

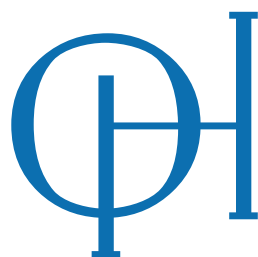


**GRADUATION
CEREMONY
CLASS 2017**

**TRIPOLI -
AOU NEWEST
BRANCH**

**NEW
MAJORS
AT AOU!**

**AOU
MOBILE
APPLICATION**



**OPEN HORIZONS MAGAZINE
ISSUE 16**



Alumni 2017 & their Families

Send your stories and be included
in the future issues of **Open Horizons**.
Email the Student Affairs Department at **openhorizons@aou.edu.lb**

  stay connected for more updates!

CONTENT

Message From The Rector	05
AOU receives British Accreditation for the 4 th time	06
AOU New Branch - Tripoli	07
AOU Graduation Ceremony 2017	08
Coaching: Development of Human Resources	10
AOU Job Fair	11
AOU Alumni Reunion	12
Cybersecurity Seminar	14
ACPC Regional Contest Training Camp	15
New Majors at AOU	16
AOU New Mobile Application	17
اتفاقية تعاون بين الجامعة العربية المفتوحة – لبنان و الأمن الداخلي	18
C.A.R.L. Workshop	19
Senior IT Students Project Exhibition	20
AOU Drama Club	22
AOU Sports Club	24
AOU Education Club	26
Blood Donation	28
المشاركة في مسابقة أجمل نشيد للجامعة!	29
Stay Healthy	30

OPEN HORIZONS MAGAZINE

Since 2005, AOU launched “Open Horizons”, a university publication covering university activities and campus life. Students are the main contributors to the content, writing about various subjects, events and interests.

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Professor Fairouz Farah Sarkis



Dear AOU students,

This year we have witnessed many events, which make us proud.

The university continues to develop as a dynamic and innovative institution, designed to add value to society and to contribute to its progress. Our mission is based on empowering individuals by adopting an academic model of international quality standards that is linked to the professional world and provides training in skills, competencies and values.

Our efforts in this respect were crowned by the renewal of the British Accreditation for the coming five years along with the validation of all its programs. Congratulations to all the AOU community on this achievement.

We are happy to celebrate a major addition to the university as we witnessed this year the inauguration of our new AOU campus in Tripoli Behhsas, our third campus added as part of the university strategy and mission to reach and serve learners in the different parts of our country. AOU is very excited for the opportunity to serve the north region.

Other news related to our academic achievements are the new majors introduced this year including Electronic Media introduced in cooperation with leading news agencies and Web Development. Both are designed to prepare experts in the field. The Master of Science in Information Security and Forensics continues to be the leading program in its field in Lebanon, and we have entered into agreements with the Internal Security Forces and the Lebanese Army to work on special developmental research projects and to exchange knowledge and expertise.

In addition, we introduced new diploma in Learning Difficulties to respond to an identified market gap and growing need for specialists in the field of learning difficulties. Similarly, a Social Media and Digital Marketing diploma was introduced following extensive research on emerging trends and market needs on the local and regional levels. On the graduate level, new tracks were offered in the MBA program and more are currently under consideration and design to be introduced in the coming academic year.

We continue to support faculty and student research and outreach activities and civic engagement consistent with our mission. To this end, we are working with the ministries of Higher Education, Social Affair, and Economy & Commerce in addition to a number of International and local organizations and NGOs including the European Union, UNESCO, SPARK, KFAS and AGFUND on various community service and student support projects.

The Microfinance certificate continues to receive wide demand and the university has entered into agreements with microfinance institutions in Lebanon and the region (Bahrain, Sudan and Jordan) to offer the program to their officers.

And last but equally important we continue to support and develop initiatives to promote students' life on campus through different academic, cultural, social, sports, musical, and civic engagement initiatives.

We welcome new and old students and wish you success in your academic year.

