



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI

La Gazette

Issue 10 June 2020

- 02 Message from the Vice Chancellor
- 04 Rewind
- 07 Board of Trustees
- 08 Face to face
- 10 A minute with
- 12 Fighting against COVID-19
- 14 Around the world
- 22 Advising & resources
- 26 Go Foxes!
- 28 Reforest'Action
- 30 Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence
- 32 The Career Centre
- 34 Our bookshelf
- 36 Empowering Young Women in Finance
- 40 Alumni Council Election



Message from the Vice Chancellor



Dear All,

Last January, I took office with great enthusiasm as I am convinced that Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi offers a unique contribution to the higher education landscape in the United Arab Emirates, and its potential for development.

A few weeks later, the Covid-19 pandemic marked an unprecedented challenge, testing our capability to adapt. No one can rejoice at the sight of empty classrooms nor at the sadness of a campus starved from its lifeblood, our people. Long planned, exciting events had to be postponed. While our shared priority was to preserve and protect the health of everyone, we learned to take advantage of this challenge and innovate, re-invent and renew ourselves to be better prepared for future challenges. We rapidly and efficiently shifted our teaching to e-learning platforms, we implemented new mechanisms to assist our students and support the ones who needed it the most. We adapted exam conditions to preserve the conditions of equity and quality that underpins our degrees. We overcame these challenges thanks to all those that lie at the heart of our university; dedicated professors and researchers, attentive to our students' needs, competent and motivated administrative staff and finally, the many willing and passionate students who demonstrated patience and a sense of collective responsibility that I would like to acknowledge.

I am also proud that we, as a team, were able to maintain the course of our new strategic plan and that the new impulse of Sorbonne University has not been broken. We remain committed to our ambitions; SCAI is being developed and the chairs of excellence in artificial intelligence are falling into place. We are expanding our academic offer and more candidates are showing interest in joining our university. Thus, we now need to look towards the future.

Before we do so, have a break and take the time to read our new edition of La Gazette. You will travel remotely and discover stories from our community members.

Happy reading!

Silvia Serrano

Vice Chancellor

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi



Rewind



Soft Launch of the Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence

Literature Majlis: the 2019 Goncourt Prize

8th December 2019

On this occasion, Vital Rambaud and the students' members of the jury « Le Choix Goncourt de l'Orient » discussed literature news, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi choice for « Le Choix Goncourt de l'Orient » and the winner of the 2019 Goncourt Prize Tous les hommes n'habitent pas le monde de la même façon, by Jean-Paul Dubois.

The Sorbonne Diwan – The Essence of Oud by virtuoso and singer Mustafa Said (in partnership with CEFAS)

22nd January 2020

Between explanations and live examples, Mustafa Said performed an aesthetic comparison between Lute

Playing in the Middle-East and in the Arabian Peninsula.

Korean New Year Festival

23rd January 2020

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi celebrated the Korean New Year Festival and allowed all the visitors to discover Korean products, delicacies and music with the music band Badi.

Soft Launch of the Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence

26th January 2020

The soft launch included the Signature of the Chairs of Excellence of the Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence – Abu Dhabi with Thales Group and Total. The launch also included a presentation "Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Challenges, and International Perspective" by Dr. Jim

Kurose, Former Assistant Director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering at the US National Science Foundation, Former Assistant Director for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science Technology Policy and Visiting Professor and Advisor at SCAL.

[Click here to watch or re-watch the presentation.](#)

The Launch of the Career Centre

26th January 2020

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi celebrated the opening of the Career Centre which is a centralised career services unit. Its mission is to help students at all levels of academic study gain professional skills and develop career readiness.

Ethics and Tolerance: philosophical perspectives on the Other

28th January 2020

A workshop designed as preparation for an international conference on tolerance to be organised at SUAD in 2020 by the Philosophy and Sociology Department, with the partnership of the Abu Dhabi Department for Education and Knowledge (ADEK). This workshop gathered students from all fields of study who are interested in the concept of tolerance and who want to discuss the philosophical problems and challenges it poses, in such key domains as ethics, political philosophy, the social sciences and metaphysics.

Abu Dhabi Science Festival

30th January - 8th February 2020

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi took part in Abu Dhabi Science Festival and presented experiments that help students discover more about the power of electromagnetism

Literature Majlis: Olivier Gallet & Christophe Pradeau: what role for digital humanities? The example of "HyperApollinaire".

9th February 2020

Lecturers at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, Olivier Gallet and Christophe Pradeau discussed the role of digital humanities through the example of "HyperApollinaire".

CinemaNa – CAPHARNAÛM, by Nadine Labaki

17th February 2020

Capharnaum is a world acclaimed drama, nominated at Cannes Festival, Golden Globes Awards and more. After the movie, Nadine Labaki was available on video call to answer questions. CinemaNa is organised in collaboration with NYUAD and the Arts Center at NYUAD and supported by the Palestinian Business Council

Open Day 2020

19th February 2020

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi organised the Open Day to allow students, parents and counselors to discover the undergraduate, postgraduate and executive education programmes. The Open Day included tours and informative lessons about different topics.

Hay Festival – Wole Soyinka, Nigerian Literature Nobel Laureate

25th February 2020

In this event, everyone had the chance to meet African Nobel Prize of Literature, poet and playwright Wole Soyinka.

The Sorbonne Diwan – A Taste of The Nation: Food, Heritage and Identity in the UAE (in partnership with CEFAS)

26th February 2020

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD) and CEFAS organised a panel discussion in which three key speakers discussed how Emirati cuisines shape the society.

Hay Festival – What Can Poetry Say in Our Time

27th February 2020

This event was part of Hay Festival and took place at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. The panel discussion hosted Adonis, Yang Lian, Zuleikha Aburisha, Volker Braun, Pierre Joris and Serge Pey to discuss the role and goals of poetry in today's world.

Hay Festival – Introduction to the Knowledge of the Universe

27th February 2020

An entertaining talk with Dr. Stephen Hawking's former PhD student, Dr.Christophe Galfard.



Abu Dhabi Science Festival



Prof. Silvia Serrano
Vice Chancellor
Management
Extension: 9101

New joiners



Amjed Mohammad
Senior Database
Administrator
Digital
Transformation
& Innovation
Extension: 9505



Sarfaraz Ahmed
Consultant
Application Support
Digital
Transformation
& Innovation
Extension: 9836



Priyanka Ramesh
Section Head
– Advising and
Resources
Student Affairs
Extension: 9300



Stavros Christopolous
Assistant Professor
Sciences &
Engineering
Extension: 9141



Alejandro Tejedor
Assistant Professor
Sciences &
Engineering
Extension: 9416



Caroline Autret
Head of
Department
Archaeology and
History of Art
Extension: 9124

Board of Trustees

H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Professor Jean Chambaz is the President of Sorbonne University and the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Sorbonne Abu Dhabi is managed by Professor Silvia Serrano Vice Chancellor and two Deputy Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs and Administrative Affairs.

