



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



STUDENT INITIATIVE



May 2020 Issue

Congratulations

USP class of

2020

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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SUCCESS STORIES



A GLIMPSE INTO WORKSHOPS



SPIRIT OF SERVICE



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MEET OUR EDITORIAL TEAM



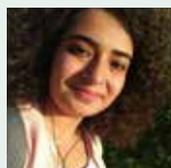
Elite Keryakos



Linda Jamaledine



Pia Maria Bou Doleh



Tala Kayyal

Thank you for your valuable contribution

Word by Program Director



This message in our May 2020 Newsletter edition is dedicated to the graduating USP/HES class of 2020.

Amid all the challenges that Lebanon has passed and is passing through this academic year of 2019-2020, your graduation from LAU with flying colors is the biggest achievement you have made thus far. Your perseverance and passion allowed you to tenaciously attain your degrees. The beginning of a new chapter will enlighten your path for leadership achievements despite the bitter-sweet feeling that is at present overwhelming you as you use your degrees as a gateway to new accomplishments . On behalf of OCE team, we congratulate you on your well-deserved success.

We will miss you dearly and wish that you know that we will always be there for you.

To the current students, remember that every step you make brings you closer to your dreams. Your classmates have done it successfully with high academic achievement and a record of civic service and so you certainly can do the same

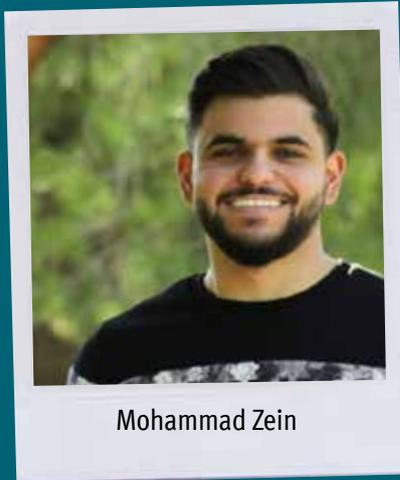
Always remember that character and personal force and stamina are the only investments that are worth anything ; nothing else counts . Forge a character of civic engagement and servant leadership that will shape your destiny .

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

May 29, 2020



Lynn El khatib



Mohammad Zein



Mahmoud Basma

The UNDP- Youth Leadership Programme (YLP6)



To concretize the power of youth in making a positive and fresh impact and open up the doors for bright students to apply their leadership skills, USP students were encouraged to apply to the YLP program. Three students from the Cycle 3 were chosen; **Lynn El khatib, Mohammad Zein and Mahmoud Basma** after being recognized for their talents and contributions.

The YLP program is the perfect step forward, as it supports the youth in implementing their innovative and sustainable ideas through many doorways. It aims to improve the students' leadership skills and potential and allows them to acquire the effective approaches and methodology. Two participants from every Arab country will be chosen at the end to attend the United Nations Economic and Social Council ECOSOC conference taking place in New York. The students will have the chance to team-up with people from different parts of the world and to discuss action-plans and goals for attaining sustainable development.

Congratulations!

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

Yara Issa, Fullbright Program Scholarship student



Yara Issa, a University Scholarship Program (USP VI) student who majored in Business Marketing and minored in Advertising, graduated from the Lebanese American University with a GPA of 3.62 in 2016. Upon graduation, her journey had only begun as she was accepted into the Fullbright Program, proceeding with her studies in the US. Yara expressed her gratitude: “I am pleased to share with you that I am officially a Fulbright Excellence Scholarship grantee, courtesy of the US Department of State. I am extremely honored to represent Lebanon

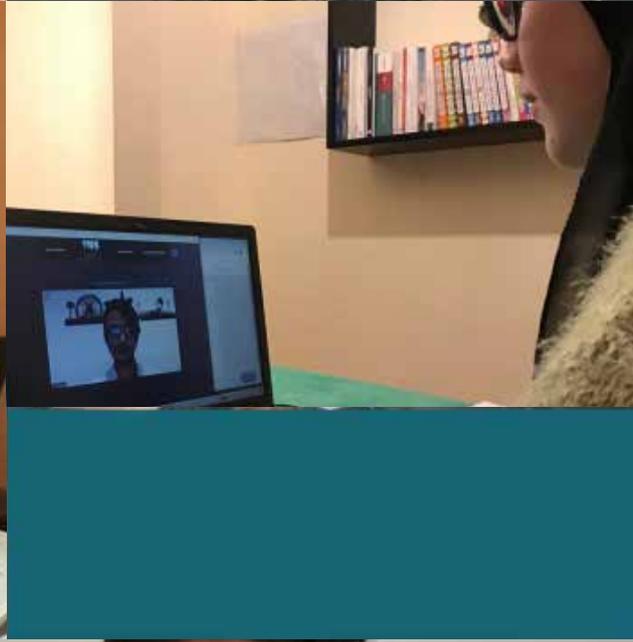
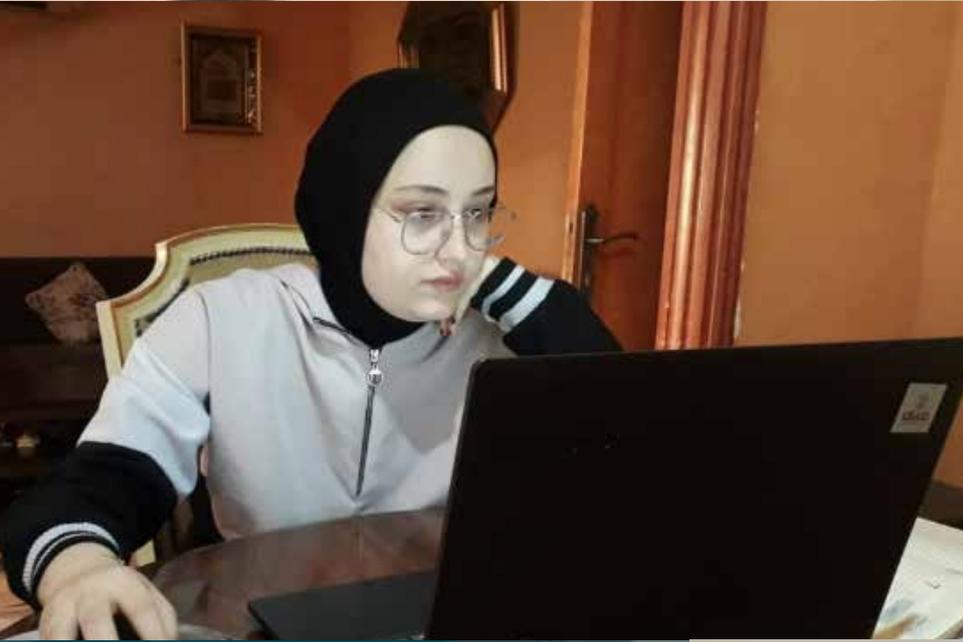
in this once in a lifetime opportunity allowing me to pursue my graduate studies in the United States of America and to join one of the most prestigious professionals’ networks worldwide. I am forever thankful for the University Scholarship Program, Lebanese American University and the people who were incredible mentors and the institutions that provided me with the right keys to unlock my career and get where I am today. Looking forward to kick starting this journey as soon as the world goes back to safety”.



