



TUCSON MED CLUB

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www.tucsonmedclub.org

A publication of the Tucson MED Club

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Congratulations to the 2007 MED Scholarship Winners and Graduates

By Salim Hariri

The MED awards are given every year to MED graduates from high schools and colleges who clearly demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, character, and community service. The MED scholarship is a one-time, non-renewable financial award. The college graduates receive a certificate of appreciation for their



I am the descendant of a people that builded Damascus, and Byblos, and Tyre and Sidon and Antioch, and now I am here to build with you, and with a will.

Kahlil Gibran

accomplishments and a financial award. In addition, this year we recognized the MED youths who have been promoted to High schools and also given certificate of appreciations and financial awards as we did for the college graduates. The awards were given during our annual graduation party that was held on May 4th at the Skyline Country Club resort. The graduation party has always been the most enjoyable MED party because of the pride we all feel to see our MED young's demonstrating outstanding leadership and success in their schools. The Middle school graduates were **Jamil Hijazi** (first from left), **George Hariri** (second from left) and **Aj Sahyouni** (Lydia Sahyouni received his award since he was out of town). The High school graduates were: **Natalie Lahood** (first from the right) who is now a freshman at the University of Arizona, and **Renee Moussa** (second from right) who is also a freshman at the University of Arizona. We also have two graduates, **Christine Moussa** (Third from right) who received a B.S. from UA, and **Sarah Malaika** who received a master's degree in Middle Eastern and Museum Studies from New York University (Ferial Malaika received her award, fourth from left). On behalf of the MED club, I wish you all fulfillment and happiness. Congratulations on your achievement.

Table of Contents

- A Graduation Message (2)
- MED Planned Activities (3)
- Thank You for Taking a Stand (4)
- President Irv Schwary visit (5)
- Graduation Party (6-7)
- Happy Events (8-9)
- Zurouna Sponsors (10-12)



A Graduation Message

By Sarah Malaika



After many years of studying, the changing of academic programs, and a complete indulging of my nerdy tendencies, on May 8th 2007, I was very happy to graduate with a master's degree in Middle Eastern and Museum Studies from New York University.

There were so many individuals who have been of assistance along the way, encouraging me, challenging me, giving me different perspectives, and helping me as I pursued my degree. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation, though this newsletter is not big enough to contain all my words of gratitude for all those who have facilitated my existence during the past three years.

I was so happy to have my family here to celebrate with me at graduation.



To Mom ~ Thanks for helping me learn Arabic, telling me stories about growing up in the Arab world, and for always sending me things when I'm far from home. Every single thing I have been able to achieve in life is because of you.

To Yasser ~ Thanks for conversing with me about philosophical issues, supporting me even when you thought I should get a 'real job', and for being the nicest big brother anyone could ever ask for.

My grad school adventures have initially taken me to New York, then to Egypt and back – twice! I've met amazing professors, well-known authors, daring artists, and people behind the scenes at various renowned museums. I've learned that there is so much *more* to learn about the world history, theories, places and people.

I hope to continue learning about the cultures of the Middle East through more reading and traveling, and to be able to help others learn about the Middle East through museum exhibitions. I also believe that one of the best ways to expose people to the Middle East is through art, since it has the ability to speak to people on a level where words cannot. Museums, as spaces dedicated to the nexus of culture, art and education have a unique ability to foster awareness about others. I hope to now be able to pursue a career in museums, where I can work to enrich the public's understanding of Middle Eastern cultures from an objective point of view, InshAllah.

What does the future *really* hold? I'm not sure, but first thing on the list of things to do is to get more shelf space for my book-collecting habit and to creatively find space for the bookshelf in my small, yet cozy, New York apartment.

To all the grad students out there, here's a little humor to get you through the copious readings, sleep deprivation, and stress – a comic strip about the grad school experience! (As a proud and loyal listserv member I am almost certain that the humor in the weekly digests inoculated me from the grad school blues.) www.phdcomics.com

Last but not least, thank you to the MED CLUB for all your support through the years!

Peace,

Sarah Malaika



Detail of inlaid, wood-carved panel, Hanging Church in Coptic Cairo



Umm Kulthum Museum in Cairo



A segment of a former kiswah from the Ka'aba, gallery at the Library of Alexandria



MED Planned Activities

By David Basila

During our last board meeting, we brainstorm on ideas to move our Club forward and enrich our outreach activities. We do like to do more, but that can be done only if we get more involvement from the community. We have come up with ideas of other activities to pursue to bring us together and support the MED Club's mission. Some of the Ideas in no particular order are the following:

- Setup MED Club Social Night 2nd Friday every month at a place to be determined later. The place should have an Arabic and English DJ music, belly dancing, and serves Middle Eastern food in a fun atmosphere. This will allow us to get together more often in a less formal way without the hassles of organizing an event. We may also be able to bring backgammon or cards to play during the evening.
- Picnic events: we would like to have a couple of picnics each year when the weather is nice as a way to get together that is very family oriented and less expensive than the dinner parties. We can do this at the Tucson Racket Club, Udall Park, or other equivalent venue, and have a hamburger/hot dog barbeque, play ball, and other games.
- Create Member Directory: we can create a director of members, various member information, hi-light member services and businesses, etc...
- Community services: we plan to participate in some community activities every year. I have attended the first planning meeting for an anticipated event with UA Presents that I will keep you informed of as it firms up.
- Youth club committee: Have the youth of the club come up with some of their own events to include parties, MED birthday party for the youth whose birthdays fall in that month, community service (like World Care or Food Bank), meeting with other groups, etc.
- Middle Eastern cooking classes/cook book: To teach our children and/or spouses to learn the fine art and tremendous rewards of cooking Arabic food. This can also lead to a cook book with everyone providing their favorite recipes that can be sold by the club.

With your help and support, we can successfully follow up and implement on these ideas, we are looking for volunteers to drive these ideas and we hope you will volunteer, please call me at 907-2191 or send me an email at david@basila.us or contact Kamal Moukabary at 245-9225 or by email at kamal@moukabary.com

Med Club Information: Please Join or Renew Your Membership for 2007

- If you are already a member, please renew by sending a check payable to: **Tucson Med Club**
Fees: Family Membership: \$70

Individual Fee: \$35

Donations: MED Scholarship Fund

- If you are not a member, you can download the application form from our website at

www.tucsonmedclub.org or contact David Basila, MED Club President, at 520-907-2191, david@basila.us or Kamal Moukabary, MED Club VP, at 520-245-9225, kamal@moukabary.com

Please note that to be officially a member, according the MED bylaws, the board must discuss and approve the application.



Thank You for Taking a Stand for Health and Love for All

By Christine Moussa

My dearest friends, my biggest supporters, my family, and the best cheering squad ever,

6 hours 20 minutes and 32 seconds is the time it took me to cover 26.2 miles of beautiful San Diego! By 4:30 a.m. we were sitting by the starting line, ready and anxious to get started. Near mile 8, I saw my sister on the side of the road cheering and clapping, which energized me to keep going. I felt strong as we ran through downtown, Old Town, Balboa Park, over bridges, on the freeway and through neighborhoods, with hundreds of spectators cheering us on and over 21,000 running with me. "Thank you God for my strong knees, feet and ankles. Thank you for my healthy, powerful, cancer-free body, and for your miracles" was my mantra as I put each foot in front of the other. (My other mantra was "You gorgeous thing, don't you ever die! Hahahaha") I was touched, moved, and inspired by my fellow runners and walkers, the hundreds of volunteers and Marines holding out water for us, and the hundreds of people on the sidelines cheering their hearts out for us. I felt so connected to every one around me, all of the runners, spectators, and volunteers; we were all there for a purpose that made us one community taking a stand for health and love for all. I ran with professional athletes, cancer survivors, a woman with one leg, a man in a wheelchair, 75 year olds, and first-timers like myself.



There were almost 4000 other participants who were running to raise money for blood cancer research like I was, and together we raised 12.5 million dollars! Not only does this research help those with blood cancers, but the discoveries that are made go towards treating other kinds of cancers as well. All of these people who were running for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society people wore purple jerseys that were decorated in honor and in memory of loved ones who have battled or are still battling cancer ... "This is for Mom and Pop" ... "Running for the Love of My Life" There were people cheering us on from the side lines with posters that kept us going... "You've made it this far, you might as well keep going!" Around every corner, spectators and cheering squads applauded us on, with countless numbers of people highfiving me as I pushed forward.

By mile 22, I felt like I had slammed into a wall—every thing was hurting, my sunburn was aching, and my legs were yelling at me. But I kept going, thinking of all of you who were sending positive thoughts and beautiful prayers my way, and those incredible people who fight through cancer every day. I knew that in a few days my body would feel strong again, while those fighting cancer must suffer for months from chemotherapy that I can't even imagine simply because they have to. At mile 26 I was so overwhelmed, mentally, emotionally, and physically, that I started crying ... a TNT coach caught up with me saying "You've got this girl, only 300 more meters to go! You've got this ...It's okay to cry, people cry all the time crossing the finish line!!! And I crossed that finish line running as fast as I could, waving to my mom, dad, and sister, pumping my fists in the air because I was just so HAPPY!

