



# ZUROUNA زورونا

www.tucsonmedclub.org

A publication of the Tucson MED Club

Volume 14 No 1

Fall 2013

## MED Club News and Planned Activities



Dear fellow members and friends of the MED Club:  
Greetings and best wishes to all.

It is amazing how fast this year is moving; the summer is over and the Fall is marching on. I am sure all of you are following the news, and the many unfortunate events that are happening in our old countries. I do hope that the voice of moderation and peace will prevail soon.

Our Annual MED Club meeting was held on Sunday February 10 at Zayna's restaurant. In the meeting, we discussed our 2012 activities and we were pleased to see that we have accomplished all the planned events with a noticeable rate of success. There are many options for improvement and our plan for the rest of 2013 is to make it better, more fun, and rewarding to our community. We also discussed the club's involvement in the intellectual aspect of our Tucson community, we are not doing enough in this arena. Attendees agreed that we need to expand our community effort to include a wide range of social and cultural events. We are always looking for volunteers to organize such new activities and the club is always very supportive for new planned activities. Please get involved and help us organize more activities that are attractive to our members and friends in our region. We agreed to plan the following events: 1) **Family Nights** (see ad for the next event that will be held on Friday, September 20); 2) **Halloween Party** (Friday, October 25) at Skyline Country Club; and 3) **New Year Eve Party**.

As it has been customary in our annual meetings, we held an election of the MED leadership and Board of Directors. We are pleased to have two new board members who volunteered to help us out: Loulou Kobeissi, Professor at UA College of Public Health, and Farah Fargo, a Ph.D student at UA ECE Department. The attendees have elected the following members to lead the club in 2013:

- **Salim Hariri, President**
- **Magdalein Moussa, Vice President**
- **Lydia Sahyouni, Treasurer**

### Board of Directors:

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| <b>Sonia Armaleh-Moussa</b> | <b>Bchara Mezher</b>   |
| <b>Farah Farjo</b>          | <b>Adel Ziadeh</b>     |
| <b>Lolou Kobeissi</b>       |                        |

I would urge all to help us continue serving our MED club community and achieving our mission to enhance and further our traditions, and heritage through social events and community involvement in the spirit of friendship and love.

Salim Hariri, MED Club President



***I am the descendant of a people that builded Damascus, and Byblos, and Tyre and Sidon and Antioch, and now I am here to build with you, and with a will.***

**Kahlil Gibran**

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# Wired Funny Facts

In 1939, The New York Times predicted that TV would fail because people wouldn't have time to stare at a screen.



wtffunfact.com

A lawyer sought out a 90yo lady who agreed to give him her apartment if he paid her \$500 each month for the rest of her life. She became the oldest living person ever, living for another 30 years and even outliving the lawyer who by then had paid her \$180,000 – twice the value of the apartment

wtffunfact.com

Hitler's first love was jewish



wtffunfact.com

The swimsuit police checking the length of a suit! year: 1922



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Believe it or not, but in Denmark "Fart-kontrol" means "Speed check"



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In the city of Mackinac Island, Michigan, cars have been banned since 1898



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This is a Komondor, a traditional Hungarian guard dog.

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A teaspoon of honey represents the life work of 12 bees.



wtffunfact.com

The total weight of all the ants on Earth is about the same as the weight of all the humans on earth.



wtffunfact.com

Adidas' Store in Amsterdam.



wtffunfact.com

Nomophobia (no-mobile-phone phobia) is the fear of being without your cellphone or losing your signal.

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To save workers time for lunch on the new World Trade Center Building they installed a mobile Subway restaurant they moved up the building as they finished each floor.



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# 10 Things Everyone Should Know About the Middle East

<http://danielmiessler.com/blog/10-facts-every-westerner-should-know-about-the-middle-east>

Most people especially in the West know very little about the Middle East and the people that live there. This lack of knowledge hurts our ability to understand, and engage in intelligent discussion about, current events.

For example, frighteningly few know the difference between Sunni and Shia Muslims, and most think the words “Arab” and “Muslim” are pretty much interchangeable. They aren’t. So here’s a very brief primer aimed at raising the level of knowledge about the region to an absolute minimum.

