

Respect of human rights: The way forward for Africa

By Valery Njiaba

In celebration of the annual International Human Rights Day on December 10th, the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies at Eastern Mediterranean University took to the campus to raise awareness of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go to make the world a more humane one. Many events were held, both outside and inside the Faculty and the day was commemorated with presentations attended by students, scholars, and members of the civil society. The overall goal of the celebration was to enlighten us about the importance of human rights in the context of the world we live in today and presentations covered a broad spectrum of issues including animal rights, women rights, LGBT rights, children rights, disabled rights, press rights and freedom of speech and expression. Of special interest to me was the presentation of the Human Rights situation in Africa. The panel consisted of four graduate students from the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Florence Mesole Folasayo of Nigeria, Donald Obi Ayuknjie of Cameroon, Salome Nzuma of Zimbabwe and Sunday Oluwafemi Onifade of Nigeria. Together they shared with the participants

the plague of human rights abuses in Africa with a focus on Nigeria, Cameroon and Zimbabwe. The 1948 United Nations General Assembly proposed that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories”. With these African countries being members of the United Nations, we expect to see a considerable respect for human rights in these countries and Africa as a whole.

A continent already invaded by Capitalism where the gap between rich and poor has widened dramatically, the abuse of human rights becomes a method used by most dictatorial regimes – as in the cases of Cameroon and Zimbabwe where they maintain their hegemony and control of power by subjecting the common people to very little or no basic support in education, healthcare, food, employment, and security.

The four panelists equally highlighted attempts to reawake the common people and encourage them to act consciously. The great majority is underprivileged and they are being tortured, molested – some imprisoned without trial. The situa-



FCMS graduate students conference presentation

tion is monitored by many international organizations including Amnesty International – an organization that has strongly protested the abuse of human rights on the continent of Africa. With human rights advocated by many local groups and associations within Africa, the African Diaspora is not absent. While there is a growing debate over immigration, there is a vast array of human rights abuses leading to unprecedented loss of lives. An example of this devastating problem is the case of over 200 illegal African migrants who lost their lives trying to reach the island of Lampedusa. The tragic consequences of these events is often presented as a case of indigenously-gene-

rated poverty within African countries with governments not able to satisfy the basic needs of their people thus pushing local populations in the direction of the glittering wealth of Europe. As a matter of fact the violation of the rights of the people as reiterated by the four panelists has been a major factor in the under-development of Africa: because of selfishness, self-centeredness and poorly managed resources. As a way forward, Africa needs to return to the drawing board and come to terms with the fact that the development and advancement of a nation is collective. The people need their government and the government needs its people for this to happen.

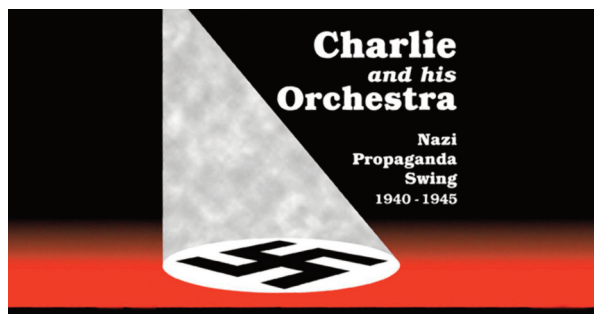
FCMS graduate students' working dinner



The New Year was just as special as FCMS Graduate students push their agenda for the future through a dinner that was characterized by discussions and exchanges with fellow students and staff members. In a family setting, the students and staff dined together while raising concerns for the future.

By Valery Njiaba

Nazi propaganda radio in World War 2



Germany Calling: an insight of how propaganda was used and documented during the World War II as an elitist tool to share ideas while maintaining power and control in Germany through the Nazi German radio that started in the late 1930's

Page 2 By Abtin Badie

African football players in the Turkish league



The Republic of Turkey now play host to many professional footballers from all over the world, Sunday Onifade takes a look at some prolific players from the African continent making their mark at the Turkish Süper Lig.

Page 3 By Sunday Onifade

Page 7

Storytelling: It's all about experience!

By Elnaz Nasehi

It all started at 10am on December 13th 2013 in FCMS 112, situated just off the long corridor across from the graduate student office on the second floor of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies. Why was I there? What new things was I searching for? Probably it was a craving to revisit those old challenging experiences of filmmaking. The experimental documentary film workshop, however, offered me more. We were all surprised by the outcome of this short workshop when we got together for the last screening session of our films on December 17th. The instructor, Nursen Bakir, believes that she succeeded in her goal for all of us to “produce and make something together”. She started this workshop with no predefined expectation in order to be open to surprises and possibilities. She enjoyed the possibility of working with people from different background and with a variety of subjects that enriched her experience.

