

# University Preparatory Program NEWSLETTER



Saida Castle

## Saida Trip

**Michella Saliba**

Every year, the University Preparatory Program (UPP) administration organizes a trip for its students. This year we went to Saida. There, we visited several places including the Crusader's Sea Castle, the Soap Museum, the Old Souks and Khan al-Franj. Recapturing a sense of this city's glory and getting the opportunity to visit historical monuments and buildings like palaces, museums, churches and mosques were the basic purposes of this journey.

---

This newsletter was completed with the help and guidance of Dr. Samar Harkouss and Ms. Rima El-Harake, in addition to the contributions of the UPP students.



Saida Castle

At the beginning, we visited the Crusader's Sea Castle. This monument offers a glimpse into the time period of the Phoenicians. The construction of stones and columns reflect the Roman history in our country. This wonderful castle is a unique one on the Mediterranean Sea. While walking inside this great monument, I could identify the beautiful construction of two towers that are connected by a wall. Also, inside the lower part, columns, walls, stairways and the remains of buildings date back to the Crusade period. From the roof, I admired the beauty of the old city and the amazing view of the sea. In addition, I lived the adventure of climbing the stairways to reach the top of this castle and look at the gorgeous scenery.

Moreover, visiting the soap museum was very enjoyable as well. There, a comprehensive tour explained the arts and techniques used to make the soap and the history behind this museum. Also, the items made were from the Turkish bath. Truly, you must visit this place when you are in Saida. My friends and I got a lot of ideas about the traditional soap making-process. Certainly, I enjoyed shopping for soap from the museum gift shop. I saw many beautiful souvenirs including soap shaped like a baby, Lebanese flag, cedars etc. I bought different soap souvenirs for my mother and siblings.

Furthermore, we walked for half an hour in the old souks. There, I could smell and taste our traditional Lebanese coffee and food. Actually, this souk reflects our customs and traditions. Also, people I met there were very kind.

Throughout this trip, I sharpened my knowledge of the Roman and Phoenician histories during their control period in Lebanon. Indeed, it was an amazing trip and a good choice to visit this great old city.



Audi Soap Museum



Heart-shaped soap from the Soap Museum

## LORD OF THE FLIES REFLECTIONS

### Chayma Assaad



Working on a big project is something very hard, but when I work with a group, it becomes easier for me. My friends Samah, Hala, Jihane and I chose an interesting project which is making T-shirts that describe the four most important scenes in *Lord of the Flies*. We read and reread these scenes, and we printed the animated scenes on the four T-shirts in chronological order. Also, we put the most important symbol of the story, which is the conch, with the most repetitive and meaningful quote in the novel - "maybe there is a beast, maybe it is only us..." Then, we divided the summary of the story between us according to the scene printed on our T-shirts. Also, our friend Jihane wrote an amazing poem that reflects the tragedy of the end of the friendship between two of the boys in the novel: Ralph and Piggy. The presentation of this project went very well. I enjoyed working with this group so much because we all worked with each other to create a great project. Also, we appeared very prepared and organized while presenting. I think teamwork is very useful although I wasn't accustomed to working in groups. I enjoyed this project because it made us practice how to be creative.

### Abir Hajj Houssein

*Lord of the Flies* is the first English novel I read from beginning to end. It was difficult because I wasn't used to reading such complicated books. Chapter after chapter, the novel became more interesting. It was about a conflict between civilization and savagery. When we finished reading the novel, we had to do a project to understand and analyze the concept of the novel. All the class worked as a team. We needed to create a special idea, so we decided to direct a song with a video about the story. First, I didn't enjoy this project a lot because I felt it needed a long time and hard work. However, all that changed when the entire class started working as one. The video was made by using a lot of pictures we drew. Making storyboards, drawing pictures and coloring them were my mission with four others. They made me tired and we spent a lot of time to achieve them. The storyboards should include all details of the characters and scenes, such as colors, gestures, and feelings. I drew all the pictures with my friend. It was hard because we needed to take care of all details, lines and forms. When it came to coloring, it was the most difficult because we had to choose the convenient color. Really, this work was fatiguing, but it was amazing. Working as one team was a special experience, especially when we shared and discussed our ideas. Although we had some differences in opinion, we tried to agree on the best ideas. I learned many skills in this project, such as team working and enjoying the challenge. In conclusion, despite the project's difficulty, it was helpful. I learned how to deal with the team members.

