

FONDATION
USJ
1875

Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Saint Joseph University of Beirut
جامعة القديس يوسف في بيروت



IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023

YOUR IMPACT

KEY FIGURES

TESTIMONIALS...

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
2022-2023 ACADEMIC
YEAR**

Together on the road to excellence

July 2022 – June 2023

For those who would like to check our previous impact reports, 2018-2019; 2019-2020 and 2020-2022, click on the links below:

[Impact report 2018-2019](#)

[Impact report 2019-2020](#)

[Impact report 2020-2022](#)

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Carla Eddé, *Vice-Rector for International Relations*

Nassib Nasr, *Director-General of Hôtel-Dieu de France*

And the heads of all USJ and HDF entities for their help and collaboration in the collection of data, numbers and projects.

Data referred to in this Report has been audited by Ernst & Young P.C.C and issued their unmodified opinion on January 31, 2024.

A FOUNDATION *forging ahead...*

Fondation USJ continues to move forward amidst Lebanon's stagnation, thanks to the unwavering generosity and steadfast support of each and every one of you, despite the prevailing political, economic and social challenges. At the cusp of commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), we stand, supported by our benevolent sponsors, friends, Alumni, and loyal partners, both locally and internationally, as our foundation carries on its mission.

In the spirit of the shared trust and transparency that unite us, we are pleased to share the fourth Impact Report of Fondation USJ (2022-2023). This report reflects on the year's highlights, showcasing the impactful actions and achievements dedicated to supporting USJ students and the continuous development of our University. It also sheds the light on our university hospital, Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF), which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year.

Once again, this year, the outpouring of generosity has been remarkable in supporting the team of Fondation USJ. Despite the challenges, we hold onto hope and remain resolute in our mission, confident in a positive future.

Together, we will persist in forging ahead...

It is for these reasons, and especially to uphold accessibility to high education and healthcare for all, that we persist in our efforts with unwavering faith and strength to support the University and its university medical center in achieving their respective goals.

With the support of our Rector, a key pillar of Fondation USJ, we have once again, this year, embarked on international journeys, engaging in awareness campaigns among friends and Alumni, with the aim of forging new connections and establishing partnerships in cities such as Paris, Geneva, Houston, Los Angeles, London, Montreal, and Dubai.

In this 4th annual report, you will gain a detailed overview of the current status of our Foundation's diverse accomplishments: from the Rector's journeys with the USJ delegation, the signing of memorandum of understanding, excellence award ceremonies, the launching of new fundraising campaigns and scholarship funds, to heartfelt testimonials from our generous donors and ambitious scholars, and much more.

Given the current circumstances that necessitate sustained efforts, it is important to highlight that more than 53% of our students received financial assistance during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Today, as we share a year of dedicated service with you, we recognize that Fondation USJ's narrative is far from complete. The upcoming chapters will be marked by new challenges and opportunities, and we look forward to facing them alongside you.

Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea
Director of Fondation USJ

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MESSAGE FROM PROF. SALIM DACCACHE, SJ Rector, President of Fondation USJ and Chairman of the HDF Board of Directors



Weathering crises at the University and Hospital...

In what follows, you will delve into the 2022-2023 Impact Report of Fondation USJ, which offers a comprehensive look at the responses of USJ and HDF to the unprecedented economic crisis that has unfolded, resulting in a significant reduction of financial resources. This report highlights the strategies adopted by our team to navigate through these challenging circumstances.

As the Covid-19 pandemic receded, the 2022-2023 year marked a slowdown in the alertness of the Lebanese healthcare system. In this context, we must acknowledge the dedicated efforts of our teams at Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF) and laboratories like the LRM - Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in analyzing, diagnosing, and treating the hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals seeking our healthcare. Alongside in-kind donations, the Hospital, supported by the Foundation, worked tirelessly to ensure the continuity of its services. It's noteworthy that HDF had already been severely impacted by the Beirut Port explosion in its budgets and revenues, compounded by the fact that the entire University Medical Center had been reserved for treating those affected by the pandemic. However, as the crisis waned, another, more structural and pernicious economic crisis emerged, causing significant damage to Lebanese households, particularly impacting the middle class who believed their bank deposits were protected in Lebanese banks.

Therefore, our mission became twofold: to uphold our hospital's social responsibility in assisting patients unable to afford treatment, and to support the University during this severe crisis, where tuition fees plummeted to just 20% of their value during the 2018/2019 academic year. Consequently, we established the Social Solidarity Fund and a Patient Social Services department to ensure that patients in need also have access to healthcare. Similarly, within the University, we bolstered support measures for students facing financial hardship, with over 53% receiving scholarships and reduced tuition fees. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors, both individuals and groups, whose unwavering support, driven by a commitment to solidarity, has sustained our mission of nurturing exceptional talent through education at the University, while also extending a helping hand to countless patients in need.

As we look to the future, brimming with potential for both the University and HDF, we remain mindful of the increasing pressing needs. These encompass not only supporting students and patients but also securing funds for healthcare and academic research equipment, advancing initiatives in ecology and sustainable development, as well as political and societal studies.

As we approach the milestone of 150 years, it is evident that substantial endowments will be necessary to pave the way for the future, enabling a broader spectrum of scientific projects and sustaining our commitment to excellence, service, and innovation. Fondation USJ, too, must evolve, equipping itself with the administrative and fundraising means necessary to achieve its loftiest objectives.

Salim Daccache, SJ

As a testament to good management and transparency, Fondation USJ, presided by the Rector and overseen by a Director, will, as of January 2024, be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board will serve as the primary decision-making authority, defining the strategic direction of Fondation USJ based on the needs of the University, HDF, and the HDF hospital network. It will also organize and oversee fundraising activities and manage the raised funds through the Investment Committee.

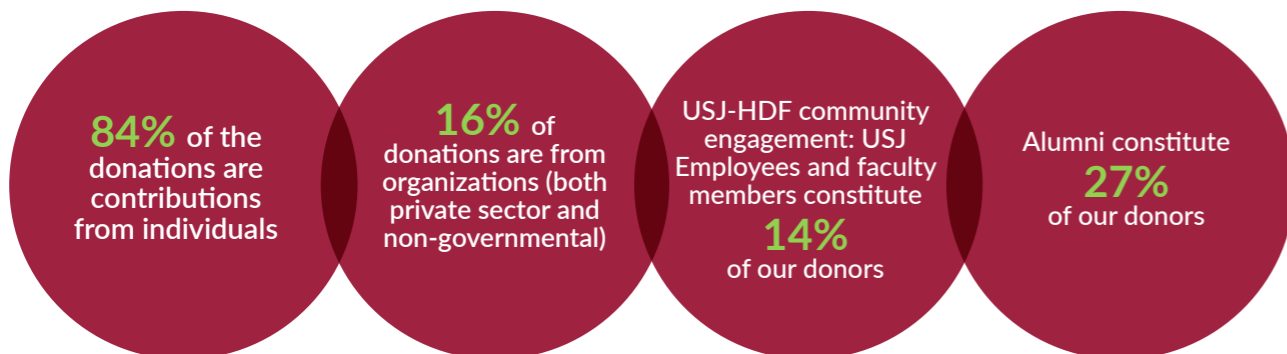
KEY FIGURES



In 2022-2023, we were able to raise **5,342,735 USD** thanks to the generosity of **467 donors**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

By supporting the campaigns of Fondation USJ, you have contributed to the fulfillment of our mission.



Against all odds, Fondation USJ persists in addressing the growing needs of the University and its institutions.

An ever-evolving mission

Since its establishment in 2015, the Foundation has remarkably evolved. Its ambitious vision has become a driving force, a catalyst for change and a source for hope within the USJ-HDF community.



True to its values

Fondation USJ is firmly grounded in fundamental values such as equality, solidarity, compassion, commitment, trust, and transparency, which are clearly reflected in our actions, projects, and fundraising campaigns, whose objectives are:

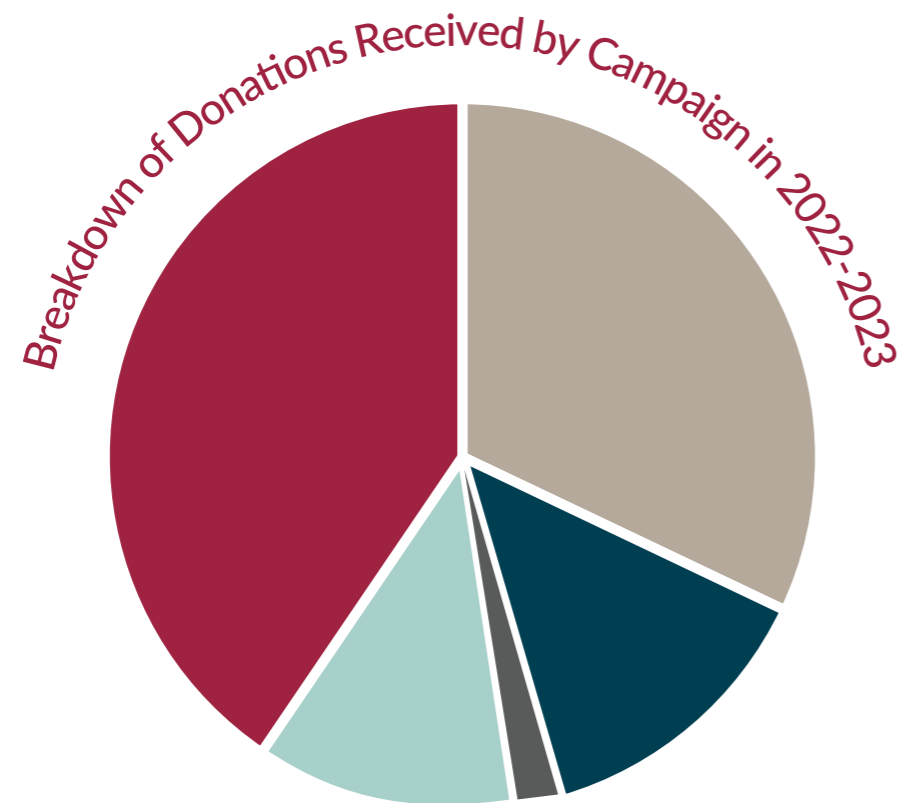
- Providing scholarships to students in financial difficulties.
- Establishing awards to promote and encourage entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation among outstanding students.
- Meeting institutions' needs and supporting the modernization of the University and its university hospital's infrastructure and equipment.
- Supporting research projects and funds, and establishing Chairs for specific topics.
- Raising awareness and developing a philanthropic culture within the USJ-HDF community.