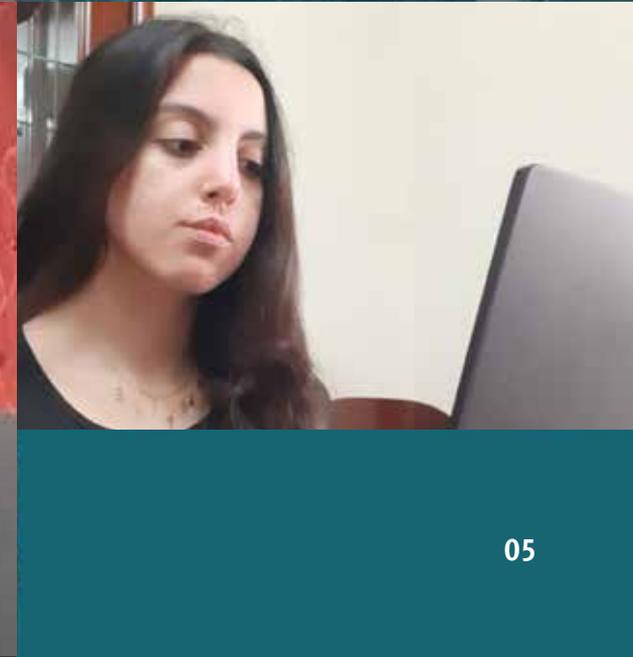
ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

In light of making it big and contributing to technology by adding one's own touch and imprint, Antonio Nehme, a University Scholarship Program (USP II) student, was not afraid to reach far. Antonio went straight from a student to a Research assistant at LAU after graduating with honors in 2015 with a Computer Science degree and a minor in Mathematics. He maintained his position as an instructor to this day, while living up to his role as a PhD researcher in cyber security at Birmingham City University. His field of research covered secure software development for Micro

Services Based Applications (MSAs) and secure control for APIs. Yet, this was not the only priority of Antonio as he designed a security reference architecture that enables building security by an application design. Another of his designs was also a framework to control access to micro services and mitigate the threat of manipulating requests in MSAs. Antonio has made it a long way, and still has a field of possibilities awaiting for him to implore and explore with creativity and passion.



Capacity Building



Community Development & Project Management

WORKSHOP

There is no better tool for empowerment other than equipping oneself with hands-on leadership skills. The Outreach and Civic Engagement Department at the Lebanese American University organized a WebEx Workshop, which was attended by 48 USP VII C3 students entitled: Community Development & Project Management Workshop. The workshop facilitator presented the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDGs as the basis for community development and youth engagement and highlighted the importance of the community decision-makers, the community service cause and the implementation of the projects. The workshop was delivered by Mr. Imad Shmaitilli, who has a Diploma in Capacity

Building for NGOs from the Lebanese American University, along with 7 years of experience in Leadership and Soft Skills Training. The role of youth in being the leading mobilizer of these programs was emphasized along with the strategies that help youth workers in becoming more involved in community service. Students have also realized the importance of the parents' role and peer to peer recruitments in deriving the workforce for community programs. Mr. Shmaitilli discussed the significance of proper communication with decision-makers and benefitting from facilities and available resources. The workshop was very interactive. Students engaged with Q&A session and voiced out their own thoughts and views.



مهارات من Google

TRAINING

Twenty USP and HES students attended the digital skills-building program in Arabic organized by Google and entitled “Maharat min Google”. Through this program, people in the MENA region learn more about job-searching, career growth, or business broadening. Using a blended learning model, ‘Maharat Min Google’ provided tools and in-person digital skills training to students, educators, job seekers, and businesses. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ameer Awad, who is a master trainer at Google MENA Dubai Offices –Maharat Min Google Program

and a freelance international digital marketing coach in the MENA region. The training covered areas in: Digital Opportunities, Creating a Website, Customer Online Journey, Google My Business, Search Engine Optimization, and Search Engine Marketing. Leen El Khatib, USP VII C3 student who took the training, expressed that “Maharat Min Google workshop was so enlightening. It shifted my marketing perspective into a more practical, innovative, and realistic one”.



