HEADLINES

THE SECOND ANNUAL CES SKI TRIP • P. 3
HAPHAZARD URBANIZATION • P. 3
INTERVIEW WITH KAREN KHALAF • P. 4
INTERVIEW WITH RALPH EL HAJJ • P. 5
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY • P. 6
TRANSPORTATION • P. 7
A PREVIEW OF WORLD CUP 2022 STADIA’S • P. 9

THE CES SPRING DINNER • P. 8
RED BULL’S PIT STOP CES EVENT • P. 9
EDITOR'S LETTER

Perhaps the scariest thing for some of us is the thought of what is to come next. For many of us who are graduating soon, the end of our four years is guaranteed to bring you change and surprises. Whether it's a new job, a new degree, a new country, or even living with the fact that you don't know what you want to do...the most important thing is to be satisfied with your decisions and know that everything happens for a reason, and those reasons will soon enough be clear to you.

On a more personal note, I would just like to express how truly happy I am with the last four years I have spent in AUB and at our CEE department. It has been blissful and fulfilling, and I couldn't have pulled through without the support of all the professors and my dearest friends. The CES has been a great opportunity to allow me to be an active student, engaged with other students and staff and I hope this encourages many of you to join or simply partake in the continuous events we bring to you.

Our Spring semester has yet again been filled with exciting seminars, trips and dinners, of course organized by our own CES. The Annual Ski Trip and Annual Spring Dinner are just two of many occasions that were not to be missed. New additions to our Newsletter are student profiles to give our readers an insight on students who are active in AUB outside the academic world. Interesting pictures and games are included, as always, for your entertainment. Happy reading!

-- Kristina Stephan

CEE ALUMNUS LETTER

During my first year in AUB in 1992, I joined the Physics Department (Faculty of Science), and transferred to the Engineering Department in the next year where I started Civil and Environmental Engineering Major (CEE). I got my bachelor in CEE in 1997 (with Distinction) and joined the Lebanese Order of Engineers.

Just after my graduation in 1997, I joined D.G. Jones & Partners (DGJ&P) who are International Construction Consultants, Chartered Quantity Surveyors, and Project Managers that have offices all over the world. I was introduced to this Company through Professor Bilal Hamad.

In my undergraduate studies, I used to enjoy Engineering Management courses which were given mainly by Professor Assem Abdul Malak who encouraged me to join the Engineering Management Masters Program; and so I did and completed my MEM successfully in 2000. During my Master studies, I was working full time in DGJ&P and I got married to my wife (Dania Nassar) whom I met in AUB. Currently we have three lovely kids. My wife also got her BBA and MBA degrees from AUB.

I can never forget my enjoyable days in AUB: Library study and discipline, West Hall gatherings, Green Oval guitars, Green Field leisure and sports, AUB Beach during summer days, dormitory nights and playing cards, and many other activities; and of course, "Abu Naji" who was running the shop facing the Main Gate and "Afran Al Wataniyah" on Bliss Street.

Construction Law interested me and after finishing my MEM, I decided to continue by correspondence other post-graduate diplomas related to this domain while working with DGJ&P. In 2002, I joined the College of Estate Management (England) for four years from which I achieved the Postgraduate Diploma in Arbitration (DipArb) and the Postgraduate Certificate in Adjudication (PGCertAdj). My career with DGJ&P began in 1997 where I started working in the main office in Beirut. About six years ago I became a partner and an associate director in DGJ&P. I started working in this position in the Beirut Office and was responsible for its management in coordination with the Director of Lebanon.

After the war on Lebanon in mid 2006, I relocated with DGJ&P to work in Jordan – Aqaba. My work in Aqaba is mostly involved in the Saraya Aqaba Project, a major high profile leisure project, in which I head DGJ&P’s team acting as the Cost Consultants/Contract Administrators for the design and build contractor Saudi Oger. In early 2007, DGJ&P decided to open an office in Aqaba to which I was appointed a director / country manager as well as continuing my commitments on the Saraya Aqaba Project; and I am still in this position to date. My future plans are handling other areas/offices in the region as well as opening my own business which surely will be related to engineering management.

