

Honors and high honors ceremony

Yazan Albarahma

On Friday, the 2nd of December, 2011 the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies held the Honors and High Honors Ceremony at the Green Hall in recognition of the academic performances of students receiving a total GPA of 3.0 and above for the Spring Semester.

The ceremony began with an opening speech by Vice Dean Professor Nurten Kara in which she congratulated the students on their academic achievements and wished them further success in their academic and professional lives.

The students who had earned the highest GPAs were offered the opportunity to deliver a speech during the ceremony. David Mathias, a Nigerian student from the department of Public Relations and Advertising delivered a speech in which he thanked his family, friends, and the professors and instructors for their help and support. He also thanked EMU for the great opportunities it provided for him and his fellow classmates.

Didem Civisilli, a student from Turkey spoke on behalf of both the Journalism, and the Radio, TV and Film Studies departments. Didem

thanked those who had helped her achieve success and hoped for future achievements for all the students of the faculty.

From Visual Arts and Communication Design Zahra Mohammadkazemi, a student from Iran gave a speech thanking those who had helped and supported her. Zahra discussed the importance of education and encouraged her fellow students to be more active part in the activities.

After the speeches, the Dean and professors distributed certificates to the students.



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The Munyenge king studying at EMU

Oyekan Taiwo

Africa is the world's second largest continent after Asia and consists of 56 countries. The overall population is 1,001,320,281. There are many different traditions and religions in Africa divided by region and culture.

In Central Africa, there is a country called Cameroon. It shares border with Nigeria, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. Cameroon has 250 to 300 ethnic groups and estimated 300 languages--the official languages being French and English. There are different communities in Cameroon, one of which is "Munyenge", which means peace.

The new King of the Munyenge community, Denis Likowo III, was officially enthroned on the 18th of June 2008 and is currently pursuing a master degree in International Relations at Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU).

King Denis Likowo III explains that by tradition, kingship is hereditary in his culture and that he inherited the throne from his father after his death because he was the next of kin. Despite the fact that he has nine brothers and two sisters he was favored to replace their father. According to him, the benefits of being a king is to command respect when at home and else where. There is no salary from the government, he only benefits from the resources of his community as a king, and he helps the government by collecting taxes from his people.

People of his community hardly identify him as a king at all because of how casual he has become with them. His community is made up of about 35 different ethnic groups with many



different traditions and a population of 15,000 inhabitants.

There are many tradition for royalty in his community. According to one tradition, if a king is at home and someone wants to visit him, they should come with hot drinks while the guards inform the king that somebody is visiting. According to King Denis Likowo III, if the purpose of the person's visit is not very official s/he might not be able to see the king, instead there may be a replacement on the king's behalf. But if the purpose of the visitor is very important, s/he would be taken to a special room and the king would be informed. He explains further that if the king is away for a long time, when

he arrives back home, they will prepare traditional dances and choirs to sing and receive the king. Most often the elders in the community are first to receive the king back home, he gives the most important elders handshakes and waves at the rest.

According to Denis Likowo III, in the old days men used to bow down and women crouch down on their knees when greeting the king, but he maintains that these traditions keep changing and he does not like seeing people greet him in this way, preferring to shake their hands. He wants people to feel free around him because of his belief that under God everybody is equal irrespective of their positions.

The traditional attire is worn occasionally, for instance when he receives visitors that are top government officials, or when taking part in a celebration. The traditional attire consists of a traditional hat that no one touches but the king, and a cloth called Sanja tied around the waist, there is the shirt, head tie, some bracelets and shoes or sandals. He is the only person entitled to wear this attire.

According to tradition, as king he's entitled to marry many wives but because of his religion he chooses to remain with one, and he must get married only to a woman from his own tribe

251 ethnic groups the make up the entire Cameroon population and 35 of these ethnic groups reside in his community. Of their traditional dishes he particularly loves one called Timananbusa, made up of grinded coco yam, palm nut, and dried fish.

Talking about things he must not do as a king, his position does not allow him to eat snail which is forbidden, but apart from snail he's entitled to eat any kind of meal.

Denis Likowo III is enrolled at the university because he believes that in the 21st century, a bachelor degree is not sufficient and his dream is to continue his study to PhD level in order to acquire enough skills to properly manage his people back home. He's very friendly with his fellow students especially the ones from his country. "This is abroad" and this helps him treat them as equals. Many students are not even aware he's a king because of how he mingles with them. But he's well known by the people who are from his community.

