rihani's introduce LCN to friends and family **p. 6**
- > 'Mahrajan' offers AU students a break during finals **p. 7**
- > LSO participates in "Taste of Ohio State University" **p. 7**
- > ASU ULC raises \$700 at yearly Grill-Out **p. 8**
- > UCSB holds "Middle Eastern Awareness" week **p. 9**
- > LCN09 Awards Ceremony Dinner **p. 13**



Student group picture at the "Pie" during lunch on Saturday.

LCN convention hosts 65 students from 18 universities in California >> Full Coverage on Pages 10-14

Disclaimer: Please note that certain articles are submitted by ULC members. Events listed in these articles have been sponsored, organized and authored independently by the subscribing University Lebanese Club and may not reflect the views of the LCN.

2009 LCN Award Recipients



Academic Excellence & Heritage Award
Ramsey Ayass



Most Outstanding ULC Award
Lebanese Club at UCSB

[Learn more on p.14 >>](#)

President's Message: Time to Transition



Patrick Sislian
LCN President

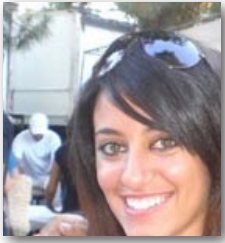
I had the privilege to serve as President of the Lebanese Collegiate Network for the past two years. It has been an exciting journey of growth for both the LCN and myself. It has been a trail of successes starting with our first event, the fundraiser dinner in Los Angeles. We have been able to provide 4 awards amounting to more than \$2000. We have sustained a budget of over \$30,000 in the past two years. We have subsidized convention costs of over

\$4000 for our membership. We have held more than 24 board meetings, contacted more than 10 media outlets, established relationships with more than 7 Lebanese American organizations, added more than 15 University Lebanese Clubs (ULCs), had more than 3000 unique visits to www.mylcn.org, and organized more than 4 resume workshops... However insightful these numbers might be, they are not the true measure of the LCN.

LCN is about its people. We are building a community of positive leaders who believe [continues on p.2 >>](#)

OPEN LETTERS

LSA at CPP Thrives to Keep Up with Success



Grace Saikali
CPP ULC Vice President

Having been around for a little more than a year, LSA at Cal Poly Pomona has come to have over 35 active members. Our LSA family has been growing by the day. Our foremost success of the year was hosting the LCN '09 convention that everyone enjoyed and created memories that will always be recalled. Starting off with submitting the LCN convention application in October, getting to organize and schedule the convention's details, and finally being able to host it, LSA has had the pleasure to work with the LCN board and make the convention as successful as it was.

LSA continues to thrive for achievements by having a spring quarter calendar full of various exciting events starting off with hosting a party on May 15th, an all ULC camping trip on Memorial Day weekend, and having a resume workshop and CIA info session with the help of our very own LCN.

Never forgetting to support our fellow ULCs, LSA has attended the UCI LSA party at Meejana restaurant, the UCLA LSC cultural night, and is planning to attend a paintball event with the LSA at USC. Since Lebanese food is becoming very popular, LSA had its yearly falafel food sale during International week in the fall quarter, and during engineering week in the winter quarter, both of which were a great success and a good source of revenue for our club.

In preparation for next year, LSA had election nominations and is ready to vote for a new board for the 09-10 school year that will keep up with the success that our former board has built up. Although it will be poignant to lose four of the main board members who made LSA stand on its feet, we can't be any happier for Leina Saikali, Wadad Saikali, Mazen Nasr, and Ramsey Ayass for graduating at the end of spring 2009.

As a final point, LSA at Cal Poly Pomona would like to thank LCN for giving us an opportunity to host one of the biggest, most enjoyable, and most professional events of the year, and we would also like to thank all the ULC members who were able to make it to the convention and without whom the event could not have been a success.



LSA at the LCN Convention with Dr. Farran

President's Message:

Time to Transition > Continued from p. 1

in academic and professional advancement through transparent action based on laws under a constitution. My favorite measures are moments that can't be quantified or tracked. These are moments that leave an impact on the life of every student or alumni that has been a part of the LCN. I want to leave you with a few stories that have impacted my life.

Less than a week after attending the 2009 Convention, Cal Poly Pomona had a regular board meeting. Leina Saikali, President of the Lebanese Student Association, was ecstatic: "We had our most efficient meeting yet. My board members were introducing motions and assigning action items at the meeting. All of this because of what we heard and saw at the LCN convention."

Arizona State University's Lebanese Club had not heard about the LCN by the end of 2008. In January of 2009, Jeff Malkoun was able to convince 2 of his club members to drive all the way from Phoenix to Los Angeles in a last minute decision to attend the LCN fundraiser dinner. Later on in March, we saw more than 7 ASU attendees at our 2009 convention. Today, Jeff and his team are one of the most active ULC members in the nation. Our hope is that all of our activities will pave a new path for our Lebanese American community. This is a community project and everyone's commitment is

necessary to continue to make LCN a success.

I will be stepping down as President of the LCN as of June 1st 2009, but this does not mean an end to my full commitment to the goals and values of the LCN. I hope to be involved in many committees next year and support the fine board that is going to lead LCN. I know this is a philosophy shared by all previous board members who have served the LCN. Ramzi Nasr will also be stepping down this year after two years of exemplary service to our membership. I look forward to working with Ramzi Nasr this upcoming year to support our dream, the LCN.