H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Minister of State

Professor Jean Chambaz

Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees
President of Sorbonne University

H.E. Salama Ajlan Alameemi

Member of the Board of Trustees
Director General of the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma'an

H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Al Khaja

Member of the Board of Trustees
Chief of Staff at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

H.E. Tareq Abdul Raheem Al Hosani

Member of the Board of Trustees
Chief Executive Officer at Tawazun Economic Council

Mr. Mohammed Khalifa Al Nuaimi

Member of the Board of Trustees
Director of Education Affairs Office at Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court Undersecretary Office

Professor Alain Tallon

Member of the Board of Trustees
Dean of the Humanities Faculty at Sorbonne University

H.E. François Delattre

Member of the Board of Trustees
Secretary General of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

Mrs. Pascale Sourisse

Member of the Board of Trustees
President & CEO Thales International

Mr. Stéphane Michel

Member of the Board of Trustees
President of Middle East/North Africa, Exploration & Production Division at Total

//
**Do your best
with calmness
and inner peace**

Face to face

Dr. Majed Al Khemeiri

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs,
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

You have earned two bachelor degrees, two master degrees, and a PHD from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, how did these certificates serve your career and knowledge?

From my point of view, liking what you study is the first step of achievement. Every language, subject, or knowledge a person acquires gives him or her a quality advantage and this qualifies him or her to make better decisions and choices in his or her life.

Why did you choose to write about sustainability and strategic plan in your thesis?

I chose to write about sustainable development and strategic planning because this is the subject of the hour and the future of humanity on this planet, ensuring that all segments of human society are well-balanced, in addition to the balance between the needs of the present and the future generations. The United Arab Emirates has also paid exceptional attention to sustainable development and has made it the focus of its concerns.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed announced that 2020's motto will be "Towards the Next 50", How is Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi moving towards the next 50 from your point of view?

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed always accentuates that the human being is an essential foundation for development, and a major part of human development takes place through universities, and therefore universities must have an important role to play in achieving the vision of the country's leadership.

Being a high achiever, what piece of advice do you give to students?

I do not know if I am a high achiever, and I do not think I am in a position to give advice, but I can share my experience which might benefit those who read it.

Firstly, in my opinion, I believe that focusing and concentration are one of the most important qualities to increase productivity. We are faced

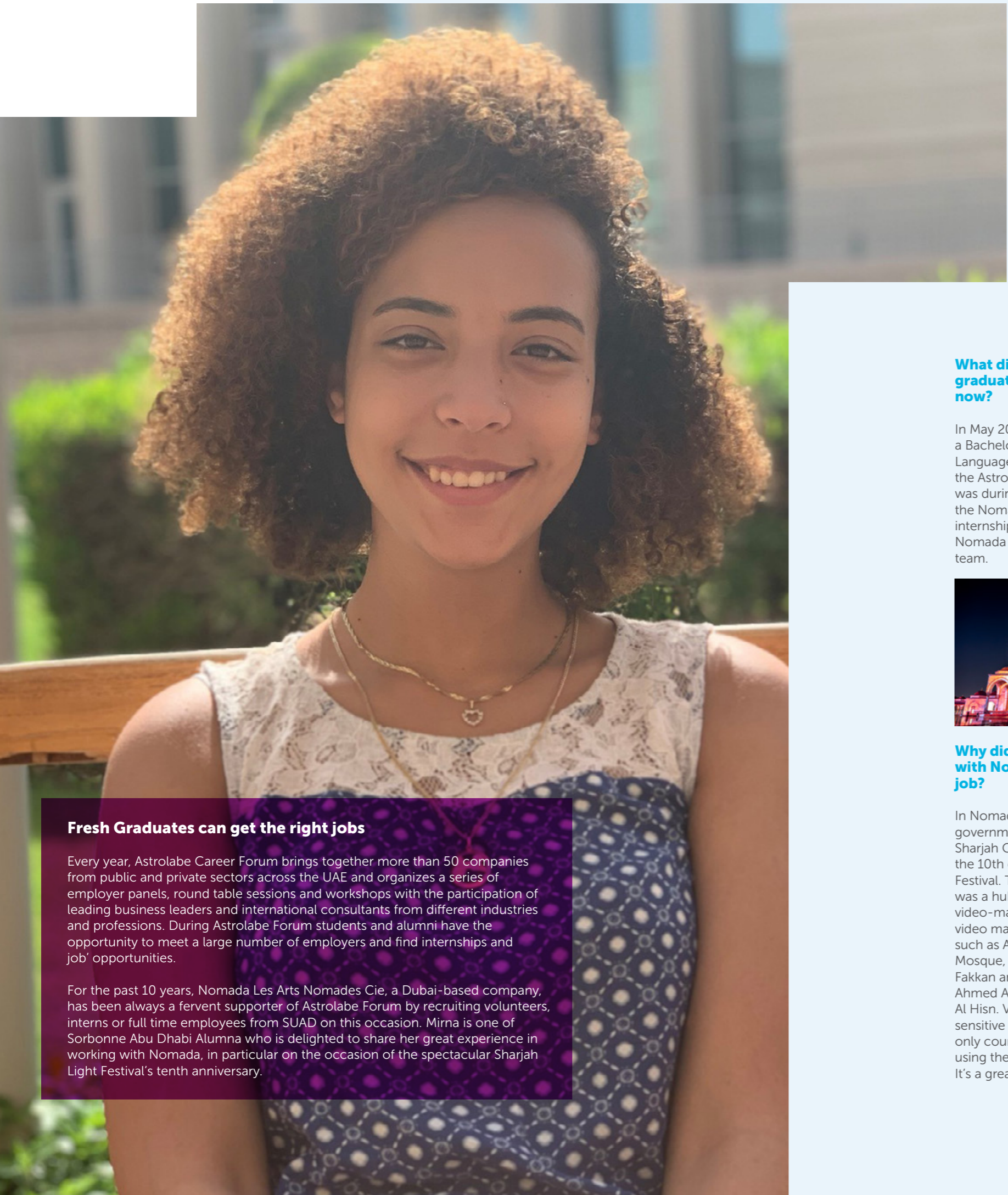
with so many distractions nowadays; therefore, it is better to learn how to keep our focus to be able to face these challenges.

Secondly, continuous improvement. In my point of view, to achieve our goals in life it is better to progress step by step. Life is like a marathon, where you need to keep energy till the end, so in my opinion, it is better to progress slowly rather than in big fluctuating jumps.

Thirdly, maintain internal peace. Goals are not achieved through continuous demand and urgency, and there is no objection to persistence and perseverance while maintaining internal peace.