Best regards

Professor Fairouz Farah Sarkis
Rector

CONGRATULATIONS
ON
RENEWING
INSTITUTIONAL
RE-ACCREDITATION
AND
PROGRAMMES
RE-VALIDATION

RENEWING INSTITUTIONAL RE-ACCREDITATION

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Arab Open University faculty, staff and students on receiving the fourth British institutional re-accreditation and programme re-validation for all programmes for the next five years (2017-2022).

I would like to express my appreciation to all faculty and staff for the role they played during the process.

The Arab Open University will continue to strive to offer its students the best learning opportunities, to turn them into critical thinkers and creative decision makers.

Rector
Professor Fairouz Farah Sarkis



CONGRATULATIONS AOU NEW BRANCH

TRIPOLI

AOU's Behsas, Tripoli branch has been officially launched.

Explore our academic programs and make the smart choice. Apply now at our Tripoli Branch - Behsas.



A large crowd of graduates in blue gowns celebrating with confetti and streamers. The scene is filled with excitement, with many people raising their hands and holding streamers. The background shows a large, ornate building with arches, suggesting a university or academic setting. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

**YOU
MADE
IT!**

CLASS 2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz
patronizes the graduation ceremony
of the Arab Open University in Biel

AOU hosted the 2017 graduation ceremony under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University and Chairman of the Arab Gulf Development Program (AGFUND). The ceremony was held at the Pavillon Royal in Biel. Professor Sarkis gave a speech highlighting the university's future projects, including the opening of new terms of reference this year:

- Bachelor in Web Development
- Bachelor in Networking and Security
- Bachelor in Electronic Media in cooperation with several media institutions
- Diploma in Learning difficulties
- Diploma in Social Media
- Diploma in Early Childhood Education

In addition to the special new majors introduced last year, such as Information Security and Forensics in cooperation with the Directorate General of Internal Security Information Division.

Professor Sarkis also announced the opening of the university branch in the area of Tripoli Behsas.

As part of the current strategy of the University, the focus is still on quality assurance. She said that the university has received the British re-accreditation for all its programs for the next five years and this accreditation confirms that the university provides quality education at the level of British universities.



Professor Sarkis addressed the graduates saying success stories are some lessons we learn from the number of global successes started from scratch and the skills required to succeed in any work based on cooperation and the ability to communicate with others.

During his commencement speech, Philippe Lazarini, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon addressed the graduates by saying: We live in a world of technological innovation; the global economy and open borders lead to positive changes in the quality of life and the capabilities of human beings. He went on to say that we cannot imagine the world today without the internet and smart phones. The future ultimately depends on you and your peers, the educated young people and innovators who use their knowledge to serve a better world. "

Following the speaker Professor Sarkis and Mr. Lazarini presented graduates with their diplomas.

COMPANIES & INSTITUTIONS GATHER FOR **AOU JOB FAIR**



The Arab Open University held its 12th Job Fair at its campus in Antelias, with the participation of a wide range of institutions from different economic sectors, and the presence of more than 50 companies in the Lebanese market. The exhibition was opened by AOU President Professor Fairouz Farah Sarkis who emphasized the positive role of this annual activity in promoting and coordinating communication between students, graduates, and the labor market. The exhibition offers opportunities to acquaint AOU students and Alumni with the labor market and employers with students' competencies.

The 12th Job Fair took place at Antelias Center

Dr. Sarkis stressed the University's efforts to support students through world-class programs based on a distinct British accreditation and modern technical and professional training. She pointed out that 300 students are trained each year in different institutions, and the bulk of them gets jobs during the training period as a result of good performance.



COACHING

Development of Human Resources

The Faculty of Business Administration organized a seminar on the phenomenon of training under the title "Coaching and guiding the practical life in Lebanon and its impact on the development of human resources in various economic sectors", at the AOU branch in Antelias.

Professor Fayrouz Farah Sarkis, President of the Arab Open University in Lebanon opened the seminar welcoming participants and highlighting the importance of coaching for organizations. The issue of appointing an administrative supervisor in institutions is a new subject in the field of human resources development.



