

# FAFS Dean's Office Updates

Issue no.20 | January 2020

*FAFS Dean's Office Updates is the monthly newsletter that keeps FAFS faculty, students, staff, and friends informed of the latest activities, initiatives, and achievements of the FAFS family. Please share your department's news and your suggestions with [fafs.deanupdates@aub.edu.lb](mailto:fafs.deanupdates@aub.edu.lb)*

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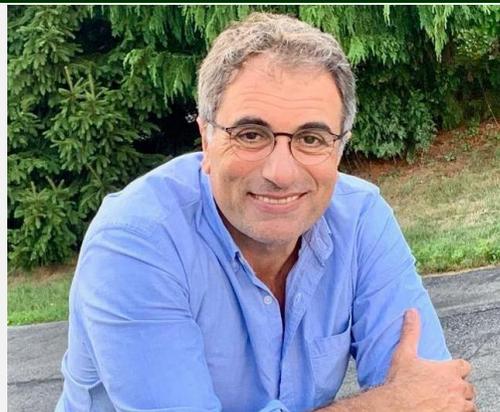
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### Lectures series & Seminars

## In the spotlight

### Yaser Abunnasr, LDEM new chairperson

LDEM is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Yaser Abunnasr as the next Chairperson of the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (LDEM), effective January 27, 2020, for a three-year term. FAFS and LDEM are sincerely grateful to Dr. Rami Zurayk for distinguished service and commitment to LDEM throughout his term as Chair. FAFS wishes both Dr. Yaser Abunnasr and Dr. Rami Zurayk the best of luck in their new roles. [READ MORE](#)



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## Research & Outreach

### Ajyal Salima spreads nutrition awareness in Bahrain

The school-nutrition program Ajyal Salima, implemented for the first time in Bahrain was a great success during the 2018-19 academic year. This achievement led to a second rollout for the current academic year, which targeted new schools. As part of the initiative, a second train-the-trainer workshop was delivered by the program's scientific team from FAFS in partnership with Nestlé Middle East. The workshop aimed at spreading nutrition awareness and preventing obesity among children in Bahrain. [READ MORE](#)



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### AREC, a hub for FAO's theoretical training

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) selected AREC as a hub for theoretical training during four consecutive training sessions delivered to the engineers of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) as well as nearby farmers between (January-February 2020). The purpose is to train the engineers on best practices in vegetable production and to provide them with the required skills and knowledge to better help the local farmers and other stakeholders.

FAFS' Dr. Bashour, delivered a presentation about fertilizers types and formulation to the attendees. [READ MORE](#)



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### NFSC achieved successful VO2max test

NFSC marked the first successful VO2max test (January 22), conducted at the Nutrition Metabolic Research Lab (NML) by Research Assistant, Ms. Cecil Borgi under the supervision of NFSC Assistant Professor, Dr. Elie-Jacques Fares. The performed test opens up new research avenues to investigate the association of diet and/or exercise on cardiovascular fitness and aerobic endurance. [READ MORE](#)

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## Faculty News

### Mobile application to map water-use and agricultural productivity in the region, Hadi Jaafar

Dr. Jaafar announced the development of a mobile application that allows users to monitor evapotranspiration, agricultural water productivity, and yield and biomass at various scales (field, watershed). The mobile app was developed as part of the IHE-Delft funded ITSET project, *Integrating time-series ET mapping into an operational irrigation management framework*. [READ MORE](#)

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### Rami Zurayk hosts London exhibition - ARAB BEDOUIN: No Future without Past

Dr. Rami Zurayk (LDEM, FAFS) a partner in the Cultural Corridors of Peace project, joined with the Institute for Heritage and Sustainable Human Development (INHERIT) to host a London exhibition (January 15-25) in celebration of the cultural heritage of the Bedouin people of Lebanon, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The exhibit, *No future without past*, provided an opportunity for marginalized Bedouin communities to share their culture and way of life. The project's exhibition was intended to support Bedouin communities in the Levant through documentation to safeguard Bedouin cultural heritage and help secure a better future. [READ MORE](#)

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## Student & Alumni News

### Welcome new FAFS agents of change!

FAFS undergraduate students visited (January 16) their 'second home' for the next few years. Dr. Mohammad Farran introduced the students to FAFS disciplines; Dean Rabi H. Mohtar then addressed their essential role as the new FAFS agents of change, explaining their responsibilities to address and positively influence the challenges facing AUB and Lebanon today. FAFS also welcomed its new (spring 2020) graduate students, who met with Dean Mohtar to discuss local and global challenges, and opportunities for preserving a sustainable environment and its resources. They explored the FAFS graduate programs with Dr. Lara Nasreddine. [READ MORE](#)



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### Hind Dakhil Abboud, a prominent figure in both career and family.

