



الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
COMMUNAUTÉ HELLENIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH



The Greek Community of Beirut in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Greece and its official entity with the Greek Language Centre, will be operating as an examination center pertaining to the Greek Language Certification Exams at the Greek Community premises.

Examinations dates for the Certificate of Attainment for the year 2019 in Greece and abroad as follows:

Levels	Dates	Examination Price
A1 (for children 8-12 years old)	Elementary Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (morning)	65 euro
A1 (for adolescents and adults)	Tuesday 21 May 2019 (morning)	
A2	Basic Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (noon)	
B1	Average Knowledge Tuesday 21 May 2019 (afternoon)	
B2	Good Knowledge Wednesday 22 May 2019 (morning)	73 euro
C1	Very Good Knowledge Wednesday 22 May 2019 (afternoon)	
C2	Fluency Thursday 23 May 2019 (morning)	

*Oral examinations are held immediately after the written examinations.

-Registrations will start as of 1st of February till 24th of March 2019.
-Applications can be either submitted electronically to <http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/application/index.html> or on the spot at the Greek Community premises

For further clarifications, you may contact the Greek Language Courses Administrator during the office hours (M-F /3:00 PM – 8:30 PM) on the following contact details:

Address: Greek Community of Beirut Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 Block A - 3rd Floor
Tel.:+ 961 1 493467/8 E-mail: greekcourses@greekcommunityofbeirut.com Website: <http://www.greekcommunityofbeirut.com/>

Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

Email us at comhel@idm.net.lb

Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2nd & 3rd Floor

Tel. : +961 1 493467/8

Fax : +961 1 493469

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 9:00pm

Website : greekcommunityofbeirut.com

Facebook : Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)

Follow us on Instagram account [greekcomm](https://www.instagram.com/greekcomm).



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Ta Nea

Volume 2, Issue 1
Winter 2019

ΑΠΟ ΠΟΥ ΕΙΣΑΙ? Where are you from?

Από πού είσαι;

If you are a Greek from “abroad” as many of us are, it is a question you will be asked for so often! When flip through some Greek learning books, this typical question is inserted in the first lesson! Wherever you are in Greece or Cyprus, you will be asked “Apo pou eise” as soon as you talk to the taxi driver or the waiter. No one should feel offended: this question is part of the traditions even if you have been living in Greece for months. So where are we from? We are citizens of the world, with Lebanese and Hellenic roots, attached to our traditions, combining 2 countries with one single particular culture.

In this issue, we combined news from our Community, including cultural, educational and social events, with a special column related to Greece and Greek news, a wink from the past taken from our archives, a special column dedicated to the Cyprus Community in Lebanon, and some local news. Finally, our last page deals with everything one’s need to know regarding our school Greek learning language, official exams and certifications, specially that February 9 is the worldwide celebration of the Greek language. Enjoy your reading.

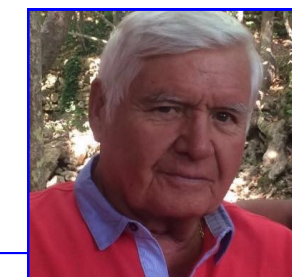
Newsletter Spotlight

- ◆ 2018 Open Photography Competition results
- ◆ Greek news column
- ◆ Festive celebrations

Happy “Hellenophony” Day

In 2016, February 9 was established by the Greek government as **World Hellenophony Day**, the date of the death of National Poet Dionysios Solomos, Διονύσιος Σολωμός (8 April 1798 – 9 February 1857) born in Zakynthos. Salomos is the poet who wrote the words of Greece’s national anthem, known as the Hymn to Liberty “Ύμνος εις την Έλευθερίαν”.

Referred to as the national poet of Greece, he was the central figure of the **Heptanese School** of poetry aiming in preserving poetic tradition and fighting for modern Greek literature.



Good Bye Alain ...