DONATIONS AND FINANCES

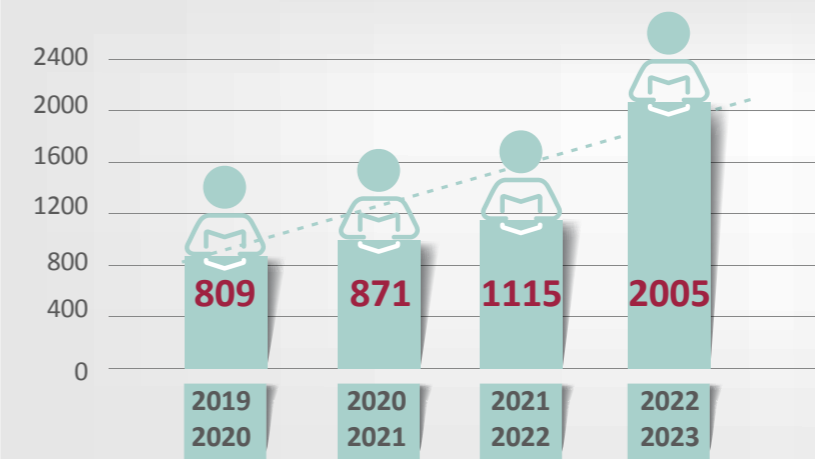
GRAPHS AND FIGURES

Amid the ongoing crisis in Lebanon, we remain committed to overcoming significant challenges with your generous support! We cannot thank you enough!



- Student Scholarship Fund
\$2,654,074
- Infrastructure and Equipment
\$1,109,812
- Naming
\$1,098,452
- Social and Cultural Environment
\$62,226
- Healthcare and Hospital Sector (with estimated in-kind donations)
\$3,352,060

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID THROUGH DONATIONS BY ACADEMIC YEAR



Out of the 8,688 full-time students, 4,665 submitted a financial aid application to the Financial Aid Office,

indicating that 53% of students need support to pursue their studies.

A total of 8,326 scholarships and financial aids were awarded, with 2,005 generously funded by our donors, with a

budget of 8,486,728 USD



Regardless of the distance that separates us, every donation is a testament to your sincere attachment and steadfast support for your fellow citizens and your homeland.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2022-2023

Fondation USJ continues to expand, reaching beyond Lebanese borders to better address today's challenges. This expansion is not limited to geographical boundaries; it also embodies a spirit of solidarity and unity with friends and Alumni of the community!

1 Rector visits USJ and HDF Alumni and friends abroad Five fundraising dinners were held in support of USJ students, spanning across Houston, Los Angeles, Geneva, Paris, and Dubai.

A delegation led by the Rector, along with Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of Fondation USJ, Dr. Christian Makary, President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, and other USJ and HDF officials, has extended its efforts abroad. The aim was to further raise funds for USJ students and patients at its university medical center, Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF), and to forge new partnerships with the Lebanese diaspora, as well as friends in the USA, Europe and the United Arab Emirates.

UNITED STATES

Houston and Los Angeles Welcome the Rector with a Delegation from USJ

During its short stay in the United States, the delegation was invited on November 18 to the residence of Mr. Joseph Hakim and his wife Randa, Director of the North America Office of USJ, for a cocktail reception in honor of the Rector, bringing together several alumni, friends, and personalities from Houston. The following day, the delegation met with the oncologist and internationally renowned researcher, Dr. Philippe Salem, known for his unwavering humanism. A lunch was also held in honor of the Rector at the invitation of Mr. Najid Farès, CEO of Link Group LLC and Wedge Equities LLC, attended by Dr. Pierre Khoury, President of the Houston Chapter, as well as some Alumni and friends.



The first gala dinner organized by the Houston Chapter of the USJ Alumni Association was held on Saturday, November 19, at the Omni Hotel in Houston, where nearly 300 Alumni and friends of the University gathered. This event also served as a fundraiser for the "Donate to Educate" campaign, which supports student scholarships, and successfully raised over \$100,000. During this friendly and supportive evening, the Rector made a point of honoring several Lebanese personalities in Houston, including Dr. Raymond Sawaya, whose exceptional journey was acknowledged with the University's Merit Medal, presented by the Rector, and a trophy presented on behalf of the Chapter. Finally, in recognition of their efforts to bring together USJ alumni in Houston, the Rector also presented the USJ Medal to Dr. Pierre Khoury (FM, 1991), Mr. Pierre Moubarak (ESIB, 1988), and Mrs. Randa Hakim, the Director of the North America Office of USJ.



The Rector of USJ and Mrs. Cynthia Ghobril Andrea were invited on November 20 to a solidarity brunch, at the invitation of Dr. Kamal and Jocelyne Zakka, who mobilized a large number of their friends and LA personalities.



The California Chapter of the USJ Alumni Association organized its fundraising dinner for the benefit of the University and its students on November 20, 2022. Over 100 guests responded to the invitation, including Mr. Bashir Saad Sarkis, Consul General of Lebanon in Los Angeles, and several figures from the Lebanese community.

The evening began with a welcoming note from Dr. Nabil Feghali, on behalf of the Chapter. Dr. Feghali thanked attendees for responding positively to the solidarity call with the alma mater.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12780>

SWITZERLAND

In Geneva, a Fundraising Dinner for USJ Students at the Invitation of Mr. Gilbert Ghostine

Mr. Gilbert Ghostine hosted a fundraising dinner in support of USJ students on November 22, 2022, at Auberge d'Onex. The event coincided with the visit of the USJ Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache SJ, accompanied by the Director of Fondation USJ, Mrs. Cynthia Ghobril Andrea.

This solidarity gathering, which resulted in the collection of over 240,000 USD, was initiated beforehand by a devoted alum, a close friend of the University, Mr. Gilbert Ghostine, CEO of Firmenich, a global leader in the fragrance and flavor industry.

As a member of the USJ Board of Trustees, Mr. Ghostine invited approximately twenty friends, alumni, businesspeople to join the USJ Rector for a noble cause; ensuring that higher education remains accessible to all despite the ongoing crisis in Lebanon.

During this congenial dinner, the Rector notably presented Mr. Ghostine with the University's Medal of Honor, as a significant token of appreciation for his unwavering commitment and continuous support to USJ and its students.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12781>





New Partnership Between USJ and ALAM (Association Liban Avenir Meilleur)

Another highlight of the dinner in Geneva was the formal signing ceremony, in the presence of distinguished guests, marking the partnership agreement between USJ and its Foundation, presided over and represented by the Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and the ALAM-Suisse Association, represented by Messrs. Charles Stauffer and Jad Karam.

The primary goal of this agreement is to ensure that vulnerable students in Lebanon have the opportunity to access education. Through this partnership, donors of USJ residing in Switzerland can now avail themselves of tax deductions via ALAM, thereby facilitating their philanthropic contributions to this noble cause.

All solidarity funds collected during this dinner were matched by ALAM, effectively expanding the opportunity for more Lebanese students to aspire to a brighter future.

The ALAM-Suisse Association, established in 2020, aims to promote and implement any general interest initiative in support of underprivileged individuals in Lebanon, be it through direct assistance or support to public-interest institutions active in Lebanon.

The generous support of ALAM will contribute to the sustainability of USJ's academic excellence, despite the current economic circumstances.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12753>

FRANCE

USJ Alumni France Chapter Hosts Fundraising Dinner in Paris

The USJ delegation accepted the invitation from the USJ Alumni France Chapter, which organized, in collaboration with the Federation of Alumni Associations and Fondation USJ, a fundraising dinner for USJ on March 17, 2023, at Cercle de l'Union Interalliée in Paris. The event was attended by 200 alumni and friends. In a display of solidarity with our students, 100,000 USD was raised for financial aid.

The dinner, held under the patronage of Msgr. Pascal Gollnisch, Director-General of Œuvre d'Orient, featured Mr. Gilbert Ghostine, an alumnus of the USJ Business School (FGM) (Class of 1982), CEO of Firmenich and member of the USJ Board of Trustees, as the guest of honor.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13226>



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

USJ Alumni Dubai Chapter Dinner: "With Dignity in Education!"