After the theoretical arguments and screening of some exemplary films during the first morning session, we had enough time to decide on our ideas and discuss them in the afternoon session. Most of the participants suggested themes about their lives to put in filmic form. Ahmetcan Demirci who was a bit nervous and unsure before joining the workshop, manage to tell a nice personal story about his grandmother by using his



FCMS Digital story telling workshop workshop participants

old family photos. Also Abiola Olyelakun put photos of her past, present and future aspirations and goals. From the beginning she was trying to understand the dynamic and unique nature of experimental documentaries to be able to produce them in an effective way.

She thinks she achieved her expectation through making a documentary within the short timeframe of three days.

Salome and Mohammad Aboorish drew on two identity-defining cultural issues; women's hairstyles in Namibia and Kufiya in Palestine. Salome shared with us how her hair has attracted attention from the 'locals' in Cyprus, some asking her how she takes care of it. So her film focuses on pictures of women's hairstyles and how they help to

define ethnic identities.

For the participants, this workshop was an opportunity to give meaning to their observations of the world around them. Andy Sam's film was a poetic personal story about his dreams. Srava Hosseini successfully juxtaposed dried fruits and plants to aging human skin. The juxtapositioning of similar forms to produce a meaning was the goal she successfully achieved.

There were also some participants who preferred to try filmmaking in collaboration with others. Evren Maner, Valentine Ebuette Icekold, and Kelvin Yunusa worked as a team and produced two short films: Hidrofor, and Mind snowing. Evren Maner is a film director who participated in this workshop with Nursen Bakir to make sure

one more time that, "it's the idea but not the camera that is important. And once more get the feeling of the freedom of independent cinema by telling stories in different ways". I cannot agree more with him that “unseen shots, free forms of angles and frames are the hardest materials on earth to put into an order to tell a visual story for an audience in 21st Century”. He prefers to call experimental documentary, Neo-realist avant-garde.

Evren Maner was not the only instructor who participated in the workshop. Dr. Pembe Behçetoğulları, Chair of RTVF and Journalism accompanied us through all the sessions and Dr. Yetin Arslan produced a film based on a Turkish Cypriot butcher's memories during the 1960s conflict. Dr. Hanife Aliefendioğlu had her first experience in film making through the workshop and told an interesting personal story about her dream.

It's fair to say that each of us benefited from the workshop in our own way. For me, it was reconciliation with individual filmmaking through using new digital possibilities. I look forward to future workshops with more specific focus on technological aspects, such as shooting or editing techniques for experimental documentary filmmaking would open new possibilities for those who are interested in a more democratic, avant-garde form of filmmaking.

A working dinner: graduate students meet to set the agenda for the year ahead

By Valery Njiaba

The New Year at the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Eastern Mediterranean University, started on a good footing with “achieving excellence” the goal of the Faculty's graduate students. Following an informal meeting among graduate students and friends, the idea of a once-a-semester “Graduate Students Come Together” event was hatched. The first was around a picnic in 2013 and the second gathering was on Saturday January 4th 2014!

The gathering took the shape of a dinner at a

restaurant on the Sakarya road in Famagusta and drew over forty graduate students and lecturers. The meeting this fall came at a time when graduate students are feeling the pressure to excel in their academic studies through research and the production of publishable-quality scholarship. The goal of the organizers – Valery Njiaba, Sara Nasereddin, and Elnaz Nasehi – was to create solidarity and develop relationships among graduate students of the faculty and for the dinner to serve as a meeting place where al-

iances could be formed and students with similar academic interests and goals could consider working together for personal and academic benefits.

Following introduction of participants, the students expressed their joy and satisfaction for such an initiative and promised to make this a springboard event for revitalizing the graduate student study group.

The Faculty staff members present at the event included Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurten Kara, the Vice Dean and Chair of Graduate Studies, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tugrul Ilter, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hanife Aliefendioğlu, and Assist. Prof. Dr. Pembe Behçetoğulları, Chair of the Department of Radio-TV-Film and Journalism. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Süleyman İrvan gave the opening remarks and spoke of the university's eagerness to assist and to work with students, to encourage interesting ideas, and assist in forging centers of excellence among the graduate students. During the evening, issues were raised by students, including Florence Mesole Folasayo an MA student from Nigeria. Florence pointed out that the faculty should communicate more with its students since communication is the backbone of the faculty – especially in informing students of upcoming conferences and calls for papers. Florence thought that a pro-active stance was better than expecting students to check with the university and/or faculty websites for such information.

