

IT'S A STUDENT AFFAIR

Issue 30 | Spring 2017

UNIC UNVEILED ITS NEW BRAND IDENTITY



The previous months were busy at UNIC, leading up to the unveiling of our new logo and brand identity this past April! The rebrand marks an important milestone in the evolution of our institution, one we are excited to share with our students, as the most vital members of our Community.

The new brand identity embodies our enduring vision, while representing our current direction as an innovative, future-oriented university based in Cyprus, but with global reach, that aims to be a hub for academic and technological excellence in the Mediterranean region.

Our new modern and minimalistic logo is designed to support this global aspiration and our commitment to serve as an international academic leader.

To celebrate, we created gift bags with UNIC branded items, to give out to all our students. Many have already picked these up from the various collection points we had set up across campus, and we are delighted to see our UNIC apparel worn out and about, in cafes, restaurants, and even on the street; as well as the requisite selfies on all social media platforms – UNIC community at its best.

Those who have not had a chance to collect their gift bags can still do so at the Main Building - Main Reception Area.

Meanwhile, we would like to thank our students for joining us on this wonderful journey, and for helping our University become the academic institution it is today.



Identity

It's a Student Affair
Issue 30 Spring 2017

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Dear Students,

Mid-April 2017 saw the rebranding of the University. The new logo is intended to convey and promote our new image as a modern, forward-looking and vibrant institution that aims high. It denotes that this is the time for big and important changes that would take the University forward in an ambitious drive to expand and at the same time upgrade its facilities. The University is committed to providing high quality education to all its students on campus as well as on its distance learning programmes. It aims to establish its position as a leading educational institution in the region but also further into the Balkans, Europe and further afar.

The greater presence of students on campus is already evident....and there is yet more to come. We aim to provide a campus environment that would provide all our students with the means and comfort to concentrate on their studies while at the same time enjoying university life that can leave long-lasting experiences and memories.

To this effect the Student Affairs Department is trying its best to provide a rich and varied programme of activities that can address the needs and interests of as many students as possible. We are really pleased to see a large number of student societies being very active and organizing an impressive number of events. We therefore look forward to the future with optimism and commitment to offer our best. The future is promising on all fronts.

As we move to the examination period and the summer vacations I would like to wish you all success in your studies and a relaxing and invigorating summer break.

Myria Thrassou
Head, Student Affairs Department



Dear Students,

Another academic year has come to an end and the exam period is just a breath away. I assume that most of you might be feeling stressed. I want you to know that we are behind you, encouraging you all the way to the finish line. Give everything you've got – you're nearly there. You owe it to yourself to work hard and do your best.

Have always in mind that education is power. It gives you the capacity to have voice and presence. Be open to new things – new people, new places, new experiences, new adventures, new ideas, new knowledge and see which ones feel right for you.

Don't let any of the difficulties you find in your way, change your belief in your potential. Use your determination and talents. Do not fear and keep up your effort. We have strong faith that you will rise and shine in your exams. Give your best and achieve new heights in your life!

With summer fast approaching, prepare yourself to utilize to the maximum the free time you will have. Make time to savor the best of summer! Summertime is fun, active, social and dynamic, constantly changing with different adventures and activities. It is the best time to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities that come along with it. The summer is your best opportunity to get work experience. An internship is a great way to discover what a particular job role is like.

You only have a few long holidays while being at the University, so use them wisely!

CAREERS OFFICE

- Job & Internship Opportunities
- Preparation of CV's & Cover Letters
- Seminars & Workshops
- Mock Interviews
- Careers Exhibition Day

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 UNIC - Careers Office

 UNIC - Student Affairs

GEARING UP

Red Rose Feelings

A Day to Remember

Where is the coolest place in Cyprus that people celebrate Carnival like there is no tomorrow? It's Limassol – the best place in Cyprus where fun is guaranteed! The Student Affairs Department seized the chance to organise a day trip to this festive town, to colourful Limassol, on Sunday, 26 February 2017. Departure was at 10:00, giving participants the whole day to enjoy the parade and to have fun with the Limassolians and their way of celebration until around 18:00.