Serge Haddad, President Elect, has been a friend/mentor/colleague to me for the past 3 years. We have been through a lot together and I am confident in his leadership and vision. Serge and the other 6 members of the board, Sevag Sislian, Lara Saikali, Diana Ayoub, Thalia Jarjour, Rami Haddad, and Karim Khoury will continue to serve you. LCN will continue to be a strong proponent of academic and professional development in our community. LCN will continue to foster positive leaders.

This is not a goodbye. This is my promise to continue my involvement by taking on a different role within LCN.

Patrick Sislian
President
Lebanese Collegiate
Network

Lebanese Club at UCSB Dabke Team performs at MultiCultural Gala



By Thalia Jarjour
UCSB ULC President

Lebanese Club at UCSB's Dabke team was invited by the UCSB Multi-Cultural Center (MCC) to perform a Dabke at their 20th Anniversary Gala on February 28th. Celebrating 20 years of diversity and social justice, the MCC Gala was attended by both UCSB Chancellor Yang and Vice Chancellor Young, and 350 others including Deans, department chairs, alumni, and current students.

One of five prized performances, Lebanese Club at UCSB performed a Dabke to the music of Fares Karam's 'Tanoura'. Many attendees had never seen Dabke or heard Arabic music, so our performance contributed to the event's goal of celebrating and enriching cultural knowledge to the UCSB community. Wearing dark red 'Shou Fee, Ma Fee' Lebanese Club t-shirts, the group danced proudly and flawlessly.

Dozens of attendees praised the group for our 'energetic, fun and delightful' performance. It was an honor to perform in front of the Chancellor and an opportunity to strengthen Lebanese Club's identity and reputation on the UCSB campus.

Lebanese Club at UCSB also performed to a packed crowd of over 200 on March 7th with the Middle Eastern Ensemble at UCSB, the largest in the nation. Also performing our 'Tanoura' routine, former president Alexander Baradei took the role of singer, replacing Fares Karam, as the ensemble worked their magic with multiple live instruments. To fit the theme of the song, the gentlemen sported a rugged street look with loosely buttoned collared shirts and jeans while the ladies tempted them with their colorful skirts.

A video of our performance at the Middle Eastern Ensemble can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOQY9SsdbI0>

LSO at OSU Photography Exhibition receives 220 submissions



By Sleiman Bou Sleiman
OSU ULC President

The Lebanese Student Organization at the Ohio State University hosted its first photography exhibition entitled "Cultural Diversity in Lebanon and the Middle East" on May 1st, 2009. The aim of the exhibit was to present to the public a more personal view of Lebanon and the Middle East away from prevailing stereotypes. It also portrayed the cultural wealth encompassed in this region of the world. The event also provided a chance for OSU members to share their original photographs taken in Lebanon or the Middle East.

Several calls for participation were actively sent through announcements in e-newsletters, flyers, and mailing lists resulting in more than 220 submitted pictures from which 40 were selected by a small panel of volunteers to be printed, framed, and displayed.

On the day of the event, three judges from the OSU community roamed the exhibition room prior to the event's start time and meticulously scored the photographs as part of the best photo contest with cash prizes. The event opened at 6pm with Dr. Georges Tamer, M.S. Sofia Chair of Arabic Studies at OSU, who gave a wonderful introduction and

talk emphasizing the importance of Lebanon as a model state and a unique remnant, and hence the treasure, of a region that was once blessed with its diverse population.

A catered reception, prepared in part by LSO members, followed and attendants were able to look at the photographs and engage in conversations with the photographers and others from the OSU community including the Office of International Affairs, Middle East Studies Center, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, among others.

Shortly after, the winners of the photography contest were announced and prizes were handed to Breanna Bowlin's "Ramses the Great" taken in Egypt (2nd place) and Sleiman Bou Sleiman's "The Prophet's Face" taken in Bsharri, Lebanon (1st place).

Throughout the three hour event, the turnout was great and people were able to enjoy, despite the bad weather and short-lived tornado warning, a warm and welcoming atmosphere that mirrored the beautiful pictures showcasing the mosaic of places, people, traditions, and events that contribute to the cultural wealth of the region.

Exhibition entries can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/raaqgn>

Advertise with the LCN!

To place your ad here please contact
Sevag Sislian at
ssislian@mylcn.org

LSA Berkeley participates in International House cultural event

By Sahar Osman
UCB ULC President

On Wednesday, April 29th, LSAB hosted its annual Coffee Hour at the International House in UC Berkeley. Coffee Hour is a weekly event where different students can prepare food, do a performance, or give a presentation on their culture. This year the members of LSAB decided to take a gamble and prepare most of the food ourselves. We cooked about a hundred skewers of kabob, 4 trays of ba'lawa, hummus, and prepared a salad. After some unfortunate falafel incident, we rushed over and bought some falafel as well.

One traffic ticket and 5 hours later we were (almost) ready for the show. It began with an acoustic performance by two of our members, Rana and Nadine, who are also members of the only Arabic choir in the Bay Area called Aswat. They sang "Nassam Alayna al Hawa" by Fairouz with a derbekeh accompaniment.

Afterwards we had a derbekeh duet by Sharja and Kaan who played a fast paced unique performance that got everyone clapping. Our third performance of the night was a poetry reading by our VP Diallah who read a poem called "Illa Ummi" and then read her own translation of the poem in



English.

The performances ended with a debke dance performed by 10 members from the club, and afterwards we encouraged the audience to join in and everyone enjoyed learning how to do the moves.

