



Yarmouk Newsletter

Published by The Dept. of Public Relations and Media

Issue No. 8

King's Interview with Students from Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan



the world,” the King said in the interview.

The interview was conducted by students Arwa Sarhan and Luma Hammouri from Yarmouk University’s Faculty of Mass Communication, and Aseel Rawashdeh from the University of Jordan’s Faculty of Law.

Later, Professor Zeidan Kafafi met Miss Sarhan and Miss Hammouri and expressed Yarmouk's pride in such distinguished students. He praised the outstanding academic level of the two students and appreciated their mastery of the art of journalistic dialogue, pointing out that their achievement reflects the scientific and academic level of the Faculty of Media at

His Majesty King Abdullah II met with a group of students of the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University at Al Husseinia Palace in Amman on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

The interview, released on the two universities’ social media pages, covered King Abdullah’s reflections on key events and moments in his life.

His Majesty talked about what makes him angry or happy, and spoke about his favourite and least favourite character traits.

The King reflected on the past 20 years since his assumption of constitutional powers, and described his feelings when his eldest son, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, was born.

His Majesty also spoke about his hobbies, his love for sports, and why he could not compete in the Olympics.

“Jordanians are my brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and my extended family. Jordan is the most beautiful place in

the university. He then stated that YU always provides the local and regional labour market with trained and qualified professionals and that choosing the two students from the Faculty of Media to conducting such a royal interview is an honour for the faculty as well as the university in general.



A Workshop for Yarmouk Students Wishing to Participate in the Goncourt International Prize

With the support of the French Embassy in Amman and the Francophone University Association, the President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, met Salma Kojok, a training expert at the Goncourt International Prize, who was visiting the University to hold a workshop for students of the Department of Modern Languages.

During the meeting, Prof. Kafafi thanked the French Embassy in Amman and the Francophone Association for their support of holding such a workshop, which aims at introducing the University students to the Goncourt International Prize and encouraging them to apply for it. He added that Yarmouk is interested in involving its students in such competitions at the regional and international levels, as such participations have a significant role in developing students' personalities and skills and enriching their scientific and cultural achievements, thus raising their competitiveness among their peers in the local as well as worldwide labor market.

In her turn, Kogok pointed out the importance of holding this workshop, which contributes to improving students' level in writing in French and enriching their cultural and scientific achievements.



Likewise, Dr. Batoul Mohaisen, the Head of the Department of Modern Languages and the Representative of the Francophone Association at the University, emphasized that the workshop effectively enhances the writing skills of students and stimulates them to write creatively. Also, she explained that the workshop lasts for two days with five- hour training per day and involves 16 students from the Department of Modern Languages.

A Delegation from Nanterre, Paris Visits Yarmouk



Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, the President of Yarmouk University, met with a delegation from the French University of Nanterre, headed by Dr. Francois Villeneuve. The two sides discussed means of cooperation between the two parties, especially with respect to exchanging faculty members and students and conducting joint scientific research projects in different fields of archeology and anthropology.

During the meeting, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi stressed Yarmouk's keenness to strengthen its ties of scientific and academic cooperation with various international universities. He also expressed his hope for an official agreement between Yarmouk University and French Nanterre Paris to implement a project to documenting the archaeological artifacts at Yarmouk University and trying to

gain support from the European Union. He pointed out that the preservation and documentation of the cultural heritage is a task that should be fully considered by various countries of the world.

He then added that the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology at the University, in cooperation with a number of international universities, has sought to play its role in the use of scientific expertise and academic science in order to study, analyze, and interpret the history of civilization through archaeological excavations that are carried out in various regions of Jordan, which is rich in heritage sites. He stressed the University's keenness to prepare students and provide them with the necessary skills to perform their role in the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage in Jordan.

In his turn, Villenev praised the outstanding scientific reputation of Yarmouk University in the field of archeology at the international level. He also praised the distinguished teaching staff and their scientific activity in conducting scientific research in all fields of archeology and anthropology, pointing to the interest of the University of Nanterre Paris to cooperation with YU by conducting several projects and scientific research of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hani Hayajneh, the Dean of the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology, and Mukhlis Al-Ebbini, the Director of Public Relations and Media Department.

