AUST's Third Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition and Gala Dinner

AUST launched the Third Entrepreneurship and Innovation Educational Initiative whereby teams of students of various majors, together with a school student, were created to collaborate under the supervision of academicians from the university and in collaboration with the private sector. The objective was to join students and faculty from different disciplines to exchange best practices in educational technology and innovation. This technological revolution is multi-dimensional and has myriad results on the economy, the production centers and the labor market, and has a profound impact on the educational programs and methodology, and the means the universities follow to impart and generate knowledge, and on their pursuit of preparing graduates to become worthy of being effective partakers of the labor market. As such, Vice President Dr. Riad Sakr from AUST dedicated himself to advocate a compatible policy that balances the role of the university to produce and spread knowledge and its responsibility towards the society and students, with the collaboration and partnership of companies. VP Sakr’s major aim is to encourage ideas, chains, and faculty members to have students sit together as a team and brainstorm for new ideas towards new product development in order to increase employability of students and to equip them with the needed skills to compete and succeed in the job market; and, put new business ideas into practice, thus creating jobs that would facilitate personal development.

For many months, the students sat together with their mentors, exploring innovative ideas and trying as entrepreneurs to tackle social, economic and/or environmental problems to create new services and products. The culmination of their effort was a Gala Dinner during which seven teams presented their projects in front of a panel of esteemed jury members, who are pioneers in their respective fields. The jury panel was comprised of:
• H.E. Nicolas Sahnaoui, Parliament Member
• Mr. George Awad – Bank of Beirut- Director of Consumer Banking
• Ms. Yasmina El Khoury Raphael– Head of Business Environment and Innovation at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
• Asmira Mourad - Head of Business Support Unit at IDAL
• Dr. Toni Issa- President IPTEC, President of the Energy and Water Committee at Beirut Bar Association, and Vice-President of IPT
• Mr. Joe Max Wakim- IT Director- Medical Center Processes and Systems- AUBMC

Under the patronage of the Minister of State for Investment and Technology, H.E. Adel Afiouni, the Computer Science (CSI), the Information & Communications Technology (ICT), the Computer and Communications Engineering (CCE), the Biomedical Engineering (BME), and the Mechatronics Engineering (MTE) Departments held AUST’s 15th Annual Engineering and Computer Science Project Expo 2019, on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at Ashrafieh campus, during which 32 Senior Capstone Design Projects were exhibited before 60 independent jury members and around 200 guests. The esteemed professional jury members were industry partners, CEOs of major industrial institutions, researchers, heads of departments, and deans of faculties from several local universities in Lebanon. The event started with a gathering, at the Office of the President; present were Mrs. Yasmina El Khoury Raphael, Head of Business Environment and Innovation, representing H.E. Adel Afiouni, President Hiam Sakr, AUST Vice President, Dr. Riad Sakr, AUST Provost, Dr. Nabih Haidar, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Aziz Barbar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Roger Achkar, Dean of Research, Dr. Ziad Abu-Faraj, Chairperson of the Departments of Computer Science and Information & Communications Technology, Dr. Ele Nasr, Chairperson of the Mechatronics Engineering Department, Mr. Michel Owayjan, the jury members, and AUST faculty. The group then headed to the exhibition area whereby the event was declared open with the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. After the Lebanese Anthem, VP Dr. Riad Sakr welcomed the attendees and gave a short speech in which he emphasized the importance of such events in: being a vital stepping stone to the implementation of the university’s mission towards excellence and the building of tight collaboration between the industry and the professionals and the university’s graduates. VP Sakr then explained the importance of the Industry Advisory Board whose mission is to make sure that the curriculum of the fields of Engineering and Computer Science are compatible with the ever evolving technology trends and the digital revolution in said fields; and, the perpetuation of the approved ABET accreditation. Mrs. Yasmina El Khoury Raphael emphasized in her speech the importance that the Ministry of State for investment and Technology accords to promote the entrepreneurship sector.