What quote do you live by?

Do your best with calmness and inner peace, and then you will feel comfortable and more confident. Success is beyond our control, but what you can do is to always seek the best in what you do.



A minute with

Mirna Nafea
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi alumna

What did you do following your graduation and what do you do now?

In May 2019, I graduated with a Bachelor in Applied Foreign Languages. In March 2019, I attended the Astrolabe Career Forum and it was during the forum that I visited the Nomada booth and landed an internship offer. I am still working with Nomada in the business development team.



Why did you choose to work with Nomada? Is it your dream job?

In Nomada, we deal with governmental events including the Sharjah Carnival, Sharjah Youth and the 10th edition of the Sharjah Light Festival. The Sharjah Light Festival was a hub of ideas that hosted several video-mapping installations. We did video mapping of several locations such as Al Noor Mosque, Sharjah Mosque, The House of Justice in Khor Fakkan and the Sheikh Rashid Bin Ahmed Al Qasimi Mosque in Dibba Al Hisn. Video mapping mosques is a sensitive topic overall and UAE is the only country that projects mosques using the video mapping technique. It's a great pleasure to be part of the

only team that does these kinds of exceptional projects.

What was your role in the festival?

I was more engaged in the production aspect of the festival as I had to make sure everyone arrived safely, provided transportation, worked with volunteers and solved problems related to logistics. Additionally, for the 10th edition, we had to produce a book that consisted of all the memories reflecting the last ten years. I participated in editing the content.

What are the challenges that you faced?

The 10th edition of the Sharjah light Festival was a very special event. The vision of the management and the Chairman was applied for the very first time, which aimed to include students in festival activities and to empower them to produce a full show.

Students from the University of Sharjah and the American University of Sharjah participated and produced their own show under the direction of a French artist. A student from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi was the voice over artist for one of the movies in the



festival. We also had local artists and artists from overseas attend. We got 10 million visitors attend the festival in 10 days culminating in a hugely successful event that required a lot of work and preparation. Understanding the dynamics and how things work was a challenge to me especially since I was still a fresh graduate. No one will be able to brief you fully because events produce unexpected situations that you need to solve and adapt to.

Working with students was enjoyable but challenging. When you work with experts, you get some sort of guidance, but when you work with students, you need to be the guide.



What is your advice for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi students?

During the Astrolabe Career Forum, we get the chance to meet different companies from different fields, helping us to learn about the different skills and requirements from companies in different sectors. This experience can prepare you well for your career and help you build your CV based on your preferred fields' needs and requirements. So do not hesitate to attend the forum and present yourself.

Fresh Graduates can get the right jobs

Every year, Astrolabe Career Forum brings together more than 50 companies from public and private sectors across the UAE and organizes a series of employer panels, round table sessions and workshops with the participation of leading business leaders and international consultants from different industries and professions. During Astrolabe Forum students and alumni have the opportunity to meet a large number of employers and find internships and job' opportunities.

For the past 10 years, Nomada Les Arts Nomades Cie, a Dubai-based company, has been always a fervent supporter of Astrolabe Forum by recruiting volunteers, interns or full time employees from SUAD on this occasion. Mirna is one of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumna who is delighted to share her great experience in working with Nomada, in particular on the occasion of the spectacular Sharjah Light Festival's tenth anniversary.

Fighting against COVID-19: A Sorbonne Alumna shares her story during the Pandemic

Farah, you have been directly exposed and even “immersed” for more than two months to an unimaginable and previously unheard of situation which has been extremely difficult and challenging for everyone. Can you tell us more about your personal and professional experience with the COVID-19 virus?

Yes indeed! I never imagined that during my studies and at the beginning of my professional career, the world would undergo such a global healthcare and humanitarian crisis.

I have been working with the Ambulatory Healthcare Services at SEHA for over two years now, following my Masters Degree in Health Economics from SUAD. At the beginning and until the onset of the pandemic, I was working at the Quality Department as a Performance Management Officer. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic started - and due to the urgent needs of the country - my responsibilities and role changed rapidly and I became involved in the efforts to combat the pandemic in the UAE.

Currently, I am working on the COVID-19 National Screening Service’s drive thru’ project which was launched at the request of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and

Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Following a visit to the first COVID-19 screening drive thru centre in Zayed Sports City, His Highness was so impressed with what he saw, that he directed us to replicate the centre across the UAE within 10 days, making this the first time that SEHA ever operated outside the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The purpose of these drive thru centres is to maximise the number of COVID-19 screening tests conducted and to ensure the early detection of positive cases.

I am very proud to say that we, at AHS managed to meet the 10-day deadline and fully built a total of 12 new drive thru screening centres which operate throughout the seven emirates!



Farah El Beshar

Following this, the project was extended with the addition of six other centres and today we have achieved a large network of 18 fully operational facilities.

What is your exact role in this project?

Almost 3 months ago, I was asked by our CEO to be the main coordinator for this project as he was looking for someone with strong communication skills, very good knowledge of the healthcare sector, and someone that is good with numbers. That is when my Master in Health Economics degree from SUAD came in very handy!

I currently coordinate 13 teams (comprising a total of 317 staff members) from around the UAE. My objective is to share with them, the pilot centre experience and train them on the whole screening process from A to Z. Separately I also make sure that the results of the daily screening statistics are accurate and the project database is updated on a daily basis.

In addition, I reach out to international and national entities and companies to enhance the quality of services and meet operational needs and requirements.

Did you ever find yourself scared during this period?

Yes of course I was scared and my fear still exists, particularly for my family when I return home after work, since I am exposed to a high-risk environment on a daily basis. There were times when I considered reducing my involvement in the project. But life’s challenges are not supposed to paralyze you and I knew in my heart that I had to keep going to succeed. There was no other option but to face my fear and to continue to serve people and my country.



We all understand and believe that COVID-19 will change the healthcare sector forever in many regards as well as other sectors. On a personal level, how is your daily professional life affecting you?

You are right. The healthcare sector will change drastically, and we are already focusing our efforts on new strategies and plans to be developed for the future.

Frankly speaking and on a personal level, living and working at the centre of the pandemic and crisis has not been easy. In the past three months, sleepless nights, “weekend-less” weeks, and being on call for 24 hours has become my new norm. Nevertheless, I do everything I can to keep a good dose of serenity and a positive spirit in my daily work.

On the other hand, fighting against COVID-19 has been eye-opening, and has forced me to evolve as a person both in terms of personal values and professional orientation. It has also made me more assertive about my career path as it has given me the chance to play an important role in serving my beloved country. I have realised that working in the healthcare sector is definitely my calling.