Occupy Wall Street



— **Yazan Albarahma** —

Occupy Wall Street is the protest movement that called for the occupying of Wall Street in New York City. Organized by the alternative media source Adbusters, and engineered and promoted through face book, Twitter and other social networks, the protests were said to be inspired by the Arab Spring revolutions that brought

down three dictatorial leaderships within the Arab world.

The Occupy Wall Street movement began with a demonstration on September the 17th in downtown New York consisting of around 100 protestors. This culminated, however, in numerous arrests by the New York City police.

After this initial attempt, the

protestors moved from Wall Street and settled in Zuccotti Park which became their headquarters for gatherings, discussions, and protest.

Even after the disruption of the Zuccotti Park protests the Occupy Wall Street movement has inspired people in more than 1500 city around the world to protest their countries economic conditions and uneven distribution of wealth.

In the United States, 1% of the population controls almost 80% of the national wealth and according to protestors do not pay an equal share of taxes. The American system has always provided more economic opportunities for the small percentage of the already wealthy.

During the Bush presidency, the American economy reached its lowest point. Jobs became scarce and companies started to collapse. A Wall Street protestor also criticized Obama saying: "There is a state of indignation in the direction of Obama's policies, he is far from what is happening on the ground and is currently busy in travelling across the country to compile a billion dollars so he can rerun the presidential elections."

International reactions after the events:

Former UK Prime Minister,

Gordon Brown said "the protests were about fairness, there are voices in the middle who say look, we can build a better financial system that is more sustainable, that is based on a better and proportionate sense of what is just and fair and where people don't take reckless risks or if they do, they are penalized for doing so".

Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev compared the events to the Perestroika period and the dissolution of the Soviet Union superpower calling the protests justified. He said "Americans should put their own house in order before attempting to do such with other countries".

Tony Blair the former British Prime Minister criticized the movement stating that "a protest is not the same as policy. Someone who is demonstrating will often make demands, but they don't necessarily have answers".

The questions that are raised by many of the supporters of the protests is whether the US foreign policy was the reason behind this economic recession that is facing American or whether it is the government's and the elite's fault as they weren't able to control their economy

Buffer zone conference on community media

— **Gündem News** —

Cyprus was the venue for this year's Community Media Forum Europe Conference and General Assembly held between November 17 and 19 in the buffer zone in Nicosia. The conference attracted over 100 participants from around the world including scholars, researchers, educators and community media practitioners. The three-day event was organized by the bi-communal Cyprus Community Media Centre [CCMC] and with organization support from the World Association of Community Radio broadcasters (AMARC) and International Media Support (IMS) for the Community Media and the Arab Spring panel. Cyprus was chosen as this year's venue because of both its geographical importance at the crossroads of transformations and to support the fledgling CCMC and encourage support from civil society actors.

CMFE was founded in Germany in 2004 to provide encouragement and support for community media or "Third Media Sector" in Europe. CMFE accentuates the importance of free access to information, freedom of speech and freedom of expression. It is composed of not-for-

profit local media serving local communities. CMFE has over 90 members from 23 different countries including affiliate members in Africa, Asia and North America.

One of the participants at this year's conference was Dr. Mashoed Bailie, from Eastern Mediterranean University's Faculty of Communication and Media Studies who presented a paper on the role of the Media in Cyprus. In his presentation, Dr. Bailie discussed the current media climate of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot media on the island briefly and suggested that community media might play a positive role in promoting

understanding between communities, encouraging empathy among groups and offering alternative perspectives to those most often found in the mainstream and dominant media outlets. "A lot of this is about how power works", said Dr. Bailie: "it is about the power to selectively shape the way citizens will think about their society and the world: it is about who gets to speak, whose voices are heard and whose voices are marginalized and silenced. Community radio can perhaps perform the crucial role of providing a channel for voices and perspectives that are least likely to be heard in the mainstream." Dr. Bailie questioned the potential

power of media ownership and editorial control and underlined the importance of developing and sustaining an alternative community media forum where voices that are less likely to get an airing in the mainstream can be heard. Community radio personalities from different radio stations around Europe – including stations in England and Spain and France were interested in his take on the process and had interviews with Dr. Bailie about the current climate for media in Cyprus and the community media's role in opening up more opportunities for dialogue, discussion, understanding and empathy in conflict situations.



The artistic Creativity under pressure

— **Albert Vandellós** —

The avant-garde movements of the XX century were defined by publications of artistic manifestos that described artist's new concepts to society. For the "Concepts in Modern Art and Design" course mid-term, I asked my students to write their own mani-festo, to express their own ideas on art. A risky proposal maybe.



Fragments



manifesto

The students began by saying that they were not able to do it, but I kept up the pressure. On submission day, when I saw the smiles on their faces, I realized that the experiment had been a success: I received an amazing collection of personal manifestos. Gündem is sharing with you an exclusive view of some of these wonderful works. Enjoy them!