The 15th gala dinner hosted by the USJ Alumni Dubai Chapter took place on April 29, 2023. The event welcomed over 350 guests, including alumni and supporters of the University, alongside our delegation. The dinner was notably attended by Mr. Assaf Doumit, Consul General of Lebanon in Dubai, His Excellency Dr. Nasser el Saidi, Mr. Varouj Nerguizian, and various Lebanese business figures from the diaspora.

The Rector presented Mr. Elie Yared, President of the USJ Alumni Dubai Chapter, and Mr. Raphaël Khat, Honorary President of the Association, with the University's medal, as a token of appreciation for their unwavering support.

The funds raised during this dinner, exceeding 120,000 USD, facilitated through both an auction and a raffle, were directed towards scholarships for students in financial difficulties.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13336>



2 Events and Activities

July 5, 2022

Memorandum of understanding between Saint Joseph University of Beirut and Sacy Foundation to Establish a Scholarship Fund



A memorandum of understanding was signed between USJ and Sacy Foundation to establish a scholarship fund named the "Sacy Foundation Scholarship Fund." The signing ceremony took place at the USJ South Lebanon Campus, in the presence of Mr. Antoine Sacy, Dr. Dina Sidani, the Campus Director, and Mrs. Nicole Sacy, Director of the Sacy Foundation. This fund will enable students from Jezzine and future graduates of the Saint-Nicolas High School, affiliated with the Greek-Catholic Archdiocese of Sidon, to pursue their studies at the USJ South Lebanon Campus and thus remain in their region. Three students enrolled at the USJ South Lebanon Campus benefited from this scholarship fund throughout the 2022-2023 academic year.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12593>

September 23, 2022

USJ Grants an Honoris Causa to President Renaud Muselier



The Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) paid tribute to Mr. Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and Delegate President of Regions of France, by awarding him an Honoris Causa during a ceremony held on September 23, 2022, at the Laila Turki Auditorium of the Oriental Library (BO). This distinction reflects the respect and friendship for the sincere attention and support provided to USJ students in the Southern Region. The Region continues to assist numerous scholarship recipients through two active cooperative partnerships with Jezzine and Tyr.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12436>

October 12, 2022

Signing Ceremony: Partnership Agreement with the Association of Beqaa Industrialists



On Wednesday, October 12, the Association of Beqaa Industrialists, represented by its President Mr. Nicolas Abou Fayssal, signed an agreement with the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, represented by the Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ. This agreement primarily focuses on granting annual prizes within an entrepreneurship competition for USJ students in Zahle, as well as establishing connections with industrialists for internships and job opportunities in the region.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12510>

October 29, 2022

Solemn Mass in Memory of Sami and Laila Turki



On the occasion of All Souls' Day, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, celebrated a solemn mass in memory of Sami and his mother Laila Turki at the Notre-Dame Chapel located on the land bequeathed to USJ in Beit Chabab by the late Sami Turki, who passed away in February 2022. The ceremony was attended by his family and friends, as well as by dignitaries from Beit Chabab, officials from the University, and representatives from Fondation USJ. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12718>

November 10 and 11, 2022

3 Sessions of 'Reflections on Fundraising'

In order to raise awareness among the extensive USJ-HDF community and gather as many stakeholders as possible around fundraising efforts, Fondation USJ hosted an event on November 10 and 11, 2022, under the theme "Reflections on Fundraising." These three sessions, led by Mr. Amin Nehmé, founder and president of the Lebanese Development Network (LDN), fostered collaborative discussions on enhancing fundraising strategies within Fondation USJ. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12683>



December 7, 2022

Visit of H.E. Ibrahim bin Abdelaziz Alsahlawi, Ambassador of Qatar to Lebanon, to the USJ Rectorate



Following the invitation of the Rector of USJ, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, H.E. Ibrahim bin Abdelaziz Alsahlawi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Lebanon, along with Mr. Ali Elmetawiaa, advisor and diplomat, visited the Rectorate where they were welcomed by the Rector and a team from the University. Mrs. Roula Rafei Jundi and Mr. Rafic Abdallah, two friends of Qatar and USJ Tripoli were also present.

In his welcoming words to his prestigious guest, Prof. Daccache thanked His Highness the Father Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for the support he has extended to students from Tripoli, emphasizing the personal relationship between USJ and Qatar. On his part, H.E. Alsahlawi spoke about his country's interest in the education and health sectors as well as Qatar's contributions to Lebanon and the Lebanese, without any discrimination. Two films were screened during the meeting: the first one was on the history of USJ while the second one was on the crises that our University is facing today. At the end of the visit, Prof. Daccache offered H.E. Ibrahim bin Abdelaziz Alsahlawi the USJ medal, minted by "La Monnaie de Paris."

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12798#:~:text=Ibrahim%20ben%20Abdelaziz%20Alsahlawi%2C%20ambassadeur%20du%20Qatar%20au%20Liban%2C%20accompagn%C3%A9,Roula%20Rafei%20Jundi%20et%20M.>

February 24, 2023

Conference and Inauguration of the Sélim Jahel Room at the Faculty of Law and Political Science

In memory of Sélim Jahel, a distinguished magistrate, law professor, and minister who passed away in 2019, the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FDSP) organized a conference titled "Lebanese Justice: The Judge, the Institution." The event took place on February 24, 2023 at the Gulbenkian Auditorium on the USJ Social Sciences Campus, Huvelin Street. Among the attendees were the Rector of USJ, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Marie-Claude Najm Kobeh, the Director of Fondation USJ, Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, as well as professors Fayez Hage-Chahine, Honorary Dean, and Léna Gannagé, former Dean of the Faculty and Professor at Paris II, along with Joseph Khoury-Hélou, Esq., lawyer and former magistrate, the Jahel family, judges, lawyers, friends, and students. Following the conference, a ceremony was held to inaugurate the Faculty lounge, now named the "Sélim Jahel Room."



<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13174>

March 6, 2023

Entrepreneurship Competition - Maroun Chammas Recognition Award 2023



The Center for Competencies and Entrepreneurship (EC²), in collaboration with the USJ Business School (FGM), launched the first edition of the entrepreneurial competition, titled the "Maroun N. Chammas Recognition Award." This award aims to honor the most innovative and sustainable business ideas. Held on March 6, 2023, at the Social Sciences Campus, Huvelin Street, the competition serves to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among USJ students, regardless of their academic background.

Managed by Berytech, the "Maroun N. Chammas Recognition Award" aims to inspire talented individuals to pursue their dreams while contributing to the development of innovative solutions in the Lebanese market. It is noteworthy that since 2020, the funds allocated each year have been dedicated towards supporting various scholarships at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut. Moreover, students benefited from the guidance of a coach in the development of their projects.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14314>

From March 14 to 21, 2023

USJ Giving Week

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut launched the first edition of the "USJ Giving Week" initiative, coinciding with Saint Joseph feast day, the patron saint of the University. Donations were categorized into specific amount ranges. This successful initiative will be held annually during the same period, aiming to support financial disadvantaged students, of whom 53% already benefit from scholarships granted by USJ. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13142>



April 25, 2023

Third Edition of the Bechara and Carmen Obeji Prize for Creativity and Innovation



For the third consecutive year, the Center for Competencies and Entrepreneurship (EC²), the Faculty of Economics (FSE) and Fondation USJ of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), organized the award ceremony of the "Bechara and Carmen Obeji Prize for Creativity and Innovation" on Monday, April 25, 2023 at the François S. Bassil Auditorium, at the Innovation and Sports Campus, Damascus Road.

Mrs. Mia Tamaz, representative of Dr. Riad Obegi, President of BEMO Bank, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, Prof. Joseph Gemayel, Dean of the Faculty of Economics (FSE), Mrs. Joumana Hobeika, President of the FSE Alumni Association, the nine competing teams and a crowd of students and friends of USJ attended the event. The theme this year was social entrepreneurship. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13307>

May 20 and 21, 2023

"Next Stop Broadway!" Show at the Casino du Liban

As part of its activities, the USJ Choir took center stage at the Casino du Liban on May 20 and 21, 2023. This choral musical tour, entitled "Next Stop: Broadway!", is an exclusive showcase of the very best of Broadway hits, heard and seen like never before, featuring the USJ Choir with over 70 members, the Jeunesses Musicales du Liban Orchestra, and led by the talented Yasmina Sabbah with guest performances by acclaimed vocalists Manel Mallat and Kristian Abouanni. The USJ choir has partnered up with Cats Production that will be directing the show. The performance will feature a unique creative concept that revolves around a train traveling to various Broadway productions. The audience will be transported through immersive visuals and stunning lighting effects.



Despite the significant daily challenges facing Lebanon, "Next Stop: Broadway!" unequivocally proved that talent and resilience can overcome all obstacles. This entirely Lebanese production has once again showcased the richness of the country's talents.

All funds raised from ticket sales were allocated to supporting the USJ Choir's future endeavors. <https://usj.edu.lb/choeurusj/concert-14fr.php>

June 21, 2023

"The Alexis & Anne-Marie Habib Foundation": Gathering and Debate with USJ Students



In a spirit of gratitude, joy, and pride, the students of the Habib Foundation at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) gathered at the auditorium of the Medical Sciences Campus (CSM), Damascus Road for a meeting and debate with Alexis and Anne-Marie Habib on June 21, 2023. The event was attended by Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of Fondation USJ, Mrs. Shiraz Akl, Director of the USJ Financial Aid Office, as well as several Vice-Rectors, deans, and USJ officials.

