ANNUAL REPORT
2019
2020 THE YEAR OF CHALLENGES
The Annual Report documents Beirut Arab University’s performance and the toiling challenges it has underwent to continue delivering its educational mission in the academic year 2019-2020.

Sincere appreciation and thanks to the University community for all the contributions and efforts dedicated in this exceptional year.

December, 2020
Dear BAU family and friends,

An exceptionally tough year befell us testing our endurance and capabilities in the face of calamity. A Global pandemic has reshaped the world imposing adaptation to a new reality and an explosion destroyed the city of Beirut, irrevocably changing the lives of the Lebanese. However, upon BAU’s 60th anniversary, the test of time it has withstood facing the challenges dauntless and resolve to continue its progression and ensure its mission towards its students and the community.

The University established precaution measures and safety policies to ensure the wellbeing of its community. The Risk Management Committee conferred and launched the BAU COVID-19 Committee, which constructed safety procedures and initiated a medical hotline to monitor and limit the spread of the pandemic according to health safety recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Lebanon’s Ministry of Health.

Beirut Arab University set forth a series of modifications to save the academic year during COVID-19. Online education was adapted and implemented across all faculties as students, academic and non-academic staff assimilated into distance learning and remote working. BAU activated and expanded its online educational systems to accommodate a constructive virtual teaching and learning experience. Also, the University staff resumed their duties via online settings using communication applications to remain updated on all changes and facilitate the work of BAU’s academic, medical, and social services.

Following the devastating Beirut port explosion, BAU rushed to aid its community by mobilizing its medical and professional services, as well as volunteering along side NGOs, clubs, social and governmental organizations to support the citizens of Beirut. Students and staff members banded together placing all the resources and efforts needed as they embarked on first aid, damage assessment, and community relief missions.

Due to political and security unrest, economic, social, and health hardships Lebanon is going through, BAU, along with 10 leading Lebanese universities, issued a statement to protect the future of higher education in the country, as well as joint statement to stand together to heal the wounds and demand justice after Beirut port explosion.

2020 was indeed the year of challenges, however through overcoming adversities our endurance is steeled to withstand future situations and build the courage to move forward.

Prof. Amr Galal El Adawi
President of Beirut Arab University
The Year of Challenges

The year 2020 marked Beirut Arab University’s 60th anniversary, a year of reflection and pursuing further academic success. However, challenges unfolded testing the University’s resilience and forcing adaptation into new territories. The public movement that emerged in October along with COVID-19 in March required BAU to face these challenges head on and take crucial measures as well as re-shape fundamental systems. Campuses and classrooms became empty as online teaching and learning were initiated by the University to continue the academic year and safeguard students’ academic progress and their safety. Staff members at the University also worked online serving BAU, while upholding precautionary health measures.

After the explosion, BAU sustained substantial damage to its buildings and facilities. A total of seven faculties at Beirut campus were affected and severely damaged along with 50 units in the Main Building and 92 units in the Hariri Building comprising of lecture halls, the Museum, labs, auditoriums, hallways, offices, cafeterias, and sports facilities. Post the explosion, the University underwent maintenance and reform efficiently and swiftly to resume activities and preparations for the beginning of the new academic year.

After all the ordeals BAU faced throughout the past 60 years, it has emerged triumphant and undaunted by adversities. Pledged to ensure its academic mission, the University stands by students and Lebanon to defend the future of the coming generations providing them with ample grounds to thrive and nurture knowledge no matter the circumstances.
THE YEAR OF CHALLENGES 2019 - 2020

SEPTEMBER

Welcoming the new academic year 2019-2020 at Debbieh and Tripoli campuses with guest singers Saad Ramadan and George Tawil during the Homecoming festivities.

OCTOBER

The launching of Erasmus+ program titled Capacity Building for Curricula Modernization of Syrian and Lebanese HEIs and Lifelong Learning Provision: Towards Sustainable NGOs Management and Operation with Special Focus on Refugees’ Morale.

BAU extended firefighting aid during the massive fires that engulfed Debbieh, Chouf.

Classes and administrative work were suspended in all campuses on October 18 due to the October 17 public movement.

NOVEMBER

Academic and non-academic staff and students resumed activity in University campuses.

Partaking in the 16th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) 2019 themed People Oriented Urbanization: Transforming Cities for Health and Well-Being in China.

DECEMBER

Beirut Arab University’s Life Support Center (BAULS) was certified as a reference center of the American Heart Association.
The Year of Challenges 2019 - 2020

JANUARY
A seminar on Digital Transformation and Digital Economy for the acquisition and advancement of new technological horizons in economy.

FEBRUARY
The establishment of Al Mashghal - The Hub entrepreneurship center for regional business enhancement at Tripoli campus.

BAU promotes public awareness with a seminar on Viruses of the Century at Tripoli campus.

MARCH
Opening BAU Museum of Rare Books and Civilization displaying rare books and manuscripts along with digital screenings of historic civilizations.

A workshop on Digital Education in the field of Health in Lebanon and Syria for Educational Technology Development.

BAU’s Clinic for Nutritional and Weight Management was recognized by EASO Obesity Management Task Force as EASO International Affiliate COM center.

Due to COVID-19, classes and administrative work were suspended to ensure health safety and the teaching process shifted online to maintain academic progress.
The European Society of Endodontology (ESE) accredits the Faculty of Dentistry’s endodontology master and specialized diploma programs.

A statement issued by the 11 Lebanese universities to government officials to save the higher education sector.

Non-academic staff resume work on campus after the online work transition.

BAU celebrates the 16th Residency Batch Commencement Ceremony amid COVID-19 precautions.
A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION AT BEIRUT PORT CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO BEIRUT CAMPUS BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.

BAU engages in community services after the explosion:
- Offering psychological support through the Psycho-Social Unit
- Removing wreckage and debris at damaged schools
- Partaking in structural damage assessments of affected areas
- Volunteering and providing first aid in stricken areas
- Providing Dental Services through Mobile Dental Clinic
The arrival of an Egyptian medical team to BAU on a mission to treat the citizens of Beirut after the explosion left many wounded victims.

BAU graduates the 2nd batch of the Home Electricity and Solar Energy programs implemented by UNIDO at Tripoli campus.

The receipt of Egyptian Medical Aid at BAUHC.

The Lebanese Minister of Public Health, Dr. Hasan Hamad, and the Egyptian Ambassador, Dr. Yasser Mohammad Elwi visited BAU Healthcare Center (BAUHC) extending support in the plight of a national catastrophe.

Let us stand together to heal the wounds and demand justice

2020

The Year of Challenges 2019 - 2020

Annual Report 2020

BAU along with 10 Lebanese universities issued a joint statement to stand together to heal the wounds and demand justice after Beirut port explosion.
Distance education became universal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. Because of these circumstances, online teaching and learning had an indispensable role in educational programs. The shift to online platforms presented to be slightly intimidating, especially in Lebanon, where the concept is not widely applied in education. From poor internet service, lack of technical computer skills, and low availability of computers in the hands of most students, these challenges among others were obstacles creating a rift in online academic progression. However, within a short period, professors and students became accustomed to virtual tools and made exemplary use of them to tackle courses during the quarantine. Beirut Arab University previously had an established basis for online teaching and learning using platforms such as Moodle. Progressively, the University expanded its educational scope to be utilized effectively by students and professors hence maintaining the promise of quality education even during unprecedented times.
ONLINE TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The academic year 2019-2020 resembled an obstacle course due to various unprecedented events that disrupted the academic agenda. The public movement, COVID-19, and the Beirut port explosion hurtled past leaving considerable distress and instability. However, the constant dedication and determination to finish the semester prevailed by adopting educational technology methods such as Moodle, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other platforms to ensure the completion of the academic year via an online setting.

Faculty of HUMAN SCIENCES

The faculty shifted swiftly and smoothly into an online environment, developing students’ skills and knowledge through new teaching methods and interesting educational horizons. The shift to online learning environments became a further asset for both instructors and students towards a grander teaching and learning scope.

- The online teaching and learning experience comprised the following platforms:
  - Moodle as the main institution-based audio-visual platform for online courses and assessments.
  - Zoom as a communication application for online teaching and class discussions that allows the recording of sessions, which are uploaded for students on their respective Moodle classes.
  - Voice-over Power Point presentations, which provides students with lesson visual aids as well as the instructor’s vocal explanation.
  - Microsoft Teams as a useful institution-based platform for online course explanations and interactive discussions.

Faculty of LAW and POLITICAL SCIENCE

The faculty implemented online education through constructive and user-friendly platforms to implement necessary modifications and changes to counteract the learning disruptions. The courses commenced virtually by utilizing institution based and approved platforms. After the online shift, the faculty focused on an instruction methodology that is compassionate towards students and exuded a sense of comfort away from mental strain and stress factors.