Another issue was raised by Elnaz Nasehi, a

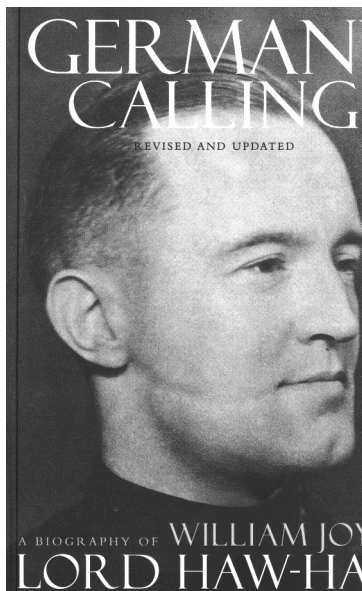
PhD student and a research assistant at the faculty. Elnaz stressed that there was a need for a graduate office that would help in recognizing problems and proposing appropriate solutions and assistance to both the new and present graduate students. It was also pointed out that plagiarism has become a serious problem in universities and because learning is an ongoing and continuous process the students needs to be guided. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hanife Aliefendioğlu used the opportunity to announce the journal for women studies/kadin ArastirmalariDergisi, Kadin/woman 2000. Dr. Aliefendioğlu is one of the editors of the journal and she asked students to liaise with her in writing and carrying out research that could be published in the journal. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mashoed Bailie, Graduate Coordinator for the non-thesis MA program Digital Media and Film Studies and Editor of the Global Media Journal: Mediterranean Edition is also calling and urging students to take responsibility for their graduate education and begin research and writing of publishable articles – not only in the journal of which he is the editor but for other journals within and without the university.

The graduate students were excited and optimistic about the future of the faculty and promised to make their mark felt by not just allowing the faculty of communication and media studies to pass through them but also by them passing through the faculty.



FCMS graduate dinner quests

Propoganda and the manufacture of consent



By Abtin Badie

Propaganda has been a manipulative tool used by rulers and elite groups to serve their own interests and to maintain their positions throughout history.

Propaganda could be understood as the dissemination of ideas with the goal of changing the opinions, views, or beliefs of the many in the interests of the few. Motivation for the use of propaganda does not need to be for only political purposes – it could also be used to influence our attitudes toward the economy, religion, our relationship to each other or to society as a whole.

The Second World War is one of the best documented wars in history and it was during this time that the art of propaganda was really defined. Indeed, the interesting things about it is that the propaganda industry was created by Joseph Goebbels.

There was the immediate establishment of Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda in Berlin on 13 of March 1933 under the control of its mastermind Josef Goebbels. This ministry would control the production

of propaganda activity in Nazi Germany. Goebbels was a master of propaganda and was at the center of activities in the German propaganda industry.

Radio developed as a powerful means of propaganda in Germany and especially for distributing ideas abroad throughout the war. The technological developments at that time enabled households across Europe and the United States to have a radio equipped with medium and short-wave.

Germany calling, Germany calling

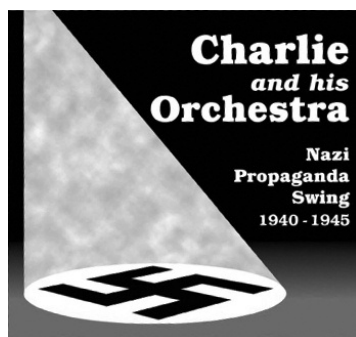
One notorious plan developed by the Nazis was to disseminate its propaganda abroad and to influence minds through the establishment of an English language propaganda radio program called "Germany calling". The program was broadcast by Nazi German radio on medium wave to audiences in Britain and on shortwave to the United States and Canada by the radio station Reichssender Hamburg. Th program began broadcasting on 18 of September 1939 and continued until 30 of April 1945, when Hamburg was taken by the British Army.

Lord Haw-Haw

The Nazis decided to name the announcer of "Germany Calling" Lord Haw-Haw. They gambled that the name would resonate with the average British radio listener as it makes fun of the upper-class English accent. The nickname was coined by a daily express journalist to refer Norman Baillie-Stewart because of his exaggerated aristocratic way of speaking. Later Some British media and listeners

just used "Lord Haw-Haw" as a generic term to describe all English-language German broadcasters. Five different known announcers acted as Lord Haw-Haw and they were Wolf Mittler, Norman Baillie-Stewart, Eduard Dietze, James R. Clark and William Joyce, who was the last announcer of "Germany Calling" and the last person to be sentenced to death for high treason in Britain.

Although listening to "Germany Calling" was discouraged publicly, it was listened to by at least 60 percent of British people after listening to the BBC news every evening.



Charlie and his orchestra

Charlie and his orchestra was a big Nazi propaganda band, which was only to be heard on "Germany Calling". British listeners could tune in every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 PM. Other names for the band included: Mr. Goebbel's Jazz Band, the Templin Band or Bruno and His Swinging Tigers. The actual title referred to Karl (Charlie) Schwedler. The band consisted of 21 performers and there were 7 guest musicians. The saxophonist, Lutz Templin from Duesseldorf, was ordered to establish the band. Karl (Charlie) Schwedler was an officer of the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda, and he could speak English perfectly. He sang the songs with a classic America swing melody but with satirical texts where the first phase of a song was the original American version but then in the second phase anti-American, Anti-British, anti-soviet union and anti-Semitic sentiments replaced the original text. First there were only German musicians among the group but later at 1940 other musicians were hired from other

countries like Belgium, Nederland, and Italy. One of the famous songs of the band was Lili Marleen. In 1943 the band moved to Stuttgart because of the bombardment in Berlin.