## Basics

1. **Arabs are part of an ethnic group, not a religion.** Arabs were around long before Islam, and there have been (and still are) Arab Christians and Arab Jews. In general, you’re an Arab if you 1) are of Arab descent (blood), or 2) speak the main Arab language (**Arabic**).
2. **Not all Arabs are Muslim.** There are significant populations of Arab Christians throughout the world, including in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Northern Africa and Palestine/Israel.
3. **Islam is a religion. A Muslim (roughly pronounced MOOSE-lihm) is someone who follows the religion.** So you wouldn’t say someone follows Muslim or is an Islam, just as you wouldn’t say someone follows Christian or is a Christianity .
4. **Shia Muslims are similar to Roman Catholics in Christianity.** They have a strong clerical presence via **Imams** and promote the idea of going through them to practice the religion correctly. **Sunni Muslims are more like Protestant Christians.** They don’t really focus on Imams and believe in maintaining a more direct line to God than the Shia.
5. People from **Iran** are also known as **Persians**, and they are **not Arabs** .
6. **Arabs are Semites.** We’ve all heard the term *anti-Semitism* being used — often to describe Arabs. While **anti-semitism** does specifically indicate hatred for **Jews**, the word “Semite” comes from the Bible and referred originally to anyone who spoke one of the **Semitic Languages**.
7. **According to the Bible, Jews and Arabs are related [Genesis 25].** Jews descended from **Abraham’s son Isaac**, and Arabs descended from Abraham’s son **Ishmael**. So not only are both groups Semitic, but they’re also family.
8. **Sunni Muslims make up most of the Muslim world (roughly 90%).**
9. The country with **the world’s largest Muslim population** is **Indonesia**.
10. **The rift between the Shia and Sunni** started right after Muhammad’s death and originally reduced to a power struggle regarding who was going to become the authoritative group for continuing the faith. The Shia believed Muhammad’s second cousin Ali should have taken over (the family/cleric model). The Sunni believed that the best person for the job should be chosen by the followers (the merit model) and that’s how the first Caliph, Abu Bakr, was appointed. Although the conflict began as a political struggle it now mostly considered a religious and class conflict, with political conflict emanating from those rifts.



## Congratulations to Salim Hariri for Receiving the 2013 UA Leading Edge Research Award



The award was given during the University of Arizona Tenth Annual Innovation Day that was held on Thursday, March 28, 2013. The award is given for his leading edge research in cybersecurity to automate responses from computers, networks, and information services when threatened by cyber attacks, faults or accidents.

For more about Innovation Day at the UA please visit

[www.innovation.arizona.edu](http://www.innovation.arizona.edu).

### [Advancing Cyber Security: Dr. Salim Hariri, Director, UA's Cloud and Autonomic Computing Center](#)

Source: <http://startuptucson.com/2013/advancing-cyber-security-dr-salim-hariri-uas-cloud-and-autonomic-computing-center/>  
By Jorge Gonzalez-Garcia, a contributing writer at Startup Tucson News.

**Tucson, Ariz. – Startup Tucson News – When Dr. Salim Hariri, Director of the UA's [Cloud and Autonomic Computing Center](#), was a young boy growing up in Tartous, Syria, he built a tiny radio with one transistor. "I always dreamed of being an electrical engineer," Hariri recalls. "Even as a little kid I was playing with circuits. And, I dreamed of working abroad and doing exciting things. What exactly I didn't know, but that was always my dream."**

**Nowadays, Dr. Hariri, a well-respected cyber security expert and a professor in the UA's College of Engineering, dreams of computer systems that manage and protect themselves from cyber attacks. And slowly but surely, he and his team are turning that dream into reality. This spring day he sits with family and colleagues in a large banquet room at the university, a long way from his Syrian homeland. Dr. Hariri, a fit and trim 59 years old, looks around the room and smiles. He is clearly enjoying the recognition from his peers as one of a select few researchers being honored for innovative work this day.**

**When asked to describe his ground breaking work, he searches carefully for the right words. "At the [Cloud and Autonomic Computing Center](#), we research and develop software systems that allow computer systems to manage themselves," he explains. "The problem today with current systems is that you have to spoon feed every single instruction for that system to operate properly."**

**An approach that is labor-intensive and outdated given the complexity of system interactions in today's Internet world, according to Dr. Hariri. "It is very hard to anticipate all the interactions with outside computer networks and software. That's why we have so many problems with cyber security," he says. "With an autonomic system, it is designed from day one to manage and protect itself."**

**When suggested that this concept sounds more than a little futuristic, the computer scientist pauses to find the right way to communicate that the future is now in his field of cyber security. "We're taking steps toward that ultimate goal. For example, in the old days, a pilot would fly an airplane and it was all manual operation, from takeoff, to flight, to landing. Now planes fly on auto-pilot for 90 percent of the flight." Dr. Hariri explains that the goal is efficiency and security, not necessarily one hundred percent automation. "We can start with the manual-intensive tasks that don't need human involvement every step of the way," he says. "And, where you have big impacts, we can make this part semi-automatic."**

**The university professor looks across the table to see if his explanation is sinking in. Hopeful now, he goes on, "So, we tell the system administrator: These are the steps we can take and these are the consequences. Would you like us to implement these steps? And, as we perfect the process, it becomes more and more acceptable. This is the evolution of the automating process."**

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## Continue from Page 4 - [Advancing Cyber Security: Dr. Salim Hariri, Director, UA's Cloud and Autonomic Computing Center](#)

At the heart of the process is an innovative algorithm developed by Dr. Hariri and his team. “If we detect a cyber security threat or attack, we look at the pattern of activity, and from that we build a case that points to the attacker’s ultimate goal,” he says. “The algorithm takes all the manual steps and automates them by using software.”