- Professors and students were familiarized on how to use virtual teaching and learning tools in preparation for remote course settings.
- The faculty organized the semester’s progress successfully as examinations took place online.
- A seminar titled Radio in Digital Time was moderated by Dr. Gamal Megahed and delivered by the radio presenter Mr. Mohammad Krayiem and the Director of Voice of Lebanon radio station Mr. Assaad Maroun on February 16, 2020, at Beirut Campus. (Photo 1)
- A workshop on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for third year psychology students
- A workshop for the Mass Communication department titled Media Legislations and Ethical Codes

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- The Gola- Policy Recommendations: Teaching, Pedagogy and Assessment workshop was attended by the faculty Dean, Professor Mayssah El Nayal on June 24, 2020.
- Several workshops and two international conferences were planned, but most had to be canceled due to the political unrest in the fall semester and the COVID-19 lockdown in the spring semester. However, a small number of events were held during the few weeks when the University was accessible, which included:
  - A seminar titled Radio in Digital Time was moderated by Dr. Gamal Megahed and delivered by the radio presenter Mr. Mohammad Krayiem and the Director of Voice of Lebanon radio station Mr. Assaad Maroun on February 16, 2020, at Beirut Campus. (Photo 1)
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- A seminar titled Banks and Clients at the Scale of Law, a seminar organized by the faculty, where participating judges and lawyers presented their opinions on banking restrictions in Lebanon, their legality, current and past judicial jurisprudence, and attorneys’ experience in pleading cases brought before the judiciary. The faculty dean, Professor Mohammad Kassem moderated the sessions with the participation of speakers including Judge Dr. Habib Mesheh, Dr. Wael Dabisi, Attorney Mazen Safia, Judge Dr. Ghaleb Ghanem, Judge Dr. Sami Mansour, and Lawyer, Professor Abdo Ghossoub on February 21, 2020. (Photo 2)
• Instructors and students used Zoom to conduct audio-visual online course meetings, session recordings, project presentations, and screen sharing. DBA thesis defenses were hosted via Zoom and face-to-face in the presence of internal, external jury and the students’ advisor under COVID-19 safety precautions.
• Course content, live sessions with recording availability, handing and uploading assignments, and completing online customized exams with accurate timing and plagiarism detection was done via Moodle.
• Examination results and tracking the semester’s course progress for undergraduate and graduate students took place on I-connect.
• The Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (CCIAT) collaborated with the faculty in Tripoli campus and launched the electronic platform hub to gather commercial and business data from the market to analyze and utilize it for academic research during the academic year 2019-2020.
• The Entrepreneurship Center Al Mashghal – The Hub was established in Tripoli campus, funded by the Italian organization Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario (COSV) to promote Entrepreneurship, business, and job opportunities in the region on February 25, 2020.
• Personal Branding and Leadership, a lecture delivered by Dr. Fadi Jibai, General Manager Sourcing and Marketing at Majid Al Futtaim – Carrefour, organized by the Business Club on October 14, 2019, at Beirut campus. (Photo 3)
• An Alumni Dinner was organized for the faculty graduates on September 11, 2019, in the garden at Beirut campus.
• Several workshops were organized in collaboration with stakeholders on women empowerment and capacity building for municipalities.
• The 15th Scientific Conference Arab Development between Current Challenges and Prospects for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, was attended by the faculty dean, Professor Nehale Moustafa on 13 and 14 December 2019 at the headquarters of the Federation of Arab Chambers.
• The Initial Accreditation Committee of AACSB accepted the faculty’s eligibility application by allowing the start of the business accreditation process in December 2019.
• International professors and figures were hosted by the faculty to deliver various DBA courses at Beirut Campus.

Faculty of ARCHITECTURE – Design & Built Environment

The faculty by passed the hardships of an unusual academic year and adopted online learning as elementary virtual technologies to conduct courses, assessments, written and oral exams for its students. Such distance teaching and learning tools ensured the quality of both information delivery and successfully meeting student outcomes to secure a fruitful academic progress.
• Online teaching was implemented and all required semester courses were completed with minimal to no issues or problem at Deebieh and Tripoli campuses.
• The faculty branch in Tripoli campus joined, for the first time, in the end-of-year final jury for the design and construction online courses at all levels in the virtual presence of international jury members.
• Oral exams for the spring semester were held via Zoom for both Deebieh and Tripoli campuses.
• The Fashion Design Program announced a 50 percent scholarship to be awarded to the first 10 applicants accepted in the program in the academic year 2020-2021 on July 10, 2020.
• The Architecture Summit 2020, was attended virtually by the faculty’s director in Tripoli, Dr. Nabil Mohareb, where he delivered a presentation titled Controlling the Movement Flow in Architecture and Urban Space on August 6 and 9, 2020, in Egypt.
• Day Lighting, a workshop organized by the Faculty of Architecture – Design & Built Environment and invited Dr. Nivine Hannza from Newcastle University, UK to give a public lecture and mini-workshop on February 27, 2020, at Tripoli campus.
• The Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) 12th Annual Conference was attended by faculty students as environmental education interns in Arab countries on November 14-15, 2019, at Bristol Hotel, Beirut.
• The 16th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) 2019 was attended by the faculty dean, Professor Ibtihal El-Bastawissi, as a speaker for a presentation titled Cultivation of Community Based Interventions in Architectural Education at BAU on November 4 and 8, 2019, in Xiamen, China. (Photo 4)
Faculty of ENGINEERING

The faculty embraced online education where new delivery methods were implemented to ensure course learning objectives are met and that course information is competently delivered to students, along with a free online Fire Fighting course given on July 2020 for two months. By utilizing online resources and methods, students were able to benefit from a well-rounded and new learning experience.

- Professors used Moodle and Zoom to conduct virtual courses and manage their progress by tracking finished tasks.
- Engaging in various learning practices through the preparation of recorded sessions, course power point presentations, problem-solving videos, and using real-life animation of equipment and process industry videos
- Posting announcements related to exams and chapters covered during courses and electronic copies of lecture notes in PDF format were uploaded for students to access and download material, via Moodle.

Faculty of SCIENCE

The faculty underwent a quick transition to remote teaching and learning in response to current situations that have affected the semester’s progression. Several online academic platforms were adopted to ensure paramount academic follow up with students and minimal disruption to their educational advancement.

- Virtual classrooms for students and instructors were conducted to resume courses and all there entailments modified for Zoom Sessions.
- Students communicated online by submitting assignments, sharing information, interacting, through discussions and sitting for online exams through Moodle.
- Course lesson explanations were recorded along with visual aids using powerpoint presentations.

- A visit of 75 high school students from the schools of Al Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut, was offered to the faculty’s laboratories to experience University life at BAU on February 8, and welcomed senior high school students from Bahaa Hariri School to visit the physics laboratories, providing them with an enriching practical experience on experiments that complement their classroom learning on February 5, 2020, at Debbieh campus.

- The Lebanese Collegiate Programming Competition (LCPC) was hosted under the patronage of the Minister of Telecommunications, Mr. Mohammad Choucair, represented by the General Director of the Ministry, Mr. Bassel Al Ayoubi, on October 4, 2019, at Debbieh campus. Two computer science teams from the faculty were qualified to participate in the Africa and Arab Collegiate Programming Championship (ACPC) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (Photo 6).
- International collaboration was maintained with the Medical Physics Department at CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) – Canada to provide intensive clinical training in subfields of medical physics, research collaboration, and co-supervision of graduate students enrolled in the MS Medical Physics program. Also collaborations with several renowned companies and industries, were initiated to provide students and fresh graduates with training placements to improve capacity building and their professional skills with the following companies: INOVIE Laboratories, ICC group (International Computer & Communication Systems – Lebanon), Mount Lebanon Hospital, Beesline Apitherapy, Arwan Pharmaceuticals, Serum Product Groups and Tinol Paints.
Faculty of PHARMACY

The faculty encouraged the use of communication technologies, such as students’ smartphones, computers, and online educational platforms as input devices for active engagement in several virtual class activities. The shift to distance learning enabled the resume and upkeep of students’ academic schedule and knowledge acquisition, maintaining the faculty’s provision of the academic year.

- Online web applications were mobilized and students were asked to either answer simple MCQ or enter their reflections on certain concepts which ensured the active involvement of students during their learning experiences and significantly affected students’ motivation and learning retention.
- Web-based examinations were conducted for the summative assessment of undergraduate students. The newly adopted assessment strategy provides well-controlled exam settings, enhanced statistical analysis of the exam questions and students’ performance, which entails better use of time and university resources.
- Chemical Constituents of Lebanese Plants with Potential Biological Activities, an oral presentation at the 2019 Asia Network Symposium on Drug Discovery and Development, was delivered by Professor Maha Aboul Ela on December 5 and 7, 2019, at College of Pharmacy, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju, Republic of Korea.
- The Arab Pharmacists Union meeting was attended by the faculty Dean, Professor Abdalla El-Lakany in November 2019, in Cairo, Egypt.
- The International Conference on Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Sciences (IPHS 2019), in Hilton Green Plaza, Alexandria, Egypt, and the IVPN Pharmacy Conference, which was organized by Cleveland Clinic Dhabí was attended by the faculty in November 2019.
- World Pharmacists Day: Safe and Effective Medicine for All, a celebration day which included various health services and pharmaceutical advice offered by faculty professors and students, along with health awareness activities on how and when to use medication efficiently and consciously on October 10, 2019. (Photo 7)
- Pharmacovigilance and Patient Safety Overview, a workshop organized with Bioerhinger Ingelheim for fifth year students to raise awareness on patient safety and the role of pharmaceutical companies in ensuring it in October 2019.
- Pain Management, a workshop delivered by Dr. Muheiddine El-Taki, and Dr. Fadi Zeinelabidine, and organized by the Pharmacy Academy of The Order of Pharmacists of Lebanon (OPL), which aimed to advance pharmacists’ knowledge and skills in pain management on September 24, 2019, at Beirut campus.

Faculty of MEDICINE

The faculty courses were delivered remotely mainly through Moodle and Zoom, and theoretical modules were proficiently fulfilled. The faculty suspended activities including in-person classes, practicums and managed the shifting timelines, cancellations and adjustments to testing, clinical rotations, classes and other events after the spread of the pandemic. Exams were postponed and a rotational plan was put forth to conduct practical training in a highly safe manner to enable students to resume their training with minimum risk.