My studies have proved a valuable asset in my work. Engineering Management Masters teaches management skills. The Arbitration Diploma also aids contract administration by ensuring that correct decisions are made. My latest achievement is joining AACE International in 2010 and currently I am a Certified Cost Engineer (CCE).

Finally, my advice to future CEE graduates in particular and AUB graduates in general: BE PROUD THAT YOU ARE AUB GRADUATES SINCE WHEREVER YOU GO AND WHEREVER YOU WORK, YOU WILL MAKE DIFFERENCE AND YOU WILL PROVE TO BE PIONEERS.

-- Ahmed Hariry

AUB CE, Class of 1997
An Environmental Seminar organized by the CES and with the help of Dr. Manal Moussallem, entitled ‘Haphazard Urbanization in Lebanon’, took place on Thursday, 17th March, 2011 at the ELH from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. The lecture hall was almost full, with students and professors attending to listen to two AUB alumni speakers Mr. Karim El Jisr and Mr. Nakhle Hachem.

Mr. El Jisr graduated from AUB in 1997 with a Bachelor in Agriculture followed by a Master degree in Environment in 1999. He is currently the director of ECODIT in Lebanon and the Middle East and has participated in over 50 projects related to solid waste, water and wastewater management, protected areas, responsible tourism, and environmental reporting. He served as deputy manager on the USAID-funded Lebanon Mountain Trail Association. It is this project that led Mr. Karim to recognize that urbanization is the most critical environmental threat facing Lebanon for generations to come.

The theme of Mr. Karim’s presentation was the lost landscape and the quality of life in Lebanon due to construction and saturation of buildings in urban areas. Only 16% of Lebanon’s territory is properly planned in an “Urban Master Plan” and by the year 2030 we would have “lost” 250 to 750 km2 of natural land to construction. The idea of sustainable development was introduced in the “Urban Planning Law” in 1993 which was a major milestone legislation. Environmental impacts of construction include excavation generation, construction materials and water, water supply from networks and wells...which should all be mitigated in favor of the environment.

The second part of the lecture by Mr. Hachem covered quarrying in Lebanon. He is also an AUB graduate. He received his B.E in CEE in 1987 and has been elected as a member of the International Council of the AUB Alumni Association. Currently, he serves as General Manager of HAS, an Engineering and Consulting firm.

Mr. Hachem explained how urbanization leads to an increase in the demand for materials. Many times this is done illegally, but whatever the case the negative impacts are harmful to our environment including destruction to the landscape (visual impact), impacts to the water where residues are disposed in the sea, and dust and noise in the air. Four of the challenges he discussed included control of the following topics: working outside a licensed location, using up all the quarrying amount your Nation Council for Quarries license permits you to before expiration of the license, exceeding the maximum allowed elevations and working on your own land as well as the land of others nearby but obstructing the road connecting the sites to hide this.

Overall, clear to all of us the increase in the number of violations on most sites in Lebanon was made, as well as the steps needed to prevent them. For example the Ministry of Environment can decide to refuse renewal permits for quarrying.

Left with a strong impression that a lot needs to be done to help Lebanon move towards sustainable development, the students were eager to ask many questions, which generated a discussion even with our very own professors. Refreshments were served at the end of the seminar, to bring it to a pleasant end.

