ARAB BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
كليّة اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter **May 2015**

ABTS Facilities: Arab Hospitality in Service of the Church

ABTS's campus, in the hills overlooking Beirut and the warm Mediterranean, is always busy. Our students are on the go between their dorms, classes, library and meetings with staff. In the afternoon, some students' children can be heard laughing and playing from the playground, while children nap in our daycare. At the reception, you can bump into staff, faculty, partners, and guests staying in our guesthouse. Regularly, conferences, prayer and worship gatherings, and community events are hosted in our facilities.

ABTS's facilities - especially conference halls and the guesthouse - play a vital role in generating income for our educational programs and subsidizing the studies of more than 65 students from a dozen or more nationalities.

Our Facilities Department has 12 dedicated staff members seeking to maintaining our high standards of services. In this month's newsletter, we sat down with Facilities Manager **Fadi Salamoun** and Events Coordinator **Christina Khamis**. Before coming to our Facilities Department in July 2013, Fadi managed several international hotels in Dubai. Christina Khamis joined ABTS in 2014 as Events Coordinator, after graduating with a degree in Marketing and Advertising. She gained experience in organizing youth ministry events and church summer camps.

What facilities make up ABTS's campus?

Christina: For our students, we maintain the Family Housing building and the Student Housing building. We also keep the conference rooms and halls they use as classrooms clean and ready for students. We have a daycare and a new playground for the children of our married student couples, as well as a volleyball court that also doubles as a basketball or mini-football (soccer) court. For our visitors, we maintain and prepare the guest housing and conference rooms and halls. Our guestrooms are simple but clean and meet an international standard with private toilets and showers, as well as telephones, basic amenities, and A/C and heaters.

How does the Facilities Department help fulfill ABTS's mission to serve the Church in the Arab world?

Fadi: Our department fulfills this mission in three ways. First, we take care of our students and their accommodations, eliminating any distractions or additional challenges, so they can concentrate on their educations. Second, our service income supports the mission and vision of ABTS by subsidizing student tuition, fees, room, and board. Third, we offer high-level conference facilities and experiences for churches and evangelical groups putting on

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intellectual and spiritual conferences. We are one of the few evangelical conference centers in Lebanon and we seek to make a difference among the students and the churches in our community or indirectly through the affordable rates and quality services of our conference center and accommodations.

What is your favorite part of the job?

Fadi: I love to organize events and to figure out logistics. Most of the events we put on have a ministry -related significance, such as launching a new theology book or the Middle East Consultation in June or last year's conference on Christian witness. Our events are targeted for the benefit of our community and I enjoy seeing these events be successful as well as being part of what makes them successful.

Christina: I love preparing for events. Organizing everything is fun. Event planning is interesting. It keeps us busy. You have to talk to many people to make sure that everything is ready.

By using our facilities, you support the mission of ABTS and the equipping of Arab leaders for ministry ! Reserve conference or meeting space, or catering, by contacting Christina Khamis: ckhamis@abtslebanon.org; Reserve a room in our guesthouse, by contacting Marcelle Saad: msaad@abtslebanon.org

Prayer Requests and Praises from Fadi Salamoun, Facilities Manager

Praise! Our on-campus restaurant, which overlooks the sea, has been totally renovated. We have a proper production kitchen according to very high hygiene standards. We doubled the restaurant in size, and improved the interior and replaced the furnishings. We have also continued to improve our guesthouse rooms, which were completely remodeled less than 10 years ago. We have added new linens and improved the overall room setup. A recent project was to add an extensive, bilingual directory for our guestrooms, for the convenience of our international guests. And this fall the ABTS offices will be moving to better office space in another building & we will gain 14 new guest rooms, almost doubling our capacity! This will also be a big project for the team.

Prayer requests: Right now we are struggling with manpower for our events. Two maintenance officers are absent, one recently resigned to enter full-time ministry among his fellow Syrian Kurds and the other is on his annual vacation visiting family in Syria. Also our Campus Supervisor broke his leg which heavily impacts the work he does for us.

Additionally we are currently facing an urgent need with our student Family Housing building deteriorating. The building houses all married couples and their children, as well as the ABTS daycare. Annual maintenance is very costly and is no longer effective due to the overwhelming structural problems. We urgently need to build a replacement.

We offer a variety of meeting spaces, conference rooms, and catering services, in addition to a guesthouse.

***ABTS Mission**: To serve the Church in our region as it realizes its Biblical mission of having Christ acknowledged as Lord by offering specialized learning resources and equipping faithful men and women for effective service.*

Mathilda, our receptionist

Conferences at our facilities

Meet the ABTS Facilities Team!

Akram Rizk, Campus Supervisor, 13 years at ABTS, and 24 years of ministry for Baptist Publications and Beirut Baptist School. Akram enjoys the monthly staff breakfast, held on the first Monday of the each month.

Marcelle Saad, Facilities and Student Affairs Assistant, 13 years at ABTS. Marcelle enjoys meeting new people and learning about their cultures as she serves with the facilities team. Siyadiyeh (fish and rice) is her favorite dish in the restaurant and chocolate croissants are her favorite ABTS coffee break.

Mathilda Vania, Receptionist, 9 years at ABTS. Mathilda loves organizing the chaos of the moment at ABTS, it keeps her on her toes! Pasta with cheese and chicken is her favorite lunch in the restaurant and mini donuts her favorite coffee break.

Rita Badr, Housekeeping Services, 6 years at ABTS. Rita originally started working in the Cafeteria, but now enjoys working in housekeeping.

Rita Salibi, Head Housekeeper, 2 years at ABTS. Rita's favorite part of working at ABTS is attending the daily devotions each morning.

David Al Aou, Night Receptionist, 2 years at ABTS. David enjoys working with Tina and the other staff members.

Fadi Salamoun, Facilities Manager, 2 years at ABTS. Fadi enjoys organizing events and logistics, and ensuring the success of our events. He loves the Egyptian and Algerian dishes in the restaurant (twice a month we serve an international dish from a country represented by our students) and he claims nothing is more refreshing on a hot afternoon than a coffee break with fruit salad.

Christina Khamis, Events Coordinator, 7 months at ABTS. Christina loves organizing and preparing for events and working with all the different departments and people, as well as marketing. Chicken quesadillas are her favorite at lunch, and mini donuts are her first choice for a coffee break.

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