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I am delighted to have been named as the new Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE). The Department currently offers two undergraduate degree programs: a BE in Civil Engineering and a recently established BS in Construction Engineering. We pride ourselves with a program that is one of the first in the region to offer an accredited undergraduate BE degree and, in due course, we will equally accredit the new BS degree, once it is ready for evaluation. We offer great opportunities for graduate study at both the ME and PhD levels in Civil Engineering and Environmental/Water Resources Engineering. Our new MS in Construction Engineering is planned for a startup this coming Fall. We have also approved an accelerated path for outstanding students to allow them to pursue the PhD program, fully funded, immediately upon finishing the BE degree and are working on establishing a similar accelerated path for qualifying students to pursue and finish an MS degree in one additional semester beyond the BE degree. The graduate programs provide valuable opportunities for students to get involved in research projects while at the undergraduate level and beyond. We also encourage students to take advantage of available opportunities through the Department and the Faculty such as study abroad for one semester in reputable universities in the US. We are proud that the Department has and continue to be the source of the best graduating engineers in the region. Our program emphasizes the fundamentals of engineering as a foundation for proficient and innovative practice. Laboratories and design classes coupled with practical experience and capstone projects are essential components of the CEE’s educational approach because of our strong conviction in the importance of hands-on experience. We place strong emphasis on communication skills and team work entrenched in engineering ethics and the development of a systems perspective on complex issues facing our profession. This holistic approach provides students with the opportunity to take courses across and beyond the engineering faculty, collaborate on extra-curricular activities and community development projects, and enjoy the benefits of an engineering faculty with a great reputation. It is this same approach that has rendered the demand for our graduates to be strongest and most sought after in the region. Today, the CEE Department has recorded an all time high in terms of growth in number of students and faculty as well as quality performance at all levels: teaching, research, community development, funding, and graduate students. We have four new faculty members who will join the Department this year in addition to Dean Suidan who has also become a Professor member of the Department (all were x-AUB Students). The new hires are Dr Majdi Abou Najem (Assistant Professor, Water Resources, PhD from Purdue University), Dr. Darine Salam (Assistant Professor, Environmental Sciences, PhD from University of Cincinnati), Dr. Elie Hantouche (Assistant Professor, Structure, PhD from University of Cincinnati), and Dr. Ibrahim Alameddine (Assistant Professor, Environmental Sciences, PhD from Duke University). We expect to fill another senior position as the Al-Kharafi Chair in Construction Engineering by the Fall as well. I look forward to working with all faculty members and students towards maintaining the quality standards of our programs and accomplishing new highs.

**Mutasem El-Fadel, Professor and Chairman**

**Dar Al-Handasah (Chair and Partners) Chair in Engineering**

Reaching the top once seemed intriguing to me. Staying there then seemed the real challenge. But then, I realized that there is no such thing called “top”, as a “top” today might become mediocre tomorrow. This is why I realized that the road to the summit is nothing but endless stairs. We tend to it, but when we get close, it gets higher. That, to some, might seem like a lost case but in fact it is only to our advantage. We should change the perspective we’re looking from and stop picturing the “top” as a goal, instead, focus on the road to it which can be translated into one great word: “improvement”. It is what shaped our history, what gives meaning to our lives and what keeps our hopes to achieve high. The best part about it is that it is unlimited and tends to perfection. No matter how close we may seem to be excellence, we would still be so far which is great because that leaves room for us to keep up the achievements and development. This, for instance, can and should actually be applied to our field of Civil Engineering. Today, as students, we get used to the fact that we are the learners or recipients. Although this part of our role is important, it is definitely not the only one. Indeed, we should focus on learning, but also on researching and eventually developing the knowledge transmitted to us today by making it more accurate for the coming generations. In other words, stepping outside the box is an essential part of our education because it is us who will one day affect the development of the field we’re in. Furthermore, we, the CIVIL NEWS team, also make sure to apply this mentality when it comes to preparing the newsletter. That is, we try to add something new to every new issue. For this issue, two main changes have been made. Firstly, four new positions were added to the team with their detailed descriptions found on page 10. Secondly, and most importantly, the paper on which this issue is printed is recycled! This is one of the main highlights of this semester’s issue. It is discussed further in an article on page 10. With that said, I can simply hope that you will enjoy the coming pages covering all sorts of events and news.