This year the Civil Engineering Society (CES) organized its annual ski trip on the 7th and 8th of February in Faraya’s Mount Smash Hotel. This year’s event included students from different majors and universities, as the CES maintained its reputation as a uniting society. The students enjoyed each other’s company as they spent an amusing time dining at Erzaal restaurant, prompting members of nearby ski trips to join in on the fun. They then headed back to the hotel to enjoy an exclusive stand-up comedy show by Nemr Abou Nassar, who said after he was done: “You guys were great, the atmosphere was wonderful, and I hope that you continue planning such events that enhance university student life and promote unity free of politics and religion.” Nemr then chose to spend some time with the students as he listened to other people’s jokes. A party followed the comedy show, as the attendees spent the next few hours dancing. They then gathered altogether in a friendly atmosphere and started singing songs of their own before heading to bed. They woke up the next morning, had breakfast at the hotel, then headed directly to the slopes and enjoyed a whole day of skiing. Marwan Sarieddine, CES Public Relations Officer, described the event as: “A great event that united students from different faculties and universities and it ended with smiles on everyone’s faces.”

Due to the huge success of this year’s event, the CES will definitely continue its tradition of organizing their annual ski trip next year.
Why did you choose AUB for a semester abroad?
I chose AUB because I had wanted to come here for my undergraduate years since the beginning but I ended up opting for CMU last minute. I have been coming back three times a year since and have enjoyed my time here so much that I decided to spend my semester abroad here.

What courses are you taking this semester? Which one did you like the most? Why?
I’m taking a technical elective, CIVE 581 (Specifications and Cost Estimation), two advanced economics electives, ECON 240 and 296C-1, PHYS 211 and 211L, and ENGL 206. So far, I’ve enjoyed my CEE class the most because the professor (Dr. Abdul-Malak) is very enjoyable which makes the class interesting to follow.

Are you taking any course that requires working in groups for projects? If yes, how is the experience of working in a group at AUB different than your university?
Yes, I am. I have to work in a group of four for my technical English class. Working in groups in AUB has been different than CMU in terms of commitment to specific deadlines and meeting times. Although the commitment to the project is similar, we have stricter deadline there.

Was it easy for you to get registered? Or you had to run from a building to another to open capacities?
Umm (giggle), it was actually not easy at all for me to register seeing as I was getting registered as a “Visiting Student in FAS” and wanted to take courses outside of FAS. Also, the courses I had taken in CMU were not considered equivalent by the system. Thankfully, everything worked out in the end.

How did you find the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering? What do you like the most and the least in comparison to your school?
I love it. Maybe it’s because I enjoy the CEE class so much but I feel like the interactions between professors and students is less formal than I’m used to which makes the relationship more comfortable and friendly.

Did you meet the Chairman, Dr. Sadek, and did you talk to Zakeeya?
I haven’t met the Chairman (although I’ve heard a lot of great things about him) but I have met Zakeeya. She was extremely helpful in getting me registered for the CEE class.

Did you try to study at Jafet or at the Engineering library? If yes, how was it?
I’ve studied at Jafet library. I liked it because it seems like its both a place for serious studying and running into people you know.

Are you thinking of doing another semester at AUB?
I wish I could! But it was already challenging for me to be able to fit this semester abroad in my schedule and still graduate on time.

What did you appreciate the most at AUB?
What I’ve loved the most about AUB is the atmosphere of the campus and the ease for me to have felt comfortable instantly. Also, I love that I could get a very good education while still having enough time to enjoy myself pretty often – something I wasn’t really used to in CMU.

What do you have at Carnegie Mellon that AUB doesn’t have and could benefit from (with respect to the CEE Department)?
The most significant plus is undergraduate research based on advanced topics. In our CEE, there are many opportunities for undergraduate students to work with professors and professionals in many fields related to civil engineering, including renewable energy, nanotechnology, etc.

Did you originally apply to AUB for your undergraduate education? Why did you pick Carnegie Mellon instead?
Yes, I was extremely close to going to AUB but I ended up choosing Carnegie Mellon for many different reasons. Most importantly, I wanted to learn to live independently even though that meant that I would be away from my family and friends. The idea of a new life, seeing new places, and meeting new people sounded like a great opportunity for me. Also, I knew that going to CMU would challenge me educationally seeing as I would have a lot less distractions and would end up giving me and advantage for both graduate school and a full time position.

