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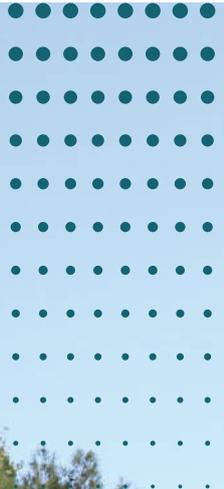
**LAU**  
الجامعة اللبنانية الأميركية  
Lebanese American University

STUDENT INITIATIVE



Higher Education Leaders Magazine

January / February 2020 Issue



# Newsletter

The University Scholarship Program and Higher Education Scholarship Program provide undergraduate scholarships to promising public/private high school students and technical school graduates from all six governorates of Lebanon. These ambitious and generous programs are made possible with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

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*LAU Magazine & Alumni Bulletin is environmentally friendlier!*

The pages of this copy of the magazine are printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests that are FSC certified.



SUCCESS story

# USP Excellence Award 2020



Marianne Al Awar,  
Social Work & Community  
Development

2nd Prize!



Aya Barakat, Mechanical Engineering

3rd Prize!



Leen El Khatib, Marketing

1st Prize!

To recognize students who enacted positive change within their respective communities and achieved academic high performance, OCE announced the USP Excellence Award, honoring those who have given their all for a better world. Students eligible for this award are those exhibiting strong commitment and dedication.

They are those who have invested time and thought into serving their communities. They are those who have spent late nights pushing their academic performance to its zenith, recording great success. They are the students who proudly represent the future generation in a hopeful light, with an evident spark in their hearts that would later manifest itself and blossom into positive change.

Congratulations!

# A Step Towards PASSION



It takes a special kind of endurance, strength, and commitment to break boundaries and express yourself through the art of dance, which is exactly what pushed Jinan Nader towards it.

Nader, a Nursing student under the University Scholarship Program hailing from Aley, received a certificate in Megadanz from the Radical Fitness Lebanon Institute. The sessions were offered over the course of 6 months, whereby Jinan took intensive training in **Megadanz** and went through an intense cardiovascular training workout.

“Training every day and doing something I love made me feel motivated by giving every dance move and step all the passion needed to translate it into a piece of art. Receiving this certificate was a childhood dream achieved, now I can’t wait to start teaching and transferring my love and passion for dance to others” said Nader.





## SUCCESS story

USP student Tala El Kayyal, and her team came back as the third place winners of the **Asian Arabic Debating Championship Competition**. Organized by Qatar Debate in Malaysia, the competition provided students from all around the world with the opportunity to represent their countries and universities by debating general issues. “It was the first time I participate in such a huge championship, which brought a

feeling of responsibility and gave me a motive to push myself and give it all I’ve got,” said Tala. According to her, this experience sharpened her critical thinking skills, deepened her understanding of diversity and most importantly promoted her leadership and team working skills. As a result of the success, LAU team, came back hoping to spread the culture of debate and effective dialogue in their beloved country.



# Capacity Building



Thursday January 30, 2020  
LAU Campus

# Mind Mapping & Mental Health

## WORKSHOP

Take one minute, close your eyes and imagine a tree. The image that comes across your mind might have resembled a cedar, a pine tree, or maybe a giant broccoli perched on top of a distant hill. You might have placed a tree in a garden, or left it floating in space having an existential crisis, but whatever your tree was, it certainly carried your own personal perspective. With that thought, Maya El Tal, a leadership consultant and a certified coach and trainer initiated

the workshop entitled “Mind Mapping and Mental Health”. Students were able to identify tools to organize their goals and objectives in life. The workshop also included visual material which helped them explore the methodology of creating their own mind map. Students were also capable of projecting their personal lives in to a map aiming to construct the best version of themselves.