Guests were invited to get their names written in Arabic calligraphy by Farook, an LSAB member. Overall it was a great opportunity for our club to work together and all of us agreed that the huge amount of work that went into it was totally worth it. At the end of the night there was not one bit of food left and everyone was so happy to have seen the variety of performances.



OU Lebanese Club promotes peace through panel discussion

By Maurice Farah
OU ULC President

On February the 18th, 2009, the Lebanese Club of Oakland University-Michigan presented a Panel Discussion Promoting Peace in the Middle East. This Event took place in the fireside lounge of the Oakland Center and was sponsored by the "Arab American Student Organization" and the "Students for Israel".

The discussion's purpose was to promote peace in the Middle East, and the idea for this event came along because of the problems between Israel and Palestine in Gaza that took place recently. We had a non biased, non religious and non political discussion that helped to educate all and show them

that Arabs and Israelis can coexist peacefully. We had two guest speakers: Brenda Naomi Rosenberg and Dr. Alkhatib. Brenda Naomi Rosenberg is a Jewish activist and an Interfaith Partner Board Member and Executive Producer of 'Reuniting the Children of Abraham'. Dr. Alkhatib has been involved with American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and civil rights issues for several years and he is now a member of the Advisory Board in Michigan.

Free Lebanese food was served for those who attended the discussion. On April 9, 2009, the Lebanese Club of Oakland University won the "Outstanding Educational Program Award" for this Panel Discussion at Oakland University.

MYLCN.org expands

By Karim Khoury
LCN Vice President of Information Technology

The LCN website continues to expand by implementing easy-to-use tools for our members. The latest upgrade is the ULC Event Posting System which is available now at <http://mylcn.org/post>. Here, you can publish your ULC events on the LCN website immediately. It is easier than publishing a Facebook event. Just fill out the LCN web form and gain more visibility instantly.

On top of its social networking nature, myLCN.org now features a professional networking layer with the use of LinkedIn. Members can update their online profiles on the LCN website and include their LinkedIn profile, specify their profession, and upload their Facebook badge. The

purpose is to provide the LCN membership with a common platform using the most popular social and professional networking tools available on the internet. So what are you waiting for? Go to <http://mylcn.org/login> and update your profiles now!

The search engine has also improved with a new layout that will make it easier for you to sort results, expand the details, and contact one another using a secure online form.

NEW FEATURES

ULC Event Posting

Adding LinkedIn and Facebook to profile

LCN preps students for job interviews through resume workshops

By Serge Haddad
*LCN Vice President
of Events*

Four University Lebanese Clubs in the Los Angeles area, coordinated with the LCN to host Resume Workshops. Under the leadership of our Resume Workshop Chair, Kristel Boulahoud, the LCN was able to meet with the ULCs from UCLA, USC, CSUDH and the LCN'09 hosts Cal Poly Pomona during the month of January and February.

Each ULC brought in an average of 12 student members to participate in a workshop that enhances their job skills. I was fortunate enough to attend three of the four Resume Workshops. We started with a brief presentation on the "Do's and Don'ts" of a Resume, stressing the fact that the purpose of a Resume is to get you the interview. After addressing the major points, we divided the members into small groups, each with an LCN professional volunteer.

We sat with the students to review the caliber of their specific resumes and then practiced mock interview questions. The LCN volunteers worked to engage feedback from the students. It is important to note that there is no "right" or "wrong" way to do a resume, there are simply recommendations and opinions.

The author of the resume carries the responsibility of completing a finalized resume that properly highlights his or her strengths. The students were also given a 40 page packet that listed terrific vocabulary to use in a resume, examples of traditional resumes and a comprehensive overview of interview techniques and questions. "This was a great learning experience,"

commented Myrna Ayoub from the Lebanese Club at USC.

Since there is no one way to do a resume, it was beneficial for each member to take turns and critique others in their respective groups. The LCN volunteers took engaged the students by role playing during a mock interview. "I really thought that role playing during an interview was the most beneficial part of the Resume Workshop. I learned exactly what strengths I should focus on during my interview," exclaimed Mazen Nasr, active member of the Lebanese Student Association at Cal Poly Pomona. I know that these resume workshops will be a permanent part of the LCN's outreach activities because they fall perfectly in line with the mission and vision of the LCN – professional and academic development.



I'd like to take this opportunity and thank all the volunteers that took time out of their busy schedule to share their wisdom and invest some time with the LCN Membership. Thank you to Patrick Sislian, Ramzi Nasr, Diana Ayoub, Lara Saikali, Kristel Boulahoud, George Saad, Serge Avakian, George

Huang, and Serge Shirikjian. Without your help, this would not have been possible.

The LCN hopes to continue these programs. If your ULC is interested in hosting an event please do not hesitate to contact our VP of Events, Thalia Jarjour, at tjarjour@mylcn.org.

LCN hosts CIA infossessions for job opportunities

By Lara Saikali
LCN Secretary

The LCN hosts several CIA informational sessions throughout the year in order to provide our membership with great job opportunities and raise funds. The universities that hosted an info session in

the month of February were UCI, USC, CSUDH, and UCLA. Recently five more info sessions were held in the month of April at the UMD College Park, American University, UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly Pomona, and Loyola Marymount University. Each event had great turnouts and positive comments from

members. The info sessions give students a chance to learn more about what job opportunities the CIA has to offer. The representatives provided information about the work environment and the application process. The funds raised by these info sessions provide students with LCN awards and subsidized costs to various LCN events. There has been positive feedback from members and we look forward to continuing to provide job opportunities to our student base.

