



STUDENT INITIATIVE



April 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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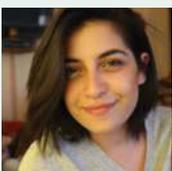
LET'S VOLUNTEER!



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MEET OUR EDITORIAL TEAM



Hanin Haidar Ahmad



Sarah El Khouwayer



Pia Maria Bou Doleh



Maguie Hamze

Thank you for your valuable contribution

Word by Program Director



The resilience that our Outreach and Civic Engagement Higher Education Scholarship staff and students are demonstrating round the clock is commendable. New online workshops and volunteering activities are organized. Online education is being closely monitored. Online tutoring, coaching and advising demonstrate that grant management for us is an exercise of servant leadership where empathy, respect, responsiveness and responsibility reign supreme. LAU demonstrated that it cares about its students and extended free internet packages and creative online educational processes, programs and packages. Proud of the effort, of the willingness to teach and learn and of the inextinguishable spirit of service, We salute the exemplar behavior of students and staff. USAID HES program is a vivid example of true partnership between LAU and the USAID administration. The overall objective of academic excellence, civic mindedness and job readiness is being duly served.

Professor Elie Samia
Assistant Vice President
Program Director of USAID USP/HES
Outreach & Civic Engagement Department

April 23, 2020

INTERVIEW

Sarah Dakour Aridi is a USP III graduate who majored in biology and currently is pursuing medicine at LAUMCRH.

LAUMCRH

- As a healthcare specialist, brief us about the challenges you are facing during COVID-19 pandemic.

As a 6th year medical student rotating at LAUMCRH, our lifestyle was greatly affected by the pandemic. We had to cut off many clinical days and alternate as groups of two only in order to decrease exposure. Healthcare workers are at the greatest risk since we can't really know if the patient approaching us has the virus or not, and so it was essential to respect social distancing and take maximum safety measures with every move we make. We had to use online platforms to do our lectures instead of learning practically and performing clinical skills. This wasn't easy at all especially in our field where practical skills and procedures are essential to learn, but on the other hand, it has also left us with much more time to study and increase our knowledge. After all, as doctors of the future, I believe we need to be responsible during this crisis and help as much as we can to fight it away even if we had to make sacrifices and risk our health.



Beauty with Bless

- As the Founder of Beauty with Bless, how are you serving out people that were affected by the pandemic?

As a founder of "Beauty with Bless" concept, my aim has always been to raise money in order to help those in need. During these hard times, people need us the most. Quarantine is not the same for everyone; while some people are nagging about gaining weight and eating all day, others can't even afford getting bread or sleeping under a shelter. As such, we're trying to sell as many beauty boxes as possible and receive donations so we raise enough money to provide food and medications for those in need. What's important to me though, is to always respect the dignity of these people. Most of the time they don't know who we are; we go to their place, put the bags, knock the door and go away. After all, helping others doesn't have to be seen, it just has to be done.



LeMSIC

- What is the role of LeMSIC in helping people out during the COVID-19 situation and what was the contribution you made?

Being a previous local director for the Lebanese Medical Students International Committee (LeMSIC-IFMSA) and a member now, I was able to engage in many campaigns and events to help people. During this pandemic, LeMSIC is collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health in order to hold awareness campaigns in schools and distribute posters on safety precautions and quarantine measures.

Members are also taking care of the Ministry's Hotline and receiving calls from people to answer any questions they have or advise suspected cases whether to come to the hospital and get tested or not. We also have small groups with medical backgrounds distributed in every region in order to help transport patients and take care of their needs during emergencies.

Inspirational Talk

As a USP Graduate what will be your advice to the current USP students during this transition?

I know these times might be stressing; being stuck at home, postponing our plans, stopping our work and being uncertain of what's coming. But please remember, we're all facing this together and no matter how hard it'll get, keep focusing on the positive side and you'll soon find yourself back on track, stronger than ever. I never thought I'd have time to practice my hobbies after I started studying medicine, but now I'm able to have much time for everything I ever wanted to do. Read, meditate, exercise, take care of your health, bond with your family, learn new skills, count your blessings and appreciate the little things you have. Being a USP student is a blessing by itself that will open doors for a better future; while some students aren't able to pay tuition, afford dorms to stay quarantined or get the needed academic supplies for online learning, you have them all set for you. You can either choose to make the best out of this time in order to reach your goals later, or drown with it. Stay safe and look around you; we're really so blessed and it shouldn't have taken us a pandemic to realize that.



The brightest of students never cease to project their light outward and excel, even in the darkest of times. They blossom in the driest of soils, continuously serving as a real life example that one could always maintain high academic performance and compete, even in the often discouraging current circumstances of the global pandemic and through the radical shift to online learning. Our resilient and diligent USP students have been such inspiring examples, as they continue to participate in competitions like the **MEPI Students Leaders Program SLP 2020**.

The program is one that deeply empowers students by providing them the opportunity to spend 5 weeks in the US under regular circumstances, while taking on full courses and capstone projects. It is one that exposes them to people of different backgrounds from all around the world, allowing them to expand their circles and build connections through the exciting experience. However, due to the current situation, courses are instead delivered online and the trip was postponed until December, whereby it would then serve as an immersion trip to finalize the project.

Funded by the US department of state, the program usually takes place in four different universities in USA (Montana State University, University of Delaware, Georgetown University, and Portland State University) and out of the 60 accepted students, two were the USP students **Antonio Bakhos**, a USP VII Cycle 2 student majoring in Banking and Finance and minoring in Economics and **Nour Nahhas**, USP VII Cycle 1 student majoring in Civil Engineering.

