

# Microsoft Hackathon 2014



Microsoft Hackathon 2014 for Windows Store and Windows Phone is an application development competition that allowed participants to focus their design and coding capabilities in the hopes of creating a fully functional and market ready application. Students from universities all over Cyprus, including University of Nicosia, Fredrick University, University of Cyprus and Open University of Cyprus, came together to build apps for Windows Phone and Windows 8.1.

This year's event was held in two stages: The first stage, focusing on app development and presentation, was held in November 2013 where the students were given approximately 35 hours to develop their apps. Participants were provided with the resources to build their apps, including a Windows Surface Pro for testing, Visual Studio 2013 Express for coding and a free Windows Store registration code, as well as essential guidance of developer experts and trainers from Microsoft. The second stage can be summarised as determining market success which concluded in March 2014. Successful apps were launched in the Windows markets in January to see how much traction could be developed before March. After

being judged, the winners of Microsoft Hackathon 2014 were announced at the end of March.

At the end of the event, 15 teams had submitted 15 apps for consideration in the Windows Store or Windows Phone Store for one of four categories: Entertainment, Gaming, Social and Sports.

The team from the University of Nicosia placed in the top three with their app **ShoppingTarget** for Windows 8.1. The team was made up of two established professionals, first time competitor Hessian Adnani as the main programmer, and returning once again Pooya Charmarai for research and development.

ShoppingTarget is a simple and useful application for creating shopping list on Windows 8.1 devices. Save your lists for future use or share them with your friends and family so they know what to buy to create the perfect meal or fill up their fridge. Include quantity measures alongside every item so you will know exactly how much to buy.

ShoppingTarget is now available for free on any Windows 8.1 device from the Windows Store.



# Identity

It's a Student Affair  
Issue 24 | Spring 2014

**Published by**  
Student Affairs Department  
University of Nicosia  
46, Makedonitissas Avenue,  
Engomi, P.O. Box 24005,  
1700 Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel.: 22 842150, Fax: 22 592993  
E-mail: efraim.m@unic.ac.cy

**Director of Edition**  
Dr. Emilianos Solomou

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Myria Thrassou

**Managing Editor**  
Maria Efraim

**Graphic Designer**  
Veranika Ramanovich

**Acknowledgements**  
Andreas Kitsios  
Elisa Bosio  
Evi Eftychiou  
Foteini Papadopoulou  
Leyana Daccache  
Maria Stavrou  
Nicholas Orphanides  
Pooya Charmarai

**Proof readers**  
Tea Despot

**Photography**  
Student Affairs Archives  
George Savva

Dr. Emilianos Solomou  
Executive Vice President for Administration



Once again a hectic semester has come to an end, leaving behind memories of new experiences, feelings of joy for objectives fulfilled, and an eagerness for new goals to be set and achieved.

I was pleased to observe that the societies have continued their record of activities. I believe that these activities will provide each and every one of you, with valuable experiences and support in the development of exceptional skills to use in your future career.

Opportunities through the societies provide the means to build up your personality, outlook and know how. I look forward to the future, awaiting for the establishment of new societies which will offer new and even greater opportunities.

The University and I personally, aim to provide you with every possible form of support and ensure to offer a high quality service and standards of operation in order to enhance your development as individuals and as professionals for the years to come.

I hope your studies so far have proven fruitful and that you have done well in your exams.

On behalf of the University we would like to wish you the best of luck for the next academic year. I encourage you to keep fighting to reach the top and do not hesitate, at any point, to follow the path of knowledge leading to prosperity in all aspects of your life.

Sincerely,

Myria Thrassou  
Head, Student Affairs Department



Dear Students,

We are back at the university following the Easter break! I hope you are ready to start revision and excel at your exams! Do not wish for an exam without difficult questions; instead develop your competences which can assist you to solve all those questions!

Your hard work will bring success to you. Believe in yourself and all that you are! Use your talents to change the world, because difficult times are not forever!

“Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” (H. Jackson Brown Jr.)