Finally, do you have a newsletter for your department? If yes, is it put together and edited by the students?
We do have a newsletter published per semester, however the secretary writes it. It is also more ‘professor-and-research’ oriented than student-oriented.
Interview with Ralph El Hajj by Kristina Stephan

Ralph El Hajj is one of our 4th year CEE students. He is currently Red Bull’s Student Branch Manager (SBM) at AUB. Read on to find out what he does as an SBM and the events he plans, many in collaboration with our CES!

What is your exact job title and description?
I am AUB’s Red Bull SBM (Student Brand Manager). My main role is to support the student community at AUB from the whole brand perspective, whether by added value or financial. I also have a role of ensuring that Red Bull is present at all AUB major events (Outdoors, Job fair…). As for outside AUB, SBM are part of the Red Bull Society which are in charge of participating in the organization of all Red Bull events that take place in Lebanon (Red Bull Car Park Drift, Red Bull Music Academy…)

How long have you been AUB’s SBM and how were you elected? Were there any SBM’s before you?
I’ve been AUB’s SBM since Fall ’09 and there were two before me. Anyone can be assigned to this position by going through all the usual recruitment steps (C.V. submittal, interviews…) and after being assigned you will go through a three months probation period in which you will be tested on several tasks.

What is Red Bull’s aim in appointing an SBM and how does it benefit the students?
When appointing an SBM, Red Bull will have someone on the inside who will be aware of all the events taking place on campus and will be in direct contact with the clubs’ and societies’ presidents. It provides the students with an opportunity to get sponsorship for their events and help with professionally organizing them.

Are you able to balance working with studying easily?
SBM is a part-time undergraduate job, which doesn’t take up a lot of your time. It is an experience for me that I hope to gain from in a development perspective.

What events have you created or planned at AUB?
This year we got our first approval for a Red Bull Event, the Red Bull Pit Stop Event, which took place on March 7. This was the beginning of a very promising future. A new event for the Spring semester is the Red Graphic Bull. We occasionally sponsor events such as CES Happy Hour.

Are these events in collaboration with other clubs, societies…(ex: CES)? How are these approved?
In AUB, it is essential that for any event to happen, it has to be organized by the students. Being a CEE student with good relations with the CES cabinet, I find it easy to collaborate with them to make any event work in the way we conceive it. The Students Affairs Office approves these.

Are there other students who help you plan these events?
In planning any Red Bull event, a certain amount of research and training is offered by the company in order to make it a success. Most events are prepared with the collaboration of a specialist, so when the event is to be implemented, most of the hard work is done in advance. The details are then discussed with the societies or clubs in order to give the event a certain identity.

Is your work limited to AUB or do you work on events in collaboration with other universities? Examples of events…
An SBM work isn’t limited to his university. As mentioned earlier SBMs are active people in the world of Red Bull. I’ve contributed to many events in other universities (Red Bull Gravity Challenge in USJ, LAU, NDU).

What will happen when you graduate this year? Is someone being trained to replace you?
Being a SBM in an undergraduate position, I am in charge and in the process of finding a successor who will have the motivation and the skills needed for this job.

How has being Red Bull’s SBM for these years helped you with your plan for after you graduate?
Being an SBM exposed me to lot of different situations, experiences and events, in which I met some key people, which could be of great help for me in my future plans.
What is your favorite memory of AUB?
My favorite memory of AUB would be the great time I spent and the great experience I gained while being a CES Cabinet Member. In addition, I really enjoyed the CES Summer Camp 2010 during which I spent one of my unforgettable 9 days of joy, happiness, and collaboration among peers, simple life and site experience.

What’s your next plan?
This is the only question that is confusing me right now. I don’t know if I will continue my masters at AUB and work in a local contracting company or on the other hand go work abroad with a company of a good reputation in order to gain a fruitful experience.
**What is your favorite memory of AUB?**

My best moments are those that involve my friends, mostly at lunches, anytime we are gathered altogether.