“I decided to join the program to learn more about leadership and how to implement change in my community. I learnt how to spread democratic awareness in implementing and conducting policies and how to be politically knowledgeable. Also because of this experience I will be networking and taking full advantage of the opportunities presented to me during my trip,” said Bakhous.

The online application and the selection processes had been a learning experience in of themselves. The students were contacted to head to the US Embassy for a challenging interview, where they had to find solutions for Lebanon’s pressing problems, taking the role of the newly selected cabinet. After that, they were shortlisted to be among the finalists and had to wait for a confirmation from the US. Two weeks later they received an awaited response from the university that they were accepted and will be proudly representing Lebanon in the program.

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

COVID-19 Sign Language Awareness



Marwan Al Hasbini is a University Scholarship Student (USP I) who majored in Communication Arts (Radio/TV/Film) and graduated from the Lebanese American University in 2016. During his university years, he set out to achieve a new goal, believing that everyone should acquire the basic sign Language skills. Since then, he has conducted more than 5 sign language workshops around Beirut and helped more than 75 people in learning this new language.

“Knowing Sign Language is a skill that, in my opinion, everyone should have. How many times have you encountered a deaf person and couldn’t help them due to not knowing their language?” Says Marwan.

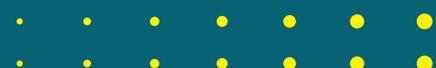
As part of **The Lebanese Federation of the Deaf**, Marwan and his sister believe that translating many news segments into Sign Language would benefit a lot of deaf people. They try as much as possible to take the mediator’s role and raise awareness amongst these “people of determination.” Applying the issues to today’s circumstances, Marwan experiences a deaf person’s cry

while shooting his documentary back in the senior year which tackled the issue of not having any Sign Language interpreter on Lebanese televisions. The deaf person brought forth an important predicament, saying:

“if we don’t understand the news, we might go out and die on the streets”.

This statement is somehow applicable nowadays with the government decision of the lockdown, seeing that if deaf people are unaware of such big announcements, they would end up getting fined. This is also relevant to the instructions given by the news on self-hygiene, which deaf people need to be aware of in order to fight COVID 19. As an attempt to make a change regarding the aforementioned, Marwan and his sister had the chance to translate one of the ministry’s awareness videos to sign language, following the call of the Lebanese Ministry of Information.

“I hope by participating in these small videos, I can make a change in the local mentality towards the language.” He said.





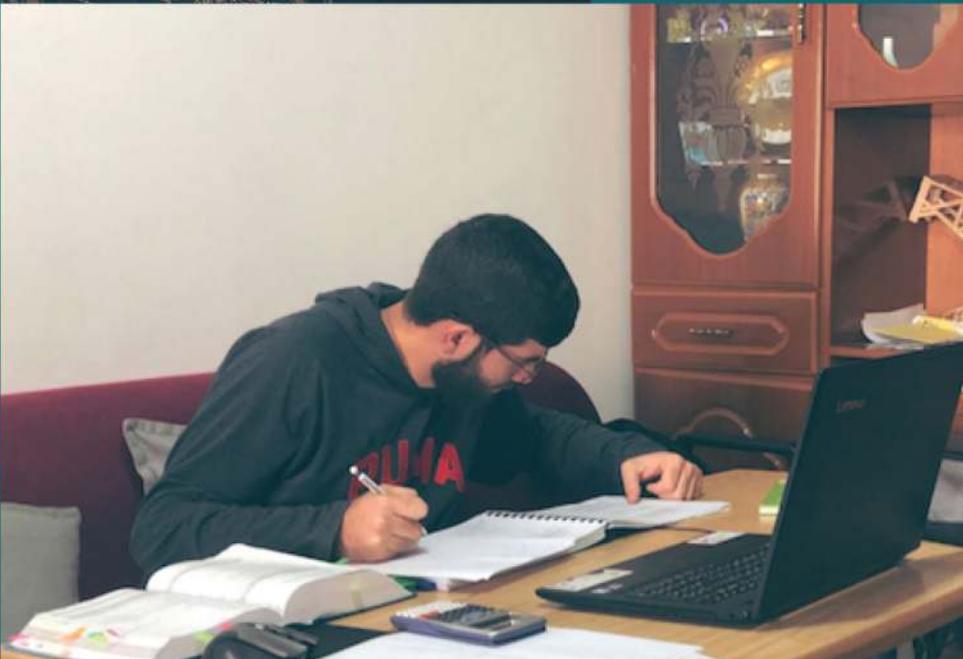
ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

Nicolas Jamal is a University Scholarship Student (USP I) who majored in Computer Engineering, graduated from the Lebanese American University in 2015 with honors and started as a Research assistant at the Lebanese American University that same year. He worked as a part-time instructor at LAU in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 2018. His passion of putting humanity on the right

track to create a better earth provoked him to establish his own company **Dox Technologies**. Its main mission is to help electric vehicle fleet operators reduce inventory costs, battery waste, and sudden failures while optimizing battery maintenance processes by providing a battery predictive analytics platform built using a proprietary machine learning algorithm.