Dr. Suha Al-Ashi, Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration at the Arab Open University, presented one of the latest studies on the importance of coaching in the banking sector. The study analyzed the effects of coaching on the job performance of employees in this sector, more specifically on their creativity, motivation, commitment and their ability to acquire new skills.

Mr. Naeem Al Zein, the trainer and founder of MiraClé Training and Consultancy, made a presentation on the benefits of mentoring in general and addressed the training of leaders and public figures given his extensive experience in this field. In this context he focused on the importance of guidance in the public appearance of these characters.

Mr. Malik Zabib, the trainer and founder of Change Impact Consulting and Training, focused on how to develop and train employees by focusing on employees' strengths and activating them.

Mr. Roni Matar, Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and an active member of a number of non-governmental organizations to activate the role of young people in creating positive changes in society, explained the importance of using NLP in coaching to create harmony between the values of employees, especially young people, and the values of the institutions in which they work. In this context, he touched on the various stages which the employee goes through in order to reach the desired goals with the company.

Mr. Wajih Al Shwairi, the certified trainer at Alico, concluded the seminar by stressing the importance of the role of coach as facilitator for change and development in companies and institutions.



AOU ALUMNI REUNION 2017

WALL OF MEMORIES



The Arab Open University in Lebanon invited its graduates to attend its Annual Alumni Reunion, held this year at the Lancaster Tamar Hotel. The celebration was attended by the President of the University Dr. Fairouz Farah Sarkis as well as a large number of graduates and academic staff.

The ceremony was opened by the Head of Student Affairs, Ms. Rana Haidar, who welcomed the attendees and praised the importance of this annual meeting. The President of the University, Dr. Sarkis, gave a speech on the development of the university and its expansion through the creation of a new branch in the North, as well as the introduction of new majors such as: Electronic Media, Web Development, Graphic and Multimedia Design, Information Security and Networks, and a Diploma in Learning Difficulties and Social Media.

The President commended the role of the graduates and launched the "Coach" project, an initiative that encourages AOU graduates to mentor their fellow students throughout their studies. The Coach Project is vital as it emerged in various economic sectors. However it is still in its infancy in Lebanon.





AOU LAUNCHES THE MENTOR PROJECT WITH GRADUATES

Dr. Sarkis stressed on the importance of maintaining constant communication between the graduates and their university and announced the launching of the Online Alumni Magazine which will feature all graduates news.

A documentary featuring success stories of some AOU graduates was exhibited during the evening and it included programs having medical or social uses such as the Bionic hand for the disabled, the Safe Driving program of safe driving, and B-Donor to donate blood. This was followed by a speech given by the graduate Bilal Issa, who talked about his successful career as a Consultant in Cyber security in one of the most important Japanese companies.

A tribute was offered to the 2009-2010 cohort, who were honored with special medals. The evening ended with an impressive comic show by the Drama Club and a beautiful musical performance by the Music Club.

Alumni's children had also a share in this reunion, where a recreational party was held for them in the hotel's garden, which was filled with fun games and activities.



CYBERSECURITY SEMINAR

AOU held a seminar on Cybersecurity on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016 at its premises in Badaro, as part of the activities related to its MSc program in Information Security and Forensics. Attendees included Professors, researchers, and students from various universities and research centers, in addition to participation from the industry.

Dr. Mohammad Malli, the Program Coordinator for Information Technology and Computing, welcomed the audience and provided an overview of AOU's activities in the field of cybersecurity, including the MSc program in Information Security and Forensics, and the collaboration with Internal Security Forces.



The seminar featured speakers from the Internal Security Forces, General Security, and AOU:

First Lieutenant Eng. Dr. Ayman Tajeddine
- Internal Security Forces; "Cybercrime Awareness"

Captain Eng. Dr. Jihad Fahs
- General Security; "Information and Computer Security: Methods of Compromise and Counter Measures"

Dr. Elias Yaacoub
- AOU; "Cyber security in the 5G/IoT Era: Physical Layer Security"

The speakers outlined the major challenges in cybersecurity and discussed potential countermeasures.