- Practical Anatomy and Histology for first and second year students in three anatomy labs and clinical rotations schedules were rearranged in different affiliated hospitals. The pre-internship rotations for sixth year students were completed between June & July. The clerkship rotations for fourth and fifth year students were completed in September.
- An agreement with Hammoud University Hospital was signed to establish a mutual cooperation between the two institutions at the medical, academic, technical, and administrative levels. Hammoud Hospital will serve as a training center for undergraduate students, interns, residents and specialty doctors affiliated with the faculty on July 23, 2020.
- The Anatomy Lab was renovated to an optimal teaching facility equipped with a visio-audio-recording system and for dissecting specimens during condensed practical courses at the end of the spring semester.
- The Standing Committee on Public Health in the Lebanese Medical Students’ International Committee (LeMSIC) at the faculty organized the:
  - Gender Based Violence awareness event where students spread awareness on gender violence through games, statistical data, and strategies on how to deal with this type of violence on December 16, 2019.
  - Immunization Awareness Day spread awareness on the importance of vaccination on December 10, 2019, at Beirut campus.
- An agreement protocol was signed with the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs-Turkey (TEPDAD), for the accreditation of its undergraduate program in December 2019.
- Workshop to Workplace: Faculty Development for Clinical Faculty Members, a workshop on medical education was organized by the Faculty of Medicine on September 11, 2019, at Hariri University Hospital.
- The Stakeholder Workshop on Ethical Aspects of Radiation Protection in Health Care organized by the World Health Organization in Geneva Headquarters, was attended by the Faculty of Medicine, represented by Assistant Professor, Issam Shaarani on September 2, 2019.
Faculty of DENTISTRY

The faculty resumed conducting courses through online resources while undergoing extensive re-adaptation in clinical and laboratory training to ensure student and academic staff safety. To preserve the quality of learning and teaching during an exceptional situation, core knowledge and skills were provided to students by navigating new educational grounds.

- The faculty made extensive use of Moodle to support learning needs, where instructors can upload interactive assignments and lectures, build a database on topic entries, create and conduct surveys to collect feedbacks, design exams consisting of a large variety of question types (MCQ, True/False, Matching, etc.), create multi-page resources through book resource, and provide data files for students.
- Students benefited from the platform to upload their assignments, communicate with their instructors directly, providing feedback about certain issues or topics, using resources online and offline, and receiving notifications and reminders.
- The faculty's Master's Degree and Specialty Diploma in Endodontology programs attained accreditation from the European Society of Endodontology (ESE) in June 2020. (Photo 9)
- The faculty exhibited an unwavering commitment to the students while showing their creativity and passion for oral health education.
- The dental clinics provided important emergency patient care services at a reduced capacity to abide by necessary safety measures.

Faculty of HEALTH SCIENCES

The faculty guaranteed comprehensive quality education to students as academic staff spent all efforts to ease the online learning experience and to warrant students adjustment and retention to the required knowledge, practices, and attitudes needed to progress in their academic journey. The educational track was fortified by establishing innovative educational strategies.

- Zoom, Moodle, and Microsoft teams were adopted as tools for online learning via recorded lectures and incorporating video illustrations to help accomplishing practical courses and conducting online thesis defenses. These tools were also used for team-based learning, evidence-based practice, group discussions, project presentation, virtual lectures, administering exams, digitizing course materials, and releasing announcements through Moodle.
- Major elective courses were offered namely Breastfeeding Basics (NUTR 321), Medical Terminology, Infection Control & Management (MELS 412), and Stem Cell Biology (MELS 414).
- The faculty agreed with four hospitals to receive BAU students for clinical training, which consisted of the following: Bellevue, Rasouli Al Aatham, Raee, and Sibline Governmental hospital.
- New affiliations were established by the Department of Medical Laboratory Technology with a number of hospitals to conduct clinical rotation I & II including: Raee hospital, Labib Medical Center, Saint Therese Hospital, Sibline Governmental hospital, Taarayel General Hospital, and Lebanese Hospital Geitawi.
- Students from the Department of Medical Laboratory were accepted in the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) - Student Leaders Program for two consecutive years funded by the U.S. Department of State.
- Students from the faculty visited the Forensic Laboratories at El-Helou Internal Security Forces (ISF) Barracks and were introduced to the work of the Central Forensic Laboratories as well as the duties of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) team as part of an elective on Forensic Bioscience and Criminology (MELS 411, MTL).
- The Nutrition and Dietetics Department was internationally recognized as a center for systematic review conduction under the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) network in 2019.
Throughout the previously mentioned events, the University remained functional with the vital presence of some academic and non-academic staff members on campus to attend to any issues or problems that needed immediate attention.

In the light of the current Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) adversity that brought life to a halt, Beirut Arab University reiterates its keenness on the smooth continuation of its educational progress, both in the students’ best interest and to save the academic year. Thus, BAU adopted online learning as an alternative approach to allow the completion of its curricula and programs, in alignment with all other higher education institutions, both in Lebanon and worldwide. The University not only exerts all possible efforts to make this a successful experience but also takes into consideration all conditions and challenges that may face students as they shift to online educational platforms.

Based on the above, BAU has taken the following initiatives:
- Providing training workshops for faculty members on how to use Moodle to successfully conduct online education.
- Offering educational materials by uploading lectures and activities to Moodle and/or iConnect, or via live broadcasting techniques to ensure interaction with the students.
- Communicating through diverse technological tools to respond to questions or inquiries.
- Ensuring that all graduation requirements are punctually met for students completing their final year.
- Permitting online thesis defenses according to a set of guidelines that maintains the safety and transparency of graduate students.
- Extending the academic year as needed and in accordance with current developments.
- Finding a mechanism that ensures the running of exams and evaluations when deemed appropriate and in accordance with the prevailing conditions.
- Taking into consideration the students’ circumstances and the challenges posed by distance learning, including internet quality and the lack of technical and technological skills among some students.

The hurdles and challenges that BAU faced were professionally met to proceed with the requirements of the educational process ensuring that no one is left behind or disadvantaged. Aware of the extra burdens placed on students to attain the academic achievements they seek, the University exerted all efforts to bring the current academic year to a successful completion with modifications to ease student worries.

In reference to the University announcement issued on March 26, 2020, regarding the steps and measures taken to enhance online academic performance, the President and the Deans’ Board decided to establish a temporary assessment and grading system that gives students the option of either receiving letter grades or Pass (P)/No-Pass (NP) for the courses covered during the spring semester.
The University systematized a health safety plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside campus and secured health care benefits through its insurance policy:

- **Obligatory masks and temperature checks:** Everyone – including academic and non-academic staff and students – will need to have their masks on and temperature taken for signs of possible COVID-19 infection before entering BAU campuses, in order to prevent the spread of the infection.

- **Limited exceptions for masks:**
  - Alone in an enclosed office or study room.
  - Alone in a vehicle.
  - Walking or exercising outside while maintaining physical distancing.
  - Participating in athletic activities in sports facilities.

- **Mandatory abidance to the following precaution measures:**
  - Physical distancing preferably two meters apart from others.
  - Wearing a medical mask that covers the mouth and nose.
  - Washing hands often with water and soap.
  - Using a 70% based alcohol sanitizer especially after contact with public facilities.
  - Informing students of the Expert Committee on COVID-19’s updates and recommendations, and set an example by applying the recommended safety measures in their classrooms, labs, and offices.
  - Advising students to avoid places and settings with no adherence to public health preventative measures. Particular care should be taken in cafeterias and places of worship, or at any social gatherings.

- **A new health insurance policy was implemented for all BAU staff,** which requires patients to pay a 20% difference when purchasing any medication that is covered by National Social Security Fund (NSSF). Also the University coordinated with its insurance company to grant staff the chance to secure medicine for chronic diseases three months in advance.

- **A health manual focusing on the basic safety guidelines was constructed to be followed by staff members on and off campus against COVID-19.** The manual depicts information on the virus along with preventive measures (social distance, hygiene, travel procedures, etc.)

- **In preparation for flu season,** the University managed to secure flu vaccines and provide them to staff for free at BAUHC.
Despite the economic challenges, Beirut Arab University continues to support its faculties financially and advocate research especially when it tackles pressing and current topics such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the deteriorating monetary and societal situation in Lebanon. The inability to access funding and grants, which came to a standstill during the ongoing crisis, lend to the emergence of new studies done by the University researchers on COVID-19 to boost research production. Moreover, BAU incorporated the benefits of online platforms by hosting online webinars and activities that aided in promoting scientific research. Also, a unique collection of academic journals affiliated with the University were launched to enhance research publication and collaboration nationally and internationally. The six themed journals illustrate numerous topics and host multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research by distinguished academics and researchers proficient in their respective fields.
Research and scientific activities are an engaging and bustling part of BAU’s academic pillar including conferences, seminars, and workshops dedicated to unearthing new prospects in multiple study fields. However due to the current instability in the country and the spread of a pandemic, which limits social activities, the University suspended and postponed various scheduled events. On the other hand, research activities remained feverishly on going especially on topics related to COVID-19 and its effect on life from diverse aspects.

BAU JOURNALS

BAU Journals are official publications of Beirut Arab University, currently publishing six scholarly journals that cover a wide range of disciplines, from humanities and social sciences to life and physical sciences. In addition to working with University departments and faculties, BAU journals serve as a world-wide community for scholars, researchers, and practitioners through the publication of peer-reviewed academic and professional journals in print and electronic form. The journals endeavor to extend the University’s influence in the academic community and encourage research production. Supported by Elsevier’s digital commons platform, we are expanding our reach to connect with the audience across a variety of platforms through academia and beyond to contribute to the future of scholarly publishing.

During the Annual Staff Meeting at the beginning of the spring semester on January 29, 2020, BAU Journals were launched and the new mechanism of publishing scientific research was demonstrated via a tutorial through the University’s website. (Photo 13)

Within the journals’ framework, a meeting was held including the members who will be working on BAU Journals on January 8, 2020, at Debbagh campus. The meeting introduced six themed journals illustrating the publishing process of two issues per year for each journal, which included a total of 10-12 research papers and articles per issue. Each of the members were responsible to contribute according to their area of expertise whether editing, writing, or overseeing final content productions according to the standard guidelines, before being submitted for concluding revisions and then publishing.