Capacity Building



Adapting to a New Lifestyle

WORKSHOP

When students transition from high school to university, they experience a period of great change through which they try to adapt to a new lifestyle. This integration period can give rise to a plethora of difficulties and challenges, especially for people who are exploring and being newly exposed to a different culture. In his TED talk “Learn a New Culture” and through entertaining stories and visual examples, Julien S. Bourelle shared his beliefs about the ability people have to impact society. He spoke of the chances individuals have to increase the competitiveness of businesses and to create a better functioning multicultural society, through the power of intercultural communication. Throughout the talk, students learned about verbal and non-verbal communication, emotional

feedback, social norms, and the values that influence interpersonal interactions across cultures. Julien was, most importantly, emphasizing the idea that people see the world through cultural glasses, encouraging viewers to change their lenses and altering the way they perceive others’ behavior. Under the same theme, students watched another TED Talk titled “Change your mindset, change the game” by Dr. Crum, who introduced herself to the audience as the biggest game-changer. Students explored with Dr. Crum scientific results that show the influence of our mindset on our physical body and how changing it produced different outcomes. They also became more understanding of how our mindset can positively differ with increased knowledge and awareness.



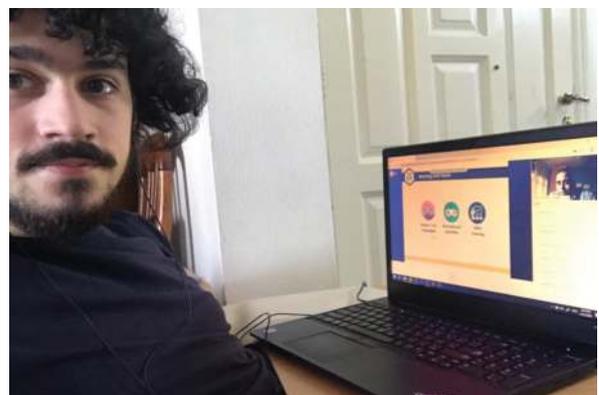
Engaging in Productive Self-Reflection

WORKSHOP

It appears evident that the biggest issue we face in these isolated times of crisis remains that of productivity. We have succumbed to the habit of procrastinating quite readily under the stressors of the current situation, thus students were encouraged to engage in an online workshop of extreme relevance: “Engaging in Productive Self-Reflection.” Part of this workshop was Tim Urban’s TED talk “Inside the mind of a master procrastinator, ” where he accompanies the audience on a journey to explore the three different dimensions in a procrastinator’s mind: the rational decision-maker, the instant gratification monkey, and the panic monster. In his lighthearted and entertaining manner, Tim explains how he was able to overcome the issue of procrastination by delving deep into introspection and realizing that he, simply could not feel the pressure of an already existing general deadline,

knowing that we are mortal and never truly have as much time as we assume. In addition, students also watched two highly profound and precise videos summarizing “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,” an inspirational book which influenced many people around the globe. The book endorses what is called “character ethics,” highlighting their importance as a foundation for success.

The book introduces self-mastery habits, which help the person grow independent, and other habits which encourage students to reach the highest level of maturity by shifting from independent to interdependent (the attitude of we). Finally, the last and 7th habit of the book “sharpens the saw”. It urges people to use their own tools and skills to tend to deadlines more effectively and efficiently.



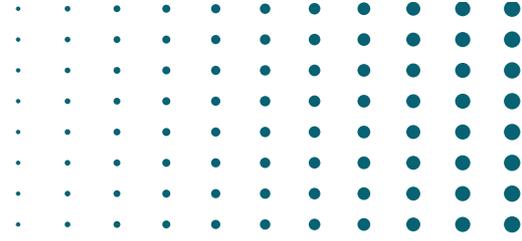
Basic Professionalism & Business Etiquette

WORKSHOP

In a creatively interactive manner, Ms. Maya el Tal, a Leadership Consultant and Certified Coach, was able to familiarize students with the professional life in a one-hour online workshop titled “Basic Professionalism & Business Etiquette.” Ms. El Tal discussed with the students several points such as etiquette - a set of rules emphasizing traits such as good manners, honesty, transparency, respect and listening. She examined the importance of listening trait, emphasizing on how good listeners were

revered in society for creating the concept “MMFI”(Make Me Feel Important) which made the person they were addressing feel heard. Body language was then elaborated and defined as a major aspect of first impressions. El Tal discussed how people notice nonverbal communication more profoundly than the actual content discussed in certain interactions, in addition to the importance of dress code and its effect on how people perceive others.





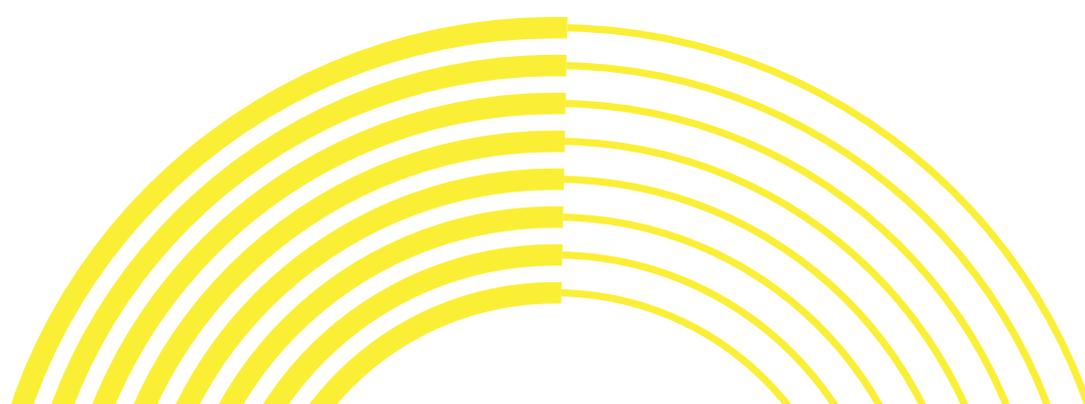
Where there is Will, E-learning is the Way.

COURSERA

“Only the people who take learning, growth and skill development into their own hands will be tomorrow’s leaders.”