**Mind Map Link: [www.mindmeister.com](http://www.mindmeister.com)**



Wednesday February 5, 2020  
LAU Campus

# Computer Skills PowerPoint **WORKSHOP**

Innovative presentation designs remain a powerful tool in students' academic journey and future career endeavors. Accordingly, HES students developed a deep understanding of Microsoft Powerpoint through a hands-on workshop facilitated by Ms. Iman Aziz,

a USP graduate and Project Engineer at Primesouth Lebanon S.A.L. Students gained knowledge of various Powerpoint functions to develop creative designs and slides. They also shared best practices to efficiently navigate Powerpoint for maximum audience engagement.





*Wednesday February 12, 2020  
LAU Campus*

# Digital Addiction Disorder

## WORKSHOP

“Digital Addiction Disorder” is a threat that is still being underestimated. Aiming at shedding the light on the impact of digital devices on our lives and long-term goals, the Outreach and Civic Engagement Department hosted its 31st Soft Skills Series (SSS) “Digital Addiction Disorder” workshop. During the workshop, Mr. Imad Shmaitilli a trainer, consultant and project

manager at Microsoft Championship Lebanon, presented the causes behind “Digital Addiction Disorder” all while highlighting its symptoms. Accordingly, students predicted the drastic impact of “Digital Addiction Disorder” on their time management and daily habits. This interactive workshop raised students’ awareness about the severe impact of digital threat.



# Spirit of Service



Student leaders: Ahmad Sous, Laila Hamdan, Marwan Al Zoghbi  
Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, Beirut  
January 9 & 14, 2020

# Personal Hygiene

CSP

USP student leaders; Ahmad, Leila, and Marwan planned and implemented a two day Community Service Project targeting the well-being of orphans. During the first day and in collaboration with Beirutiat NGO, three USP students invited 30 orphans from Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya to an interactive and heartwarming educating session. Students bonded with the orphans allowing them to express themselves creatively through face painting, designing and coloring wooden crafts, as well as playing Pictionary and Charades. During the

second day, USP students addressed orphan's well-being through a hygiene awareness campaign. Students led an interactive session to familiarize orphans with tools to prevent disease and promote positive attitudes towards cleanliness. The interactive nature of the presentation raised the target audience's awareness of good hygiene practices. In addition, the orphans acquired the necessary knowledge to differentiate between effective and ineffective practices regarding regular dental care and hand washing.



*Student leaders: Hussein Yassine, Ali Ahmad, Ahmad Hijazi and Al Badaoui Al Bayeh  
Dr. Nazih Bizri Public High School, Saida  
January 13 and 14, 2020*

# Say No to Drugs!

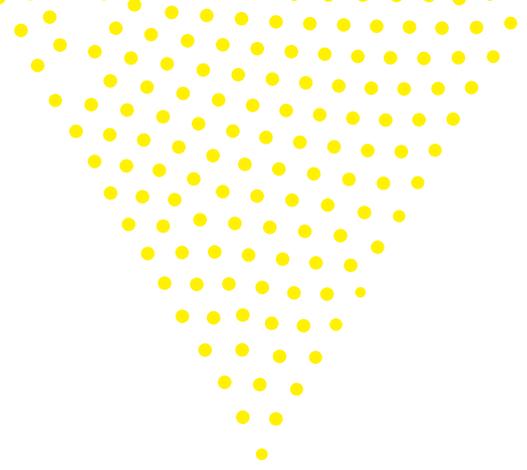
**CSP**

When it comes to substance abuse, drug addiction awareness is extremely important. With drug addiction, also comes mental health issues. Both feed off on each other which is why four USP students led a CSP to raise awareness on drug addiction. The aim of the project was to introduce high school students to the effects of drugs and smoking, to teach them how to avoid peer pressure and to empower their abilities to help others deal with this issue. The project was implemented over two days in Dr. Nazih Bizri Public High School targeting

Grade 12 students. During the first day, USP students Hussein Yassine, Ahmad Hijazi, Ali Ahmad and Badaoui Al Bayeh facilitated an extensive presentation about drug's causes, symptoms and ways for precaution. On the second day, USP student leaders collaborated with Mr. Imad Shmaitli, to discuss the effects of drug addiction on mental health to Grade 12 students. "Thank you, USAID, for giving me and my colleagues the chance to serve our community and spread the word said Hussein Yassine."