## Shaza El Fakih



*Lord of the Flies* is the first novel that we read this semester. When we finished the reading of this novel and the discussion of each chapter, the teacher asked us to prepare a final project which describes a part from the novel. The class was divided into several groups, and each group was going to do a different project.

My group and I decided to prepare t-shirts that present the pictures of the characters of the novel and a shell like the conch that the boys used during their adventures. In addition, we decided to talk about the personality of each character. Therefore, each member of the group took a character from the novel, wore the t-shirt which represented him, and talked about that character's personality.

We presented the project in front of the audience like an assembly between the boys, and this project included some important scenes from the novel. During the preparation of this project, we didn't find difficulties in achieving our work because everyone in the group worked on a part of the project. For example, someone prepared the t-shirts, someone collected the shells for the conch, and the others organized the information we would be using during the presentation.

Finally, my group and I can say that this work has taught us that team work is easier than individual work, and that this project promoted the novel and has made it more important and more interesting for us.

## Michella Saliba



After reading the whole novel *Lord of the Flies*, Diamant, Kinda and I decided to create a T-shirt (project) that could be sold as a book promotion for the novel. We started to organize our information and finally we came up with three essential ideas.

We included smoke, the ship and two faces (Ralph and Jack) with a quote between them. I chose the face drawings because they represent the two major characters in the novel. I painted them using different colors, and then I posed both faces in distinctive positions to show the differences in behaviors, manners of thinking and leadership styles between Ralph and Jack. The beige color on Ralph's face reflects the good characteristics of this boy.

However, the red color on Jack's face portrays his aggression. Also, I drew Jack's face in a position that shows his arrogance because he always looks beneath his nose at Ralph in the story chapters. In addition, I selected a feather on Ralph's brain because it shows his realism, intelligence and good leadership skills.

In conclusion, this story and project have helped me a lot to recognize different types of people. Some are peaceful; others are violent. While reading the novel, I got many lessons about civilization and realism. Thus, I advise all UPP students to read it and make the T-shirt project.

# DIAMANTE POEMS

---

## Day and Night

Ali Masri

Day  
Sunny, Happy  
Playing, Hunting, Fighting  
Up on the mountain, down on the beach  
Sleeping, Eating, Killing  
Dark, Scary  
Night

## Sea and Fire

Ali Mazloun

Sea  
Peaceful, beautiful  
Eating, living, helping  
Power, angel, devil, power  
Moving, screaming, killing  
Frightening, noisy  
Fire

## Human vs. Beast

Bashar Awada

Human  
Compassionate, considerate  
Giving, earning, treating  
Generosity, motivation, evil, murder  
Taking, forcing, killing  
Hateful, hurtful  
Beast.

## Good vs. Evil

Charbel El Ammoury

Good  
Safe, Helpful  
Giving, Respecting, Working  
Peace, Angels, Demons, War  
Killing, Fighting, Stealing  
Dangerous, hateful  
Evil

## Arrival and Departure

Chaymaa Assaad

Arrival  
Good, respectful  
Discussing, sharing, helping  
Conch, food, hunt, victim  
Hurting, insulting, killing  
Aggressive, rude  
Departure

## Civilization

Diamant Youssef

Civilization  
Idealistic, sensitive  
Working, explaining, helping  
Conch, smoke, spear, meat  
Commanding, hunting, arguing  
Violent, selfish  
Barbarianism

## They

Fatima Abbas

They arrive  
Organized, innocent  
Playing, Exploring, Gathering  
These little boys on the island  
Ruining, Hunting, Killing  
Savage, Violent  
They leave

## Angel and Evil

Jihane Charaf el dine

Angel  
Intelligent, shy  
Eating, crying, dying  
Conch, assembly, meat, conflict  
Hunting, devouring, killing  
Aggressive, strong  
Evil