AUST Middle East Director, Dr. Herve Sabourin, AUST President, Hiam Sakr, AUST Vice President, Dr. Riad Sakr, AUST Provost, Dr. Nabih Haidar, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Aziz Barbar, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Roger Achkar, Dean of Research, Dr. Ziad Abu-Faraj, Chairperson of the Departments of Computer Science and Information & Communications Technology, Dr. Ele Nasr, Chairperson of the Mechatronics Engineering Department, Mr. Michel Owayjan, the jury members, and AUST faculty. The group then headed to the exhibition area whereby the event was declared open with the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. After the Lebanese Anthem, VP Dr. Riad Sakr welcomed the attendees and gave a short speech in which he emphasized the importance of such events in: being a vital stepping stone to the implementation of the university’s mission towards excellence and the building of tight collaboration between the industry and the professionals and the university’s graduates. VP Sakr then explained the importance of the Industry Advisory Board whose mission is to make sure that the curriculum of the fields of Engineering and Computer Science are compatible with the ever evolving technology trends and the digital revolution in said fields; and, the perpetuation of the approved ABET accreditation. Mrs. Yasmina El Khoury Raphael emphasized in her speech the importance that the Ministry of State for investment and Technology accords to promote the entrepreneurship sector.

The Communication Arts Department, headed by Dr. George Farha, Chairperson of the Department, a body of faculty members and 129 students held an ordinary session at the Lebanese Parliament on Tuesday 21st of May. The session was chaired by H.E. Deputy Speaker Eli El Fenzi. Mr. El Fenzi inaugurated the session, and after a reading out of the names of the students who were absent-with excuses, before the general assembly, the Deputy Speaker addressed the assembly and welcomed all, and hosted the Lebanese democratic parliamentary organization which we relay, as well as the values of co-existence and the national pact. H.E. the Deputy Speaker stressed the importance of dialogue among all Lebanese and underscored unity before egoism. He believes in brighter days for Lebanon and told the assembly to hold on to their homeland Lebanon, and emphasized the massive effort being done by all political elites to relinquish the status-quo, and to push for development and drastic change.
AUST Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Jeddah

The Optics and Optometry Department hosted Dr. Mansour Tabaqy from the University of Jeddah on the Graduate Research Symposium Day in an effort to expand relationships between the two universities. This culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding, MOU between The College of Applied Medical Sciences, University of Jeddah, represented by their Dean, Dr. Mansour Tobaqy, and the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the American University of Sciences and Technology, represented by Dean Dr. Zouhair Attieh. This MOU will facilitate the exchange of educational, cultural and scientific exchanges between the two universities; will further the development at AUST; and, will allow for community benefit in both sectors and unites us in our commitment to the common missions of the two universities.

The Communication Arts Department at the Lebanese Parliament...Continued

AUST’s Third Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition...Continued

As the teams presented, the jury voted online. The teams presented in alphabetical order:

1- CurricLub Team mentored by Coordinator of the English and Translation Department at AUST Zahle, Mr. Afif Khalil
2- Delly Dallies Team mentored by Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Zouheir Attieh
3- 4RFusion Team mentored by Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Aziz Barbar
4- Mark Team mentored by Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer and Communications Engineering, Dr. Mustafa Halabi
5- SSD Team mentored by Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer and Communications Engineering, Dr. Mohammad Rahal
6- ZeedRev Team mentored by the Coordinator of the English and Translation Department at AUST Zahle, Mr. Afif Khalil

Following the presentations, all were treated to a lovely dinner.

The event ended with VP Sakr addressing the audience before announcing the winners: “The “ZeedRev Team”; participating students: Hiba Shall, Kassem Wahab, Bahaa Naquib, Ibrahim Nachef, Jimmy Ghostine, and Ali Saleh. They were awarded $3000 check.

• First Prize Winners: The “SSD Team”; participating students: Sally Anadani, Mira Mir, Kassem Wahab, Bahaa Naquib, Ibrahim Nachef, Jimmy Ghostine, and Ali Saleh. They were awarded $3000 check.

• Second Prize Winners: The “Zeed Rev Team”; participating students: Hiba Shall, Mohammad Khaled Bayan, Rebecca Akl, Wissam Mousabak and Yousef Yared.

