



# ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

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## Congratulations to the 2011 MED Scholarship Winners and Graduates



The Tucson MED Club scholarships are given every year to MED graduates from high schools who have clearly demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, character, and community service. The scholarship is a one-time, non-renewable financial award. The college graduates receive a certificate of appreciation for their accomplishments. The awards and certificates were given during our annual graduation party that was held on April 29, 2011 at the Skyline Country Club. The graduation party has always been

the most enjoyable MED party because of the pride we have for our MED youth. This year we had three high school graduates, George Hariri, Jamil Hijazi and AJ Sahyouni.

**Alison Duffy** received her MBA and **Mary Sahyouni** graduated from Middle School.

This year was extra special and rewarding when our three young Amigos graduating from High School received the Catalina Foothills Blue Award for Academic Excellence during the Senior Honors Ceremony. Allow me to highlight their achievements:

**George Hariri**  
Blue Award for Academic Excellence  
Foothills Outstanding Senior – Math  
National Honor Society  
University of Arizona ~ Wildcat Scholarship

**Aj Sahyouni**  
Blue Award for Academic Excellence  
Foothills Outstanding Senior - Social Studies  
Foothills Scholar Athlete – Volleyball  
University of Arizona ~ Wildcat Scholarship

**Jamil Hijazi**  
Blue Award for Academic Excellence  
Foothills Scholar Athlete – Football  
University of Arizona ~ Wildcat Scholarship  
Regents High Honors Scholarship

On behalf of the MED Club, we wish you all a happy and successful years to come.

Congratulations.

**Hassan Hijazi, President, Tucson MED Club.**



*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**

# The Road to the Miss Arab USA Pageant

By Lana Hariri



On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, also known as my 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday, I was bored sitting in my dorm room, waiting for time to pass so I could leave for my next class. Then, I decided to do something crazy: Why not apply online for the Miss Arab USA Pageant, just for fun! I went to the online website and immediately created a profile, uploaded a couple pictures, wrote a little bit about myself, and hit "SUBMIT". After I hit submit I told myself, "What are the chances of that *actually* happening? I highly doubt that they even look at these applications in the first place... oh well!" I closed my laptop shut, and left for my next class.

Five months later, I received a missed call and voicemail from an unknown Phoenix area number. The message said "Hello. This is Claire from the Miss Arab USA Pageant. We reviewed your profile and you have been selected as one of the Top 100 Applicants. We will be conducting phone interviews on Thursday. Please be prepared around noon on Thursday. Have a great day." I **could not believe it!** I completely forgot about my application and I didn't even think I would be considered as a potential contestant for a National Pageant! I panicked; I didn't know what I was getting myself into... Was this really happening?

On Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm, I received a call from the same Phoenix number and I knew this was it, this was the interview! I answered the phone and immediately I was being asked questions about being an Arab American in this country, my education, and how we can better the lives of Arabs, etc. Then out of nowhere, I was being asked history questions, such as "Who is the current King of Jordan?" and "How many countries in the world are considered Arab?" and "What year was Turkey founded a country?" I was so shocked and didn't expect *these* types of questions to be in the interview! And to make things even more interesting, I had to speak fluent, conversational Arabic with the Creator and Founder of the Pageant, Ashraf Elgamal. After I hung up, I was 150% sure that I had completely failed my phone interview and that would be the last time I ever heard from the Miss Arab USA Pageant Association ever again.

Well, I was wrong.

That following Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, I received a notification that read, "Congratulations! You have been selected as one of the finalists to compete in the Final Round of the Miss Arab USA Pageant!"

I have never screamed so loud in my **entire** life.

I now better understand why the Association asked me all of those history questions and questions about my education: they want to make sure that the next Miss Arab USA is a woman who is educated about her culture, educated in terms of receiving a degree, and educated about the Middle Eastern world. Being a contestant in this pageant has made me realize the importance of projecting a positive image for Arabs in America. I am competing in this pageant to show our communities, the people around us, and more importantly, the nation how beautiful and rich our Arabic culture is. I want to educate Americans about our food, dance, culture, traditions, customs, music, and so much more. I feel that this opportunity is an amazing way for me to do this. I am so excited and so grateful to have this once in a life time opportunity to be a part of an amazing cause.

Thank you to the MED Club members, my family and friends for supporting me throughout the years and for allowing me to grow up in this lively Arabic community while living in America. I hope to make you all proud and Inshallah win the title as Miss Arab USA.