The scholarship recipients of the Habib Foundation stand out as some of the most outstanding and talented students. They gathered in significant numbers for this event to honor the Habib Foundation, which has shown unwavering support. Clara Eid, a nursing student, and Kevin Abdelnour, a computer and communications engineering student, shared their success stories, made possible by the generous contributions of the Alexis and Anne-Marie Habib Foundation. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13638>

June 30, 2023

USJ Hosts Valérie Pécresse and a Delegation from Île-de-France



On June 30, 2023, Valérie Pécresse, the President of the Île-de-France Region, visited the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ). She was accompanied by Florence Portelli, Vice-President responsible for Culture, Heritage, and Creation; Frédéric de Saint-Sernin, Deputy General Director of the NGO ACTED; Véronique Saubot, CEO of SIMPLON; Jean-Marc Zakhia, Communication and Press Advisor; Aude Rothenburger, Diplomatic Advisor; François Demas, Cultural Advisor; Valentin Vella, Social Media Advisor, and Sabine Sciortino, Cultural Action and Cooperation Advisor, as well as Director of the Institut français du Liban.

The delegation was received at the Sélim Jahel Room, in the Faculty of Law and Political Science, at the Social Sciences Campus by Professors Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector, Carla Eddé, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Marie-Claude Najm Kobeh, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science, Wassim Raphael, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Shiraz Akl, Director of Financial Aid Office, Christine Omeira Wazen, Director of the Publications and Communication Office, as well as by a group of students.

During this meeting, students supported by the Île-de-France Region were represented by Nour Abboud and Mickel Assaly, students at the Faculty of Medicine, and Georgette Wehbé, a student at the School of Midwifery. They expressed profound gratitude on behalf of themselves and their fellow recipients of the Île-de-France Region scholarship, pledging to honor the trust bestowed upon them by the people of Île-de-France. <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13697>

3 Naming

September 21, 2022

Naming Ceremony of Room C506 at the USJ Business School (FGM) in Honor of the International Confederation of Lebanese Businesspeople (MIDEL).



The signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding between USJ and MIDEL took place on September 21, 2022, at the USJ Rectorate's conference room. It was attended by the Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, the Dean of FGM and representative of MIDEL, Prof. Fouad Zmokol, the Director of Fondation USJ Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, along with members of the movement and university officials. The Rector commended this partnership between USJ, highlighting USJ's esteemed academic legacy in Lebanon and MIDEL's notable presence in the business world.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the members of MIDEL – Antoine Issa, Elie Aoun, Sawsan Wazzan Jabri, Georges El Gharib, Farid El Dahdah, Riad Obeji, Mona Bawarshi, Nabil Kettaneh, Joe Kanaan, Ronald Farra, Anis Khoury, and Manal Lahoud – highlighted the importance of individuals trained at USJ for the business sector. They emphasized the significance of giving back to the community through donations, maintaining hope by initiating various projects, and preserving Lebanon's uniqueness.

The conference room C506 at the Social Sciences Campus on Huvelin Street now holds the name of the "International Confederation of Lebanese Businesspeople (MIDEL)" and was inaugurated on Monday, January 30, 2023. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Prof. Fouad Zmokol, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea.

https://usj.edu.lb/photos/album/index.php?alb_id=3767&instid=500

May 16, 2023

Signing the Naming of the "The Net Global" Room at FGM - USJ

After implementing a continuous training system for its employees in collaboration with the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), The Net Global, represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Mourad Aoun, signed a protocol with USJ, represented by its Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, for the naming of Room C504 and the adjacent office at the USJ Business School (FGM), which will now be known as "The Net Global" room.

A protocol signing ceremony took place on May 16, 2023, at the USJ Rectorate, attended by The Net Global team, the USJ Business School Council, and university officials, including the Director of Fondation USJ, Mrs. Cynthia Ghobril Andrea who expressed heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Aoun for his solidarity towards FGM through the installation and maintenance of the new room and dedicated equipment.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13490>



4 Prizes

July 7, 2022

Awarding Ceremony of the "Joseph Hajjar Excellence Award" at the Faculty of Medicine - Class of 2022



During the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine (FM) on Thursday, July 7, 2022, Dr. Edouard Hajjar awarded the "Joseph Hajjar Excellence Award" to the best end-of-study theses. The recipients were Claudia Chidiac (1st prize), Ludovic Saba (2nd prize), Mohamad Ibrahim (3rd prize), Eddy Saad (4th prize), and Joy Anthony Taoutel (5th prize). In her speech, Ms. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of Fondation USJ, expressed USJ's profound gratitude to the Hajjar family, "who has been contributing for years to supporting academic excellence and encouraging our medical graduates through the establishment of an achievement scholarship fund, the 'Joseph Hajjar Excellence Award,' as well as the creation of a Hajjar Family Fund scholarship fund, also dedicated to FM students in financial need."

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12189>

July 13, 2022

Awarding Ceremony of the "Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Excellence Award" - Class of 2022



For the second consecutive year, the "Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Excellence Award" was awarded on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, to Chakib Saab, who achieved the highest cumulative GPA during his three years of studies at the USJ Business School – South Lebanon Branch. In her remarks during the ceremony, Mrs. Ghobril Andrea recalled that "Mr. Ghafari, this good man, who embodies the spirit of solidarity, and whose generosity knows no bounds," launched the Scholarship Endowment Fund "Ancien CEULS" of the USJ Business School – South Lebanon Branch, and signed two

other memoranda of understanding to launch the "Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Scholarship Fund" and the "Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Achievement Scholarship Fund". Many students from the south were granted scholarships to support them throughout their journey at the University during these difficult times.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12189>

5 Une promo une bourse

Launched by the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations with the support of Fondation USJ to help USJ students.

Since 2021, the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations has been spearheading an inspiring initiative aimed at strengthening bonds within our alumni community.

One remarkable aspect of this initiative is the ongoing commitment of certain promotions. Despite the challenges and obstacles encountered along the way, these promotions have maintained their dedication and support to our students for three consecutive years, demonstrating a deep and lasting attachment to their alma mater and community.

Various promotions from different faculties have supported a total of 34 students during the 2022-2023 academic year.

ESIB Classes of 2001 and 2004 have joined forces to continue their support and assist students from their institution. Their collaboration has provided valuable assistance to 9 students, demonstrating the power of solidarity among different promotions within our community.

August 2, 2022

ESIB Class of '88 Scholarship Fund

The School of Engineering of Beirut (ESIB) alumni gathered at the USJ Rectorate on August 2, 2022 to launch the ESIB Class of '88 Scholarship Fund. The event was attended by the President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, Dr. Christian Makary, in the presence of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, Prof. Fadi Geara, Vice-Rector for Administration, Mrs. Cynthia Ghobril Andrea, Director of Fondation USJ, Ms. Shiraz Akl, Director of the USJ Financial Aid Office, and Mrs. Helen Achou Tayar, Director of the USJ Alumni Office.



The dynamic ESIB Class of '88, represented by Mrs. Fairouz Tahech Geara, Mrs. Zeina Khoury Khawam, Mr. Paul Nacouzi, and Mr. Esper Wehbé, has decided, in collaboration with USJ, to establish a scholarship fund named "ESIB Class of '88." This initiative aims to contribute, through financial assistance, to the development of higher education for students.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12273>

September 9, 2022

Launch of the "25 Years of FS Scholarship Fund"



To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut Faculty of Science (FS), Prof. Richard Maroun, Dean of FS, and Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, signed an agreement protocol to establish the "25 Years of FS Scholarship Fund." This fund aims to support the advancement of higher education by providing financial aid to students.

It was during the opening ceremony of the international conference BESTMEDGRAPE on July 11, 2022, that this fund was launched with the assistance of two friends of FS, H.E. Maurice Sehnaoui and Mr. Zafer Chaoui.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12895>

December 19, 2022

Launch of the "Net-Recrute AIDE – NRAID" Scholarship Fund

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), represented by its Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and Net-Recrute, represented by its Director, Mr. Zahi-Victor Hallit, have signed this protocol to establish the "Net-Recrute AIDE – NRAID" Scholarship Fund. The beneficiaries of this fund will be jointly selected by both parties based on a dual criterion of academic and social merit, from the student records of the Faculty of Engineering (FI), the National Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics (INCI), and the USJ Business School (FGM), proposed by the USJ Financial Aid Office.



<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12890>

May 29, 2023

Launch of the Mounir Abou Debs Fund at the Oriental Library

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) paid tribute to a great figure in Lebanese theater, the late Mounir Abou Debs, in the presence of his heirs, his children Gilles and Chantal Abou Debs, his friends, collaborators, disciples, and USJ officials. This occurred during the protocol signing launching the Mounir Abou Debs Fund (MAD Fund) at the USJ Oriental Library (BO), held on May 29, 2023, at the Boardroom of the Innovation and Sports Campus.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13524>





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HÔTEL-DIEU DE FRANCE

The past two years have marked a historic period for Hôtel-Dieu culminating in the celebration of its 100th anniversary on May 29, 2023. These years will undoubtedly be remembered for generations to come, yet they have also been some of the most challenging in our institution's history, as we navigated through a series of unprecedented crises: an economic crisis due to the collapse of the Lebanese pound, a health crisis with the coronavirus pandemic, and a security crisis following the tragic Beirut Port explosion. However, our motto during this centenary has remained steadfast: "We have not endured 100 years to die today."

