“Welcome to our new cohort of FAFS students, our new faculty members, and to a new beginning with FAFS” – Rabi Mohtar, Dean

FAFS is a plastic free faculty. We are distributing recyclable branded bottles. Refilling stations are available at FAFS classrooms and students’ lounge. Please pick up your bottle from the FAFS Students’ Section.

Letter from Dean Mohtar

Dear FAFS family,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the new academic year and a special welcome to our new cohort of FAFS students and new faculty.

During the last several months, we have been busy implementing strategies toward FAFS 2025 vision, including expanding our learning and research portfolios and developing our engagement activities for revitalizing and enhancing Lebanon’s agriculture and food sector as a whole. We are working on several global partnerships, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, and many research and academic institutions across the world. We are building partnerships that will improve our global synergies while focusing on dryland and semi-arid regions, especially those of the Mediterranean region. We were also working on soliciting new funding opportunities for student scholarships and research grants.

I invite each of you to participate in FAFS 2025: help FAFS and the broader agriculture and food science communities achieve a more resilient and more sustainable food system. We have several research, learning, and engagement activities in these areas and continue to build new opportunities and partnerships.

I welcome the new cohort of FAFS students to the departments and programs we offer; I especially welcome the new faculty members in agriculture, who will, I trust, improve and build on our successes in impacting our society both at home and abroad.
I look forward to an exciting year of working with all of you. Please accept my invitation to reach out to me with any ideas and suggestions: your contribution to the FAFS vision are most welcome.

Click [here](#) to watch Dean Mohtar’s welcome video.

### Meet our new FAFS professors!

FAFS is excited and honored to announce the recruitment of professors Sandra Yanni, Mirella Aoun, Walid El Kayal, and Kassahun Asmare Wondim to the Department of Agriculture, and Beata Dreksler to the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management.

#### Sandra Yanni
Dr. Sandra Yanni, Assistant Professor of Agroecology/Soil/Water, Department of Agriculture (AGRI), was appointed for a four year period, beginning fall semester 2019. Dr. Yanni served as a FAFS Research Associate (April to July 2019). She holds a BS in Agriculture and Diploma of Ingenieur Agricole from FAFS (1992) and received an MS in Irrigation, also from FAFS, in 2003. Dr. Yanni earned a PhD in Soil Science, McGill University, Canada (2011). Before joining FAFS, Yanni was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Guelph.

#### Mirella Aoun
Dr. Mirella Aoun, Assistant Research Professor (effective June 1, 2019) will coordinate activities related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Water-Energy-Food-Health Renewable Resources (WEFRAH) initiatives. Before joining AUB in 2016, Dr. Aoun led a research team in organic agriculture at the National Institute in Organic Agriculture (INAB), Quebec, Canada. Aoun was a visiting faculty in horticulture in the Department of Agriculture, 2016 to 2019. Dr. Aoun holds a B.S. in agricultural engineering (July 2000) from Université St-Joseph, Lebanon, an MSc. in microbial ecology (September 2001) from Université Lyon I, Lyon, France, and a PhD in Forest Sciences-Plant Genomics (June 2009) from Laval University, Quebec, Canada. Dr. Aoun completed a Post-doctoral Visiting Fellowship with the Cellulosic Biofuel Network in the Canadian Government Laboratories.
**Walid El Kayal**
Dr. Walid El Kayal, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Agriculture Department (AGRI) received a four year appointment beginning August 15, 2019. Dr. El Kayal received his Ph.D. in Plant Biology from Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France (2004). Following a postdoctoral position at the Plant Biotechnology Center, Michigan Technological University, USA, El Kayal served as a Research Scientist and Instructor at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta and at the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, Canada. Before joining FAFS, Dr. El Kayal was a research scientist and a lecturer at the College of Agriculture at Florida A&M University (FAMU).