# ACCOMMODATION OFFICE



For more information  
please contact:  
Charis Tzyrkas  
Accommodation Officer  
University of Nicosia  
Tel.: +357 22 842150/157  
Fax: +357 22 592993  
46, Makedonitissas Avenue  
[www.housing.unic.ac.cy](http://www.housing.unic.ac.cy)

## Content

02 Caring for Others

---

04 Out N' About

---

06 Gearing Up

## STUDENT AFFAIRS



## Saving Lives

Giving blood is one of those little things that despite costing nothing to one's pocket could be worth millions for someone else. Driven by this perception, the Student Affairs Department in cooperation with the Cyprus Blood Establishment and student volunteers of the University organized this year's second blood drive on the 13th of March, 2014.

Giving blood doesn't cause any harm on the contrary, it provides the donor with a warm feeling of blissfulness. Generally, anyone who is in good health, between the ages of 18 and 65 and of an average weight may donate 450ml ± of blood. There are some restrictions as to when healthy individuals are not eligible to donate. A volunteer donor should contact the local blood donating center\* for specific advice or questions regarding the eligibility to donate blood.

Time is crucial in saving an injured person; rushing to give blood only when hearing the siren of an ambulance may already be too late. Thus preemptive blood donation is essential. The adequacy of blood is everyone's responsibility. Blood means life, and the only source is every single one of us, the volunteer blood donors.

Thank you for participating in the blood donation!

\*A blood bank station is located in Nicosia at Egkomi Health Center (tel.22809052-22809048). Blood donations are also conducted at all general hospitals around Cyprus.



# Caring for Others

## Your safety is in our hands!

You have probably seen signs around campus with the logo EH&S Office. Do you know what EH&S stands for? EH&S stands for Environment, Health and Safety. I guess that what we do at this office might not be entirely clear to you. As an office, we deal with multiple aspects of environment, health and safety issues that an institution like a University requires. We deal with confidential issues such as students with disabilities as well as food and water safety. Beyond that, we manage accidents and injuries and we ensure that there are trained first aiders to provide medical assistance whenever necessary. Additionally, we train personnel to safeguard your lives and be ready to act in case of emergency – these are the floor leaders. We also encourage healthy living through our annual anti-smoking campaigns with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health. Overall, we are doing our best to keep you safe on the University premises.

All this sounds good but in what situations will you, as a student, require our support? Let's introduce a couple of scenarios:

### Scenario #1:

When completing your University application you came across a question asking you to declare any disabilities or health problems. At the time you were thinking: "What? No, I do not!!" But if you do have a health problem or any disability, this would be the time to declare it! Nobody should feel embarrassed or ashamed because many of your classmates and fellow students have a form of disability that

you may not even know of. Following the admissions process you are then referred to us-to the EH&S Office. We carefully review each case and do our very best to support you. Following a strictly confidential process, we inform your professors of your disability or health problem and they, in turn, provide you with the assistance and support you need.

### Scenario #2:

As you walk through the University's corridors you come across with a map that reads "Escape Route Map". You wonder what kind of map this is and how it works. Here is the answer. These maps indicate the Emergency Exit Doors, where the firefighting equipment is, and most importantly the route you need to follow in case of evacuation. These maps are on the wall of every floor and building of the University. In case of evacuation, the fire alarm goes off and the floor leaders guide you to the assembly point. The assembly point is a place where people gather when an evacuation situation arises.

Having said that, please note that emergency evacuation drills will be carried out during the academic year. So be prepared! Always follow the instructions of your professor and the floor leader. Do not panic!!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel to send me an email to [stavrou.ma@unic.ac.cy](mailto:stavrou.ma@unic.ac.cy) or come by my office at Central Building, ground floor, Office B4.

