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FOREWORD of the CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends

Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture is the first and only university in Palestine that focuses on arts and culture. It is *committed to discovering and nurturing potential, and providing quality higher education*

and lifelong learning through programs that are contextual and holistic in nature.

The main goal of the University College has been "To effectively equip the individual and the community to achieve abundant living", with a focus on human development, community empowerment and cultural encounter. In our latest strategic plan, the Board has set four goals that we need to pursue:

- Provide opportunities for formal and non-formal quality education and training to empower the individual academically, professionally, culturally, and socially;
- Engage community members in meaningful lifelong learning to enrich their quality of life;
- Create spaces for creativity, civic engagement, and intercultural exchange;
- Assure the growth, sustainability, competitiveness of the institution, and the quality of its services.

Dar al-Kalima staff are working non-stop to achieve these goals alongside the overall mission and vision of the University College, as demonstrated in this annual report. They work in a politically volatile environment and under a difficult economic situation. It is a challenge to collect fees when the unemployment rate in the Bethlehem region is as high as 22.6%. We do not want to add to the high percentage of unemployed young people. Therefore, the management was eager to introduce the dual learning system that connects students during

their college years with related businesses where they can learn in real life situations and get the experience needed for the job market. The many international exchange programs on offer give our students unique opportunities to connect to the global community and to engage with a world based on mutual respect, thus contributing to peace, human dignity and harmony.

The many achievements presented here show clearly that Dar al-Kalima continues to be a Palestinian success story. Our students are trained to challenge the many obstacles they face daily and to keep shining like diamonds under pressure.

I would like to thank the entire faculty, staff, and our friends and supporters for making our work at Dar al-Kalima the shining star on Bethlehem's hills.

Mr. Zahi Khouri

**Chairperson of the Board
Dar al-Kalima University College
of Arts and Culture**

FOREWORD



Overview / Programs

The Dar al-Kalima University College continued its educational mission and increased the numbers of students and teachers in 2019. A new BA program in Design was accredited and will be offered in 2020. Two programs, Culinary Art and Jewelry, were upgraded to comply with internationally recognized curricula. We offer both of these programs as a German dual learning model where a student learns both at the University College and in the workplace, This ensures a close connection to the job market and increases students' employability. We also added a new project enabling

DAK to research, develop, and establish an academic track in "art renovation".

Another new project, "Obader", involves the creation of an Artisans' Hub on DAK's campus. The Hub will serve DAK graduates and Palestinian artisans working in various handicrafts. DAK will provide advanced training and information about market trends, upgrade artists' products to international standards, and enable artists to market and sell their goods to a global audience.

DAK organized two major conferences in 2019. The conference "Towards Inclusive Societies in the Middle East" gathered 47 scholars, activists, and experts from around the world with the aim of stimulating critical dialogue on the factors that hinder equitable societies in the region. In an effort to practice inclusion, 29 of the conference participants were women and nine were youth under the age of 35. The participants came from diverse national backgrounds. The majority hailed from the region, namely Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and the UAE. However, participants also joined from

the USA, Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, and the UK.

The second conference was in preparation for Bethlehem 2020: The Arab Cultural Capital. DAK hosted a three-day international conference titled "Bethlehem: A Socio-Cultural History". The conference consisted of lectures and collaborative dialogue, and included several tours throughout the governorate. The objective was to gather an interdisciplinary group of scholars and experts involved in social history, cultural anthropology, religious and political studies, history, and archaeology.

Accomplishments

The highlight of the year for DAK was without a doubt the opening of a training center in Gaza with the aim of empowering the next generation of creative artists. The Gaza Strip has been subjected to an inhumane closure for more than 14 years and young people there face deteriorating socio-economic conditions. They are deprived of opportunities to

receive professional training and exposure. This leads to desperation and a lack of interest in arts and culture among young people. DAK seeks to empower the next generation of creative leaders in Gaza by enhancing the skills of young Gazan artists through specialized training courses to improve the quality of their art; improve the livelihood of artists by building local and international networks and creating opportunities to exhibit and market their products; and recognizing exceptional local artists through awards and prizes.

During the past months, DAK held initial focus groups to listen to the artists and their needs, and reached out to local arts and cultural centers to engage them as key partners in this endeavor. We identified local professional trainers and found a temporary location to offer training courses at the French Cultural Institute in Gaza.

We held three training workshops in photography, artistic design and video art over three months. These were attended by 58 committed students of both genders. The training culminated in two major events: The Eye on Gaza Exhibition and The Gaza

International Video Art Festival, both held between March 3-5, 2020. Local art and cultural centers in Gaza participated in the events in addition to teachers, students, and their friends and family who came to encourage them. The Eye on Gaza exhibition featured 66 photos and 33 pieces of artwork by graduates of the photography and artistic design courses; the Video Art Festival screened 12 films produced by participants in the video art workshop.

During the 2019 academic year, the Film Program at DAK's main campus had several major accomplishments, including organizing an international student film festival. Over 70 films, varying in their form, subject and country of origin, were screened. The highlight of the year for the Film Program was the film *Ambiance*, directed by our graduate Wisam al-Jafari, winning the 3rd Prize at the Cinefondation at the Cannes Film Festival. Additionally, this film received the Youssef Chahine Award at the Cairo International Film Festival, the Signs Award from the International Jury of the 17e Festival International Signes de Nuit - Paris, and Best Short Film at the Al Quds Film Festival. Another

film entitled *Area C* and directed by our student Salah Abu Nimeh, received three awards: Best Short Film Sun Bird 2018 at Palestine Cinema Days, Best Palestinian Film at the Elia Film Festival, and Best Palestinian Film 2019 at the Bethlehem Student Film Festival 2019. The film *Coffee Pot*, directed by DAK Alumnus Thaeer Al Azza, received the Palestine Appreciation Award from the Ministry of Culture in November 2019.

DAK's Adult Education section has been steadily building towards becoming the national resource center in capacity building for adult education providers in Palestine. Together with our partners DVV International and the Palestinian Ministry of Education, we celebrated the official opening of three new partner centers for adult education in 2019 in Arrabeh (Jenin), al-Yamoun (Jenin) and al-Carmel (Hebron).

The Diyar Civic Cultural Network led a national campaign called "A Portfolio of Job Opportunities" to address youth unemployment by emphasizing the need to support vocational training and education.

The Network membership base also grew in 2019 to 416 persons (246 women and 170 men).

Diyar Theatre produced three new plays, and launched a new initiative to explore conflict, peace, and creative resistance through dance. After receiving 64 residency applications from 29 countries, eight artists from China, the USA, Canada, Germany and Sweden were invited to participate in this unique opportunity of integrating our philosophy of creative resistance into the work of Diyar Theatre.

The Diyar women's soccer team also had a successful year. The youth women's team won first place at the MOEHE South Area Soccer Competitions. The Diyar First Team won the Palestinian President's Cup Championship, maintaining their place as the number one team in Palestine.

A highlight of the Ajyal Elderly Care Program was the launch of the "Facing Dementia and Alzheimer's Together" Initiative on the International Day of Older Persons. The first steps of the initiative consisted of a conference and workshops on

the topic of dementia and Alzheimer's, which has recently become a major challenge in the Palestinian context. The event's main goals were to shed light on this very important topic, provide a space for discussion among medical professionals, educators, families, and the elderly themselves, and identify partner organizations who can work with us on this worthwhile initiative.

The Authentic Tourism Program had one of its most successful years in 2019. There was a sharp increase in the number of groups and visitors in comparison with previous years. The Authentic Tourism Group received 31 groups from Finland, Germany, Sweden and the USA, with a total of 603 visitors; Studiosus Groups welcomed a total of 41 groups (1,077 people) from Germany to the one-day Bethlehem program; the number of visitors who came for lectures also increased sharply to a total of 1,726 people from the USA, the UK, Germany, Canada, South Africa, France, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, and Norway.

Last but not least, Diyar Publisher released their fifth volume on Palestinian Christians, entitled *Jerusalem:*

Religious, National, and International Dimensions. The book, edited by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, is part of the goal to reaffirm Jerusalem as a multicultural and multi-religious Holy City following recent political events in the region, including the movement of the American Embassy to Jerusalem by the Trump Administration. Dar al-Kalima conducted a study of 61 Christian organizations active in Jerusalem. "Jerusalem remains the key to peace, an inclusive city to share between two people and three religions, a city with important international dimensions", Raheb writes in the foreword. The book is available now on Amazon.

Challenges

The most important question in the coming year is how to survive the economic impact of the pandemic with the fewest human casualties and staff layoffs. Human and financial resources are key to ensuring the sustainability of the Dar al-Kalima University College. We must also learn how to best utilize our online presence to teach and promote our activities.