Inspired by Alli Worthington’s words and determined to make the best of the present trying circumstances, the Outreach and Civic Engagement Department at LAU (OCE) partnered with the proactive online learning platform “Coursera, “ to provide USP and HES students with the opportunity to fulfill their interpersonal development goals and maintain their outstanding performance. Coursera, which offers massive open online courses from Ivy League universities such as Yale, along with professional certificates in a plethora of subjects, was chosen by OCE in compliance with the grant objectives as the perfect virtual compensation to cater for the students’ personal growth, leadership and professional development. Through the selected

modules of their choice, the students are able to enhance or acquire any skill of interest which they wish to master in order to fulfill their career ambitions - free of charge. Using their LAU ID, students were able to enroll in courses until July 15, 2020, with a timeframe of completing the modules by the 15th of September, 2020, whereby upon a module’s completion, students would acquire an official certificate of completion by the respective university. This online learning experience is transforming what might have been idle times into a chance for every might have otherwise been idle times, into a chance for every student to evolve into a better version of themselves. With Coursera, students are expected to gain a fun yet productive experience from prestigious universities and that is considered the future of education: E-learning.



COURSERA

Antonio Bakhos

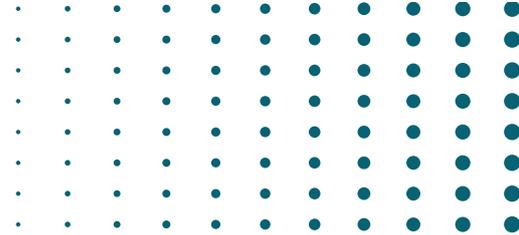
- **Behavioral Finance** from Duke University.
- **Country Level Economics: Macroeconomic variables and markets** from University of Illinois – at Urbana Champaign
- **Country Level Economics: Policies, Institutions, and Macroeconomic Performance** from University of Illinois – at Urbana Champaign
- **Introduction to Psychology** from Yale University
- **The Future of Payment Technologies** from the University of Michigan)
- **FinTech Law and Policy** from the Duke University
- **Anomaly Detection in Time Series Data** with Keras (Guided Project)
- **Multiple Linear Regression with scikit-learn** (Guided Project)



Mohamad Khodor

- **Work Smarter, Not Harder: Time Management for Personal & Professional Productivity** from the University of California, Irvine.





Digital Learning through Kiron



Through the extensive and widespread reach of online learning, Kiron has been of benefit to a great number of curious and ambitious students worldwide. It has been of high efficacy in the Middle East, precisely in these unusual times, serving as a platform of immense functionality to learners looking to improve their skills. After an agreement between the Lebanese American University and Kiron, students were given the chance to enroll and register in courses through this application - free of charge. Being

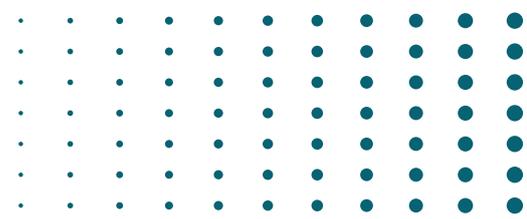
ultimately priceless, this opportunity opened up for students the doors to valuable skill boosting programs, study tracks, regional programs and university applications. Students, once registered, were able to choose courses based on their own individual goals and agendas, whether they wanted to improve their English or study online through short programs and study tracks. Certificates were received upon completion of program of interest.





Spirit of Service





The Basics of Public Speaking and the Ways of Self-Expression

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The younger generations have a lot to say as the future inheritors of the world and giving them the skills required to make themselves heard and is one step closer for a better future. For that, Fatima Al Moussawi, a USP VII C3 student, decided to teach the students the basics of Public Speaking and the ways of self-expression and delivering ideas. A workshop was presented over two consecutive days to an audience of 20 Highschool Senior students (Economics and Sociology Sections) from the Ghoubeiri 3rd Public School for Girls.

On the first day, a trainer from LOYAC NGO explained the dos and don'ts of public speaking and elaborated on its importance and application in their daily life. Fatima shared her own personal experience with public speaking on the second day, posing as a real-life example which they could later reflect on. Finally, she conducted a small activity whereby she asked the students to present a small speech about any topic they can think of as a practice of what they have learned.



*Student leaders: Katia Chaaban, Sarah Jaafar, Yasmeen Al Ghareeb
at Beit Al Yatime Al Durzi, Beirut
April 11 & 18, 2020*



Importance of Education

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

If we wish to progress on the path of civilization towards utopia, education and reading are at the forefront of this path. Reading is a process that builds an individual's empathy and wisdom through the lives read as a way to learn from mistakes. To shed light on such important matters, USP 7 C3 scholars Sarah Jaafar, Yasmeen Al Ghareeb and Katia Chaaban decided to highlight the aforementioned at Beit Al Yatime Al Durzi, in collaboration with Assabil, an NGO which motivates people to read by building and supporting public

libraries. On the first day, Mr. Sabbagh from Assabil NGO gave a presentation aided by the scholars on the mission of the NGO as well as the significance of reading. Following the presentation, the scholars recited three traditional stories that grabbed the children's attention. On day two, the scholars delivered their presentation on the history and importance of education, which ended with an activity related to how the writing process was modified from icons and symbols to alphabetical letters.