The LCN is looking to add more companies to the info session circuit. If you have job opportunities at your company, now is the time to get the best students on your team. **If you want to learn more about this possibility please contact Serge Haddad at shaddad@mylcn.org.**



Ramzi & Ghada Rihani introduce the LCN to family and friends

By Julien Chemali
LCN Founder
LCN Past VP of Events

On April 26th 2009, the Lebanese Collegiate Network (LCN) was honored to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ramzi and Ghada Rihani at their home in Potomac, MD. Having attended one of the LCN's previous fundraisers in Washington DC, the Rihani's expressed great enthusiasm and interest in supporting the LCN and offered to host a reception at their residence. This reception helped build awareness and support from the Lebanese community in the Greater Washington Area (GWA).

Over 50 professionals from all around the DC metropolitan area were in attendance. In addition, many of the professionals were accompanied by their high school and college age children. Karim Najjar, President of the University of Maryland University Lebanese Club (ULC), as well as students from George Mason, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, George Washington and American University were also in attendance. LCN board members and founders, with the exception of Diana Ayoub, flew to D.C. to take part in the event.

The event gave LCN board



Ramzi Rihani introducing the LCN to the guests and purpose of the event

members and supporters an opportunity to interact with members of the Lebanese community and spread awareness about the goals of the LCN. After a brief introductory period, Mr. Patrick Sislian and Mr. Serge Haddad presented on the mission, goals and objectives of the LCN as well as the major milestones the organization has achieved since its inception. Mr. Sislian and Mr. Haddad then highlighted the numerous events already held and the programs available for students. The LCN's future plans were explained by shedding the light on the organization's 5-year strategic plan, which is projected to be finalized during the officer retreat scheduled for

the end of May 2009.

The LCN presentation culminated in an interactive discussion with the audience about the various ways the Lebanese Professional community can contribute to the LCN. Their support will grow and expand the student programs and various events geared towards advancing students both academically and professionally. Board members discussed with the audience the academic, professional, and financial ways the community can support the LCN in its mission. Several audience members offered valuable ideas from volunteering to holding workshops to suggestions regarding several practices

to enhance and support the growth of the organization and its operations. The LCN was delighted by the support it received from the community and is determined to follow up on what promises to be a very fruitful relationship between the organization and the various members of the Lebanese community in the GWA.

The LCN Board is tremendously thankful and appreciative of the generosity and support of Mr. and Mrs. Rihani for hosting us in their home and the efforts they made to gather their close friends and members of the Lebanese community. Their enthusiasm and belief in the LCN will help spread awareness about the Lebanese Collegiate Network.



LCN founders & board members with Ramzi & Ghada Rihani, and Marwan Charrouf



Professionals signing up on mylcn.org throughout the event

“Mahrajan” offers American University campus a break during finals



By Sarah Nehme
AU ULC President

On April 26th, the last Sunday evening before finals, we hosted our biggest and most popular event on campus: A Night in Lebanon “Mahrajan.” The event is a celebration of Lebanese culture and a great opportunity to inform our student body about who we are as active Lebanese students on campus. With two huge tents plastered in Lebanese flags, Christmas lights from end to end, and a heap of students waiting impatiently on Friedheim Quad to get the party started, we were pretty confident that it would be a successful event and an even more so memorable evening for most AU undergraduate students.

It being finals week, we decided to provide students with light, energizing refreshments such as Arabic coffee and ma3moul. We wanted to offer students an environment where they could take a much-needed break from studying

and writing papers. With sunny skies, 85 plus degree weather, and picnic-setting seating areas on the grass, it looked pretty tempting even to make just a quick appearance. Over 100 students were there from 6-10pm to smoke argileh and dance dabke on the main quad, overlooking the library and every main building on campus. We definitely made quite a presence on the AU campus. And after such a successful turnout, we are extremely motivated to plan our next big event for the coming fall semester!

Representing the Lebanese students and alumni of the American University of Washington, DC, the Lebanese Cultural Club has taken the AU campus by storm this spring semester upon its recognition as an official club as of January 1st 2009. With over 150 club members, six executive board positions, and a variety of extremely successful events, we are definitely off to a great start!



LSO at OSU Participates in the Annual “Taste of OSU”



By Natalie Hage
OSU ULC Vice President

The Lebanese Student Organization at the Ohio State University looks forward to its participation in Ohio State’s annual “Taste of OSU” held at the Recreation and Physical Activity Center each year. The event drew approximately 4,000 guests, comprising a mixture of students, staff, alumni, and local members of the greater Columbus area.

As the name suggests, food is the main attraction; over 30 student organizations are located throughout the gym, selling meals, side dishes, and desserts prepared collaboratively by their own members. In addition to this, each club creates a cultural display and has the option of participating in the cultural performance show, both of which are judged professionally.

Despite LSO being a small, young organization (only three years old) in comparison to some other well-established groups, we were able to win prizes in 2 out of the 4 judging categories! Our hummus, spiced potatoes, spinach pies, zaatar, rizz ‘a djej, and knefeh pleased the judges, and LSO was awarded second place in the food category. The guests were also satisfied—over 800 servings of Lebanese food were gone within the first two

hours of the evening! The food took over 8 hours to prepare, as LSO members worked together in the campus kitchens until 12am the night before, under the supervision of “LSO Chefs” members Rami Doueiri and Fadi Jaber.