**Emile Zankoul**

**Editor-in-Chief**
This year’s elections were like no other year. Whether it’s in the closeness of the results or the number of candidates, it was a special one. The elections took place on Tuesday, October 25, from 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM. Only registered CES members were eligible to vote. This rule was taken very seriously as voters were asked to bring their AUB IDs when voting, also, CES registration was closed the whole week before elections. This year was different due to the number of candidates to start with. In previous years, it was very common for candidates to win by default unlike this year which witnessed 16 candidates over the four years (4 candidates per year on average, with 5 in E1). Also, voting rates were relatively high. What made things even more interesting was the closeness of the results in E4 where 1 vote separated every next candidate (17, 18, 19 and 20) and to top it all, the tie in E1. Alaa Safa, Elsie Gebara and Rayane Mrad were tied with 16 votes forcing the results’ final announcement to be postponed for a few days due to a re-election process after which Mrad and Safa prevailed. In E2, Ghida Ismail and Ramzi Taybah made it to the cabinet with over 60 votes each. In E3, as in E2, the results were not too close, as Christopher Sassine and Issam Kayssi managed to take a comfortable lead.

The final results were as follows:

**E4**
Nassim Basma (20 votes) Public Relations
Carl Abou Samra (19 votes) Vice-President
Hussein Mdeihli (18 votes)
Omar Al Barmaki (17 votes)

**E3**
Christopher Sassine (44 votes) President
Issam Kayssi (39 votes) Secretary
Afif Kanaan (21 votes)
Mohammad Melhem (3 votes)

**E2**
Ghida Ismail (68 votes) Record Keeper
Ramzi Taybah (66 votes) Treasurer
Maha Mrad (40 votes)

**E1**
Rayane Mrad (16 votes) Advertisement
Alaa Safa (16 votes) Public Relations
Elsie Gebara (16 votes)
Farah Assaad (14 votes)
Frederic Abou Jaoude (5 votes)

On another note, FEA-SRC Civil winners:

Wissam Bechara (President) [E2]
Jawad Chukrallah (Secretary) [E1]
Jad Sabra [E2]
Elie Charbel [E2]
Elie Moussallem [E2]
Fady Fadel [E4]
Abdallah Makarem [E1]
Interview with Ms. Mouna Tawil

CIVE 370 is a course that introduces Civil and Environmental Engineering students to the main features of Information Technology. For the past few years, the course was taught by Dr. Hamed Assaf. However, this year, the Civil Engineering department welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Mouna Tawil, who started giving this course this Fall. Tawil kindly granted an interview to the CIVIL NEWS, giving students the chance to get to know her and to have a better understanding of the CIVE 370 course.

CIVIL NEWS (CN): In which university did you study? What was your major?

Mouna Tawil (MT): I completed my BE in Computer and Communication Engineering in a university in the Emirates. Soon after, I did my Masters in the American University of Beirut. While I was finishing my Masters, I was working simultaneously in Multimedia and GIS lab. At that time, the Network was just starting so it was a very interesting experience. I also worked in Internet Service Providers Networking and System Programming. Then I moved to TELECOME sectors where I worked in the technical field for six years. Later on, I helped establish the internet lab in AUB, and developed internet security.

CN: Is CIVE 370 the first course you teach in AUB?

MT: It’s the first course I teach in the Civil Engineering department, however I have taught in AUB before. I gave the EECE 665 L, which is a computer and security lab, an optional one credit course; it is a very tough course. And I taught computer literacy and computer architecture in other universities.

CN: What is CIVE 370 exactly about? What skills should one acquire in this course?