• Third Prize Winners: The “IMARK Team”; participating students: Ali Krshit, Rawan Fawaz, Karim Mourad, and Marwa Bou Nasreddine.
The Department of Computer & Communications Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering at AUST Holds the 4th Symposium on Innovations in Computer & Communications Engineering - SICCE 2019

The Department of Computer and Communications Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering at the American University of Science and Technology held the Fourth Symposium on Innovations in Computer & Communications Engineering - SICCE 2019. The Symposium aspires to bring together global and regional thought leaders in emerging areas of computing, engineering and technology to foster a discussion around aligning global trends with regional needs.

This year the selected topic is related to the technology – 5G – that is invading everything, from the evolution to the security and services to the optical metropolitan networks. These topics were tackled by three distinguished guests from academia and industry, namely, Dr. Chafic Mokbel, Mr. Ziad Zorkot and Dr. Omran Ayoub.

The event was attended by around 100 invitees, including officers of the Lebanese Army, officers of the Internal Security Forces, representatives of the computer & communications and computer science industries in Lebanon, IEEE Lebanon, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Computer Society, AUST IEEE Student Branch, deans and chairs of local universities, & AUST faculty and students. SICCE was technically sponsored by the IEEE Lebanon section, with pioneer researchers from KAUST. A touristic trip to Jeddah’s old town was also organized to introduce the guest to the rich culture of the city.

Chairperson of Radiologic Sciences Department of AUST Lectures at King Abdullah University of Science & Technology (KAUST) - Saudi Arabia

Dr. Achraf Al Faraj, the Chairman of Radiologic Sciences Department of AUST, was invited to King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) - Saudi Arabia as a guest speaker to lecture during the KAUST Imaging workshop organized by the Core Labs in the presence of renowned researchers from Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Sweden. It is worth noting that KAUST is one of the fastest rising universities for high quality research output in the world.

This year the selected topic is related to the technology – 5G – that is invading everything, from the evolution to the security and services to the optical metropolitan networks. These topics were tackled by three distinguished guests from academia and industry, namely, Dr. Chafic Mokbel, Mr. Ziad Zorkot and Dr. Omran Ayoub.

The third lecture was presented by keynote speaker Dr. Omran Ayoub, post-Doctoral Professor, University of Balamand. The title of his talk was: 5G Services and Security.

The event was attended by around 100 invitees, including officers of the Lebanese Army, officers of the Internal Security Forces, representatives of the computer & communications and computer science industries in Lebanon, IEEE Lebanon, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Computer Society, AUST IEEE Student Branch, deans and chairs of local universities, & AUST faculty and students. SICCE was technically sponsored by the IEEE Lebanon section, with pioneer researchers from KAUST. A tourist trip to Jeddah’s old town was also organized to introduce the guest to the rich culture of the city.

AUST- Zahlé Computer Science Team Winners of Bekaa 2019 Hackathon

The Computer Science Department at AUST- Zahlé won the first prize (with best impact) of a 3-day long Hackathon organized by the Makhzoumi foundation (Zahle Branch). Eight universities participated in the Bekaa Hackathon. The participants were divided into 8 teams, with each team having 48 hours to create a solution for a given problem and bring it in a presentable form (Prototype1). During this phase, participants were coached by four experienced and skilled mentors. The project assigned to the AUST team was a secure end to end prototype of a local voting software, including artificial intelligence features. It is worth noting that the students were neither allowed to use their cell phones nor to communicate in any means with anyone outside the institution. AUST computer science team was supervised by Dr. Charbel Boualty, Zahl campus director, and included Maria-Pia Ghonayeb, Fatima Dinani and Mohamad Khaled Bayan. Distribution of prizes took place at AUST Zahlé campus in front of an audience of more than150.
AUST Introduces its Students to the US Embassy Exchange Programs!

In the next few months, AUST will hold a series of workshops and seminars to introduce its students to the numerous programs offered by the US Embassy in Beirut, giving them the necessary knowledge on how to apply and succeed!

The US Embassy has many available opportunities such as: The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) – Student Leaders Program, the Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship Program, or the Study of the US Institutes (SIS) for Student Leaders on Women’s Leadership program.

"Such programs are life changing and open a lot of career opportunities!" explained Mr. Ibrahim Jouhari, one of AUST instructor, who took part in a six-week study of the United States Institutes (SIS) program on US foreign and security policymaking, funded by the US State Department. During the visit to the US, 18 scholars from all over the world participated in the program, visited several Ivy League universities, like Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and met with top professors in the International Relations and Political Studies fields. Additionally, the participants visited the city of Austin in Texas, New York, where they met the US Mission to the UN, and Washington DC.