## Fort vs. Shelter

Mouhamad Al Adraa

Fort  
Strong, Beautiful  
Fighting, Protecting, Eating  
Stones, Bridge, Wood, Palm  
Sleeping, Climbing, Covering  
Weak, Awesome  
Shelter

## Assemblies

Samah Albast

Assemblies  
Civilized, helpful  
Respecting, working, sharing  
Conch, shelters, weapons, victim  
Fighting, hunting, killing  
Aggressive, rude  
Conflicts

## Shelter vs. Fort

Shaza El Fakih

Shelter  
Protected, innocent  
Sleeping, eating, playing  
Littluns, weather, spears, blood  
Killing, hunting, capturing  
Savage, unjust  
Fort

## Lightness vs. Darkness

Zeina Taleb

Lightness  
Free, active  
Playing, searching, eating  
Mountain, beach, fire, shelter  
Sleeping, fearing, hiding  
Horrible, scary  
Darkness

# FOUND POEMS

---

## Personal Legend

**Abir Hajj Houssein**

Personal Legend  
The language of God  
The God of the soul  
The Soul of the world

Like a dream  
Like a desire

Prepares nourishes comforts your spirit

## SIGNS

**By Diamant Youssef**

He had the jacket,  
He had withstood the cold of the dawn.  
He knew that wind:  
People called it the levanter.  
He had taken the form of a stone:  
A white stone and a black stone.  
It is a force that wants you to realize your Personal Legend,  
A teaspoon that holds two drops of oil.  
When you want something  
All the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.

## Maktoub

**Dima Nasser El Dine**

Be yourself. Be a traveler.  
Be a shepherd but never forget your sheep  
Listen to your soul and remember the language of God  
Don't lose hope  
You know everything is written  
Written by the hand of God  
Trust yourself, trust your God  
And live out your dreams  
To find the treasure  
That is written for you

## Never Stop Dreaming!

**Fatima Abbas**

You might dream to find a treasure  
Or even to sell some wool  
Or to be a baker if you find it a pleasure  
Or anything you've had is absolutely full

No one can make it but you  
One day you dreamed of everything  
It's the possibility of having your dreams come true  
That make life interesting

Go through your dream  
By climbing a mountain or crossing a desert  
Just free your thoughts however they seem  
One day an alchemist was a shepherd!

## The World's Greatest Lie

**Hala Baghdadi**

At certain points in our lives  
We lose control of what's happening to us  
Like a dreamer, a traveler, a shepherd  
Lost between his flock and treasure  
He may like to travel  
But he should never forget about his sheep  
He had to choose between something he had become accustomed to  
And something he wanted to have  
Like that, our lives become controlled by fate  
That's the world greatest lie

## The Soul of the World

**Jad Raydan**

The Soul of the World  
 The secret of people's happiness  
 Envy and jealousy  
 The language without words  
 Soul, the great seducer of humans  
 Real blessing  
 Ignored becomes a curse  
 Soul, the language of enthusiasm  
 The reason the Earth is alive  
 The principle that governs all things  
 It is always the positive force  
 It collaborates in human's success  
 It is called the Soul of the World

## Dreaming

**Jihane Charaf El Dine**

His purpose in life was to travel  
 He had wanted to know the world  
 I'd like to see the castles in the towns  
 I'd like to see their land, and see how they live  
 Dreams are the language of God  
 I have had the same dream twice  
 Tell me more about your dream  
 If you come here, you will find a hidden treasure  
 It is a dream in the language of the world  
 I can interpret it, but the interpretation is very difficult  
 I only interpret dreams  
 The desire to live in one place forever.