Future / Goals

Looking at this last year, we cannot help but be thankful to the Lord for a great year with so many accomplishments. We were looking forward to 2020, which was supposed to be the best year in our history of 25 years of growth and excellence. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic created a rupture in this journey. The exact impacts are yet to be seen. Over the past year, our emphasis has been to thrive in spite of all the challenges, but with COVID-19 resulting in a decline in tourism revenues, tuition collection, and donations from abroad, we have had to switch gears to survival mode. We need not only to adapt to the new lifestyle after coronavirus, but to determine how Dar al-Kalima University College can continue to be an influencer and leader to train the next generation of future leaders in Palestine and beyond.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb
Founder & President
April 2020

Dar Al-Kalima University

College of Arts and Culture

The Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture (DAK) continued its educational mission and increased the number of students and faculty members in 2019. Several DAK graduates from different programs joined the staff as faculty assistants. We also strengthened our faculty system by creating a new employment classification of 'part-time permanent', which allows our faculty to teach but also to work on independent projects as artists.

More BA programs were accredited in 2019, namely the Design program. A new academic diploma in Culinary Arts and the existing diploma in Jewelry Design were accredited with the help of a grant

from the QIF program at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research through the World Bank. These diploma programs were established on the basis of the dual learning system with partner German institutions.

An international student film festival was founded during this year and attracted film students worldwide. We also participated in the Cannes Film Festival, winning the 3rd Prize - Cinefoundation - for the film *Ambiance* by our graduate Wisam al-Jafari.

As part of the efforts to achieve excellence in learning and teaching, we also worked with a legal consultant

from the USA, Ms. Barbara Fritsche, on amending our regulations and procedures.

New projects were granted, including (VAFF) "Embrace your Community, Empower the Palestinian Village" with the Samia A. Halaby Foundation, the *Obader* project and Erasmus+, all of which are geared towards improving the academic offerings of DAK.

Cultural Heritage and Tourism Studies

Culinary Arts Program

The Culinary Arts program made a shift from a one-year specialized diploma to a two-year academic diploma in 2019 through a QIF grant from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, funded by the World Bank. The new diploma is based on the dual system of learning where a student learns at both the University College and at the place of work. The Culinary Arts program accredited the new diploma, signed up new local partners to help with

the execution of the diploma, and made strategic partnerships with German teaching organizations that are helping with the implementation of the curriculum and the training of faculty members.

Other highlights of the program in 2019 included the following:

- During May 13-14 the Culinary Arts program organized workshops with culinary experts from Germany and DAK staff to develop learning situations and course plans for the new program through the QIF project.
- During June 2-9 the head of the Culinary Arts program, faculty members, and partners from the labor market participated in a study tour in Baden Wuerttemberg. Here they learned more about the dual learning system, visited restaurants and hotels, met with trainers on site and worked on developing learning situations with the German experts.
- On June 12 the curricula plans were submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for accreditation and on July 6 the

program was accredited. An official launch ceremony took place on September 16, where we invited our partners from the hotel and restaurant industries to sign training agreements with our institution. A total of 20 agreements were signed: 13 with hotels and seven with restaurants from the Bethlehem region.

- In September 2019 two pizza chefs gave a master class to the culinary students. The activity was funded and organized by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the project “Speciality: Inclusive Development for Tourism Sector in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour”.
- In December 2019, the VPAA and head of the Culinary Arts program took a study tour and visited partner schools and the State Academy of Baden Wuerttemberg. The main objectives of the study tour were to discuss and define the scope of the partnership with the State Academy/ZSL, sign an MOU with them, plan activities for the coming years and visit some of the cooking classes at two different schools. This activity came within the QIF project

“Market Needs Study for a New Diploma in Culinary Arts”, which will end in February 2020.

Palestinian Tour Guides Program (PTG)

- **Academics:** As an addition to the program, PTG graduate students had the opportunity to work on a graduation project. These projects were part of the new modifications made to the PTG associate diploma program officially approved by AQAC and TVET in 2019. The final graduation projects were: Palestinian Nights Under the Moonlight (Palestinian heritage tent); The Israa and Mi’raj track; Dar Seedi Guest House; Palestinian Traditional Food Restaurant; Askalan Station track; Palestinian Homes/ Diyar; Tashishni in Bethlehem; Tap Map; Nahalin track; Yaqin track; and Tour Bus in Bethlehem.
-
- **Field Trips:** The Palestinian Tour Guides Program organized a total of nine field trips to various historical, archeological and religious sites in

Palestine throughout the year. All the program’s students participated in these field trips as a key part of their educational experience.

- **Language Courses:** A three-month Introductory Indonesian Language Course was offered by the Palestinian Indonesian Friendship Association in cooperation with DAK and the Indonesian Embassy in Amman. The course included students from the PTG program, but also from the Culinary Arts and Interior Design programs. A second intermediary course will be offered in 2020.

Visual Arts

Film Program

During the 2019 academic year, the Film program completed major accomplishments: organizing a film festival for international students, running the cinema club, hosting several talks and masterclasses with filmmakers, and working on MOUs with other

universities for student exchange. The highlight of the year was attending the Cannes Film Festival with the film *Ambiance* directed by our graduate, Wisam al-Jafari, which won 3rd Prize – Cinefondation.

Cinema Club

During 2019, the Cinema Club continued its weekly screenings. There were 22 screenings in total attended by some 1,040 people. Palestinian and international filmmakers were hosted to screen their films and speak to the students and audiences. These screenings included:

- January & February - “Youssef Chahine Films”: over a period of two months, a total of seven films by Youssef Chahine were screened.
- March 7 - “4 Colors”: A film which tells the story of the football club Palestine in Chile and screened with the presence of the film director, Mario Cucho.
- April 7 - “The State against Mandela and Others”: Both directors of the film, Gilles Port and Nicolas Champeaux, were present during the screening.

- April 25 - "Behind the Barbed Wires": The film screening was attended by more than 250 people who engaged in a lively discussion afterwards with the director, Tamara Abu Laban.
- September 16 - "Nazareth 2000": The film was screened with the presence of the world-renowned director Hany Abu Assad.
- October 3 - "Walled Citizen": The film, directed by DAK graduate Sameer Qumsieh, was one of five films screened by the Cinema Club as part of the Palestine Cinema Days Festival. More than 150 persons attended the screening.
- October 4 - "Mirrors of Diaspora": The film was screened in the presence of the Iraqi director Kasem Abed over Skype.
- November 4 & 5 - "It Must be Heaven": A two-day screening of the Palestinian film by director Elia Suliman that won a special jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2019.

Bethlehem Students Film Festival

Bethlehem Student Film Festival (BSFF) is the first international film festival in Palestine specialized in student films from around the world. As such, it joins international film festivals that focus on student cinema as well as modern Arab film festivals that are turning their attention to student cinema.

1. The Festival screened a diverse selection of films from April 1-7, 2019.
2. Over 70 films were screened from more than 18 countries. The films varied in their form and subject. All films competed for six awards: three for Palestinian students and three for international students.
3. Workshops and masterclasses during the Festival were the following:
 - In collaboration with the French Consulate in Jerusalem, we hosted the president of the French Cinematographers Association, who gave a two-day workshop on cinematography.

- Workshop with the Palestinian director Muayad Elyan who spoke about distribution and the marketing of films.
- Masterclass over Skype with Rima Mismar, the director of AFAC who spoke with students about the financing of films and cultural initiatives in the Arab world, as well as opportunities available to young filmmakers.
- Masterclass over Skype with the Jordanian filmmaker and researcher Adnan Mdanat, who spoke about the cinema culture and technical development. The Palestinian director George Khleifi moderated and contributed to the discussion from the classroom.
- Masterclass over Skype with Intishal Tamimi, the director of Al Gouna Film Festival. He spoke about film festivals around the world, the process of film selection, and steps students should take to maximize the potential for their film to be selected for a major festival.
- Masterclass over Skype with Ola Sheikh about critique of and writing about films. Ola is a

Palestinian who lives in UAE and is a newspaper critic.

4. Meeting to kick off the establishment of a syndicate for the cinema professions in Palestine. This was attended by key figures from the independent Palestinian Workers Union who talked about their experience and how to proceed.
5. Translating and subtitling all the films to Arabic to maximize the engagement of the audience with the screenings.
6. The students produced all the audio-visual material for the Festival.
7. We hosted a group of international students, who were sponsored by their Consulates in Jerusalem: four Polish students, three French students, and one Hungarian student.
8. The results of the competition were as follows:
 - **International Competition:**
 - Short International Fiction: Rosso / France
 - Short Documentary: -562 Meters / Poland
 - Experimental: Specialized Technique / UK

- Special Mention: Territories / France
- Special Mention: Flightless / Poland
- Palestinian Competition:
 - Short Fiction: Area C / DAK
 - Short Documentary: Waad / DAK
 - Experimental: Exit / DAK
 - Special Mention: 4th Floor / DAK
- 9. The jury for the film competition were all external and consisted of the following professionals:
 - **International Competition**
 - Anne Marie Jaser: An established Palestinian filmmaker who has won many awards throughout her career.
 - Saleh Bakri: A Palestinian actor who has starred in many films.
 - Lina Bokhari: The Head of the Cinema Department at the Palestinian Ministry of Culture.