## Contributions of Arabs over the course of History: Contributed by Lana Hariri

- Arabs introduced the idea of the number zero.
- They invented algebraic concepts.
- Arab astronomers of the Middle Ages compiled astronomical charts and tables.
- Al-Razi, a medical professional from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, was the first to diagnose smallpox and measles, to associate these diseases and others with human contamination and contagion, to introduce such remedies as mercurial ointment, and to use animal gut for sutures.
- Camphor, cloves, myrrh, syrups, juleps, and rosewater were stocked in Arab sydalayah (pharmacies) centuries ago.
- Herbal medicine was widely used in the Middle East, and basil, oregano, thyme, fennel, anise, licorice, coriander, rosemary, nutmeg, and cinnamon found their way through Arab pharmacies to European tables.
- The medieval Arabs improved upon ancient navigational practices with the development of the magnetic needle in the ninth century.
- Arabs were able to graft a single vine so that it would bear grapes in different colors, and their vineyards were responsible for the future of wine industries of Europe.
- Peach, apricot, and loquat trees were transplanted in southern Europe by Arab soldiers.
- The women of Europe borrowed from the cosmetics first prepared by the Egyptians, Syrians, and Phoenicians. Some of these included lipsticks, nail polishes, eye shadow, eye liner (kohl), perfumes and powders, hair dyes (henna), body lotions and oils, and even wigs.
- Rice, Sesame, pepper, ginger, cloves, melons and shallots, as well as dates, figs, oranges, lemons, and other citrus fruits, were introduced into European cuisine via the Crusaders and the trade caravans of Eastern merchants.

### TO SPONSOR LANA IN THE FUNDRAISING EFFORT:

You may write a personal or business check, all contributions are tax deductible. Time is running out, we would appreciate your support to Lana Hariri to M.S. Arab USA Pageant, to be held on September 10, 2011 in Phoenix Arizona.

1- Make checks payable to Miss Arab USA Pageant. In the MEMO section of your check write Lana Hariri, mail checks to: Tucson MED Club, P.O. Box 43024, Tucson, AZ 85733-3024.

NOTE: The winner of the competition will get to keep the money they raised.

### TO ATTEND THE EVENT (MANY OF US WILL BE ATTENDING)

Pageant Tickets are on sale! They are going fast. If you are planning on attending, please visit the link below to learn about dinner, entertainment, dress code, prices, etc. are on the website! So there shouldn't be any confusion :)



# Haiti Earthquake

By George Sahyouni Ph.D., PE


(Statistics from Wikipedia)

The 2010 Haiti earthquake was a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake with epicenter approximately 16 miles west of the capital: Port-au-Prince. The earthquake occurred on 12 January 2010. By 24 January, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian government reported that an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000 made homeless. They also estimated that 250,000 residence and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged, making it one of the most devastating earthquakes in the last 100 years. The earthquake also caused major damage in Port-au-Prince and other towns in the region. Many landmark buildings were significantly damaged or destroyed, including the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly building, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, and the main jail.

It is very saddening to see that so many people were injured/killed and so many buildings were destroyed in the event. Among the very few buildings that remained standing without any damage reported was the United States Embassy in Port-Au Prince. It also became the nerve center of the massive international relief efforts while all other foreign embassies severed some serious damages.

As you may know, the entire architectural and engineering design was conducted here in the Fluor Daniel office in Tucson back in 2005. Since the lead structural engineer had his hands full with many other projects at the time, I was contracted to provide the majority of the structural analysis and design for this very project.

Through the strong 30 years of my professional career, I have been involved in the structural design of many important buildings in one of the highest seismic zones in the country, such as California and Alaska. However, this is the only structure that has been located so close to the epicenter of such a powerful earthquake. This is a true testimony that portrays how effective our building code actually is when followed and used properly. Being part of the design team for our Embassy in Haiti makes me particularly proud of this great achievement. This real life experience will remain one of the most prominent highlights of my professional career.


 An aerial photograph of the Presidential Palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The large, white, classical-style building with multiple domes and arches shows significant structural damage, particularly to the roof and upper levels. The surrounding area includes a green lawn, palm trees, and a parking lot with several cars.


**Tucson MED Club** Invites you to join us for a  
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 food and games, sand volleyball, tennis

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 Kamal Moukabary, 520-245-9225, [kmoukabary@hotmail.com](mailto:kmoukabary@hotmail.com)

**Med Club Information: Please Join or Renew Your Membership for 2011**

- 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](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org) or contact Hassan Hijazi, MED Club President, at 520-955-3657, [hhijazi@email.arizona.edu](mailto:hhijazi@email.arizona.edu) or Kamal Moukabary, MED Club VP, at 520-245-9225, [kmoukabary@hotmail.com](mailto:kmoukabary@hotmail.com)

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

# 2010 Graduation Party





# MED Graduation Party on April 29, 2011







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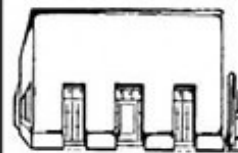
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**Kahlil Gibran**

*"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)

Lana Hariri

[lhari@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lhari@email.arizona.edu)**Zurouna Editor****زورونا**