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Lebanese American University

University Scholarship Program (USP II)
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SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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I. Impact Summary

Cohort	Total number of scholarships disbursed to-date (T = E+G+D)	Total number of scholars enrolled at the beginning of the reporting period (=E)	Total cumulative number of scholars who graduated by the end of this reporting period (=G)	Total cumulative number of scholars who dropped during the reporting period (=D)
USP (1)	52+9=61	16*	48	2 + 1 dropped during Spring 2016
USP (2)	53+12=65	40	33	2
USP (3)	85+8+2=95	91	0	4
USP (5)	56+3+2=61	61	0	1
USP (6)	42+3=45	45	0	0
Total USPs at LAU	327	253*	81	9 + 1 dropped during Spring 2016

* Includes the student who was registered at the beginning of Spring 2016 and later dropped out

(Further information are available on a separately attached document, refer to PMP of USP II)

II. Project Summary

1. Key achievements for this quarter

- a. In Fall 2015 18 scholars were on the Distinguished List (semester GPA above 3.5), and 7 scholars on the Honors List (semester GPA between 3.2 and 3.5).
- b. 34 scholars have a Major GPA above 3 and all have a Major GPA above 2.
- c. 32 scholars have a Cumulative GPA above 3 and all have a Cumulative GPA above 2.
- d. 13 scholars graduated from Senior to Fifth year and 10 scholars from Fifth year to Sixth year. Current totals are:
 - i. Senior: 14 scholars
 - ii. Fifth year: 16 scholars (out of which 10 graduated)
 - iii. Sixth year: 10 scholars
- e. In Fall 2015, 10 scholars completed their academic plans and graduated.
- f. There are no scholars on probation.

III. Detailed Progress:

A. Advising and Registration:

In November and December, the scholars were advised and registered for their Spring 2016 courses. Spring 2016 classes began on January 18, 2016 and scholars completed their registration at the start of the semester. The scholars have been in regular contact with their academic coordinators, have been receiving proper advice in relation to registration, course load and best selection of courses and are progressing according to the graduation plans prepared for them.

B. Monitoring of Scholars:

a. OCE

The Outreach and Civic Engagement at the Lebanese American University, headed by the Assistant Vice President who oversees the execution of the program and ensures successful implementation, supervises orientation, enrichment activities, and media coverage, and works closely with the academic coordinators on USP curricular progress. He is assisted by the Central Academic Coordinator for USP programs.

b. Student Mentors

Each scholar has been assigned a student mentor whose main job is to make sure that the scholar is doing well scholastically and that he/she is not facing any problem. The student mentor is a junior or senior student of the same major who has demonstrated leadership skills. He/she helps the scholar in issues related to his/her every day life: dorms and adjustment on campus. (refer to appendix II).

c. Academic coordinators

All scholars have academic coordinators (refer to appendix I). Each academic coordinator is mainly responsible for:

- Advising students before registration on the course load to carry each semester;
- Advising students in their courses and class work;
- Monitoring the academic progress of students;
- Helping the students to cope with academic challenges.

d. Student support/tutoring

Whenever deemed necessary, USP scholars receive support and tutoring from *LAU student support centers* such as the Cooperative Learning Center, the Writing Center, and the Academic Computer Center in addition to the counselors and professional career and academic advising coordinators in the Deans of Students' Offices in both Byblos and Beirut.

e. Academic Progress

In December 2015, the Fall 2015 semester came to an end and academic coordinators completed sending the third and last set of progress reports for the semester. All reports were studied and, when needed, proper advisory action was taken. The reports and the grades demonstrated that the USP 2 scholars, initial cohort and new cohort included, are performing very well and progressing normally.

f. Summary of graduating scholars:

At the end of the Fall 2015 semester, the LAU USP 2 program gave its second generation of graduates with 10 scholars completing all the requirements for graduation. Below is a list of graduating scholars:

ID number	Major	Minor	Graduation Date
201204***	Computer Science	Math	Fall 2015
201203***	Business/B&F		Fall 2015
201203***	Nutrition		Fall 2015
201204***	Nutrition		Fall 2015
201203***	Business/Mkt		Fall 2015
201203***	Economics		Fall 2015
201203***	Nutrition		Fall 2015
201203***	Business/Acc		Fall 2015
201204***	Computer Science		Fall 2015
201203***	Business/B&F		Fall 2015

a. Enrichment Activities:

1. Clubs & Enrichment Activities

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
Explore Career Opportunities at National Instruments	1-Oct-15	This event was organized by the School of Engineering.	201203***	USP II (1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
Step Up 2015	2-Oct-15	This was organized by AIESEC Lebanon.	201203***	USP II (1M)
IEEE Day Event	7-Oct-15	This was organized by the IEEE club.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Concert With Qolo In Belgium	10-Oct-15	This event was held in Belgium.	201201***	USP II (1M)
Presidents Transition Summit 2015	10-Oct-15	This was organized by AIESEC Lebanon.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Chocolate Day	12-Oct-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203*** 201204***	USP II (1F; 1M)
OCE Basketball	13-Oct-15	This was organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit.	201204*** 201204*** 201203***	USP II (3F)
Teach for Lebanon Presentation (Byblos)	13-Oct-15	A representative of the NGO Teach For Lebanon gave a presentation for USP scholars about the fellowship program with their NGO. The program offers a teaching fellowship at the end of which there will be an opportunity to receive a full scholarship for a Master degree.	201203*** 201203***	USP II (1F; 1M)
Teach for Lebanon Presentation (Beirut)	19-Oct-15	A representative of the NGO Teach For Lebanon gave a presentation for USP scholars about the fellowship program with their NGO. The program offers a teaching fellowship at the end of which there will be an opportunity to receive a full scholarship for a Master degree.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Marathon Flyers Distribution	20-Oct-15	This took place in ABC Ashrafieh.	201204***	USP II (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
Photography Exhibition	20-Oct-15	This was organized by the school of Arts and Sciences.	201204*** 201203***	USP II (2F)
USP Tutoring	20-Oct-15	This was organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Your Health & Fun Day	20-Oct-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201204*** 201204***	USP II (1F; 1M)
Central Bank Visit	21-Oct-15	This was organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University.	201203*** 201203***	USP II (2F)
AACSB Seminar - Byblos	22-Oct-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Shouf Basketball Tournament	22-Oct-15	This event was initiated by USP II scholar 201304***.	201304***	USP II (1F)
OCE's Independence Day Event	25-Oct-15	The Outreach and civic engagement unit at LAU organized a halloween event in the Beirut Campus whereby USP scholars volunteered ideas as well as help. The event was attended by USP scholars from all cohorts.	201204***	USP II (1F)
International Day of Peace, The International Day of Non Violence and the United Nations Day	27-Oct-15	This was organized by the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University.	201204***	USP II (1F;2M)
			201203*** 201203***	
AIIESEC Volunteering	28-Oct-15	This was organized by AIIESEC Lebanon.	201203***	USP II (1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
Creating your Company: Dream or Reality?	28-Oct-15	This event was organized by the Adnan Kassar School of Business.	201203*** 201204*** 201203***	USP II (2F;1M)
USP Halloween Party	28-Oct-15	The Outreach and civic engagement unit at LAU organized a halloween event in the Beirut Campus whereby USP scholars volunteered ideas as well as help. The event was attended by USP scholars from all cohorts.	201303*** 201304*** 201203*** 201304***	USP II (3F;1M)
Welcoming Concert	28-Oct-15	This event was organized by LAU music instructor.	201204***	
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign - Byblos	29-Oct-15	This event was organized by the Nursing Club.	201204*** 201203***	USP II (2F)
MENACO 2015	1-Nov-15	This was organized by AIESEC Lebanon.	201203***	USP II (1M)
LAU Dorms Halloween Party - Byblos	3-Nov-15	This was organized by the residence halls at the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Safety Awareness Club Annual Reception	3-Nov-15	This event was organized by the Safety Awareness Club.	201304*** 201203***	USP II (1F;1M)
Introduction to the 7 habits, with a focus on Paradigms and Paradigm Shifts.	4-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Teacher In Service Program (TISP)	5-Nov-15	This was organized by the IEEE club.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Orphan Day in Maounet Hospital	7-Nov-15	This was organized by the Qolo Atiqo Choir.	201201***	USP II (1M)
Internship Fair Week	9-Nov-15 - 13-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201304***	USP II (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
LAU Dorms Halloween Party - Beirut	10-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201204*** 201203*** 201304***	USP II (2F;1M)
Internship Fair Week - Beirut	10-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201303***	USP II (1F)
A Musical Life	11-Nov-15	This event was organized by LAU Music instructor.	201204***	USP II (1M)
Ripples of Happiness	12-Nov-15	This was organized by LOYAC.	201204***	USP II (1F)
Red Cross Training Camp	15-Nov-15	This was organized by the Red Cross Club.	201304***	USP II (1F)