Since the end of 2019, we have faced these major challenges, and this would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and stakeholders.

To meet the growing assistance needs of our patients, we have established a Social Solidarity Fund aimed at providing financial support to individuals who do not have access to Social Security or are not covered by private insurance. The creation and operation of this fund are at the heart of HDF's social and public mission, and we are proud to announce that approximately \$3 million has been raised annually since 2020. All of these funds have been fully allocated to providing direct assistance to patients.

Despite these advancements, challenges persist: economically, the Lebanese population continues to suffer, and its purchasing power continues to decline. We remain committed to providing them with continuous support, while also investing in state-of-the-art equipment for our healthcare professionals to provide optimal care to our patients.

None of this would be possible without your generous contributions, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to you for all of your past and future efforts.

With heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude.



Celebrating Our University Medical Center's 100th Anniversary

► HDF, 100 Years Strong

On the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Hôtel-Dieu de France, the hospital insisted, despite all the calamities affecting Lebanon, on celebrating a century of challenges, successes and remarkable events since the laying of the foundation stone of the hospital in 1922 by General Gouraud. For this occasion, a ceremony was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the hospital in the presence of H.E. Anne Grillo, Ambassador of France to Lebanon, H.E. Dr. Firas Abiad, Minister of Health and in the presence of diplomatic, political, military and social figures.

The ceremony opened with the national anthem, followed by the speech of Mr. Nassib Nasr, Director General of Hôtel-Dieu de France, in which he insisted: "Our mission does not give us the right to be weak; we will even raise our level of requirements. The requirements must be permanent and at all levels." He highlighted that: "if there is no hope, there is no despair either," emphasizing on "the social and humanitarian vocations of the hospital" declaring: "We have not endured a hundred years to die today; our moral strength, our faith, our confidence and our exceptional cohesion explain our persistence.

A film presenting different periods in the history of the Hôtel-Dieu was screened during the ceremony before the speech of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hôtel-Dieu de France, in which he considered that the medal of the Legion of Honor that was granted to him had been also awarded to the Saint Joseph University of Beirut and to Hôtel-Dieu de France. He insisted on the HDF culture: "More than ever, we are proud of a humanist and scientific culture represented by Hôtel-Dieu, but also of a heritage that originates from afar and of which we are proud and that we must protect in order to continue and remain alive in the name of Lebanese and French

values, consisting of a spirit of resistance in the face of adversity, of bravery in the face of discouragement, of justice in the face of the abandonment of the human being, of unrestricted solidarity in the face of egoism, and of assertive competence and unrestrained loyalty."

For his part, the Minister of Health, Dr. Firas Abiad, pointed out the importance of Hôtel-Dieu de France in the modern history of Lebanon considering that with "hard work and faith in the country, this institution has been able to maintain its pioneering role." The Minister focused on the difficult conditions in Lebanon, saying: "Today, we are going through a critical period and circumstances that may be similar to what our country experienced a hundred years ago, a period in which challenges are multiplying and difficult questions are being asked about the health and hospital sector."

In her speech on this occasion, H.E. Anne Grillo, Ambassador of France to Lebanon, expressed the support of France and the French people to Hôtel-Dieu by announcing that an exceptional joint support will be granted to USJ and that a significant donation of medicines is being finalized based on the established needs in order to provide HDF with the necessary medicines that are not locally available.

Different members of the HDF community intervened during the ceremony, namely Prof. Roland Tomb, Dean of the USJ Faculty of Medicine, Ass. Prof. Elias Chélala, President of the Medical Council, Mrs. Soha Abdelmalak, former President of the Nursing Council and Mr. Fadi Andréa, President of the Employees' Union.

The event was marked by several musical interludes and was followed by a cocktail and a visit to the temporary exhibition organized especially for the occasion where old medical equipment and photos were featured.

February 1, 2023

Naming project: “Woman Mother Child pole” at Hôtel-Dieu de France “In Memory of Diana El Kara Hanania – Georges and Sofia.”

On Wednesday, February 1, Hôtel-Dieu de France had the pleasure of welcoming the El Kara and Haninia families following their generous initiative to help and support the patients of the Woman Mother Child Pole at HDF, through the HDF Social Solidarity Fund.

In this regard, a plaque has been placed in tribute to Mrs. Diana El Kara Hanania who always wanted to help women and children.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13213>



From Tuesday, February 28 to Friday, March 3, 2023

ASTER Foundation Donates Mobile Clinic



On February 28, 2023, Mr. Nassib Nasr, Director General of HDF, welcomed at a dinner, a delegation from the ASTER Foundation, which included Dr. George Davis and Mr. Jaleel PA. The event was attended by USJ Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, the Honorary President of the USJ Alumni Association Dubai Chapter, Mr. Raphael Klat, the President of the USJ Alumni Association – Dubai, Mr. Elie Yared, the President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, Dr. Christian Makary, and the Director of Fondation USJ, Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea,

By means of the initiative and efforts of the USJ Alumni Association Dubai Chapter, the ASTER Foundation donated a mobile clinic to Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF), along with other benefits provided as part of their healthcare support program. The ASTER Foundation, an affiliate of the ASTER hospitals operating in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, implemented a donation program to assist and address healthcare needs.

On March 1, a memorandum of understanding was signed to formalize the donation of the mobile clinic, in the presence of the President of the HDF medical council, which was followed by a visit, on March 2, to the USJ Faculty of Medicine (FM) and its Simulation Center on the Medical Sciences Campus (CSM), Damascus Road.

On Friday, March 3, the delegation met with several USJ officials, including Prof. Carla Eddé, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Prof. Dolla Sarkis, Vice-Rector for Research, Prof. Rima Sassine Kazan, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and President of the Order of Nurses of Lebanon, Prof. Marianne Abi Fadel, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Michèle Kosremelli Asmar, Director of the Higher Institute of Public Health, Jad Chebli, SJ, USJ Chaplain-General, Dr. Ursula El Hage, Director of the Career and Placement Office, Prof. Fadi El Hage, Delegate of the Rector for Professional Development.

Visiting the ASTER Foundation Facilities in Dubai

USJ delegation visits ASTER Foundation facilities during Dubai stay in April 2023.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13215>



April 27, 2023

Naming of the “Khalil Mitri Assha Hall” at Hôtel-Dieu de France



Ferial Mitri Assha once again demonstrated an extraordinary ability to turn pain into generosity and transform absence into a celebration of friendship, brotherhood and hope. On April 27, 2023, Ferial gathered friends of her late brother, Khalil Mitri Assha, along with officials from USJ and HDF, for a momentous event at the Hôtel-Dieu de France hospital. The occasion marked the naming ceremony of the HDF lobby, now proudly bearing the name of Khalil Mitri Assha.

According to Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of Fondation USJ, Ferial Assha’s unwavering dedication to USJ and its teaching hospital has resulted in significant contributions since 2018. In honor of her father, Mitri Assha, and her mother, Jacqueline Kassir Assha, Ferial established two Scholarship Funds. She also made a testamentary trust in her name and, most recently,

orchestrated the Naming ceremony for her beloved brother.

Ghobril Andrea went on to express her admiration, stating, “This remarkable act of love and solidarity towards our community creates a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations. It also provides support to the HDF Social Solidarity Fund, which aims to assist financially disadvantaged patients, including those without access to Social Security or private insurance.”

While Ferial is an inspiration to all and a role model for USJ Alumni who wish to demonstrate their gratitude and loyalty to their alma mater, Khalil incarnates, according to Zeina Saleh, his close friend since their days at Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour and at USJ’s Faculty of Law and Political Science, “the very essence of true friendship [...] sacred, unconditional, and eternal.”

Reflecting on their 50-year friendship spanning from Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour to HEC in Paris and 25 years as work partners, Nadim Chammas directly addressed Khalil, expressing his profound realization after Khalil’s departure. “I discovered the immeasurable strength of true brotherhood,” he revealed. “I now understand that the connection between you and Ferial is a chosen destiny, a mutual commitment that binds you both and, even more beautifully, extends toward others.”

"I know, Khalil, that your spirit will always reside within this lobby of Hôtel-Dieu. When men and women enter, they will be embraced by your caring soul, just as you did during your lifetime – easing their pain and suffering, and alleviating the anguish of parting. A hospital is a place of both birth and rebirth, I am certain that your unforgettable gaze will forever accompany those who emerge," concluded Nadim Chammas.

Recalling Ferial's heartfelt words, where she expressed the pain of letting go when Khalil passed away on March 3, 2021, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ and Chairman of the HDF Board of Directors, contemplated the ease with which a loved one can depart from our lives. However, he affirmed that the hope and wisdom of our faith, testaments of resurrection after death, serve as a resolute defense against life's existential deceit. Daccache further reflected, "Through the paschal mystery, Christ resurrected Khalil, a man of noble soul who embodied true humility, remarkable discretion, and astonishing generosity. His name shall forever be remembered in heaven, just as it will be in the HDF lobby."