BAU JOURNAL - ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

The Architecture and Planning Journal of the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment hosts articles on several topics in architecture and planning. The journal encompasses a wide range of subjects including different theories, practices, and new interrelated concepts in the field of architecture. All the published articles are peer-reviewed by regionally and internationally recognized referees in their domains or staff members from reputable universities in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and Lebanon.
Research and Publications

**BAU JOURNAL - LEGAL STUDIES**
The Journal of Legal Studies of the Faculty of Law and Political Science is committed to achieving a broad international appeal, attracting contributions, and addressing issues from a range of legal cultures, as well as theoretical concerns. All the published articles are peer-reviewed by nationally and internationally renowned referees in their fields. The Journal’s goal is to provide scholars worldwide with comparative papers on recent legal developments nationally, regionally, and internationally.

**BAU JOURNAL - HEALTH AND WELLBEING**
The Health and Well-Being Journal of the Faculty of Health Sciences is an international academic journal hosting articles on health aspects, quality of life, and the wellbeing of individuals and communities from different multidisciplinary research areas. All the published articles are peer reviewed by nationally and internationally well-recognized referees in their domains or staff members from reputable universities from European and Asian countries.

**BAU JOURNAL - SOCIETY, CULTURE AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR**
The Society, Culture and Human Behavior Journal of the Faculty of Human Sciences is intended as a forum that brings together scholars, researchers and readers, to broaden their access to interdisciplinary research bringing together diverse disciplines. The scope of the Journal covers the research themes subsumed under the umbrella of Society, Culture and Human Behavior, with the aim of contributing high-quality knowledge to literature and serving as the mind and heart of the community.

**BAU JOURNAL - CREATIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
The Creative Sustainable Development Journal of the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment is an international academic journal anticipated to create high-quality publications, innovative ideas, and merging various disciplines into a rich platform for collaborative inter and multidisciplinary understanding of sustainable development and creativity in its different dimensions. The scope of the journal covers research themes in creative sustainable development aiming to solve environmental, urban planning, social, and economic problems. The Journal is peer-reviewed guided by significant figures in the field and momentous standards of scientific quality.

**BAU JOURNAL - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
The Science and Technology Journal of the Faculty of Science is an international academic journal amassing articles from different interdisciplinary research areas peer-reviewed by nationally and internationally acknowledged referees in their domains or faculty members from reputable universities around the world. The Journal serves as a useful source of data for the scientific community and researchers pursuing research in Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, and Statistics.

**RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES**

- Research development and activities at BAU were promoted by documenting the faculties’ research production in the Annual Research Report. This year research consisted of a total number of 324 publications which included 147 highly-indexed papers. Nine papers out of the following were dedicated to various topics on COVID-19.
- A new online user-friendly graduate admission application was launched to facilitate the process of online admission in accordance with safety policies established due to the pandemic.
- An agreement was signed with the French Embassy in Lebanon to enhance and develop scientific research between both parties through “SAFAR” Program. The program co-finances doctoral scholarships reserved for Lebanese doctoral students admitted to prepare a doctoral thesis. Scholarship holders under this call will benefit from both the French Government Scholarship and a PhD Scholarship from BAU. Three students have acquired Ph.D. scholarships from SAFAR Program for the academic year 2019 - 2020.
- BAU collaborated with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Ministry of Industry in Lebanon to establish two new vocational training centers for Electricity and Solar energy, and create job opportunities that develop market-based vocational training skills on July 2020 at Tripoli campus. Following December 2020, BAU will take the lead and keep sustaining the center through continuous training delivered to the local community in the North of Lebanon.
- A master’s degree scholarship was granted by FORSA to graduate students from the Faculty of Health Science.
- New research directions, with a greater focus on inter- and multi-disciplinarily research, were taken at the Faculty of Human Sciences. Also, new research trends were observed by professors and students were encouraged to delve into new research realms while pursuing their theses and dissertations. In addition, the regular publication of papers for the Society, Culture, and Human Behavior Journal offered a welcoming new outlet for research conducted.
- UNIDO and the Faculty of Architecture – Design & Built Environment, in Tripoli, collaborated to refurbish the fabrication lab with new equipment installations, including a 3D printer and scanner.
• In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Medical Sector faculty members at BAU combined efforts to fight the outbreak and conduct research to raise awareness and reduce the spread of the virus.
  - Research titles by the Medical Sector faculty members:
    - Knowledge and Practice of Middle East Populations Towards COVID-19
    - CARE: An International Survey for Assessing COVID-19’s Impact on Fear and Health
    - Evaluating Perception Nudges that Aim to reduce the Spread of COVID-19
  - Various research on COVID-19 related topics were conducted by the Faculty of Pharmacy, where some articles have been published, submitted for assessment, or still in progress.
  - A collaboration between Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation and the Faculty of Medicine was made to join efforts and to use their human, scientific, and material resources to improve the educational medical field and scientific research by enhancing the quality of health services.
  - The Faculty of Dentistry cooperates with the Lebanese University, Saint Joseph University, American University of Beirut, University of Genoa, Alexandria University, Cairo University, Ain Shams University, Mansoura University, Tanta University, Fayyum University and Suez Canal University, through scientific activities and exchange, to supervise theses and dissertations.
  - The Faculty of Health Sciences received a team of academics and discussed joint programs and research in the framework of its agreement with Arctic University of Norway, where the dean Professor Rajaa Fakhoury went on an exchange visit to AU in Norway to discuss further plans. Also the Nursing Department was accepted for the Norway application in fall 2020.

• Educational and research collaborations, maximizing the impact of research chairs, obtaining and managing funding for research and researchers, enhancing and maintaining top quality research infrastructure, space, equipment, and technology support, implementing integrated systems for tracking and reporting research activities and outputs, and sharing research findings across all BAU campuses.

• More than 100 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, including 96 articles in 2020 and 84 in 2019, with Scopus Indexed. Journals were published by the Faculty of Science.

• Academic expertise and services to communities, businesses, and municipalities, were provided by the Faculty of Science, as the Specialized Water and Soil Analysis Laboratory conducted 78 tests for municipalities, research students, and companies. Also the Applied Statistics Center performed 33 statistical analyses during the academic year 2019-2020.

• A research collaboration with LARI laboratory (Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute) in Fanar, Beirut was conducted by the Biology program at the Faculty of Science to assess pollution of natural reserves in Lebanon, specifically in the areas of Bentael and Azer.

• Recent findings on COVID-19 were tackled by senior Biology students at the Faculty of Science in their senior projects including: Epidemiology, SARS-CoV2 viral structure, viral genome, non-structural and structural proteins, viral replication: focusing on viral entry, attachment to ACE-2 receptor on the host cell, viral pathogenesis and immunopathophysiology, vaccine research development and potential antiviral drug candidates-current status.

• Scientific days aiming to raise community awareness such as Health & Wellbeing Day, Women & Diabetes, and Cancer Awareness Campaigns were organized by the Department of Medical Laboratory Technology.

• Two papers on COVID-19 were published in the peer-reviewed journals: Frontiers in Public Health and Current Research in Translational Medicine by the Department of Medical Laboratory.

• A stakeholder workshop at the Doctoral School of Sciences and Technologies was attended by the Faculty of Engineering, organized in the framework of the ENI CBC Med funded AQUACYCLE project: Towards Sustainable Treatment and Reuse of Wastewater in the Mediterranean Region, on July 25, 2020, in Tripoli.

• The AI in Wireless Communications Webinar was attended by The Faculty of Engineering, where an introduction was given on artificial intelligence, wireless communications, and why the evolution of wireless standards relies on the power of machine-learning and AI on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

• A Traffic Engineering Lab was established to educate civil engineering students on studies in traffic engineering and safety (in the framework of the EU-project ERASMUS+) at the Faculty of Engineering, as well as allow graduate and faculty members to conduct scientific research and use modern software.

• A virtual Zoom meeting on clinical viruses was organized by the Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management Local Society to discuss the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, precaution measures, and raising awareness with students from the Industrial Engineering & Engineering Management Department.

• Research in the field of Terahertz (THz) communications was conducted by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, at the Faculty of Engineering in Tripoli campus, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

• Developing and advancing research at the Faculty of Engineering focused on increasing coordination, communication, and responsiveness of administrative support, fostering interdisciplinary research collaborations, maximizing the impact of research chairs, obtaining and managing funding for research and researchers, enhancing and maintaining top quality research infrastructure, space, equipment, and technology support, implementing integrated systems for tracking and reporting research activities and outputs, and sharing research findings across all BAU campuses.
• An online interactive webinar on Energy Rapid Overview and Decision-Support (EnROADS) Climate was hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) student society on July 12, 2020, at Debbieh campus.

• A study was conducted and published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, where clinical researchers from BAU identified a new BMI cut-off point for obesity in Lebanon and concluded that the existing obesity guidelines need revising on May 29, 2020.

• A workshop on Introduction to Mobile App Development was hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) student society on February 28, 2020, along with a seminar about Artificial Intelligence in Engineering Mechanic on March 5, 2020, at Debbieh campus.

• A Discussion on Nutritional Awareness and Advice during COVID-19 was delivered by the Faculty of Health Sciences’ head of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Dr. Manwan El Ghoch, in a video on BAU’s YouTube channel on April 8, 2020. (Photo 16)

• The American Heart Association at the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) selected BAU Life Support Reference Center supervisor, Ms. Mayada Bou Mehdi, to join the COVID-19 AHA MENA Committee and share updates of the pandemic’s impact on each country and offer support on the training and Healthcare Professional (HCP) level as well as related topics on April 8, 2020. (Photo 17)

• An international research paper was published in the Current Cardiology Reviews Journal titled Association between Sarcopenic Obesity (SO) and Metabolic Syndrome (Mets) in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, in collaboration with the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics at BAU, University of Oxford (UK), and Gunma Paz University (Japan) on March 2, 2020.

• Corona between Facts and Myths, a lecture on COVID-19 given by Dr. Ahmad Tassi from the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUBMC, was attended by the Faculty of Science on February 22 and 24, 2020 in Valletta, Malta.