ACPC REGIONAL CONTEST TRAINING CAMP



For the first time in Lebanon, the Arab Open University allied with the Coach Academy to deliver a special training camp in problem solving to prepare students for ACPC competition.

The camp took place from the 8th to 17th of February, 2017. The camp aims at improving the readiness and capabilities of Arab and Lebanese university students to score a top ranking in the regional competition ACM ACPC 2017.

The camp included students from many Lebanese universities (AUB, LAU, LIU, UPA, UL and AOU), in addition to a number of students from other regional and international universities who attended the camp via Video conferencing (the American university of Kuwait, the AOU-Kuwait, King Abdallah university-KSA, and other students from USA universities).

The training was delivered by the leading expert on the topic Coach Mohammad Abd El-Wahab. Participants received AOU training certificates at the end of the camp.

The ceremony took place on Friday the 17th of February at AOU, Badaro.



AOU INTRODUCES NEW MAJORS

In order to better adapt with the ever-changing world of business, technology and media, AOU has added new programmes to provide you with better recruitment opportunities in the job market.

BS	Networking and Security
BS	Graphic and Multimedia Design Technology
BS	Web Development
BA	Electronic Media
Diploma	Learning Difficulties
MSc	Information Security & Forensics

AOU NEW MOBILE APPLICATION

Arab Open University – Lebanon Branch launched its mobile app for both iOS and Android platforms and is compatible with all of today’s smartphones. Anyone can download the app from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store and use it to check the latest news, browse the university info, and receive event notifications. AOU students can login with their credentials to access specific student data such as grades, courses, financials, and personalized notifications.

DOWNLOAD IT NOW!



اتفاقية تعاون بين الجامعة العربية المفتوحة – لبنان و الأمن الداخلي



هنأت مديرة الجامعة العربية المفتوحة في لبنان د. فيروز فرح سركييس اللواء عماد عثمان لتسلمه منصبه الجديد كمدير عام لقوى الامن الداخلي وتمنت للمديرية برئاسته المزيد من التقدم والازدهار. كما وبحثت معه في تفعيل اتفاقية التعاون بين الجامعة ومديرية الأمن الداخلي في مجال " أمن المعلومات والتحقيقات الرقمية والجريمة الالكترونية **Information Security and Forensics** " من حيث نوعية وكمية الابحاث المشتركة والتي تساهم في تطوير البرامج الإلكترونية في هذا المجال للحد من عمليات القرصنة كما وتساهم في عمليات التحقيقات الجنائية التي هي من مهام شعبة المعلومات في مديرية الامن الداخلي.



C.A.L.R.

CENTRE FOR APPLIED LINGUISTIC RESEARCH



The Centre for Applied Linguistic Research - CALR at AOU, with the collaboration of the British Council in Lebanon, gathered more than 45 university English teachers at AOU Badaro, in a workshop entitled: Content and Language Integrated Learning - CLIL.

The workshop activities focused mainly on the use of content across the curricula or through the English language, so that tutors are able to exploit better opportunities through "language immersion".



SENIOR IT STUDENTS PROJECTS

EXHIBITION 2017

The Information Technology and Computing students displayed their final year creative projects during The project Exhibition held by their Faculty.

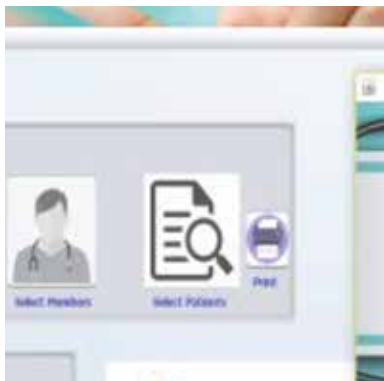
The exhibition featured many new ideas by the multi-talented seniors, who were applauded by the staff and faculty.