The gathering embraced a moment of prayer, led by the Rector, who recited a prayer to Notre Dame de Lourdes written by Abbé Henri Perreyve. Carmel Ghafari Wakim, former Secretary General of Fondation USJ, followed by a prayer by Saint Ambrose. In a poignant gesture, Ferial Assha expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Drs. Eliane Nasser Ayoub, Samia Madi Gebara, and Georges Khayat for their extraordinary compassion and unwavering patience in caring for Khalil.

In a moving tribute, Ferial presented a collection of poignant photographs capturing Khalil's essence, accompanied by the reading of a heartfelt homily written by Saint Ambrose to commemorate his untimely passing. Daccache bestowed his blessings upon the four meticulously crafted plaques gracing the HDF lobby, illustrating the deep bond shared by the Assha family and the USJ family, masterfully brought to life by architect Joseph Maroun.

Maroun sheds light on the upcoming lobby renovation, emphasizing the prominent use of travertine as the primary material highlights its significance, stating, "Given Khalil's lifelong dedication to USJ, it is only fitting that the material chosen for commemorative plaques harmonizes seamlessly with the entire lobby. Instead of being fixed onto the walls, these plaques find their rightful place on the lobby's supporting columns, symbolizing the unwavering support Khalil and Ferial have shown to USJ and HDF throughout their lives." Maroun further revealed that the meticulously crafted plaques are proportioned according to the golden



ratio, also known as the "divine proportions," expertly mirroring the essence of Khalil's golden heart.

The naming ceremony, permeated with grace, concluded with a deeply moving concert at Beit Tabaris, where Georges Daccache and Mario Rahi paid homage to the timeless legacy of Khalil Assha.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13341>



GRAPHS AND FIGURES

Due to the severe economic crisis that has impacted Lebanon for over four years now, a large number of patients can no longer afford their hospital bills. To meet the increasing demands for assistance from these patients, the Hôtel-Dieu de France University Medical Center (HDF) has established a "Social Solidarity Fund" to financially support the underprivileged individuals, those without access to Social Security, or those not covered by private insurance. The creation and operation of this fund are integral to HDF's social and public mission. We strive to ensure that no patient is denied access to essential medical care due to financial constraints.

During the 2022-2023 year, the HDF Social Solidarity Fund supported 10,576 patients. We were able to collect

3,352,060 USD

thanks to the generosity of 51 friends of HDF, with the value of in-kind donations amounting to

1,476,510 USD

In-kind donations are vital for HDF. Amidst the ongoing economic crisis, these contributions of medical equipment, medications, and other healthcare supplies hold immense significance. They help elevate the standard of care, address emergencies, and strengthen community solidarity. These diverse donations broaden the hospital's support channels, enhancing its resilience. By supporting these philanthropic initiatives, we contribute to ensuring quick, efficient, and equitable access to healthcare for all.

More than 25,000 patients per year are admitted to HDF and receive social assistance as well as discounts equivalent to:



3 QUESTIONS TO ...



NAJI BOULOS
Marketing and
Communications Advisor

In your opinion, what would be the most effective communication method – especially regarding transparency in fund allocation – to enhance donor trust?

Over 80% of donors emphasize that transparency in fund allocation is pivotal for their trust. Right from the start, we, at Fondation USJ, realized that this would be a cornerstone of success and that it would increase our credibility. That is why we've established several relevant communication channels: a website for the Foundation, annual reports, regular and detailed updates on fund allocation, beneficiary testimonials, and videos showcasing the tangible impact of donations.

How can an effective communication strategy play a crucial role in fundraising for the Foundation? What specific communication tactics would you recommend in this context?

An effective communication strategy is crucial for fundraising at Fondation USJ. We use inspiring stories to evoke emotion, communicate student successes, and highlight the urgency of needs. Social media campaigns, featuring video testimonials and impactful visuals, help increase engagement. Additionally, organizing events such as gala dinners, concerts, and special campaigns (Giving Tuesday, Giving Week, etc.), both in Lebanon and abroad, helps engage donors and build a committed community.

What contributions and responsibilities do you bring as a Marketing and Communications Advisor for Fondation USJ?

My role at Fondation USJ involves developing a comprehensive strategy, advising on best communication practices, crafting creative campaigns, and analyzing feedback to refine actions. I work on enhancing the Foundation's online presence, creating impactful content, and establishing strategic partnerships both internally (with faculties, the alumni Federation and associations, offices, etc.) and externally (advertisers, sponsors, international organizations, etc.) to maximize the reach of fundraising campaigns. In summary, the goal is to create synergy between the Foundation and its potential donors to sustainably support its initiatives.



YASMINA SABBAAH
USJ Choir Conductor

How do the funds raised contribute to covering the expenses of the USJ Choir's concerts?

Expenses are quite high for all our concerts, which are open to the public for free. That's why the USJ Choir heavily relies on the generosity of private philanthropists, sponsoring companies, and various organizations to continue our mission of preserving music and culture, which are true cornerstones of the Lebanese identity and spirit. With your solidarity, fundraising will allow us to continue:

- Presenting top-quality concerts.
- Ensuring the Choir's continuity in the coming years.
- Hiring musicians and utilizing special instruments.
- Acquiring and renting necessary production equipment and material.
- Nurturing young Lebanese talents and training the musicians of tomorrow

through programs and master classes.

- Preserving Lebanon's cultural and musical landscape.
- Collaborating with renowned Lebanese and international soloists.

What projects do you have in mind for the 150th anniversary of USJ?

The 150th anniversary of USJ marks a significant milestone, and the USJ Choir is planning two major concerts for the summer of 2024: a sacred classical concert featuring the masterpieces of the French composer Francis Poulenc, and a symphonic rock concert that pays tribute to rock legends, reinvented for choir and symphony orchestra.

Given that Fondation USJ supports the USJ Choir, how would you describe the coordination and supportive role that the Foundation plays within the USJ Choir?

We would like to thank the team of Fondation USJ for their ongoing support and for dedicating space on their website for the USJ Choir's online campaign, thus facilitating the fundraising process to support the USJ Choir.



GLORIA ABDO
Director of the Student Life Office

“
As the Director of the Student Life Office, what do you think are the most pressing needs of students right now? How does your Office encourage them to maintain a sense of belonging to their university?”

Currently, students' main concern is mental health, and our Student Life Office (SVE) takes this matter seriously. We're constantly listening and organizing awareness activities on this crucial topic. We actively encourage Clubs and Associations to join in these efforts. It's important to note that every project we run at SVE aims to create a nurturing and educational environment for students. These projects are designed to provide enjoyable moments while also promoting their personal growth. At SVE, our main goal is to instill a strong sense of belonging among students to their alma mater. This goes beyond just organizing projects; our way of working with students reflects this commitment as well.

In 2022, with your support, students launched the "Generation H.O.P.E" fundraising campaign. Tell us more about this commendable initiative.

Generation H.O.P.E. is a student-led initiative dedicated to supporting fellow students. Rooted in fundraising, its main mission is to ensure that tuition fees don't hinder students' access to education at USJ. In terms of figures, Generation H.O.P.E. has successfully raised 77,040,500 LBP and 18,800 USD in just 18 months. Additionally, it has provided assistance to a total of 210 students through various means (laptops, tuition aid, etc.). This initiative is entirely managed by students, from the planning of projects to their implementation, while also receiving necessary support from the University administration.

How would you describe the coordination and supportive role that *Foundation USJ* plays within your Office?

Since its establishment, *Foundation USJ* has played a vital coordinating role within the broader USJ community. Its role is of particular importance in ensuring continuity while upholding transparency and safeguarding the University's reputation. I extend my gratitude to the entire team whose never failing dedication consistently supports us and paves the way for the advancement of our projects.



RESEARCH AT USJ

MISSION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Vice-Rectorate for Research (VRR) was founded in 1995 with the objective of implementing the University's research policy and enhancing its reputation as a research-focused institution. This enables USJ to fulfill its academic mission while also meeting societal needs and actively contributing to the socio-economic development of the country.

The VRR oversees and promotes research and development. It represents the University to both national and international research organizations, crafting a comprehensive research strategy for the University, defining priority areas, allocating resources, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. It also coordinates efforts to secure external funding, ensures fair resource allocation among different research units while guaranteeing compliance with

rules and regulations governing research grants, and provides support to researchers by facilitating access to resources, organizing training workshops, and assisting in the preparation of research proposals.

Its mission is to promote the University's research endeavors both nationally and internationally. This includes participating in conferences, publishing research findings, and collaborating with other research institutions. Moreover, it supports researchers in establishing partnerships with academic institutions, industries, and stakeholders to enhance research opportunities and promote the practical application of research outcomes.