MT: As a result of this course, students will never submit a poor document. All their reports will be professional, with all the formatting, styles and headings necessary. Additionally the final year project (FYP) will be presented in a professional manner. And that is due to the skills learnt in CIVE 370. In fact in this course students will learn visual impact, how to present an idea, how to structure presentations using PowerPoint, how to draw diagrams and grids using Excel, and how to process matrices using Matlab.

CN: Some students do not see how this course concerns the field of civil engineering; they claim it is a CCE course, what do you have to say about this?

MT: Knowing how to use different programs on the computer is as important as knowing the alphabet! Anyone from any profession should learn computer literacy, it’s a basic knowledge. Additionally, in this course we are concentrating on what they will need in the future like EXCEL and VB. It is not a difficult course. It gives the students the opportunity to produce object oriented programs.

CN: Are you following the same teaching method as the previous professor? Are you covering the same material? Or did you add something new to the course?

MT: I am almost covering the same topics; however, the time devoted to each program depends on each teacher. While I am concentrating on Microsoft Word more than design, the previous professor may have concentrated on something else. What was added this semester is Matlab, students can compare it with other programs like VB and VBNet. Also, students have to submit homework regularly. They help them combine all the notions together, and do not take a lot of time. In fact during the labs students are in a hurry and do not always understand what they’re doing. The homework will give them the chance to comprehend and try everything for themselves. In addition, they permit students to practice which is very important.

CN: What are your future plans?

MT: I usually find it difficult to repeat the same thing unless there is something new in it, hence I don’t know if I’ll continue teaching CIVE 370. Also I love challenges. I haven’t had a vacation for a long time, so you never know, I might take one.

CN: Thank you very much for your time.
In our professional world today, having a PhD is very important. Fortunately, AUB offers a variety of programs for PhD students. Two individuals in our department, Dr. Amer El Souri and Dr. Elie Awwad, recently got their PhDs from AUB. They both worked within the field of structural engineering.

More specifically, Dr. Awwad turned his interest to the field of sustainable materials and structures. The title of his PhD was SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SYSTEMS - ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. Dr. El Souri elaborated on earthquake assessment and strengthening of structures and named his research: SEISMIC BEHAVIOR OF REINFORCED CONCRETE WIDE CONCEALED BEAM-NARROW COLUMN JOINTS.

Our two doctors studied for four years in AUB. Dr. El Souri informs us of the procedure: 8 courses (24 credits) and research (24 credits). The study also includes a comprehensive exam after one year of starting the program, a qualifier -which is a proposal presented to a committee that directs the student after a certain time during the research-, and a final defense which is a power point presentation and a paper that unveil the results of the work.

Dr. Awwad took for example a course named “sustainability in civil engineering” in two parts. The outcome of such a course is usually a paper presented in an international conference.

Another special course is “fiber reinforced cement and concrete composites” in which the student has to set and create a course by itself, based on textbooks, articles, papers... Dr. Awwad also had a “post Doc” visit of 6 months to Purdue University-West Lafayette - IN, USA where he worked on another research topic related to sustainable concrete sealants and materials with Dr. Jason Weiss research team.

Dr. El Souri has worked in the industry for a long time. He worked in Irwin Johnson and Partners for three years in Beirut and five years in Australia. Now he is self-employed in Lebanon. His experience in the domain helped him choose the topic of his research. He thinks the structural field is a very demanding one. Moreover, Lebanon is classified, according to the old standards, as a zone 3: the earthquake can be of 8 degrees. In addition, there is a new fault in the sea which constitutes a risk to the country. Dr. El Souri wanted to expand his knowledge and ameliorate the building system in Lebanon according to ACI recommendations (ACI stands for the American Concrete Institute whose aim is to develop, share, and disseminate the knowledge and information needed to utilize concrete to its fullest potential).

In Lebanon the building system is composed of narrow columns supporting flat hollow block slabs with no drop beams. Dr. El Souri had three goals:

•Improvement: to increase the strength of concrete
•Confinement: to set lateral stirrups (lateral ties with small spacing within the beams and columns)
•Test: to test the new specimen

Reparation: the new specimen cracked due to the test, so Dr. El Souri repaired it again. The experimental setup was a challenge because it was full scale: Dr. El Souri had to implement columns and beams as they are in reality!