AFED Annual Conference	16-Nov-15	This was organized by the AFED Committee.	201304***	USP II (1F)
Lecture about Practical Aspects of a Construction Project by CMA	16-Nov-15	This event was organized by the School of Engineering.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Diabetes Day	17-Nov-15	This event was organized by the Nursing Club.	201203*** 201204*** 201204***	USP II (2F;1M)
Internship Fair Week - Byblos	16-Nov-15 - 20-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Lecture by CMA - Practical Aspects of a Construction Project	17-Nov-15	This event was organized by the School of Engineering.	201200***	USP II (1F)
Dean of Students' Independence Day	18-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203*** 201204*** 201203***	USP II (1F;2M)
Literature Day	18-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201304*** 201304***	USP II (2F)
Research seminar: Geo-Environmental Forensics and Remediation Case Studies	18-Nov-15	This seminar was organized by the School of Engineering.	201203*** 201200***	USP II (2F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
ASCE Internship Testimonials	19-Nov-15	This was organized by the American Society of Civil Engineers Club.	201203***	USP II (1M)
UNESCO Club's Annual Reception	19-Nov-15	This event was organized by the UNESCO club.	201204*** 201304*** 201203*** 201304*** 201203*** 201203***	USP II (4F;2M)
Independence Day with the Lebanese Army	20-Nov-15	This was organized by the UNESCO club in collaboration with the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201303*** 201204*** 201304*** 201304*** 201203*** 201301*** 201304***	USP II (7F)
My Battle With Drugs	20-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201201*** 201203***	USP II (2M)
Civic Welfare Club's Exhibition	25-Nov-15	This was organized by the Civic Welfare Club.	201204***	USP II (1F)
IWSAW Program for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	25-Nov-15	A discussion panel with a renowned journalist entitled "my twenty years' experience in covering women's issues ". Several USP scholars attended the lecture.	201204*** 201304***	USP II (2F)
OCE's Independence Day Event	25-Nov-15	The Outreach and civic engagement unit at LAU organized a halloween event in the Beirut Campus whereby USP scholars volunteered ideas as well as help. The event was attended by USP scholars from all cohorts.	201204*** 201304*** 201203*** 201304*** 201304*** 201301***	USP II (5F;1M)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
So You Think You Know Palestine!!	25-Nov-15	This event was organized by the Palestinian Club and held in LAU Beirut.	201204***	USP II (1F)
Drinking and Driving Awareness Campaign	26-Nov-15	This Campaign was organized by the Safety Awareness Club.	201203***	USP II (1F)
How to Recognize and Manage Workplace Bullying	26-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201303*** 201304***	USP II (2F)
Around The World in 80 Minutes	27-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203*** 201200***	USP II (1F;1M)
Environment day	28-Nov-15	This was organized by the Red Cross Club.	201304***	USP II (1F)
Orphan Fair 2015	28-Nov-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201204*** 201203*** 201203*** 201204***	USP II (2F;2M)
Be Safe Stay Safe	30-Nov-15	This was organized by the Safety Awareness Club.	201304***	USP II (1F)
Movie Screening "Gravity "	30-Nov-15	This screening was organized by the Astronomy Club	201303*** 201203*** 201203***	USP II (3F)
"Joy to the World" Christmas Concert	2-Dec-15	This event was organized by an LAU music instructor.	201204*** 201203*** 201203***	USP II (2F;1M)
Vadis Quo	2Dec15 - 4Dec15	This was organized the Communication Arts Department at the Lebanese American University.	201203*** 201203*** 201304***	USP II (2F;1M)
Eat for a Cause	2-Dec-15	This was organized by the Nutrition Club.	201203***	USP II (1F)
Women in Engineering: Assuming Leadership	2-Dec-15	This was organized by Engineers Without Borders Club.	201203*** 201204***	USP II (1F;1M)
Dorms Christmas Dinner	4-Dec-15	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
Acoustic Night	7-Dec-15	This event was organized by an LAU music instructor.	201304***	USP II (1M)
The Students' Oriental Orchestra	8-Dec-15	The students' oriental orchestra of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music presented a musical show at LAU.	201203*** 201203***	USP II (2F)
First Aid Training	17-Jan-16	This was organized by the Red Cross Club.	201304***	USP II (1F)
Nursing Welcome Day	25-Jan-16	This event was organized by the Nursing Club.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Sharpen Your Interview Skills	27-Jan-16	This was organized by the Dean of Students office in the Lebanese American University.	201200***	USP II (1F)
Play Production: "On Top of the Seas"	4-Feb-16	This was organized by the school of Arts and Sciences.	201203*** 201200***	USP II (2F)
Attend a Semester in Richmond The American International University in London!	22-Feb-16	This was organized by the International Services office at the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1M)
AACSB Pre-visit Meeting	25-Feb-16	This was organized by the Adnan Kassar School of Business.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Music and Theatre, guest speaker	26-Feb-16	This event was organized by an LAU music instructor.	201203*** 201203***	USP II (1F;1M)
Steer Your Career Workshop	26-Feb-16	This was organized by the INJAZ Organization in Collaboration with Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University.	201203***	USP II (1M)
Automotive Day	16-Mar-16	This was organized by the safety Awareness club.	201203***	USP II (1F)