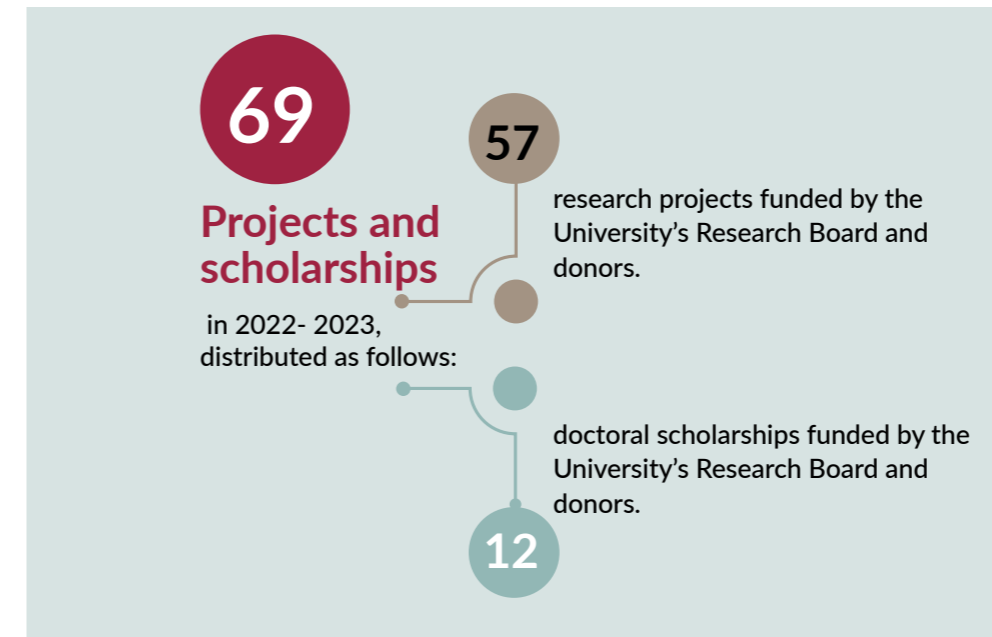
It promotes research by implementing a policy to uphold intellectual property rights and technology transfer, promoting

its visibility and creating an environment conducive to the development of the activities of instructors-researchers.

To fulfill its role, the VRR established a Research Board in 1995. This Board is tasked with promoting research across the University's various academic domains, including faculties, institutes, schools, centers, or any other autonomous entities. The aim is to integrate research activities into university life.

Since its establishment in 1995, the Research Board has funded 1,946 projects, including 1,527 project grants and 419 doctoral scholarships.

The VRR extends its gratitude to all donors, including national and international funding agencies, NGOs, corporations, banks, and others. Our projects wouldn't have been achievable without their support.



Donors

- Industrial Research Achievement Program - IRALEB, Lebanon
- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie - AUF
- Embassy of France
- MUREX, France
- CEDRE program
- Cluster of Cooperation "Digital Education and Research for MENA" - CLOC DEAR MENA, Switzerland
- LORASEV Industries, Lebanon
- PRIMA European Funding program
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Urology, USA
- Lallemand Cerebiome, Canada
- Nissim Company, USA
- Amann Girrback Company, Germany
- Whitepeaks Company, Germany
- Pontifical Oriental Institute, Italy
- Near East Jesuit Province
- Institut des Sources chrétiennes, France
- Imprimerie St Paul, Lebanon
- University of Cordoba, Spain
- ENI CBC MED Program
- The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - LSTHM, United Kingdom

14th "Research Days" at USJ

The 14th Research Days on "Research at the Service of Society in Crisis-Hit Lebanon" took place at the François S. Bassil Auditorium at the Innovation and Sports Campus, on June 22 and 23, 2023. The event brought together the Rector of USJ, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and Prof. Dolla Karam Sarkis, Vice-Rector for Research, alongside deans, institute directors, directors of doctoral schools, and USJ research structure managers. The gathering focused on key themes such as sustainable health for all, clinical and translational research, research in a dynamic socioeconomic context, and innovative research catering to industry needs. Faculty members from various disciplines, as well as master's students and PhD candidates, were actively engaged in the discussions and presentations. External experts, especially from the industrial sector, were invited to participate in roundtable discussions. After the second day, Prof. Daccache presented awards to the top five oral presentations delivered by PhD candidates.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13652>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Exceptional International Aid for USJ in 2022-2023

Amid the crises that have unfolded in Lebanon since 2019-2020, characterized by the collapse of the national currency, the August 4, 2020 explosion, and the COVID-19 pandemic, USJ has actively sought international assistance, particularly from France, to provide scholarships for middle-class students affected by the crisis. During the Centenary celebration of the laying of the foundation stone of Hôtel-Dieu de France on May 5, 2022, H.E. Anne Grillo, Ambassador of France to Lebanon, announced exceptional support for the University. This included a significant donation of medication to HDF. Additionally, Jesuit institutions have pledged their support for USJ.

USJ Receives Support from the Fonds des écoles d'Orient

Established in 2020 by the President of the French Republic, the *Fonds pour les écoles d'Orient* supports the educational efforts of French-speaking Christian schools in the Middle East.

This initiative is managed by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the French Embassy in Lebanon, in partnership with Œuvre d'Orient. In 2022, its organizers opted to extend its reach, on an exceptional basis, to French-speaking universities like USJ.

A tripartite agreement was signed, allocating a financial aid package of 415,000 euros to the University for the 2022-2023 academic year, distributed across three main areas:

- First, a budget of 45,000 euros has been allocated to enhance education and research efforts, enabling the subsidization of subscriptions to French-language digital scientific resources. USJ thus funded the renewal of subscriptions to sixteen collections of online academic journals across all disciplinary fields. This initiative was led by Electronic Resources Officer and the Vice-Rector for International Relations.
- Second, support students in the Teaching Diploma of the Faculty of Education to promote the training and accreditation for "French language teaching," a 16-credit module (ECTS) included in the core curriculum of the Teaching Diploma. Around twenty candidates, from various regions of Lebanon and predominantly serving as educators in non-accredited schools, benefited from the exemption of the dollarized part of tuition fees in either the first or second semester. All have obtained the "Certificate for Teaching the French Program." With a budget of 33,204 euros, the remaining balance (16,796 euros) will be dedicated to similar aid programs in 2023-2024. This initiative was led by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the Vice-Rectorate for International Relations.
- Finally, the University, in collaboration with the Vice-Rectorate and the Financial Aid Office: partially covering, totaling 320,000 euros, the tuition fees charged in US dollars for vulnerable students. In total, 235 students, mostly in their final year of French-speaking university studies, benefited from the scholarship: 132 undergraduate students and 103 graduate students, enrolled in 23 faculties or institutes across USJ campuses, received exemptions ranging from 20 to 80% of the dollarized part of tuition fees. Beneficiary students were selected based on socioeconomic criteria, without any discrimination based on gender, religious affiliation, region, residence and origin, or disciplinary field.

Exceptional Assistance from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Embassy of France in Lebanon

Through the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Embassy of France in Lebanon, France has allocated 380,000 euros to USJ for the 2022-2023 academic year. This funding aims to partially cover tuition fees charged in US dollars for vulnerable students. A total of 243 students benefited from this assistance: 159 undergraduates and 84 graduates enrolled in fifteen USJ institutions across all campuses. Additionally, an extra 120,000 euros was allocated to support around forty PhD candidates.

Kircher network leads the fundraising campaign of the International Association of Jesuit Universities

Following the crisis in Lebanon, the International Association of Jesuit Universities has aimed to support USJ. Under its sponsorship, the Kircher Network Jesuit Higher Education in Europe and the Near East, in collaboration with Fondation USJ, the North America Office of the University, and the Vice-Rectorate for International Relations, initiated a fundraising campaign for the benefit of USJ students. Launched in December 2022, the campaign raised 14,515 USD. About forty individuals and institutions contributed to the cause, with donations ranging from modest sums from students to a substantial contribution of 7,000 USD from an anonymous donor, in line with the preference of most donors. Beyond the financial aspect, the fundraising campaign emphasized collaboration among Jesuit institutions, including student volunteers who actively engaged in promoting the campaign on social media platforms.

<https://kirchernetwork.org/news/education-for-lebanon-solidarity-with-students-of-saint-joseph-university-of-beirut/>.

EDUCATION FOR LEBANON

Education for Lebanon
Solidarity with Students of Saint Joseph University of Beirut

A crowdfunding campaign for student scholarships coordinated by

KIRCHER Network

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT UNIVERSITIES

All proceeds will go to the USJ Foundation

USJ

TESTIMONIALS... DONOR SUPPORT, A PLEDGE OF UNWAVERING TRUST



Lara KORO

Director, Head of Nurture at LIFE Lebanon

In 2009, LIFE, a network of Lebanese diaspora professionals, was established with the mission of fostering collaboration, mutual support, and collective efforts for a brighter future among the Lebanese community abroad.

At the heart of this mission is the commitment to support youth through our education program. Members of LIFE, with successful careers abroad, prioritize higher education and are committed to extending opportunities

to as many individuals as possible, ensuring they benefit from the same chances they have received.

Our education program allows us to assist students with exceptional academic achievements who require financial support to pursue higher education both in Lebanon and abroad.

In addition to financial assistance, our program provides resources designed to facilitate a smooth transition into the professional world upon graduation. This includes a mentorship program, training provided by the LIFE Academy, job opportunities within the network, and networking opportunities.

From the start, we partnered with the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), renowned for its distinguished academic legacy and strong human values. USJ offers students high-quality academic and professional opportunities aligned with the objectives of our education program. Our program emphasizes the value of giving, not only from our members in supporting students, but also from the recipients themselves once they become scholarship beneficiaries. They are encouraged to contribute their time, expertise, and, where possible, their financial resources to support fellow students in need and perpetuate this cycle of support.