**What’s your next plan?**

I am moving abroad in July to start a job in a contracting company to apply what I’ve learnt in the last four years.

---

**What is your favorite memory of AUB?**

I have so many to choose from. I mostly enjoyed spending time with my friends and studying in groups.

**What’s your next plan?**

I am torn between a Master in Earthquake design at Imperial College of London or working somewhere in Europe. I should decide by July.

---

**What is your favorite memory of AUB?**

My favorite memory at AUB was spending my evenings hanging around campus, especially during my first year. We used to enjoy ourselves so much, with few worries and we made the most out of the campus experience.

**What’s your next plan?**

I’m going to pursue my Master degree in Transportation Engineering for the next year at Imperial College London. I then seek to continue a career in the field but my long-term plans are not set.
The CES Spring Dinner

The CES organized its annual Spring Dinner before the end of the Spring classes ends and the start of final exams. The dinner took place on Saturday, April 30, at the El Fornayo Restaurant, Safir Hotel in Raouche. This annual Spring Dinner has become a CEE Department tradition. It is interesting to note that the CES is the only society in AUB that organizes such a dinner, at this time of the year.

Guests started arriving at around 8:30PM and were seated according to the seating plan. The attendees consisted mainly of CEE students from the four years. Students from the other Engineering departments also attended. Dr. Salah Sadek and Dr. Mounir Mabsout took part in the occasion, representing the faculty members who could not make it. The total number of guests who attended was around 80.

Once everybody was seated, the guests enjoyed a refined Italian dinner starting with various salads as appetizers, followed by different kinds of pizzas and pastas. A cake was then cut to celebrate the occasion and everybody was served dessert. Afterwards, it was time for the special surprise that the CES had prepared. Indeed, the event was sponsored by Swatch, so a free Swatch Watch was going to be offered to the winner of the draw according to the tickets’ numbers. “Unlucky” number 13 turned out to be lucky one this time and Essa Saab, 3rd year CEE, won the draw holding the ticket number 113. The winner said, “I would simply like to thank the CES for the watch, but mainly for this pleasant dinner!”

Finally, the moment everybody was waiting for arrived: the dancing. The students filled the dance floor and started showing great skills. Under a relaxed and joyful atmosphere, a group of them performed all types of dabbké presenting a very impressive show, getting some of the waiters to join in! There were also dances to Western beats as the DJ played diverse tunes.

Carine Choubassi, 2nd year CEE and one of the attendees of the event, stated, “I think that the event was a great success. I was glad I got the opportunity, through this dinner, to see the friends I’m used to see in class outside that context for a change.”

Christopher Sassine, 2nd year CEE and CES Secretary said, “It’s pleasing to see all those Civil and Construction Engineering students gathered in one place other than AUB. Thank God, the success of the event surpassed our expectations and we promise to keep organizing such events to keep the CEE students gathered in this same spirit!”
RED BULL’S Pit Stop CES Event

If you were passing by West Hall and the cafeteria on the March 7th 2011 between 12:00 and 2:00 pm, you would have seen students gathering around a Formula 1 car in an attempt to change the wheels!

The event was organized by students and is done all over the world. The Formula 1 car used was a real Formula 1 car that was used earlier by the two Red Bull Formula 1 team’s drivers. In fact, this event was fully financed by the Red Bull Company. Ralph El Hajj, a fourth year AUB CEE student works as a part timer at Red Bull and helped the CES put everything together. The preparation took around three months, since the car was on a world tour and needed to be booked for Lebanon. Furthermore, this worldwide event should follow the same setup done in all universities.

“In some other Lebanese universities we see some similar events taking place on a weekly basis, but in AUB it is rare to have events during the day when classes are being held, so this is why all the events are related to certain societies and this is why I wanted the AUB community to experience something new that could be of interest to a big part of students” said Ralph El Hajj. The CES help was remarkable and contributed to the success of the event; 21 teams made of two students each participated in the event. Using the pit stop kit, each team had to change the Formula 1 car’s wheel by recording the fastest time. The winners were two mechanical engineering students, Kamal Hamadeh and Sasha Karim, and were offered a voucher from Sport Expert.