The German Cultural Attaché in Amman Visits Yarmouk



Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, the President of YU, met Tobias Karis, the Cultural Attaché of the German Embassy in Amman, and Thomas Schate, the Second Secretary of the Embassy. The meeting focused on the means of enhancing the cooperation between Yarmouk University and the German Embassy in Amman, particularly in the field of developing academic research and supporting researchers and faculty members. Also, it focused on the possibility of holding the travelling exhibition "Worlds of Culture", which emphasizes the educational aspects of preserving cultural heritage.

During the meeting, Prof. Kafafi stressed the depth of the cooperation relations between Yarmouk and the various German research and academic institutions. He expressed his hope to launch new horizons

for cooperation with the German Embassy in Amman as well as the various German educational institutions. He stated that such cooperation contributes to exchanging experiences and knowledge of modern methods in teaching and scientific research. He then expressed the readiness of Yarmouk University, represented by its Faculty of Archeology, to host the travelling exhibition: "Worlds of Culture", which visits several heritage sites in the world, including the most important heritage sites in Jordan. In support of this, Prof. Kafafi explained that the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk has a set of distinguished faculty members who are keen to preserving the cultural heritage of the Jordanian society and who are ready to make use of their knowledge to studying, analyzing, and maintaining the various archeological sites in Jordan.

In his turn, Karis explained that the German Embassy chose Yarmouk University to hold the exhibition "Worlds of Culture" due to the university's pioneering scientific reputation and effective role in protecting cultural heritage. He then expressed the Embassy's keenness to strengthen its cooperation ties with Yarmouk University and contribute to the University's developmental and educational goals.

Noteworthy mentioning that this meeting was attended by Prof. Hani Hayajneh, Dean of the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology, Prof. Hanan Malkawi, and Mukhlas Al-Ebbini, the Director of the Dept. of Public Relations and Media.

The Language Center Celebrates the World Day for Cultural Diversity

Under the patronage of Prof. Lamia Hammad, the Director of the Language Center at Yarmouk University, the Arabic Language Program for Non-Arabic Speakers organized a cultural event in celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Prof. Hammad explained that the celebration is to highlight the values of cultural diversity and its principles of understanding, acceptance, and respect of others and that it contributes to raising the awareness of multiculturalism and building bridges of communication among the individuals of different cultures. She also pointed out that the Arabic language program for non-Arabic speakers embodies the essence of brotherhood and harmony among students from different countries and cultures.

However, the program of the celebration included a variety of artistic performances, during which the Malaysian students performed a traditional song from their country, followed by a Chinese student song, then a Turkish track, another Spanish song, a Greek song, and a Spanish flamenco dance. It included also a table of traditional food and sweets representing the cultures



of the program's students who are coming from Turkey, Spain, China, Malaysia, Korea, America, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Australia, France and Canada.

This ceremony was attended by the Deputy Director of the Center Dr. Ahmed Saifan, the assistant director of the Center for Arabic Language for non-Arabic speakers, Dr. Hala Al-Hamad, and several professors and administrators.

YU Welcomes the Inst.of Technological Applications of Cultural Heritage



The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, met with Dr. Roberto Gabrielli of the Institute of Technological Applications of Cultural Heritage in Italy, discussing the ways of cooperation in the implementation of a scientific project on the site of Umm Al-Rasaas. Prof. Kafafi pointed out that the Faculty of Archeology at Yarmouk University has always been the pioneer in conducting research and scientific projects in various archaeological and heritage sites in Jordan and that its researchers have contributed to the discovery and documentation of much information about such sites, stressing the importance of using modern scientific methods in documenting data and collecting information about heritage and civilization sites.