- Muayad Elyan: Palestinian director and producer who has won many awards for his films.
- **Palestinian Competition:**
 - Khalil Al-Mozayen: A Palestinian director born in Gaza who currently lives in Canada. He is the founder of the red-carpet Gaza Film Festival.
 - Ola Sheikh: A Palestinian film critic living in the UAE.
 - Ola Tabari: A Palestinian actress and director.
- **Experimental Competition:**
 - Jumana Abboud: A Palestinian artist who uses drawing, video, performance, objects and text in her work.
 - Manal Mahamid: A Palestinian artist born in Umm al Fahem.
 - Rehab Nazzal: A Palestinian artist and educator who lives in Palestine and Canada.

- **Co-operation**
 - A one-day visit was made by the director of La Ciné Fabrique School and the organizer of the Cine Nomad School, a French public film school in Lyon, France. We agreed to cooperate with the Cine Nomad School by sending five DAK students in 2020 to three different countries: France, Morocco and Russia, to participate with other international students in producing short films.
 - An agreement was forged through the Palestinian Film Institute with the Belgian government that includes an exchange program between DAK and INSAS, the most important film school in Belgium. The agreement includes the exchange of two students per year from each side to spend one month at the other institution. We received two students from INSAS in 2019 and we will send two DAK students in 2020.

- **Awards and Festivals**
- Ambience – Directed by Wisam Jafari**
- Awards:**
 - 3rd Prize - Cinefondation - Cannes Film Festival
 - Youssef Chahine Award - Cairo International Film Festival
 - SIGNS Award–International Jury of the 17th Festival International Signes de Nuit - Paris
 - Special Mention - Karama Human Rights Film Festival
 - Best Short Film - Al Quds Film Festival
 - Official Selection:
 - Malmo Arab Film Festival
 - Boston Palestine Film Festival
 - Toronto Palestine Film Festival - Canada
 - Arab Film Festival - San Francisco
 - Film Fest Gent - Belgium
 - International du Cinéma Méditerranéen de Montpellier - France

- San Diego Arab Film Festival
- Screenings:
- Dehishah, Balata, Qalandia, Al Amari, Aida refugee camps - UNRWA
- Al Qattan Foundation
- Elia Short Film Festival - Jerusalem
- Linz International Short Film Festival - Austria
- Ciné-Palestine – Toulouse
- Ciné-Palestine – Paris

Area C – Directed by Salah Abu Nimeh

Awards:

- Palestine Cinema Days- Best Short Film Sun Bird 2018
- Bethlehem Students Film Festival - Best Palestinian Film 2019
- Elia Film Festival - Best Palestinian Film
- Special Mention - Ciné-Palestine
- Official Selection:

- La Fete de L’Humanite
- Ciné-Palestine -Toulouse
- Post in Palestine Film Festival
- Valencia Film Festival - Spain 2019
- Palestinian Film Festival - Switzerland
- Haifa Independent Film Festival
- Screenings:
- Paris Cine Club
- Jericho
- Ramallah
- Jenin
- Jerusalem

Coffee Pot – Directed by Thaar Al Azza

Awards:

- Palestine Appreciation Award- The Palestinian Ministry of Culture in November 2019
- Screenings:

- Al-Ard Documentary Film Festival - January 7, 2019
- Chicago Palestine Film Festival - April 26, 2019
- Geneva Palestine Festival -FILMER C’EST EXISTER (fifth edition) December 10, 2019
- Toronto Palestine Film Festival - September 22, 2019
- 23rd Annual Arab Film Festival - October 2019
- NAZRA Palestine Short Film Festival Official Selection 2019
- Cartage Cinema Days - October 2019
- Real Palestine: Non-Fiction Shorts – November 2019
- London Palestine Film Festival - November 30, 2019
- Red Carpet Festival 2019

4th Floor – Directed by Shayma’ Awawdeh

Awards:

- Bethlehem Students Film Festival- “Special Mention”

- Screenings:
- Haifa Independent Film Festival
- Duke University Festival
- Festival Ciné-Palestine
- Palestine: Filmer C’est Exister
- Doha Palestine Cinema Festival
- Red Carpet Human Rights Film Festival
- PALESTINE EN VUE
- Darat al-Funun –Amman



The Jewelry Design and Production Program

With the QIF project, we have developed and delivered a new quality and internationally standardized curriculum for the Jewelry Program's associate diploma, as we shifted into the integrated learning system recommended by the TVET at the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. To develop the curriculum, several activities were implemented, including:

1. Signing of an MOU with the State Academy in Baden-Württemberg in Germany to facilitate the exchange of experts and visits as listed below.
2. Recruitment of a Palestinian expert in Jewelry Making and Design, Mr. Amir Salameh from Haifa. He has assisted in developing the jewelry curriculum and led several meetings and workshops for the faculty of DAK and partners from the private sector.
3. Conducting a study tour to Baden-Württemberg state in Germany on June 3-7 to learn firsthand about the dual learning system in Germany, discuss the development of the Palestinian Jewelry Art curriculum with the German experts, and get their feedback. The first day (June 3) was at the Centre for School Quality and Teacher Training (ZSL) (State Academy) in Esslingen. The following days (June 4-7) were at the Goldschmiedeschule mit Uhrmacherschule (College for Jewelry & Watch Making) located in Pforzheim. The Palestinian delegation included the head of the program (Faten Nastas Mitwasi), one faculty member (Ibrahim Bandak), a Palestinian jewelry expert (Amir Salameh), two partners from the private sector (Benny Shohmelian and Ala' Qawasmi), and a senior student (Rowena Shammas) who later became an academic assistant.
4. Receiving official accreditation for the curriculum from the TVET, and accordingly, started offering the curriculum to new students in the fall term 2019.
5. Celebrating and launching the curriculum of the Jewelry Diploma on September 19th, 2019.
6. Signing MOUs with five jewelry making companies as part of the celebration mentioned above, as well as others in the hospitality sector. The private sector will be part of the teaching and training of students at their premises according to the new curriculum which they assisted in developing. These MOUs are an addition to the one signed by DAK with the Palestinian Union of Precious Metals in 2018.
7. Organizing a study tour to Goldschmiedeschule mit Uhrmacherschule (College for Jewelry and Watch Making) during October 7-12. Two faculty members and four senior students went on the tour. The group exchanged expertise with the German faculty and students, worked together in workshops and visited museums and galleries.
8. Hosting a study tour for our Jewelry Art program's German partners during December 2 - 6, 2019. The German group consisted of two teachers and five students. They worked with DAK students at

our workshop and visited several places to learn more about Palestinian culture.

9. All students of the Jewelry Art Program participated in a local study tour to Hebron on November 2, 2019, where they visited several DAK partners.

The Graphic Design Program

There were several highlights of this program, including:

1. Formation of the Program's Advisory Committee, the majority of whom are faculty members experienced in design and business.
2. Reaching out and developing a good relationship with the private sector with the aim of creating MOUs during 2020 for formal relationships with several companies. Some of these companies hosted students for field training in 2019.
3. Organizing an intensive workshop on the Rubric Evaluation System, supervised by American expert John Fritsche, on April 5, 2019. This was

followed by several meetings to integrate the system into our evaluation system.

4. Artist Jenna Hamed gave a workshop about bookmaking on April 10, 2019. This event was in cooperation with the Palestine Festival of Literature 2019.
5. In cooperation with Pro Terra Sancta Institution, DAK launched a logo competition to design a logo for the Dar al-Mujus organization.
6. Designer Aws Rahhal gave a lecture on November 14 to share his experience in graphic design with the students. He will join the faculty in 2020.
7. Organizing a local study tour for students on November 28, 2019 to visit local packaging, food and mineral companies.
8. Two graphic design students attended the Amman Design Week on October 5-8, 2019. The goal of the visit was to widen their scope and explore the possibility of active participation in the event's next cycle.

The Contemporary Art Program

Many activities were organized in order to enhance the academic life of the students and improve the quality of their work. Some of the highlights of the program were:

1. A project titled "Embrace your Community, Empower the Palestinian Village" with the Samia A. Halaby Foundation. An MOU was signed with the Foundation in mid-July 2019 in order to facilitate support for the projects of three students/graduates. The project aims to promote DAK students/graduates to become entrepreneurs and encourage them to create and lead community projects of empowerment, safety and creativity. The projects should be implemented throughout the 2019/2020 academic year. The following students/graduates were grant recipients:
 - Wafa' Ibrahim Alubaiat for the project "Comics and Illustration from the Children".
 - Raja Ali Barbarawi for the project "Your Art Within Your Health".

— Awad Meflih Hamad for the project "Teach What You Have Learned".

