

AUB Nature Conservation Center (NCC)

Director: Saliba Aoun, Najat, Professor, Chemistry Department

AUB Faculty with Membership in the AUB-Nature Conservation Center

Abiad, Mohammad, PhD	Assistant Professor, Agribusiness (FAFS)
Al Saied, Amani	Instructor, English (FAS)
Al Zein, Mohammad, PhD	Instructor, Biology (FAS)
Alameddine, Mohammad, PhD	Assistant Professor, Health Management and Policy (FHS)
Amin, Tamer, PhD	Assistant Professor, SMEC Director, Education (FAS)
Bibi, Karma, PhD	Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology (FAS)
Bouhadir, Kamal, PhD	Associate Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Chaaban, Jad, PhD	Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Sciences (FAS)
Chalak, Ali, PhD	Assistant Professor, Agricultural Sciences (FAFS)
Choueiri, Lina, PhD	Associate Professor, English (FAS)
Dajani, Nabil, PhD	Professor, Sociology and Anthropology, (FAS)
Darwiche, Nadine, PhD	Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics (FM)
Dib, Nelly	Instructor, Philosophy (FAS)
Dimechkie, Riad	Director of EMBA (OSB)
Elias, Ata, PhD	Assistant Professor, Geology (FAS)
El-Sabban, Marwan, PhD	Professor, Human Morphology (FM)
Ghaddar, Tarek, PhD	Associate Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Ghattas, Hala, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nutrition (FAFS)
Habib, Rima, PhD	Associate Professor, Environmental Health (FHS)
Harb, Charles, PhD	Chairperson and Associate Professor, Psychology (FAS)
Homaidan, Fadia, PhD	Director of Grants and Contracts, Associate Professor, Physiology (FM)
Hwalla, Nahla, PhD	Dean and Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Jaalouk, Diana, PhD	Assistant Professor, Biology (FAS)
Kaissi, Samira, PhD	Managing Director, Molecular and Cellular Medicine (FM)
Kassaify, Zeina, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Khayat, Munira, PhD	Visiting Assistant Professor, Social and Behavioral Sciences (FAS)
Massoud, May, PhD	Associate Professor, Environmental Health (FHS)
Muhtaseb, Hala, PhD	Professor, Biology (FAS)
Mneimneh, Youssef, PhD	Director of K.A.S. Central Research Science Laboratory (FAS)
Naja, Farah, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Olabi, Ammar, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS)
Osta, Mike, PhD	Assistant Professor, Biology (FAS)
Rubeiz, Nelly, MD	Clinical Associate Professor, Dermatology (FM)

Saad, Walid, PhD	Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering (FEA)
Salha, Neville	Assistant Professor, Fine Arts and History (FAS)
Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD	Chairperson and Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Talhok, Rabih, PhD	Professor, Biology (FAS)
Talhok, Salma, PhD	Chairperson and Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Department (FAFS)
Turkiyyah, George	Professor, Computer Science (FAS)
Zurayk, Rami, PhD	Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS)

Advisory Board Members

Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD	Associate to the Faculty, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS)
Nadim Khoury, PhD	Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission
Rayess, Fadi	Partner and CEO of Levant Retail SAL
Urtti, Arto, PhD	Professor, Bio-pharmaceutics, University of Helsinki, Finland
Vuorela, Heikki, PhD	Professor, Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Helsinki, Finland

Introduction

Established in 2002, The Nature Conservation Center is an interfaculty center with a mission to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in arid and Mediterranean regions by providing an open academic platform for innovative research and development.

The Center's objectives are to link biological, ecological, social, economic, and cultural disciplines to generate new knowledge and publish information that is useful to society and that provides it with direction and tools for effective nature conservation and use. It achieves these objectives by:

- Conducting basic and applied research;
- Fostering collaboration among different sectors;
- Guiding policy and legislation;
- Exploring and developing economic opportunities for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Ultimately, the center aims at raising awareness on nature conservation issues, in Lebanon and the region. Through many running programs, research projects, outreach events and awards the center has a diversified target audience ranging from lay communities to highly specialized scholars. AUB-NCC studies optimal reforestation methods, and launches yearly tree planting trips. The center conducts research on medicinal plants and marine organisms, to identify and extract medicinally potent molecules. Three yearly awards are offered to the public, AUB students and community villages for projects on eco-entrepreneurship, biodiversity and sustainable solutions and participatory natural resources management, respectively.

The center welcomes new memberships by AUB faculty, every year, in addition to training interns and volunteers.

Membership and Governance

The AUB Nature Conservation Center consists of volunteers committed to collaborative learning and discovery. Membership includes AUB faculty and staff members and other scholars whose interests focus on Biodiversity and Nature related issues. The Center is a platform for scholars at all stages in their careers and from all parts of the world to exchange ideas and information. The Center's members take part in seminars and activities as well as provide assistance to researchers and students. These individuals are categorized as Members, Associates, Assistants, Affiliates, Volunteers, Interns or Friends of the Center.

The Center is managed by a director and three committees whose members are appointed by election. The mission and objectives of these committees have been designed to ensure diversity and synergism within the center:

The Advisory Board is responsible for giving advice on the Center's vision, projects, programs, and future directions. It is also responsible for promoting the Nature Conservation Center to the general community, and to public and private Institutions, as well as helping and facilitating fundraising.

- The executive committee is responsible for coordinating the work of the center and providing guidance to its committees. It is also in charge of fundraising.
- The research committee is responsible for the cultivation of research activities, and encourages those leading to patentable innovations.

In addition to coordinating with the appropriate University administrators and an International Advisory Board, AUB Nature Conservation Center works with the business community, with governments and NGOs at the national, regional, and international levels.ess community, with governments and NGOs at the national, regional, and international levels.