• Research Ethics Committees in Lebanon: Current Status and Challenges, a scientific speech delivered by Assistant Professor, Dr. Mohammed M. Mehanna, from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the International Conference on Research Ethics, which was held in November 2019, at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.

• A grant from the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France, was submitted to the Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance on October 14, 2019, in Al Multaqa at Beirut campus.

• The International Conference on Operations Research and Enterprise Systems (ICORES), a conference indexed in Scopus, was attended by the Faculty of Science on February 22 and 24, 2020 in Valletta, Malta.

• The Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France, approved the Faculty of Sciences’ Base-building projects for training in the South to co-fund the project International Post Graduate Studies in Environmental Management and Sustainability for Mediterranean Countries (ENVIPRDMed), a project to develop a joint graduate master program between the Department of Biological Sciences and the master program Ingénieur en Écologie et Gestion de la Biodiversité (IEGB) in Montpellier University, France on October 24, 2019.

• A three-year cooperation agreement was signed between the Faculty of Science and Tripoli Governmental Hospital, which aims to utilize the hospital’s human and scientific potentials and capabilities, to train Medical Physics Master students on how to use diagnostic imaging, radiation therapy and other devices at the hospital to benefit students in applied and research practices. In addition to organizing sustainable educational training courses, scientific seminars, and workshops, as well as conducting joint research and studies in the field of medical physics on December 24, 2019.

• Dardachta Talks, an initiative by the Dynamic Actions for Women in Research and Knowledge observatory (DARKE) was hosted by the Deanship of Graduate Studies and Research, to highlight the academic potential of female researchers in Lebanon and to discuss their latest scientific discoveries on October 14, 2019, in Ali Rached Hall at Beirut campus. (Photo 14)

• Insights into Healthcare Management and Medical Practice, a scientific conference organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences in cooperation with Mazzoum Hospital, and under the patronage of the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Jamil Jabak, represented by the Head of Hospitals and Dispensaries Department, Dr. Jihad Makkouk, on October 10 and 11, 2019, at Tripoli campus. (Photo 15)

• Research Trends in Connected Autonomous Vehicles, a seminar held by the Faculty of Engineering, presenting a sample of the state-of-the-art work on vehicle technology with focus on undergraduate engineering research opportunities on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

• A joint study on the emergence of a gene resistant to a vital antibiotic used at hospitals was conducted by Dr. Mohammed Ali Hijazi from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Dr. Ismat Kassem from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at American University of Beirut, which was published in the Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance on October 9, 2019.

• The first Research Talks event was hosted to promote interdisciplinary research on September 20, 2019, in Al Multaqa at Beirut campus.

• The 2nd AUBMC Theranostics Conference was attended by the Faculty of Science, which was organized by the Continuing Medical Education Office and in collaboration with the Division of Nuclear Medicine, PET/CT and Cyclotron Facilities, Department of Diagnostic Radiology at AUBMC, and endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Arab Society of Nuclear Medicine (ASNM), and the Lebanese Society of Nuclear Medicine (LSNM) on September 6-7, 2019.

• Wild Leafy Vegetables of Lebanon: a Traditional Component in Lebanese Food, a project completed by the Research Center for Environment and Development, which aims to identifying wild edible vegetables consumed as part of the traditional food and cultural practices of Lebanon, and was submitted to the International Journal of Food Sciences & Nutrition and National Plant Genetic Report.
BAU Damages after Beirut Port Explosion
AUGUST 4, 2020

Snapsh_t
BAU Damages after Beirut Port Explosion ... August 4, 2020
BAU Damages after Beirut Port Explosion ... August 4, 2020
Beirut Arab University emphasized remote work while allowing for the resumption of limited in-person activities at campuses and supporting the wellbeing of BAU staff members. The University strives to advance initiatives through developing core foundations, advancing skillsets to ensure competent responsibilities, and participating in virtual webinars and conferences to re-compensate especially during unprecedented times.

Through trials and tribulations, the University’s academic and non-academic staff succeeded in transferring work virtually as members accomplished their duties retaining a smooth online academic transition on all levels, preparing for the new 2020-2027 strategy and the renewal of the international institutional accreditation, and maintaining national and international connections with institutions and organizations.
Due to political and security turmoil and the COVID-19 pandemic, the University migrated all vocational duties of staff members to an online setting to ensure health safety and to proceed with the academic year. BAU staff followed up on activities related to the University agenda virtually and continuously developed their skills through trainings and workshops to keep pace with the latest professional standards.

ONLINE WORK

- A remote work plan was implemented as part of the COVID-19 risk reduction strategy with a rotation initiative among staff members, which condensed the number of working hours while maintaining the same major productivity and efficiency levels. The initiative allowed staff members to complete their required tasks from the comfort of their own homes, and such precautions led to a notable decrease in transportation and operational costs.
- Technical initiatives were taken to ensure an easy admissions process undisrupted by the current situation, especially the spread of COVID-19. New pages were developed on the website to include information and details about admission requirements, and an enhanced online application was established to facilitate applying for students, including a support system to communicate with the University.
- Through secure VPN connections, Anydesk, TeamViewer, and other remote applications, the non-academic staff were able to work from home. Servers were virtualized, and for administration and security purpose, Servers Just Enough and Servers ILO Monitoring were implemented.
- Accounts were migrated to Microsoft 365 for faculties and staff, Moodle was upgraded to its latest version to accommodate extensive online courses, and paper documentation processes were shifted to an online paperless procedure mainly through online receipts, online admission with automated reply to students, and ID requests.
- Application deadlines were extended as admission exams were postponed from March 2020 until May 2020 due to the pandemic. Consequently, exams were canceled, except for the English language proficiency test, and alternative measures for student acceptance were taken. Acceptance was based on the applicants’ high school grades for most faculties, while a portfolio was required to be accepted in the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment. As for approval in English Literature and Mass Communication, applicants were required to submit an essay.
- New orientation procedures for new students were introduced due to pandemic restrictions, by providing orientation material online and on campus, where accepted students were divided into small groups, each faculty was assigned a separate orientation date, orientation material was sent by email to accepted students, and additional information was sent to accepted students unable to attend orientation on campus.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

BAU values the development of work skills and encourages its administrative body and students to attend workshops and trainings locally and internationally.

- The Digital Education in the Field of Health in Lebanon and Syria training workshop was organized by the University for 45 participants from universities in Lebanon and Syria to develop innovative digital skills and teaching methods in the field of health science in the two countries, within the framework of participating in the DIGIHEALTH project, an ERASMUS+ program funded by the European Union on March 2, 2020.
- An internal training session was held on the ways of managing stress for various staff members before the spread of COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that they are well oriented with ways of coping with stress during security, economic, and political unrest. (Photo 19)
- A Digital Marketing Workshop was introduced to non-academic staff about different means of communication and using best practices in content writing, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), and social media platform selection according to specific needs.
- Trainings were shifted during the pandemic to online soft skills sessions by coordinating and collaborating with different service providers such as Best Assistance, who delivered The Stress Management Techniques Webinar and Mental Health during Confinement and after Lockdown Webinar. The Human Resources Association of Lebanon also gave a workshop on The Future of HR and the Changes after Covid-19 to provide staff members with a sense of comfort and support during the lockdown period.
- The Art-Lab for Human Rights and Dialogue, a national training session in community development organized by UNESCO, was attended by the Human Rights Center.
- Mobility facilitation for:
  - Two outgoing students from the Faculty of Health Sciences to the University of Santiago De Compostela, Spain;
  - One outgoing student from the Faculty of Law and Political Science to the University of Alto Douro, Portugal;
  - One outgoing student from the Libraries Department to the University of Porto, Portugal;
  - Five incoming students from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences to the Faculty of Medicine;
- One incoming student from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences to the Faculty of Engineering to the University of Santiago De Compostela, Spain;
- One outgoing staff member from the Libraries Department to the University of Porto, Portugal;
- One outgoing student from the Faculty of Business and Management Science to the University of Porto, Portugal;
- One outgoing student from the Faculty of Law and Political Science to the University of Alto Douro, Portugal;
- One outgoing student from the Faculty of Engineering to the University of Minho, Portugal;
- Five incoming students from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences to the Faculty of Medicine;
- One incoming student from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences to the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Non-academic staff engaged in general and specialized training sessions, workshops, local and international conferences, which took place physically or online including:
- Scopus Journal Indexing Criteria by the Association of Arab Universities and Elsevier on August 24, 2020
- IFLA Round Table - MENA & Africa by International Federation For Library And Information Association on August 17, 2020
- IATUL General Assembly by the International Association of Scientific and Technological University Libraries on July 14, 2020
- Stress Management by Best Assistance Insurance Company on July 1, 2020
- Arabic Journals Classification and Ranking (1) and (2) by the Association of Arab Universities and Elsevier on June 22 and 24, 2020
- MARC21 Newest version by the Arabic Union Catalog on July 11, 2020
- Windows Virtual Desktop training on April 28, 2020
- Blue notes MENA on November 15 and 17, 2019 in Dubai
- CIS and HPE Technology Event: Driving Your Enterprise to Innovation and Agility on October 17, 2019
- Oracle Systems Advantage Executive Roundtable: Data Driven Digital Transformation seminar on October 15, 2019
- Online celebration of 30 Years of International Studies at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences on their YouTube Channel.