2. The VAAF (Visual Arts: A Flourishing Field) project through the A.M. Qattan Foundation with the support of SIDA. The funds are to support DAK in carrying out research, developing and establishing an academic track for "art renovation" focusing on paintings and archiving its art collection. The agreement with the Qattan Foundation was signed in November 2019, followed by the hiring of two staff members. A regional study regarding the status of art renovation began in 2019 and will continue throughout 2020.
3. Hosting four artists from Vienna for one week during March 2019. The artists offered several activities and masterclasses to contemporary art students and ended their exchange visit with an exhibition titled "Art for Peace: A Bridge between Vienna and Bethlehem".
4. Hosting the American artist John Brown for an experimental photography workshop on November 13 as part of the "Introduction to

Photography" course. During this workshop, the students experimented with a direct print of their faces on photo paper and direct development in a Black and white photography laboratory.

5. An educational tour for students to Ramallah was organized on December 13 to visit the Palestinian Museum, Birzeit University Museum, the Qattan Foundation (exhibition of Raeda Saadeh) and Khalil Sakakini Center (exhibition of Vera Tamari). The tour was part of the Gallery Management course supervised by George Lama.

Additional activities were conducted to enhance and upgrade the quality of work:

- John Fritsche, an artist from the United States, held a residency at DAK from February 11 until May 2. He supervised an advanced course in Ceramic Art during the winter semester 2019.
- Conducting a study tour for students of the Ceramic course to As-Salam Glass and Ceramics factory in Hebron on April 1, 2019.

- Signing an MOU with Care International in September 2019 as part of the **Obader** project for DAK to develop and host an “Artisans Hub” on its premises. The Hub will serve DAK graduates and Palestinian artisans working in a variety of handicrafts. DAK will provide advanced training information (especially product development) about different market trends, marketing possibilities and selling the artists’ products (including in the Cave gift shop), alongside other activities to assist members of the Hub to promote their products and upgrade them to international standards. A second component of the project is joining a national team, together with the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Tourism, Palestinian Specification Institute and Care, to develop a Quality Handicraft Charter with annexes for each craft.

Here are some highlights of promoting and marketing the academic programs:

1. A flyer designed by a graduating student of the Graphic Design program, Laith Jawareesh, to

promote the integrated learning curriculum of the Jewelry Art program.

2. A promotional short film was developed by a graduate of the film program in 2009, the influencer Montamy Abu-Arab. It was shown on social media, YouTube and many online platforms to showcase the Jewelry Art program.
3. DAK hosted school students at the workshop premises and offered various activities in jewelry, printing and ceramics. The targeted schools were al-Awda School for Girls on February 21 and al-Khader Girls School on March 7 and April 4. These schools started offering vocational stream education and the aim was to introduce the students to practical training, and widen their experience and knowledge that vocational education can continue to university level and can be a life career.
4. A visit to al-Awdah School took place on March 18 to meet with more students and gave them an introduction about handicrafts. We participated in the Open Day organized by the schools on March 28, 2019.

5. DAK hosted a group of 10th grade students on October 24, 2019 from the vocational stream at al-Awdah School and the Good Shepherd School, showed them around the workshops, discussed market needs, and talked to them about the academic specializations and applied arts programs of DAK.
6. Students from the Jewelry, Contemporary Art, Graphic Design and Interior Design programs actively participated in the Mathematics Exhibition organized by the Mathematical Department at Bethlehem University. They prepared materials, attended the exhibition and demonstrated work to visiting school students who were invited to the exhibition. The exhibition was on October 15 and 16, 2019.
7. DAK was recognized at the Erasmus National Conference that took place in Ramallah on October 16 for its efforts in one of the ERASMUS+ projects that aims, along with 16 universities from around the world, to develop a curriculum for visual and performing art students that addresses entrepreneurship skills needed to start their own businesses.

8. As part of connecting with and developing relationships with international art schools and universities, the following coordination work was carried out:

- Augsburg University in USA already signed an MOU with DAK in May 2018. As such, we have been coordinating with an Augsburg faculty and a student visit is due to take place on March 15-22, 2020.
- A Raku workshop supervised by Jytte and Ulrik Lysgaard from Denmark during March 2020. All preparation work began in September 2019.
- A joint project with the Art School in Lucerne, Switzerland, was initiated in August 2019. Prof. Stephan Wittmer and his student Marco Schmid visited DAK on December 4, 2019 to discuss the exchange activity planned for May 2020. A group of students from Lucerne will come to Bethlehem and work with DAK students on art projects.
- A joint photography project with the Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, USA is being

planned. The project is designed to be part of strengthening the relationship between the academic institutions as well as between the two cities, as Burlington is a twin city with Bethlehem. Therefore, an exchange will take place between faculty and students, ending with a photography exhibition in both cities in October 2020.

Finally, DAK celebrated three big events last year in which different programs were actively involved:

- Ismail Shammout Art Competition & Award: The 5th edition of the competition and award took place on March 1, 2019.
- Karimeh Abboud Photography Competition & Award: The event took place on November 13, 2019.
- Bethlehem: A Socio-Cultural History Conference: The conference was held on August 21-24, 2019. The head of the Graphic Design and Applied Arts programs, Ms. Faten Nastas Mitwasi, presented a paper titled "Pioneer Artists from Bethlehem".

Finally, DAK hosted Sabeel's International Gathering on Friday December 6, 2019. For this group, Ms. Faten Nastas Mitwasi, presented a lecture on Palestinian Art and its use as a creative tool of resistance.

Interior Design

The Interior Design program is an emerging program with a lot of potential and we have increasing demand from applicants to register in it. Our priorities this year were to develop the course outline and get more professionals involved in the teaching process, whether by hiring experienced instructors or by hosting professionals for lectures on special subjects.

In the 2020/2021 academic year there will be fourth-year students (graduates). We aim to let them be our first ambassadors as part of the development process in Palestine.

Registration Policy

Beginning from the 2019-2020 academic year, the program updated the registration and acceptance policy so that acceptance must be after a personal meeting with head of the program. This policy will guarantee that the students joining the program are more dedicated, passionate and creative.

General Plan and Course Syllabi

To ensure the best quality of teaching, we developed the plan for general courses in terms of course order and priority. This review came after many discussions with students and teachers based on their previous experience. We also updated the course outlines based on the previous learning outcomes, our instructors' experiences and the evaluation made by DAK every semester. The outlines were updated to ensure compatibility and harmony between all courses to produce the best learning outcomes.

Recruiting New Instructors

As part of the ongoing progress, DAK is always looking for the best local experienced personnel to ensure best learning practice. Being part of the larger educational system, the Interior Design program follows the same vision. Hence, the best faculty staff are sought to be part of its family.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, new faculty were hired in various fields in interior design to ensure that all fields of the program are covered. Students will be exposed to several design methodologies that can benefit them and shape their careers to be more community-oriented designers.

Students and Community

In order to enrich the student's learning experience, the program is focusing on engaging its students with the outside professional community through several activities. Design studio courses are a gateway

to open the students' eyes to real life projects. A policy was adopted that encourages teachers to propose real projects and real community issues to be solved through design courses rather than virtual projects. This makes students more sensitive about their local community, aware of real life problems and more familiar with a problem-solving approach after graduation. One example is the mathematics exhibition activity in Bethlehem University for which students produced a poster and two interactive house models to teach students about the importance of mathematics in interior design.

Educational Field Trips

The program set a new policy to make field trips part of the majority of the courses, as these trips are very helpful for students to accumulate knowledge and become aware of similar projects to those that they are working on, especially in design studios.

Future Projects

The Interior Design program has a vision to become a center of excellence for the interior design profession and to celebrate this respected career in Palestine. To achieve this vision the program is working on several levels. There is a plan to launch a competition for excellence in interior design for students. This is crucial as the aim is to make students aware of local projects that affect the community and make a difference to people's lives. However, this activity planned for April 2020 will have to be postponed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic emergency measures.

Performing Arts

Performances

- **Ismail Shamout Award:** Several music students performed during the presentation of the Ismail Shamout Award. This enhanced the overall ceremony and the connections between the

Performing Arts and Fine Arts programs.

- **Graduation Day Performance:** Many students performed during the graduation ceremony in August 2019 to enhance the environment of the ceremony and celebrate students' achievements.
- **Activity Hour Performances:** Every Thursday all DAK classes stop at 12 for two hours for cultural and extracurricular activities to take place. Music students held several concerts for students and the DAK community.
- **Christmas Music Festival:** Music faculty and students performed a concert at the Christmas Festival on December 20, 2019.
- **Mariam, Miriam: A Woman from Bethlehem** theatre performance: Music students performed in this theatre piece directed by professor Victoria Rue, a Fulbright scholar who was with DAK for a term and taught classes, as well as directed a play with the cast mainly from the Performing Arts department.
- Conferences:
- **Arabic Music Conference:** Chairman of the Music

Department, Dr. Mutasem Adileh, participated in the Arab Music Conference held in Cairo in October 2019.

- International Participation by Students
- Ayham Ayesh and Dunia Khalil participated in a music festival in Sweden. The Ethnos Camp Festival took place on June 26 – July 5, 2019. Performers from all over the world participated in this camp.

Library

Dar al-Kalima University College Library

Below are the highlights during 2019 with numbers and statistics:

1. Library loans totalled 3,545 books and items.
2. The number of new subscribers was 84 (students, teachers and employees).
3. The total number of library subscribers was 1,097.
4. The number of books purchased in 2019 was 256.