This first Red Bull and CES event was a real success. Many more interesting events will be organized next year! As for this year, a second event concerning all Engineering students will take place. Waiting to see you all there!

A Preview of World Cup 2022 Stadia’s – Qatar by Weam Al-Awar

**Education City Stadium**
Capacity: 45,350 seats
Permanent lower tier: 25,000 seats
This stadium glitters during the day and glows during the night, resembling a jagged diamond. It will be located in Education City, an area full of university campuses. It is also characterized by its proximity to Bahrain.

**Lusail Iconic Stadium**
Capacity: 86,250 seats
This stadium will host the opening and final matches of the World Cup. It is the largest of all twelve stadiums and is surrounded by water and its architecture is inspired from the sail of the dhow boat.

**Khalifa International Stadium**
Current Capacity: 50,000 seats
Expanded to: 68,030 seats
Located within Aspire Zone sports complex amidst the Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence, ASPETAR Sports Medicine Hospital and many other venues, this stadium has sweeping arcs and partially covered stands, and was redesigned after Qatar’s successful hosting of the 2006 Asian Games. It is the second largest.

**Information retrieved from: www.stadiums.qatar.com**
For your entertainment

Word Search
Spot CEE Professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s o k y k e d a s f d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n s d a a a l s h y i s j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s b a n c t t m l s h d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d e u z a e i s j e s i m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r s m o u s s a l l e m u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j r a k y k r k e z l y e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j a d a m a h d u s g a k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b n k s h a a o u a n h l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d a a t t f b y u o i b a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o j h i l a a s e r y e a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a j b e s k m s o k y u d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m a e h h h l a s u a c i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m r a e a c a a a a t z z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brains
Fill in the blanks

A

B

C

D

E

Sudoku

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>9</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maze
Replace the question mark

134711
45914
527916
831157
63912

Missplaced
Which number is the odd one out?

134711
45914
527916
831157
63912

**Word Search Resource:** http://www.armoredpenguin.com

**Sudoku Reference:** http://www.printsudoku.com/print-sudoku-2113.html
**ENGINEERING vs. MANAGEMENT JOKES**

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, “Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don’t know where I am.”

The woman below replied, “You’re in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You’re between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude. You must be an Engineer,” said the balloonist. “I am,” replied the woman. “How did you know?”

“Well,” answered the balloonist, “everything you told me is technically correct, but I’ve no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I’m still lost. Frankly, you’ve not been much help at all. If anything, you’ve delayed my trip.”

The woman below responded, “You must be in Management.” “I am,” replied the balloonist, “but how did you know?”

“Well,” said the woman, “you don’t know where you are or where you’re going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it’s my fault.”

http://www.mwpersons.com/jokes.html

**“MODERN DAY ENGINEER”**

http://www.socaltrailriders.org/forum/pub/35128-engineer-jokes.html

**TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY JOKE**

In some foreign country a religious man, a lawyer and an engineer are about to be guillotined (beheaded).

The religious man puts his head on the block, they pull the rope and nothing happens -- he declares that he’s been saved by divine intervention-- so he’s let go.

The lawyer is put on the block, and again the rope doesn’t release the blade, he claims he can’t be executed twice for the same crime and he is set free too.

They grab the engineer and shove his head into the guillotine, he looks up at the release mechanism and says, “Wait a minute, I see your problem....”

http://www.cleanjoke.com/humor/Executions.html

***By: Emile Zankou***
We want to hear from you! Send us your news (recent publications, honors, promotions…) with photos to: civilnews@aub.edu.lb

Your feedback, suggestions, comments, and contribution are welcome! Please direct them to: civilnews@aub.edu.lb
CEE Department website: http://webfea.fea.aub.edu.lb/fea/cee
CES email: ces@aub.edu.lb