Activity	Date	Description	Names of participants	Number of participants
MMKN Celebrates Teachers' day	16-Mar-16	This event was organized by MMKN NGO and the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University.	201304***	USP II (1F)

Photography Exhibition



USP II scholar 201204 attended the Photography exhibition held in the Byblos Campus.***



USP II scholar 201203 viewed the Photography exhibition held in the Byblos Campus.***

Creating your Company: Dream or Reality?



USP II scholar 201204 attended the Creating your Company: Dream or Reality? Lecture.***

Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign - Byblos



USP II scholar 201204* took part in the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign**



USP II scholar 201203* engaged in the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign held in Byblos.**

LAU Dorms Halloween Party - Beirut



USP II scholar 201304 attended the LAU Dorms Halloween Party in Beirut.***



USP II scholar 201204 engaged in the LAU Dorms Halloween Party in Beirut.***

UNESCO Club's Annual Reception



USP II scholar 201304 received a certificate of appreciation during the UNESCO Club's Annual Reception.***



USP II scholar 201204 received a certificate of appreciation during the UNESCO Club's Annual Reception.***



USP II scholar 201203 received a certificate of appreciation during the UNESCO Club's Annual Reception.***



USP II scholar 201203 received a certificate of appreciation during the UNESCO Club's Annual Reception.***

Steer Your Career Workshop



*USP II scholar 201203*** engaged in the Steer Your Career Workshop by Injaz.*

Automotive Day



*USP II scholar 201203*** took a group picture during the Automotive Day event held in LAU Beirut Campus.*

MMKN Celebrates Teachers' day



*Several USP scholars from across cohorts attended the MMKN event to celebrate Teachers' day including USP II scholar 201304***.*

2.1 Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations

The Lebanese American University is holding, this year, the 11th Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations conference in partnership with the "United Nations Association" of the United States of America.