# One Billion Rising

UNIC Hosts its First Campus Rising as Part of the Global One Billion Rising Campaign

**One in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. That is, one billion women.**

The University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) and the Cyprus Centre for Intercultural Studies (CCIS), organised the first Campus Rising event, which took place on Thursday, 13th February 2014 in the Millennium Cafeteria at 10:30am and at 4.30pm. The event was organised in support of the global One Billion Rising campaign that encourages women and men everywhere to RISE, RELEASE, and DANCE for justice in order to demand an end to violence against women.

One Billion Rising ([www.onebillionrising.org/](http://www.onebillionrising.org/)) asks communities to gather safely in public spaces and through art, dance, marches, song, spoken word and testimonies speak out against violence against women. On the 14th of February 2014, one billion people in 207 countries rose and danced to demand an end to violence against women and children.

This year, the University of Nicosia organised a Campus Rising where students from the University Dance Programme put on an inspiring and rousing performance to the song "Break the Chain" in the Millennium Cafeteria. The event was supported by Student Affairs and members of the Volunteer Club.

Students, faculty and staff gathered to watch the performance and learn more about the campaign. Useful information regarding the University Sexual Harassment Policy was circulated in English and Greek, as well as contact details for various organisations and services that can provide support to anyone in need.



## Gastronomia 2014 Culinary Competition Awards

The students of Culinary Arts participated in a competition "Gastronomia 2014" which took place between the 14th and 17th February. This competition was a college level one but the students of Intercollege managed to receive numerous awards.

Below are the awarded contestants, whom I warmly congratulate;

### **Competition code: JPC1 COLLEGE GRAND PRIX CHALLENGE - COOK AND SERVE**

Mangi Lia, Vasilopoulou Nikolina, Hadji Georgiou Kyriakos and Christou Theoklis (waiter) **SILVER medal**

Christodoulides Evros, Lambrianides Andreas, Eleftheriou Theodoros and Neofytou Christos (waiter) **SILVER medal**

### **Competition code: JPC2 COLLEGE RESTAURANT PLATED DESSERT**

Xenofontos Panagiota and Nikolaou Andreas, **SILVER medal**

### **Competition code: JPC3 COLLEGE TWO COURSE MODERN CYPRIOT MENU**

Aspris Yiangos and Zisimos Kyriakos, **GOLD medal**

Tsiolos Andreas and Kleovoulou Stelios, **SILVER medal**

Congratulations and special thanks to the instructors too, for investing countless hours in training the students, their hard work and effort; Mr. Panicos Theodosiou, Mr. George Georgiou, Mr. George Kyprianou and Mr. Constantinos Gavriel.



## 360° Virtual Tours of UNic Campus on Website

With the beginning of the New Year some novelties were introduced at the University of Nicosia, amongst them a new feature released on the UNic website, the 360° Virtual Tours of our campus and various buildings. This new section aims to showcase the campus and facilities in the best possible way to prospective students, especially international students who, other than from photos, don't get a chance to really see what the campus looks like before they arrive in Cyprus.

To give a bit of a background, this effort started back in October and some may have already seen something similar of the Medical School in September. Without getting too technical, panoramic photography and specialized software were used to "stitch" each 360° panorama and then applied to the floor plans and linked with navigational arrows. Essentially, a student or parent visiting the website can start the virtual tour of a building and navigate to almost any area in a manner similar to a walkthrough. Alternatively, they can

also use the map to "jump" to a specific area/room.

The Main UNic Campus (Central building, Millennium, Europa), Library/Student Affairs and Medical School have been already completed and later the Architecture building and the new Research & Technology building will be completed.

Innovation-wise, the University of Nicosia will be the first university/college in Cyprus, to use this type of specific technology and provide a comprehensive virtual presentation of its campus. The University of Nicosia plans to continue leveraging online. The virtual tours are also viewable on mobile devices and we will shortly integrate it on the university's mobile app.

The Virtual Tours can be viewed here: <http://www.unic.ac.cy/about-us/virtual-tour> (if you encounter any issues opening the virtual tours, you may need to install Flash on your computer).