Additionally, the participants took part in several conference, each speaking of his country and the main issues facing their relation with the US. Mr. Jouhari spoke of the "US Lebanese relations", and the effects of "US disengagement from the Middle East". Mr. Jouhari pointed out that "it was a very enriching and inspiring program. We learned a lot about the US public institutions, their academic organizations, and the American way of life! I believe that AUST students should know more about these programs and how to apply! Hopefully, in the next few months, we will hold several workshops to introduce these programs and speak of the application process!"

In the presence of AUST President, Mrs Hiam Sakr, and the Head of the Lebanese Association for Painters and Sculptors, Mr. Michael Rouhana, as well as the Executive Manager for Fabria Trading Co., Mr. Jean Claude Nahas, the 2019 Foundation and Fine Arts Exhibition was held on May 14th, 2019.

Mrs. Haibat Bawab, Fine Arts Coordinator, was honored to present the 19th Annual Foundation & Fine Arts Exhibition, which was the result of the students’ hard work. The exhibition included a wide collection of art works made throughout the academic year in Beirut, giving them the necessary expenses for the event. Special thanks went to Mr. Rouhana, who invited Fine Arts graduates to be members of the Lebanese Association for Painters and Sculptors (LAAPS), and to Mr. Jean Claude (Fabriano), who sponsored this event. She then thanked the rest of the management team for their guidance, and the students and fellow instructors who were at the heart of that exhibition.

Finally, she asked President Sakr to present the Certificates of Appreciation to the outstanding exhibiting students who have reached great achievements throughout their years of study. The students were: Patricia Braidi, Aicha Chaaban, Mariam Darbaj, Basma Joumaa, Jad Tawil, Jouanna Makhoul, Zeina Majed, Karen Sabbage, Pascale Saleh, Amal Shahine, Albina Taha and Fatima Wehbe; also, Razan Hatoum, Lama Jaroudy, Tala Kurdi and Ward Sahli who are expected to receive their BA in Fine Arts this semester.

2019 Foundation & Fine Arts Exhibition at AUST

in the two Faculty of Engineering Project (MTE): The Inferno Fighter Robot by Amin Hassoun, Dana El-Harini, Jad Traboulsi and Jamil Jabaly. Advisor: Dr. Elie Nasr.

2nd Faculty of Engineering Project (CCE): Smart System Display by Kassem Waheb, Ali Saleh and Abde El-Kader Hamdan. Advisor: Prof. Ziad Abu-Faraj. This Year, CME Offshore Company represented by CEO. Mr. Wissam Youssef, presented an award of $5000 distributed among 4 teams of their selection. The winning teams were as follows:

3rd Faculty of Engineering Project (BME): A Biomechatronics Model of the Walk Along Theory of Skeletal Muscle Contraction by Raif Ghostine, Elias Haddad, Nabil Hamid, Fatma Zerour, Jamil Jabaly and Jad Al-Salam. Advisor: Dr. Ali Rahal. President Sakr congratulated all on a job well done and expressed her pride in each student. The event ended with a cake cutting ceremony and a commemorative group picture.
The Department of Optics and Optometry (OAO) held its 4th Conference, the host of which was the Global President for the International Association of Contact Lens Educators, Dr. Shehzad Narou, who lectured on Dissemination of Ocular Research Findings. Dr. Joanne Nassar shared AUST’s journey in the Master’s Program and the inception and execution of research projects. The talks were unified in their theme; they highlighted the importance of research in the Optometric field and how it is the first of its kind in the academic quadrant of Optics and Optometry. The President of the Syndicate des Opticiens et Optométristes au Liban, SOOLB, Mr. Ahmad Sherry updated the audience that included members of the Optometric Community including the ALOO Association and other heads of section from different universities of the new law governing the profession. OAO graduate students presented topics that ranged from the Prevalence of Refractive Errors, Dry Eye Syndrome, and Keratoconus in AUST’s tertiary student population, and some studies that included staff members; along with topics on Low Vision Rehabilitation, and Optometric Knowledge amongst the general population. An Optomap preliminary application that highlighted optic shops and clinic locations throughout the different regions in Lebanon was presented. The symposium was extremely beneficial in showcasing the level of work and effort exerted by all the doctors helping in the Optics and Optometry Department and the pride that the Chairperson, Dr. Joanne Nassar feels in the new heights being attained by the department raising the level of Optometric education at AUST and the entire MENA region.