Touchism manifesto

—Sule Çiçek—



Touchism means to touch an object which is not complete, one side of this object is complete and the other side is not complete. This is a new style of art. My desire is to complete the uncompleted objects with your ability and creativity. For example; we have one photograph with the left side completed and the right side is uncompleted. I would like you to complete it with your interpretation. What can you do?

1. You can write something about the picture's uncompleted side.
 2. You can draw in the picture's uncompleted side.
 3. You can give it some different meanings.
 4. You can create lots of new meanings with it.
- Touchism is the new style

in art. It includes touching one object and giving a new meaning to it. I created this style of art because when we go to a museum or exhibition we always see little notes on the picture or object that say "DON'T TOUCH", we see this and we look at it and can not do anything, we can't touch it.

I created this art because I wondered What do the people think? What do they feel? When they see an object of art. I would like people to express their thoughts through words, paintings, interpretation, through their creativity. I created a new movement for the inclusion of new meanings. I announce it to teenagers, adults, children and old people, because they will give new meanings to art, in this way we can learn lots of new things about the people their ideal world.

You can imagine this: when you go to a museum you see one object, which is an uncompleted chair. You can touch it, you can create a new chair with your ability. You can use everything to design a new chair or you can write something about it, What do you feel when you see it? Another example; when we go to "Sa-lamis Harabeleri" in Cyprus. We can see the broken sculpture with its head broken, we can

complete it with a lion's head and this head gives it power so it may symbolizes empowerment and other people can find different meanings for it. In other words: revealing people's creativity and learning something from people is my underlying reason in this movement.

After the museum I can better understand your feelings and I can see your new chair. Many people can go to the museum every day and each one can give new meaning to it. Because we all have different thoughts from one another. In this way we can learn new things from people in Cyprus and in the world.

When we look at the picture,



we see one hand. This hand can symbolize everything like love, loneliness, divorce, absence, etc... it depends on our imagination and on our feelings.

In conclusion: my basic reason is to reveal people's different ideas for new styles of art. I think art shouldn't be formulated and so art needs to break down this taboo. On the other hand, art shouldn't belong to only the artist's opinion. People should contribute with some ideas or thoughts about art, too.

My grateful thanks to: NAFIA AKDENIZ for giving me some information and photographs for this Project.

Azadism manifesto

—Azadeh Kazemi—



AZADI means freedom, and freedom is not just a word. It is a style of life, it is a way of thinking, it is the manner in which we talk, and it is a type of seeing and even breathing.

AZADI is the aim that everyone is trying to achieve, every community tries to contain, every

teacher try to teach, every student tries to learn—but every dictator tries to stop.

This manifesto is for introducing AZADI, the best movement in art that can change your life. It is not just in art, not only for painting, not for only music, not just in literature, it does not only belong to theater or cinema or design, AZADI is a process in speech, thought, of the human being and even a way of death.

AZADI teaches you to live free, don't limit yourself, don't make a jail for your soul, don't constrain anybody, don't stop your mind from thinking about a better life. A life without violence and severity, without war and lack of solidarity,

without famine and poverty, all of these things are possible with AZADI. For reaching AZADI you must be AZADEH and live AZAD.

For AZADISM painting use shiny and bright colors. Enjoy your painting and create an excitement that everyone gets pleasure from when they see it. The creations must distributed life and freedom to the audiences and show them AZADI. Painting should be executed in expressive even violent brushstrokes on at least some part of the picture. They must be abstract and figurative. Any subjects are encouraged.

AZADISM music penetrated in all our heart and soul deeply, and induces the feeling of freedom.

Hearing AZADISM music will encourage you to close your eyes and fly as free as a bird and dance like AZADEH.

Everybody wants to live within AZADI design. It makes you full of life and love. It uses empty space near pure color and uses beautiful natural fundamentals. It contains more places to rest and taste AZADI. AZADISM design gives permission to you to see particular things that you have never seen before.

In AZADISM literature you meet the peaceful world, with a smile and naked emotion. AZADISM shows you how oppressors and despots will disappear and teaches you how

to resist them. AZADI literature teaches you how to live free and AZAD, how the world becomes a better place to live. AZADI is the blasé of glory, is the peace after war, is the awareness after deep sleep, is the dream after nightmare, is the sunrise after sunset, is the spring after winter.

AZADI gives you confidence to achieve everything, gives you power to change bad things, gives you authority to live happily, gives you influence to help the others and gives you the chance to introduce them AZADI.