The experience was terrific for all those who had the chance to go on the trip. Phrases such as “memorable experience”, “colorful and creative costumes”, “funny people doing crazy things” and “a fun atmosphere” were some of the comments flying around in the bus during the way back to the capital. A wonderful excursion away from studying – even if for only a few hours – and a taste of how “Apokries” is celebrated in Cypriot culture! Students had the chance to visit Limassol, especially during that season and it was great! Hopefully, the joy will stay with them until next year's shot of craze!



This year, on Valentine's Day, the University of Nicosia gave a red-rose feeling in the Millennium Cafeteria, with tiny chocolate treats and funny games to light up the spirit. Passersby were intrigued by the decorations on the table, and were invited to come and play the games in store for them. There was even a photographer on hand, for those who wanted to get their picture taken against a specially decorated backdrop in the cafeteria. The background was not the Eiffel tower, or romantic scenery on the liquid streets of Venice, but hey!

The team also invented an exciting game. Participants were asked to note down the name of the person they were interested in and to insert it in a vase. The intended recipient would then get a notification by the Student Affairs Department to come and collect the note. In order to make things spicier, the person who wrote it had the choice to remain anonymous. And let the mystery begin!

Some people of course had a ready excuse: “Ah... If you are in love, you celebrate every day” and “Valentine's Day is a commercial day, companies have found a way to get money out of love”. Even if these statements are true,

sometimes it is good to think that love should be celebrated. And, yeah, if you have the opportunity to be in an intimate relationship, then love is celebrated on any given day. To say the least, on Valentine's Day we should take some time to think about love and how we let it affect our lives productively. And don't just stick to romantic love, folks!



Doing It the Greek Way

On 30 March 2017, the campus danced and sang to a Greek rhythm, on a night to be remembered. Millennium Cafeteria was filled with both students and visitors, who had been waiting for this opportunity a whole year. Who can compete with the irresistible Mediterranean food of the Greeks, and the unique way in which they have fun and enjoy themselves? The night was replete with a live band and a welcoming atmosphere, guaranteeing an enjoyable time.

For those who had the chance to be present at the University's famous Greek Night, are left with their own impressions and

comments. For those who didn't make it "too bad"! It was a great chance to have an amazing time on campus and to get acquainted with Greek culture. This applies especially to all students coming from another country. Greek Night is a night to be remembered. So, if you missed it this time round, keep it in mind next year. Alternatively, blend in with the Greek-Cypriots and ask them to show you a Greek night of fun. Rest assured that they will navigate you properly!



GEARING UP

Help Us Help Others

On 20 March 2017, the Student Affairs Department teamed up with Caritas Cyprus for a relief effort to support Caritas' Migrant Centre. The Centre takes care of over one hundred asylum-seekers, refugees, domestic workers, victims of human trafficking, and other men, women, and children who are receiving services from the Caritas Migrant Sector and have very little to survive. Various everyday products, such as rice, flour, sugar, oil, tomato sauce, etc. were collected at appointed places on campus. The campaign ran until 10 April.

You see, it is another thing to say that you want to help your fellow human being, and another to actually do it! Even the minutest things that we deem as unimportant may make a huge difference for some people! Being on the volunteering side, trying to help people who are truly in need is an experience that changes both the giver and the receiver. As with all things, when a team works towards the benefit of another team, we help our society to become more sensitized. Ultimately, we hope society will develop to such an extent that the rate of such cases in need drops vertically, with everyone helping each other rather than themselves. A hopeful endeavour! Let's stay on the optimistic side of the street for as long as we can. It's actually simple, you know. Just help yourself, then help others, in order to help some others!

Moving Ahead

One of the ultimate highlights of one's life is fast approaching, the Graduation Ceremony. This year's ceremony will take place towards the end of June and, as every year, there will be two ceremonies: one for the undergrads, and one for the postgrads.