5. The number of references was 25 encyclopedias and new references.
6. The number of films was 8 (DVDs, CDs).
7. The number of library holdings at the date of this report was 10,042 items.

Library Titles

No	Symbol	Type	Number of Titles	Number of Copies
1	C	References	368	1672
2	M	Book	7654	7935
3	S	Periodical	20	435
Total			8042	10042

Number of Records by Language:

Number	Language	Number of Titles	Number of Copies
1	English	4377	5723
2	Arabic	3500	4128
3	German	87	93
4	Italian	20	24
5	French	19	22
6	Greek	4	4

Registration

Distribution of Students / Programs (2019)			
Degree	Program	% of BA	% of Total Students
Bachelor	Interior Design	33%	50%
	Film Production	30%	
	Graphic Design	18%	
	Performing Arts	11%	
	Contemporary Art	8%	
Diploma	Palestinian Tour Guides	32%	45%
	Documentary Film Production	18%	
	Culinary Arts & Management	16%	
	Jewelry Making	10%	
	Music Performance	10%	
	Contemporary Fine Arts	7%	
	Culinary Art	6%	
	Arts Education	1%	
Cont. Education	Film Production	33%	5%
	Culinary Arts	33%	
	Jewelry Arts	17%	
	Continuous Education	11%	
	Contemporary Art	6%	

Distribution of Students by Program (2019)	
Program	Percentage
Film	23%
Interior Design	17%
Tourism Studies	14%
Graphic Design & Applied Arts	14%
Performing Arts	10%
Culinary Art	10%
Fine Arts	7%
Continuous Education	5%

Jewelry Making is included in Graphic Design & Applied Arts

Distribution of Students by Department (2019)	
Department	Percentage
Visual Arts	61%
Cultural Heritage and Tourism	24%
Performing Arts	10%
Continuous Education	5%

Distribution of Students/ Gender (2019)	
Gender	%
Females	46%
Males	54%

Distribution of Students / District (2019)	
Governorate	%
Bethlehem	67%
Hebron	16%
Jerusalem	11%
Ramallah	2%
Nablus	1%
Jericho	1%
Jenin	1%
Tulkarem	1%

“Bethlehem: A Socio-Cultural History Conference

Bethlehem, Palestine
August 21 – 24, 2019



Dar al-Kalima University College, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and Bethlehem Municipality, and supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organized its 17th international conference entitled “Bethlehem: A Socio-cultural History”. It was held in Bethlehem, Palestine, from August 21 to August 24, 2019. The conference aimed to provide a forum for sharing recent research on the socio-cultural history of Bethlehem, a platform for interaction and dialogue among participants, and an opportunity for assembling results into a comprehensive monograph accessible to a wider public in time for the celebrations of Bethlehem as the 2020 Arab Capital of Culture.

The conference comprised noted academics and specialists, including 23 international speakers who represented a wide range of specializations. Conference themes included the archeological history of Bethlehem, pilgrimage in history and today, sustainable development and current challenges, significant cultural figures of Bethlehem, and cultural heritage preservation. The conference included a cultural tour of the city and a hike through the village of Battir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It also featured several film screenings by DAK students and graduates, including the award-winning films *Ambience* and *Area C*.

The conference had more than 300 participants and remarkably, more than 60% of them were young people and close to 55% were female.



Cyprus Conference 2019

“Towards Inclusive Societies in the Middle East” Conference



Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture and The Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World (CAFCAW) held a fourth international conference entitled “Towards Inclusive Societies in the Middle East” in Cyprus from October 31 to November 2, 2019. The conference gathered 47 scholars, activists and experts from around the world with the aim of stimulating critical dialogue on the factors that hinder equitable societies in the region. A total of 29 of the conference participants were women, while nine were under the age of 35. In

addition, participants came from diverse national backgrounds. The majority hailed from the region, namely Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and UAE. However, participants also joined from the USA, Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany and the UK. The diversity of the participants inspired an unparalleled interdisciplinary, ecumenical, and interreligious discussion through which participants could explore issues from multiple perspectives.

The event consisted of eight sessions and 22 paper presentations over two days. Sessions I and II provided a theoretical framing of inclusivity in political and theological terms. This led into sessions III and IV, which tackled gender justice as a critical form of inclusivity. On day 2, the morning consisted of two sets of parallel sessions. The first contextualized inclusivity through specific insights from Lebanon and Egypt, while the second brought unique interdisciplinary approaches to the theme, from philosophy to germ theory, to natural resource management. The conference also made space for a flash panel on the revolution currently unfolding in Lebanon. As a scholarly forum rooted in everyday

realities, it was important to include this session given its relevance to the themes of the conference and to the sociopolitical context of the region at large.

The conference concluded with a discussion of pressing topics that might be addressed in future conferences. The recommendations by participants included the theme adopted for next year’s conference: the role of education in social change, peace, and reconciliation.

In addition to the stimulating discussions that surrounded the conference sessions, one of the greatest successes was that academics and activists from around the world were able to meet informally, build new connections and create a network for the exchange of ideas and experiences. As one participant noted, the conference succeeded in developing a community of scholars and practitioners. This allowed not only for rich and critical dialogue, but also opened endless possibilities for the future.

Adult Education

The Adult Education section of the Dar al-Kalima University College has been steadily building towards becoming the national resource center in capacity building for adult education providers in Palestine, with the support of our partner, DVV International. Some of the highlights of its work in 2019 include the following:

Study Visit

A delegation consisting of three professors from Belgrade University in Serbia visited DAK on January 30 and 31, 2019. The purpose of the visit was to explore a partnership between the two organizations, focusing on joint degrees in adult education.

Training & Capacity Building

- In February 9-12, 2019, Ms. Rana Khoury and Ms. Judy Bandak participated in a workshop organized by DVV International-Jordan Office on “Needs Assessment in Adult Education Fields by Using Rapid Participatory Appraisal (RPA)”. The training targeted the adult education centers that DAK and DVV International are working with in Palestine, along with other partners from the municipalities and the directorates at the Palestinian Ministry of Education.

- DAK carried out three days of training on August 17, 20 and 31, 2019, in partnership with DVV International, with staff from DAK, DVVI and from al-Saraya Center in Jerusalem. The main objective of the workshop was to train and refresh the knowledge of staff from the three organizations in areas of adult education to prepare them to support the three partner centers selected in 2018.
- Ms. Rana Khoury participated in August 26-29, 2019 in a second workshop organized by DVV International-Jordan Office on “Popular Education”. The workshop included several partners from Palestine and Jordan, who are working to become adult education providers.
- DAK organized a three-day capacity building workshop for the three adult education centers and their partners from the municipalities from October 11-13, 2019, in Bethlehem. The contents included: effective communication, interactive teaching, andragogy, SMART learning objectives, trainer guidelines, management in adult

education, education in emergencies, “Curriculum GlobALE”, social entrepreneurship, community initiative, and the concept of community service and learning through it.

Launch Ceremonies of the Partner Centers

DAK participated in the opening ceremonies of the three partner centers for adult education. The openings took place on September 15, 17 and 22 in Arrabeh (Jenin), al-Yamoun (Jenin) and al-Carmel (Hebron). The DAK team continued to visit the centers regularly, offering support by carrying out a needs assessment study, and helping with the development and implementation of their plans.

“Facing Dementia and Alzheimer’s Together” Initiative

Together with the Intergenerational Program and supported by DVV International, DAK launched

the initiative “Facing Dementia and Alzheimer’s Together” on October 16, 2019 in Bethlehem with a one-day conference. DAK recognized the importance of raising awareness on dementia, including Alzheimer’s, as the number of Palestinian patients diagnosed with the disease is increasing each year, especially among the elderly, while no action is being taken to deal with this new challenge. Neglect of this growing and critical condition is partly due to a shortage of medical personnel and experts on geriatric care.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, President of Dar al Kalima University College, opened the conference with a welcome speech. This was followed by two presentations by medical personnel from Jerusalem who spoke about the different kinds of dementia, their diagnosis and therapy, the possibilities existing in a context such as Palestine, and the needs and care of Alzheimer’s/dementia patients. Three workshops were then held by specialty and background of participants to discuss the issue from their perspective, and to seek joint scenarios and suggestions as to how to face dementia and Alzheimer’s together. These

workshops were divided as follows: Academic and Educational Institutions; Medical and Service Care Providers; Family Caregivers. Each workshop drew up several recommendations, most importantly to advocate for the creation of a geriatric unit at the Ministry of Health, to create geriatric units in different medical facilities, and to raise awareness in society and among caregivers on how to deal with this disease.

The one-day event also included a short drama piece presented by senior women from the Ajyal Elderly Care Program. The sketches were taken from actual situations with dementia-afflicted patients and loved ones to portray the reality of the disease in everyday life, including the suffering it brings to all parties involved. A musical performance by two elderly men also took place to showcase the potential of this often-neglected group in Palestine.