In their projects students displayed:



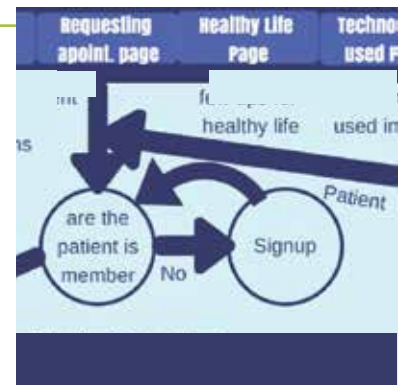
SAFE DRIVING MOBILE APPLICATION

Samah Zaed Jamal
Houssam Abdallah Zeid



ONLINE CLINIC

Nour Al Minawi



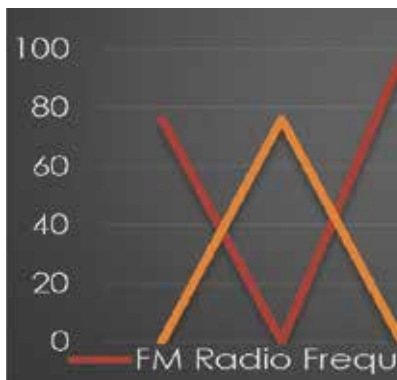
HMCS HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Elie Taan Keyrouz
Michel El-Kharrat



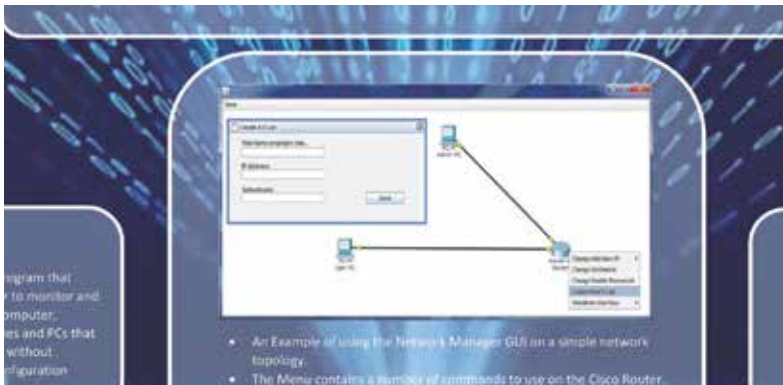
MSSD MOBILE SIGNAL SCRAMBLER & DETECTOR

Jean-Paul Abs-Yaacoub
Ibrahim Mansour



UCHEED BUILDER

Charbel Andre Imad
Ibrahim Zada



GUI MANAGEMENT

Ziad Bahzad Shahine
Joe Georges Ghossein

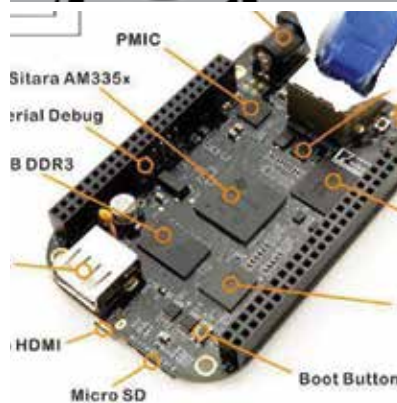
BIONIC ARM

Manar Al Harakeh



BDONOR MOBILE APPLICATION FOR BLOOD DONATION

Adham Ramez Kheir



SMART SMOKE DETECTOR

Ramy Chukri Nouwar
Ibrahim Mahmoud Azzam



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Mohamad Khalil Alkadiri
Mufleh Abou Elniaj





DRAMA CLUB

BY AOU STUDENTS



The Drama Club launched a new play entitled "The Old House in Ras Beirut" which was shown on the stage of the UNESCO Palace.

Houssam Houhou, AOU student playwriter, producer and actor and for the 3rd year in a row, came up with an outstanding social/comedy play.

The UNESCO Palace was a full house and the play was attended by students, graduates, the public as well as staff and academic faculty.

After the success of this play, a second presentation was performed on the "Al Madina Theater" in Hamra. During the presentation, the University honored the writer, director and actor [George Khabaz](#), who praised the talents of the students and their success.