So, if you are still reading this , I want you to know that I am alive, walking (well actually kind of limping, but it's okay), and so thankful to know you. I really couldn't have done this without your support. Together we are helping to save the lives of those who have or will have cancer, and let me tell you, my burns and aching muscles were worth the adventure. Thank you for taking a stand for LOVE, HEALTH, and WELLNESS FOR ALL with me. You are AWESOME.

With Love,
Christine Moussa

"I run because my mind is stronger than my body,"

"If you think running a marathon is tough, try chemotherapy." - Leukemia-Lymphoma Society, Team in Training (www.teamintraining.org)

***To see pictures of me crossing the finish line, go to: http://www.asiorders.com/view_event.asp?EVENTID=15304 and search for "Moussa". YAY !!



President Irv Schwary Visit to Tucson MED Club

By Kamal Moukabary

We were very pleased with the visit to our Club by Irv and Janet Schwary on May 30, 2007. Irv is the President of the Southern Federation of the Syrian Lebanese of American Clubs (<http://www.sfslac.org>) that covers the southern states from Florida to California. The meeting was held at the Fleming restaurant and during the dinner, President Schwary described the Houston Convention, the Savannah Conference and other Federation activities. It was part of his efforts to meet with Club members of the federation and explain the Federation role and activities so we all have a clearer picture of what the Federation is. President Irv presented our Club with an Achievement Award for our continuous effort to increase the MED club membership. President Irv later sent a Thank You Card to David Basila, Kamal Moukabary and Salim Hariri saying that "It was great to spend time with you and your club in May. We enjoyed our visit and the meal at Fleming's was outstanding." The meeting was very informative and every one had a good time meeting Irv and Janet.



Graduation Party at Skyline Resort





MED Happy Events

**Congratulations to
Aaron and Mona Brewer**



on the birth of
their son, Aidan
Michael Brewer,
borne on July 12,
2007 .

We are all pleased with the addition of three star members to our MED Club Extended family. Please join the MED club by congratulating their proud parents.

**Congratulations to
Hani and Lina Rizk**



on the birth of
their baby girl
Ayla Rizk, born
on August 3rd,
2007.

**Congratulations to
Victor and Sarab Hijjar**



On their wedding
on April 22, 2007,
in Tucson. Best
wishes to you
both from the
MED Club.

**Congratulations to
Lana and David Blair
on the birth of their
daughter, Paig Moussa
Blair, borne on April
24, 2007.**



**Congratulations to
Ziad and May Safi**
on their wedding on July 14th, 2007 in
Kansas. Best wishes to you both from
the MED club.

**Congratulations to
Luke Moussa**

on his graduation from The University of Arizona
with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

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Happy Events

Birthdays

August

Ayla Rizk, 3rd
Ziad Safi, 7th
Elham Lahood 18th
Julie Michael 13th
Sharjamme Davis, 25th
Anthony Nassif, 27th

September

Bshara Mezher 1st
Gabriel Sarah, 1st
Wadia Sarah, 1st
Mary Sahyouni, 6th
Hannah Sarah, 13th
Kim Callan, 18th
David Abraham 21th
Pete Davis, 22nd
Midhat Abraham 25th
Domingo Cheleuitte 26th
Andera Moussa, 28th
Luke Moussa 30th

October

Manel Kidwany, 8th
Josephine Sabbagh 10th
Nadim Shihab 11th
Ziad Shihab 12th
Michael Moussa, 13th
David Basila 21st
Rene Aidwlaimi, 23rd
Amer Said 23th
Marge Yessian 23rd
Jamil Hijazi 27th
Angelle Casagrande 28th
Younna Abdulhadi, 28th

November

Michael Abraham, 2nd
Rebecca Shapiro, 4th
George Hobeich 5th
Carmen Moussa 6th
Cristina Casagrande, 18th
Sonia Hariri 21st
Tarek Nassif, 23th
Adel Ziady 25th
Mikey Moussa 26th
Kelly Callan 27th
Nicole Lahood 30th

Happy Events

Anniversaries

Hannah and Wadia Sarah, 8/1
Robert and Rebecca Shapiro, 8/9
Richard and Julie Michaels, 8/13
Aftim and Nadia Acra 8/30
Salim & Sonia Hariri 11/17

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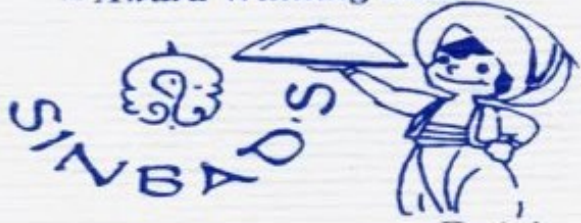
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"You should be proud of being an American, but you should also be proud that your fathers and mothers came from a land upon which God laid His gracious hand and raised His messengers."

TUCSON MED CLUB

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[Http://www.tucsonmedclub.org](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org)

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