Swing jazz and twist dance is absolutely forbidden!

Since 1935 Jewish, Jazz, and Swing music were banned in Germany, but the band Charlie and His Orchestra was permitted to perform Swing music for British, US and Canadian audiences for propaganda purposes. Because of the German "racial purity" policy, Jazz and Swing – originating in Afro-American experience – was banned. The Nazis labelled these musical styles "Afro-American and Jewish" in their racist stereotypical fashion as inferior works belonging to "inferior races".

Karl Schwedler was the only person able and allowed to travel to other countries (except North America and Britain) to gather Swing music samples for his orchestra. It is estimated in Britain alone, over six million people followed "Germany Calling". Eventually, as it became clear that the program was Nazi propaganda aimed at spreading their racist messages abroad, audiences decreased and the program itself rang hollow.



This event, which happened during the second World War can now be seen from an historical perspective where its main shaper, the Nazi propaganda Joseph Goebbels used his considerable creative abilities to further Nazi separatist and racist ideology. Ironically, Goebbels experience of being born with one leg shorter than the other – so that he was forced to wear a special prosthesis – did not help him to empathize with those labelled "different" by the Nazi regime.

Obviously Hitler did not single-handedly organize the horrors of the Nazi regime. He had assistance across all fields and was able to win supporters for the Nazi party. There was a point in time when more than 95 percent of the German population were supporters of Hitler. Propaganda is one of the most dangerous kinds of communication as it has the capacity to win the consent of people through their emotions and fears. Through the twentieth century and now into the early twenty-first century, the story continues, but the place and names change": Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Ukraine, Belarus and many other countries are the targets of increasingly sophisticated forms of propaganda.

Propaganda can never be good – it is always an attempt by a small, relatively powerful group, to move the emotions and change the beliefs, values, and ultimately behaviour, of people through their emotions – it is a form of manipulation that, at the very least, proves how little respect the propaganda communicators have for their potential audiences.

Propaganda does not have to be far from us – it is not always "over there" or produced by "them". It can as easily be produced by "us" and "here" at home. It is up to us, as students, citizens, workers and shapers of the future, to take responsibility for the things we hear, read, watch and see. We need to ask the most important questions when confronted by stories told by others through the vast networks of the mass media: whose stories are these? Whose interests do they serve? How might they be told in a way that provides a service to the whole of humanity and not just the privileged few?



Home away from home: Cameroonian Student Society (CAMESS)

By Valery Njiaba

The Eastern Mediterranean University created student societies with the goal of making international students feel comfortable in their new environments and to cater directly to the needs of students from all over the world. Here is GÜNDEM English' exclusive interview with Clovis Mesumbe, President of the Cameroon Student Society (CAMESS) on campus, giving us valuable insights into the association and its role at EMU.

As an official student association, what are the major roles of CAMESS as stipulated by the University?

Firstly CAMESS brings together Cameroonian students studying in EMU. When you realize that, as international students, we are in a foreign country under the umbrella of Eastern Mediterranean University, an association like this makes it easier to develop a two-way interaction between administration and the students from Cameroon that we represent. Rather than trying to reach each student individually, the university can address the collective and individual issues of Cameroonians through CAMESS.

How would you assess CAMESS in terms of developing its program and meeting its goals?

In regards to our activities and programs, so far so good – we have been doing our best. As you may know, it is a challenge to work with students from a cultural heritage of over 250 ethnic groups divided under the two major official languages of French and English. Here at EMU we have both French and English speaking Cameroonian students. Nonetheless, we have been able to realize some major activities and events: Assisting incoming freshmen through the registration process; developing, and hosting a freshmen welcoming party; holding our first general assembly and hosting a Christmas dinner. We also have upcoming events that are of great importance to CAMESS, including the graduation of Cameroonian students in February and our May 20th National day celebrations.

What is the source of CAMESS' funding for its campus and off-campus activities?

Actually EMU is our major funding partner and this funding is either in cash or kind by providing us with some logistics and assistance on our various events. The way it works is that CAMESS submits a proposal of projects and programs to the appropriate EMU department and this enables the university to provide timely assistance to the association.

Some financial support comes from Cameroonian patrons and we refer to them as "Big brothers". They tend to have been in North Cyprus for a long time and are knowledgeable about the Island. Mr. Fru Asaba is a good example: he lectures in the Department of Economics. There is also Mr. Emmanuel Chenyi and we also have general contribution of all the members of CAMESS.

As the President of CAMESS, what is your vision for the future of the association?

My main vision is to unite all the Cameroonian students both French and English in EMU and across North Cyprus, because we have other Cameroonians studying in other universities here. It becomes our duty as leaders of these groups to bring together Cameroonians from all over TRNC and to create a direct link with our country and the government of Cameroon: together we stand divided we fall.

Apart from campus activities, what else is CAMESS doing to bring Cameroonian students together?