Starting from the point of view of the audience: If you have ever had the chance to attend a graduation ceremony, then you will surely remember the feelings and emotions of that night. If you haven't had the chance, then picture this: You are sitting on a chair at the ceremony, with beautiful music playing via huge speakers until the Master of Ceremonies announces the first speaker of the ceremony – usually, the Rector of the University – to give his or her speech. The students are already in place, dressed in their gowns and ceremonial hats, making the scene aesthetically beautiful and ever so formal. Parents, friends, and family members sitting together focus on where their beloved is standing; trying to wave at him or her, to show that they are there. The student is trying to pinpoint exactly where his or her folks are. Slowly but steadily, the ceremony moves on to the juicy part of the night, the calling up of the names of each student. This is the time that many thoughts go through the mind of the student. Well, there is always a mix of emotions, what psychologists love to call ambivalence. They are glad that their "struggle" is over, but, at the same time, they know that they will miss it. Let's not forget that there is usually no guarantee of what comes next. A word for the reader of this column, whether you are a student or not: it is one thing to succeed academically, and another thing to succeed in life...

In any case, for those graduating this year, we wish you all the success of the world. Keep up with the good work, and remember that in all of life's struggles, what will get you through the day is being creative, courageous, mindful, and humble!

Exhibiting Opportunities



This year, the University hosted the 14th Annual Careers Exhibition on Thursday, 19 March 2017, between 10:00 and 14:00, in the Millennium Cafeteria. The Exhibition aimed to increase awareness on career and job opportunities for the University's students and graduates. During the Exhibition, company representatives (KPMG, Ernst & Young, PWC, Cablenet, Grant Thornton, etc.) provided information relating to employment and internship opportunities.

The cafeteria filled with interested students and alumni on the day, who came to talk with the representatives of each company. There was a lot of information exchanged and visitors seemed pleased by their interactions at the exhibition.

Even though we hear every day that the job market does not offer many new opportunities to students and recent graduates, the exhibition helped demonstrate otherwise. Company/Organisation representatives discussed such opportunities with visitors, while also offering guidance on further developing their skill-set to become more competitive!



Student “Mentors”

When you hear the word “mentor”, what comes to mind? A person who mentors others, right? But what does he/she actually do as part of mentoring others? Let me introduce you to this programme in the next few lines.

First and foremost, the “Mentor” programme is more than about being a mentor to children. It is a way to enhance the spirit of social responsibility in the students of the University of Nicosia, and at the same time become a role model, a friend and a person who can be trusted.

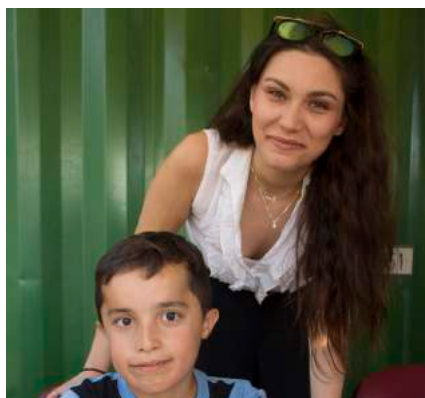
The idea started more than 40 years ago, in 1974, in Israel, where a handful of students at the Weizmann Institute applied this model under the name of “Perach”. Ever since, the programme has expanded greatly internationally, inspiring hundreds of students to train to become a mentor.

Our University recently started cooperating with Perach International to implement this programme in Cyprus. Since 2015, both the mentors and mentees have done a tremendous job of creating an organisation that aims to promote children who come from high risk families to reach their full potential. These children might be facing cognitive, psychomotor, and educational issues and challenges as well as come from single-parent families, from low socioeconomic status etc. Even though these are factors that can lessen their opportunities in development and success in life, mentors create meaningful relationships assisting them in embracing their true strengths and abilities.

Ms Leda Koursoumpa, the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in Cyprus, warmly congratulated the University for its initiative to introduce this programme in Cyprus. Similarly, the Antidrug Association of Cyprus has recognised “Mentor” as an effective prevention programme.

The programme is now in its second year, having recruited 31 students, 6 coordinators and 25 mentors, in order to support 25 children coming mostly from the Nicosia district, but also from the Larnaca and Limassol districts.

For more information about the benefits to students taking part and other information, contact the Director of the programme, Ms. Katerina Georgaki, at: georgaki.k@unic.ac.cy, 22 841 7373, or visit: www.unic.ac.cy/mentor



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Road to Success

Continuing from last semester, the Career’s Office organised a series of useful seminars and workshops for students and alumni, which aim to prepare students to enter the job market with confidence, efficiency, and professionalism. These seminars offered students the chance to learn more and develop their skills even further.