**Kassahun Asmare Wondim**
Dr. Kassahun Asmare Wondim, Associate Professor of Animal Health/Nutrition, Department of Agriculture (effective fall 2019), holds a DVM and MSc in Veterinary Medicine from Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (1997 and 2004, respectively). He completed a Ph.D. in Veterinary Medicine and Sciences from the Norwegian School of Veterinary Sciences, Department of Food Safety and Infection Biology, Center for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (2013). Before joining FAFS, Dr. Wondim was a Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Hawassa University.

**Beata Dreksler**
Dr. Beata Dreksler, Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture (in the focus area of Landscape Design and Site Construction), LDEM department (effective fall 2019), received her PhD from Warsaw University of Life Sciences WULS-SGGW, Department of Landscape Architecture, Poland (July 2017), and she holds an M.S. in Landscape Architecture (1998) from the Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Horticulture from the same institution. Dr. Dreksler served as a FAFS Visiting Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture between August 2016-2019.
Welcome to the FAFS Raji and Fawzieh Sinno Student Services Office!
The office works to improve student experiences by consolidating student services in a single location and presenting academic, IT, and career support services. It includes a welcoming reception area.

Student Services Unit
- FAFS Students Services unit provides assistance and advice to all FAFS undergraduate and graduate students during their time at the faculty. The Students Services unit supports improved student experience by:
  o Directing students to seek the help of their academic advisor
  o Solving issues related to academic registration
  o Developing student-mentor relationship
  o Clarifying rules, regulations, and requirements
  o Assisting in working through issues that might hinder academic performance
  o Liaising between students and the registrar, admissions, financial aids, OIP study abroad, graduate councils, and other relevant units.
  o Organizing social events that provide a fun break from study to allow students from all departments to meet and get acquainted
  o Helping students with academic appeals and complaints
  o Offering compassion and understanding in working with students
- The FAFS student services team includes: Ms. Tharwat Haddad, Student Records Officer, and Ms. Rabia Koubayssi, Assistant for Student Services – extensions 4424 and 4408, and thhaddad@aub.edu.lb and rk09@aub.edu.lb, respectively.
Career Services Unit

- Career services development is a life-long process: the mission of FAFS Career Services is to provide support to FAFS students as they discover and make optimal use of their knowledge, skills, and interests in pursuit of a meaningful and purposeful career.
- The Career Services unit assists FAFS students by:
  o Offering a wide range of out-of-class experiences to prepare them for the competitive job market
  o Providing job search knowledge and skills that lead to a successful future
  o Building partnerships with communities in industry
- Contact Mrs. Alia Alameddine, Career Services Officer, extension 4421, email aa87@aub.edu.lb
The IT department partners with faculty, staff and students to help transform teaching, research, and student life at AUB. As faculty and students, you have access to many University electronic services such as Moodle eLearning system, Banner AUBsis, Library Management System, Email & Office 365, University Wifi & Eduroam, and more. The [service catalog](#) provides a comprehensive listing of the available Information Technology services.

- Get started by activating your AUBnet account for access to the available services:
  - Go to IT Website: [http://www.aub.edu.lb/it](http://www.aub.edu.lb/it)
  - Under, Getting Started / AUB Students, click on Account Creation and Management
  - Then, [Activate your AUBnet Account](#)

- Reach out via the following channels:
  - [Service Desk portal](#)
  - [it.helpdesk@aub.edu.lb](mailto:it.helpdesk@aub.edu.lb)
  - Extension 4000
  - Walk in to Lower Campus - Service Desk in FAFS room 131

- The FAFS IT team comprises:
  - Dania El-Ashi, IT Manager – extension: 4403 and email: [de21@aub.edu.lb](mailto:de21@aub.edu.lb)
  - IT Support team: Ghassan Khalifeh, IT Service Desk Team lead, Hadi Moussalli and Wael Zaouroua, IT Service Desk Support specialists – all available at the above mentioned communication channels
Connect with FAFS!

FAFS Website: [www.aub.edu.lb/fafs](http://www.aub.edu.lb/fafs)
FAFS Twitter: [www.twitter.com/aub_fafs](http://www.twitter.com/aub_fafs)
FAFS Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/aub.fafs](http://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs)

Begin your new journey at FAFS with hard work, passion and dedication. Together, we will create a successful future!

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