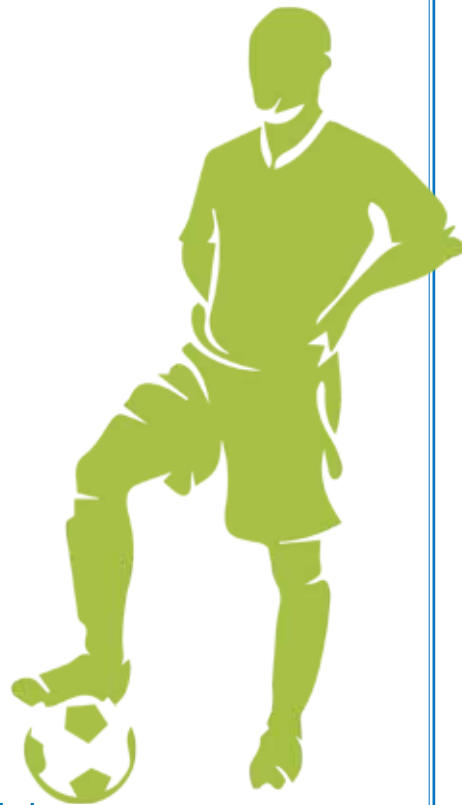
These shows were covered by local TV channels and on Social media including interviews with the students' actors.

AOU FOOTBALL TEAM WAS QUITE ACTIVE THIS YEAR,

The team trained rigorously twice per week and played friendly games all through the year; they won a big part of the games.

To note that a new mini football team was formed this year, and its performance during the games was really good.

Below are some of the games details and scores,



FOOTBALL & BASKETBALL SPORTS CLUB

AOU versus BAU (Mini football)
score was 3-3(Beirut) (Tied in the score)

AOU versus BAU (Futsal)
score was 3-3(Dibiyeh)(Tied in the score)

AOU versus F&B Bank(Mini football)
score was 4-0 (In favor of AOU)

AOU versus AUB team
score was 3-2 (In favor of AUB).

AOU versus USJ team
score was 3-3 (Tied in the score)

AOU versus LAU team
score was 1-0 (In favor of AOU)

AOU versus LIU team
score was 4-0 (In favor of AOU)

AOU versus Salam Lebanon team
score was 4-3 (In favor of AOU)

AOU versus the FCB team
score was 3-2 (In favor of AOU)



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BASKETBALL SCHOOL TOURNAMENT BY AOU

The participants thanked the University administration for its good organization and care.

For the second year in a row, the Arab Open University organized a basketball tournament for schools at the Camille Chamoun Sports Hall.

AOU organizes this sport every year consistent with its belief in the importance of sport as a message of culture and one of the investments in youth.

The International College (IC) was crowned as the finalist with the overwhelming victory over Khalid Bin Al Waleed school (Al Makassed) in the final match.

The competition was characterized by a high sports spirit and a relaxed atmosphere that encouraged the organization of such future sports activities by the university.

At the end of the competition, the university administration, represented by Mr. Mumtaz Takieddine, distributed the cup and medals for the winners joined by the director of the Lebanese national football team Mr. Fouad Belhouane and the director of sports activities at International College Mr. Tariq Moussalli.



AN ACTIVE YEAR FOR EDUCATION CLUB

TRIP TO BALOUH BALAA



On Sunday 21-5-2017, 30 students along with Mrs. Abir Jaber, Miss Fida Korfali, Miss Aida Hakim and Mrs. Sana Itani went on a trip to Bila'a near Tannourine, Batroun and Byblos.

The journey began to Ba'tarah, to the three natural bridges in Balouh Balaa, and everyone marveled at the charm of this magnificent natural landmark and the mountainous nature of Lebanon around it. Then everyone went to the River Al-Jawz to rest on its banks, to enjoy the tranquility of the place before going on a tour to the old market and to the Phoenician wall in Batroun. The visit of Batroun ended with a taste of lemonade, which left everyone refreshed and content.

The students then went to Byblos for lunch and toured the markets of Byblos before returning to the campus.

Signs of joy and happiness were shining on the faces of the students throughout this special day. They took pictures, and chanted on their way back.