(If you ask me this question once the pandemic is over, I believe my answer will be a bit more developed and

nuanced. I have to admit that I haven’t had the time to self-reflect yet, but I promise to keep you posted!)

In a few words, how would you describe the mindset needed to fight the present crisis due to COVID-19?

Teamwork, resilience, selflessness and determination without which it would have been difficult to go on!

We know that you have been elected recently to be part of the new Sorbonne Alumni Council and that Officers’ election should be organised very soon. How do you feel about this?

I was ecstatic to hear that I am among the 14 members who have been elected and for that, I thank every alumni who trusted and voted for me. I believe that my current experience during the COVID-19 pandemic will equip me with the motivation and energy to accomplish big goals together with the Council members, both for the benefit of the alumni community and the university.

I have always been proud to be a SUAD alumna and I still attend major events organised at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi while visiting the amazing professors who educated and shaped me. My learning experience was unique and I really enjoyed my 2 year journey at SUAD. I still use my graduation mug everywhere I go! Today I feel that as much as SUAD has given me, it is my turn now to give something back.

Bravo Farah for your amazing work and good luck with the Council Officers’ elections!

Interview conducted by
The Career Centre



Spain

The Alhambra and Generalife Gardens, Granada

The Alhambra is an ancient palace and fortress complex located in Granada, southern Spain and includes several towers, buildings, gardens, walls and a mosque. It was named for the reddish walls and towers that surrounded the citadel: al-qal'a al-hamra in Arabic means red fort or castle.

The palace was constructed in the 14th century by the Nasrid sultans and is the only surviving Palatine city of the Islamic Golden Age, and a remnant of the Nasrid Dynasty, the last Islamic kingdom in Western Europe. The Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions. It is considered the artistic hub of Spain's Islamic period.



**Top
tourist
attractions**

Mallorca

The name of the island comes from an old Latin phrase 'insula maior' that means 'larger island', as Mallorca is the largest of all Spanish islands. Humans have inhabited the island since 7000 BC. Owing to its important geographic location in the middle of the Mediterranean, many armies have attempted to invade Mallorca. The most famous invasion was that of King Jaime of Aragon in 1229, which marked the beginnings of Mallorca as we know it today. The island has become the most favoured island for tourists for many years.

Cuenca

Situated between Madrid and Valencia, Cuenca is a marvellous example of a medieval city, built on the steep sides of a mountain. The many "hanging houses" are built right up to the cliff edge making Cuenca one of the most striking towns in Spain and a gem in the province of Castilla La Mancha.



Gastronomy

Tapas

In Spain, there is a verb "tapear" which means "eating tapas"; this can tell us a lot about the cultural role that Tapas has in Spanish food! You will usually enjoy free Tapas whenever you order a drink in Spain, especially in cities such as Madrid, Granada and Barcelona.



Gazpacho

This dish can be served in more than one way. It can be warm or cold, served as a soup, a salad or even a stew. It is generally made from ripe tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, bread, salt, peppers and cucumber. The ingredients are blended together until smooth, which makes for a perfect dish during the summer months.



Around the world



Paella

Paella is a traditional rice dish and one of the most popular Spanish foods. Paella originated in Valencia. There are three main types of Paella:

Paella Valenciana

Made from white rice, vegetables, chicken, duck and rabbit meat, land snails, beans and spices.

Seafood Paella

Made from seafood, seasoning and rice.

Paella Mixta

A mixture usually made from rice, chicken, seafood (including clams), vegetables, olive oil, saffron and other spices.

The Friends of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Association

The Friends of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Association was established under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. It is supported by the French Ambassador to the UAE.

The Association was founded in Spring 2007 as a result of a group collaboration between Emirati and French residents in the UAE who are keen to support the development of a prestigious and ambitious project; while bringing together renowned Emirati and French companies as strategic partners in the outreach and development of Sorbonne Abu

Dhabi. Members of the Association believe that education and culture are a crucial part in the economic development and the wellbeing of the community. The Association's primary role is to seek funds to support the university's scholarships and to facilitate the transition of graduates into the professional world.

The Association Executive Committee consists of:

President

Mrs. Fairouz Villain

Vice-Presidents

H.E. Saeed Al Hajiri, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)

Mr. Sultan Al Hajji, Alliance Française Abu Dhabi

General Secretary

Mrs. Asma Al Ghanem, Doctors without Borders

Committee Members

Dr. Usra Soffan, National Center for Documentation and Research

Mrs. Eudeline de Tinguy, Thinkers & Doers

Mrs. Raphaele Francois-Poncet, Baker & McKenzie/Habib Al Mulla

Mr. Hussain Al Jaziri, Ja'Alwan, Al Jaziri & Associates

Prof. Silvia Serrano, Vice Chancellor of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

Members of Honour

Prof. Jean Chambaz, President of Sorbonne University

H.E. Ludovic Pouille, French Ambassador to the UAE

Current Sponsors

Gold



Silver



Bronze





SUAD Counselling Office is now virtual!

The Counselling Office at the Advising and Resources Section provides guidance and support to students and the campus community to help them with social or personal matters. Our team of professional psychologists and psychiatrists, known as the SUAD Counsellors, are here to assist all students and staff to develop the skills and confidence needed to function independently. Now, SUAD offers a virtual counselling office to help you anytime and anywhere. Counsellors are available three times a week to make sure that everyone is supported with his or her needs.

With confidentiality being our utmost priority, our counsellors will take care of you with professional discretion.

The Counselling Office is aware of the important role of language in counselling or therapy as the language you choose to speak says a lot about your sense of identity. Owing to the fact that Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomes students from different parts of the world, the counselling office offers sessions in 4 different languages including Arabic, English, French and German.

The virtual counselling office can help support all Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi students with:

- Managing relationships with family, professors and peers
- Help manage any social Issues
- Assist with the development of skills and confidence to function more independently and effectively
- Offer information and referrals to other support agencies
- Provide support to encourage and improve learning

Give your mind a bit of peace and know that we are always here for you, anytime and in every way. We can support you!

For further information, email the advising and resources section at priyanka.ramesh@sorbonne.ae

Advising & resources

Virtual Peer Tutoring Programme

Since distance E-learning has begun, virtual tutors are now available to help student with any problems during this difficult period.

Peer Tutoring by the Advising and Resources section is a programme where we assign a senior student (peer tutor) in the same academic programme as the one that junior students are enrolled in, to assist them with their academic concerns.

The idea of the Peer Tutoring Programme is not to teach a student course material from the beginning, but to strengthen their abilities in the course by giving them tips to excel further, and to be a constant support system.