The Greek Community of Beirut is very sad to announce the loss of Alain Depolla who was an appreciated active member of the board since early eighties. All those who have met him or work with him will miss out a remarkably special person who never got tired of helping and serving everyone in all ways, never complaining, with always a positive word or compliment.

May his soul rest in peace and memory be eternal. He will be painfully missed.

Did You know?

The world leading luxury brand **BVLGARI** was founded by Greek silversmith **Sotirios Voulgaris**, (Σωτήριος Βούλγαρης 1857-1932) born in a small village, (Kalarites, Epirus, Ioannina) in the northern mountains of Greece, known for its exceptional silversmith art. In 1877, Sotirios who has been trained by his father, driven by a real artistic flair and a great business mind, moved to Corfu first, then Naples before making Rome his home in 1881. He opened his first store in Rome, in 1884. The first flagship store located at Via Dei Condotti was opened in 1904 with his sons, Konstandinos and Giorgios, who were actively involved in the business and worked for the company their entire lives. In 2011, **BVLGARI** signed an alliance with **LVMH group** based on a stock transfer for a deal of 6 billion US\$. Nowadays, BVLGARI relies on a distribution network of about 300 stores, located in the most exclusive shopping areas in the world. The largest store is the 10-story BVLGARI Ginza Tower in Tokyo with 940 square meters of retail floor space.



The Greek Community of Beirut activities

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN THE NINETEEN TWENTIES, THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT AIMS TO DEVELOP, STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE THE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND GREECE.

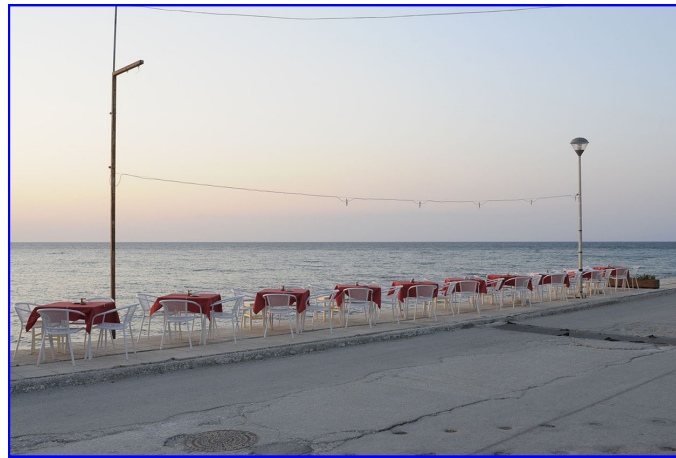
Activities at our Center for 2019 include many cultural, educational and social events in collaboration with organizations, building connections and engendering trust between both countries Lebanon and Greece, through members' community.

The tailor made program of events we have proposed, including days out, Greek language courses and our first photo contest was an essential pillar in promoting awareness of the Hellenic culture in the region.

Those who are interested in Greek movies can join us at our "Cinephiles" movie theater for ciné-club projections. This year, on the program are new entries with 2 projections each month.

Readers can also find latest news regarding Greece or Greeks from abroad in our section "Greek News" together with a new column dedicated to the **Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association**.

We have many cultural events a year to please all tastes and ages, so we expect you to join us the soonest!



Paris Petridis, Phd in photography, Thessaloniki, participated in the "2018 Open Photography Competition" sending this picture from Greece



Our 2019 table calendar illustrated by the winners of the 2018 Open Photography Competition 2 countries, 1 culture.

"OUR CENTER REMAINS THE MEETING POINT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL DISCIPLINES, LANGUAGES AND LIVING CULTURES, ACTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREEK EMBASSY AND OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS".

Greek News

Stefanos Tsitsipas, The "en vogue" Tennis player N* 12 in the world!

The youngest player (20 years old) ranked in the top 20 by the ATP defeated Roger Federer at the Australian Open last month. Known for his one-handed backhand, his favorite shot is the backhand down-the-line. Born into a tennis family, his mother and father were professional tennis players and his dad a professional tennis coach. In 2018, he became the youngest player to defeat four top ten opponents in a single tournament.