LAU
Lebanese American University

مهارات من Google

A TWO-HOUR TRAINING

By **Mr. Ameer Awad**
Master Trainer
at Google MENA Dubai Offices – Maharat Min Google Program
and International Digital Marketing Coach

COVERED TOPICS

- Digital Opportunities
- Creating a Website
- Customer Online Journey
- Google My Business
- Search Engine Optimization
- Search Engine Marketing

CERTIFICATES
WILL BE PROVIDED

Monday, April 6 | 5:00 p.m.

HEAD START TRAINING SESSIONS



HEAD START BOOST YOUR EMPLOYABILITY:
Stand Out from the Rest

Students can take this online program on individual basis at any time and any day between Monday April 20 & 27.

REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/39OwntR

Resumé Interviewing Internship

Head Start meets the needs of a diverse group of university students by providing engaging, academically enriching, and experiential learning sessions in work-readiness education and career perspectives.

- 1 Session One: Writing Your Resume**
This module covers resume writing. It includes tips on writing a powerful cover letter and a powerful resumé. It also includes tips on tackling resumé problems.
- 2 Session Two: Interviewing**
This session introduces participants to the science and art of interviewing. Through a series of scenarios, participants will become knowledgeable of the major skills and behaviors associated with successful interviewing.
- 3 Session Three: The Internship**
This session introduces participants to internships, what they mean, how to prepare well for a good internship, and how to handle work duties in an internship.
The session invites participants to choose internships that are not only rewarding in the short-run but that also fit their long-term career objectives.

A **CERTIFICATE of Participation** will be distributed.
FIND OUT MORE about us by visiting www.injaz-lebanon.org @INJAZLebanon

“I figured out how my behavior should be in job interviews in order to show my responsibility and my leadership skills”.
Roy Nemer, HES

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Department collaborated with INJAZ and MetLife to organize a hands-on virtual camp. Higher Education Scholarship (HES) and University Scholarship Program (USP) students, as well as all LAU students, benefitted on multiple levels from taking part in this camp. Head Start provided the students with experiential learning sessions on topics of work-readiness and career perspectives such as resume writing, science and art of interviewing, and importance of internships. Students were able to write a powerful resume and cover letter, to apply for internship opportunities, and to learn how to better handle their work duties. Also, students acquired certificates of participation upon completion. The following USP and HES students have attended the sessions, interacted with the facilitators and their peers, and successfully completed the program requirements: Maryse Abi Haidar, Nour Al-Aridi, Karem Al-Aridi, Julia Al-Aridi, Mohamad Al Khodor, Antonio Bakhos, Mahmoud Echoudra, Carla Ghanem and Roy Nemer.

Income Savings and Assets

WORKSHOP



To optimize and revamp the e-learning experience and acquaint students with topics and lifelong skills, the Income Savings and Assets workshop was part of this semester's work plan. HES students attended 3 distinct online workshops to gain knowledge about budgeting, saving, and managing money. They have also familiarized themselves with seven psychological money saving tricks. The tips were extremely useful in providing students with effective tools to not only save money, but also to avoid sinking into debt. Students have gained an understanding of expenses and been able to evaluate their money-spending patterns to successfully

categorize their payments through practical tools, namely Microsoft Excel, Google spreadsheets, etc. Marc Abi Ad considered this workshop considerably impactful for his future. "It helped me to differentiate between my needs and wants, to write down a weekly budget that would help in avoiding random spendings and increasing my savings. I am fully convinced now that little savings on a monthly basis will provide me later with a resource for many necessities", Marc commented. In conclusion, students noted that self-discipline constitutes 90% of money management while only the rest is knowledge.

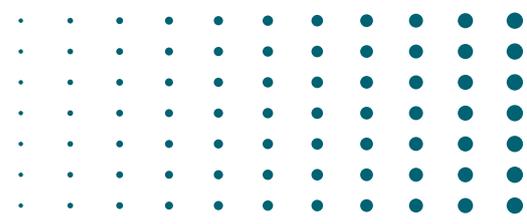




Spirit of Service



*Student leaders: Marina Al Aissamy and Jad Barakat
at Dar Hasbaya, Hasbaya
January 11 & 25, 2020*



Together For a Better Home

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

USP VII Cycle 3 students Marina Al Aissamy and Jad Barakat implemented their Community Service Project over two days at Dar Hasbaya. The project's purpose was to raise awareness about pollution: its causes, consequences, and actions that help in preventing it. Pollution is a man-made, dangerous and global problem that affects all living things. The figures today about the amount of pollution in all its various types are scary, and it is crucial to take action to stop pollution and save our planet Earth. The first step to do that is by fully addressing the topic among youth and making them aware about the seriousness of the problem.

Youth should be encouraged and empowered to help in humanity's fight against pollution. That mentality encouraged Marina and Jad to collaborate with the Red Cross and the Community Association for Student Support (CASS) and to implement their project about this topic. They prepared Power Point presentations, interactive activities, and educational games to ensure that the students were fully engaged and grasping all the concepts. The enthusiasm, creativity, and thirst for knowledge that the high school students portrayed were promising. Hopefully, they will become advocates for saving the environment.

*Student leader: Nadine Al Amine
at Sarafand Public Highschool, South Lebanon
January 9 & 16, 2020*

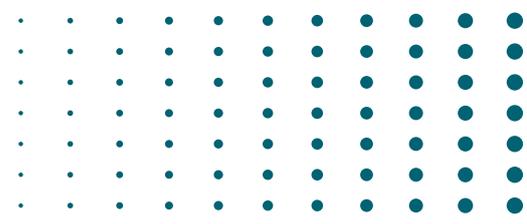
Empowering To Be The Change

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

USP VII C3 Nadine Al Amine collaborated with Beirutiyat NGO to facilitate two workshops about self esteem for grade 10 and 11 students at Sarafand Public Highschool. The workshops' aim was boosting the students' self-confidence and encouraging them to speak up. It's a vital issue nowadays and needs to be addressed more often. Nadine prepared various activities and presentations to

engage the students. She created an active and safe environment to encourage the students to interact, to speak up and to make the most out of the workshops. The project was a success as students expressed openly how the workshops changed their personality to the better and made them curious to know more about the subject tackled.