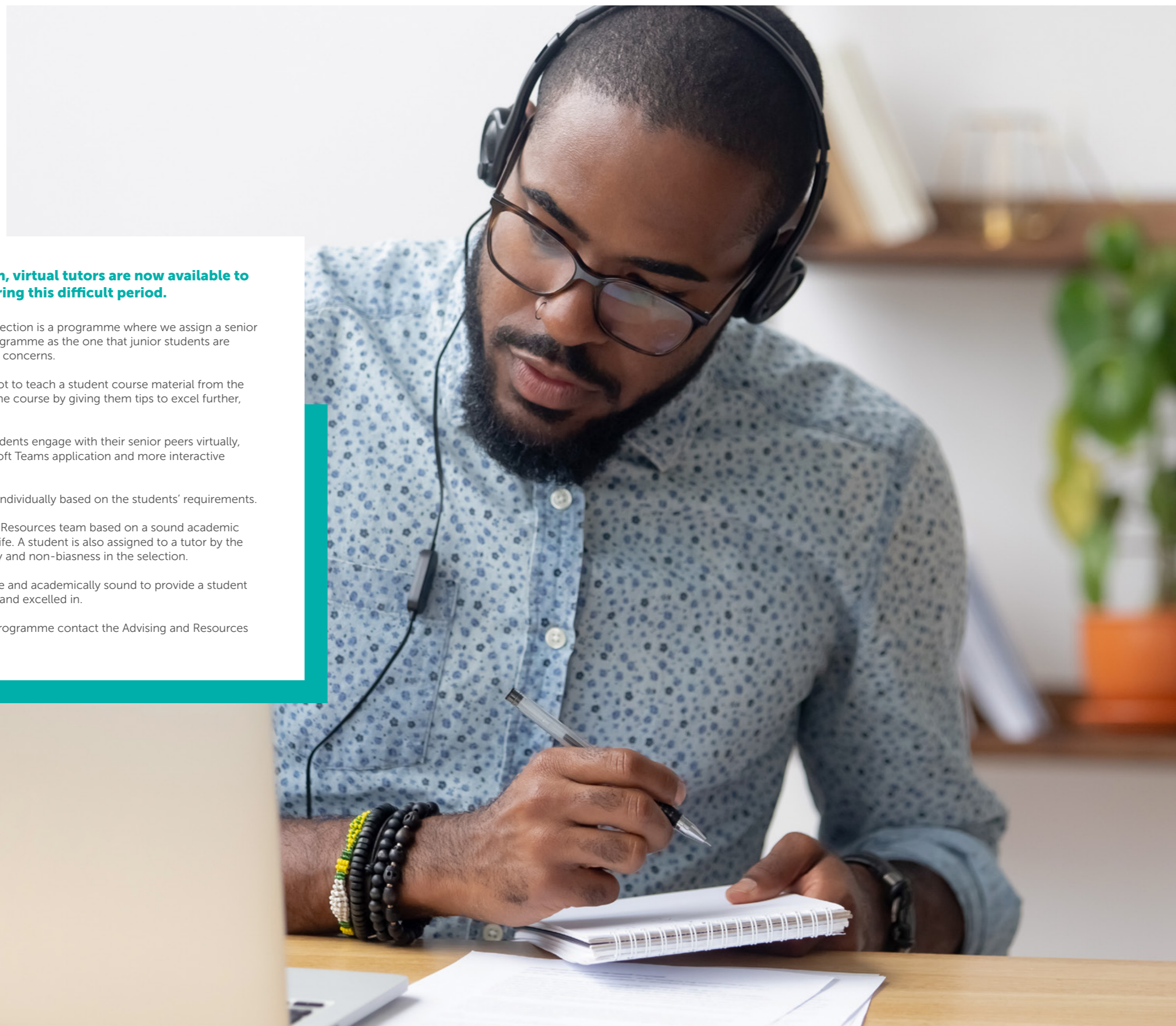
The virtual programme is designed to help students engage with their senior peers virtually, with online interactive sessions via the Microsoft Teams application and more interactive virtual tools.

Tutoring sessions are held either in groups or individually based on the students' requirements.

Each peer tutor is chosen by the Advising and Resources team based on a sound academic standing and their engagement with campus life. A student is also assigned to a tutor by the Advising and Resources team to ensure quality and non-biasness in the selection.

All peer tutors are multilingual, culturally aware and academically sound to provide a student with the same material that they have studied and excelled in.

For further information on the Peer tutoring programme contact the Advising and Resources team at afrah.mir@sorbonne.ae



Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi places sport on the centre stage, as sport is important and well recognised for its physical, mental, and social benefits. Nearly 20 sporting activities are offered through dedicated structures. The university offers students several opportunities for discovery and development while participating in events and championships with local and regional universities.

Students have the option to choose whether or not to integrate sports as part of their curriculum to earn a qualification (depending on their major and on the activity).

The Sports Department also organises open days for try-outs as well as off campus weekends including desert trips, camping, hiking, outdoor mountain climbing and other activities to enrich our student's lives. It also challenges its staff and students to get involved with the community in fitness mazes, promising loads of fun.

Foxes encourages volunteering for international competitions and attending sport conferences, trainings and workshops.

Go Foxes!



Important Information

Sport activities and training

- The practice: we require regular attendance.
- Information and communication: the list of available sports activities, timings and coach details are available at the sports building with the student jobs section from Sunday to Wednesday, 6:00pm to 10:30pm and the sports department (room no. 2.023). Alternatively, email sports@sorbonne.ae

Students registered in optional sports

Mandatory: 12 sessions/classes per semester. 1 justified absence allowed.

Signature of this card by the coach is mandatory (only one signature per week)

For more details, please contact the student jobs at the sports building or the sports department.

Assessment procedures and number of ECTS:

2 to 5 ECTS: View the rules of the University with the Sports Department and with the coordinator of your department.

How to obtain a locker?

A locker provided by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is available at the sports building reception. You must return it at the end of the academic year. In case of loss or replacement of the key, the deposit of 100 AED will be kept by the Finance Department.

The locker key must not be copied.

Sports Activities

- Climbing
- Ski
- Spinning
- Self Defence
- Yoga
- Circuit
- Futsal
- Aikibudo
- Volleyball
- Chess
- Bellydancing
- Paddleboarding
- Golf
- Bowling
- Squash
- Crossfit
- Capoeira
- Natation Zoomers
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Breakdancing
- Hip Hop
- Zumba
- Escalade bouldering
- Beach volleyball
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Fitness
- Muay thai
- Football
- Touch rugby

And much more...



“Reforest’Action”

an initiative to offset
carbon footprint



Herve Marc, the founder of L’atelier 4.0 and a guest lecturer at Sorbonne University both in Paris and Abu Dhabi, has decided to manage his business activities with a limited impact. He has chosen to participate in the initiative “Reforest’Action” to offset his carbon footprint by planting trees.

Following his visit to Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, he decided to offset the carbon footprint of his trip. He planted 17 trees in the name of “Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi” last month in France.