The event was attended by 133 participants from different parts of Palestine whose ages ranged between 25 and 90 years old. A total of 57 participants represented more than 14 major

organizations, including medical facilities and health care providers, academic institutions and nursing homes. The remaining 76 attendees were members of the Ajyal Elderly Care Program and caregivers who are responsible for patients or family members with the disease.

Authentic Tourism Program

The Authentic Tourism Program had one of its most successful years in 2019. There was a sharp increase in the number of groups and visitors compared with previous years. The groups were as follows:

- **Authentic Tourism Groups:** We received 31 groups from Finland, Germany, Sweden and the USA with a total number of 603 visitors. The average group size was 15-20 persons.
- **Visiting Groups for Lectures:** The number of visitors who came for lectures also increased sharply to a total of 1726 persons. These visitors were from the following countries: USA (1254 persons); UK (118 persons); Germany (111 persons); Canada (84 persons); South Africa (50 persons); France (31 persons); Italy (27 persons); Sweden (18 persons); Denmark (16 persons); Australia (12 persons); and Norway (5 people).
- **Studiosus Groups from Germany:** A total of 41 groups with 1,077 persons participated in the one-day Bethlehem program.

Civic Engagement Program

Supported by the Olof Palme International Center, the final year of the second phase of the Diyar Civic Cultural Network project was carried out successfully. The project aims to empower Palestinian young people to actively engage in the development of their communities and exercise their citizenship rights fully. The following is a summary of the 2019 activities:

- *National Campaign:* A national campaign called "A Portfolio of Job Opportunities" addressed the issue of youth unemployment by emphasizing the need to support vocational training and education, and the establishment

of cooperatives. The Network's youth members applied their advocacy and campaigning skills effectively and collectively, including meeting with Dr. Nasri Abu Jaysh, the Palestinian Minister of Labor. Among the many positive results of the campaign was the nomination and election of several young people to become part of the Youth Economic Council at the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. This Council, which represents young entrepreneurs, is a vehicle for empowering youth to engage with the private sector and an incubator for creating innovative job opportunities. Another outcome

was the launch of the "Platform" media initiative in cooperation with the Network's partner Power Group. This targets media graduates and provides guidance on how to form media cooperatives that are independent and multi-specialized as well as capacity building and further lifelong learning and education.

- *Increased Membership:* The Civic Cultural Network is a national, membership-based structure constituting one of the largest groups of volunteers within the organization. Its potential to create social change is immense since it is comprised of a collective body of youth who are highly trained to organize around critical issues and rights. The membership base of the Civic Cultural Network grew in 2019 to 416 persons, with 246 women and 170 men.
- *Training and Capacity Building:* In 2019, a total of five lifelong learning workshops took place with focus on implementing a national campaign. The training was designed to accompany the national campaign. One workshop, for example, focused on 'starting a cooperative' while

another, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, was on "professional skills for integration in the job market".

- *Community Service:* A total of 33 youth made up of 16 women and 17 men completed a 40-hour internship designed to equip them with life, civic and leadership skills. At the same time, 111 youth members of the Civic Cultural Network participated in different activities of the 2019 campaign with 30 or more hours of community service.
- *Town Hall Meetings:* Town hall meetings are an extremely effective method for engaging young people in civil society, not only because they allow for the freedom to openly and directly express opinions and concerns, but they also highlight the power of collective agency and give decision makers greater awareness of the issues and realities affecting Palestinian youth. During 2019, two meetings were held in the Nablus District as part of the national campaign, and included labor union representatives, women activists, a former minister and current public officials.

- *Stakeholders Coalition and Alliance Formation:* A coalition of 10 partners representing different types of entity, and youth communities from key localities in Palestine, joined the campaign and were actively involved in its activities. It is important to note that the Network's youth members created multiple initiatives and assumed leadership positions in several organizations. Thus, when formulating the coalition and partnerships of different organizations with the Civic Cultural Network to lead the campaign, the majority of the partners were either entities initiated by the project's target group or these youth were part of the organizations' management or board of directors.
- *Media Productions:* Media is critical to the work of the Network because it sheds light on the potential, issues and rights of Palestinian youth. It is effective in shifting public attitudes to support youth in their quest to become more involved in the development of their communities. In 2019, the following media productions took place:

- » "Washwashah" Online Radio Show: The online radio show "Washwashah" is a 50-minute production in partnership with Power youth collective. The show was built on the former "Min Haqi" show but was more targeted toward the issues presented during the 2019 national campaign "A Portfolio of Job Opportunities". A total of 22 episodes were produced after its start in June and 54 guests from different backgrounds and specialties (28 women and 26 men) appeared in it.
- » "MinHaqi" E-newsletter: Three issues were published in 2019, again providing a platform for youth to contribute with articles, reflections, poetry, images and other types of creative expression.
- » Civic Cultural Network Blog: The Diyar Civic Cultural Network Blog was created with multi-author blogs by young men and women. The blog's main aim is to communicate youth's issues to the public. A total of nine bloggers (seven women and two men) contributed regularly to the blog. As an alternative, we also

introduced v-logging so we could promote young people's voice through a video format. To encourage engagement, a competition was held for the best v-log on the everyday realities of Palestinian youth. A total of five people made it as finalists and the winning v-log was by a young woman from Bethlehem who focused on how Palestinian youth spend their free time.

- » Civic Cultural Network Website: An online website was built and launched for the Civic Cultural Network in 2019. The website is dedicated to sharing the work and achievements of the Network.
- » Public Service Announcements (PSAs): In 2019, the Diyar Civic Cultural Network, in cooperation with Diyar Theatre, produced 10 PSAs. It was a new forum not only to the staff or target group, but to a large degree to the Palestinian context. The production of the PSAs took place during the second half of the year after many months of planning, brainstorming about themes, developing scripts, filming and editing. Young people also took part in the

production, including acting and distributing the productions. The PSAs final edits were completed at the end of November but there has been insufficient time to assess the number of viewers or long-term feedback and responses. To date, more than 100,000 views have been recorded on the Facebook pages of some the PSAs and the public has been extremely positive and supportive of the production. The PSAs, listed below, were inspired by the UN's World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) priority areas:

- Youth with Disabilities: Access and Participation
- Health Care & Patient's Rights in Palestine
- The Environment: Safeguard Water and Recycle
- Violence Against Women
- Vocational Education – A Portfolio of Job Opportunities

- Solidarity and Unity Among Youth – Combating Poverty
- Cyber Bullying
- Volunteer Work: Full and Effective Participation of Youth in Society
- Palestinian Women Leaders
- Intergenerational Issues

Culture Program

The Culture Program cooperated intensively with all other departments of Dar al-Kalima University College in 2019 to make events more diverse and complementary. Film showings were the most frequent events; at least 18 films were screened at the DAK theater, many of them attended by the film director who sat afterwards with DAK students for a Q&A session. A total of 15 conferences, festivals and workshops were also held throughout the year and included the Bethlehem Student Film Festival, the first of its kind in Palestine, and Bethlehem: A Socio-Cultural History International Conference.

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The Theatre and Dance School

Diyar Theatre

| *DDBR Dance Bethlehem Residency*

Diyar Theatre launched a new initiative to explore conflict, peace and creative resistance through dance. After receiving 64 residency applications from 29 countries, eight artists from China, USA, Canada, Germany and Sweden were invited to participate in this unique opportunity of integrating their work with our philosophy of creative resistance. DDBR

residents also shared their expertise with theatre and dance students through classes and workshops. An important aspect of DDBR was for students to share their stories when they returned to their home countries. Most importantly, these residencies promote long-lasting relationships.

| *The Clown Program*

Together with Clowns Without Borders USA, a three-year partnership was launched in clown training and performances. This program brings professional clown teams to Palestine to train and develop local Palestinian clowns. In October 2019,

a 30-hour extensive clown training was held for 20 new Palestinian clowns. Several performances took place and reached an audience of 4000 children from Bedouin communities, refugee camps and marginalized areas in the West Bank.

| *Special Event*

Diyar Theatre participated in the tree lighting ceremony in the city of Bethlehem at the invitation of Bethlehem municipality. A special performance took place together with other Bethlehem artists and the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, directed by Sami Mitwasi and choreographed by our very own trainers, Shadi Kassis and Dima Awad.

Productions

"Habu Jabo" Children's Theatre Play

This production is an artistic blend of theatre, music and dance for children and families. It contrasts past and present play habits and traditions of children across generations by presenting a time 30 years

ago in which play consisted of outdoor activities, talk and games. It draws attention to the present influence of technology on the social engagement of children. A 10-performance tour was organized in different localities in Palestine.

| *"A Tied Life" Youth Theatre Play*

The play is an experimental, movement-based performance that explores the ways we are tied, tangled and pulled in different directions - in our lives and in our own minds. The production is an outcome of an intensive workshop by Sarah Myers with our theatre students using "viewpoints", a method of performance creation that plays with time and space through movement.

| *"The Christmas Box" Christmas Play*

The Christmas play with its main girl and boy protagonists emphasized what Christmas should be about: spending time together with family and friends rather than material gifts. A 15-performance

tour was organized in multiple cities and attended by a total of 7,000 children.

