

EXTERNAL OUTLOOK

October 2020



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COVID-19 AND BEIRUT BLAST: WHAT CARING AUT ALUMNI DID

Massive Food and Supplies Collection and Distribution

Roy Araygi and Roy Farah collected food and supplies from the areas of Zgharta and Jbeil respectively over 8 months to help people who suffered income loss due to the pandemic. Amazing quantities were collected and distributed by the two Roys who are still on the task they assigned themselves



Roy Farah



Roy Araygi



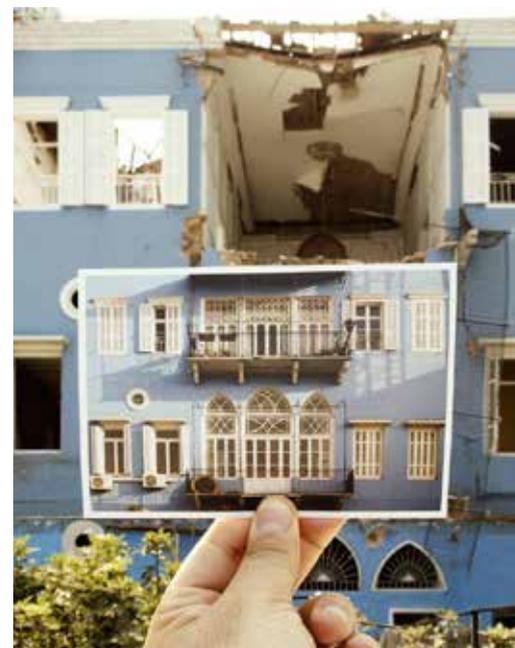
Bechara Mezannar

AUT Alumnus And Kids Bike For Lebanon in Canada

The August 4 tragedy has prompted many to take initiatives meant to help those who suffered injuries or had their homes destroyed. AUT alumnus Bechara Mezannar, based in Canada since 2016, felt the need to do something. He and his two year-old twins, Aya and Joe launched the "Bike for Lebanon" fundraising campaign for Lebanese kids in need. Bechara had his twin kids set on his bike and all three went on a journey to raise funds. The money raised was donated to "Save the children, Canada" who matched the \$2350 raised by the Mezannars. An innovative way to help and a source of pride to AUT.

AUT Alumnus Joe Khoury's Bouyout Beirut in the Media

A graduate of AUT and the State University of New York Empire State College program in Graphic Design, Joe Khoury went into photography and has had a successful career for over 12 years. His photo collection of the old house facades on Gemmayze and Mar Mikhael streets, called Bouyout Beirut, have regained importance and resurfaced after the Beirut Port tragedy of August 4, 2020 when he and his wife Gabriela Cardozo went among the rubble to locate the houses they had photographed and placed the photo of each façade on the ruins. In addition to that, Joe raised funds for the Red Cross through his website to participate in the aid given to those who lost their homes. His initiatives did not go unnoticed. L'Orient Le Jour featured his actions in a special article and international media have interviewed the couple for their initiative. His photo collection of old facades of Gemmayze and Mar Mikhael streets are found on <https://www.joekhourystudio.com/bouyout-beirut>.



AUT PARTNER IN EDUCATION SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE RAISES FUNDS FOR STUDENTS IN LEBANON



AUT's main academic partner, State University of New York Empire State College has launched a campaign to raise funds to help students enrolled in the joint program pay their tuition fees during these difficult times. It has sent its faculty and staff encouragement to donate money through the webpage

www.esc.edu/LebanonScholarship and is extending the call to the community in upstate New York at large.

In turn, AUT is forwarding this call for donation to its community and alumni. *AUT is proud to be associated to SUNY Empire State College*



AUT PARTICIPATES IN GREATER LEBANON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



AUT President Ghada Hinain attended the ceremony organized by Patriarch Bishara Rahi in Diman on September 1 to celebrate the centennial of the foundation of the Greater Lebanon. The ceremony included a performance by the Kadisha Orchestra and Choir which interpreted hymns in Arabic, Armenian, Greek and Aramean to show the Kadisha Valley cultural heritage.

Hinain also signed an MOU with the Qanoubine Association for Cultural Message and Heritage which is under Patriarch Rahi's supervision to contribute research around the history of the Valley and to provide

training for several areas needed for the Valley to promote its heritage to visitors and scholars.

AUT and President Hinain's involvement in the Qannoubne Valley started in 2004 when she inaugurated the Maronite Patriarchs Garden under Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir and in presence of former President of the Republic Emile Lahoud. The Garden is meant to commemorate the contributions of Maronite patriarchs to the history of Lebanon and became a platform for other foundations that are now managed by the Qanoubine Association for Cultural Message and Heritage.