AZADI donates to you two wings to fly, and voice to sing, and opportunity to improve yourself. AZADIM is the best way of life.

Fiprism (finger printism)

—Volkan Tekin—

Sometimes people don't want to express themselves by speaking or through facial expressions and they use fingerprints which reflect their true identity. That is the idea behind the creation of this art.

(...) If we would like to give an example: a boy loves a girl and suddenly needs to move to another city. But he has to say to her that he loves her. The boy writes "I love you" on a piece of paper which is made up of his fingerprints and he leaves it behind for the girl to see. Well, obviously, some people don't want to express their emotions openly or directly, and like to deliver the message through more complex ways, if we ask why he didn't simply write it with a pencil. That means: she looks at the paper and doesn't understand who wrote it, but tests the fingerprints for the identity and learns who really wrote it. She learns who the mysterious person is and might like the idea and be happy. The boy also knows that, and he wanted to express himself without being simple.

Post-modern natural art

—Pooneh Afaghzadeh—

Nature herself is an artistic master piece beautifully designed with a perfect combination of shapes and colors. But in our modern era our behavior towards it has been distracted, the modern life has possessed our minds in a way that has made us lose our identity as a part of nature.

(...) In my style, by using technology and nature, especially the four elements: water, air, soil, fire, I design my work, and with the shapes and colors, I use natural materials from our mother without doing harm. For example: sand on the background, different shapes of stones with different colors, wood, leaves, and I use related technological tools to make it even more perfect.

I hope one day without turning from our path, we will learn to realize who we are or part of what we are in essence.

Anti-abstract art

—Gladys Gimbiya Adezaky—

(...) I read an article on 20/20, they were showing these abstract paintings being sold for millions of dollars done by these so-called "pros". But it got interesting when the host had these random 4-years old girls paint on canvas and then set their own work up next to the "pro" abstract artist's pieces. This was to see if these educated artists having studied art for so long could tell the difference, and amazingly these educated guys described how expressive those

The power of music in North Cyprus

Oyekan Taiwo

Northern Cyprus has a society made up of different people from various cultural backgrounds. Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) is an educational institution located on the island with an estimated 14,000 students enrolled there presently.

The university has set up many student clubs in order to engage local and international students in extracurricular activities, one amongst them being the Music Club. According to the president of the EMU Music Club, Cem Adakli, the Music Club is comprised of five groups: Black Peace (punk), Popcorn (pop), Red Wine (Rock), YENI (funk), and Jack N Night (Hard Rock).

Outside of the registered Music Club groups at EMU there are many international groups that perform various genres of music. These groups perform in churches, pubs, and graduation ceremonies. Among these groups are the EMU Classical Choir, the Church Choir and Dirty Beat band.

The EMU Classical Choir, which was founded in 2009 by Chidiebere Nwosu and ChukaIwundu, and is a group of 25 members, is comprised of musicians of different nationalities such as Cameroonian, Nigerian, Iranian, and Egyptian among others.

According to one of the leaders of the EMU Classical Choir, Chidiebere Nwosu, their aim in forming the group was to create a unity among international students and to bring people who have a passion for music together in order to discover their potential talents in the area of music. According to

Chidiebere Nwosu the EMU Activity Center provides everything the group needs, such as uniforms, instruments and other equipment. He also maintained that it is inspiration that drives the group and that the passion the members have for music helps to keep their dream alive.

The group attended an outstanding event, the Turkish Republic or Northern Cyprus biannual music concert in Bellapais two years ago where they performed as representatives of EMU. Another show took place in 2009. It was their first Christmas concert and the school authorities were all present at the event and it was covered by DAU TV. Furthermore, they were once invited to an international concert in Prague (Czech Republic) to perform but due to lack of funding they were unable to attend the event. The band is open for any talented new member to join who is interested in classical music.

Another talented group, well known in Famagusta, which is not represented by EMU, is Dirty Beat. The band is into pop, dancehall and club music. The band was founded in September 2011 and it is made up of five Cypriot musicians, Erkan, Kamil, Tolga, Hussein, Angel I, and one Nigerian, Chuchu.

Their aim in forming this group, according to Chuchu, was to help promote in North Cyprus a different kind of musical experience by playing club music live on stage which had never been done in before in Cyprus, and also to contribute to alternative social scenes in North Cyprus. Their coming together started when Chuchu and Erkan went for a show in Turkey (Beyhaz show) where they discovered



they could collaborate together.

Since the band came together, they have been working with a popular artist called Angel I which has helped the band gain popularity. The group has had the opportunity to perform in many venues which has contributed to its notoriety and to fund the bands ongoing existence. As of now, there is no upcoming album/record, according to Chuchu, but the members are working on it. Inspirations of the group include Black Eyed Peas and other popular groups because of the upbeat and motivational nature of the music.