Dance & Theatre Youth Exchanges

A theatre exchange took place between Diyar youth and students from the Freie Waldorfschule Rosenheim in Munich, Germany in 2019. As part of a maze show, young Palestinian actors and dancers told stories of hope and resilience through their performance.

A second youth exchange with two performances took place between our students and a group of German dancers from the youth department of the Lutheran Church of Saxony in Dresden, Germany.

"What to Do This Christmas" Program

Diyar provided a variety of activities for children during December 2019 as part of a Christmas program called "What to Do This Christmas". The program included crafts for children, a music and dance concert, breakfast with Santa, ballet lessons

for mothers and daughters, soccer with Santa, readings from the Bible, Christmas baking classes, Christmas movies, a Nativity Church tour, and many other activities geared to lift the spirits of children during the Christmas season. The program reached out to several thousands of children, mainly from the Bethlehem Governorate.

The Sports School

Cooperation with Cologne, Germany

In 2019, Diyar cooperated with University of Cologne students from the Cologne municipality in Germany on a short, intensive sports exchange program. This cooperation included a volleyball tournament for three female volleyball teams from the Bethlehem area (Diyar Volleyball Team, IbdAA Team from Dheisheh refugee camp, Bethlehem University Team); a training session for goalkeepers by a trainer from Spoho Club in Cologne; and assessment and constructive feedback from German coaches after

observing the implementation of soccer training sessions for both Diyar youngsters team C coach Mrs. Michline Hadweh and the first team coach Mr. Farah Zakharia.

Cycling for Hope – Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

The Cycling for Hope campaign was conducted for the first time in Bethlehem, together with Bethlehem University, to raise awareness about the importance of early diagnosis for breast cancer. Approximately 100 women and men participated in the cycling race, which will be an annual event organized by the Diyar Sports School. The event also included a public lecture to provide information and resources on breast cancer and early diagnosis.

Soccer

U14 Female Soccer Team. The female youngster's team U14 represented their schools in the MOEHE south area soccer competitions and won first place.

The Palestinian President's Cup Championship The Diyar First Team won the Palestinian President's Cup Championship in 2019, maintaining their place as the number one team in Palestine.

Volleyball

The Diyar Volleyball Team is now in its third year and includes 15 players aged 9 to 15 years of age. The team played in the National Volleyball Tournament for Girls and made steady improvement to become very competitive, despite being the youngest of all Palestinian teams.

Summer Camps

Diyar 2019 Summer Camp

The Diyar 2019 summer camp was held from June 10 to July 5, 2019 under the theme "My Hope, My Future". Once again there was a high demand and 200 children and youth were registered in our summer camp. The

summer camp reached out to children and youth who are not part of regular Diyar Academy programs and representing different localities within the Bethlehem Governorate. The activities included soccer, volleyball, swimming, karate, Zumba, Dabkeh “folk dance”, theatre, painting and art, as well as workshops to develop social and leadership skills.

English Summer Camp

A pilot English language summer camp for children aged 5 to 7 years was initiated to teach English creatively through games and play techniques. A total of 25 children participated in the three-week camp, during which they acquired conversation skills, life skills, creative thinking, public speaking and motor skills.

Community Dance Summer Camp

The Community Dance Summer camp, held in Bethlehem, was a cooperative event between Diyar Theatre and Tanzmoto Dance Company based in Germany. The one-week camp trained 31 young dancers in community dance techniques and concluded with a student performance.

Intergenerational Program

The 2019 highlights of this unique program that focuses on the elderly and young families in Palestine were the following:

Ajyal Elderly Care

"Facing Dementia and Alzheimer's Together" Initiative

To mark International Day of Older Persons, Dar al-Kalima University College, together with our partner DVV International, launched the "Facing Dementia and Alzheimer's

Together" initiative on October 16, 2019 as part of our adult education work and focus. The launch event consisted of a conference and workshops on the topic of dementia and Alzheimer's, which has recently become a major challenge in the Palestinian context, especially among the elderly population. The main goals of the event were to shed light on this very important topic, provide a space for discussion among medical professionals, educators, families, and the elderly themselves, provide recommendations for future follow-up, and identify partner organizations who can work with us on this worthwhile initiative. Dinner, music, and dancing ended the day and demonstrated the value of a vibrant life for seniors.

Celebrations: Mother's Day Celebration & Christmas Concert

Ajyal organized two intergenerational celebration events that brought together grandparents, parents and grandchildren. The first celebration was held on Mother's Day and the second was during the Christmas season. More than one hundred people attended each event. The celebrations included drama, music and Christmas carols. An interesting event was a poetry competition between one of Ajyal's senior members and her grandson on Mother's Day.

Drama Productions

Two plays were produced by Ajyal in 2019. The first was a joint performance between Ajyal members and music department students at Dar al-Kalima University College. It was performed during Mother's Day celebrations and highlighted the importance of all mothers, including Mother Earth, with cultural and spiritual songs.

The second play was presented at the launch of the "Facing Dementia and Alzheimer's Together" initiative. Entitled "Me, My Daughter, and Alzheimer's", the play was performed by two women members from Ajyal who acted out real life scenarios often experienced by Alzheimer's patients and caregivers.

The Azwaj Young Families

The main highlight for Azwaj in 2019 was a parenting training course for young families. It took place over eight months and was attended by both parents and children aged 12 to 16 years of age. This course was organized by the Guidance and Training Center for the Child and Family in Bethlehem. Training topics included: Effective Communication & Reducing Family Conflict; Mutual Respect for the Entire Family; Coping with Teenagers' Emotions; Develop Common Interests; Building Teenagers' Survival Skills; Promoting Self-Esteem & Self Image; Changing Problem Behavior into Positive Behavior; Allow Your Teen Space; Teaching Values to Teens (Parents as Role Models).

The Cave Gift Shop

The Cave gift shop continued to perform well in 2019 with the highest sales in recycled glass artwork. New items and mediums also grew in popularity among buyers, categorized below under 'miscellaneous'. These items include mother of pearl ornaments, sand bottles, mosaic stones mixed with olive wood, leather goods, and t-shirts designed specifically for the gift shop.

Sales Statistics

Sales by Country

- Sweden ranked #1.
- USA ranked #2.
- Germany ranked #3.
- Denmark, UK, Australia, France and New Zealand ranked #4.

Top Selling Items

- **Books:** "Faith in the Face of Empire".
- **Ceramics:** Ceramic mugs with olive wood.
- **Lambswool Felt:** Dove.
- **Embroidery:** Stoles in a variety of colors and designs.
- **Recycled Glass Items:** Glass eye drops.
- **Olive wood:** Olivewood hearts 5cm*5cm.
- **Silver Jewelry:** Olive leaf earrings.

Marketing and Media Department

During 2019, the Marketing and Media Department continued its focus on publishing news and the activities of Dar al-Kalima University College in Arabic and English in different mediums. This annual report includes the most important achievements, divided into eight sections.

News Reports:

- A total of 51 news reports were published on DAK.

Written and Printed Media:

- 73 articles covering the activities of DAK were printed in a number of different newspapers, including al-Quds, al-Ayyam, and al-Hayat.
- 19 announcements were made through the al-Quds and al-Ayyam newspapers.
- 1 condolence text was published in al-Quds newspaper.
- 27,104 advertising materials were printed and distributed.

News Agencies and Electronic Media:

- 321 electronic articles on DAK activities were published through news agencies, including: The Palestinian News & Info Agency – Wafa; Maan News Agency; Radio Hebron; al-Watan Voice; Radio Orient; al-Hayat Press Agency; Radio Hayat; Radio Bethlehem 2000; Radio Baladna; Panet; al-Quds Net News Agency; Sama News Agency; al-Ayyam Electronic Newspaper; Radio 24FM; Raya Media Network; 51 articles on the DAK website; and 51 articles on the Diyar website. An additional 46 articles were published through other electronic news agencies.

Audio Media:

- 438 radio ads were distributed covering the programs of DAK, including:
 - » 180 ads on Radio Bethlehem 2000.
 - » 48 ads on Radio Nisa' FM.
 - » 120 ads on Radio Marah.
 - » 90 ads on Radio Mawwal.

- An additional 30 radio interviews were conducted with DAK faculty and staff, including: Voice of Palestine Radio; Radio Nisa' FM; Radio Orient; Radio 24 FM; Radio Bethlehem 2000.

Audio-Visual Media:

- Eight television interviews were conducted on DAK activities:
 - » Five interviews on the Public Authority for Broadcasting and Television - Palestine Television.
 - » Three interviews on Maan TV.
- Six news reports were created on DAK activities:
 - » Four reports on the Public Authority for Broadcasting and Television - Palestine Television.
 - » Two reports on Maan TV.
- Four live broadcasts covering DAK activities and programs were conducted:

»Four live broadcasts on General Authority for Radio and Television - Palestine TV.