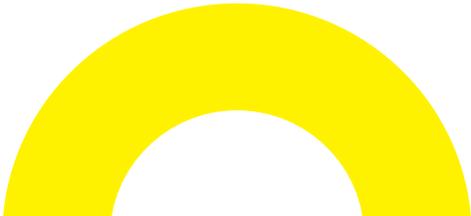


INITIATIVE

What better way is there to spend time during a lockdown than investing one's energy into paying attention to detail and crafting a more detailed world map? USP and HES students thoughtfully volunteered to put in the work for us all in contributing to an application called Missing Maps. The initiative aims to fill in the elements missing from google maps in vulnerable areas such

as the unlocated villages and roads the volunteers know. The students' spirit of service was epitomized as they helped those in-need in receiving the humanitarian aid. They familiarized themselves with mapping concept, traced satellite imagery, identified areas, and used the tools to mark the missing areas and elements.

Putting the World's Vulnerable People on the Map



The Syndicate of Social Workers in Lebanon

INITIATIVE



USP students majoring in Social Work have dedicated their future to serving others and making a positive change in society. They have certainly did not abstain from doing so during COVID-19. Marianne Al Awar and Nadine AL Amine participated in raising awareness about COVID-19 through the **#we_are_all_at_risk** campaign which was held by the Syndicate of Social Workers in

Lebanon. During the first phase of the project, students presented a series of awareness sessions targeting people's mental health during these challenges. The second phase will emphasize on helping the individuals that come from Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, who have mostly suffered and endured from the COVID-19 pandemic effects.



#كلنا_معرضين
 فيروس الكورونا ما بعتز، الإنسان بعتز،
 حارب المرض.. مثل المريض
 النقابة الإختصاصيين في العمل الإجتماعي في لبنان
 SOCIAL WORKERS' SYNDICATE IN LEBANON



فيروس الكورونا ما بعتز،
 الإنسان بعتز،
 حارب المرض مثل المريض.



#كلنا_معرضين

In Response to COVID-19 Outbreak

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people across the globe, within countries and across borders. Now that the Lebanese government has announced plans to slowly ease restrictions brought in to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, seventeen USP and HES students from all over Lebanon joined the National Coronavirus Follow-Up Committee. In collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, the committee's mission is to monitor the implementation stages of the national reopening plan in response to COVID-19 outbreak. Armed with passion and service, students did not hesitate to take part in consolidating the

efforts with the concerned departments and ministries in preparing for the stages following the lockdown ease. At a first stage, students actively took part in an e-training with the Lebanese Red Cross. The training equipped students with guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 pandemic spread, prevention and controlling measures. Next, district clusters were formed seeking to identify, monitor, act and assess the gravity of COVID-19's spread following the lockdown uplifting stages. Students expressed their eagerness to join efforts in mitigating the economic, social and health impact of this crisis, and to safeguard progress made towards achieving full national recovery.



INITIATIVE

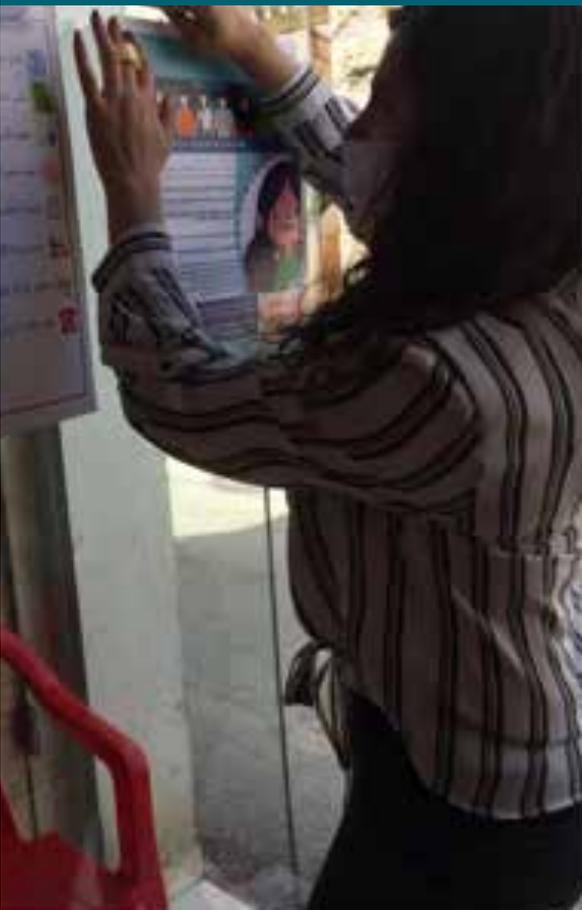
COVID-19 Pandemic

Small and careful acts amount to greater results, and such is the case in the times of Coronavirus. In collaboration with the Youth Council of Jabal Al Sheikh and the Municipality of Rashaya Al Wadi **USP VIII C1 student Naji Dalal** generously invested time in monitoring the entry and exit of residents from villages and residential compounds and testing their fever as a step to control the spread of COVID-19. He carefully sanitized public spaces such as stores and schools while also spreading awareness about the virus, arming the villagers with the needed knowledge to conquer and to control its spread.