Good bye to Themis Marinos.

Themis Marinos, a Greek Army officer born on the island of Zakynthos in 1917, famous member of the British resistance group BLO and author of many books regarding the period of the Greek resistance during W.W.II, died at the age of 101 on Sunday December 23, 2018. He fought against the Italians in Albania in 1940 and the Germans in Crete in 1941. Taken prisoner, he escaped and reached Egypt by submarine, joining the Greek forces there. Marinos was the last of those who had planned and executed the **Gorgopotamos railway bridge operation** in 1942, against Hitler's army, the largest act of Allied sabotage in Europe. Marinos was a member of a group of British-led Special Operations Executive (SOE) detachment, which, after **Gorgopotamos**, formed the core of the British Military Mission to Greece. Following the war, Marinos became a member of the Greek delegation at the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria (1945) and a Greek government liaison officer at the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB); adviser to the Finance ministry, financial director of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), Deputy Director-General of Hellenic Railways, Director of the Hellenic Bank for National Industrial Development (ETEVA) and CEO of the Investment Bank, as well as a member of several boards. He also worked as a UN consulting expert on Harvard University-sponsored programs. In 1993 and also helped found Internet service provider Hellas OnLine. May his soul rest in peace.



Stelios Kerasidis, the 6 years old piano prodigy.

Widely known by the Greek audience after his participation in the television show "Greece's Got Talent", where he amazed both the judges and the audience, the youngest composer of his generation stunned the world with his talent. Apart from playing piano, which he began to play at the age of three, Stelios is an unbelievably gifted composer as well. He recently composed a song all by himself called Veronica and gave an amazing performance at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York, becoming the youngest Greek musician of all time to play there.



Yiorgos Lanthimos movie The Favourite receives 10 OSCAR nominations and the Grand Jury Price of the Venice Film Festival 2018.

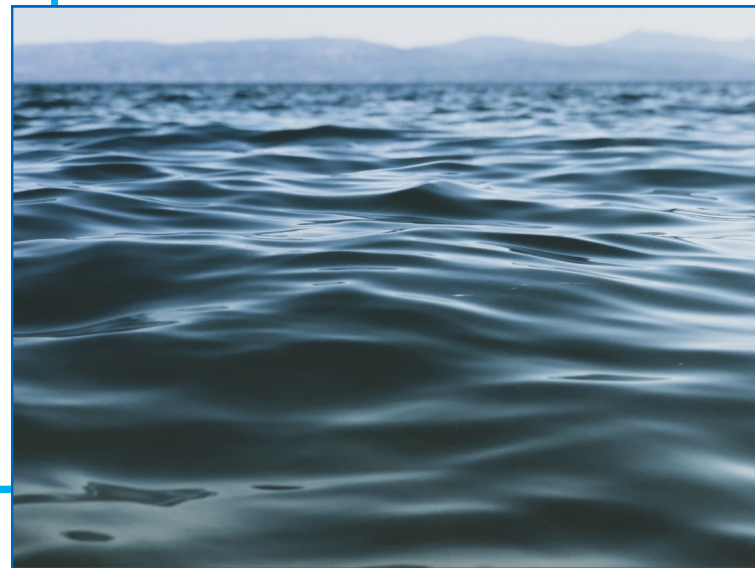
The Favourite (2018) film is directed by Yorgos Lanthimos (Γιώργος Λάνθιμος, born in 1973) and written by Deborah Davis and Tony McNamara, a co-production by producers in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States, distributed by Fox Searchlight Pictures. Set in the early 18th century, the story relates the relationship between two cousins vying to be "court favourites" of Queen Anne. As of February 2019, THE FAVOURITE has grossed over \$56 million worldwide.

Lanthimos is a Greek film, video and theatre director, producer, and screenwriter. As of 2019, he has received four Academy Award nominations, Best Foreign Language Film (*Dogtooth*), Best Original Screenplay (*The Lobster*), Best Picture and Best Director for THE FAVOURITE.