Professionals from different disciplines tackled various issues that help make a person successful in their field of study. Touching upon all sorts of topics, students benefited from their experience, hopefully gaining additional skills and insight in terms of their future plans.

OUT N' ABOUT

Human Biologists: Where to Find Them

The Russian Response to Radical Islam

The International Relations and European Affairs (IREA) Society had the unique opportunity to welcome Dr. Alexander Dolin, a professor at Akita International University in Japan. The seminar provided useful information about Radical Islam and how the Russians have responded to this extremist fraction of Islam. It was extremely interesting, to be honest – especially so if politics is your thing.

Conveniently, the seminar took place in the Red Amphitheatre! Now the only colour that was missing was blue (hint: the national flag of Russia). Creatively enough, the poster was designed in such a way, so as to introduce both the professor's ethnicity and the theme of the seminar.

Dr. Dolin travelled a long way and took time out of his usual teaching routine in Japan to deliver this seminar. His speech was straight to the point, informative, and insightful, to say the least. In his thick Russian accent, he painted the picture of today's reality about how he sees Radical Islam and the effect ISIS has had on how governments all across the world, with particular emphasis on how Russia has responded to this.

Some of the topics he touched upon included a brief history of Islam; the Coran and how Muslims interpret it; and the numerous atrocities radical Islam has perpetrated in the name of ISIS. He also provided information about the present situation in Europe; how ISIS is recruiting volunteers; the apparent reasons to put on an exploding tuxedo with cufflinks and... bombs; the emerging generation of jihads; and how they came to be the radical extremists they are today.

Did you ever imagine that the genetic similarity between a human and a banana is 60%? The Human Biology Society had to answer similar questions with regards to Genetics and Human Evolution at the Mediterranean Science Festival 2017, which took place in Limassol, satisfying the scientific curiosity of more than 200 students. The members of the committee, together with enthusiastic volunteers, offered their services in order to share their knowledge about Darwin's "Theory of Evolution" and "Brain Illusions". This was achieved through interactive demonstrations of "Vestigial Organs", which, in reality, are rudimentary structures in humans corresponding to a functional structure or organ in ancestral animals.

In addition, the Human Biology Society recently donated the amount raised through the Christmas Karaoke Party to the Karaiskakio Foundation, while working with the Foundation for the formation of a new Student Bone Marrow Donor Registry Group at the University of Nicosia.

Finally, the Society's committee and members are working hard to plan and organise events and gatherings that will serve the main purpose of the Society, which is to get as many people as possible interested in the sciences. Along the way, the Society is happy to give members the chance to not only communicate science, but to also create friendships and valuable memories they can cherish forever!



Sexuality and Relationships

The Psychology Society of the University of Nicosia organised an interesting seminar on sexuality and relationships. The guest speaker was Dr Epameinontas Epameinonda, a professor in the School of Business at the University. The seminar sparked great discussion, aided by Dr Epameinonda's unique interactive skills. It was held in the UNESCO amphitheatre on Thursday, 23 February. Hopefully, both boys and girls have learned something additional to advance their game of conquering one another, and, no, I'm not talking about an online game!

The Seminar offered the audience the opportunity to check out some trends, facts and figures from the professor's latest research on the matter. Since he's a business lecturer, his interest in the

field of sexuality led him to investigate the sexuality trends of people in Cyprus and abroad. From this, he was able to show us the differences, similarities, and gather enough data to make a point. One could say he made it his own business to research what's up with sexuality these days!

The issue of sexuality is always contemporary and of much interest. It ties in with the issue of relationships, as more men and women (come on, don't be shy) are willing to have sex before being in a relationship. The stats shown by Dr Epameinondas in this seminar were very interesting and ignited a fascinating discussion between the members of the audience – there was a clear intellectual spirit of discussion in the room.

OUT N' ABOUT

Psychology Issues

The Psychology Society has been extremely active this year, with various events taking place on campus. There were movie screenings that continued from the previous semester, all based on certain psychological themes.