All of our work is aimed at providing service to the student community. We have created opportunities for mini-sporting competitions – football for example. You know Cameroon is a great football-loving nation and as the nation moves to Brazil this June for the Fifa world cup, we are starting to get ourselves ready for the world's number one sporting jamboree. We have also had the General Assembly – bringing all members together to share ideas and opinions so as to improve the functioning of CAMESS. As you know we have a culture of solidarity centered around sharing and catering for each other, so we organize in groups and visit with friends, association members and others who we have not seen for a while to find out what is happening.

Who are the members of the governing body and how long do they serve?

A term of office runs for two semesters or one academic year. The elections are annual and in October. Our term of office ends this coming October 2014. For the cabinet members, we have President Clovis Mesumbe, Vice President Abigael Domdjo, Secretary General Emile Galabe Muah, Finance Secretary Larissa Kmga, Treasurer Mary Takang, Sports and Social Affairs Directors Johnson Odinaka, Jeffery Yamkan and Audrey Nanou Manga, Education Coordinator Albertine Ngweamaw and Protocol Director Rodrigue Suh.

How do the Cameroonian students respond to the activities and programs of CAMESS?



Cameroon Student Society President Clovis Mesumbe

I think the turnout of Cameroonians has been very encouraging as they show up to most of our calls and meetings. You know, to bring everybody together is like bringing the entire nation together, so we do our best and at the same time we are happy to see that there is always a great excitement from our members to take part in our activities. Any President would be delighted to see the membership respond to the association's vision and I am thankful to all the Cameroonians who contribute in building our Association.

Why are student associations so important?

There is a vital need for student association like CAMESS because, too quote one of my lecturers in Cameroon, Prof. Dr. Taric Nchuma "there is power in numbers". It is only when we work together that we can really attain our goals and benefit in many different ways.

Being the current leader of CAMESS, how would you describe the challenges ahead?

In a society or in a community, there are always those for whom things should be different – no matter how you arrange things. CAMESS, likewise, has to work to encourage more participation of those who might like to help reshape it. No society is perfect and so it is always important to have people who care – even when they may also disagree with the status quo. However, if people for whatever reason, don't feel the need to participate with us, we say "if you are absent in the dark, stay absent in the day"! This means: let's be together through the difficult times and rejoice together in our successes. So I am passing this message that our hands and hearts are open, for what we preach and try to practice is love and unity as we are all here representing our homeland and its motto: Peace – Work – Fatherland. So it's important for us to work together and be as one people.

Mr. President, using Gündem Newspaper as a means of communication, what would be your call to all the Cameroonian students and to students in general?

I would say a family begins from the house, it goes up to the neighborhood then becomes a community and grows up to be a nation and finally becomes the world at large. So by starting a little family together we are building ourselves. Our phone numbers are open 24/7 as are all our other modes of communication. We are here for the students so give us the chance to do our job and make our homeland proud.

What does the President do when not taking care of CAMESS issues?

When I'm not the President obviously I'm a student pursuing my degree program, so I study and when I am free I follow the English premier league because I am a very big football fan with my favorite team being Manchester United "the red devils". I have some friends that came with me to the island so when I have the chance I pay them a visit. Being the President does not mean I have to abandon my old friends.

You have been the President of CAMESS for five months now, what would you say are the qualities a President should possess?

A President should have charisma, be approachable and be reachable. A president should treat all members equally and every member should feel comfortable enough to meet with the President when need be to share their concerns. Sacrifice to me is the greatest quality because as a president you sacrifice everything to serve the students. I am open to any call even late at night provided it's to serve the students.

Are there any issues that the university administration needs to focus in your opinion?

First of all I want to thank the university in its effort to honor the national day celebration of most of the countries represented on campus. Of course no matter how much is provided, there is always more that can be done. I call on the university to provide us with some utilities that could help us better run our association. For example, they could provide an office space instead of us having to move from house to house. An office on campus would allow students to meet with us and channel their issues and concerns more easily. This will become especially important as we grow in number. Also the university should use us as students mediators in matters concerning students from our various countries so that when decisions are made they won't come as a complete surprise to the association – after all, it is also our responsibility to see that our students are of good character and conduct. What are the hobbies of the President? I love watching football, go out for sight seeing and movies, I love African traditional meals so I create time to cook or pay a visit to our sister and member Helen Ndejeh, that we commonly call Mami to eat some good home made food, she is our master chef.



Cameroon student foot ballteam

Classes on Christmas Day, seriously?

By Valery Njiaba and Donald Obi

The 25th of December is said to be the day when friends and family gather together to celebrate the mysteries of Christmas according to Christian religious belief. The day is marked by lighting the Christmas tree and, for many, attending an ecumenical service. It is also a day for children to receive presents from “Santa Claus” – also known as “Father Christmas”. Christmas also reminds us of a spiritual commitment of love for one another and the solidarity of togetherness. Of course here, in Northern Cyprus, Christmas is not celebrated by the indigenous community, as the dominant religion here is Islam.