Please introduce yourself.

I’m Herve Marc, I’m the founder of L’atelier 4.0, a hybrid marketing school for entrepreneurs; which is based in France. In my activity, I propose both marketing and communications training to small business owners; I also coach young entrepreneurs in their projects’ creation phase. Finally, I also have the pleasure to be a guest lecturer at Sorbonne University both in Paris and in Abu Dhabi.



What is “L’atelier 4.0”’s mission, how does it reduce the effect of global warming?

I started my business with a very clear vision. I believe that it is the duty of every entrepreneur to take an action against global warming. I don’t believe that only large industries and polluters should feel concerned. It is the duty of every business owner to think about their business model and how to deal with the challenge of global warming. Since the creation of my business, I looked for ways of reducing my impacts, obviously, I work in the business service sector, therefore; I’m not manufacturing nor distributing anything. However, I’m travelling! To understand my impact, I had to rethink my business model and be as conscious as possible on travelling activity’s impact on the planet. To reduce my impact, I tend to use public transportation rather than using cars, I cycle more, and I tend to reduce the usage of paperwork by working mostly on Skype and use offline and online tutorials, which also enabled me to meet my clients without the need to travel.

Tell us more about your initiative of planting 17 trees for Sorbonne Abu Dhabi.

Reforestaction is a French organisation that organises tree plantation mostly in France and also in other part of the world. It connects all planting initiative with small companies and individuals who want to reduce their carbon footprint. In particular, Reforestaction proposes to offset a carbon footprint by planting trees in all regions of France. I like the idea of supporting projects close to me. I even plan to visit the forest of Viam in Corrèze where I have already planted 72 trees. In 2019, I planted 46 trees in total.

In addition, I wanted to make sure that I can contribute to the French way of life as opposed to purely focusing on the main initiatives in the Amazon or questions about Australia today, there are issues also in Europe. Secondly, it’s a way to connect with my own clients, so rather than keeping that initiative to

myself, I will offer the trees that I plant to all my clients, and this is why I have decided to offer 17 trees to Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. During my trip to Abu Dhabi, I had to travel using a plane, and within the country itself, I had to travel by cars; consequently; I had to offset that footprint by planting 17 trees in the centre of France under the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi name.

What is your advice to everyone to help in reducing the effect of global warming?

My advice is to mostly focus on your motivation rather than actions only. My first recommendation would be to start acting consciously even if you think that your impact is small. Each of us must feel legitimate to take this individual approach. It is true that the major impact is at the level of large companies and certain highly carbon-intensive sectors. I remain convinced that the example of everyone can move mindsets more quickly.

My second recommendation would be measuring your business impact, the simple act of calculating your business carbon impact. For example, I have travelled more than 22,000 km by public transportation and 2500 km by car in 2019. I printed 8 kg of paper for my personal consumption alone in 1 year. I do not make judgments on the importance of these figures but at least it allows me to see how I am further improving my practice by changing certain parameters. There are plenty of free sites to calculate your carbon footprint and take an action!

My third recommendation would be to listen to your intuition and desires. This should not be a constraint or a communication process.

So, it is necessary to find actions close to your activity or your passions... Planting trees may not be what you most like... you could be more interested in tackling social issues, children’s’ education, Water pollution issues, biodiversity, air! Know yourself and chose your motivation!

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Opens the Sorbonne Center for Artificial intelligence

Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence headquartered in Abu Dhabi was inaugurated at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi campus in 26th of January 2020, in the presence of His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Professor Jean Chambaz, President of Sorbonne University and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Mr. Christophe Sassolas, President Total E&P UAE and Total Country Chair in the UAE and Mr. Bernard Roux, CEO Thales in the UAE.

The launch also included a presentation Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Challenges, and International Perspective by Dr. Jim Kurose, Former Assistant Director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering at the US National Science Foundation, Former Assistant Director for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science Technology Policy and Visiting Professor and Advisor at SCAI.

The goal of SCAI is to promote the development of interdisciplinary research focused on Artificial Intelligence, to meet the scientific challenges of tomorrow and the needs of the UAE and the region. SCAI in Abu Dhabi will mirror and work closely with SCAI in Paris.

The center will host two Excellence chairs in artificial intelligence funded by Total and Thales Group, as well as state-of-the-art, high performance computing units capable of delivering exceptional computing power to be used by research teams.

It will also develop innovative interdisciplinary projects in four main fields:

- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Health and Medicine
- Climate, Environment and Exploration of the Universe
- Digital Humanities

Our partners

Thales Group

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global technology leader shaping the world of tomorrow today. The Group provides solutions, services and products to customers in the aeronautics, space, transport, digital identity and security, and defence markets. With 83,000 employees in 68 countries, Thales generated sales of €19 billion in 2019.

Thales is investing in particular in digital innovations — connectivity, Big Data, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity — technologies that support businesses, organizations and governments in their decisive moments.

Total

Total is a major energy player that produces and markets fuels, natural gas and low-carbon electricity. Our 100,000 employees are committed to better energy that is safer, more affordable, cleaner and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, our ambition is to become the responsible energy major.

Total is present in the UAE across all elements of the energy sector. It has interests in several joint ventures, plus operational presence through its affiliates Total Abu Al Bukhoosh, Total Marketing Middle East blending plant, Total E&P UAE Unconventional Gas B.V. and via its trading branch TOTSA. Total is one of the few international oil & gas companies, in partnership with the majority of Abu Dhabi's oil and gas operating companies and other energy companies.

The Career Centre

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi celebrated the opening of the Career Centre in the 26th of January 2020. The Career Centre is Sorbonne Abu Dhabi's centralised career services unit. Its mission is to help students at all levels of academic study gain professional skills and develop career readiness by providing high quality resources, materials and events focusing on career exploration, decision making and professional experiences that will prepare them for a lifetime of career success. The Centre collaborates with employers on a daily basis representing a wide variety of industries across the UAE to promote the recruitment of students and graduates for internships and full-time positions.

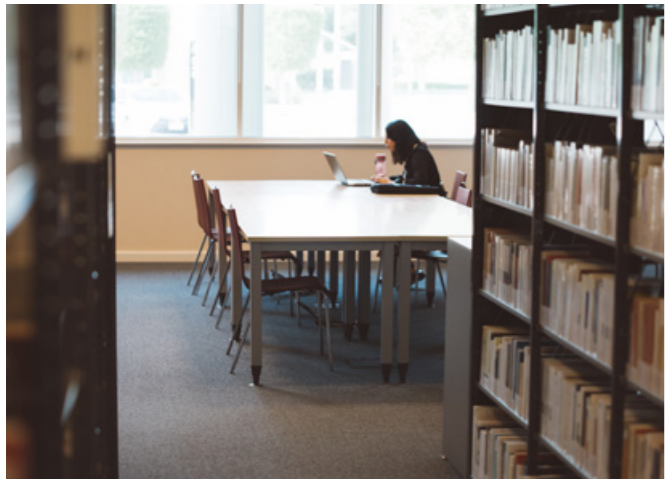
Stay tuned, the Career Centre will be launching soon a new online career portal to better deliver more efficient recruitment services and facilitate student access to valuable career resources all year long.