NAJI DALAL



SAMAR ABOU IBRAHIM



The first step to combatting the pandemic is ensuring that the public is well acquainted with the required practices and safety measures. For that reason, **Samar Abou Ibrahim** volunteered in Khalwat South Lebanon by distributing awareness pamphlets along with hand sanitizers. Samar has also explained the importance of maintaining a distance of 1.5 meters between customers while shopping and handed sanitizers to the employees and owners in order for them to sanitize their products on a daily basis.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic

USP VII C2 student Lozane Hamze volunteered to help the KfarRouman Municipality with its initiative to distribute food for families in need in KfarRouman, Nabatieh. Lozane had two missions to complete: the first one involved her collecting data about the families who are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 lockdown and economic crisis. She filled documents and helped families fill the surveys to report their needs. The second mission required her to assist in the packaging, sorting and distributing food boxes for the struggling families. Volunteering at such humanitarian initiatives is a must for anyone who can during these uneasy days, as we should all be united to lift each other – especially the vulnerable ones among us.

LOZANE HAMZE



HEYAM AL JAWAD



USP VIII C1 student Heyam Al Jawad assisted the Municipality of Qaaqaiyat Al Sanawbar, South Lebanon in filling food aid forms. The process was aimed to identify the families who will benefit from the financial aid supplied by the government through volunteering at this initiative, Heyam was able to help more than 40 families in filling the forms. This volunteering initiative demonstrated Heyam's passion in joining the fight against hunger in those challenging times. She believes that through volunteering, she will make a tangible, real difference in her community.

INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic



USP VII C2 TANIA EL SAYEGH

Putting one's service in the field of interest is crucial to serve the community. **Tania El Sayegh**, majoring in Nursing, collaborated with the Lebanese Nursing Students Association under the patronage of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, to facilitate an online awareness session on how to sustain a healthy mental state during quarantine. Via Webex, Tania explained how focusing on one's self by doing productive activities daily can lead to an overall positive attitude and environment. She also gave a few tips and pointers that could help those going through challenging mental states cope in times of uncertainty, doubt and fear. As a prominent future nurse, Tania collaborated with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) during quarantine to share her expertise towards better addressing the COVID-19 pandemic through training and direct application. Tania facilitated a training to provide guidance and techniques preventing COVID-19 spread through a range of webinars and initiatives. She has also assisted LRC staff to realize the most effective ways to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Last but not least, she stressed on the importance of social distancing.



INITIATIVE

COVID-19 Pandemic

HES-RSS student Ahmad Marchoud launched a fundraising campaign with other residents from Naher Al Bared Refugee Camp to help the families living in poor conditions in that area. The living conditions were worsened because of the terrible economic situation and the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic is affecting us all so negatively, but it's affecting the vulnerable families even more. Through this initiative, Ahmad addressed and exerted a lot of effort to solve some of humanity's biggest problems: hunger and poverty. Ahmad believes that we should all stand united in the fight against poverty and hunger especially during these challenging times.

AHMAD MARCHOUD



ARAZ KOEFTEAN



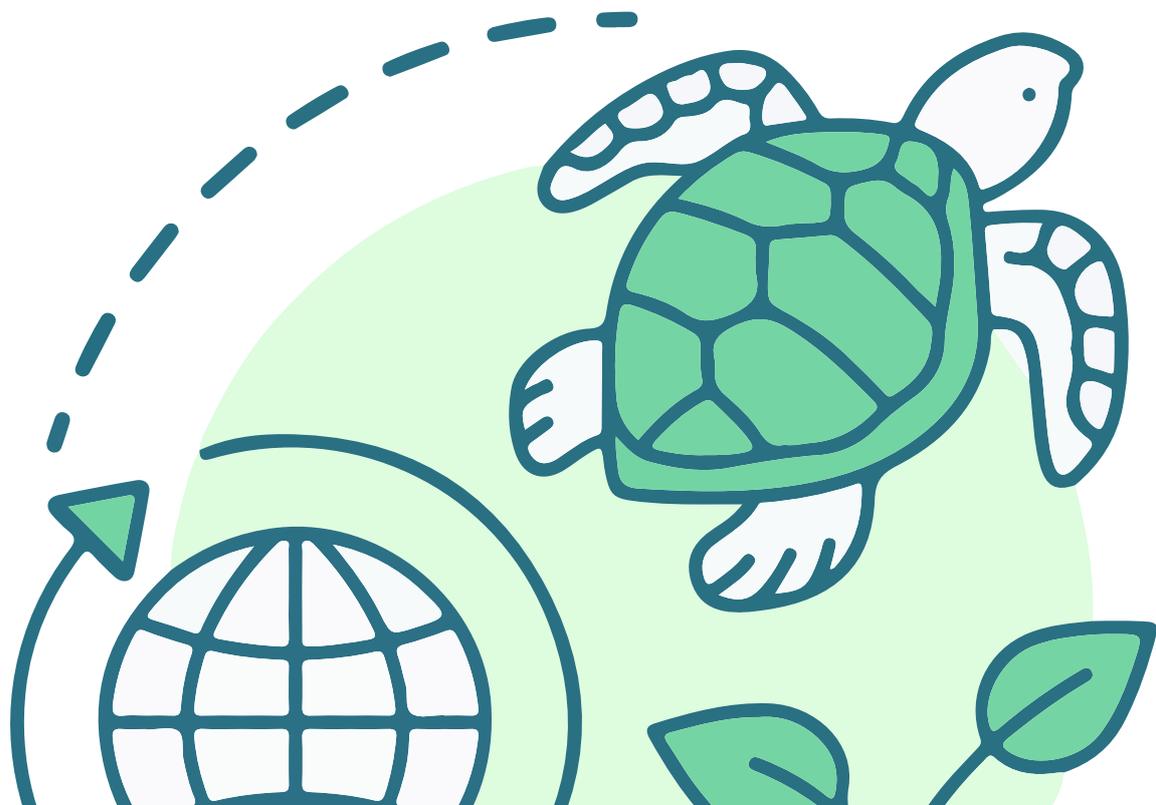
USP VIII C1 student Araz Koeftean joined forces with a humanitarian initiative that prepares food for the families in need in her hometown Anjar, Bekaa. The worldwide lockdown due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 as well as the deteriorating economic situation have made it hard for a lot of families to secure the most basic essentials they need for living, including food. It is our responsibility to help them with the means we have: whether big or small, every act of support makes a huge difference in the lives of those families. This is why Araz decided to take this initiative.