To a Healthier Lifestyle Together

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

In a busy world where most of our energy is projected outwards and dedicated to striving towards success, we often neglect our own physical needs and health. However, one must first take care of the only home they'll ever have - a healthy body and mind. Wanting to remind others of the necessities of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, USP VII scholars Elio Al Sayah, Joe Salameh, Karen Zgheib, Mary Joe Al Makary and Salwa Kanj Bou Akl of Cycle 3, organized a workshop highlighting the importance of physical activity and consuming a balanced healthy diet. The workshop

focused on the benefits of a healthy diet and regular exercising compared to the detrimental consequences of junk food and a sedentary lifestyle. The students delivered a detailed presentation about the daily diet requirements needed, based on the nutritional values provided by the food pyramid. The second day took a practical turn where the scholars demonstrated to the attendees a set of exercises which they could carry out at home every day, as a way to kick-start their journey towards a healthy lifestyle and well-being.



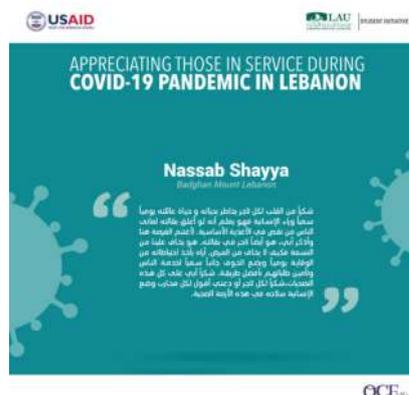
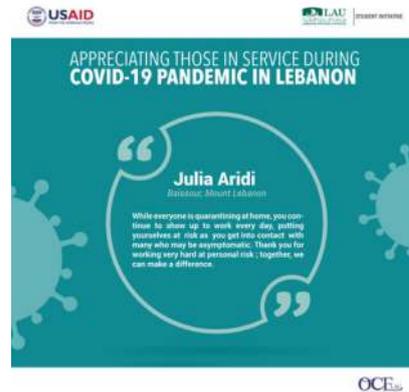
BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

It is a necessity to continue raising awareness on the current pandemic situation which is the spread of the Corona Virus. Award Management Team launched a campaign to raise public awareness on the importance of recycling and protecting the environment. This awareness aims to educate students on the importance of sorting and recycling trash from the source in order to preserve the environment, and on the other hand, to provide the bestowment of wheelchairs.

USP and HES students will serve their community by placing a specialized bin for plastic bottles and caps at home. On the 30th of each month, they will send a picture showing themselves and the recyclable plastic bottles/caps for documentation purposes. After the Coronavirus pandemic ends, students will bring those bottles and caps to LAU in order to deliver them to Arcenciel NGO. The NGO will provide a wheelchair to a person with special needs on the basis of the collected material.



Appreciating those in-service during COVID-19 Pandemic in Lebanon



Award Management team strongly believes that grocery store workers, pharmacists, press, the Lebanese Army and Internal Security Forces, waste collectors, and delivery are at the frontlines in combatting against the COVID-19 pandemic hand-in-hand with the healthcare providers. Thereby, they deserve our utmost appreciation for all their heroic efforts to work long hours

under extremely difficult, stressful, and hazardous conditions. This activity aims to raise awareness about a group of individuals who are working in the field, risking their lives as well as their families, to meet their job requirements. Every week, students are selecting one frontline worker, writing personalized appreciation texts as quotes which are designed as an appreciation album.

MMKN Remote Support Sessions

The Outreach and Civic engagement Department at LAU is cooperating with NGO MMKN for the 8th year in the realm of recruiting and training LAU students to teach reinforcement sessions in public schools for Grades 8 & 9.

USP and HES volunteers' contribution in this project is giving the public school students the assistance they need to pass their classes. Despite the closure of schools during COVID-19 Pandemic, MMKN redesigned the program to conduct the reinforcement sessions via WhatsApp.

Again, 22 USP and HES students took the duty to serve their community by dedicating their efforts and knowledge to help the ones in need. Accordingly, volunteers onboard received a mandatory training facilitated by MMKN representatives to explain the adjustments made to the program, as well as the novelty of using Whatsapp as a medium to reach students and explain exercises or even lessons.

These tiring times did not stop USP and HES volunteers from supporting the young generation of 8th and 9th graders to excel in Brevet exams this year too.



Jana Matar's Live Musical Concert



In light of all major events being canceled due to coronavirus concerns and stress related issues, Jana Matar, a USP VIII student enrolled in Beirut, hosted an online live one hour musical concert from home. Combatting boredom of self-isolation through singing and connecting with fellow scholars to relieve stress. Seventy users followed her page during the concert. Jana Matar has also sang a song related to quarantine; the song has been part of a video produced by Award Management Team. The Song Lyrics: (Written & composed by Rayan Habre; original singer: Chantal Bitar).



INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic



Mahmoud Basma, a USP VII C3 student has taken the response to #COVID19 to heart. With relentless dedication and a fearless outlook, Mahmoud volunteered with the Lebanese Red Cross to assist them in their nationwide efforts to raise awareness on COVID-19 through a range of initiatives. A paramedic in the Red Cross since February 2019, Mahmoud capitalized on his experience and training, on basic first aid and as a first aid provider, to help transport COVID-19 suspicious cases from Tyre to Rafiq Al Hariri University Hospital. Mahmoud also conducted awareness sessions, in cooperation with official and educational bodies and NGOs, in his hometown Ainbaal, Tyre to minimize the spread of COVID-19. He went even further by embarking on an effort to disinfect public areas in his hometown including schools, houses of worship, the municipality, scouts' meeting halls and public gardens.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic

Amir Salameh: *“During these hard times, I felt that I am responsible, like any other citizen, to start awareness campaigns and sanitize public places to protect my community. It was a rewarding experience, having the courage to stand up in times like these and knowing that this act, as small as it seems, will have great impact on protecting and saving lives.”*

Equipped with this enthusiasm, Amir Saleme, USP VII C3, volunteered his time to sanitize and disinfect worship homes, police departments, and the municipality in his home town, Sawfar in Mount Lebanon. He, along with other volunteers from the village, coordinated with the local community to distribute medical face masks and disinfectants and raise awareness on the necessary preventative measures to counter the spread of infectious diseases.