Dr. Joanne Nassar, Chairperson of the Optics and Optometry Department

Under the Patronage of the Commander in Chief of the Lebanese Army, the Communication Arts Department of AUST Holds a Seminar on “Women Revoking Boundaries: Determination, Perception & Disposition”

The Communication Arts Department at the American University of Science and Technology (AUST) held a seminar on the 20th of May, 2019, under the patronage of the Commander in Chief of the Lebanese Army, General Joseph Aoun, represented by General Ali Ghazayel. The seminar, entitled “Women Revoking Boundaries: Determination, Perception & Disposition”, was led by two of the most prominent females from the Lebanese Army: General Raghida Abou Haydar and Colonel Suzanne Roukos. The discourse revolved around sharing personal experience of the challenges and opportunities that face women when they choose to pursue a career that once was considered to be masculine by nature. The seminar focused on women pioneers in a male dominant society with the purpose of furnishing hope and aspirations to the new generation of females and eventually unchain their innermost desire and motivate them to develop the required skills that prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow. The event started with the national anthem followed by a welcome speech by Mrs. Liliane Karam who greeted the audience, introduced the topic, and invited the guests of honor to the stage. General Raghida Abou Haydar displayed a video of the hard training that females go through in the army, one identical to that of males. She also shared her personal experience and the challenges she overcame throughout her career path. Similarly, Colonel Suzanne Roukos emphasized the fact that femininity should not be affected by holding such position in the Lebanese Army. At the end of the seminar, students showed enthusiasm and interest by asking the guest questions that led to a delightful interaction. Afterwards, The Chairperson of Communication Arts Department, Dr. George Farha, awarded trophies to the guests as a symbol of appreciation for their participation.

Manager of Johnson and Johnson Vision Visits the Optics and Optometry Department at AUST

Mrs. Lolita Souaid, Johnson and Johnson Vision Brand Manager at Khiafi Fattal & Fils visited the OAO Department to lecture on how to build a successful optometric practice. The Optics and Optometry students learned about the different contact lens types available through Acuvue® Brand Contact Lenses by Johnson and Johnson Vision. Ms. Souaid stressed the importance of professionalism when dealing with patients, as being the highest point for patient retention in addition to loyalty, trust and satisfaction. Criteria for a successful contact lens practice include providing products with high optical quality, ensuring good patient comfort, and good contact lens materials. Key factors addressed were quality of vision, dryness, wearing time, and moisture rich lenses. The Vision Care Institute at Johnson and Johnson values these factors. To that effect, Acuvue® Brand Contact Lenses incorporates solutions in their different types of contact lenses on the market like 1Day Acuvue® Define, 1Day Acuvue® Multifocal, Acuvue® Oasys for Astigmatism, 1Day Acuvue® Moist with Lacreon Technology, 1Day Acuvue® Oasys with Hydracure Technology and 1 Day Acuvue® Oasys silicone-based lenses. Ms. Souaid discussed lowering the Coefficient of Friction which allows the lenses to be ultra-smooth on the eyes, improving the blink rate in addition to the unique 100% UV blocking benefit present to protect the eyes from harmful rays. Furthermore, Mrs. Souaid explained the Accelerated Stabilization Design “ASD” technology that maintains the fit and vision of toric or Astigmatic lenses. We value Mrs. Souaid’s presence and look forward to more collaboration with Johnson and Johnson Vision.