"Global Classrooms" LAU Model United Nations is a program that consists in providing knowledge and skill based training for students over 5 Saturdays at the LAU premises in the following areas:

- a. Conflict resolution skills including the art of coalition building, communications, negotiations, open debate and resolution writing as well as simulation exercises;
- b. Diplomatic skills with extensive knowledge about UN procedures and rules of diplomatic and protocol representation;
- c. Knowledge-based training in country demographic, economic, political and social profiles;
- d. Advocacy training in civic engagement and social service in order to better serve the civic society and the philanthropic causes in Lebanon.

The ultimate aim of the program is to make Lebanese and a selected number of Arab students, coming from diverse socio-economic and sectarian background, acknowledge each other's differences, think methodically and objectively about UN problems, accept diversity, and gain

communications, negotiations and leadership skills as well as cognition about the global challenges facing the United Nations.

Grade 7 , 8 , 10 and 11 school students will act as ambassadors for different countries and tackle the problems of sustainable development, global terrorism, menacing epidemics, global poverty, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental and ecological threats. The power of argumentation will prevail over the argument of power and the culture of democracy, unleashing the creative energies of the students, will triumph over the traditional teaching methods implemented in most of the schools of Lebanon.

The launching of the project takes place every year in November, and it exceeds expectations in terms of enthusiastic receptivity of the stakeholders, principals, advisors, and coaches of more than 2750 high school and middle school students coming from more than 174 schools from all over Lebanon.

USP Scholars involved in this program including the following USP II scholar:

USP Scholar Name	GC LAU MUN Position
201304***	School Relations Coordinator



USP II-New Scholar 201304 took part in the school relations team in the Global Classrooms LAU Model United Nations program.***

2.2 LAU Model Arab League

Since 1983, the Model Arab League programs worldwide have offered high school and university students an extraordinary opportunity to learn, practice, and develop leadership skills. In the process, the participants deepen their knowledge and understanding of Arab social, economic, cultural, and political issues.

The Lebanese American University, in partnership with the "Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development" (HFSHD) is implementing its second Model Arab League Conference in the region.

A team of LAU students will be training high-school students from all over Lebanon about practical leadership skills directly related to the social, economic, cultural and political issues Arab leaders and community have been facing.

Students gain invaluable first hand leadership experience and hands-on training through The Model Arab League's interactive learning process. They get familiarized with the application of time management skills, the use of parliamentary procedure, the dynamics of debating, writing and editing draft resolutions.

The program aims at the empowerment of Arab Youth, in the hope of them becoming the decision makers of tomorrow.

Throughout the year, students sit for 5 training sessions at LAU Beirut campus and the Outreach and Leadership center in Saida. By the end of the training, the now MAL delegates are prepared to take part in a two day Conference, where committees of the Arab League are simulated.

This year the program included 1,000 high school and middle school students from 73 schools across Lebanon. The students were trained by 107 trainers from the Lebanese American University including the following USP scholars:

USP Scholar Name	LAU-MAL Position
201203***	Training
201203***	Training
201301***	Public Information Coordinator

2.3 Success Stories

Part I: Collective Success Stories

Building a Successful Career

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University organized a series of workshops catered to enhance the knowledge of USP scholars. Each USP cohort attended a workshop tailored to their career needs. The USP I & II scholars attended a Job Search Strategies workshop on November 25 and 26. The workshops were held by the Career Guidance Associate Manager. Through these workshops the USP scholars will be able to graduate as independent career driven people, with the knowledge of how to navigate their paths in life to realize great achievement in their fields of study thus benefiting themselves and their community.