//

"Universities play a critical role in getting their students on the right career journey. Having a dedicated career center to facilitate that journey is a great step for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, and allows prospective employers to engage first hand with talented students who will become great contributors to Abu Dhabi's economy in the years to come. Mubadala's Legal and Governance Unit is proud of its collaboration with Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi over the years, which has benefited both parties and helped elevate the talent level of Sorbonne graduates through workshops, internships and other interactive engagements. We look forward to continued collaboration, and are proud to be part of the ongoing success of what has become a pre-eminent academic program in Abu Dhabi."

Michael Makarem
General Counsel
Mubadala Healthcare

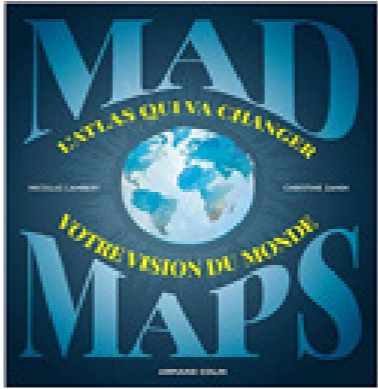




The Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Library has a collection of more than 100,000 printed books and more than 150,000 e-books. The Library furthermore subscribes to a large number of electronic databases, which enable access to thousands of full text journal articles and reports.

The library also has study facilities for about 400 students at a time, and more than 40 computers for accessing the library resources, email and the Internet. During the academic semesters the library is open from 8:30am to 10:00pm on Sunday to Wednesday, 8:30am to 5:30pm on Thursdays and 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays.

Our bookshelf



Mad Maps: the atlas that will change your vision of the world

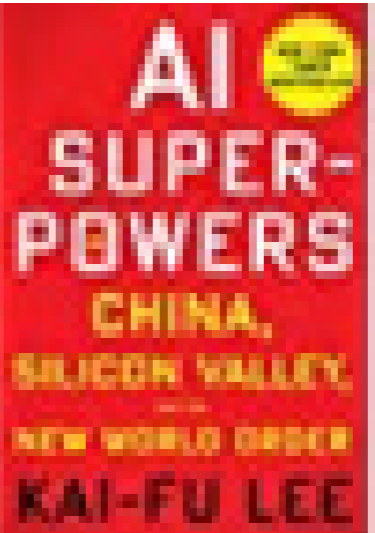
Author: Nicolas Lambert and Christine Zanin
Call Number: 912 LAM



How is it elsewhere?

Author: Gérald Roux and Alexandre Nicolas
Call Number: 912 ROU

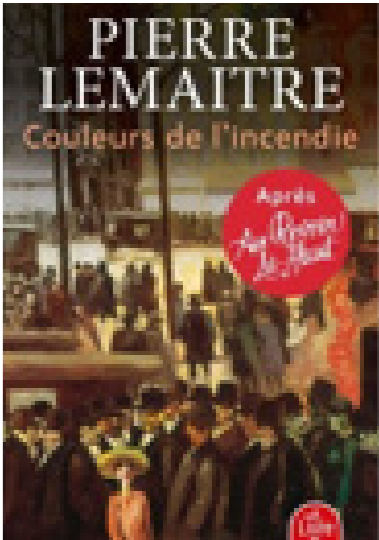
Creative talent of cartographers continue to develop not only in the making of atlases or the topics to illustrate but also in the techniques to represent reality on a map. The library suggest two atlases presenting the world with a different eye, in a playful and unexpected way.



AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order

Author: Dr Kai-Fu Lee
Call Number: 338.470 063 095 LEE

This book is an exploration of Chinese entrepreneurial skills in high-tech and the incredible progress in the field of Artificial Intelligence over the past three years. This emerging technology is expected not only revolutionise China's economy, but more importantly turn it into a bona fide AI superpower counterweight to the USA.



Colours of the fire: the children's of disaster

Author: Lemaitre, Pierre
Call Number: 843.9 LEM C

Couleurs de l'incendie is a fireworks display. Pierre Lemaitre takes us in this second volume, which takes place during the interwar period and follows 'Au revoir Là-haut'. All the elements of the novel-series, in the purest tradition, are there : love, revenge, betrayal, coups de théâtre.

While waiting for the library to acquire the third volume (Miroir de nos peine), released in France at the beginning of January, It's still time to discover Couleurs de l'incendie, worthy descendant of the Count of Monte-Cristo, and perhaps even more of Anthony Trollope's novels.

Empowering Young Women in Finance: an inspiring SUAD former student initiative

Since career development is an ongoing process, which does not stop once students graduate from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, the Career Centre aims to support alumni throughout their professional lives by providing them regular services, whether they are interested in changing careers or looking for valuable continuing education opportunities. In parallel, the Career Centre is working to maintain and develop a solid and international network of more than 2000 alumni and is always pleased to relate stories of alumni willing to share their personal experience or initiatives with their alma mater. It is within this perspective that we want to present Ines' thoughtful initiative aimed to empower women in the finance industry.



Empowering Young Women in Finance:
an inspiring SUAD former student initiative

What did you do following your graduation; what do you do now?

I graduated last summer 2019 and had an internship opportunity in J.P. Morgan as an investor intern in the wealth management team. Following this, I got an offer to join the Middle East Wealth Management team as an analyst investor, which was in line with my strong interest for the region. Now, I'm focusing on my organisation and on the mentoring programme which I will talk about later.

How was the Empowering Young Women in Finance initiative born?

Diversity and gender inequality issues in the workplace have been main topics handled with a lot of criticism. The finance industry is indeed often harshly criticised for these figures concerning diversity. Internally, many companies and organisations are actively mobilised around these issues, and I thought it was almost unfair to have such a biased communication from media. This is how I had this idea of bringing together students, universities, finance professionals and recruiters around the same table. During the preparation of my first round table, I met human resources, head-hunters, senior professionals and what often comes out of it is unfortunately a sad truth: it is not that they do not want to recruit women, it's just that they don't find enough women to recruit! It all depends on the number of female applicants. It is sadly a statistics rule, when only 12 women versus 60 men respond to your offer for example, let's think about the chances of a women being hired in terms of statistics.

I then realised a deeper dimension of the problem. Less women think about joining finance as a major. Therefore, I believe that the problem should be tackled from its roots, having said so; I believe that tackling this issue should be in cooperation with students and professionals.