Now let’s see how Dr. Awwad chose the topic of sustainable building systems. At the beginning, Dr. Mabsout introduced the topic and by that time Dr. Awwad was not familiar with such subjects, which were still unknown especially in Lebanon. But after doing some research, it was the only topic he wanted to go for, because of the interest, importance and creativity it covers. Dr. Awwad was very interested and submitted many publications in journals and during international conferences. Dr. Awwad says: "When one works with sustainable materials, one must touch unbelievable/unexpected/ almost impossible issues. People never expect to deal with such topics usually, this is why I did research to explore new things and prove their suitability". His topic covered the incorporation of industrial hemp fibers (legal plant to substitute the sister illegal plant) in concrete materials. International organizations are much interested in such issues, as a substitute for the illegal plants worldwide and locally.

Concrete is known to be weak in tension, thus the use of natural fibers would improve tensile strength, reduce the aggregate amount used, and improve thermal properties of the material.

The experimental set up covered a large amount of plain concrete cubes, cylinders, and beams for different concrete testing at fresh and hardened states, and structural elements, as a synergistic performance with the presence of reinforcement bars.

Dr. Awwad thinks that working for a PhD needs one to decide on being sacrificial in what relates to time, effort, social life sometimes. “You have to really be convinced of going that way - a completely new life track/career... and with all these endeavors (expected and unexpected) you can still really enjoy!”. When asked “What advice can you give to students?”, Dr. El Souri spontaneously answered: “Patience!”. He added that it is better to work, before starting the PhD, in order to specify the topic of interest, because experience gives a better and practical perception of the various fields in Civil Engineering. One should prepare himself to a long hard work process that, of course, is worth the challenge!
**FEA Annual Christmas Dinner**

Weam Alawar

For the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, the December holiday spirit doesn’t really arrive until the annual FEA Christmas Dinner. This year was no different, as everyone bought their tickets and headed to Le Bristol, Hamra on Tuesday December 20.

The prospective engineers along with Dr. George Saad and Dr. Azizi arrived to the event, formally dressed, and were directed to their tables. Caren Zogheib, Chair of the IEEE AUB student Branch, and Carl Abou Samra, Vice-President of CES welcomed all the attendees, and announced the beginning of the dinner by distributing the gifts to 15 tombola winners. The gifts were watches from Ice Watch, one of the sponsors.

The dinner, sponsored by Grace (Al Faiha for construction products), Ice Watch, and Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), commenced after the gift distribution. The main dish was then served along with appetizers and open drinks. After everyone had their share of the good food and the dessert that followed, the dance floor was rocking by all the dancers.

“As every year, the Christmas Dinner was an arduous event to organize, but on the day, the hard work pays off and it’s really fulfilling to see everyone enjoying their time. Thankfully, all feedback we got from attendees was positive”, commented Issam Kayssi, Secretary of CES.

Sami Ramly, from IEEE added: “it was one of those rare moments of the year where you remember that your college experience is not just going to class and coming back home; you actually feel that you belong to this wonderful community of students and friends who know how to live and know how to have fun”.

Everyone left the event content with the fun they had, and ready to welcome the holidays and start a fresh new year.

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**CES Internship Seminar: Advice from the Students to the Students**

Rayane Zahreddine

The Civil Engineering Society (CES) hosted an internship seminar for civil and construction engineering students. The event targeted third year students who need to apply for internships in summer 2012. It was presented by fourth year students who had already completed their internships in summer 2011.

Gaelle Samaha, Farah AbiMorshed, Azmy Rajab, Christina Amyuni, and Hussein Kassem, shared their internship experiences with the audience in the Engineering Lecture Hall, on Tuesday November 29. They talked about the application process and deadlines, the type of work, the expenses, and their personal experiences - basically everything the students needed to know about internships. They also gave advice to the students concerning the type of internship they pursued as well as their attitudes and professionalism while on the job.