The Lebanese Student Organization also won a third place prize in cultural performance for a dabke to the song “deggo el mahabeej” sung by Melhem Zein. Six members performed the dance, wearing traditional costumes brought from Lebanon. The dance took 2 months of training under the guidance of LSO member Zeina Kais. Fans cheered throughout the entire song as the dancers stomped their feet loudly on the center stage and proudly represented their country! The dance was such a success that now, LSO has a “Dabke Troupe” which has participated in 2 other performances since then, and continues to practice to new songs.

By participating in “Taste of OSU” LSO hopes to introduce and foster a positive image of Lebanon throughout campus. We hope to continue displaying the food, culture, and music of the country we love at this renowned event in the years to come, representing the Lebanese community at the largest university in the nation.

Arizona State ULC raises \$700 at club Grill-Out event

By Myrna Ghorayeb
ASU ULC President-Elect

After returning from the Lebanese Collegiate Network Convention at Cal Poly Pomona, the Lebanese Student Association of Arizona State University was very enthused. With our main fundraiser in mind we set off to work as soon as possible. Every semester we host the "Lebanese Grill Out;" a full day of meeting new people, eating too much food, and most importantly: working together to make the event a success. This year, something about planning, organizing and being at the event was different. I can't put my finger on it, but there was a passion that fueled us to make the event as big as ever.

Worries about how the picnic was going to roll into play flooded everyone's minds from the very first planning meeting. No one knew what to expect this time around. As a general trend the

Grill-Out seemed to get bigger and better each semester, but nothing was certain. At the final planning meeting, we set the scheduled and finalized our action items.

The week of the Grill Out, we began to pass out flyers. We also invited the Arab Student Association to come and support us. Nadia Noor craftily designed flyers. These miniature handouts doubled as coupons redeemable for \$2 off admission on the day of the event.

On Friday night, some of the members met in front of Costco to get supplies. Not knowing the attendance levels, we cautiously bought the merchandise. We then spent the rest of the night preparing the food for the BBQ. Our Sponsorship Team under the direction of Tony Salibi and Amro Bissat, was able to secure several donations through businesses and Eddie's Pizza & Hookah provided free hummus,



ASU Lebanese Student Association board members

salads, and 10 pizzas.

Jeff's wake up call put everyone on track on Saturday morning. Making sure we all had our items to bring to the Grill Out, we sped over to get everything set up. It was as though once the burgers and hotdogs were put on the grill, people from everywhere began arrive. Many students arrived with flyer in hand eager to explore the cuisine. Many of them enjoyed seeing familiar

faces, while others used the occasion to network with new peers and play a few hands of backgammon.

That night, we raised \$700 with a record attendance of over 100 people. Most importantly, everyone had a great time including our team. This truly was a group effort and the realization of our new capacity for event execution as a group makes us want to climb onward and upward.

UCSB students celebrate Lebanese traditions at annual Middle Eastern Party

By Thalia Jarjour
UCSB ULC President

The Lebanese Club at UCSB turned the UCEN HUB into a Middle Eastern Nightclub on Friday, February 27th, for its 4th annual Middle Eastern Party. Besides the 12 foot attraction of free baklava and sweets, students from UCSB and other campuses from Southern California, came out to the HUB to enjoy our culture's many traditions. Students were entertained by Lebanese Club's Dabke performance and professional belly dancer Lesa's 20 minute performance, which included a cane and head-balanced sword!

DJ Markos spun the best Hip Hop, Techno, Arabic, Persian,



Armenian and Turkish hits as the crowd of 400 danced the night away. Two PhD students approached me at the end of the night and let me know 'this was the highlight of their year at UCSB.'

The Lebanese Club was able to keep this event free for attendees by receiving funding from the

Associated Students Finance Board. We are delighted to have had such a great turnout for such a successful event. This event was UCSB's 4th Middle Eastern Party. The board looks forward to continuing this tradition and hosting the 5th Middle Eastern Party next year.

JOIN the reCap Committee!

If you are interested in being on the reCap committee (editing articles, layout, soliciting articles, etc...) please email Diana Ayoub at dayoub@mylcn.org.

Special thanks to Sarah Osman (UCB) & Stephanie Koury (USC) for their help in editing this issue of reCap.

mylcn.org/recap

Lebanese Club at UCSB hosts “Middle Eastern Awareness” week

Lebanese Club members performing a comedic skit about Arab parents



By Thalia Jarjour
UCSB ULC President

Lebanese Club at UCSB hosted a four-day-long culture week encompassing seven events to commemorate Middle Eastern Cultural Awareness. The event spanned over the week of May 4th to May 7th. In order to broaden the mission of educating and furthering knowledge of our cultures and traditions, Lebanese Club makes sure to include all entities of the Middle East found on campus. This event is kept strictly cultural; no religious or political events or information is allowed in order to uphold the week’s mission and purpose.

The 2nd Annual Middle Eastern Fair featured over 20 poster boards showcasing various countries and points of interest, cultural traditions, languages, and history of the Middle East. A performance by the Middle Eastern Ensemble at UCSB, Lebanese Club Dabke Troupe, and belly dancer Hala Abdul Baki will add to the other festivities. A free raffle will enter students to win a hookah, belly dancing belts, a Lebanese cookbook, various Arab films, and other prizes. Most importantly, \$3000 of Middle Eastern food will be supplied, all free of charge!