Dr. Joanne Nassar, Chairperson of Optics & Optometry Department

For your comments, e-mail us at: austmidweek@aust.edu.lb
The Teaching Diploma Program at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Science and Technology hosted the Recognition Event and Exhibition for the National Youth Service Week 2019, and the launching of the 2020 campaign. The event was organized by the Campaign Coordinating Committee, Volunteer for Lebanon (VFL) and AUST’s TD Program, that was the lead partner for this year. The event that took place at AUST’s main campus in Achrafieh was attended by 127 NGO members, educational and youth associations, and groups of students and youth who implemented community service projects within the campaign. The celebration started with the National Anthem. The opening words noted the importance of strengthening the voice of youth and social participation in the face of despair and social collapse. Chairperson of the Department of Mathematics, Hiba Othman, welcomed the attendees; this was followed by a short documentary on AUSTand its programs. Then Dr. Patricia Nabti, the President of the Volunteer for Lebanon and the campaign’s director, gave her speech in which she stated next year’s goal: in addition to doubling the number of projects, the goal is to improve the quality and sustainability of projects and empower young people. Dr. Nabti called on NGOs and associations present to encourage the participation of different age groups. Then, Vice-President of VFL, Ms. Sana Hassan, presented the objectives and criteria for evaluation of the implemented projects within this campaign. Moreover, student representatives of youth groups gave presentations on their projects implemented to serve the community. The speeches ended with the word of the patron, H.E. Mohammad Fneish, Minister of Youth and Sports. The Minister’s word was delivered by Mr. Joseph Saadalalah, the head of the Youth Department in the Ministry. Mr. Saadalalah praised AUST and its educational role. He stressed the importance of the initiative and the importance to give young people the necessary space to express their views and aspirations, and to involve them in the development process. In conclusion, Mr. Saadalalah praised the National Youth Service Week campaign as it promotes, facilitates and improves the establishment of programs and voluntary activities. All participants received certificates acknowledging their efforts. Moreover, honorary awards were presented to the three distinguished projects and a group picture and a wonderful cocktail.

Eleventh Annual Mathematics Expo: “Mathematics is Everywhere”

The Department of Mathematics held its Eleventh Annual Mathematics Expo: “Mathematics is Everywhere”. The Mathematics Expo is designed to demonstrate the importance of mathematics to university students no matter what profession they ultimately select. The Expo aimed to motivate students to make meaningful mathematics connections that will lead to self-sufficiency as inspired by their renewed comfort levels with future homework completion and mastery of requisite mathematics skills within a real life setting. 653 students from different Mathematics courses presented their 197 projects in front of jury members throughout the day. Some of the objectives of the Mathematics Expo were to:

• Shift Emphasis from Product to Process
• Shift Emphasis from memorization to meaning
• Shift Emphasis from computation to concepts
• Shift Emphasis from the “What and How” to the “Why”

Calculus Projects were about the uses of Calculus in real life, particularly in the areas of Engineering, Banking, Information and Communication Technology, and Military Fields. Projects varied from “The Calculus in Pyramids” to “Calculus in Ping Pong” to “Root Mean Square” to “ISP and Calculus” to “Robotic Arms and Calculus” to “Cryptosystems with Calculus” to “Calculus in Game Theory” to “Smart Systems” to “Calculus in Weaponry and Battles” to “Calculus, Rockets, and Space Travel” to “Parabolic Arches” to many others.

As for the Business Statistics projects, themes varied to cover: organ donation, people’s conceptions of online banking, traffic jams, students’ conceptions of the growing use of technology in education, women participation in politics, finding jobs before graduation, consumers’ perceptions of buying products, the effect of advertisement on changing people’s attitudes. Linear Algebra projects were about coding and matrices, while Discrete Math projects centered around graph theory and combinatorics applied to real life situations. Differential Equations Projects approached the uses of differential equations in various aspects of real life including Tomahawk and volcano eruptions. As for the Numerical Methods Projects, they tackled the uses of numerical methods in electrical engineering and computer science. The day was a huge success due to the efforts of Department Chair Hiba Othman and the Mathematics Department’s faculty members in the three campuses.

AUST’s Optics and Optometry Department Participates in ‘LAAS’

At the yearly Lebanese Association for the Advancement of Sciences “LAAS” convention, three students from the Department of Optics and Optometry at AUST, under the supervision of the Chairperson Dr. Joanne Nassar and the instructors Dr. Jeanne Andary and Dr. Danielle Badro, Ms. Nancy Sleem, Ms. Rita Abou Ghaida, and Ms. Hiba Sati participated in the First Italian-Lebanese Science Day “Global Science”. This event was held at the American University of Beirut (AUB); AUST students had the chance to participate in the poster presentation session on topics that included identifying Optometric clinics and shops through an Optomap, the level of optometric knowledge in the general population, and low vision treatments and devices. A discussion and question and answer session was held with members of the Italian jury. AUST is proud to be representing the Optometric field for the second year in a row and for being a pioneer in Optometric Education thanks to the efforts of its Chairperson, Dr. Joanne Nassar and all the doctors that have helped raise the level of research inquisition in the students.