HIGHLIGHTS
- An invitation from the President of the Beirut Bar Association, Professor Melhem Khalaf to meet with presidents of private universities and the Union of Private Educational Institutions in Lebanon was attended by BAU President, Professor Amr Galal El-Adawi, on April 16, 2020. The meeting concluded with the firm position that higher and pre-university education in Lebanon is crucial and has a central role on the national level, thus any risks at the expense of students and youth’s academic future are completely and pre-emptively rejected. The purpose of educational institutions is to advance the community socially, economically, and culturally through educational and scientific pursuits, and these institutions will not be requisitioned or aligned to the government’s political conquests.
- The kick-off meeting of Erasmus+ Project titled Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employ-ability through University-Enterprise Cooperation (ELEGANT) was attended by Professor Adel El-Kordi and Professor Soubhi Abou Shaheen, on February 13, 2020, at Princess Sumaya University for Technology, in Amman, Jordan.
- The launching ceremony of MORALE Erasmus+ Project titled Capacity Building for Curricula Modernization of Syrian and Lebanese HEIs and Lifelong Learning Provision: Towards Sustainable NGOs Management and Operation with Special Focus on Refugees/Morale was organized by BAU as a grant coordinator of the project. The event was held in the presence of Professor Amr Galal El-Adawi, BAU President; Professor Soubhi Abou Shaheen, Dean of Student Affairs, Coordinator of MORALE project; representative of Mr. Fadi Youk, Director General of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon, representative of Dr. Aref Alsaifi, Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office, NGO representatives, and MORALE representative partners from Lebanon, Syria, Italy, Spain, Germany, Greece, as well as University deans and faculty members on October 14, 2019. (Photo 21)
- The EU International Education Exhibit at the European Association for International Education’s (EAIE) International Education Conference was attended by the International Relations Office to strengthen academic cooperation with international higher education institutions held on September 27, 2019 at Helsinki, Finland.
The MENA Innovation 2019 in cooperation with Sultanate of Oman’s Ministry of Higher Education and Brains Global, was attended by President, Professor Amr Galal El Adawi, and a delegation consisting of Secretary General, Dr. Omar Houri, and Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Sobhi Abou Chahine, where the President spoke in a panel session titled Transformation through Critical Thinking in Education & Scientific Research on September 16, 2019, in Muscat, Oman. (Photo 20)

- Project participation within the framework of Erasmus+ projects for 36 months including:
  - Interprofessional student-run primary CARE clinics: A University-Enterprise Knowledge Triangle Cooperation Approach (ICARE).
  - Developing Curricula for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (DECAIR).
  - Knowledge Triangle, Reinforcing of Education - Research E-Health & Medical Links (ICU-RER).
  - Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employability through University - Enterprise Cooperation (ELEGANT).

■ The Egyptian Ambassador, Dr. Yasser Mohammad Elwi, and discussed several future cooperations and collaborations between the University and the Universities of Lebanon on August 24, 2020.
■ The Korean Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Young Dae Kwon, and a delegation consisting of Assistant to the Defense Attaché, Mr. Daljoon Kim, and Cultural and Economic Advisor, Ms. Hind Chaaban. The visit included a tour of the Dentistry Clinics, BAUHC Clinics, centers and faculties on October 5, 2020, at Beirut and Debbieh campuses.
■ The Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Vahagn Atabekian, on December 10, 2019. (Photo 24)
■ The President of Beirut Municipality, Jamal Itani, on September 11, 2019. (Photo 23)
AGREEMENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

During the academic year 2019-2020, BAU established a series of cooperation agreements with various universities and institutions:

- A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Lebanese Egyptian Business Council to assist students with training programs and internships in order to prepare them to join the labor market on August 25, 2020. (Photo 28)
- A regional link between the University and the Lebanese Business Council in Kuwait (LBCK) was established by the Center for Quality Assurance and is currently assisting in the development of collaboration initiatives and projects in both Kuwait and Lebanon on July 2020.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with Serum and Solutions for Pharmaceutical Industry permitting the company to carry out analysis to measure product quality at the Drug Quality Control Laboratory at the University on July 8, 2020. (Photo 26)
- Two cooperation agreements were signed with the Delegation of International Committee of the Red Cross in Lebanon and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to train students at Tripoli campus on February 20, 2020.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with Mouljayismal University aiming to establish collaborative scientific and cultural ties in science, thought, culture, arts, and human sciences on January 23, 2020.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with Tripoli Governmental Hospital in the presence of the former Minister of Public Health Dr. Jamil Jabak to utilize the hospital’s human and scientific potentials and capabilities to train Medical Physics Master’s students on how to use diagnostic imaging, radiation therapy, and other devices at the hospital that benefit students in applied and research practices on December 24, 2019. (Photo 27)
- A renewable one-year cooperation agreement was signed with Family Medical Center to exchange expertise and consultations in the fields of nutrition, medical laboratory, and nursing on November 28, 2019.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Disaster Management Unit at the Council of Ministers, represented by Judge Mahmoud Makiya, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, to strengthen coordination, exchange experiences, and knowledge on disaster management to ensure safety and maintain the national interests of both parties and serve the Lebanese community on October, 10, 2019. (Photo 29)

Numerous agreements and collaborations were made with national and international organizations, institutions, and bodies to develop and strengthen relations:

- Association of Arab Universities (AARU)
- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- Arab Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (ARAB-ACRAO)
- International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)
- International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- Scientific Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in the Arab World (Affiliated to AARU)
- Association of the Arab Faculties of Dentistry (Affiliated to AARU)
- Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIM)
- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
- Association of Universities of Lebanon (AARU)
- Conference des Recteurs de la Région du Moyen-Orient (CONFREMO) (AUF)
- Réseau International Francophone des établissements de formation de formateurs (RIFEFF) (AUF)
- Conference Internationale Des Formations D’Ingenieurs et Techniciens D’Expression Francaise (CITEF) (AUF)
- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (Alexandria)
- USAID | Lebanon’s Expand your Horizons Program with Research Center For Environment & Development- RCED)
- Bibliotheca Alexandria
- Ministry of Agriculture- Faculty of Pharmacy
- The Lebanese Army
- The National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- Association of Medical Colleges in the Arab World- Association of Arab Universities
- Arab Society of Faculties of Business, Economic, and Political Sciences
- National News Agency
- Ministry of Environment
- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
- Union of Arab Banks
- Association Najleh
- The Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation
- Hamdan Bin Mohammad e-University
- Lebanese Industrial Research Achievements Program (LIRA)
- The University of Massachusetts- Lowell- United States of America
- Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute- Lebanon
- Link Campus University
- Sudan
- Université Paris- Sorbonne (Paris IV)
- Euro-Mediterranean University- Slovenia
- Université Paris- Sorbonne (Paris IV)
- Université de Genève
- Glasgow University
- Global ELT Solutions (Cambridge Center)
- Cambridge English Language Assessment
- British Council
- Technology Collaboration Agreement for Research and Education (Tech Core) - Lebanon
- USEK
- Technology Collaboration Agreement for Research and Education (Tech Core) - Lebanon
- USEK
- The Faculty of Architecture-Design and Built Environment
- The Faculty of Architecture-Design and Built Environment
- The Faculty of Architecture-Design and Built Environment
- The Faculty of Architecture-Design and Built Environment
- Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation – Lebanon
- Appendix Agreement to Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Cooperation
- American Heart Association
- Tripoli Governmental Hospital
- Hammoud University Medical Center
- Merhej Dental Laboratories
- Merhej Dental Laboratories
- Pharmaline
- Schlumberger
- Bentia
- Pharmadex
- Ciment de Sibline S.A.L.
- Pharmaline
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- Hammoud University Medical Center
- Merhej Dental Laboratories
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The pandemic and August 4 explosion brought an onslaught of misfortunes upon the Lebanese community, creating an immediate and urgent need for humanitarian needs. Beirut Arab University placed all its resources to aid the community by mobilizing its medical facilities, students, and staff members to engage in civic and health care respite missions. BAU maintained a constant presence on the field, volunteering and lending support in hospitals, with governmental and non-governmental organizations, clubs, and various other bodies. From medical and professional assistance to securing provisions, the University community worked tirelessly performing its societal and humane duties; forming a united front in the face of adversity.
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A preventive campaign in participation with national efforts was issued to avoid the spread of Coronavirus in the Lebanese community and among students and their families. During the COVID-19 lockdown and quarantine imposed by the Lebanese authorities from March 17 till June 30, 2020, Beirut Arab University Healthcare Center (BAUHC) applied the telemedicine approach and continued to provide its services remotely via telephone calls; around 738 patients received consultations over the phone. Patients who called the center were scheduled appointments with the family medicine specialists. Thereafter, a physician would communicate with the patient, document medical history, and give appropriate advice and treatment. Patients who required diagnostic investigations and medication were instructed to pass by BAUHC and collect prescriptions at the center entrance to decrease exposure risks for patients and healthcare workers. On July 1st, 2020, BAUHC resumed usual services and accepted physical appointments while applying strict precautionary measures for COVID-19.

BAU graduates comprised of physicians, residents, interns, nurses, and instructors from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences served on the frontline against the COVID-19 pandemic in detecting the virus symptoms and controlling its spread during the first phase of the pandemic. Along with helping at Rafik Hariri University Hospital, students from the Faculty of Medicine also collaborated with the Ministry of Public Health by volunteering as members of the airport’s medical team to assist in screening returning Lebanese citizens at the airport and border checkpoints, and some volunteered to work in the specialized isolation section for epidemiological cases in April, 2020.

A question and answer session was conducted based on recent research to help clarify some major concerns for individuals with diabetes on April 11, 2020. The session addressed questions on risk factors, symptom severity, health safety advice, and tips on how to deal with diabetic complications if infected with COVID-19. The most crucial advice was to maintain home quarantine and a healthy diabetic diet, exercising at home, taking the related prescribed medication, and checking up with a doctor regularly and to seek medical care in case of any signs of infection for patients with diabetes mellitus, types I and II, also patients characterized by chronic hyperglycemia, are at a higher risk of COVID-19 infection according to medical specialists.

Dental Clinics closed due to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, until the situation deemed safe enough to resume work at the clinics. After three months, the dental clinics opened operating at a reduced capacity to abide by necessary safety measures.