Moreover, the Psychology Society had the opportunity to organise a volunteer week, in order to collect used and new toys for disadvantaged and large families. These were handed out to them over Christmas. There are no words to describe the emotions and feelings during the process.

The Society also held a series of seminars on topics such as Sexuality; CBT vs Psychoanalysis; Smart Education; Confession and psychotherapy; and a seminar on the Psychology in Cypriot Proverbs. In addition, the Society arranged to create an online magazine called "It's a Psychology Thing", welcoming articles related to psychology written by psychology students and members of the Society. The editors of the magazine are Dr Stavroulla Soukara and Dr Ioulia Papageorgi, who are lecturers in the Social Sciences Department of the University.

All these varied and interesting events sparked the interest of not only students, but professionals in the field, alumni, and others from outside the University. The University is happy that the Psychology Society has had such a creative and innovative contribution.



OUT N' ABOUT



Feeling Good

Because merely saying that we are feeling good is not good enough, a team of Hospitality Management (THOM-240) students, and members of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Society, decided to organise a festival to experience and comprehend it better! The “Feel Good Festival”, as was the case last year, and the year before, was a success.

The Festival took place at the Open Amphitheatre on 27 April 2017, between 11:00 and 17:00. The proceeds from this charity event went to the Student Welfare Fund of the University. So, not only did the people who were there feel good, but fellow students in need will be benefiting from the money collected.

Although the heat was at times unbearable, people were making the most of the day: dancing, playing basketball, having fun at the activities, all while listening to upbeat music that transferred its positive vibe throughout campus. Do we have to wait for next year's Festival to feel good? Surely not; feeling good is a choice – well, most of the time! In any case, congratulations to the team of THOM-240 students, the society and their professors who arranged this special “feel good” event as part of their syllabus.



Fun and Joy

The Rotaract Club of the University of Nicosia has been really active this year. The club has managed to base their events on the three pillars that the university's Societies and Clubs are based – namely the pillar of Education, Socialization, and Charity.

Specifically, based on the pillar of Charity, on their Pinning Ceremony and birthday celebration, they have managed to raise a certain amount of money to help the Karaiskakio Foundation to help treat children with cancer. With talks such as “New diagnostic approaches in oncology within the new center for child cancer” from distinguished professors such as Dr Paul Costeas, they have managed to illuminate both the wider audience and interested students with new information about medical approaches.

On the pillar of Socialization, the club organized a friendly football match with the residents of Hope for Children shelter. A friendly atmosphere was created, and as a result, hope was instilled in their hearts transferring the message that certain people in the society are thinking about them. Not only they played football, but the club arranged to raise shoes in a very good condition and donated them to the shelter. The advertisement was done through social media and around the University of Nicosia.

A special request the club had was that people who had smelly feet to not dare thinking donating their shoes! Just kidding. Such a request was never made. Or was it implicit? Who knows...?

Let's not forget that fun and joy were incorporated in the activities and events of the societies. Having this in mind, the Rotaract club created a “Fun Activities Day” with the children at the Kofinou Refugee center participating in the fiest. Volunteers from the club bought toys and equipment to carry out fun activities such as face painting, arts and crafts,

bracelet making, Lego, ball games and puzzles to play with the children at the Refugee center.

Supported on the pillar of Education, their clubby endeavors led them to promote an educational presentation to younger students to the American International School on how to live a healthier lifestyle. Topics that were covered were how to manage stress; on healthy eating; exercise; and bad habits such as smoking, drugs, and alcohol.

Another interesting fact is that the club has given a talk about the benefits of being close to nature. Specifically, they used pets as a form of therapy to help children with autism get integrated in society and improve their social skills.

Congrats for the innovative efforts of the club, and we hope they continue with the same rhythm, energy, and care during the next academic year. For now, just enjoy what the summer period entails!



OUT N' ABOUT



ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

- ▼ Variety of accommodation options (e.g. hostels, flats, studios, etc.)
- ▼ Student temporary accommodation at special rates
- ▼ Useful information about airport pick up services
- ▼ Information about lease agreements
- ▼ Roommate services





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