Maha Mrad, a third year student said that the seminar was “very useful and gave a better overview of what’s ahead. The speakers talked about some excellent companies and they all had different backgrounds.”

In fact, the speakers had diverse internship experiences (local, abroad, research, on site, off-site...) which was an advantage for those who didn’t choose their preference yet and needed to know the difference between the options.

The speakers were very friendly and encouraged questions from the audience. Some even stayed after the seminar to further discuss their internships with the students. Christina Amyuni, commented: “I know how lost and confused students can be at this stage, so I was glad to help them. However, the turnout was disappointing, more students should have come and benefited.”

Dima Al Hassanieh, a fourth year student added: “I wish we had such a seminar last year, when we were applying for internships.”

Ramzi Taybah, CES Treasurer and second year student said: “This was a very important and informative event; it helped me gain a lot of knowledge concerning my internship. It was great to see fellow civil students helping each other, which is after all the ultimate goal of the CES. The success of this event means that we’ll probably do it every year.”
CES Happy Hour: A Happy Start to a Happy Year

The Civil Engineering Society (CES) organized its first event of the year, the annual Happy Hour, in Wing D. For engineering students and professors, Wing D is where exams take place, but for one hour on Thursday, November 17, it was transformed to a happy gathering place.

Civil and Construction engineering students, as well as faculty members had the opportunity to catch up and get to know each other in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. Even those who had classes got to finish early and joined the gathering, with their professors. The CES members served pizzas and soft drinks to the attendees.

Tala Al Bahr, a first-year student said: “It was fun; the people were very nice and enthusiastic. It was an encouraging start into the society.”

The purpose of this year’s Happy Hour, which was sponsored by Redbull, was to welcome the new chairperson, Dr. Mutasem El-Fadel who said: “Civil engineers are the best! We are proud of this program and how it has grown to be practically the best in the engineering school.”

Dr. George Ayoub commented: “The Happy Hour has become a traditional thing whereby students get together for a change and meet with professors. It is a nice event that should be done more often. The more we get together, the more we become like a family, and we have a family-like department.”

During the event, the CES also introduced its newly elected cabinet members to all the attendees. “This was our first event as the new cabinet, and I think it went really well,” said CES President Christopher Sassine. “There was a massive difference between the first happy hour we did last year on the terrace and this one because students and teachers actually got the chance to talk to each other and we never felt that it was overcrowded. All of the CES members, whether cabinet or not, played a part in making this one of the best happy hours to date.”

The CES Happy Hour continues to be an event that the CEE department annually awaits. This event will continue to tighten the bonds within the department during the coming years, thus fulfilling a major objective of the Civil Engineering Society.

“Christmas” Happy Hour

It has become a tradition during this time of the year that CES organizes a Christmas “Happy Hour” where CE students can spend a warm time with their “Civil Family.” This year’s happy hour took place on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at 1:00 PM. Students and professors gathered in Wing D which was decorated with red Christmas bulbs and stars for the occasion, there was even a Christmas tree on the wall under which students placed their “Secret Santa” presents. Amidst the warm crowd, some students were singing along with the Christmas carols and others were chatting about vacation plans, everyone there was enjoying their time. After Chris Sassine (CES president) welcomed the crowd, chocolate cake, a Christmas “buche de Noel” and Christmas decorated mini-cupcakes (catered by Cupcakery) along with coffee and juice were served. Finally the Secret Santa gifts were exchanged and unwrapped. Like that, the hour had passed and everyone had to get back to their classes. Hopefully this year will be filled with more, yet to come, CES programs and gatherings that are proving to be a success time after time.
Bridge Competition

CIVE 200 is an introductory course to civil engineering. It broadens students’ knowledge about this major; what it concerns and its diverse fields. One of the most important traits in a Civil Engineer is to know how to work in a group, how to cooperate with others. Consequently in this CIVE 200 course, a bridge competition is organized, where students team up in groups of 5 to build a bridge. The bridge had to be built using only balsa wood, a cutter and a ruler. Its height had to be of 80 cm, its deck elevation of 40 cm, and its deck width of 10 cm. In addition to this, the deck has to be straight and horizontal and the bridge has to have a clearance below the deck allowing a 20 cm cube to pass. It was a challenge for the students, a preparation to the challenges to come in their future career.