TOGETHER WE PLANT JOY

AOU hosted more than 40 orphans during an entertainment gathering entitled "Together We Plant Joy". The purpose was to engage students in activities that would make them happy and to assure them that society cared for them.



The event concluded with an interesting show by a magician who performed acts of light that dazzled both students and professors.

At the end of the meeting, symbolic gifts were distributed, promising everyone to organize other meetings.



The gathering included many educational ideas that contributed to spreading joy in the hearts of children between the ages of three and ten years. The students of the Department of Education participated in these activities, which varied between the puppet theater, a craft corner, a reading corner, and a face-painting corner, all in a dancing and enjoyable atmosphere.

SPECIALIZED EDUCATION

Within the framework of its community service program, the Department of Education organized a workshop given by Dr. Lama Bendak entitled "Specialized Education: Diagnosis and Treatment" in Badaro.

Sixty professors from various Lebanese schools attended the workshop, most of them teachers of students with learning difficulties.

The workshop included an overview of the current reality in the relevant education, the current laws and legislations in Lebanon, the classification of people with special needs, how to diagnose their cases and treatment methods, and the importance of educational evaluation.

In the second part of the workshop, various difficulties were identified, with a discussion on diagnostic tests, and the proposed treatment methods for these cases.

“ **Every student has the right to learn in the appropriate manner.** ”

The workshop's recommendations focused on the need to pay attention to people with special needs, adapting their curricula and teaching methods to suit their needs, and allowing them to be integrated in the general education classes, while providing intensive scientific support to special education teachers.

Several publications of the Educational Center for Research and Development were distributed to participants, emphasizing that "every student has the right to learn in the appropriate manner."





BLOOD DONATION

The Student Affairs Office in coordination with the AOU Health Services, conducted a Blood Donation campaign in cooperation with the NGO "Donner Sans Comper". The campaign was attended by students and university staff who offered all the encouragement and cooperation for humanitarian purposes.

AOU as well as other institutions were honored by the NGO for its continued cooperation in establishing blood donation campaigns and encouraging students to assume social responsibility.

شارك الطالب يعقوب عبيد في المسابقة الشعرية
لأفضل نشيد للجامعة.
تجدر الإشارة إلى أنّ الطالب حائز على الميدالية
الفضية في برنامج " ستوديو الفن" في لبنان عام
٢٠١٠.
كما قام يعقوب بمبادرة خاصة منه بتلحين وغناء
هذه القصيدة.

نتمنى له كل التوفيق والنجاح!

كل الأمل بنجاح مبادرة أجمل نشيد للجامعة!

جامعة كل العرب



من قلبه أشرق حلما رسالة مقدسة وسامية
يITAL كل العرب منارة للعلم والادب
من سموه سمونا امير و الفكر من ذهب

العلم سلاحنا ويرفع اوطاننا
يزين جباهنا فجر العرب قد اقترب
أزيلت العوائق عطاؤنا ايماننا
امام اجيالنا بالعلم من جد وجد