2018 Photo Competition: 2 Countries, 1 Culture

In October 2018, the Cultural Center of the Greek Community of Beirut launched its first photo contest entitled "2018 Open Photography Competition, 2 Countries, 1 Culture". Focus was on an image related either to Lebanon or Greece reflecting the similarity of culture. The Jury was composed of the following members: H.E. Mr. Franciscos Verros, Ambassador of Greece to Lebanon and H.E. Mrs. Christina Rafti, Ambassador of Cyprus to Lebanon, Rev. Father Georgi, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Balamand University, and Prof. André Bekhazi, Dean of ALBA University together with Mrs. Lina Moukheiber, Director of the Development at Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, Mr. Alain Brenas, Director of « École de Cinéma et de Réalisation Audiovisuelle » at ALBA University, Dr. Ghada Waked, Professor at the Universities of Balamand, ALBA, and at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at USEK University, M. Georges Hage, Professor at the Universities of ALBA and Balamand, M. Elie Bekhazi, Professor at the Universities of ALBA and Balamand, M. Georges Eid, Journalist and Reporter at MTV station and Professor at Notre Dame University, and Mrs. Alecca Fellas Khater, Member of the Board Committee of the Greek Community of Beirut.

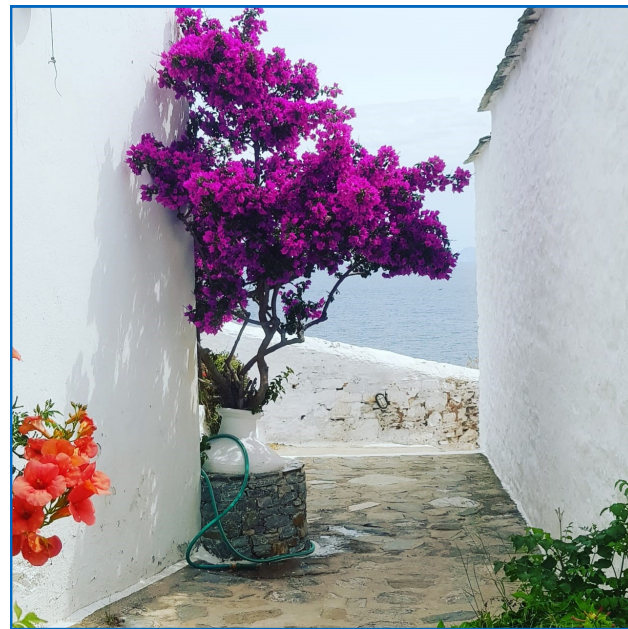
Amongst the subscribers, who sent their pictures from Greece, Lebanon and Gulf countries were 4 professionals and many amateur, ranging from seniors to students, working in different fields such as engineers, interior designers, architects and employees in the medical field or humanities.