Nevertheless, some of us wonder whether an “international university” should take into consideration the religious affiliation of its global student body and officially include the religious holidays of all communities represented on campus. Talking to some students lately raised the concern that classes are scheduled on Christmas day. I congratulate the university administration for acknowledging and celebrating the day by organizing a Christmas dinner and party for international students. However, it should be noted that the event is not well attended by the huge community of international students precisely because they have attended classes during the day and are too tired by the evening when the party begins.

The issue is that EMU being globally recognized as an international University with student from over eighty different countries and from every continents present on its campus should recognize Christmas officially – as a sign of acknowledging the presence of students from various religious backgrounds. Unfortunately December 25th is

“classes-as-usual” for both the staff and students and the day is absent from the university’s academic calendar.

Because it is not an “official” holiday, students who want to celebrate this important event are placed in a difficult position: to attend classes and ignore the most important day of the year to them, or to not attend

classes and pay the price for missing lectures – since there would be no make-up lectures afterwards. So a situation like this deprives students who usually celebrate December 25th of their religious celebrations.

Many of us want EMU to revise its academic calendar and make December 25th an official holiday. What do you think?



International students talk about classes on Christmas Day 2013 at EMU

The consensus seems to be that students would like to see Christmas celebrated like New Year and a variety of religious holidays – well can we do it? Is there room for one more holiday on the academic calendar?

Gaetan Pindjou Neo, a Cameroonian and MA student in Applied Mathematics said. “I’m a Christian and I feel very sad and disappointed attending classes on Christmas day because this day is a special day for me. It was supposed to be respected by the school administration and set aside as a public holiday because EMU as an international university with more 50 different nationalities from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. The university was supposed to consider Christmas Day as a public holiday in order to allow international students to celebrate in their own unique way. I am attending classes today because I am compelled to do so. If I don’t go, I will miss the lecture, the discussion and I will lose some points from attendance. I appeal to the university to consider Christmas Day as a public holiday – in the same way

that the first day of January is recognized and celebrated.

Abiola Christina, a Nigerian and a B.S. student in the Chemistry Department had this to say; “I am very angry that I have to attend classes on Christmas day – this is the first time this has happened in my whole academic career. I did not only have to attend classes today but I also had a quiz! This was very unfair because today is set aside to celebrate the birth of Christ by Christians all over the world. As a Christian I was supposed to be part of this celebration with my Christian friends. I know that even non-Christians wish this was a public holiday too but unfortunately I am having a quiz today. My wish is that the university would consider this day as

a public holiday in future. **Nzuma** from Zimbabwe and a BA student in Public Relation and Advertising responded: I am very disappointed with the authorities of EMU for not given Christian students this day to celebrate as a public holiday. I think it is very unfair because we as Christians have very few days to celebrate in a year and it would be nice if the university would recognize them. I suggest that the authorities meet with all those involved to see how this day could be set aside as a public holiday in EMU as from December 2014.

Tarkang Mary, a Cameroonian and an MS student in Applied Mathematics gave her opinion too: This is my worst day as a student in EMU. Today is Christmas day

and I am supposed to celebrate it at home with friends and extend Christmas greetings to my family and all my love ones in Cameroon, Africa and the rest of the world. But here I am going to class to take a quiz. I think the university should do something about this because it is really bad and this shows that the university does not care about the thousands of Christian students in school because when it come to Muslim feasts they give up to one week of holidays, but when we need only one day for Christmas they can’t do it.

Wisdom Odinaka, a Nigerian and a BS student in Computer Engineering had this to say: I was very angry when I was told that today is not a public holiday at EMU. They said that Christian students can stay away from lectures and classes, but this is not a good idea. I have to attend classes today because I can’t miss the lectures and lessons. I suggest that the authority should declared this day a public holiday so that all students can benefit from it and all the Christians can have time to celebrate this day with friends.



EMU's PDRAM: Talk to someone

By Imaobong Paul Ifum

"I've lived the past 4 months in a state of constant fear and panic. I am nauseous every morning, often throwing up the contents of my empty stomach. I am constantly on edge, regret every decision I have made over the past few years and want to do nothing more than move back home, curl up in a ball in front of my fireplace and never have to make another decision or face the real world again. All this resulted from trying to decide on a major" "I had a mental breakdown at the end of my senior year because I was so far from home and my brother was experiencing a severe (and sometimes violent) psychotic episode induced by smoking K2 incense. There was nothing at all I could do but call my mom and have her confirm (lie) to me that everything was all right"

These are testaments of two EMU students who have been weighed down by numerous problems that university students face. Looking at a typical day at the university, everyone seems to be going about their business, people are smiling, chatting and working but behind all that, there are a handful of students struggling to look sane.

Freshman year goes by smoothly for most students due to general excitement and the curiosity generated by being in a new environment. Unfortunately, this does not last for long. While University offer a wide range of opportunities for students to grow and mature, some students experi-

ence it as overwhelming because it is the first time they have been away from their homes in their lives. Additionally, there are the pressures of learning to balance studies with social, religious and everyday responsibilities.