NFSC-FAFS alumna Hind Dakhil Abboud is known in her community to be a strong, hardworking woman. Mrs. Dakhil Abboud "does it all": nurturing a family, running a successful blog #SohatwSahtain, and maintaining a prominent career as a clinical dietician at AUBMC. Executive Women—Middle East recently highlighted Hind's achievements in a feature article. FAFS is proud of its alumna, and congratulates Hind and all ambitious, hardworking women. Read more about Hind's story on Executive Women [here](#).



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### Nassim Njeim creates the first-ever local apple cider

FAFS alumnus Nassim Njeim, recently featured in Lebanon's An-Nahar magazine, announced the success of his business: Lebanon's first ever local apple cider. Noting that "Lebanon tends to waste 35-40% of its total apple production", Mr. Njeim proudly explained that his initiative "helps Lebanese apple farmers gain economic return from mechanically damaged apples that are deemed unfit by the consumer, but retain their nutritional properties". Read more about Nassim's story on An-Nahar [here](#).



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## Hardship to Empowerment: the inspiring journey of AGFE scholar, Abdallah Suleiman

Abdallah Alhaj Suleiman, 29 year-old FAFS master of food technology alumnus (2019), overcame all odds to graduate with excellence. Suleiman achieved his goals with the support of the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education (AGFE) STEM Scholarship and the amazing FAFS faculty. Abdallah was recently featured on the AUB main page, which highlighted his story, and shared his achievements. FAFS congratulates Abdallah Alhaj Suleiman and wishes him continued future success! Read more [here](#).



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## Lectures series and Seminars

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January 8 – **Engineering Diplomacy: A Principled Pragmatic Approach to Govern and Manage Complex Societal Problems | FAFS** – Shafiqul Islam, Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Water Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Director of the Water Diplomacy Program, Visiting URB Scholar. [READ MORE](#)

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January 9 – **On Developing a Sustainable Solution Space to Resolve Water Crisis in Arid Environments | FAFS** – Panel discussion: Dr. Shafiqul Islam, Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Water Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Director of the Water Diplomacy Program, and Visiting URB Scholar. Dr. Wajdi Najem, Vice-Rector and Honorary Dean, Director of the Regional Center for Water and the Environment, Saint Joseph University. [READ MORE](#)

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January 10 – **Understanding and Shaping Environmental Scarcity and Security: Interactions of Climate and Water Security Using Complexity Lens | FAFS** – Shafiqul Islam, Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Water Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Director of the Water Diplomacy Program, Visiting URB Scholar. [READ MORE](#)

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January 15 – **What is Clustering and the Role of Agri-Food Clusters in Crisis | FAFS** – Roger van Hoesel, Managing Director, Food Valley, Netherlands. [READ MORE](#)

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January 20 – **Regional Consultative Technical Meeting | FAO, Cairo** – Dr. Rami Zurayk, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Professor, former chairperson. [READ MORE](#)

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January 24 – **Next Generation of Sustainable Communities conference | UC Davis** – Dr. Yaser Abunnasr, Chairperson of LDEM, Associate Professor, and BLA Program Coordinator. [READ MORE](#)

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January 28 – **Diagnosis of the Lebanese agriculture in light of the latest financial crisis: Impact on 2019–2020 agricultural campaign | FAFS** – Riad Fouad Saade, CEO, Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes Agricoles Libanais (CREAL). [READ MORE](#)

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## Announcements

### SAVE THE DATE

**FAFS Lecture Series | Learning, Service, and Social Transformation in the New Lebanon by Patricia Mihaly Nabti**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Location:** Room 211, FAFS

As part of the FAFS Lecture Series, you are invited to a lecture on **Learning, Service, and Social Transformation in the New Lebanon** by Patricia Mihaly Nabti, Professor, NGO Director, Consultant, and Certified Volunteer Administrator.

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To advertise your upcoming events, please send the event details (*title, location, date, brief description, picture, and contact name & email*) to [fafs\\_com@aub.edu.lb](mailto:fafs_com@aub.edu.lb)

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