He also confirmed Yarmouk's readiness to cooperate with the Italian Institute through the implementation of the research project, which aims at providing the visitors of Umm Al-rasaas with information about the site through, for instance, images of GPS. Such information should be documented in a database so that researchers can use whenever necessary. He then praised the efforts of the research team members, including Dr. Ahmed Al-Orood, the project Manager, Dr. Khalid Nahar, Dr. Rami Malkawi, and Dr. Abdulrahman Al Asmar.

In his turn, Dr. Gabrieli stressed the importance of cooperation with Yarmouk University in the field of the implementation of this project, as it includes researchers and specialists who are distinguished in the field of archeology and information technology. He pointed out that Jordan is a country full of heritage sites and civilization, which makes of it the destination of many researchers in the field of archeology all over the world.

He then explained that this project will be implemented using AR technology, which is based on the projection of virtual objects and information in the real user environment in order to provide additional information or serve as a vector, in contrast to the virtual reality based on the projection of real objects in a virtual environment. The user can deal with information and virtual objects in reality through several devices, being either portable, smart phone or devices that are worn as glasses or contact lenses. Such devices use a tracking system that provides precision projection, appropriate display of information in the right place, such as GPS, camera, and compass.

Cooperation Protocol with the Brilliant Remote Printing Systems

Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, and the Executive Director of BRS-labs, Eng. Ayman Ahmed Salem, signed a protocol of cooperation in the field of remote sensing training and satellite image processing. During the signing of the cooperation protocol, Prof. Kafafi stressed the importance of geography and the vast developments witnessed by this science in recent times in general, especially in the field of remote sensing, pointing to the importance of natural geography since ancient times, which contributed significantly to the stability of human groups on earth.

Kafafi also mentioned that YU is now in the final stages of establishing a Master Program in Geopharmatics, which will be presented in partnership between the Departments of Geography and Earth Sciences and Environment at the Faculty of Science. Finally, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi valued the company's support for students of the department of Geography through the allocation of free courses with a value of \$5000.

In his turn, Al-Salem praised the distinguished level of YU and its future vision in the development of the academic plans and programs. He reviewed the emergence of BRS-labs and the programs and courses offered by the field of teaching "remote sensing and processing satellite images" over the Internet. Al-Salem stressed the company's readiness to raise the efficiency and increase the productivity of the trainees by providing the latest methods of distance education in order to qualify them to apply remote sensing technology in their fields of specialization and enhance their educational level and position among the workers in this field. He stated that such a cooperation will enable trainees to transform their existing PCs into advanced remote sensing applications that have the capability to perform all satellite image processing, integrate



laboratory work with field work, and implement integrated projects serving many sustainable development areas.

The protocol provides for BRS-labs to be adopted in the Queen Rania Center at the university as a training center and accredited-exam center to teach the company's educational curricula in the field of teaching "remote sensing and satellite image processing" through the Internet. The courses will be taught in English and Arabic, and they will include training courses focusing on practical training. The protocol also demands that BRS-labs should provide training services for university students at reduced fees, within three main training levels, including 16 short training courses, such as the "RSStm Specialist" and the "Professional Remote Sensing Specialist (RSPtm)", and RSSDTM. The company will also train several faculty members in the department of Geography to become accredited trainers for the courses that will be held later in the three fields at the Queen Rania Center.

Cooperation with the American University of Austin



Prof. Ahmed Al-Ajlouni, the Vice President of Yarmouk University for scientific and financial faculties, discussed with Dr. Dana Krestman of the Faculty of Education at the University of Austin, USA, the means of possible academic cooperation.

During the meeting, they discussed a draft agreement for scientific, academic, and research cooperation between the two universities, which will involve the exchange of faculty members between the two sides. Additionally, the agreement states that Austin University welcomes Yarmouk students who wish to complete their doctoral studies in the various disciplines of education or conduct a joint scientific research in the field of education. Yarmouk University gets benefitted from Austin University's experiences in the field of modern teaching and learning methods and in participation in

conferences and seminars held by both parties.