The problematic aspect of mental illness is that it is not easy to detect. People with serious problems are often overlooked but the problems are very real and need as much attention as physical illnesses. University students are quite vulnerable to nervous breakdowns and mental unease although they may not realise this because most students' perception of university is that it is a big party and that the freedom granted to them does not come with responsibilities. Various things may lead to breakdowns including the change of environment – it may become overwhelming at some point in time especially in the case of international students. The sudden flood of feelings may lead to anxieties. Of course, anxiety is a normal part of everyone's life, but if one feels overwhelming fear and it is affecting one's life, help is definitely needed.

Students who feel they were compelled into an area of study that was not their choice, are more likely to experience pressure and if not resolved, may sometimes result in mental breakdown. Also, aspects of social life may lead to pressures – like having to deal with people from diverse backgrounds and other cultures is not always as easy as it might seem or finding it

**STEP
UP
SPEAK
OUT**

difficult to form a common ground for a relationship with others may lead to withdrawal. Prolonged withdrawal may lead to feelings of alienation, which is when a person purposely stays away and withdraws from other people, this has a wide array of side effects, a few of which are loss of self, anxiety, despair, depersonalization, apathy, loneliness, powerlessness, isolation, pessimism and the loss of beliefs or values. Humans are social beings and they need to interact with one another in order to stay grounded. Also issues that parents have shielded students from in the past may be difficult to come to terms with when they have to face them on their own.

A little stress may be good, it may help to develop a tough skin and to prepare young adults for life ahead, but anything in excess becomes hazardous and no one is immune to a breakdown. The students

quoted above sought out help are better now. Their plight can find expression through this additional quote, "I know you say that turning to psychology or counselling may be construed as weakness, and I also used to believe that, until desperation drove me to get medicine and talk to someone." The Eastern Mediterranean University Psychological Counselling Guidance and Research Center (EMU PDRAM) was established precisely be an outreach to students who need counselling. The Center was opened in 1997 as a unit working in direct association with the Rector's office.

Reaching out and talking to complete strangers about our personal lives may seem a bit strange or unusual, but for those of us who are feeling the pressure and unsure what to do about it . . . the Psychological Counselling, Guidance and Research Center may stand between us and full blown mental breakdowns. There's no need to face the challenge alone.

The procedure is fairly simple: individuals seeking any psychological services fill out an application form and receive an appointment to meet with a psychologist. Appointments can be made by either visiting EMU-PDRAM, which is located in the Health Center or by calling extension 2251. The services are free and are rendered by professionals. Seeking help in time can make what feels like an impossible burden easier to overcome.

A celebrity studying in EMU

By Meriem Cherraf

He was born and raised in Nigeria and moved to Cyprus in 2010 to study IT at Eastern Mediterranean University. OG is an artist who loves to dance, sing and rap. Besides being famous for his talent, OG is famous for his look that most of his fans relate to Usher. After being nominated in the Best Dancer" category at the All Nigerians Awards Night on the 27th of December 2013, OG shared a little about himself through a question/answer session with Gündem.

What is the difference between working on your music in Nigeria and Cyprus?

Working on my music in Nigeria was a lot easier than in Cyprus. There are very few studios in Cyprus and most of the producers don't really understand the different genres of music as I do. So if I want to record I end up making my own beats, prerecording them at

home and then hitting the studio. In Nigeria I had access to good stu-

dios, professional producers and various talented artists. The atmos-

phere was very conducive to creative production and the promotion of my music .



OG talks to Gündem English

What are the most common things your fans tell you?

They really appreciate my music. I often get comments like: you are unique, great job, keep up the good work. And that's what encourages me to make even better music.

What is your best performance in an EMU event so far and why?

My best performance yet was a collaboration with Danny B "Get your drinks on". The energy from the audience was amazing.

How did you spend Christmas?

I spent my Christmas working on my new song "Champion"

What are your 2014 resolutions?

I plan on working to be a better artist and making my fans happy by bringing new and creative ideas in terms of Music & Dance.

The top five African players in the Turkish Super League!

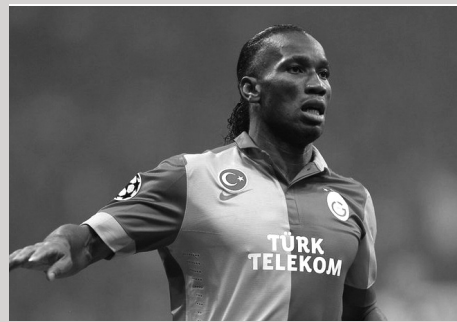
By Sunday Onifade

There are forty-six players of African descent currently plying their trade in the top flight of Turkish football. These players range

from vastly experienced veterans to budding future talents with great futures in the game. They contribute to the development of the game in Turkey while benefiting

immensely from the Turkish society. As always in football analyses, not everyone would agree with the top five in this article. However, the fans of national teams and the

teams that they turn out for on a weekly basis would hardly disagree with their mention. Enjoy my top five Africans in the Turkish top flight.