Viruses of the Century, a public awareness seminar organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences to increase awareness on the common viruses, their routes of infection and transmission, treatment strategies, vaccines, and the facts and misconceptions related to viral infection prevention, cure and recovery on February 2, 2020, at Tripoli campus.

An awareness campaign was launched in Beirut schools, where students from different faculties volunteered under the supervision of professors, to teach school students on preventive measures and urge them to integrate these measures as part of their daily routine to prevent the spread of viruses. Contribution to COVID-19 research and engagement in internationally affiliated initiatives were conducted to spread public awareness regarding the pandemic.

Clinical services were sustained during COVID-19 by using Zoom meetings for online patient follow up.

BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION

- A question and answer session was conducted based on recent research to help clarify some major concerns for individuals with diabetes on April 11, 2020. The session addressed questions on risk factors, symptom severity, health safety advice, and tips on how to deal with diabetic complications if infected with COVID-19. The most crucial advice was to maintain home quarantine and a healthy diabetic diet, exercising at home, taking the related prescribed medication, and checking up with a doctor regularly and to seek medical care in case of any signs of infection for patients with diabetes mellitus, types I and II, also patients characterized by chronic hyperglycemia, are at a higher risk of COVID-19 infection according to medical specialists.
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- Clinical services were sustained during COVID-19 by using Zoom meetings for online patient follow up.
On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion of Ammonium Nitrate occurred at the port of Beirut, causing more than 194 deaths, more than 6,500 injuries, US$10–15 billion damage in property, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless.

Post the explosion, 350 BAU students from all faculties and majors rushed to help the community and volunteered all available human and professional resources needed to raise Beirut back on its feet. After performing a damage survey on affected areas, the Student Activities Department in collaboration with BAU departments, Human Rights Center, and social clubs such as the DSC, and the Lebanese Red Cross youth department organized a repair campaign targeting damaged public schools in Beirut on August 14, 2020.

- Rami Al Zarif Mixed Public School
- Salma Sayegh Public School
- Tabaris Mixed Public School
- Basta Mixed Public School
- Omar Hamad Elementary School
- Amrun Bayham Public School
- Tank Al Jadida Public School

Afterward, BAU students and staff placed all their energy repairing our beloved University that suffered hefty damages. (Photo 33)

- A two-week medical campaign was launched by BAUHC to support community members on August 17, 2020, following the Beirut port blast. Beneficiaries received free of charge physician consultations with free medication. A team of Egyptian physicians supported BAUHC doctors in relief missions during their stay in Lebanon from August 17 till 23, 2020. Thereafter, BAUHC physicians continued the medical campaign till August 28, 2020. During this period, a total of 416 patients visited the center for medical consultations.
- BAU Stands by You, a psychological support hotline for those affected by the Beirut blast was initiated, and a Psychological First Aid Unit was prepared to receive patients in need of psychological reprieve. Psychological First Aid for PTSD and trauma were broadcasted Friday morning for four weeks on Radio du Liban by the Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Professor Maysah El Nayal.
- A research project on the explosion blast wave and its effects on building structures was launched by the Faculty of Engineering, including staff members and graduate students. The research team, consisting of Professor Yehya Temsah and Dr. Ali Jahami, who conducted a site visit to Beirut port on August 14, 2020, in coordination with Beirut Municipality and the Lebanese Army. The site observations and damage assessments resulted in collecting important data for the research project, and several recommendation to the different bodies working on the site related to the methodology of debris removal and demolition work. (Photo 35)

A field survey concerning public safety and structural damage was launched under the patronage of Beirut City Governor, Judge Manwan Abboud, and in the presence of major representatives in the field of architectural construction and planning at the Order of Engineers and Architects on August 12, 2020, in participation with the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment where it confirmed extending all the faculty’s capabilities and resources, professors and students, as well as BAU’s Urban Lab facilities and expertise to aid in rehabilitation and assessments of areas affected by the explosion. (Photo 36)

- A Number of volunteers assisted UN-Habitat Lebanon in conducting damage assessment of Bourj Hammoud Neighborhood. The first phase was dedicated to establishing a rapid survey for damaged buildings, and throughout two consecutive days, 25 groups were distributed along the area to gather qualitative and quantitative information about the damages in affected buildings. During this phase, BAU volunteers succeeded in performing an on-site survey for more than 1,000,000 m2. This assessment included the evaluation of presently affected damages of the built environment using a mobile application specifying the geographical location of each plot connected to the geographical information system (GIS), on August 13 and 14, 2020. (Photo 34)
- Several meetings with specialized bodies were held to organize relief efforts and extend assistance from the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment and support volunteers working on the field in coordination with the Lebanese Army, Beirut Municipality, Khatib & Alami Company, and the representative of the High Relief Commission in coordination with international organizations and figures. During the meetings, the dean Professor Ibtihal El-Bastawissi focused on the importance of a holistic perspective towards the impacted areas through a comprehensive study of all the targeted neighborhoods, knowing that these urban spaces constitute an essential part of the Lebanese urban heritage that must be preserved. On the other hand, a meeting with the Deans and Heads of Architecture Departments of Lebanese Universities was held at the Order of Engineers and Architects on August 10, 2020 in Beirut, emphasising on the crucial role of the faculties of architecture at Lebanese universities to collaborate with the Order of Engineers and Architects and combine efforts to build a solid scientific and academic foundation for a reconstruction action plan to preserve the country’s urban heritage and identity after the port explosion.
BAU community was mobilized to help NUSANED NGO in conducting value-based needs assessment of the affected areas in Beirut after the port blast, where volunteers participated for a week gathering data and supervising repair works. Students from the Faculty of Engineering participated in relief activities after the explosion, where they helped remove debris and worked with social groups like ASCE, IEEE, and ASME to assess damage and compile reports for urgent repairs and restorations. The academic staff members contributed with the Order of Engineers and Architects on safety assessments for damaged buildings and infrastructure and provided training sessions at the Order of Engineers on structural damage assessment.

Tripoli campus students assisted in clearing debris at downtown Beirut from Al Nahar Newspaper to Karantina Hospital. They also helped Beirut Hope Association in packing and distributing food to families affected by the explosion.

Mobile Dental Clinic, a well-equipped two-dental chair bus designed to travel across the country providing dental care and spread oral health awareness to the underprivileged experiencing economic hardship, was deposited in Beirut after the explosion to offer its services to the community especially in Karantina. The services performed by the mobile clinic included the following: (Photo 37)
- Population screening of different age groups for oral diseases (Photo 38)
- Educating children on the importance of oral health
- Providing both preventive and curative services in case of any emergency-relief situation
- The Physical Therapy Outpatient Clinic (PTOC) was expanded with an addition of five treatment cubicles to accommodate more patients making it one of the largest university rehabilitation centers in Lebanon. The Clinic continued to offer its services to the community through rehabilitation for musculoskeletal/post-traumatic disorders (including pre and post fitting rehab), neurological (including head trauma, spinal cord injury, and stroke), pediatric, geriatric, and respiratory disorders.

The Physical Therapy Department has been involved in a network along with WHO, Humanity and inclusion, World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF), International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), and the Order of Physiotherapists in Lebanon (OPTL) to develop strategies and implementation capacities in managing resources needed for victims of the port explosion.

Free training for community activists, healthcare teams, and community members was provided by the International Training Center BAULS to equip them with first aid training as first responders on the field. The center offered free training for BLS, ACLS and PALS for governmental hospitals, as well as hands only CPR training for NGO volunteers and team members contributing in disaster relief. Also the center trained BAU staff in Heart Saver First Aid to further assist the community with first aid responses.

- Mapping, cleaning, and maintenance of affected areas of the explosion, mainly in schools, was done by volunteers from the Human Rights Center
- Contributions in transferring the wounded and administrating first aid was done by the Red Cross volunteers, along with psychological support to people affected by the explosion provided by BAU students. Also some students covered the incident and offered assistance by serving as a communication bridge broadcasting essential information.
CENTERS’ ACTIVITIES

The University Centers’ annual activities faced several delays and cancellations due to security measures and COVID-19 precautions. However, centers were able to retain the flow of major activities and communications to continue providing community services.

- Despite all the challenges and the closure of BAUHC for around a month, the total number of BAUHC’s beneficiaries between September 2019 and August 2020, increased from 3,756 to 4,608. The majority of beneficiaries, with 2,110 in total, are holders of BAU insurance (academic staff, employees, and workers).
- The UN75 Youth Online Consultation – “Which Future do we Want in Lebanon?”, in terms of SDG: Gender equality was attended by the Human Rights Center, represented by Ms. Salam Zahran, organized by UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO) in Lebanon and the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO (LNCU) on July 2020. (Photo 39)
- A site visit was held at BAU campuses until March 2020 by Academic Development and Quality Assurance Centre (ADQAC). This was followed by giving online technical support in quality assurance to the University community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The center also participated in workshops by the Association of Lebanese Universities in preparation for the National Quality Assurance Agency assessment in Lebanon.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with Cedars Mutual Fund (CMF) was signed with BAUHC pursuing to increase the number of BAUHC beneficiaries. CMF members will benefit from BAUHC’s physician consultations, diagnostic and treatment services at discounted rates on February 25, 2020.
- A dialogue seminar in collaboration with Fighters for Peace titled Fighting for Peace aimed to spread awareness among youth to decrease society violence through the reinforcement of peace and citizenship values especially in the current turbulent circumstances. The seminar was organized by the Human Rights Center on February 12, 2020, at Beirut campus.
- Digital Transformation and Digital Economy, a lecture which dealt with the migration from traditional electronic economy towards a digital economy in the 21st Century using new digital business models empowered by new emerging digital technologies such as Analytics, AI, IoT and Blockchain, was organized by the Center for Continuing and Professional Education held on January 31, 2020 in Ali Rashed Hall at Beirut campus.
- The Fikr 17 Conference toward New Arabic Thought was attended by the Human Rights Center as a Youth Ambassador Committee, organized by the Arab Thought Foundation in partnership with King Abdul- Aziz Center for the world culture (Ithra) Dahran KSA on December 2019.
- The International Foundation for Y- Peer Development collaborated with the Human Rights Center on an exchange training project for university students funded by Erasmus +, which aims to develop participants’ capabilities and implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 regarding youth, peace, and security on October 2019.
- The ESCWA-UN Model, which aims to train students of all specialties to formulate policies concerned with international issues, and formulating projects and decisions according to the United Nations and ESCWA’s work mechanisms was attended by the Human Rights Center in September 2019.
- A grant from OHCHR - UN office on PBF Dealing with the Past - Memory for the Future project was offered to the Human Rights Center, which directs human rights efforts to address root causes of past conflicts and present social tensions, such as incitement to discrimination and violence based on sectarian/confessional identities; facilitate cross-confessional dialogue and engage Lebanese youth, 2020-2021.
- A health care center on the ground floor of Hariri Building was established which included special insulated partitions for X-Ray rooms, laboratories furnished with special ceramic floors, lighting, false ceiling and air conditioning. The center was equipped with new X-Rays and diagnostic machines.
- Six courses with a total of 1785 attending participants throughout the academic year 2019-2020 were given by the Center for Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE).
- A noticeable decline in revenues was noticed for laboratories affiliated with the Center of Consultation and Studies (CCS) due to the public movement and the COVID-19 pandemic accompanied with the general closure of BAU from mid-March till the end of June.