*Student leader: Abdulrahman Moghrabi  
Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, Beirut  
January 16 & 31, 2020*



# Youth Development

**CSP**

Due to the growing need for computer literacy today, USP student Abdulrahman Moughrabi invited 20 orphans from Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya to an interactive workshop in collaboration with LOYAC NGO. The project was designed to equip orphans with the basic tools of information technology, and enable them to identify the main components of computer. Through his workshop, Abdulrahman defined what

a computer is, its different uses, and its components and basic operating system uses. On the second day, the children from Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya came to LAU campus where they applied the gained knowledge in the computer lab. Through practice children deepened their understanding. At the end Abdulrahman facilitated an open discussion regarding computers and their indispensability in the present evolving times.



# Pink Steps

## CSP

Through a heartwarming contribution to make a community change, USP student Norma Nasser Al Deen majoring in psychology chose to stand for cancer survivors. This choice was based on her eldest sister's establishment of Pink Steps NGO that aims to help cancer survivors enhance their quality of life, promote physical fitness and psychological well-being. In Baalbeck, such initiatives are very limited. Therefore the purpose of the Community Service Project was to establish a sister branch of Pink Steps NGO in Baalbek in order to spread awareness on the importance of psychological and

physical well-being among breast cancer survivors, their families and those at risk. Accordingly Norma Nasserddine implemented a two-day workshop to help cancer survivors enhance their lives after enduring a challenging turmoil. She also established a group on social media to communicate with the breast cancer survivors and the volunteers in Baalbek and ensure their compliance with the physical education and psyhco social programs she developed for them. "Thank you, USAID, for giving me the chance to serve my community and build a healthy environment for cancer survivors."



# First Aid and Basic Hygiene

CSP



USP students foregrounded the importance of cleanliness to 35 children from SOS Batroun, through creative and fun ways. They engaged the orphans in simulations of basic personal hygiene disciplines and habits, by presenting the effective practices of dental care and hand washing. SOS children had the opportunity to participate in meditative pastimes such as wooden crafts, face painting, Pictionary and charades. “We are all satisfied to have implemented such a project, for it truly highlighted important aspects of our

daily lives. We taught the students about the importance of first aid and the necessity of maintaining healthy hygiene practices, as basic daily routines are essential for the children’s wellbeing and sound lifestyle”. USP students were happy to draw a smile on the children’s faces and help them acquire new skills. “CSP was a great opportunity to share with those young minds tips & techniques to help them mature in a healthy and safe way into young adults” said Naya Hajj Sleiman.

# INITIATIVE

*Rashid Karami International Fair , Tripoli  
January 5, 2020*



## DAFA CAMPAIGN: THE WARMTH OF GIVING

In the cold winter days, feeling true warmth begins with the internal intention of spreading a smile on someone else's face, and wrapping a coat of gentleness around the shoulders of those who feel the chill of the wind the most. Dafa Campaign was launched in 2015 by activist and former MP Paula Yacoubian to support underprivileged people of all nationalities and religions in Lebanon. As part of its fifth-year winter campaign, Dafa organized a sorting and packaging day of donations in Rashid Karami International Fair in Tripoli on the 5th of January.

With the aspiration to equip every home with the basic utilities, 13 students from LAU under the Higher Education Scholarship (HES) volunteered to assist in compiling, sorting, and allocating donations.

“My participation in this human day has brought joy to my heart and the hearts of my colleagues. Helping others in times of adversity and difficulties establishes a sense of responsibility, urging giving and sharing” said Hanaa Ali, a nursing student hailing from Naher Al Bared – Tripoli.