If this sounds like high-tech detective work with scientists walking crime scenes and examining clues left behind by the criminals, the analogy is close to the mark. This UA researcher prefers to describe it in more scientific terms. “My specialty is anomaly behavior. To protect computer systems, we need to understand how they operate under normal circumstances. We figure out the parameters, the matrix which defines normal operation. And then we build algorithms to capture any deviation from that.”

Dr. Hariri meets on a regular basis with network administrators from government agencies and large corporations to discuss cyber security. A big part of his challenge is convincing administrators to approach security with a new mindset. “The problem is that they keep investing in the same paradigms,” he says. “These are based on signature type verification, and what I call ‘click and view.’ This outdated technology no longer works when it comes to providing good security. And, they spend more than \$30 billion dollars a year on this outdated technology.”

The cyber security expert explains, “What I tell them is that you need to invest in the new paradigms. Your thinking has to be out of the box. Now, finally, I see that they are starting to recognize the need to factor in behavior, especially anomaly behavior. I have been promoting this for years, but finally they are starting to move in this direction. In science we say that going down the wrong path, will always produce the wrong result. But I do see a shift in their thinking. And, they are starting to move in this direction, and that makes me hopeful.”

Dr. Hariri is confident that his center will play an important research and development role in developing new cyber security safeguards in an Internet world exploding with connected mobile devices. “Today we have about 2.5 billion devices on the Internet,” he explains. “And, we expect that to reach 30 billion devices in the next few years. It’s what we call the ‘Internet of Things.’ There will be sensors on clothing, and sensors in homes and offices. Everything will be connected. And that increases the attack surface and system vulnerabilities.”

“So, I believe that the research we do at the center will play a big role in helping us cope with that complexity,” he says.

“When you’re talking about 30 billion devices, you really need to build technologies based on autonomic computing systems that can self-manage and self-protect. And, my hope is that my research team will play an important role in the deployment and spread of these autonomic cyber security applications and services.”

To bring these applications and services to the commercial market, Dr. Hariri started a cyber security company called [Avirtek](#). “We licensed the technology behind the algorithm so that we can commercialize the software and services we offer,” he says. “The university owns the intellectual property. They have a technology transfer patent process. An individual or startup can license this technology, and use it as part of new cyber security software they are introducing.”

When asked if recent news reports of targeted cyber attacks by a special unit of the Chinese Army were a surprise to security experts, he smiles and shakes his head. “Those of us in the field knew about this. It is well known that the Chinese are very active in the use of cyber warfare to advance their goals. They monitor Internet traffic 24/7, and this activity is well known internationally. The attacks are coming from China, and also from Russia and Eastern Europe.”

Asked if he noticed a reaction from his Chinese students when the news reports came out, the UA professor shakes his head and replies, “No, not really. I have a couple of Chinese students, but no, I didn’t notice any reaction. Sometimes I joke with them. I say look there’s a story about Chinese cyber attacks, and they just laugh, and we laugh together. But no, nothing serious as far as a reaction.”

As a university educator, Dr. Hariri wants his students to take two important things with them out into the real world: research skills and integrity. “We teach them how to be good researchers, and how to approach problems in a systematic way. Also, we teach them integrity. This is very important. If you are doing research you have to recognize other peoples’ work.”

When asked if he gets calls from engineering students back in Syria wanting to come to the U.S. to study with him at the University of Arizona, Dr. Hariri replies, “Yes, I do. If a student is qualified to meet our admission standards, I’m a strong supporter. In fact, I have one in my lab today who escaped from Damascus just three years ago. And, he is doing research on critical infrastructure protection, and doing very well. And I’m supporting him while he is studying here.”

So, a human success story for Dr. Salim Hariri of the UA’s [Cloud and Autonomic Computing Center](#). Out of the tragedy of the Syrian civil war, a rescue, an educational opportunity, a chance for a new life, and a path to a successful career. “This a helping hand I can offer. The students there are really in very bad shape. At the university there is no safety, no security. So if I can offer an opportunity for them to pursue their education, like I did, then I am glad to do that.”