- Tests for 25 Lebanese companies and bodies with a total number of 326 samples were conducted by the Material Properties Laboratory. While the Water and Soil Analysis Laboratory conducted tests for seven Lebanese companies and bodies with a total number of 74 samples. The Drug Quality Control laboratory conducted analysis for 28 Lebanese companies and bodies with a total number of 209 samples.
- Due to the Lebanese public movement and the Coronavirus pandemic, the Center for Entrepreneurship’s activities were suspended. However, the center remained active despite the struggles to extend its services to BAU and the community, and pursue collaborations to empower youth most notably with Inas Academic Awards Foundation Program (IAAF) and UNIDO-Bahrain Chapter to train and assist CFE staff on developing entrepreneurship programs for start-ups.
- A project on Compost Use in Potato Production: Effects on Soil Quality and Plant Growth was conducted by the Research Center for Environmental Development (RCED) in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the Lebanese at BAU Bekaa campus.
- The school forums for secondary public and private schools in central west Bekaa and Baalbek was attended by the Research Center for Environment and Development (RCED), where students were provide with detail information on specialties available in universities, admission requirements, extracurricular activities, financial aids and scholarships.
The following events illustrate students' University life and activities:

- The Dorms Futsal Tournament was held with the participation of 48 students from different faculties, where the Faculty of Engineering's teams won first and second place on February 26, 2020, in the Sports Hall at Debbieh campus.
- A lecture titled Learn From Your Future was delivered by Dr. Khaled Ghattas to discuss concepts such as self-confidence vs humbleness, communication vs content and finally goals vs purpose, which was held on February 20, 2020, in Ali Rashed Hall at Beirut campus. (Photo 44)
- An Athletics Training Camp was attended by the Athletics Division, where a delegation of 56 athletes received several training sessions at the Tryp & Wyndham Hawthorn Suites to improve their skills, stamina, and teamwork on and off the court. Also, the division engaged in friendly matches with Turkish sports teams from January 29 till February 2, 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey. (Photo 43)
Students engaged in several competitions and events attaining awards and prizes:

- The 2020 Presidential Award for Outstanding Section was awarded to the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Beirut Section, recognizing it as one of the top 5 SPE sections around the world on August 3, 2020.
- The first runner-up in the 13th Edition of the Arab Startup Competition was won by a team of students from the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment. The team was qualified to be among the finalists and compete internationally with teams from eleven countries around the world on July 1, 2020.
- First place in the MIT Lebanon Challenge 2020 was attained by Alumnus Aras Hojar for innovative solutions to challenges facing Lebanon, organized by the Massachusetts Institute Of Technology within the framework of the Industry Manufacturing’s Scrape project in July 2020. The competition included 1108 applicants from 51 different countries around the world to provide progressive solutions for problems facing Lebanon, which brought together diverse stakeholders from Lebanon and the diaspora to address the challenges the country is facing and pitch ideas to the judges.
- The 2020 ASCE Distinguished Region 10 Award was received by the ASCE Student Chapter for outstanding student organization in the region and the 2020 Richard J. Scranton Outstanding Community Service Award on April 15, 2020.
- The 3rd position in the Local CFA Research Challenge was won by Wafa El Baba, Ahmad Abou Salah, Salem Chatila, Bilal Tawil, students from the Faculty of Business Administration, on February 22, 2020 at the Hilton Habtoor Hotel in Beirut.
- The Blom-Invest Stock Exchange Competition Ceremony was organized by the Faculty of Business Administration, where students presented their virtual stock exchange trading strategy to the BAU-Blom investment jury, and students Salem Shatila, Bilal Walid Tawil and Rayan Hamedeh won respectively the first, second and third place qualifying for the finalists held on February 18, 2020, in Ali Rashed Hall at Beirut campus. (Photo 45) A ceremony to honor students who have participated and won various competitions at the end of the academic year 2018-2019, and to cherish collaborations done with local and national organizations in Lebanon, such as UNIDO, Safadi Foundation, Municipality of Tripoli and Al Mina was organized by the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment in Tripoli campus on September 27, 2019.
- The Best Innovative Solution Award at the UNDP Youth Leadership Program -YLP5 was won by the Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment on their project INFRASTIC, which is a specialized concrete system for both vertical and horizontal applications of construction-grade building materials made of 75 percent recyclables.
- The title of President of the Lebanese Medical Students International Committee (LeMSIC) was given to the Faculty of Medicine’s sixth year student, Omar Aboul Hosn, making him the first BAU student to hold the position.
- Second place for the best graduation architectural project was won by senior student Mourina El Halabi at the Annual Conference for Engineering and Architecture Graduates in North of Lebanon 2019 (ACEAG), which was organized by the scientific committee at the Order of Engineers & Architects - Tripoli.
Facts and Figures

Regardless of the hardships this year, Beirut Arab University sustained its student enrollment status, continued to provide financial aid, and withstood a slight decrease in international mobility exchange due to political and security unrest as well as the COVID-19 outbreak.

This section details BAU in numbers where each academic year statistical data is collected and documented. The data and charts presented cover various areas concerning the University such as numbers of graduate and undergraduate students, academic and non-academic staff, scholarships and financial aid, enrollment statuses in faculties, and other noteworthy data.
CHART 1: THE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC STAFF DISTRIBUTED BY GENDER
TOTAL: 947

- Female: 368
- Male: 579

CHART 2: THE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC STAFF DISTRIBUTED BY NATIONALITY
TOTAL: 947

- Lebanese: 140
- International: 807

CHART 3: THE NUMBER OF NON-ACADEMIC STAFF DISTRIBUTED BY GENDER
TOTAL: 384

- Female: 187
- Male: 197

CHART 4: THE NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS BY FACULTY IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
TOTAL: 7,587

- Freshman:
  - Science: 566
  - Human Sciences: 511
  - Law and Political Science: 526
  - Business Administration: 566
  - Architecture: 2402
  - Engineering: 1105
  - Health Sciences: 849

- Male:
  - Science: 79
  - Human Sciences: 78
  - Law and Political Science: 74
  - Business Administration: 175
  - Architecture: 123
  - Engineering: 245
  - Health Sciences: 33

CHART 5: THE NUMBER OF GRADUATED STUDENTS BY FACULTY IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
TOTAL: 1,567

- Freshman:
  - Science: 79
  - Human Sciences: 74
  - Law and Political Science: 155
  - Business Administration: 39
  - Architecture: 33
  - Engineering: 245
  - Health Sciences: 175

- Male:
  - Science: 566
  - Human Sciences: 401
  - Law and Political Science: 167
  - Business Administration: 1105
  - Architecture: 511
  - Engineering: 236
  - Health Sciences: 849
CHART 6: THE NUMBER OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE LAST FIVE ACADEMIC YEARS
TOTAL: 41,276

2015 - 2016: 9,056
2016 - 2017: 8,458
2017 - 2018: 7,949
2018 - 2019: 8,226
2019 - 2020: 7,587

CHART 7: THE NUMBER OF BAU SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID BY CATEGORY
TOTAL: 7,381

Financial Aid: 4,756
Baccalaureate Scholarship: 1,630
Siblings Discount: 1,1
Student Aid for University Staff: 565
Ranking Scholarships: 299
Child Aid for University Staff: 22

CHART 8: THE NUMBER OF MASTERS' DEGREES GRANTED BY FACULTY IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 2020
TOTAL: 184

Human Sciences: 69
Law and Political Science: 21
Science: 19
Pharmacy: 15
Engineering: 14
Business Administration: 11
Architecture: 10
Dentistry: 9
Health Sciences: 8

CHART 9: THE NUMBER OF MASTERS' DEGREES GRANTED IN THE LAST FIVE ACADEMIC YEARS
TOTAL: 684

2015 - 2016: 184
2016 - 2017: 139
2017 - 2018: 154
2018 - 2019: 120
2019 - 2020: 56

CHART 10: THE NUMBER OF Ph.D. DEGREES GRANTED BY FACULTY IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
TOTAL: 56

Human Sciences: 20
Law and Political Science: 9
Science: 5
Engineering: 1
Business Administration: 2
Architecture: 1
Dentistry: 1
Health Sciences: 1

CHART 11: THE NUMBER OF Ph.D. DEGREES GRANTED IN THE LAST FIVE ACADEMIC YEARS
TOTAL: 260

2015 - 2016: 70
2016 - 2017: 56
2017 - 2018: 48
2018 - 2019: 35
2019 - 2020: 70