Didier Drogba (Galatasaray, Ivory Coast)

is unarguably the biggest African footballer in Turkey at the moment. The prolific hitman continues to scare defenders even at the relatively old age of 35. He was indoctrinated into football having been sent to France at the age of five to live with an uncle who was a professional footballer. Fondly referred to as "DD" by

admirers, Drogba is currently the most decorated Ivorian player of his generation.

His late but meteoric rise from the second tier of French football to the summit of European football reads like a fairy tale. His effectiveness and fitness at 35 can be attributed to the fact that he has been honest about his age, whereas most African footballers habitually cut as much as 10 years off their ages. Little wonder

they often leave the game in their "early thirties".

Drogba who is also a philanthropist has been a fans' favorite since his days at Guingamp, taking him to Olympic Marseille, Chelsea, Shanghai Shenhua, and now Galatasaray. His current deal runs out in June, but wherever Didier chooses to play next, he doesn't look like he intends to wane soon.

Emmanuel Emenike (Fenerbahçe, Nigeria)

The bullish Nigerian striker is one of the hottest African properties in Europe. Speculations currently link him to a number of clubs in the English Premier League. He emerged with the golden boot at the last African Cup of Nations in South Africa where Nigeria coasted to victory after a nineteen-year wait filled with disappointments and near misses. He burst onto the scene with a series of

scintillating performances during his stint with Karabukspor between 2009 and 2011. This prompted Istanbul giants Fenerbahçe to shell out nine million Euros for his signature, but he was quickly sold to Russian side Spartak Moscow for ten million Euros without having kicked a ball in the Fenerbahçe's colors. This was because of the match fixing scandal that engulfed Turkish football in 2011.

Emenike was arrested among several

other players and officials. He was glad to jump at the opportunity to continue his career in Moscow vowing never to return to Turkey. Three years of convincing displays in Moscow led to renewed interest from Fenerbahçe, and they re-signed him for fifteen million Euros. He has put in numerous solid displays for the Istanbul based club despite a slow start.

At just 26, the bullish striker seems destined for great things.



Emmanuel Eboué (Galatasaray, Ivory Coast)

This 30 year-old enterprising right full back is a delight to watch. He is best known for his performances for London club Arsenal FC. Despite his advancing years, Eboué shows no sign of slowing down. He has been a permanent fixture on the right flank of the current Turkish champions which he joined in 2011 after six eventful years at Arsenal.

He started out at Ivorian top side ASEC Mimosas in 2001 before leaving for ASEC's parent-club Beveren of Belgium in 2002. Three years of eye-catching display for the Belgian side earned him a move to Arsenal FC.

The Ivorian international is versatile showing ruthless efficiency in attack and defense on the right flank. Eboué's versatility, speed, and trickery have enabled him to amass over 400 games and

over 20 goals for both club and country in a career spanning 13 years to date. With the 2014 world cup around the corner, Ivorian fans are surely hoping that Eboué continues his fine form for Galatasaray. This may be the last major tournament for his generation of Ivorian footballers. They'll be hoping for a miracle, as this may be the last shot at silverware on the international stage for most of them.

Moussa Sow (Fenerbahçe, Senegal)

After learning his trade at lower clubs Mantes and Amiens, the French-born Senegalese international signed for top flight club Stade Rennes in 2004. He joined Fenerbahçe following two successful years at Lille in which he scored 31 goals in 54 appearances. He had joined Lille for free after six years of mixed fortunes in Rennes. Two seasons and 31 goals later, they cashed in

on him for ten million Euros. He represented the French Under 19 and Under 21 sides with little success. With no future in sight for him in the French national team, he quickly switched allegiance to his country of origin, Senegal. He has scored ten times in twenty-four appearances for the "Teranga Lions" as the Senegalese national team is called. This is no mean feat considering the fact that he

has to compete with two capable and experienced strikers in Demba Ba and Papisse Cisse in the team.

His achievement has been a bargain for Fenerbahçe as he has scored over 37 times and assisted 17 times for the "Black and Yellows" since the move. With strong interest coming from abroad, we'll watch and see where Moussa plays next, but we can be certain that he won't be cheap.



Geoffrey Oboabona (Çaykur Rizespor)

Godfrey Oboabona is widely touted as a future captain of the Super Eagles of Nigeria. He has shown a composure and leadership that belies his age.

At just 24, he is the leader of the Nigerian defense line with 30 solid

appearances and one goal for the national team.

The African champion chose little known Çaykur Rizespor despite interest from some top European sides including current leaders of the English Premier League, Arsenal. He has made appeared eight times for the Rize based side scoring one goal in

the process.

With Rizespor lying uncomfortably close to the relegation zone, the former Sunshine Stars of Akure skipper will not be short of suitors should his team be relegated.

He is most likely to lead from the rear as the Super Eagles chase glory in Brazil 2014 World Cup in June.