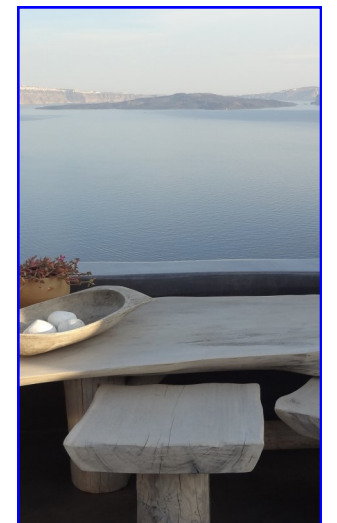
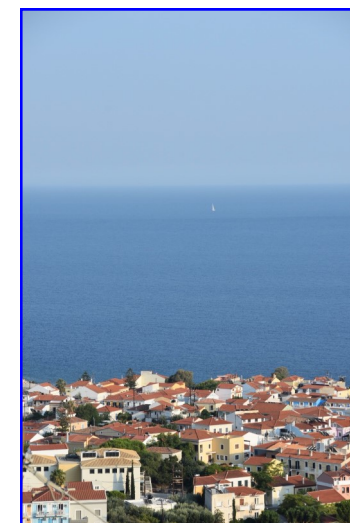
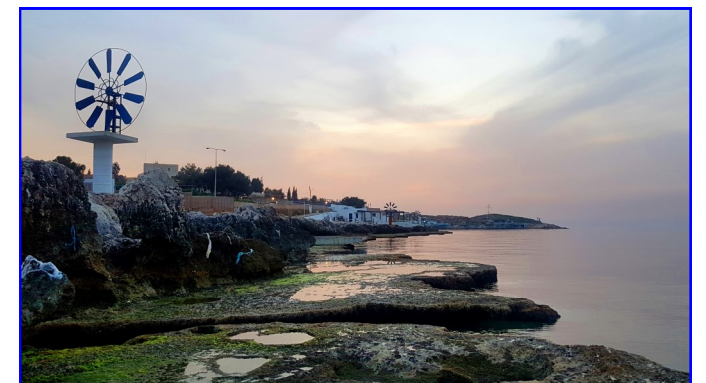
Top right: 1st prize, Helena Homsy, Architect. "Serene moments in the water".

Left: 2nd prize, Marguerite Wakim. "Sea urchins on the rocks".

Right: 3rd prize, Jean paul Georgevitch, Architect. "Bougainvillea in Skopelos".



After collecting the entire bulk of photo sent from Lebanon and abroad, the Members Jury were able to vote 3 winners respectively as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize and 9 ranked pictures illustrating our 2019 yearly calendar, including their names and own comments describing the scene. Our special thanks to the Greek Embassy, to the Cyprus Embassy, to the St Georges Hospital, to the Universities of Balamand and ALBA and of course to each Member Jury who allocated time and effort conscientiously, helping us succeeds in completing our task.



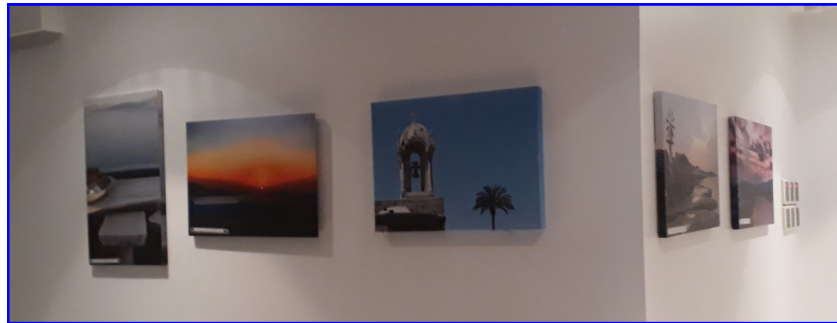
Awards Presentation Ceremony

On January 11th the cultural center of the Greek Community of Beirut had a Ceremony Awards in the presence of H.E. Mr. Franciscos Verros, Greek Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Mrs Rafti, Cyprus Ambassador to Lebanon and Members Jury of the "2018 Open Photography Competition, 2 Countries 1 Culture".

The twelve photos of the laureates were displayed in the room, printed on big canvas stretched on wood frames. President speech, Mr. Andriotis referred to the concept of the competition summarizing the results and congratulating all the participants.

Mr. Verros speech highlighted the similarities of our both countries Lebanon and Greece congratulating the Greek Community for its bright idea and concept and the creativity of all the participants.

If the 2018 O.P.C result was 50 photos, we are sure that the 2019 O.P.C will involve much more participants from Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus!



Helena Homsy, 1st prize, between H.E. Mr. Verros and H.E. Mrs. Rafti.

Anthony Barakat and H.E. Mr. Verros



Members Jury receiving their trophies.



The valuable gifts offered to the laureates: Trophies and much more

Memories, memories...

A wink from the past, bringing back memories alive!