Prof. Al-Ajlouni pointed out Yarmouk's keenness to enhance its scientific and research cooperation with prestigious international universities in various fields, which positively reflects on the educational process at the university and the level of its students and faculty members. He stressed that the Faculty of Education at Yarmouk University is one of the centers of excellence, as it involves many scholars who have a clear footprint in the various disciplines of education. Also, Prof. Al-Ajlouni pointed out that cooperation with Austin would open new horizons to students and faculty members through the experience of Austin in the areas of curriculum development, special education, and teaching methods.

In her turn, Kristman emphasized the readiness of the University of Austin to cooperate with Yarmouk in the field of education, which contributes to the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the two sides. She reviewed the emergence of the university and its faculties and emphasized her university's vision to establish an integrated cooperative educational community and provide support programs for university students and graduates to strengthen critical thinking, communication skills, creativity, leadership, research, and service delivery that contribute significantly to the quality of life, learning, and workforce development needs.

The meeting was attended by the dean of the Faculty of Education Dr. Nawaf Shatnawi, and Dr. Amna Rawashdeh (a faculty member from the College).

Enhancement of Cooperation with the Portuguese Polytechnic Institute

Prof. Ahmed Al-Ajlouni, the Vice President of Yarmouk University for Scientific faculties and financial affairs, discussed ways of scientific and academic cooperation with Dr. Adriana Carvalo, the Director of the Office of International Relations at the Polytechnic Institute of Portugal (IPCA).

Prof. Al-Ajlouni emphasized Yarmouk's interest in expanding its network of scientific, academic, and scholarly cooperation with international higher education institutions, thus opening new horizons for the educational process at Yarmouk. He explained that such an interest is mainly done through the exchange programs of students and the scientific visits of Yarmouk faculty members to other international universities and institutes. Thus, he highlighted the importance of enhancing student exchange programs and the scientific visits of the faculty members through Erasmus Plus. He also pointed out the establishment of Yarmouk University and its future aspirations to developing a range of disciplines in order to keep abreast of the technological developments like Cyber Technology and data science. Moreover, he mentioned that Yarmouk University had established a specialized laboratory for gaming "gaming lab" at the Faculty of Hijawi for Engineering Technology. He then stressed Yarmouk's readiness to cooperate with the IPCA Institute in areas of common interest such as tourism, hospitality, design, economics, and business administration as well as technological specializations.

In his turn, Karvelo expressed the Institute's readiness to strengthen



its cooperation with Yarmouk university due to its distinguished scientific reputation. She reviewed the establishment of the Institute which grants both Bachelor and Master's degrees, holding a series of specialized courses to training students to get involved in the labor market. She also pointed out that the Institute is one of the most distinguished centers in Portugal, especially with respect to teaching accounting and taxation, and that it includes colleges of management, technology, design, tourism, and hospitality. Finally, Karvelo stated that among the main interests of the Institute is to strengthen cooperation with the various universities worldwide, a matter that positively affects the Institute's educational environment and helps its staff and students to consider others' experiences.

Graduation of the Third Batch of "HOPES" Students at YU



The Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Sciences and the Faculty of Hijjawi for Technological Engineering held an awards ceremony for the CFP projects at Yarmouk University under the Grant scheme of the HOPES projects. The two projects, "Transferring E-Business Fundamentals to Syrian Refugees (TEFSR)" and "Providing Fundamental ICT Skills for Syrian Refugees (PFISR)", are implemented by Yarmouk University as part of the Grant scheme of the HOPES project funded by European Union's Regional Trust fund in repose to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund'. They are implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) together with the British Council, Campus France and Nuffic.

Dr. Nasser Hindawi, Director of HOPES projects in Jordan, highlighted the importance of HOPES grants to Syrian refugees in Jordan. He also asserted the importance of such projects which can open new horizons for Syrian students in Jordanian universities. In addition, these projects can help them to build a strong career path to cope with the crisis in their country

and country of displacement. The projects aim to transfer basic skills in web applications, networking, e-commerce, and computer maintenance to Syrian refugees and local community members. The dean of Hijjawi Faculty for Engineering, Prof. Ahmad Al-Shamali also pointed to the importance of this type of project and support in the development of the local community and host communities.