AMIR SALAMEH



MAJD ABDEL KHALEK



Majd Abdel Khalek, a USP VII C3 student believes that when life itself is a privilege, giving back is a responsibility. Along with residents in Falougha and Mount Lebanon, Majd raised awareness about the novel coronavirus outbreak by visiting homes and distributing leaflets to the residents in the area. Those leaflets explain what coronavirus is, and display visual characters demonstrating symptoms and prevention methods to be practiced.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic



USP VII C1 **FAYSAL AL LADAN**

USP VII C1 Faysal Al Ladan joined efforts with Kherbet Rouha Youth Association and Kherbet Rouha Municipality to monitor the governmental decision of imposing curfew and implementing safety measures to combat COVID-19 outbreak in his village Kherbet Rouha, Bekaa. Faysal has been part of Kherbet Rouha Youth Association since its initiation in May 2019. In collaboration

with the municipality, Faysal monitors the entry and exit of residents from the village. He also stands in the main arena disallowing gatherings and the entrance of more than two people at a time to grocery shops and other locations in the village. He is also taking part in distributing hand sanitizers and face masks to people entering the village.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic

USP VII C2 Antonio Bakhos, joined efforts with Sebeel Municipality in order to monitor the governmental decision of imposing curfew and implementing safety measures to combat COVID-19 outbreak in his village Sebeel, North Lebanon. Antonio's main role was to monitor the streets with the police and to make sure that no one was breaking the curfew rules imposed by the government and the municipality. Antonio also distributed gloves and face mask to villagers, sanitized public spaces such as the stores and schools, and helped in spreading spread awareness in order to protect the safety of the villagers during this time.

ANTONIO BAKHOS



MOHAMMAD AL TARRAS



USP VIII Mohammad Al Tarras, joined efforts with Kfar Denis Municipality in order to monitor the application of the decision of imposing curfew and testing residents prior their entry to the village of Kfar Denis, Bekaa. As part of measures against the coronavirus in the village, Mohammad tested everyone commuting through the village for fever and coughing, with systems set up at entrances and exits of the village. Also, Mohammad sprayed sterilizers on all cars paying special attention to door handles and other exterior surfaces touched the most. Mohammad also distributed gloves, masks, hand sanitizers, and brochures to the residents of Kfar Denis.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 TRIVIA NIGHT



Kahoot Online Gaming. HES USP VIII Karem Al Aridi hosted an online live game night via Kahoot & Zoom, aiming to raise awareness about COVID-19 in a very interactive and entertaining way. The game included questions about COVID-19, prevention and others. Karem started the session by thanking the OCE department for supporting student initiatives like always. He also welcomed all participants and introduced the main objectives of the trivia night about COVID-19 through facts, symptoms and measures, and rumors. At the end of the session, the top 3 winners received their participation certificates.





Job Readiness





JUSTINE EL BITAR

Business Marketing

The experience you gain in the sales field will teach you what books and slides cannot teach you, this is what Justine El Bitar a USP VII cycle 2 student majoring in marketing and minoring in PR & advertising learned from her internship experience at Aishti by the Sea. During her internship in summer 2019, Justine was familiarized with an overview of the management system, how to deal with several types of customers, how the marketing team works on the field, what their marketing strategy is as well as how brand managers take specific decisions. Moreover, Justine helped in the control of the inventory of items, memorized each brand, its threats, what it is made from along with its origin.



MARIANNE AL AWAR

Social Work and Community Development

Through organizing diverse socioeconomic, awareness raising, and even psychological support sessions for vulnerable women, Marriane Al Awar a USP 7 cycle II student majoring in Social Work and Community Development was able to acquire several professional skills. Marianne completed her internship with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Abaad NGO. Marianne was also able to enhance her communication and leadership skills, while discovering the true value and importance of her major and the possibility to grow, to improve, and to develop in her field.



NICOLE CHEHAB

Industrial Engineering

Being provided with practical experience and an overview of the workflow is what made the internship experience more special for the USP 7 cycle II student Nicole Chehab, who is currently majoring in Industrial Engineering. Nicole completed her Internship at BBC logistics in the warehouse department, which exposed her to a leading environment in the shipping industry. She was trained to receive, to issue, and to control inventory using the Warehouse Management System as well as to process orders, to track deliveries, and to prepare the logistics report in the area. Moreover, this experience allowed her to improve her communication and PR skills through the interaction with other department members and clients.