## العمل التطوعي رسالة سامية لا بد من نشرها بيننا

تقديراً لجهود عناصر الدفاع المدني وتضحياتهم في سبيل خدمة الوطن والمواطن، اختارت بشرى ابو قنصور، طالبة سنة أولى تتخصص في الكيمياء في الجامعة اللبنانية الاميركية، التطوع في مركز الدفاع المدني في منطقتها الكفير . تقول ابو قنصور: «يقال أن العمل التطوعي يصقل الانسانية في شخصية الفرد. لقد تأكدت من هذا القول عندما ذهبت للتطوع في الدفاع المدني ورأيت الشغف لدى الاشخاص العاملين هناك الذين قاموا بشرح اهمية الدفاع المدني و تاريخه. ان العمل التطوعي رسالة سامية لا بد من نشرها بيننا للارتقاء بوطننا نحو مستقبل أفضل».

ان برنامج المنح الدراسية الجامعية الممول من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية لا يهتم فقط بمنح التلاميذ التعليم الجامعي انما يشجعهم ايضا على تنمية حسهم للعمل التطوعي .



## INITIATIVE

*Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, Beirut  
January 31, 2020*

# Dar Al Aytam Reading Club



For the purpose of engaging underprivileged kids in activities that will empower them and build their creativity and self-confidence, USAID-funded scholarship students at LAU volunteered in reading stories to orphans and teaching them basic computer skills at Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya's Reading Club. Throughout the activity orphans interacted by attempting to predict the story's ending. Orphans were also taught how a computer operates and how to use the main applications such as Word

Document. "Despite the cruelty of life, they smiled. Despite the tough conditions they have been through, they drew the most beautiful paintings," said Dareen Fayyad, an HES mathematics student. This experience was not only deeply beneficial for the orphans, but also for the students who were given the opportunity to immerse in the wonderful world of children's books and help the orphans to enhance their reading and computer skills. The students succeeded in this event by demonstrating a high spirit of service, instilled values of civic engagement, and sportsmanship.

*LAU Campus, Beirut  
February 2, 2020*

## Imagine Concert Series From Far Away Concert

Twenty two USAID-funded scholarship students at LAU took initiative in providing service to the Imagine Workshop and Concert Series: From Far Away Concert hosted by LAU Professor Dr. Seba Ali along with an orchestra from Taipei. During this activity, students had the chance to discover the backstage operations and logistics of a musical concert, as well as the detailed

process of organizing and implementing such a big event. Some of the students worked in the lobby, while others handled the role of stage managers, assistants, and ushers. Their names were added to the official booklet handed to audience. The students succeeded in this event by demonstrating a high spirit of service and enthusiasm for the field.



# INITIATIVE

*Bet Rafqa Centre, Batroun  
February 3, 2020*

## Bet Rafqa visit



During an activity organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement Department, USP students had the chance to visit Bet Rafqa Center in Batroun to spend quality time with the elderly. Upon their arrival, the students were introduced to the health conditions of the elderly who reside in the center. After that, they kicked off the visit by entertaining

the elderly, and sharing unforgettable moments with them. The scholars were touched by what they had encountered and described this experience as very rewarding and touching, as they were able to feel the power of giving, and the impact of a person's actions on other people's feelings and lives.

# INITIATIVE

*Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, Beirut  
February 9, 2020*

## Clothes sorting at Dar Al Aytam



“No matter how small a good deed is, it will always leave a smile behind,” said Ahmad Khazaal, a USP student at the Lebanese American University, describing the enriching volunteering experience he shared with four of his colleagues at Dar Al Aytam, a big orphanage in the heart of Beirut. In the name of humanity, five USP students were able to draw a smile on 11,000 faces by helping in sorting out clothes donated by retail shopping centers to the orphans, on Saturday February 9. Throughout the activity, the five students joined forces to categorize the clothes according to ages, gender, and

season, before distributing them to the 11,000 children registered at the orphanage. Besides the experience, and the skills that the students had the chance to enhance through taking part in this activity, they also were lucky to experience the joy of giving and helping underprivileged kids. “Spending two hours in the storage room of Dar Al Aytam on Saturday morning to sort out clothes for the orphans really left a mark in me,” noted Ahmad, “it made me notice the happiness on those children’s faces, and I truly felt like a part of something not only profound, but remarkable” he added.