Cleanergy Program - **Berytech**

Nature Conservation

The Ecosystem
for Entrepreneurs

On May 5th, 2020, HES students attended the weekly webinar organized by Berytech under the Cleanergy Program “Nature Conservation”, which showcased two experts: Dr. Najat Saliba, Director at the Nature Conservation Center (NCC) and Dr. Anwar Al Shami, Lead Environment Engineer at the same center. Throughout the webinar, students realized the importance of an integrated solid waste management plan during COVID-19 pandemic and the crucial role of research and innovation. Students have also reviewed the history of solid waste management in Lebanon with a demonstration on why limited initiatives cannot solve the solid waste management problem in Lebanon. In addition, the indicators of waste-aware were discussed, along with the elements of an integrated solid waste treatment. Students were highly engaged in learning more about the Multi Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) tool and the ways to protect and conserve nature by law through protecting animals, plants, and other land/water areas. Finally, students reflected about the importance of adopting an integrated solid waste treatment plan through proper management.



Biodiversity - Planting

Is it hard to start a small garden? If you think about it, all you need is a sapling, a planting pot, a small bag of soil, and regular watering. As easy as it sounds, promise! Give it some days and there you go, you helped cooling the earth down by even one plant and gave it a lively glimpse again, while enjoying the process and becoming closer to nature. As a commitment to leave our Earth a better place, 30 HES students took the initiative to plant green areas around their houses, whether wide areas or

small ones or even a flowerpot. By planting vegetables, fruits, trees, herbs, or flowers, it is no secret that the oxygen level will potentially increase. This initiative has many impacts such as increased bonding with our earth, having a purer and cleaner air to breathe, eating organic food, and having a healthier life; and to nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but also the soul. These are well known facts that we need to remind ourselves about and find the motivation within for adopting.



Biodiversity - Recycling



If truth be told, we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children. On the same exact note, when you put the whole picture together, recycling is the right thing to do! Within the framework of social responsibility, OCE proudly launched an awareness campaign to raise public awareness to the undeniable importance of recycling and preserving the environment. By working on a mirror plan, we should enlighten our surrounding on the importance of sorting and recycling trash from the source to save the environment, and on the

other hand, provide the bestowment of wheelchairs. HES students took the care to place a specialized bin for plastic bottles and caps at their homes. They proceeded to capture pictures monthly showing themselves and the recyclable plastic bottles/caps. What recalls resourcefulness is that right after the COVID-19 pandemic comes to an end, students will bring the bottles and caps to LAU to deliver them to Arcenciel, who will then proceed to sell the plastics collected to a recycling company in order to provide with that respective value, a wheelchair to a person with special needs. This is a decent example to prove that by using various techniques and some imagination with the things that we might once have considered junk, we can give a new life to things we once produced and lessen the waste considerably.

Biodiversity - Earth Hour Awareness

All is not lost yet; a post COVID19 world will not be the same one we knew before, but it can even be a better one! On Earth Day, **HES students** took a moment to draw inspiration and show their token of gratitude to our Mother Earth, since celebrating this particular day serves as a conscious and frequent reminder of how fragile our planet is and how it is of critical significance to protect it at all costs. To do so, 24 USP and HES students, wrote their powerful, emotional, and most importantly personalized quotes as a quick and timely burst of wisdom to get our focus and inventiveness back.



Karem Al Aridi

Baissour, Mount Lebanon

What is left after COVID-19 is our Mother Earth to get back to. But this time it is fresh new, without Man's pollution.

Rose Sroujian

Fatqa, Mount Lebanon

Most of the writers admit that Mother Earth is their source of inspiration, destroying it means destroying our siblings' dreams. Aren't we already dealing with enough family bonds crisis?

Habiba Alzein

Keyfoun, Mount Lebanon

انتعشت الأرض بعد انتشار فيروس كورونا. مما جعلني أتساءل: أكننا بحاجة لكارثة كهذه لنهتم بصحة كوكبنا؟

Leen Ghaddar

Ghazieh, South Lebanon

We belong to Earth that has been carrying humankind since forever. However, man's polluting activities are harming our mother Earth, so people's cooperation is a must in these days to bring back Earth's green picture.

B I O D I V E R S I T Y

Khodor Kadi

Beirut

Humans, you must keep in mind that there is no planet B. We should do our best to preserve it and protect it from all the surrounding threats to reach sustainable development.

Tamer Mosleh

Beirut

Earth is suffering badly from all the reckless and careless activities of humankind. We must take full responsibility of our mistakes and solve it as fast as possible.

Elena Bou Aoun

Bourj Hamoud, Mount Lebanon

مسيرة حياة الانسان من البدئ حتى الآن معتمدة على أرضه و تربته و طبيعته.. حارب العصور الماضية على الارض و خيراتها و لازالت الصراعات حتي الآن.. الارض هي هوية الانسان و الطبيعة هي كنيته فا يستطيع التخلي عنهما

Fatima Naser Aldine

Baalbak, Bekaa

God has created numerous heavens and one if them is the Earth, so let us try to keep it clean!

Layla Hamdan

Beirut

Environment is the boondocks that we all share and nature is the painting where everything is perfect.