To Dr. Hariri’s growing list of accomplishments – engineer, educator, researcher and entrepreneur – add humanitarian. Impressive by any measure. And it started many years ago with a young Syrian boy who loved building tiny radios, and dreamed of being an electrical engineer.

# The Tucson MED Club Invites You To Family Fun Night

**Friday, September 20, 2013**

**DJ Arabic and English Music**

**Dinner Menu: Falafel, Salad & Appetizers**

**6:30 reception 7:00 pm Dinner**

**Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church**

5910 E 5th St, Tucson, AZ 85711

For more information, please contact:

**Magdalien Moussa**

(520) 403-7976 , [magdalienmoussa@yahoo.com](mailto:magdalienmoussa@yahoo.com)

**LouLou Kobeissi**

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**Farah Farjo**

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## **Med Club Information: Please Join or Renew Your Membership for 2013**

- If you are already a member, please renew by sending a check payable to: Tucson Med Club

**Fees: Family Membership: \$70**

**Individual Fee: \$35**

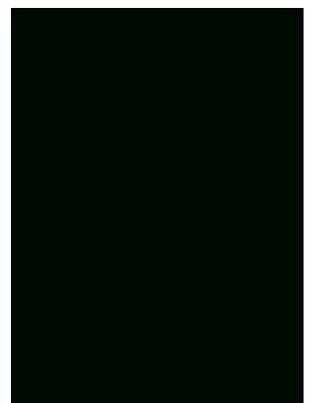
**Donations: MED Scholarship Fund**

- If you are not a member, you can download the application form from our website at

[www.tucsonmedclub.org](http://www.tucsonmedclub.org) or contact Salim Hariri, MED Club President, at 520-977-7954, [hariri02@gmail.com](mailto:hariri02@gmail.com) or Magdalien Moussa, MED Club VP, at 520-403-7976, [magdalienmoussa@yahoo.com](mailto:magdalienmoussa@yahoo.com)

Please note that to be officially a member, according the MED bylaws, the board must discuss and approve the application.

# Halloween Party, October , 2012

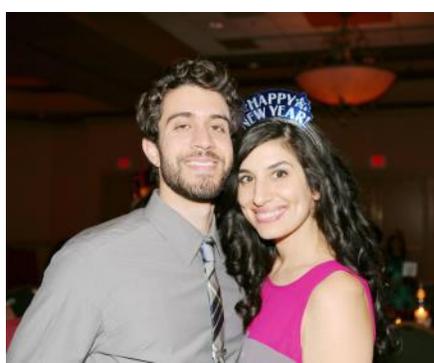


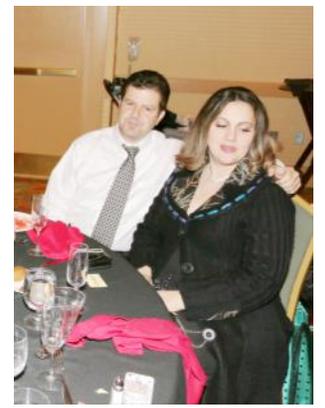
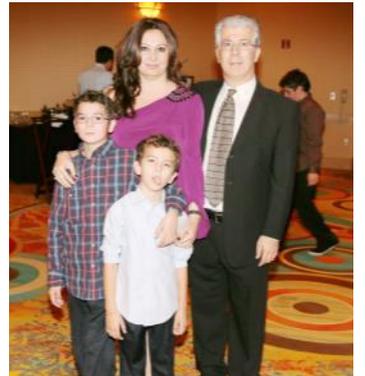
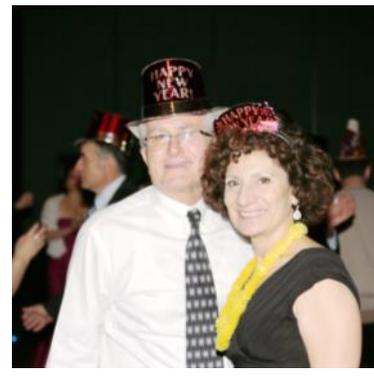


# New Year Eve Party 2012











# International Festival *of* Tucson

2 November 2013  
11.00am - 9pm

3 November 2013  
11.00am - 5pm

Sponsored by  
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Orthodox Church  
5910 E 5th ST  
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Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America



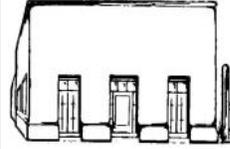
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Kahlil Gibran

*"You should be proud of being an American, but you should also be proud that your fathers and mothers came from a land upon which God laid His gracious hand and raised His messengers."*

## **TUCSON MED CLUB**

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**Zurouna Editor**

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