Monday, May 4 consisted of a Belly dance Workshop, Cooking Workshop, and screening of ‘West Beirut’ with introduction and post discussion from Professor Nash. A screening of the heartwarming Persian film ‘Children of Heaven’ was shown on Tuesday, May 5. Wednesday, May 6 was home to the Middle Eastern Fair, the largest event of the week.

Following the fair was a Middle Eastern Games Night that included backgammon, and hookah among other Lebanese pass times. We closed the week off on Thursday, May 7 with ‘Sahra’: A Middle Eastern Culture Show. Performances from Arab, Persian, Assyrian, and Armenian students lit the stage with dances, spoken word, rap, poetry, video slide shows, skits, and live music. A free dinner was provided at Sahra’s reception, which also showcased art and photography by Middle Eastern Students.

Lebanese Club initiated this event last year and continues it this year by spearheading the event with the co-sponsorship of the Persian Student Group, Armenian Student Association, Assyrian Student Alliance, Hillel, Students for Understanding in the Middle East, Middle Eastern Resource Center, and Students for Justice in Palestine.

250 students and parents attend Middle Eastern Festival in Oakland University

By Maurice Farah
OU ULC President

On Friday, March 20th, 2009, the Lebanese Club of Oakland University - Michigan held the Second Annual Middle Eastern Festival on campus with the Arab American Student Organization and the Chaldean American Student Association. This event took place in the Banquet Rooms of the campus center. All Middle Eastern organizations and students were united for the first time to show solidarity and unity as well as support to the diverse environment at Oakland. Regarding the event’s biggest draw, every performance was spectacular.

Around 250 people attended our festival, which was one of the biggest and most successful events of the year. We chose the best performers and we tried our best to represent all the different parts of the Middle East culture. We had two popular Middle Eastern singers who showed their talents as well as several belly dance performances, music and Middle Eastern food. The main and most important reason for the event was to educate people about diversity in an enjoyable way, so that people are exposed to the Middle East as far as language, food, and entertainment. All in all, the festival was very satisfactory and we received many positive feedbacks.

CURRENT SUBSCRIBING ULCs

01. University of Southern California
Lebanese Club
02. University of California, Los Angeles
Lebanese Social Club
03. University of California, Irvine
Lebanese Social Club
04. California Polytechnic University, Pomona
Lebanese Social Club
05. California State University, Dominguez Hills
Lebanese Club
06. University of California, Berkeley
Lebanese Student Association
07. University of Maryland at College Park
Lebanese Student Organization
08. Oakland University
Lebanese Club
09. University of California, Santa Barbara
Lebanese Club
10. Rutgers University
Lebanese Students at Rutgers
11. Arizona State University
Lebanese Student Association
12. Ohio State University
Lebanese Student Organization
13. American University
Lebanese Club

** ULCs sorted by date of membership*

LCN09 Cal Poly Pomona, March 27-29 | mylcn.org/LCN09

The Lebanese Collegiate Network (LCN) hosted LCN '09 at Cal Poly Pomona on March 27-28. LCN '09 is this organization's second convention. This year over 65 students representing eighteen universities nationwide were in attendance. This year's convention boasted a new workshop, a bonfire mixer, elections, an awards ceremony dinner as well as an overview on the current state of the LCN. The following is an excerpt from the LCN 09 Convention Press Release written by Diana Ayoub. Details of the convention can be found at the LCN09 website at mylcn.org/LCN09.

BONFIRE

LCN '09 kicked off the weekend with a bonfire at Huntington Beach. The students traveled from the hotel to the site on a chartered bus. The attendees were able to reconnect with old friends and build a companionship with new members. After a barbecue, students and friends enjoyed a game of tug-of-war, where different University Lebanese Clubs (ULCs) competed against each other for bragging rights, and Cal Poly Pomona showed up with the largest number of students and walked away champions.

recognize each ULC and ULC President in attendance. He reminded the students of the LCN Dream he spoke of the year before in Maryland, and declared that this dream is now a reality. "Last year, we shared a dream. Today we are no longer dreaming, we are doing," continued Patrick, "this is due to the commitment

with "We also received our tax-exempt status within 4 months. To put this into perspective, most organizations expect a response from the IRS between 6 months and a year." Patrick concluded the presentation as he began, by affirming the State of the LCN as STRONG!



Group picture at the LCN Bonfire with over 100 students and alumni

WELCOMING PRESENTATION

Patrick Sislian, LCN President, welcomed the students and introduced the LCN board members. He also made a point to



Serge Haddad presenting the LCN binder

and dedication of the LCN board and its members."

Patrick then invited Serge Haddad, Vice President of Events, to join him on stage. Together, they focused the crowd's attention on the LCN Constitution and Bylaws, the foundation of the organization. Patrick and Serge underlined the magnitude of these documents' importance. They discussed the important role of being an active LCN member and the crucial role it plays in the longevity of the LCN.

STATE OF THE LCN

Patrick followed with the State of the LCN presentation. "The State of the LCN is STRONG!" Patrick affirmed. The presentation stressed the accomplishments and challenges the LCN has faced since its launch. Patrick listed several hard facts in numbers: the number of subscribing members, the number of board approved media outlets, the number of emails exchanged (a whopping 8,000 emails, equivalent to 22 emails per day!), the number of board meetings held, total minutes, reports and agendas drafted. He continued

WORKSHOPS

After a quick break, the workshops were initiated. There were two workshop, ULC Group Activity Workshop and a Website Workshop, running concurrently and a third workshop, Running an Effective Meeting, that started after lunch. More details on these workshops are available on page 11.