How is EYWIF different from existing associations and networks already mobilised around these issues?

Existing organisations who are keen to this topic usually tackle it by gathering professionals; they rarely involve students or the less experienced young people. The self-censorship of young women is largely due to a communication problem, biased and discouraging point of view being too often relayed. My initiative aims to bring together students and fresh graduates with professionals from the finance industry in networking events and workshops where we can communicate the fact that women can have long-term and successful careers in finance and can aspire high position at the top of the hierarchy and still maintain their family life balance. Also, I aim to communicate that men also encourage these ambitions. Personally, my mentor is a man who continuously encourages me. Also, through this initiative, I aim to bring professionals and students around a mentoring programme, in which each professional will mentor a young graduate who aspires similar career approach.

How can young graduates of Sorbonne join EYWIF and contribute to its development? What are your recommendations to them?

You can just contact us via our email address and we will be delighted to count you in. We encourage everyone to be part of this organisation, not only women, but also men, it is important to work together. The Mentoring Programme is also open for everyone. We have plans to develop this initiative by collaborating with universities that welcome us for free and reach out for organisations who believe in our mission and might fund us in the future.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi offers a very high level of education. Gaining a degree from a reputable university like Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi will open a door of opportunities all around the world for its graduates. It's indeed a great achievement. My advice would be to always stay humble but never be shy. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want, in worse cases, your request would be rejected! As long as it's free of charges you have no excuse to not try. The only mistake could be to reach out people without knowing exactly what you are looking for and in what they could help you.

Did you compare the Middle East and European countries in term of statistics regarding this matter?

In France, Female students make around 30% of the total students' numbers in the finance majors. While they make only 20% of the total employees numbers in the finance industry. In some companies, they are following a new strategy called "positive discrimination" which is a set of policies that support those who have previously suffered discrimination in employment. For example, a company will set a target for the number of women they will hire. Personally, I'm not sure if it's a good way, the reverse of the medal is that it could affect women's legitimacy.

In The Middle East, it was difficult to find any statistics, but I was surprised by the fact that UAE is really working hard to push women to top positions, I even found that in engineering the proportion of women is more than 30%. I bet many people will be happy to hear that education in The Middle East is attracting more women in finance than in some other countries. UAE is indeed a perfect example of how the communication and education in the earliest years can create future ambitions.

What are your professional objectives?

My aim is to pursue a long career in finance. Having a woman as Managing Director is really empowering and inspiring for me of course, but reaching the top of the hierarchy is a very long-term goal.

Learning is a continuous process; it should not stop at any stage. So learning as much as I can and becoming an expert in my field is my objective as of today.

Above all, I wish to have the opportunity of giving back to future juniors what my mentors, previous and actual colleagues gave me.

Inès Mechoucha



// Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi will open a door of opportunities all around the world for its graduates

Alumni Council Election

Discover the successful candidates

The particularly difficult and challenging context of the health crisis due to Covid-19 was certainly not the ideal time for elections, but it did not prevent the Alumni Council elections from taking place with satisfaction last month. A large number of alumni participated enthusiastically in this election (the 3rd since 2016), both on the side of candidates and on the side of the voters, some of them even taking advantage of the last hours before the closing of the vote on May 28th to cast their votes!

The election was organised on the basis of a single round of voting, within the framework of a secure electronic voting platform allowing each member of the alumni community to vote by secret ballot wherever they are geographically located.

Following the self-nomination campaign that saw a record number of 40 candidates standing for the election to the Alumni Council of Trustees, we are therefore delighted to announce the 14 brilliant elected alumni who are going to guide and serve Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni for the next two-year term (as given by alphabetical order):

- **Abdulla Aljefri**, Master in Environmental Sustainability Law and Policies (2015)
- **Ahmed Alhammedi**, Master in International Business Law (2016)
- **Farah Albeshier**, Master in Heath Economics (2017)
- **Fatima AlHammedi**, Master in Applied Foreign Languages (2016)
- **Fatima Jamaluddin**, University Diploma of French as a Foreign Language (2010); Bachelor in Law (2013) and Master in International Business Law (2015)
- **Hamdan Alkathiri**, Master in Banking and Finance (2019)
- **Hannah Hamid**, Master in Marketing Management Communication and Media (2018)
- **Kais Shamseddin**, University Diploma of French as a Foreign Language (2012) and Bachelor in Law (2015)
- **Mansour Abdulla**, University Diploma in Sports Management (2017)
- **Mohamed El Kayal**, Bachelor in Applied Foreign Languages (2010) ; Master in International Business (2012) and Master degree in Banking and Finance (2013)
- **Moza Shaker**, Master in Applied Foreign Languages (2016)
- **Omar El Kayal**, Bachelor in Law (2014) and Master in International Law, International Relations and Diplomacy (2016)
- **Alain Dagot Chembe**, Master in Teaching French as a Foreign Language (2019)
- **Souraya El Dana**, Bachelor in International Business and Foreign Languages (2009) and Master in International Business (2012)



Next step

Beginning of June and as per the official by-laws of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni, the Council members will elect, its "Officers": President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

In total the Council will comprise 17 elected and appointed members: 14 elected "Trustees", 1 alumni member as well as 2 "Ex-Officio" members" (being SUAD senior staff members) duly appointed by the University Management.

More information about the new Council and the Officers will be communicated shortly to Sorbonne community.

Roles and missions of the Alumni Council

As the operating body of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni, the Council oversees the alumni group activities and affairs and is responsible for all operations and policies of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni.

Members of the Council represent Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni, act as a voice for all members of the alumni population, serve as ambassadors to the University and are expected to attend meetings and events throughout the year.

The main missions of the Council are:

- To manage the programmes, activities and affairs of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumni
- To establish the working committees such as Standing Committees or Ad-Hoc Committees to perform specific services or functions
- To ensure an effective communication towards the alumni

Alumni can contact the Career Centre being in charge of the Alumni Relations for any question about the Alumni Council or if you want to get in touch with the new Council members, at: alumni@sorbonne.ae

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi would like to thank its existing Companions

Corporate Sponsors



Individual sponsors

The late Mrs. Claire Matta & Mr. Albert Matta
Mr. Ziad Salloum
Mr. Walid Halabi
Mrs. Badreya Riyad El Ferekh AlFahim
Mr. Jean-Paul Villain
Ms. Fatima Ahmed Al Kindi
Ms. Fakhera Ahmed Al Kindi
Ms. Alya Ahmed Al Kindi
Ms. Maimoona Ahmed Al Kindi
Dr. Chawki Mounayer

Your annual contribution will be used to support the local and international research development at the university, the master's scholarships programme and the university's events.

Become a Companion of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi
Enlightenment by contacting us at
info@sorbonne.ae

