

AUB Nature Conservation Center (NCC)

Director

Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD Professor, Chemistry (FAS)

AUB Faculty with Membership in the AUB-Nature Conservation Center

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| Abiad, Mohammad, PhD | Assistant Professor, Agribusiness (FAFS) |
| Afiouni, Fida, PhD | Associate Professor, Human Resource Management (OSB) |
| Al-Sayyed, Amany | Instructor, English (FAS) |
| Alameddine, Mohammad, PhD | Chairperson and Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy (FHS) |
| Amin, Tamer, PhD | SMEC Director, Associate Professor, Education (FAS) |
| Arbid, George, PhD | Associate Professor, Architecture and Design (FEA) |
| Bouhadir, Kamal, PhD | Associate Professor, Chemistry (FAS) |
| Bou Nassar, Makram, PhD | Lecturer, Agricultural Sciences (FAFS) |
| Chaaban, Jad, PhD | Associate Professor, Agricultural Sciences (FAFS) |
| Chalak, Ali, PhD | Assistant Professor, Agricultural Sciences (FAFS) |
| Choueiri, Lina, PhD | Associate Professor, English (FAS) |
| Darwiche, Nadine, PhD | Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics (FM) |
| Dimechkie, Riad | Senior Lecturer, Director, EMBA (OSB) |
| Elias, Ata | Assistant Professor, Geology (FAS) |
| El-Jurdi Hounaida | Assistant Professor, Marketing (OSB) |
| Sabban, Marwan, PhD | Professor, Physiology (FM) |
| Ghaddar, Tarek, PhD | Chairperson and Associate Professor, Chemistry (FAS) |
| Ghattas, Hala, PhD | Associate Director and Assistant Research Professor, EPHD (FHS) |
| Habib, Rima, PhD | Chairperson and Professor, ENHL (FHS) |
| Harb, Charles, PhD | Chairperson and Associate Professor, Psychology (FAS) |
| Homaidan, Fadia, PhD | Director, OGC and Technology Transfer Unit |
| Kobaissy, Firas, PhD | Assistant Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics (FM) |
| Massoud, May, PhD | Associate Professor, Environmental Health (FHS) |
| Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD | Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management, (FAFS) |
| McGreevy, Patrick, PhD | Dean and Professor, History & Archeology (FAS) |
| Muhtasib, Hala, PhD | Interim Associate Provost and Professor, Biology (FAS) |

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| Naja, Farah, PhD | Associate Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS) |
| Nasr, Waddah, PhD | Associate Professor, Philosophy (FAS) |
| Olabi, Ammar, PhD | Associate Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences (FAFS) |
| Prattis, Susan, PhD | Assistant Professor, Animal and Veterinary Sciences (FAFS) |
| Rishani, Nadeen | Instructor, Electrical and Computer Engineering (FEA) |
| Romani, Maya, MD | Instructor, Clinical Family Medicine (FM) |
| Rubeiz, Nelly, MD | Professor, Clinical Dermatology (FM) |
| Saad, Walid, PhD | Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering (FEA) |
| Salha, Neville | Assistant Professor, Fine Arts and History (FAS) |
| Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD | Professor, Chemistry (FAS) |
| Srouf, Issam, PhD | Associate Professor, Engineering Management (FEA) |
| Talhok, Rabih, PhD | Professor, Biology (FAS) |
| Talhok, Salma, PhD | Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS) |
| Tannir, Lina, PhD | Lecturer, Finance (OSB) |
| Zurayk, Rami, PhD | Chairperson and Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS) |

Advisory Board Members

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| Emir Abillama, Samir | President of Al Amir Holding |
| Alami, Youssef | Executive Committee member, The National Investor, UAE |
| Jammal, Anwar | Chairman and General Manager, Jammal Trust Bank sal |
| H.E. Khalifa Al Mubarak, Razan | Secretary General, Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi |
| Khoury, Nadim PhD | Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations ESCWA |
| Makhzoumi, Jala, PhD | Associate to the Faculty, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS) Co-Founder, UNIT44 |
| Rayess, Fadi | Partner and CEO, 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 as a hub for nature conservation efforts and awareness on campus, The Nature Conservation Center (NCC) is an interfaculty research center with the mission of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and helping reinvent individuals' relationship with it through the use of research, education, community outreach, and knowledge dissemination..

While almost every university in the West has its own biodiversity center, the AUB Nature Conservation Center is unique in the region as it is the only academic center that collects, identifies, and catalogues species, creates databases, and cultivates and researches the nutritional, medicinal, and traditional applications of endemic species in the region.

The Center's objectives are to link a maximum of disciplines to generate new knowledge and create an open innovative and collaborative platform. Ultimately, the center aims to raise awareness about nature-related issues and to become a recognized reference for the study and sustainable use of dry land biodiversity.. Through many running programs, research projects, outreach events, consultations on several large-scale environmental initiatives, and awards, the Center has reached out to a demographic including everyone from laypeople to highly specialized scholars.

As part of its different programs, the center conducts research on medicinal plants to identify and extract medicinally potent molecules, especially those with anti-cancerous properties. In addition, NCC conducts a number of Citizen Science projects, i.e. activities that engage members of the community in its conservation efforts and research. In addition, NCC annually offers three awards to entrepreneurs from the general public, AUB students, and village communities for ideas and efforts relevant to eco-entrepreneurship, biodiversity, and sustainable participatory natural resource management, respectively.

The center welcomes new members from AUB faculty every year, as well as 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 and activists at all stages in their careers and from all parts of the world to exchange ideas and information. Its participants take part in seminars and activities, as well as provide assistance to researchers and students and are categorized as Members, Associates, Assistants, Volunteers, Interns, or Friends of the Center. NCC frequently collaborates with the business community, governments, and NGOs, at the national, regional, and international levels. It is managed by a director and one Executive and Research Committee of elected AUB faculty members, which is responsible for coordinating its work. As for the international Advisory Board, it is responsible for advising the Center on its strategic vision and future directions, and for promoting NCC to the general community to public and private Institutions, and to potential funders.