NOUR AL ARIDI

Business Marketing

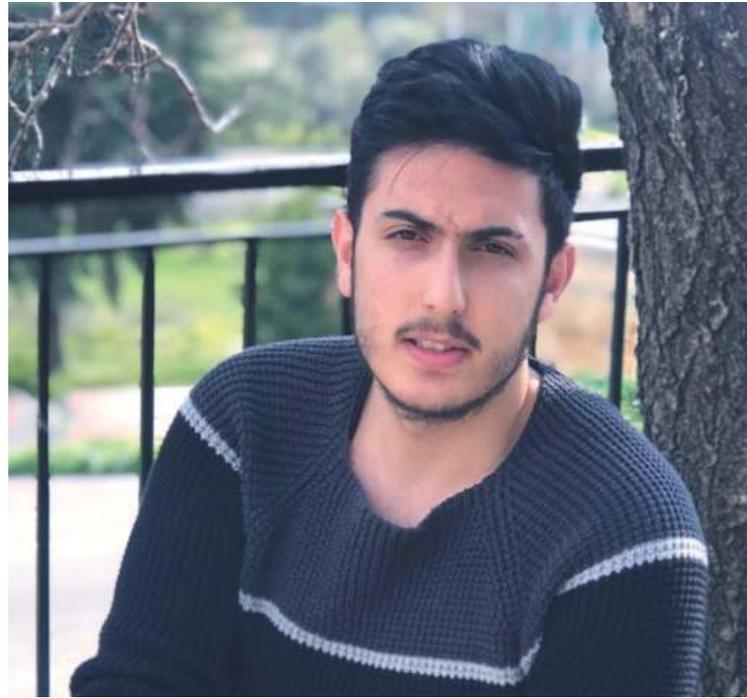
Having a closer look at the banking sector in Lebanon is important for Nour Al Aridi, a USP VII cycle 2 student majoring in Business Marketing and minoring in Advertising and PR. Nour completed her internship at Bank Audi as an intern in customer service and counter operator handling customers' questions. Through her experience, she learned about the bank's filing and transaction systems. In addition to the professional experience, this internship helped Nour boost her communication and teamwork skills; aspects vital to a banker's success.



REEM DAHER

Nutrition

The internship experience exposes individuals to many domains and for Reem Daher - a USP VII cycle 2 student majoring in Nutrition and minoring in Food Science- the internship at the Phoenicia Hotel as a trainee in the Food Safety Department was an enriching experience to the domain of hospitality. This domain taught her the importance of communication skills and confidence, aiding her in analyzing non-verbal body cues, addressing and dealing with professionals. Through her experience, Reem ensured that the food met the proper hygiene standards.

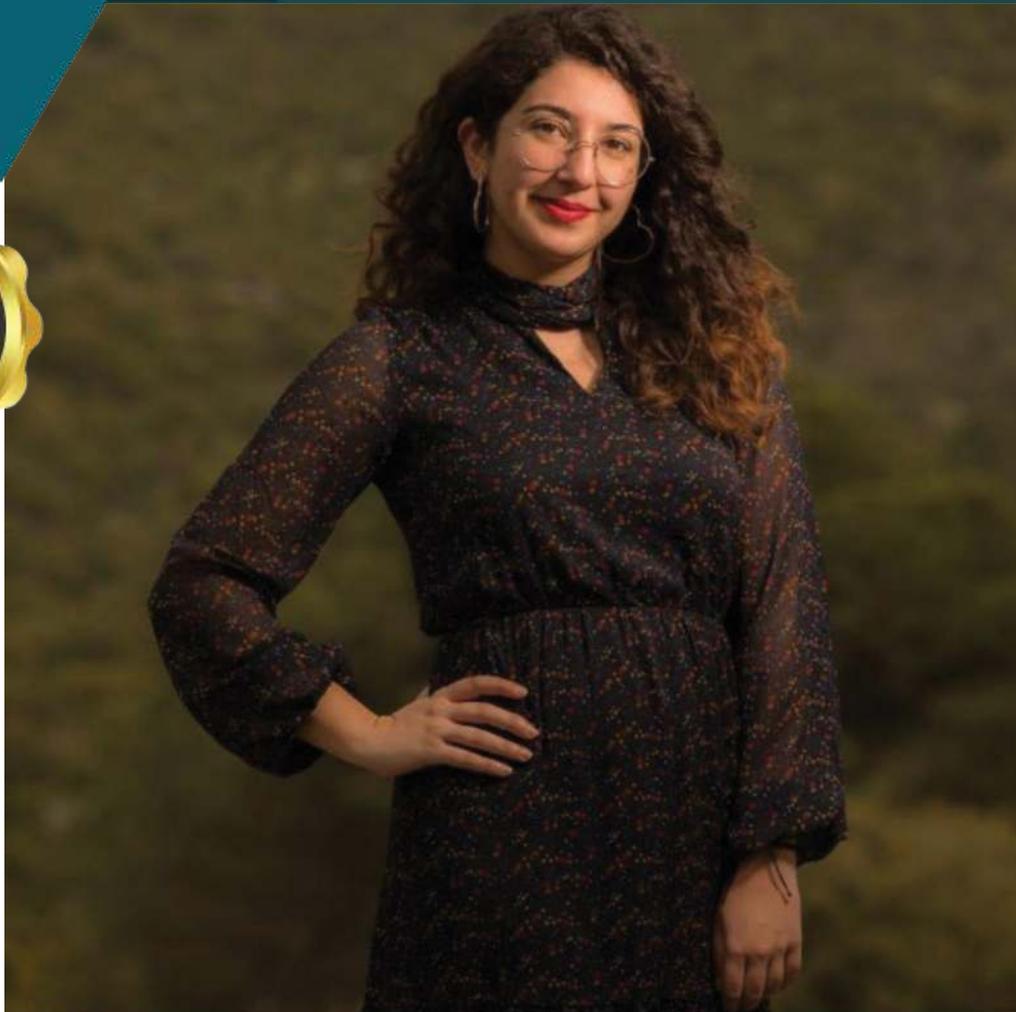


WAEI KAIS

Hospitality and Tourism Management

Acquiring technical skills is important to Wael Kais, a USP VII cycle 2 student majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Wael interned at the Front Office Department at Le Bristol Hotel, where he gained practical and professional experience. Through his internship, he learned important skills that ranged from time and stress management and problem solving, to technical skills in the field of customer service. Wael considers his internship as an interesting and essential experience that helped him in building up his knowledge and future in the hospitality industry.