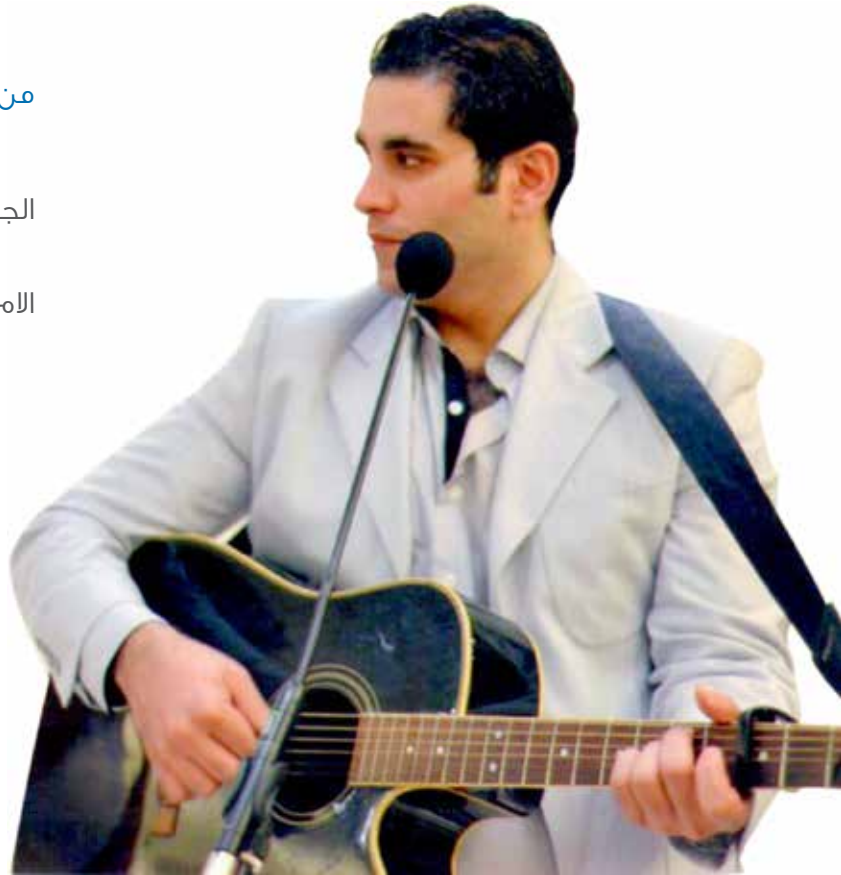
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يITAL كل العرب منارة للعلم والادب

ربيع عمرنا اتى نسورا في السماء
عبقه يملي المدى نخلق بلا تعب
من شرقها لغربها بالعلم نغني شرقنا
الأرض نحن من غزا للغرب اول من وجب

من قلبه أشرق حلما رسالة مقدسة وسامية
يITAL كل العرب منارة للعلم والادب

الجهل يغدو مظلما مستقبل زاهي
شمسنا يشرق نورها كل من لها انتسب
الام بحبها جامعة مفتوحة
تحضن أولادها أولادها كل العرب

يعقوب عبيد



SLEEP WELL & STAY HEALTHY

Muscles, including the heart, repair themselves during sleep. Sleep controls the signals that trigger the feeling of hunger or satiety, thus it is linked with maintaining good weight.

Sleep boosts brain functions (memory, concentration and learning). It helps the person to store memories from the day and recall them, to pay more attention in school or at work.

Sleep improves the body's immune function and thus helps to fight infections.

Growth hormone is released during cycles of deep sleep, which is essential for the growth of the cells and for height.

How much sleep do we need daily?

- ❑ School-age children need at least 10 hours of quality sleep per day.
- ❑ Teens need 9 to 10 hours of quality sleep per day.
- ❑ Adults need 7 to 8 hours of quality sleep per day.

BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER & MEMORY

- ❑ Train your brain muscles like you train your muscular strength by reading and acquiring new information, learning new skills, playing activities.
- ❑ Practice physical activity, aerobic exercise that require hand-eye coordination.
- ❑ Get enough sleep as adults need between 7 to 9 hours of sleep every night.
- ❑ Spend time with friends, particularly fun and playful people, to provide a great support system.
- ❑ Stay away from stressors as chronic stress destroys the brain cells involved in the formation of new memories and the retrieval of old ones.
- ❑ Fuel your brain with the right diet i.e. include more omega-3 fatty acids sources in your diet such as salmon, tuna, trout, walnuts, flaxseeds, spinach, and broccoli.



“

**A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
REDUCES
YOUR RISK
OF ALZHEIMER'S**

”

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY



Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms, such as memory loss that disrupts daily life, challenges in planning or solving problems, difficulty in completing tasks at home or at work, confusion with time and place.

[Here are some recommendations to reduce Alzheimer's risk factors:](#)

- Regular exercise to stimulate the brain's ability.
- Social engagement by maintaining a network of friends.
- Healthy diet with plenty of vegetables, whole grains, and fish.
- Mental activity i.e. reading and learning new things.
- Sleep, particularly quality sleep for about 8 hours per night.



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