Students were given 3 weeks to prepare their bridges. Although they had little experience in this domain, they worked really hard to produce the best bridge possible, “we had to ask the advice of different engineers to complete our bridges” added Jad Baraki. On the other hand, some students stayed up nights to complete their bridges, Firas Malaeb said “It took us a lot of overnights and hardwork to complete our tasks, however when you look at the bridge and you find it complete you forget about all the work and overnights behind it. It was worth it!”.

On the 21st of November, all groups brought their bridges, the result of their hard work, to Bechtel 108 where they gathered to see how many pounds their bridges will carry. The weights varied from 6 to 60.1 pounds. Although some bridges didn’t support a lot of weights, the group members were deeply pleased with their work. Farah Assaad commented “I got to meet new people and had a lot of fun, and I can’t describe the satisfaction our 10KG bridge brought to us.” Nevertheless, some students weren’t satisfied “The judgement is wrong, our bridge only fell but didn’t break, it’s really unfair, I’m angry right now!” bursts out Alaa Hayek. In addition to this, the competition was full of surprises and unexpected situations, like the story of Ellen Francis. Ellen left her bridge in the parking where the valet managed to sit and break it, thus she had to re-do all the work and finish the task in only 2 days, Ellen stated “What happened to me is really funny, I don’t know how I’m going to manage to complete the task in 2 days; why does these stuff always happen to me!”

Dr. Elie Awwad, the instructor of the course, summarized the competition stating “This yearly contest has for objective to teach the students about working together, and organizing themselves.” And that, it did, Ruba Rizk indeed said “It was a good challenge, we learned a lot although we are still at the beginning, we became more dependent on ourselves and on our common knowledge.”
Unlike their 1st and 2nd year summer terms, the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) students are not required to spend their 3rd year Summer term conducting surveys or running from class to class under the blazing sun. On the contrary, they are required to do something much more interesting: explore the working world.

As per the student manual, all Civil Engineering students are supposed to pursue a formal internship in any local or international company in their 3rd year summer term. This, however, has not prevented several motivated students from pursuing an additional, early internship during the summer term of their 2nd year, what I will call a “pre-internship.” Though the reasons may vary, the objective is the same, a thirst for experience.

Apart from the annual CES summer camp and the several lab activities done, very minimal hands-on experience opportunities are available for the CEE students. They learn about different construction materials and procedures yet rarely have the chance to spend a day in a construction site to watch these procedures being performed in front of them. “My second year internship really helped me better understand the material taught in the 3rd year courses, especially those dealing with design and structures,” claims Abkar Abkarian, a current 3rd year CEE student who performed two internships in his last summer, “I actually walked on steel and felt it which helped me better understand how it works and its relationship with concrete.”

In addition to its academic benefits, the pre-internship is a very good addition to the students’ personal CVs. Many companies admire students with previous hands-on experience and gladly select them for their internship programs. The pre-internship, however, comes with several disadvantages as well. Even though the summer term courses are usually few, they are intensive and thus require more work and concentration. An internship along with summer courses may therefore prove to be hectic and very time-consuming for some students. Several students even postpone some of their courses till the coming fall and spring terms in an aim to dedicate their concentration to their pre-internships.

In conclusion, there is no denying that the pre-internship is a quite beneficial experience yet it comes with many costs. More hands-on experience should be provided as part of the CEE courses so that students would be benefitting from them and still dedicating all their time to their studies. Though such an idea may be far-fetched at the moment, the CES (Civil Engineering Society) is currently working on a more feasible project which supplements courses with technical experience. Hopefully, the importance of such a program would begin to manifest itself and all CEE students will get a chance to enrich their CVs with several different technical experiences provided to them by their society and department without any extra effort.