My journey at LAU was full of successful moments that I achieved through hard work on different levels - academically and socially. Being a USP student altered my lifestyle through encouraging me to maintain, not only a high academic performance, but also a highly energetic social engagement, in order to better nourish my personality and leadership skills. One experience I would like to talk about is the community service project that we were required to do. We were a team of 6 engineering USP students and the project consisted of visiting 2 high schools in Baalbeck where we did presentations and distributed to the students educational supplies that aided them such as books, backpacks, and USBs. I will always remember how we were working as a team, dedicating ourselves to act as role models and delivering the best to these students. We treated the students as our younger siblings.

USP guided me throughout the way and taught me how to enjoy life's ups and downs. I wouldn't claim that maintaining a high GPA while engaging in volunteer work is an easy task; however, I can confidently say that it expanded my own potential and taught me that it is a duty to contribute to the world - no matter how small the contribution is. My cumulative and major GPAs are 3.88 and 3.89 respectively. I really love my major and cherish all the academic hardships that made me reach to this point. Today, I can definitely say and without doubt that USP is one of the major pillars of my life journey.



ELITE KERYAKOS

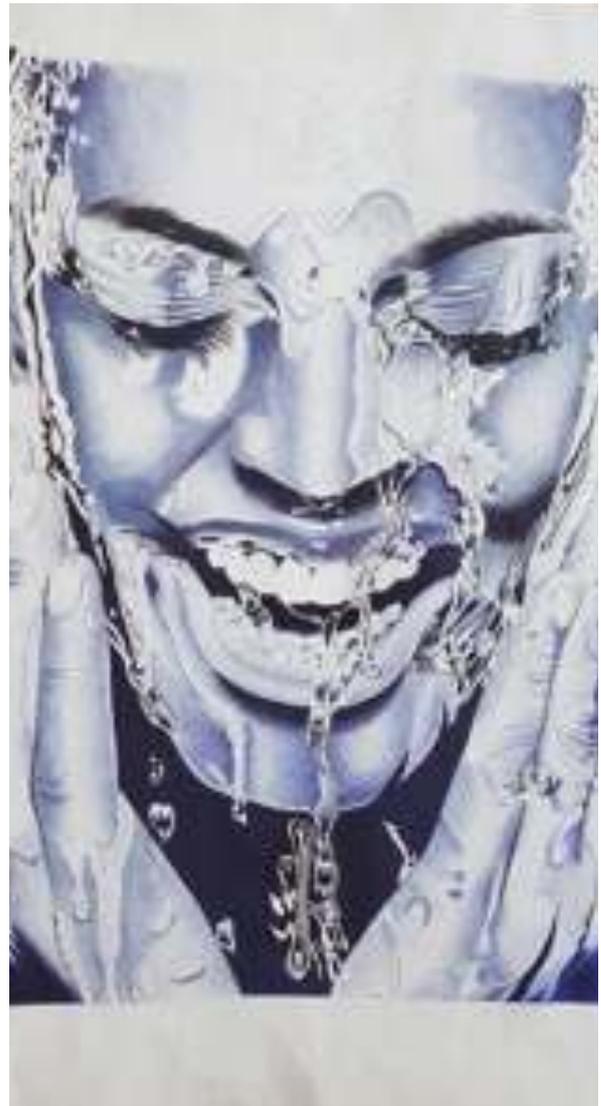
“I have been drawing since as long as I can remember.”

Elite Keryakos, USP VIII Cycle 1 student majoring in Mechanical Engineering, has been developing her talent, which was widely recognized by her teachers and relatives, since the age of five. She expresses her thoughts and vision through her sketches and compositions, creating artworks that mirror her understanding of reality and how she perceives life.



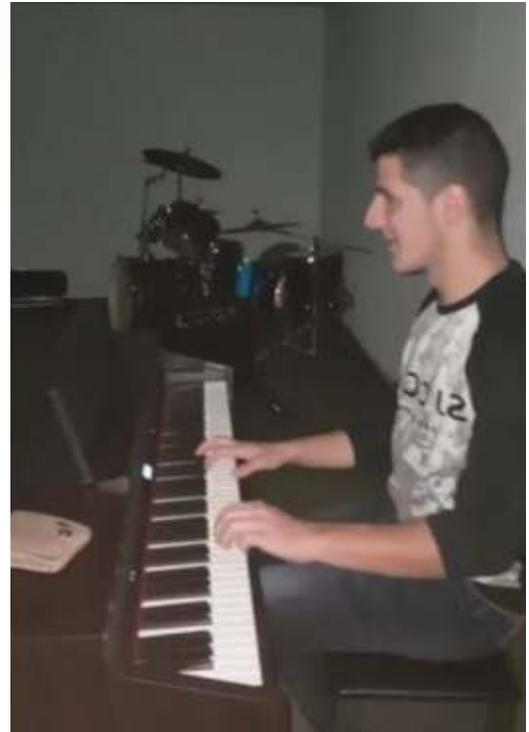
“To this moment, my field of predilection is hyperrealism and portraits using graphite, charcoal, and ballpoint pens.” She declared.

What distinguishes Elite is the fact that she’s a self-taught artist who developed her skill independently. She shared her journey by stating: *“I fostered my skills throughout years of familiarization with graphite and the paper themselves, without reaching out for help from YouTube or other artists.”*



JOE SALAMEH

Inspired by pianists like Yanni and Yiruma, Joe Salameh, a USP VII Cycle 3 student majoring in Mathematics, plays piano, trumpet and accordion. His father discovered his talent at the age of five, and he then started providing him with piano lessons and enforcement sessions. *“Music makes me feel better and happy, it makes me feel relaxed”* Joe says.



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