Some of us might have lived those moments, some others may be too young. This section dedicated to the past helps the new generation discover how their parents or grand parents used to live.

In this issue, we selected from our archive a picture taken in 1968, at the occasion of New Year's Eve!



We would highly appreciate your contribution helping us keep those memories alive by sending us documents, photos or articles from your personal archive.



A 2013 Greek period drama-romance based on the novel of the same name written by Ioanna Karystiani, Voulgaris' wife.

Little England dominated at the 2014 Hellenic Film Academy Awards, where it received 13 nominations and won 6 awards as Best Film. The same happened at the 2014 Shanghai International Film Festival where it was announced as the best feature film and won 2 more Golden Globe Awards. It was also selected as the Greek entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards.

An epic tale of lost love and a beautiful family love story between sisters, set in the Greek island of Andros at the beginning of the 20th century. Mina the mother is a matriarch, a woman who runs the lives of her daughters Orsa and Mosca. Orsa, the elder of the two, is beautiful and in love with Spyros Maltambes, but Mina makes her marry another man. Orsa's husband is a good man who cares for his lovely wife, but Orsa cannot help but pine for Spyros, who marries the person Orsa loves most in the world.



Pantelis Voulgaris, Παντελής Βούλγαρης

Voulgaris films have won international acclaim and numerous awards establishing his reputation as one of the foremost Greek film directors of his generation. He was born in Athens in 1940 and studied at the "Stavrakou Film School". He has also directed several documentaries for Greek television and the hour-long documentary on the poet Yannis Ritsos for German Television. In 1995, he was honored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York with a mid-career retrospective.

CINÉ PHILES Amis du Ciné



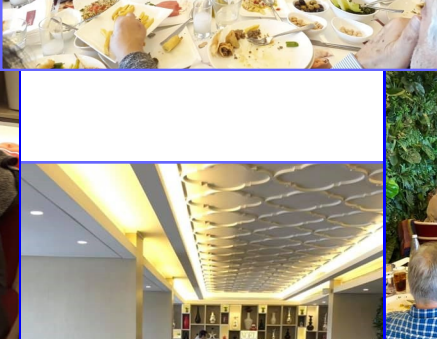
On December 29, the Greek Community of Beirut organized a Christmas party at our Cultural Center.

Over 160 kids were able to receive beautiful gifts and share magical moments with Santa and games' organizers.



On January 5, 2019 the members of the Greek Community of Beirut were invited to our traditional annual lunch at Diwan Beirut Antélias.

Nearly 122 attendees, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Franciscos Verros, Greek Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Kasselakis Iasson, Greek Consul, Mrs. Eleni Papanikolaou, Consul of Cyprus to Lebanon and Mrs. Anna Aravantinou, Attaché at the Greek Embassy in Lebanon, were among the invitees exchanging their wishes in a convivial and friendly atmosphere.





Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association once again organized a gathering for official guests, members and friends of the CCLA. This time, the Christmas gathering, took place at Junction Restaurant in Horsh Tabet on Friday the 14th of December 2018 at night in the presence of H.E. Ambassador of Cyprus Christina Rafti, H.E. Ambassador of Greece Francisco Verros, Cyprus Consul Eleni Papanicolaou, Greek Consul Thanos Leousis, President of Greek Community Panos Andreotis, Greek Club Dimitris Fellas & many distinguished friends.

We were very happy to welcome all to our gathering. It was a night to celebrate what brings us together, our love for our country, our love for our community and as we always say....Communities that come together, stay together!

We had also the opportunity to say our farewell to the Greek Consul Thanos Leousis, who after four years and a half ended his service in Lebanon. we wish him all the best in his new position.



It was a beautiful gathering, with music, live singing, dancing and many gifts. As CCLA we wish to have more successful gatherings in the coming new year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Successful Happy New Year 2019.



On December 6, 2018, the Cyprus Community hosted an information session held by Mrs. Marie Sabbagh, a member of the Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association and Admissions Officer at the University of Nicosia.