- A media partnership was obtained from Palestine TV for the Bethlehem Student Film Festival; this enhanced coverage of festival events.

Social Media:

- All the aforementioned media campaigns and articles were shared on DAK and Diyar web pages and on social media sites such as Facebook.
- This year, the Media and Marketing Department focused on publishing DAK news and activities in both Arabic and English on social media.
- DAK programs were published through social media, including: Radio Bethlehem 2000; Radio Baladna; Radio Mawwal; Radio Marah; and Radio Nisa' FM.

Field Visits:

Field visits were organized to inform school students about Dar al-Kalima University College and its programs. Approximately 2940 students visited DAK's premises: 2300 students during the orientation day and 640 students from different schools.

DAK also participated in many orientation days that targeted high school students from different parts of Palestine such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Salfit, Tulkarm, Nablus, Jericho, Birzeit, Hebron, and Jenin. These orientation days were organized by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education. More than 22,400 students were introduced to DAK's programs and activities through these events.

Events:

DAK participated in several events with other Palestinian universities to increase its exposure to the larger community in Palestine. One of the most

important events was participation in the fourth Palestinian Student Festival for Culture and Arts. Through this festival, DAK carried out a number of activities, most notably:

- The winter sports orientation camp, "My Talent, My Way Towards the Future", which lasted for four days, with the participation of 110 tenth and eleventh grade students from the villages of Battir and Husan. Funded by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), the camp included workshops such as painting, musical performances, photography, cooking and sports.
- DAK hosted an orientation day for high school students organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in partnership with institutions of higher education in Palestine.

Empowering the Next Generation of Creative Artists in Gaza

In line with its mission to provide quality education that meets the social, cultural, and economic needs of Palestine, Dar al-Kalima University College (DAK) began exploring the possibility of serving young and potential artists in the Gaza Strip in 2019. Subjected to an inhumane Israeli closure for more than 14 years, which has led to deteriorating socio-economic and living conditions, the people in Gaza are deprived not only of basic needs but also of access to opportunities. This situation is leading many Gazans to desperation and many, especially young people, attempt to

escape by traveling abroad in legal and illegal ways, in many cases exposing themselves to great danger. Young artists and talented youth are part of this ongoing dilemma. They see themselves as deprived of professional training and local and international exposure, as well as their livelihood being constrained due to the dire economic situation and lack of interest in the arts.

With this new initiative, DAK seeks to empower the next generation of creative leaders in Gaza by:

- Enhancing the skills of young Gazan artists and talented youth to improve the quality of their art through specialized training courses;
- Improving the livelihood of artists by creating networks and opportunities for exhibiting and marketing their productions locally and internationally;
- Recognizing exceptional artists through local awards.

Initially DAK held focus groups to listen to artists and assess their needs. It also reached out to local art and cultural centers to engage them as key partners in the activities of this endeavor. The French Cultural Institute in Gaza was identified as a temporary training location and arrangements were made to offer courses at this facility by local professional trainers.

Three training workshops were held simultaneously in photography, artistic design and video art over a three-month period with the participation of 58 committed students of both genders (in equal numbers). The training workshops culminated in

two major events: The Eye on Gaza Exhibition and The Gaza International Video Art Festival, both held from March 3-5, 2020. The two events were well attended with participation from art and cultural centers in Gaza, in addition to teachers, students and their friends and families. The Eye on Gaza Exhibition featured 66 photos and 33 artworks by the graduates of the photography and artistic design courses, while The Gaza International Video Art Festival screened 12 films produced by the artists who participated in the video art workshop.

Additionally, DAK launched the Karimeh Abbud Photography Award, which received an unprecedented 104 submissions from young artists from all over Palestine, with 64% of them from Gaza. A total of 26 photographers made it to the final stage of the competition and their photos were displayed in award exhibitions organized in Bethlehem and Gaza. Two award ceremonies also took place in Bethlehem and in Gaza to honor the winners and distribute prizes to the three top photographers from Jerusalem and three from Gaza.

RELIGION & STATE – MIDDLE EAST

Workshops and Training Events Conducted in 2019

Three workshops were conducted in the course of 2019 for young adults, i.e. university graduates and young career professionals, in Jordan and Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt, in keeping with two overarching project goals:

- to train young women and men for advocacy while encouraging and training them for creative initiatives towards self-development;

- to specify concrete measures by which to strengthen a sense of belonging, integration and effective citizen participation in the homeland.

The theme of each of the three workshops was “Diversity and Inclusion”. Highly qualified trainers led exposition and discussion of the theme, including sessions on Definitions, Religious Pluralism and Equality in Citizenship Rights and Duties, and on Gender Justice. The format of the sessions provided ample time for small-group discussion, dialogue, and reporting back. In previous years, training events were designed for and with young Christian citizens. As planned for 2019, Muslim participants were

included in this activity of the project (which operates under the name of “The Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World” (CAFCAW).

The workshops were conducted in three venues: (1) Amman, Jordan, in the spring with participants from Jordan and Palestine. A total of 16 women and 11 men took part; (2) Beirut, Lebanon, in the autumn and attended by 31 participants: 17 females including two Palestinians studying in Lebanon and 14 males; and (3) Cairo, Egypt, also in the autumn, in the smallest workshop with only nine participants (five men and four women) that included four researchers, three journalists, one legal analyst and a young female theologian. The smaller attendance was due to Egyptian entry visa restrictions that presented a formidable challenge to coordination among planners. Yet, the quality of content saved the day and was consistent with CAFCAW’s intention to create space for inclusive participation drawing on documented and documentable research, and the free expression of ideas and attitudes.

This year (2019) time was allowed during the training events for sharing participants’ responses to the quality, relevance and adaptability of content, methodology and application in the context of their respective environments. The response was enthusiastic approval, some expressed in written testimonials. A sense of renewed energy, commitment and hope for greater inclusion in society was a recurring theme among the responses.

Diyar Publisher

Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar Publisher released their fifth volume on Palestinian Christians entitled Jerusalem: Religious, National and International Dimensions. The book, edited by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, is part of an initiative launched in 2008 focused on: "Palestinian Christians: Strengthening Identity, Activating Potential".

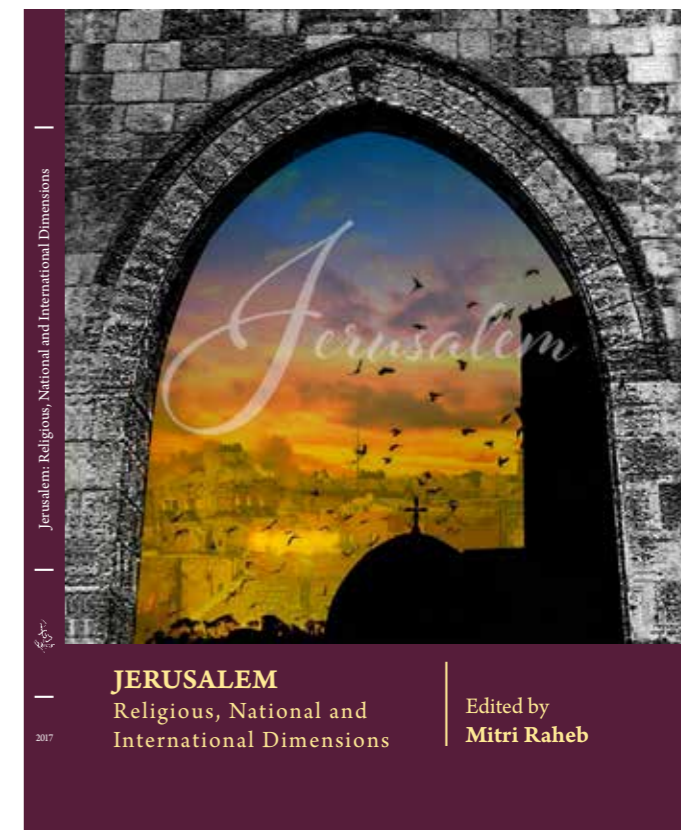
Dar al-Kalima has conducted extensive research into the lives of Palestinian Christians living in historical Palestine and abroad in order to elevate the voices and experiences of the community. In the foreword to Jerusalem, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

writes: "Jerusalem is key to peace, the religious epicenter of the three monotheistic religions, and the geographic nexus of the mappa mundi".

The book is part of the goal to reaffirm Jerusalem as a multicultural and multi-religious Holy City following recent political events in the region, including the move of the American Embassy to Jerusalem by the Trump Administration. Dar al-Kalima conducted a research study of 61 Christian organizations active in Jerusalem and held a three-day international conference that featured over 20 scholarly papers presented by experts from across the world.

Jerusalem: Religious, National and International Dimensions continues these efforts with chapters written by several authors tackling topics including Christians in Jerusalem, Jerusalem in the midst of modern political discourse, and the role of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem remains the key to peace, an inclusive city to share between two people and three religions, a city with important international dimensions", Raheb writes in the foreword. The book serves as a tool for both independent researchers and those seeking to learn more about the situation of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem.



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