Dr. Joanne Nassar, Chairperson of Optics and Optometry Department.
AUST Inter Departmental Mini Football Tournament

The Sports and Activities Office at AUST Sidon campus held its annual “Chouf Schools Tournament” at the AUST Sports Complex, from Friday the 10th of May till Tuesday the 14th of May, 2019. The participating schools were: Barja Official Secondary School, Damour Official Secondary School, La Cime -Khaldeh, Barja Al Hadissa School, Deir El Moukhaless Secondary School, Lycee Social Barja, and Saint Charbel Secondary School- Jiyeh. The results of the tournament are as follows:

**Basketball (F)**
- 1st Place: Barja Official Secondary School
- 2nd Place: La Cime -Khaldeh

**Basketball (M)**
- 1st Place: Damour Official Secondary School
- 2nd Place: Barja Al Hadissa School

**Football (F)**
- 1st Place: Barja Official Secondary School
- 2nd Place: Damour Official Secondary School

**Football (M)**
- 1st Place: Barja Al Hadissa School
- 2nd Place: Barja Official Secondary School

**Volleyball (M)**
- 1st Place: Barja Al Hadissa School
- 2nd Place: Saint Charbel Secondary School- Jiyeh

At the end of the tournament, all participants received medals and the winning teams were awarded with trophies.

S.A.O organized for the 16th year, its annual Inter Departmental Mini Football Tournament. Though last year’s tournament was a success, the SAO saw fit to introduce new factors that enhanced the spirit of competition and challenge: each team was made up of 5 players including minimum 1 staff or professor or girl, if any of the latter scored, their score was multiplied by 2.

Following is the results of the matches:
- **Staff vs F.O.E**: 14 - 13
- **MKT vs F.H.S**: 17 - 6
- **ECO vs Staff**: 19 - 18
- **F.O.H vs CSI**: 7 - 12
- **F.O.E vs MIS**: 17 - 5
- **STAFF vs MIS**: 21 - 15

Goal scorers:
- Best Scorers till now:
  - Dr. Daniel Sakr: 24 goals
  - Mr. Ziad Saade: 18 goals
  - Dr. Roger Achkar: 16 goals
  - Mr. Marwan Haddad: 10 goals
  - Dr. Gaby Tabbal: 8 goals

After qualifying for the Semi-Finals, AUST played against USEK and won 3-2.

Goals scored for AUST: Omar Chalha - 2 goals, Elie Saghbini: 1 goal.

In the 2nd match, LIU won against USJ 5-3.

Goals scored for AUST: Elie Saghbini - 2 goals, Omar Chalha: 1 goal.

The Results were:
- 1st place: LIU Khiyara
- 2nd place: AUST
- 3rd place: USEK
- 4th place: USJ

Best scorer: Venisio Smelly (LIU)
Best goal keeper: Ralph Riachi (AUST)
MVP: Rayan Btadini (AUST)

At the end, trophies and medals were distributed by Mr. Charbel Boustanly, Zahlé Campus Director, Mr. Assaf Riachi, and Mr. Joe Kassouf, Sports Coordinator.

IQ Test

1. 25, 24, 22, 19, 15, (?)
   Which number comes next in the series?
   4, 8, 10, 12, 14

2. 3968, 63, 8, 3, (?)
   Find the next number in the following series:
   -1, 0, 1, 2, 3

Answers will be announced on facebook
Horoscopes

ARIES March 21 - April 19
The conversations and the people you meet can keep things moving along over the week ahead. You might completely misunderstand a conversation or someone's intentions. You could also have an overly idealized view of a situation when in reality it's nothing like you think. With this in mind, it might be a good idea to wait a few days before signing or committing to anything important. The weekend brings more clarity if what you're considering is worthwhile.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20
Go easy around money matters. This could be something like a gym membership or an offer that involves your hard-earned cash. Take the time to look at the details to see what's in it for you before you make a move. There is potential for romance or for you to be mesmerized by a certain someone. This person might seem perfect in your eyes but in a few days appear more human. They could lose their appeal unless you can take this in stride.