ONLINE LEARNING AT AUT: A SUCCESS STORY



Adaptation to the new reality imposed by the pandemic resulted in most universities offering online education starting spring 2020. AUT took the lead in view of its experience acquired through the joint programs offered with many universities in the US and Europe. Faculty received more training and the results of last spring were very good in terms of learning outcomes.

Students expressed their opinions about last spring experience:

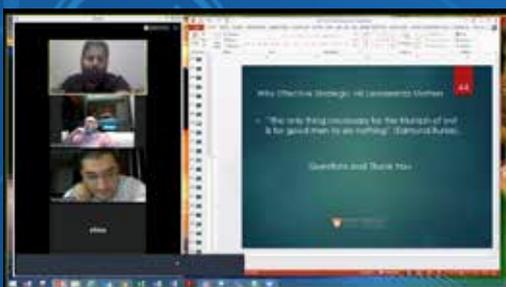
Ribal El Hajj
MBA Student

- Saving Time
- Very efficient, we were more focused
- Our work was much more resourceful
- We were able to join lectures by international top notch experts from all over the world.

Richard Tabet
Water Resources student

- All turned out to be positive
- Instructors were available any time we needed them.
- Students have many opportunities through online learning.

This year AUT carries on teaching at a distance using modern technology tools and provided more training as all 4 campuses share the courses taught.



AUT'S INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER NISRINE DIRANI ON MOODLE: ALL WHAT SIGNIFICANT LEARNING REQUIRES



The university is doing a major upgrade to Moodle, our Learning Management System.

It will significantly affect the way our online courses will look and function, and how students will interact with them.

The Moodle upgrade will offer several improvements to make the users' interface more efficient. The following features will be now available on Moodle:

- 1- Group work
- 2- Safe Exam Browser (previously an experimental setting) can now be enabled and configured from the Quiz settings.
- 3- Users can reset their password directly.
- 4- Big Blue Button web-based application live online classroom
- 5- A new mobile Application
- 6- Activity Completion
- 7- Easy access course content
- 8- Connect with course participants

ONGOING TRAINING FOR ONLINE INSTRUCTION AT AUT

AUT faculty members of Fall 2020, online courses attended a 3-day workshop September 8-10 on Designing Online Courses for AUT Mission-Specific Learning. The workshop held in the Issam Fares Auditorium, Halat Campus was organized by AUT Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Strategy & the Information Technology Office. Faculty from all AUT campuses were supported in their



efforts to design and deliver their online courses using the Integrated Course Design Model (ICD, Fink 2013), with strong emphasis on backward design. A variety of latest educational technology tools (Ed Tech Tools) were employed in the workshop for training purposes and for faculty to

use in their Fall 2020 courses. Towards the end of the day, faculty were also trained on the use of our upgraded Learning Management System (LMS) and video-conferencing platforms, such as Google Meet, Big Blue Button, and Zoom.



MEET ALUMNA MARIANA EL KHOURY



MARIANA EL KHOURY

Head, Media & Social Networks
**King Hussein Cancer
Foundation,**
Amman – Jordan

Our Alumni .. Our Pride

Supporting its mandate in public awareness, fundraising, and advocacy, Mariana El Khoury currently serves as Head of Media & Social Networks at the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF), the largest community-based organization in Jordan dedicated to combating cancer.

In this role, Mariana is responsible for overseeing KHCF's media strategy to ensure effective exposure and brand management across Jordan and the Middle East. This includes leading the process of strategic media planning and execution, serving as a resource for a team of media and public relations professionals to deliver integrated traditional, digital and social media outreach campaigns. She is tasked with supporting KHCF's digitalization efforts, and growing exposure of the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) as an internationally accredited institution providing adult and pediatric patients with state of the art comprehensive cancer care for all types of cancer.

With more than 11 years of work experience, Mariana has devised and implemented numerous successful communication strategies for leading local, regional and international brands. Prior to her role at KHCF, she worked with Eagle Hills Jordan, the largest Abu Dhabi-based private real estate investment and development company in Jordan, and asda'a bcw – the leading PR consultancy in MENA, managing a number of highly acclaimed brands such as Pfizer, AstraZeneca, St. Regis, Armani Casa, W Hotels, Starbucks, and Mercedes-Benz amongst many others.

Mariana graduated with honors from American University of Technology (AUT) in 2008, with a degree in Communication, Public Relations.

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