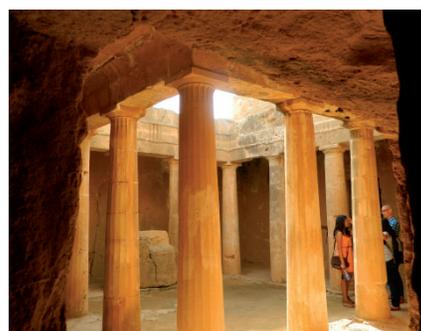
# Educational Trip to Pafos

In collaboration with Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Student Affairs Department organized an educational trip to Pafos. The main aim of this trip was to show students a different part of Cyprus since most of the attendees were international. Different archaeological sites were visited such as, Petra tou Romiou, Agios Neophytos Monastery and "Englystra" and some others which were very interesting.

The first stop was Petra tou Romiou which the students were fascinated by because of its history and the beautiful crystal water. The tour guide gave them some interesting information that if someone swims in the water around Petra tou Romiou they will become 10 years younger, which most students believed. The next stop was at Agios Neophytos Monastery and "Englystra" where the students were informed about the history of the monastery and toured seeing everything with their own eyes. After having seen the monastery, they also visited the church which is very big and has been around for many years.

One of the most famous archeological sites in Cyprus - the Tombs of The Kings were also included in the trip. It was amazing to see how after so many years, the tombs still existed. After visiting the tombs and learning a bit about each one, the students had some time to themselves. Some students visited the castle, others just walked along the beach and enjoyed the sun. They even had the option to visit the Pafos Mosaics before the end of the excursion.

The trip was quite a success and all the students enjoyed it very much. However, it wouldn't have happened without the invaluable help of Cyprus Tourism Organisation and its tour guides whom all of the participants warmly thanked.



## OUT N' ABOUT

### UNic's Sports News

The championship of Cyprus' Universities (CUSF) for the Spring semester 2014 has been almost completed! UNic's teams competed and the results are as follows: Basketball Men: 1st; Volleyball Women: 1st; Football Men: 1st; Handball Men: 2nd; Badminton – Mixed Team: 1st; Individual Men and Women: 2nd; Table tennis Women: 1st. In JUDO, UNic has competed, but finalized as 4th. Athletics and Tae Kwon do are on their way during May 2014!!! Surely, Congratulations and Best Wishes go to the students and their coaches, who competed, are still competing and will compete during May 2014 representing UNic.

Along with the CUSF, UNic's Gym and Sport Clubs operate in order to promote physical activity; in parallel, the national parade of 25th of March took place. Students who represented UNic were excellent and performed their best during the parade. Concluding, at the end of May 2014 the first official UNic Sport Awards ceremony will take place; sport excellence and the contribution in sport and physical activity within UNic will be rewarded accordingly!



## Talk to the 'Heads'

A 'Talk to the Heads' meeting took place this year as well. Students were given the opportunity to talk to the decision makers of the University. The motto of the session was 'If you are seeking answers to your questions, ask the Heads!'

Dr. Peristianis, the President of the University's Council and Dr. Solomou, the Executive Vice President for Administration of the University, were there to answer to all of the questions students had, listen to their ideas and suggestions, and express their readiness and willingness to help.

The session took place on the 2nd of April 2014, at 15:00-16:00, at the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Be there next year to ask, express any complaints and make yourself heard!



# Gearing Up

## Employees of the World

Erasmus is one of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programmes established to promote inter-University co-operation and in particular student mobility. The Erasmus programme enables higher education students to study or do a work placement for typically three to twelve months in one of the other European countries as part of a degree course.

### WHAT IS ERASMUS WORK PLACEMENT

This action provides 3-12 months' work experience for students at higher education institutions in another European member state. Students can work in the private, public, community and voluntary sectors.

The objectives of student mobility for placements are:

- To help students adapt to the requirements of the EU's wide labour market;
- To enable students develop specific skills including language skills and to improve their abilities.
- To understand the economic and social culture of the country concerned in the context of acquiring work experience;
- To promote cooperation between HEI and enterprises;
- To contribute to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young people as future professionals.