## Follow Your Dreams

**By Michella Zayne**

You want to realize your dreams  
 It's your mission on earth  
 Try to make your own decisions  
 The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world,  
 And never forget the drops of oil on the spoon  
 Don't forget to follow your Personal Legend  
 You just have to read the omens that God left for you  
 Don't forget the language of omens  
 If you concentrate on the present,

You will be happy  
 And don't forget that  
 Everything in life has its price

## Dreams

**Nour Badran**

Open your eyes  
 Take decisions  
 Nothing's impossible  
 Go on an adventure  
 Short; long  
 Easy; difficult  
 Life; death  
 Doesn't matter  
 Want something  
 All will help  
 Just believe in your goal  
 To achieve your treasure  
 Your soul  
 Your elixir of life  
 Your miracle

## Omens

**By Ranin El Assal**

Omens  
 Like butterflies  
 Like lizards  
 God left them for you  
 Like Urim  
 Like Thummim  
 Will help you  
 Learn to recognize omens  
 Follow them  
 Like the merchant  
 Like the complaining man  
 Everything in life is an omen

## STUDENT PROFILES

### Ali Nahle

Hello!! My name is Ali Nahle. I'm 19 years old. I'll be studying computer science at AUB. First of all, I am from "Deir al Zahrani"; a small town in south Lebanon. I completed my primary education in two schools - "Al Nukhba al Amliya" and "Al Makassed" – before transferring to "Al Sabbah High School" where I received the certificate of my secondary education with a "very good" degree. Up to the end of July 2017, I had decided that I will study engineering at the Lebanese University, but a call from USAID- an organization that provides scholarships to study at AUB- changed all my plans. I took the scholarship to study computer science at AUB, but before beginning studies in my major, I had to enroll for 1 year at the University Preparatory Program because I am French-educated. After finishing this year, I will begin studies for my major. Throughout the year, I have learned a lot of things from my teachers and from the courses that I took. In addition, during this year, I have gained a lot of friends from different cultures and societies that have made my journey more interesting.



### Fatima Abbas

Hello everyone, I am Fatima Abbas and I am 19 years old. I come from a little village in the south of Lebanon on the Lebanese-Palestinian border called Aytaroun. I spent the final three years of school in Bint Jbeil High School where I graduated with a good degree that allowed me to apply for the USAID scholarship program at the American University of Beirut. Now, I am an AUB student. I have spent two semesters at UPP to improve my English language skills. Next semester I will start with my major which is Business. I chose this major because it fits with my abilities and strengths. I like to communicate with people in order to exchange different knowledge and interact with people from various cultures. I like to work within a team especially if there are challenges to overcome. Despite the academic part of my life, I have a hobby; I like to write short articles and passages in Arabic and I have a dream to write my own book in the future. I also like pets, especially cats, since I have one. I believe that nobody can succeed without hard work unless he has the best luck ever; for that reason, the following quote is my motivation: "there is no elevator to success; you have to take the stairs".



### Jad Raydan

We are born to make something different. This is my belief about life, and I want to work on myself to achieve it and make some changes. Greetings everybody. My name is Jad Raydan, and I am 18 years old. I come from a small village called Ain Aata in Rashaya district, West Bekaa. I grew up in a small family of four members: my aunt, my grandmother and older sister. I finished my high school education in Kfair official high school and graduated from there with high distinction in General Science. I will be majoring in Engineering at the American University of Beirut (AUB) after having received a full scholarship from USAID. My hobbies include swimming, football and basketball. Also, I like doing sports and going to the gym. This first year that I spent at the University Preparatory Program (UPP) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) was truly very beneficial and exciting. In addition to improving my English language skills, I was able to do many activities, go on field trips, complete civic engagement activities as well as my everyday special moments. I believe that through hard work, determination and dedication, a person can reach heights beyond his abilities because anything is possible. Thus, my advice to everyone is to keep chasing your dreams; never say "never" and always expect beautiful things.



### Kawsar Muuse

My name is Kawsar A. Muuse. I am one of the international students who was studying in the University Preparatory Program at AUB. I am from Somaliland, a small country which split from Somalia in 1991. This was my first year in Lebanon and the first place I have traveled to in my life. I have 9 siblings and I am the third oldest child in my family. I am a highly motivated individual who is passionate about women's rights and want to bring a change in my country and to the people around me. I am a person who yearns to see the joy of my fellow females, and I want to see them continue their education. Being kind, loyal, and determined are the values I live by. I love traveling and seeing new places, even though I haven't traveled outside Somaliland until this year.