This event was an occasion to introduce attendees to the history of the University, and presenting its majors and life in Cyprus, "our near and dearest neighbor", as Marie likes to call our beautiful island of Aphrodite. The audience had the opportunity to find out about the multiple advantages of studying in the University of Nicosia:

All majors are accredited worldwide as well as at the Lebanese Ministry of Education. According to the 2017 study conducted for the World Health Organization WHO organization, Cyprus is one of the safest countries in the world! It is the 1st University in the world for Blockchain and Digital Currency, with leading regional

programs in medicine in English, offering the following degrees: M.D., MBBS, a St. George's, University of London medical programme, Family Medicine, Public Health, Master of Science in Health Services Administration (MHSA) & a world class VETERINARY SCHOOL with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), to create Cyprus' first veterinary school.

Other majors are also available such as Energy, Oil & Gas Management, Accounting (total cost of the tuition fees 9,120€ Euros per year for 30 credits, Biology and pre med 10,620€ per year for 30 credits,

Oil and gas engineering 9,420€ per year for 30 credits.

Marie also replied to queries related to modern teaching methods, student life and adjusting to life in Cyprus. The session was followed by a nice buffet.



* For additional info contact Marie Sabbagh at sabbagh.m@unic.ac.cy 71 61 30 99/01 680 993.

Everything you need to know about the Greek courses at our Cultural Center:

Greek language courses operate under the auspices of the Greek Community of Beirut, offering Greek language courses starting from the age of seven years old. Registrations are accepted from beginning of July until end of September and priority is given to those who complete their registration by paying their fees, which are 444\$/yearly for Lebanese attendees and 333\$/yearly for Greeks and Cypriots (holding a passport), including the book fees. Applicants who have any knowledge of Greek should present a placement test held end of September enabling them to register in the appropriate level. Lessons start the 1st of October and end middle of June for each academic year. Level 1 is separated in 2 years. At the end of the 2nd year, students are able to participate in the Official exams from the Greek Ministry of Education obtaining their official certificate. Approximately 108 hours are taught per level per year. Our program offers 2 lessons per week for each class, with a duration of 1:30h per session. Students are able to choose between Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday courses. All lessons are given in the afternoon, starting at 4:30 pm and finishing at 9:00 pm. Currently, we have 4 levels: A1, A2, B1 and B2. Furthermore, our kids' classes are held every Friday and are free of charge.

Let it snow!

This winter Lebanon has faced up to now 2 rounds of stormy weather and heavy snowfalls, with temperatures as low as minus 5 in the mountains and winds speed up to 60mph causing widespread damages and traffic jams across the country. Good news are that finally the average rainfall has reached almost 630mm in Beirut and snow is covering all the mountains with an average of 2 meters! Ski season opened since last month and saw people heading the slopes at the Cedars, as well as Ouyoun El Siman, Kfar Dhebian, Laklouk and Zaarour.



Everything you need to know about the Greek consulate:

A new Consul was appointed to the Greek Consulate Mr. Iason Kasselakis following the departure of Mr. Thanos Leousis.

Visa Applications: For visa applications please visit our website www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/lebanon-en

Passport renewal or issuance: You will get an appointment by receiving an email. Required documents are: 2 photo passport size (4x6), a Greek identity card or a birth certificate (that can be provided by us if you send us in advance any old Greek birth or family certificate). For additional info kindly visit <http://www.passport.gov.gr/en/npc-content/npc-perioxomeno/supporting-documents.html>

Legalization of documents: The Consular Office can legalize any Lebanese official document that has been stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No appointment is needed.

Power of Attorney: The Consular Office can provide a power of attorney only to Greek citizens, following an appointment given by email.

Marriage, birth, death registration: Required documents: The Lebanese certificates of marriage, birth or death stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and translated in Greek (translations in English or French are accepted as well).

Any old Greek birth or family certificate to be sent in advance by email.