Another music group is called YENI Music. According to one of its members, Sam, a master student at Eastern Mediterranean University (Industrial Engineering

Department), the band was founded by Nubi Kayode two years ago and the name YENI (New) was come up by Nubi who believed that if someone finds him/herself in anything new they should adapt to it. They are into jazz and funk and have performed on many occasions both on Campus and in the city. They perform at spring festival every year where they attract a big crowd get more recognition. According to Sam, they aren't funded by the University or sponsored but they perform for the love and commitment they all have for music. They are currently working on an album coming out soon. The band is open to any talented new member who can contribute to the growth of the group.

The pursuit of greener pastures in TRNC

Teslim Abdulrazaq

Over the years there has been a notable increase in the number of Nigerian students at EMU pursuing various degrees in different fields. Nigeria is the largest country in West Africa with a population of over 150 million people. Although it boasts 500 federal and private universities, the quest for better educational systems--the lack in quality of these universities which are unable to make it on the list of the top 10,000 universities in the world, has lead a lot of Nigerians out of their country to study in Cyprus. From research taken from the Registrar's Office at the Eastern Mediterranean University, through 2000-2011 the school has admitted over 2000 Nigerian students into various departments.

According to further research made by the Registrar's Office, currently there are 678 Nigerian students enrolled in both Masters and Undergraduate programmes respectively.

Mainly Nigerians come to Cyprus for educational reasons. This is in order to be able to increase their chances of getting good jobs when they get back home to Nigeria so as to be able to impact positively the working class sector of the country and to use the knowledge earned to improve many sectors of the country.

Many Nigerian students who study abroad

also look forward to interacting with people from other cultures, learning and sharing, and exploring their differences. But in Cyprus Nigerian students tend to complain that life can get dull because of the language barrier, and even after solving the language problem there still seems to be obstacles.

A little a research involving interviews with some of the Nigerian and Turkish students sheds light on their opinion of culture and prejudice in TRNC.

Speaking with **Irem Ergul**, a Turkish student from the Department of Education, who is used to associating with all foreign students, she said that skin colour doesn't matter to her, what matters most is how one understands and defines their life. She feels that African students in general are very friendly and like making new friends. She said that by making friends with an African student one can learn more about their culture, lifestyle, and values.

Speaking with **Munir Salam**, a Nigerian student from the Faculty of Business and Economics, he said that some of the Turkish or Cypriot people are like family to him, but that he has received several racist abuses from many on different occasion.

Speaking with **Francis Obi** a student from Political Science, he said that his social experience in Cyprus, is a good life experience

for him, that when he first came to Cyprus he was told to never be friends with Turkish or Cypriot people, that they are uncivilized people, but as time passed he began to see the openness many of them have for foreign students, to the extent that his close friend even got married to a Turkish person. He never experienced anything like prejudice since he came to north Cyprus.

The major problem Nigerian student's face in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is that most students would like to have a job, but the country does not offer work permits for students. This forces many Nigerian students to boost their GPA and CGPA to get a job inside the university.

Another major problem Nigerian students tend to face in North Cyprus is rent prices. Many do not want to live in the university dormitory so landlords use this as an opportunity to increase house rent. Homes away from school tend to cost more than the ones close to school and because of this Nigerian students complain about accommodations.

Living in TRNC is far safer when compared to Nigeria.

Speaking to **Abdullah Osuwa**, a Nigerian student in the Master programme in International Relations, he said that compared to back home in Nigeria, security wise it is

better here. Here in Cyprus you can walk anytime you want, go to bank without fear of gangsters robbing you, and back home it is never like that. There are many homeless desperate people looking for money to survive.

Speaking to another Nigerian student **Joushou Ugbe**, a Masters student as well from Information Technology Department, he said that Nigeria is a big country compared to Cyprus, but even with that comparison the crime rate is lower and safety-wise Cyprus is a peaceful place to live and study.

Speaking with another Nigerian student from International Relation, **Ahmed Rufai Ahmed**, he said that compared to Nigeria, Cyprus is better place for him. He gave the example of the recent bomb blasts in Nigeria. That is not safe, and especially for students.

Eastern Mediterranean University has a great PR team in Nigeria which describes to Nigerians life in Cyprus and the university, but they tend to emphasize the positive aspects, which motivates lots of young and enthusiastic minds. It would be better if the advertisers were more forthcoming about the good and bad aspect so as to help reduce disappointment in Nigerian students. This way Nigerian students would be better prepared to cope in a foreign country.