MORE LCN09 ON PAGES 11, 12, 13 & 14

2009 Convention BY THE NUMBERS	
Schools Present:	18
Subscribing ULCs:	9
Workshop Attendees:	65
Workshops:	3
Dinner Attendees:	103
Awards:	2 for \$1500
Bonfire Attendees:	100
LCN Investment/Student:	\$150
Average Cost to Student:	\$55

LCN09 Cal Poly Pomona, March 27-29 | mylcn.org/LCN09

ELECTIONS

The LCN Board then gathered for the formal business meeting. The board and members unanimously passed a Resolution to recognizing the Cal Poly Pomona Lebanese Club as outstanding hosts of the 2009 LCN Convention. Following the resolution was the approval of the LCN Election Committee. This committee is comprised of Kristina Winblad (Chair), Remie Dagher and Danny Azar.

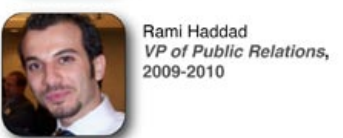
The Election Committee had the important responsibility to oversee that the elections of the new LCN Board were carried out without a hitch. "I felt honored to have been a part of this important task. It just shows me that the LCN really works hard at being transparent and open with the membership," said Remie, a subscribing member from Maryland. Each candidate was given an opportunity to give a 3 minute speech and answer any questions from the audience

WEB PHOTO GALLERY

The LCN would like to thank *Andre Mampourian* for photographing the convention. The pictures are available online at mylcn.org/LCN09. There are 675 pictures based on this event so make sure you visit the website and see the convention in details! Below is a sample from those pictures.



Election Results 2009-2010 LCN Board



Convention Organizers

LCN Board Members
 President: Patrick Sislian
 Treasurer: Lara Saikali
 Secretary: Ramzi Nasr
Vice Presidents
 IT: Karim Khoury
 Public Relations: Diana Ayoub
 Events: Serge Haddad
 Membership: Sevag Sislian

Awards Committee
 Kris Enslow (chair)
 Melissa Aoun
 Raffi Sakabedoyan

Election Committee
 Kristina Winblad (chair)
 Remie Dagher
 Danny Azar

LCN09 Committee
 Leina Saikali (chair)
 Grace Saikali
 Nadine Saikali
 Thalia Jarjour
 Mazen Nasr
 Wadad Saikali

To make a tax deductible donation please visit our website at: www.mylcn.org/donations.php or mail checks to: Lebanese Collegiate Network P.O. Box 531203 Los Angeles, CA 90053

LCN09 WORKSHOPS | mylcn.org/LC09/Worshops.html

ABOUT

The workshops serve as academic and professional development tools for the students attending the convention. The LCN has designed different workshops for the betterment of the individual and the on campus University Lebanese Clubs. Team building activities, knowledgesharing and learning unique skills make these workshops very beneficial. Details of the workshops maybe found at mylcn.org/LCN09/Workshops.html

ULC GROUP ACTIVITY WORKSHOP

Students presenting the answers of their Group Activity question



In the ULC Group Activity Workshop, students were separated into 9 different groups. The groups were then handed a question/topic/issue that they need to work on collectively to answer. Furthermore, each group is given markers and large sheets of paper to prepare a 3

Students answering Group Activity question



to strengthen these clubs through the sharing of ideas and experiences among different clubs. Questions included: What lessons have you learned that can raise the revenue for other ULCs? What does your ULC do to attract Lebanese Students to become active in your organization? What programs does your ULC provide to help students develop academically, socially, and professionally? The answers to these questions as well pictures of the groups and presenters can be found online at mylcn.org/lcn09.

WEBSITE WORKSHOP

The Website Workshop reviewed the general ideas of domain names, web hosting and different types of websites. The workshop also entailed going

through a live website building demonstration using Google Sites. The aim of the workshop is to enable a selective group of students to build and effortlessly update their ULC websites. The information and techniques provided are simple and easy so



Karim Koury explaining fundamentals of building a website

that they maybe passed on year after year. Karim Khoury, LCN VP of Information Technology, hosted the session. After the brief introduction to web basics, Karim conducted a live demo by building a website using google sites and showed the different features offered. As the demo emphasized, no prior coding and web design experience is required or needed. Each attending ULC selected one member to attend this workshop which ran concurrently with the ULC Group Activity Workshop.

RUNNING AN EFFECTIVE MEETING WORKSHOP

The Running an Effective Meeting Workshop reviews a set of parliamentary procedures as depicted by Robert's Rules of

LCN board conducting the Mock Meeting



Order. The workshop is carried out in the form of a scripted Mock Meeting conducted by a group of individuals. A moderator pauses the meeting intermittently and asks the audience questions about how a certain incident should have been carried out. The LCN VP of Events, Serge Haddad, acted as the activity moderator, pausing the meeting and providing insight on the errors committed. The LCN board with the help of Cal Poly Pomona ULC President Leina Saikali, enacted the mock meeting.

"I learned a lot from this ULC Building workshop. I look forward to taking these new ideas back home"
- Jeff Malkoun, ASU ULC President

minute presentation. Questions were oriented around issues facing University Lebanese Clubs and the workshop is intended

LCN09 AWARDS CEREMONY DINNER | mylcn.org/LC09/Awards_Dinner.html

LCN '09 concluded with an Awards Banquet of over one hundred people. Young professionals, alumni and LCN supporters joined the students to cap the convention and hand out the yearly LCN awards. The dinner opened with a Welcome by Patrick Sislian. Patrick took a few minutes to introduce the seven University Lebanese Club (ULC) presidents in attendance, the current and newly elected LCN Board and distinguished guests such as Dr. Hany Farran (faculty advisor of the Lebanese Student Association at Cal Poly Pomona) and Consul General Houssam Diab.