Student 'placement' is an alternative term to the widely used term 'traineeship' or 'internship'. Host organisations for student placements may be enterprises, training centres, research centres and other organisations. Prior to their departure, the students along with, the home institution and the host employer sign a "Training Agreement", which defines the specific programme for the placement period and the responsibilities of involved parties. At the end of the period abroad, full

recognition will be given by the home higher education institution for the period spent abroad as agreed in the Training Agreement.

Students are awarded an Erasmus grant to help cover the travel and subsistence costs incurred in connection with their placement period abroad. The total amount of grant is estimated based on the monthly expense rate of the host country and the duration of mobility. Students with special needs may apply for a specific grant after they had been selected for a mobility period.

### WHY?

- Work placements provide an excellent opportunity to gain work experience in an international environment and to apply theory to practice
- They offer opportunities for personal, academic, cultural and linguistic de-



velopment through living and working in another country

- They enhance the curriculum vitae by providing international employment experience, recognised by universities
- They develop transferable skills, including communication across cultural boundaries, self-management, independence, confidence, adaptability and self-reliance
- They enhance employability potential and may lead directly to future employment
- An Erasmus student will normally receive an Erasmus grant and possibly additional payment from an employer

#### HOW?

Erasmus students find work placements in various ways:

- Many students find the work placement independently by direct contact with an employer in another country
- Through the Erasmus Office which can provide information on vacancies and the conditions under which the positions are offered
- Through responding to calls for work placement applications from employers on a website or other forms of advertisement

Most importantly, there may be competition for work placements so candidates should start the process early, be willing to put effort into it and consider a wide range of countries.

For further information regarding Work Placements please contact:

#### Erasmus Office

Europa Building, 1st Floor

**Email:** Erasmus@unic.ac.cy

Eftychiou.e@unic.ac.cy

Erasmus.placements@unic.ac.cy

**Telephone:** 22841726/563/727

## Showing the Way

On the 3rd of April some of Cyprus' finest companies, with a focus on the boom industries of the new millennium, attended the 13th Careers Exhibition that took place at the Millennium Cafeteria. The companies advised students on current vacancies, internships and opportunities for the future.

It was a chance for the students to ask employers face-to-face what working for them involved, what to do when looking for a job and find out what opportunities exist in the industry the particular companies belong to. It was obviously an excellent opportunity for every student. Final year students and graduates found out about job vacancies recently made available. In addition first year students - since it is never too early to start career planning - evaluated possible career paths and work experience needed for jobs they aspired having.

Even if a student planned to travel before starting his/her job hunting, the exhibition provided him/her with the appropriate and valuable information in advance for when he/she decides it's time to look for a job. The Careers Exhibition constituted an excellent opportunity to gain a good understanding of what is available. For those who did not attend the Careers Exhibition this year, do not miss the 14th Careers Exhibition next year.

Come along and find out more about the possible employment choices you may have!



# set off the great ideas storm!



Do you have any  
breathtaking **suggestions**  
or remarkable **ideas**?



Enable us **improve** our  
standards of **service**!



Just drop your ideas inside  
the suggestion boxes  
located in the:  
**Main Reception &  
Millennium Cafeteria**

**MORE INFO:**

Dina Hassabi | HR Officer

Office of the Executive Vice President for Administration

Tel.: 22 841538 | Email: [hassabi.d@unic.ac.cy](mailto:hassabi.d@unic.ac.cy)

**UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA**

# Careers office

[Jobs](#) [Seminars](#) [Internships](#) [Workshops](#) [Career Guidance](#)



**Find Job**

**For more information  
please contact:**

Melina Andreou  
Careers Officer  
University of Nicosia  
Tel.: 22 842150/152 | Fax: 22 592993  
Email: [andreou.me@unic.ac.cy](mailto:andreou.me@unic.ac.cy)  
46, Makedonitissas Avenue

# UNic app



Available for Apple,  
Android & Windows Devices