Dr. Amani Shatnawi from the IT Faculty presented the most important accomplishments and results achieved during the period of the implementation of the projects, which showed that more than 300 students and students from the Syrian community and refugees were graduated. In accordance with the university plan to rehabilitate the students to the labor market and provide them with the necessary knowledge and expertise, more than 150 students were subjected to the intensive training program to be a trainer for trainees (ToT). Some students presented their achievements, including the student Muhannad Bani Issa from Syrian who developed an e-commerce website for the sale of German cosmetic products. students Mohammed Mohsen and Khalid from Syria talked about the skills they obtained in the field of computer maintenance and computer networks, that they had an impact on finding job opportunities related to these fields.

Dr. Nasser Hendawi and Dr. Naimah Hasban from the HOPES office in Jordan and Prof. Ahmed Al-Shamali distributed certificates to the participants. The projects team included Dr. Amani Shatnawi and Dr. Anas AlSobeh from the IT Faculty, and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Al-Jarrah, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Tamimi and Dr. Amin Al-Jarrah from the Faculty of Hijjawi for Technological Engineering.

The Romanian University of Timisoara Visits the Faculty of Tourism

The Faculty of Tourism and Hotels at Yarmouk University hosted a delegation from the Romanian University of Timisoara, who visited Yarmouk in an attempt to recognize the academic experience of the Faculty and its development.

The delegation met with faculty members and students, introduced the opportunities of studying at the University of Timisoara, and discussed the means of academic and scientific cooperation between the two universities, especially in the sector of tourism and hotels, which are vital for supporting the national economy of any country.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Shunnaq, the Dean of the Faculty, stressed the faculty's keen efforts to cooperate with its counterparts in prestigious international universities and exchange experiences and knowledge, as such a policy helps the Faculty of Tourism



and Hotels to meet the criteria of obtaining international accreditation, which is part of Yarmouk's philosophy and vision to attaining universality.

Scientific Cooperation Agreement with Nantes University

Aiming at establishing a framework for student exchange between the two universities during the academic year 2019 - 2020, Yarmouk University has signed a scientific cooperation agreement with the University of Nantes. According to the agreement, Nantes will receive two students of French language from Yarmouk University for one semester, beginning in September 2019. The French embassy will pay the university fees for candidates, and two courses will be credited for the students. In return, Yarmouk University should host two Master students from Nantes and provide them with the opportunity to train students of the Department of Modern Languages. The agreement also includes items for the exchange of professors and researchers between the two sides and participation in conferences and seminars held by both universities.

The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, praised the support provided by the French Embassy in Amman to Yarmouk University through strengthening its academic relations with the French educational institutions like Nantes University. According to Prof. Kafafi, such a strategy offers Yarmouk students the opportunities to complete their higher studies and the faculty

members to vary out academic visits, thus enabling them to access the expertise and knowledge of other universities in various disciplines. He also emphasized his support for any initiative that would serve the dissemination of French culture and language in the Jordanian society, considering that he holds the Order Knight of the French government.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Yarmouk, Dr. Mohamed Bani Doumi, explained that the French Embassy has reduced the registration fees for the international Delf examination at all levels to Yarmouk University students, which confirms the depth of the cooperation between Yarmouk University and the French Embassy. He also pointed out that the signing of this agreement will provide the students of the Department of Modern Languages at Yarmouk with the opportunity to study at Nantes and improve their skills and knowledge in the field of the French language. He praised the efforts of the Department of Modern Languages, which is constantly seeking to strengthen its academic relations with the various international educational institutions that provide training and educational opportunities for its students.