Linda Jamaledine

Aley, Mount Lebanon

I hope COVID-19 will make people appreciate more Earth. Hand in hand, we can protect our Mother Earth by being aware of our actions and by spreading awareness not only on this day, but every day!

Roy Nemer

Jdeideh, Mount Lebanon

On Earth, there is no Heaven. There are pieces of it.

Husam Aldaoud

Tripoli, North Lebanon

Earth is our lungs, if we protect, we are protecting our lives, if not, we are destroying our health.

EARTH HOUR

Rana Younis

Beirut

When we recognize the virtues, the talent, the beauty of Mother Earth, something is born in us, some kind of connection, love is born.

Nour Nahas

Saghbine, Bekaa

Earth is our shared home, we cannot live together if we do not keep it clean and healthy.

Yehia Abo Dargham

Chouf

Let the environment be the personal and spiritual place you belong to. Keep it clean and let it do its magic back.

Maya ElChaabi

Tyr, South Lebanon

في مجرة درب التبانة، شاء الله أن يهدينا الحياة على الكوكب الأزرق. في يوم هذا الكوكب نعطيهِ الراحة من أقدامنا الملوثة. في يوم هذا الكوكب، تسطع الشمس لتتير سماءه التي اشتاقت للشعاع النقي.

Noor Younis

Nabatieh, South Lebanon

The Earth doesn't need us, we need Earth.
Let's let go of our greed so it rebirths.

Zainab Hodroj

Beirut

Let our love to Earth be as common as it
loves us all the same.

AWARENESS

Rita Haddad

Kherbet Kanafar, Bekaa

The Earth does not belong to us, we belong
to the Earth. Go green to save our lovely
Earth.

Cyrine Naji

Rashayya, Bekaa

While walking the journey to heal yourself,
remember you are healing Earth for which
everything is connected.

Patricia Attieh

Beirut

Earth, you deserve to be celebrated and
appreciated every day. You deserve to
receive love every second through our
small daily actions.



Job Readiness





HOUSSEIN YASSIN

Mechanical Engineering

To develop technical skills and gain more knowledge and experience in the work field, USP VII Cycle 2 student Houssein Yassin, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, took initiative to complete a two-month internship at HMR Machinery. Houssein spent fifteen days in the maintenance department experiencing his position, in which he sharpened his technical skills. He learned more about the functions of electric generators, which helped him apply his knowledge into actual settings. Houssein spent the rest of the internship in the sales department, where he showed high interest and potential. Houssein stated, “I believe that this internship helped shape my views concerning my future career path, as I know for sure that the machinery domain might highly be considered in my future options of study and work”.



CYRINE NAJI

Accounting

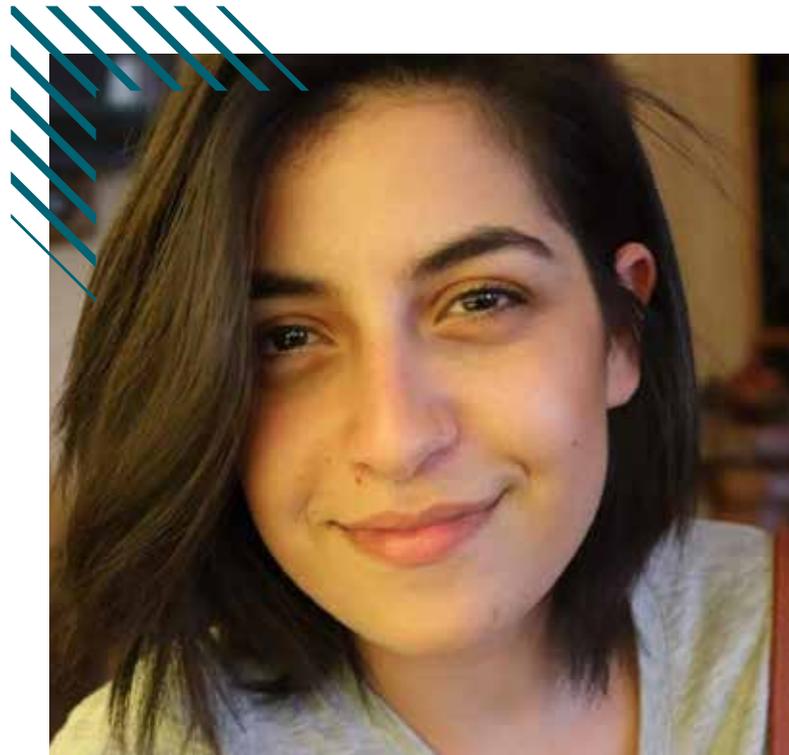
Being introduced to the practical part of accounting is what matters. The experience gained in this field helps one prosper and move from studying theory to applying it in the field work. This is what USP VII Cycle 2 student Cyrine Naji majoring in Accounting and minoring in Economics learned from her internship at BDO Company. Throughout this internship, Cyrine became proficient in relating between theory and practice. In addition to being introduced to the practical part of accounting, she gained added value by taking part of a training that introduced a new accounting software.



MYRIAM IBRAHIM

Banking and Finance

Internships allow students to gain more experience in the working field and gain a competitive advantage over other candidates. To achieve this objective, USP VI Cycle II student Myriam Ibrahim, majoring in Banking and Finance, completed two internships, one of which is at IBL Bank and another at the Central Bank. The internship programs offered Myriam a chance to learn about banking activities, functions, and operations; it included on-site training in office departments with set objectives. Myriam believes that these two internships gave her a real-world experience that enabled her to put everything she learned into action.



HANIN HAIDAR AHMAD

Multimedia Journalism

Enhancing soft and professional skills is the core importance of internships. For Hanin Haidar Ahmad, USP VII student, her internship at CodeBrave helped her develop solution-oriented skills and communication skills, in addition to professional skills through her role as a communication intern responsible for two main tasks. First is to create a social media strategy that included creating social media posts; and second most important role was to shoot and edit a promotional video for the online fundraising campaign. Through this internship, Hanin had the chance to attend two professional workshops as part of the development process provided.