GEMINIs May 21 - June 21
This isn't one of the best times to make promises, no matter how sure you are that you can follow through. Going back on your word would be noticed by those in authority. To avoid this, it's best to underestimate what you can accomplish and over deliver on results because this will make a more positive impact. If there is something you'd like to accomplish, seeing it first in your mind's eye can make it easier to manifest.

CANCER June 22 - July 22
There could be a clash of beliefs involved that stems from experiences that occurred in your younger years. If you want to understand why you've been sabotaging your best interests, talking to someone who knows you well or who has a catchy understanding of human nature might bring some powerful insights. You might enjoy spending time with good friends at a nearby spa where you can relax and let your troubles melt away.

LEO July 23 - August 22
It might be wise to avoid any schemes that involve a lot of money because they might not be as good as you think. Before you sign or commit, it's wise to do the math. If you take the time to look into the financial side of things, you might find the potential return is a lot less than you imagined and possibly nothing at all. Bearing this in mind, it might best to sidestep this and wait until something much more solid comes along.

VIRGO August 23 - September 22
Take extra care over the coming days because this person could find it difficult to stick to their word. They likely mean well, but they might not be able to follow through due to unexpected circumstances. If this is something you need urgently, it might be better to attend to it yourself because it will then get done. There is also the promise of a delightful outing with your partner or a good friend that leaves you feeling positive and upbeat.

LIBRA September 23 - October 22
Is it better to help others or help yourself? This could be an issue this week because you could feel guilty for saying no to someone who counted on you to help them out. This could be a victory for you, though, especially if you've given in to them one too many times in the past. Standing your ground and setting firm boundaries can let this person know that you don't intend to be used in the future.

SCORPIO October 23 - November 21
It might seem like love at first sight, but is it real? The coming days could see you falling head over heels with someone and perhaps feeling that you have finally met "the one." If so, it might help to get the opinion of a friend. If the friend knows you very well, they'll be unafraid to tell you the truth as they see it. There's a possibility that you won't want to hear what they have to say until it's too late. If someone gives you a warning, it might be wise to listen.

SAGITTARIUS November 22 - December 21
You could be eager to beautify your surroundings at home or at work like adding beautiful pictures, inspiring savings, and sentimental gifts from those you love lifts your spirits when needed most. Powerful feelings could seem overwhelming. Reminder that nothing is forever and that you're supported, loved, and cherished. It can help you stay positive. A very practical aspect could see you investing in something that nets you a side income.

CAPRICORN December 22 - January 19
Make sure that people understand you, because there's a possibility of mistakes over the days ahead. Things may not go as planned. One way to sidestep this is to write out your instructions in bullet points so they can be seen in black and white. Even then, someone could still misread your words. In fact, if you're hoping to involve others in a complex project, it might be better to wait until the end of the week when things will more easily fall into place.

AQUARIUS January 20 - February 18
Is it worthwhile to spend money on a new hobby, pastime, or even romance? If you're uncertain, don't commit just yet. By the end of the week, you could have valuable insights into whether it's worth investing your time and money into something new or better to avoid doing so for now. When it comes to creating a pleasant atmosphere at home, a trip to a vintage store or local art gallery could see you falling in love with one or two items.

PISCES February 19 - March 20
It would help to make your intentions clear this week, because if you don't, your family might have expectations that you don't intend to fulfill. This might be a case of mixed messages and general misunderstanding. However, it could create a negative atmosphere unless you set the record straight. Visiting a gallery, going to a concert, or appreciating other people's creative efforts can encourage you to give it a go.

Lighter Side

You might enjoy spending time with good friends at a nearby spa. There is also the promise of a delightful outing with your partner or a good friend that leaves you feeling positive and upbeat. There could be a clash of beliefs involved that stems from experiences that occurred in your younger years. If you want to understand why you've been sabotaging your best interests, talking to someone who knows you well or who has a catchy understanding of human nature might bring some powerful insights. You might enjoy spending time with good friends at a nearby spa where you can relax and let your troubles melt away.

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