With the support of Fondation USJ, we've streamlined our student selection process and expanded our support annually. Since the onset of the economic, social, and financial crisis in 2019, the Foundation's assistance has been vital in helping us navigate the difficult circumstances facing the Lebanese population. USJ's steadfast solidarity with students and their families throughout the crisis has motivated us to amplify our support for the University.

Education is an investment in Lebanon's future; our youth represent the sole hope of our nation, and we owe them our collective gratitude.

They inspire us to uphold our mission despite the challenges.

Their generosity fuels our determination, sustaining our faith in a brighter tomorrow.



Joseph DAKKAK

General Manager - CMA CGM Levant

A nation's future is shaped by its youth. Rooted in our Lebanese heritage and our commitment to education, Rodolphe Saadé, CEO of the CMA CGM Group, envisioned the Group's involvement in supporting Lebanese students by offering them the chance to pursue exceptional learning experiences, both in Lebanon and abroad.

In Lebanon, the CMA CGM Group is deeply engaged in economic, cultural and social initiatives. It contributes to the educational system, equipping

Lebanese youth with quality degrees. Moreover, through the CMA CGM Foundation, the Group addresses the urgent needs of vulnerable populations.

As part of its commitment to the Lebanese youth, the CMA CGM Group launched the "CMA CGM Excellence Fund for Lebanon" in 2021, a significant program offering university scholarships, mentorship, and long-term support. Recipients are selected by universities based on various criteria, including academic excellence and socioeconomic need. The program aims to foster the development of future Lebanese leaders who, upon graduating from prestigious universities in Lebanon or abroad, can bring their experiences to companies like the CMA CGM Group, contributing to their country's development.

For many years, CMA CGM has enthusiastically partnered with USJ to support and enhance its educational excellence. Our collaboration with Fondation USJ has deepened, driven by the common goal of empowering Lebanese youth and benefiting Lebanon as a whole.

Furthermore, the exceptional commitment to academic excellence and the humanistic values of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut and Fondation USJ reflect their dedication to the future of Lebanese youth, mirroring the determination and values of the CMA CGM Group, particularly in Lebanon.

We wish all the recipients of the "CMA CGM Excellence Fund for Lebanon" the very best. We have strong faith in your ability to excel, and your role in shaping the country's future and revival is indispensable. Together, we share a common goal of fostering human development and social welfare, and you are always encouraged to contribute to these efforts within our Group.



Nisrine and Raed LATTOUF

Holders of the "Drs. Raed and Nisrine Lattouf" Scholarship Fund

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

In a world torn by war, the best way to strive for a brighter future is to provide young people with a solid education.

It is the most reliable way to fight poverty, misery, and injustice. Driven by this conviction, we have turned to our alma mater, the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, to help as many young Lebanese as possible pursue their dreams and get a solid education, while also embracing the human and social values that this University instills.

We firmly believe that educating a young person not only improves their future, but also that of their family and community. Every talented and motivated young individual deserves access to education, regardless of their financial situation. By facilitating access to a brighter future for our youth, we contribute to building a Lebanon that reflects our values and aspirations.



Marc HABIB

Holders of the "Marc & Sophie Equipment Fund for Lebanon"

Health is a fundamental aspect of well-being, but it has been greatly affected by Lebanon's economic crisis. We have chosen to support the medical sector because we strongly believe that everyone deserves fair access to quality healthcare, regardless of their economic status.

Our commitment to nephrology stems from personal ties - my mother being a USJ-trained nephrologist - and an understanding of the unique challenges faced by countless individuals battling chronic kidney diseases in Lebanon. By providing durable dialysis machines, we aim to bolster the efforts of Hôtel-Dieu de France and provide sustained support to its patients over the next decade.

We chose to collaborate with Hôtel-Dieu de France and Fondation USJ for their vital role within the Lebanese healthcare system, coupled with their reputation for reliability and professionalism. Fondation USJ is the ideal partner for any philanthropic initiatives in education and healthcare.

We urge those with the means to join our medical cause. Every donation, no matter the size, can make a real difference. Together, we can improve the quality of healthcare in our beloved country.



Mary BOGHOSSIAN SALAME

Holder of the "Boghossian Foundation" Scholarship Fund

We decided to support education because we believe it is the backbone of the Lebanese society. Our selection of Saint-Joseph University of Beirut was both personal and professional: it's where I received my own education and acquired invaluable skills, and it consistently upholds a high academic standard. Sustaining our financial assistance to students through the Boghossian Foundation is about investing in the future of young Lebanese individuals who, without access to higher education, may face significant challenges. Providing them with opportunities feels not just impactful but deeply fulfilling. For the past two years, the Boghossian Foundation has dedicated an annual grant of

\$100,000 to USJ student scholarships. We proudly aim to continue our mission in collaboration with Fondation USJ. Their effective management within Fondation USJ is reassuring for us donors. To all students, especially those benefiting from our scholarship, I say: "Stay focused, work hard, and strive for excellence in your future endeavors."



STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS!

Expressing Gratitude to our Generous Donors!



Bechara MATTA

Student at the Faculty of Law and Political Science

The 2022-2023 academic year was an eye-opening experience for me, both academically and socio-culturally. Law, when properly applied, serves as the foundation of a healthy society, one that values freedom and diverse opinions. I take pride in being a part of this esteemed Faculty and I am truly thankful for the generous scholarship I received. It has allowed me to pursue my education, particularly during these challenging times where Lebanon's economic crisis has significantly impacted the middle class. Thanks to your support, I plan to keep studying at the Saint

Joseph University of Beirut, a leading institution in Lebanese academia. Once again, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you. I am committed to working hard to meet your expectations and achieve my goals.



Farah SOUEID

Student at the Faculty of Pharmacy

I would like to express my gratitude to USJ, especially the Financial Aid Office, for their continuous help and support, as well as for their kindness towards their students.

I also want to extend my appreciation to Mr. Raffy Manoukian for the scholarship he generously provided. This scholarship has enabled me to pursue my studies at the Faculty of Pharmacy, fostering my determination and resilience despite the challenging situation prevailing in our country. Indeed, this initiative demonstrates, once again, that the Saint Joseph University of Beirut upholds a policy of solidarity towards its students.

Thanks again to all the donors for their support. I aspire to one day assist USJ students facing financial hardships in their academic pursuits.

Anonymous Recipient

Mechanical Engineering Student at ESIB

After five years of dedicated effort, I am thrilled to have earned my engineering degree from ESIB. This journey has been incredibly fulfilling, shaping me for the challenges that lie ahead in my professional career. I owe this readiness to the exceptional training provided by the faculty members at the Faculty of Engineering, whose commitment to excellence is commendable. I am deeply grateful to the Classes of 2001 and 2004 for their generous scholarship support, especially during these challenging times in our country. Your act of kindness reflects humanity, generosity, and solidarity towards me and fellow young students. You embody the essence of giving, and as Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." My family and I are deeply grateful for your kindness.



Ramona BAAAYNO

Student at the Faculty of Humanities - Lebanese School of Social Work

I pursued a Master's degree in Counseling and career guidance. I can confidently say that the Financial Aid Department at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut played a pivotal role in my journey, providing me and many other students with the support we needed at every level, especially financially, allowing us to pursue our studies within an enriching environment at a reputable University known for its non-political and non-denominational stance.

Personally, I was fortunate to benefit from the services offered by USJ and receive a reduction in tuition fees amidst the challenging economic climate in our country. This financial support enabled me to pursue and delve deeper into my master's studies, which in turn had a positive impact on both my professional trajectory and personal growth. I will never forget the professionalism of USJ Financial Aid Office, their discretion, the kindness of the social workers, their understanding, and their impartial listening. It was a truly invaluable experience.



Rita ALAWIEH

Student at the Faculty of Medicine

We often fail to express how rewarding it is to be acknowledged for our efforts! Especially since academic journeys, particularly in fields like medicine, can often feel isolating. It's a daily struggle, but having supportive individuals around makes the stress of being a medical student more manageable. I would like to highlight the role of Fondation USJ, which awarded me a scholarship during my third year of medical school. I am grateful for it allowed me to concentrate on my studies without worrying about financial burdens. Despite the country's economic crisis, this scholarship has shown that there is always hope. It's made me

believe more than ever that staying committed to our studies and goals is crucial, rekindling my motivation both academically and financially. Receiving this scholarship makes me eager to pay it forward to another student in the future. I promise to seize every opportunity my University gives me.



Theresa ATTIEH

Biochemistry Student at the Faculty of Science

The scholarship has been a true turning point in my life, a key factor in recognizing my efforts, and a crucial element that illuminated the path of my aspirations, offering me the chance to deepen my knowledge in biochemistry and make a meaningful contribution to my field. It wasn't just about money; it was a powerful sign that my efforts were not only noticed but also supported by an institution that believed in my ability to succeed. With the financial burden lifted, I could fully focus on my studies. Feeling that my abilities and potential were believed in greatly inspired

me to move forward. Your generosity has deeply enriched my educational journey and laid the groundwork for a promising future. I am forever grateful to the donors and Fondation USJ for believing in me.

Our generous donors for the 2022-2023 academic year:

To our sponsors, benefactors, and generous local and international donors: your unwavering commitment and loyalty are truly invaluable to us.

Should you notice any errors despite our diligence, please accept our apologies and kindly inform us.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to all of you! A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF USJ AND HDF FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY!

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