I, Danielle Matar, was given the opportunity to start my journey at LAU as a USP Psychology student . It was a major life-changing achievement, as it has helped me structure the building blocks of a bigger goal I set for myself. The USAID scholarship is really unique, for it encourages students to not only maintain academic excellence but to also give back to their own communities. Thus, in addition to working hard on keeping my GPA high, doing community service routinely was and will always be on top of my priority list. As a USP student, I was provided with all the guidance needed from my supportive advisors. In addition, I was always urged to attend workshops that helped me in improving my leadership, communication, teamwork and time-management skills. I was also given guidance to complete a community service project, volunteering opportunities and two internships. Eventually, this boosted my self-esteem and helped me reach higher levels of self-improvement. I believe the most significant lesson I learned from this experience is that it is not enough to enjoy your success alone. **Giving back to your world and to those who helped you grow is always a necessity.** So, thanks to University Scholarship Program for this special opportunity and unique journey.



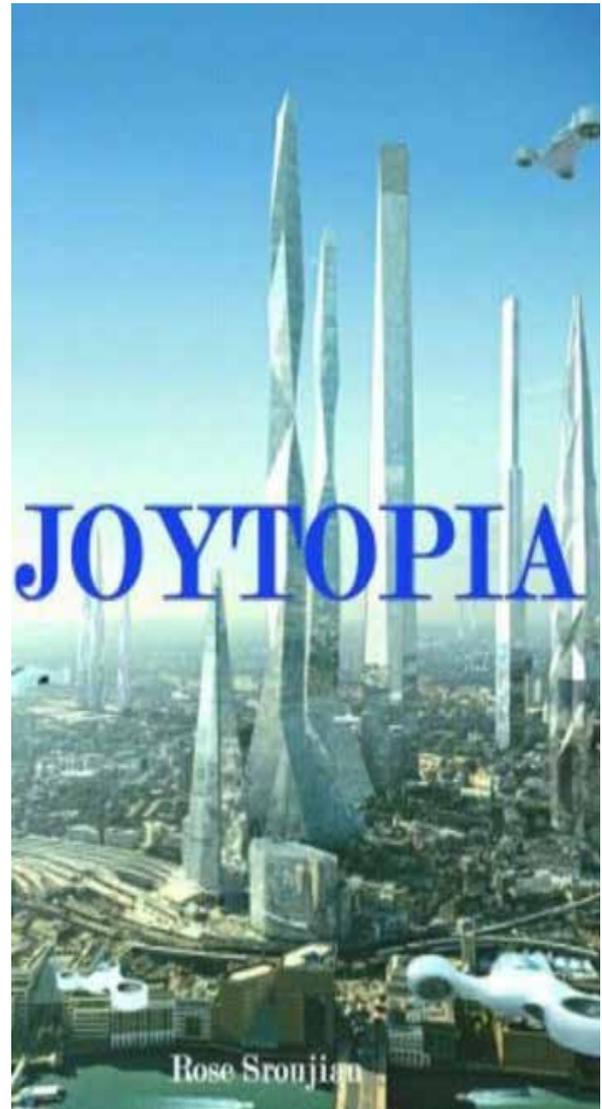
My name is Mohammad Orabi, graduating student majoring in Electrical Engineering under the University Scholarship Program at LAU. Since childhood, I was very passionate about math and physics that I spent most of my time deconstructing things. I broke down objects from toys to radios to other electronics lying around the house, just to figure out how things work. I studied hard, and aimed to join LAU through the University Scholarship Program. I did not spare effort to learn more, boost my skills and stand out in this competitive field. With the support of the University Scholarship Program funded by USAID, I got taught that hard work really does pay off. I was motivated due to receiving this opportunity to maintain a GPA of 3.9.

Due to USP team, I was provided the opportunity to do my own research with Dr. Samer Saab in the field of control, where we worked on iterative learning control and applied it to the robotic arm found in the lab. USP was like a second family to me, they helped me become who I am today; a person who identifies with their strengths and weaknesses and works hard to reach higher places. USP management team was the greatest support during my journey, turning requirements from something I had to do to something I got the privilege to engage in. I, from the first day forward, will always consider myself extremely lucky to have been part of this family, as without them I would have never gotten the opportunities that I have today and I would have never become the person who I am this moment.

ROSE SROUJIAN

How society views and treats individuals who deviate from its norms and do not fit in the box, and the effect of such mistreatment and judgement on the mental health and wellbeing are matters which have always circled Rose Sroujian's mind, a USP VIII C1 who is majoring in Management while pursuing her passion in writing. Rose expressed her thoughts in her first French science fiction story with a sprinkle of romance "Joytopia" that she later published

online on Wattpad. Joytopia revolves around Evlina a girl who's living in 3016 in a city where people have children created in a lab. Evlina's hair is pink due to a lab error, thus she suffers from bullying in her childhood because of her differences. The story develops to involve murder, suspense, and romance. Rose is resuming the writing process to be able to publish her book with potential publishers.





GEORGIO YAMMINE

The talented pianist, Georgio Yammine, is a USP VII cycle II student majoring in Computer Engineering. Georgio discovered his musical talent at the age of 11 and never quit practicing and performing since then. He also attended classes at several private institutions to develop and enhance his skills. Though Georgio is not committed to a band, he makes use of his gift by performing in events held in his town and during the Holy Masses. Here is how Georgio expressed his feeling towards the piano, “During my free time, I enjoy not only performing on the piano but also playing cover songs that I recognize by myself through my musical ear.”



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