# INITIATIVE

*Faour Camp, Kfarzabad, Bekaa  
Every Saturday of February*



## Volunteering with refugees

Nine HES students hoped to break all the stereotypes and promote cohesion between displaced Syrian families and their Lebanese host community by visiting Faour camp. Student leaders took the initiative in providing children in Beqaa of both Lebanese and Syrian nationalities with tools of resilience to overcome their traumas through Arts. Students were divided into

groups that accommodated up to 12 children, ages between 5 and 17, with three classes per caravan, which was a place of refuge. Through the visit, HES students collaborated with six international volunteers from Holland and in partnership with AIESEC, had the chance to work in leadership positions to deliver workshops that cover topics about human rights, sports, and health.





# Job Readiness





## LE BRISTOL

*Bristol Hotel, Beirut  
February 17, 2020*

## CORPORATE VISITS

Corporate visits can be an excellent way for both students and professionals to network, and provide them with a unique opportunity to gain insights into how various companies operate in different fields. The Outreach and Civic Engagement Department organized a corporate visit to Le Bristol Hotel, targeting this time the hospitality management industry.

While such company visits will always include a general type of introductory presentation on company history, markets, and strategy, USP students had the opportunity to explore the hotel's operations and detailed processes with Ms. Roberta Yazbeck, Le Bristol's front office manager. Students have

also benefitted from fruitful discussions related to the current hotel's workflow in correlation with the existing country situation, as well as the risk management measures implemented to overcome the challenges.

At the end of the visit, Ms. Yazbeck escorted the students on a tour in the hotel diverse departments: kitchen, food and beverage, front office and reception, and showed them different types of rooms. This practical experience in the hotel management area provided students with many insights for future endeavors. USP VII Cycle 3 student, Mohamad Zain stated that he is now more knowledgeable about the hospitality management industry and more willing to expand his horizons in this field.



# KPMG

*KPMG, Beirut  
February 19, 2020*

## CORPORATE VISITS

As a chance to expand their horizons and delve into the boundless world of professional services and business, nine students were given the opportunity to embark on a journey with one of the biggest global organizations: KPMG.

Founded in 1987, KPMG operates as part of an international network of independent firms, which works closely with clients and helps them grasp opportunities and mitigate risks through audit, tax, and advisory services. Mrs. Marie Josee Youssef,

HR manager, enlightened students about the job and internship recruitment processes as well as powerful employment program such as TAQAT. Students inquired about the available positions for their respective majors. Through this enriching experience, students did not only get to learn about KPMG and apply for positions which could pave the road to their success. Rather, they got the chance to gaze into the professional world through the doors of KPMG, getting familiar with the possible setting of their future.





# MUREX

*Murex, Beirut  
February 24, 2020*

## CORPORATE VISITS

Experiencing education beyond theoretical concepts is essential to developing practical perspectives to the working world. In this light, USP and HES students visited Murex to benefit from hands-on opportunities for learning through exposure to diverse working methods.

Murex, a leading player in proposing effective technology as a catalyst for growth and innovation in capital markets, shared with the students 30 years of experience in designing, implementing and evolving

integrated trading, risk management, processing and post-trade solutions and leading generation platforms. Rowayda Sayad, USP student majoring in Computer Science, thought that this visit was inspiring enough to “help her set the right career goals by beginning to explore her inner strengths”.

Through exclusive conversations with Mr. Elie Gael Chaccour, the talent acquisition manager as well as with his team members, students were able to develop a deep understanding of the company’s mission, vision and values.

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