

## Social media for seniors

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"You are never too late and never too old for social media," claimed the team from AUB Online Collaborative (AUB OC). In this spirit, the team gave a social media class last spring term to senior students registered in the University for Seniors (UfS).

The team conducted six two-hour sessions from May 3 to June 7 in the Jafet electronic room. During these sessions, UfS students learned about Facebook, Twitter, blogs, the pros and cons of social media, and had a Q&A final session as revision.

AUB's Online Collaborative (AUB OC) aims to group social media en-

thusiasts and experienced individuals in the digital media world. The class fell under AUB OC's goal to help promote proper digital citizenship among AUB students. This time, the promotion of the proper usage of social media targeted a new kind of students - seniors.

UfS is a new life-long learning initiative at AUB that gives older adults (who are 50 and above) the opportunity to share their wisdom and passion, learn new things, and interact with other seniors, AUB faculty, and students.

AUB OC team had a unique teaching experience with this different age

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group. At first, some were worried that the seniors wouldn't accept young students as their teachers. Others were afraid they would lose their patience and give up on following up with the seniors' progress. However, the interaction between AUB OC team and the seniors was smooth, vivid, and fun.

The only problem faced was the discordance in the seniors' levels. Some had already been practicing Facebook and were eager to know more about other online tools. Others were barely acquainted with Facebook and thus needed more time to learn.

Despite these challenges, AUB OC team members were able to achieve the

goals of the class. The enthusiasm of the seniors, their curiosity for learning more, as well as their humbleness in learning from a young group was the reason behind this success.

At the end of the sessions the team gained a new perspective for social media regarding seniors and how they perceive the social media tools, giving them a deep insight that these tools should be used in moderation and alertness.

The fall term 2012 for UfS will be resuming on October 15. To learn more about UfS's offerings and registration process, visit the UfS website ([www.aub.edu.lb/seniors](http://www.aub.edu.lb/seniors)) or contact UfS at 01/350000 ext 2563.