“With that said, it is now confirmed that nothing about the issue is for sure and the rumor is only an idea; an idea that will only be implemented in the long run and may cause several changes to the curriculum as a whole.”

Carine Choubassi
The Pre-internship: A New Trend?

A New CIVE 450?

“They said that CIVE 450 will be divided into two courses next year,” is a word that was quickly spreading among CEE students, and especially during registration period. The question is, however, who are ‘they’? Many CEE students are found to be postponing their CIVE 450 course (also known as “Water and Wastewater Treatment and Lab”) until future semesters in the hope that the rumor is true. An inquiry about this issue had to be made.

“The idea has been proposed,” confirms Dr. George Ayoub, the current professor of the CIVE 450 course, “Internationally, the course is given as two parts: Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment”. Dr. Ayoub made sure to emphasize on the fact that this proposition is still only an idea that is not expected to be implemented anytime soon. “The main reason for proposing this idea is that the subject is constantly expanding, especially issues concerning motor supply and sewerage,” continues Dr. Ayoub, “The material is already condensed and so it will be very hard to add all the developments in the field to the current CIVE 450 syllabus”.

When asked if students should postpone the course for later Dr. Ayoub immediately refuted the idea claiming that such decisions are still too early. “The decision is not in the hands of one professor or two,” adds Dr. Lucy Semerjian, the current lab instructor of CIVE 450, “such decisions involve a lot of individuals and thus the process might take some time.” Dr. Semerjian also mentioned that dividing the course into more than one may affect the number of credits related to the course and may even create additional credits.

With that said, it is now confirmed that nothing about the issue is for sure and the rumor is only an idea; an idea that will only be implemented in the long run and may cause several changes to the curriculum as a whole.

Carine Choubassi
A New CIVE 450?
CIVIL NEWS: Greener Than Ever

As mentioned in the editorial, this issue (Issue no. 10) is, for the first time, printed on recycled paper! This idea was brought up by News Executive Rayane Zahreddine during summer. Very often, our department is called “The Civil Engineering Department,” but the first ‘E’ in CEE is there for a reason. It actually stands for ‘Environmental’ and should not be forgotten or neglected. This means that one of our duties is to protect the environment. This is why Rayane’s idea seemed interesting to all the team and we decided to take the next step. Printing Manager, Ghida Ismail, investigated the feasibility of the idea by discussing it with printing centers to finally execute it perfectly with the approval of the department. So this paper you’re holding (unless you’re behind your screen and reading a soft copy) is a purely recycled paper and has not caused any harm to any tree. You may read the rest of the pages with a guilt-free conscience!

On another note, the new positions of the CIVIL NEWS team are the following:

**Distribution Manager:** Responsible for distributing the printed issues to the professors and students so that they can reach the biggest number of people.

**Printing Manager:** Responsible for dealing with the printing center to make sure that the issues will be printed and ready to be distributed on time.

**News Executives:** Senior and distinguished staff writers who take part of the editing process, which is important due to the fact that issues are becoming bigger and require more editing.

**Photo Editor:** Responsible for providing and selecting photos of covered events.

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Did You Know??

1- The word «engineer» comes from the Latin word «ingenum» meaning cleverness or ingenious.

2- Golf balls have dimples because they reduce «drag», which allows the ball to fly further than a smooth ball would.

3- The ICE (Institute of Civil Engineers) was founded in a coffee shop in London by eight young civil engineers, the youngest was 19.

4- The slippery part of the water slide was created by a civil engineer who designed the water slide taking into account the pumping system, weight of people, and even the wind forces.

5- The tallest wind turbine in the world has rotor tips over 200meters (656feet) above the ground.

6- Pi’s first 50 decimals are the following: 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510

7- What comes after a million, billion and trillion? Why a quadrillion, quintillion, sextillion, septillion, octillion and nonillion of course.

8- Because of differences in gravity, a 100kg (220 pound) person would only weigh 38kg (84 pounds) on Mars. Try measuring your weight.