A Delegation from Ahi Evran Visits Yarmouk University



The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, met with a delegation from the Turkish University of Ahi Evran, including the vice President, Dr. Ahmed Jokbil, and the Director of the International Relations Office at the University, Dr. Erman Akili. He reviewed the establishment of Yarmouk, which offers specialties in the various fields of the scientific, medical, and humanitarian majors, thus providing an attractive learning environment for international students. He stated that Yarmouk includes international students representing 42 different nationalities, which positively influence the cultural diversity of the university community. Prof. Zeidan Kafafi stressed the keenness of Yarmouk to strengthen relations of academic cooperation, research, and cultural relations with the various universities and educational institutions in Turkey, as this strategy contributes to the exchange of experiences and scientific

competencies and enhances the teaching process in the two parties.

He also emphasized enhancing the cooperation with the University of Ahi Evran through implementing the terms of the agreement between the two sides, which focuses on the exchange of faculty members and students, conducting joint scientific research, participating in seminars and scientific conferences organized by both sides, and exchanging publications issued by both universities .

In his turn, Jokbil stressed that the University of Ahi Avran is keen to continue cooperation with YU and expand its base to include other scientific disciplines in addition to Sharia, Islamic studies, and Arabic. He mentioned that Ahi Evran recently received a group of faculty members from YU as part of an official scientific visit to the University to see the stages of development and modernization experienced by the University of Ahi Avran in the various fields of academia. He then reviewed the establishment of the University of Ahi Evran, which offers many scientific and humanitarian disciplines, grants bachelor and postgraduate degrees, and includes vocational training institutes, research center, and other applications.

Noteworthy mentioning that this meeting was attended by Yarmouk University's Vice President for Student Affairs and External relations, Prof. Fawaz Abdel-Haq, the director of International Relations, Dr. Mowafaq Al-Atoum, and the faculty and administrative staff who participated in the latest official visit to Ahi Evran.

Opening of "Cultural World" Exhibition at Yarmouk University



"Cultural heritage is an expression of a society's vision of itself, of its history and identity," German Ambassador to Jordan Birgitta Siefker-Eberle said at the opening of Yarmouk University's "Cultural World" exhibition in Irbid.

Every culture is a world in itself and these worlds of culture must be preserved and developed, the ambassador noted at the launch of the event on Sunday.

The exhibition displays 15 highlights of Germany's Cultural Preservation Programme, a German embassy statement said, adding that the exhibits range from the restoration of an open-air museum on the site of the Sun Temple of Heliopolis in Egypt to the creation of a sound archive in Afghanistan.

In Jordan, the exhibition displays cultural awareness programmes in the ancient city of Gadara (modern day Umm Qais), one of the country's most important cultural monuments, the statement said.

Talking about cultural ties between Jordan and Germany, President of Yarmouk University Zeidan Kafafi underlined the fruitful cultural relations between Jordan and Germany, which have resulted in "many joint projects".

"Cultural heritage gives us orientation and support; it is part of our identity and our memories. Its destruction is much more than a physical loss, but aims at the heart of civilisation, the dignity of man. This makes our efforts

to protect cultural heritage at the national and international level all the more important," stressed Kafafi, adding that the exhibition furnishes the space for exchanging ideas and skills.

Consequently, in time of crisis and turmoil cultural heritage is threatened by multiple dangers both natural and man-made, such as looting, illicit excavations and smuggling, outlined Professor Hani Hayajneh from Yarmouk University

This exhibition showcases the restoration and conservation of historical buildings and objects, which includes assistance in the repair and conservation of world heritage sites, collection and documentation of oral traditions such as music and literature, documentation of endangered sites; training and education of restorers, archivists, scientists and museum staff, Hayajneh said.

"The examples exhibited in this foyer show that archaeology has not only something to do with lifting old stones. Our institutions worldwide should work together to design an active future, with the aim of preserving the cultural memory of humanity," emphasised Hayajneh.

"I should like to conclude by expressing the hope that many people will visit this exhibition [which lasts until August 27th] to enjoy these exceptional examples of the preservation of the cultural heritage of humanity. But, also to get a better picture of our shared past — a past that can inspire us to work towards a shared future," Kafafi underscored.