LCN committee members & committee chairs taking a picture with LCN President Patrick Sislian



RECOGNIZING LCN VOLUNTEERS

Numerous individuals who served as LCN volunteers and committee members were honored during the dinner. Diana Ayoub had the privilege of recognizing each individual, "these volunteers have sacrificed countless hours of commitment to serve the membership. Nothing would be possible without their active participation." Committees include Resume Workshop, Election, Financial Audit and Convention preparation. Each volunteer received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by various LCN Executive board members. In total there were over 30 certificates distributed.

bridge the gap between professional and student members. This year, the Lebanese Student Association of Cal Poly Pomona honored their faculty advisor, Dr. Hany Farran, by asking him to represent them at LCN'09. Dr. Farran accepted the honor. His words were inspirational and motivated the attendants to action. An abstract of his speech may be found at mylcn.org/LCN09

After his address, Serge Haddad recapped the convention bonfire, workshops and elections. Serge then presented the Lebanese Student Association with the resolution that honored the Cal Poly Pomona students for their hard work, leadership and sacrifice for hosting the 2009 LCN Convention. Their unity as a team and their individual perseverance was an integral part of this year's success.

Excellence & Heritage Award and the Most Outstanding ULC Award. This year's winners were Ramsey Ayass and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Lebanese Club. Ramsey Ayass is an active member of the Cal Poly Pomona LSA and has earned a high GPA. His award includes a \$1,000 monetary amount. The UCSB Lebanese Club won \$500 and the honor to have their name immortalized on the LCN Most Outstanding ULC plaque. This award was especially fitting since UCSB will also be home of the 2010 LCN Convention. Read about the awardees on page 14.

GUEST SPEAKER

The LCN has set a tradition at each Annual Convention: the only person to give the keynote address during the Awards Dinner shall be the faculty advisor of the hosting ULC. This tradition is inline with the LCN mission. The faculty advisor is an integral part of any ULC and should be an important voice to

AWARDS

Sevag Sislian, Vice President of Membership, followed with his presentation of the two LCN Awards: the Academic

DEPARTING FOUNDERS

The night ended on a sentimental note. LCN Founders Patrick Sislian, Ramzi Nasr and Julien Chemali were honored for their sacrifices as executive board members of the LCN. Serge, President-Elect of the LCN, spoke on behalf of Karim Khoury, Sevag Sislian and Diana Ayoub (previous founders) as he shared stories of their dedication. He presented Patrick, Ramzi and Julien with watches that were engraved with their initials and "LCN Founder". The watches had two clocks, one set for Lebanese time and the other set to American time. The watches symbolize the connection they helped shape, bringing the two cultures together.

www.mylcn.org/LCN09



ULC Presidents with Dr. Farran and LCN VP of Membership Sevag Sislian

To make a donation, or to join an LCN Committee, please visit www.mylcn.org. We hope to see you at LCN '10, hosted by the Lebanese Club of UC Santa Barbara.

LCN09 AWARD RECIPIENTS | mylcn.org/LC09/Awards_Dinner.html

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & HERITAGE AWARD: **RAMSEY AYASS**



The Lebanese Collegiate Network (LCN) Academic Excellence & Heritage Award recognizes talented students who have demonstrated a remarkable academic record and have presented themselves as leaders among their peers within the Lebanese Community. This is a \$1000 award.

Ramsey Ayass, an Electrical Engineering senior from Cal Poly Pomona and a co-founder of the Lebanese Association received the LCN “Academic Excellence & Heritage Award” for 2009. Ramsey has demonstrated an exemplary academic record with several honors, a President’s Council Scholarship and a scholarship from Boeing Corporation.

Furthermore, his on-campus involvement has been vast. In addition to being a founder of the Lebanese Student Association, he has been a board member in Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society), and Golden Key Society. He has also been an active member in numerous engineering and social organizations on campus. He will be graduating in June with Magma Cum Laude honors.

He received the monetary award at the Awards Ceremony Dinner during the 2009 LCN Convention.

MOST OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITY LEBANESE CLUB AWARD: **LEBANESE CLUB AT UCSB**



The Lebanese Collegiate Network (LCN) recognizes and honors the achievements of a University Lebanese Club (ULC) through the LCN Most Outstanding ULC Award. This prize includes a \$500 monetary value and a perpetual plaque that includes an inscription of the ULC’s name.

The Lebanese Club at the University of California, Santa Barbara received the LCN “Most Outstanding ULC Award” for 2009. The Lebanese Club has demonstrated great involvement in their campus community and hosted a variety of events to raise awareness, keep its members enthused and reach out to the community. These events include a “Middle Eastern Awareness Week” that included panel discussions, movie screenings and cultural performances.

Melissa Aoun, a member of the Awards Selection Committee noted, “It is clear to me that UCSB focused its effort on the core Lebanese values while incorporating them with the true meaning of being in a student association and I feel that UCSB has rightfully earned this award.”

Thalia Jarjour received the perpetual plaque and the monetary award on behalf of the Lebanese Club at UCSB at the Awards Ceremony Dinner during the 2009 LCN Convention.