9- An engineer can have a doctor’s title (Dr.) while doctors can never have our title (Ir.) in front of their name.
Opinions about Humanities and Social Sciences

Zahwa Al Ayyash:

**PSYCH 202 (General Psychology):** The most interesting social science I’ve taken.

**ECON 211 (Microeconomics):** Easy and simple applied mathematics.

**ECON 212 (Macroeconomics):** Easy and simple applied mathematics.

**CVSP 201 (Ancient Near East):** Required concentration, hard work and time (papers, lots of readings, research, etc. ...). Despite this, I plan to continue with the series of CVSP courses and take the rest of the sequence because I think it’s basic info, everyone should know.

Amal Khawaja:

**PSYCH 202:** Interesting, and you can relate it to your daily life. Mainly about general human psychology, but needs thorough reading of quite lengthy chapters.

**EDUC 215 (Learning & Human Development):** A simplified version of PSYCH 202.

**FAAH 227B (Early Islam Art. & Arch):** Seems to be quite interesting and has some nice readings about Islamic architecture. Enjoyable course for someone with interest in art and architecture of mosques and the like.

Yasmin Fansa:

**SOAN 214 (Arab Culture and Identity):** Interesting if you don’t mind listening to debates on the contemporary world. The class basically talks about the different issues of the Arab world, and the way in which the Middle East is perceived by the West. It will change the whole way you view Arab society. Although there are many readings for this class, they can be ignored if you attend class and take notes.

**SOAN 238A (Special Topic):** Identity and Space in American Cities. Always look for one of the special topics AUB’s offering every semester. They’re usually taught by visiting professors, who are very casual, and take matters into their own hands. The classes are small, sometimes even ten students. So deadlines are lenient, and you develop personal relationships with your teachers. Identity and Space in American Cities was an example of such a class. Even though the topic was extremely dull, the material was easily learnt. The only form of assessment we had all semester was three essays.

**FAAH 245 (Music Appreciation):** One of the easiest classes I’ve taken during my four years at AUB. All you need to do is memorize a few facts about different periods of music history, and you’re all set for the mid-term and final. Although attendance is a must, it won’t be a class you dread. You just need to attend class, listen to the most chilled-out professor, and listen to classical music. I don’t think you can find a better escape from all the hardcore, mind-frying engineering courses.

Taher Farshoukh:

**SOAN 201 (Introduction to Sociology):** Lovely course with medium requirement of studying.

**EDUC 230 (Instructional Procedures):** Easy and trivial course, best social science so far.

**ECON 212:** Easy, but needs studying.

**PHIL 210 (Ethics):** Very interesting, enjoyed it a lot.

Maha Mrad:

**PSYCH 202:** Very interesting course because you learn a lot about human behavior.

**PSPA 256 (Politics in Lebanon):** It discusses the history of Lebanon since Mamalik until 2005. After taking this course, you will be able to understand what is really happening in Lebanon, as well as understand politicians and their decisions (how arrangements are made among them, and how politics are manifested in a confessional country like Lebanon.)

**ECON 212:** Although it was easy, the topic was not of my interest.

Raed Zaidan:

**EDUC 215:** Very easy, mostly readings from the book and a couple of papers to do.

**PSPA 201 (Intro to Political Science):** Mostly reading, but an easy course.

At the end of the day, nothing can be classified as easy or hard. This black and white categorization can be useful and helpful at times, but quite misleading for others. My humble advice is to find out about the course topic and see whether it fits your specific interests. Tastes differ, and what you might find pleasurable and effortless may seem torturous for others. Social Sciences and Humanities are supposed to be fun and enjoyable! Find the ones which suit you!
Sudoku

Try to fill the missing numbers.
Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Math Square

Try to fill the missing numbers.
Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Hidden Message

Strike out all the words from the list then join the first 15 remaining letters to find the hidden message.

Hidden Message

Your feedback, suggestions, comments and contributions are welcome!

Please direct them to:
civilnews@aub.edu.lb

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