## Maher Salloum

I am Maher Salloum - a young, ambitious man born on August 21, 1999. I come from a small village called "Yaroun" in the south of Lebanon where I used to live with my family. Since I graduated in 2017 from Rmaich Official High School, I have had to start my journey in university life. Fortunately, I got a scholarship in AUB sponsored by the USAID program in Lebanon and now I am a member of the USP family. This scholarship has given me the opportunity to continue my undergraduate studies without facing any financial problems. My major is computer science. I chose this major because I have the passion to work in this field. In addition, it is the field that will dominate the world for the next decade at least, because everything will be related to computers and technology and I'm really interested in robots.



## Mohammed Al-Adlani

I am Mohammed Al-Adlani, a young activist from Sana'a, Yemen. I am an AUB - American University of Beirut - student and majoring in Public Administration. Forgetting the past and living the moment is what I believe in. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I consider this quotation by Nelson Mandela as my inspiration in life. As Robin Sharma said " Dream big, start small, act now". I have a passion to be a leader in my society in order to help underprivileged people. I simply believe in hard work but not in luck. It is very important that every person has a dream or a future goal, otherwise life is meaningless. Some people pursue simpler dreams and would like to be doctors, teachers, pilots, engineers, and so on. Others have no idea what they want to be. I have a big dream. I would like to be a local council member. I am interested in public service. The reason why I made this decision to be a local council member is due to a visit I made to my village in 2011. In September 2011, along with my elder brother, I visited my father's village. The village sits on a mountainous hill in a remote part of Hajjah governorate. It is approximately 3 hours from Hajjah city. The road to the village is unpaved and rugged, and we had to pass through mountains and valleys before we arrived. I woke up in the village to the sound of birds singing. Some people were working in their fields. I went along with my uncle to roam



the fields. Villagers live off crops such as sorghum, wheat, and livestock. They raise goats, sheep, and hens. Life in this village is tranquil and simple. You cannot hear the noise of city. Even the air is very fresh. I enjoyed it very much. However, although it can be pleasant, life is still difficult. Basic services such as education, health care, and water are not sufficient. While roaming, I found a ten-year-old child working in the field. I asked him which grade he was in and was surprised when he replied that he doesn't go to school. He told me that he goes to help his father. Sometimes he takes care of the cattle. I also saw a girl carrying a tank of water on her head. She, along with her peers, go every day to bring water, and they have to travel about 2 kilometers in total. These circumstances saddened me greatly and have made me decide to become a public servant so I can help villages like my father's.

## Nabila Ayoubi

My name is Nabila Ayoubi, and I am a student at the American University of Beirut (AUB) majoring in Computer Science. I chose this major because with it, my imagination is my limit. I was born and raised in Dedde Al-Koura, North Lebanon. After graduating from Dedde Official High School, I was nervous about which university I will join and what will happen with my educational future. Later, thank God, I was accepted at AUB as a USAID Scholarship student. As Michael Imperioli mentions, "My family is my life, and everything else comes second as far as what's important to me." Even though my family isn't big, every member supports the others. When I was accepted at AUB, I was nervous about moving to live in Beirut far away from my family and my village. For the first two months, I didn't like living in Beirut, but my mother came to visit me once a week in order to make me feel comfortable. After finishing the first semester, I got used to university life and I began to enjoy in it. At the university, a new family was born - my new friends. I have spent most of my time with my classmates. We eat and share our food together, and we also study together. They make me happy and they fill my time, so even if I feel sad because I'm far away from my family, they help me and make happy. "The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it." (Hubert H. Humphrey)





## Contact Us

University Preparatory Program  
Reynolds Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Email: [upp@aub.edu.lb](mailto:upp@aub.edu.lb)

AUB Mailing Address in Beirut  
American University of Beirut  
P.O.Box 11-0236  
University Preparatory Program  
Riad El-Solh, Beirut 1107 2020  
Lebanon

Beirut Campus Telephone:  
+961-1-340460/350000 Ext. 3124