USP II and fellow scholars in Byblos taken in a picture while doing an exercise to test their networking skills during the Job Search Strategies workshop

Beirut Marathon

Several USP I, II, III, V and VI scholars participated in the Beirut marathon either by running for G in support of the Go Green cause or by volunteering at the three different LAU stations (Water and Cheering Station, Recycling Station, Corporate Tent) to encourage runners, help by

recycling empty water bottles, and raising awareness about various LAU programs/activities. G is a non-profit organization, a corporate social responsibility (CSR), and Green living NGO committed primarily to provide effective solutions for businesses and organizations to promote a healthier environment, a cleaner earth, and a more sustainable future. During this year's marathon The USP scholars took part in the largest water and cheering station on the 42 km and 10 km races, they helped distribute 27,000 bottles of water, 700 bottles of Gatorade and all the available sponges. The USP scholars also successfully operated a recycling station under the leadership of a student leader for the first time whereby they collected 6,900 bottles of water for recycling out of 50,320 bottles collected overall by G in 8 stations.



USP II scholars with the various cohorts in a group picture during the Beirut marathon

Job Search Strategies Workshop

The Career Guidance Associate Manager gave a workshop about job search strategies for USP I & II scholars in both the Beirut and Byblos campuses on Wednesday, 25th of November 2015 and Thursday, 26th of November 2015 respectively. The workshop focused on helping the USP scholars prepare for life after graduation but showing the right way to write their curriculum vitae and cover letters. The Career Guidance Associate Manager, also gave them tips on how to prepare for job interviews and the benefits of making connections. The workshop allowed the USP scholars to be more confident and better prepared for the future the scholarship enabled them to have.



USP II with fellow scholars engaged in the job search workshop at the Byblos campus

USP Post-Graduation Presentations

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at LAU Organized a series of presentations at Peaks resort – Feytroun for USP I and II graduates on Saturday October 10, 2015. The day started with a presentation by Banque Du Liban experts on the power of networking and was followed by hands-on leadership and team-building workshops and activities. The graduates shared their testimonials on how to find a job, they were grateful for the opportunity that USAID provided as it helped them immensely in the job hunt. After their testimonials they were given a workshop for alumni chapters' formation. They were informed of how the alumni chapter will help them keep in touch with fellow USP graduates in the future. The day was an overall success.



USP II scholars attending the hands-on leadership workshop given by the AVP

USP Scholars Residential Camp

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at LAU Organized a USP Residential Camp in Peaks resort – Feytroun for USP I and II graduating scholars on Saturday October 10 and Sunday October 11, 2015. The camp was done in order to help the USP I & II scholars prepare for their impending graduation. The scholars went through a series of outdoor activities that included trust exercises such as escalade and rappel. The scholars also attended several workshops including a presentation by Banque Du Liban experts on the power of networking and SME loans. They also had the opportunity to meet fellow USP graduates that informed them of life post-graduation and what they should expect. The scholars thoroughly enjoyed their weekends and felt like it was time well spent especially as they learned how their extracurricular activities can help them in their impending job hunt and how character building is as important as the education they are receiving. As per their grant terms, the scholars were exposed to an entrepreneurial sessions that widen their horizons and gave them a clear picture on what to expect post-graduation. The scholars were introduced to the work of the alumni relations office and the role of the alumni chapters.



USP II and fellow scholars listening attentively to BDL expert talking about the SME loans



A group picture taken at the end of the BDL presentation with Central Bank officials and financial experts



USP scholars are getting ready for the first team-building exercise

Reforestation Activity

35 USP scholars from various cohorts participated with the Outreach and Civic Engagement unit's reforestation activity in partnership with the Lebanese Reforestation Initiative (LRI). Students came from Byblos and Beirut campuses to Bkassine, Jezzine where they were welcomed by a representative from the municipality of Bkassine and a representative from LRI. LRI's representative gave an introduction about the LRI and their reforestation initiative all over Lebanon then the representative of the municipality explained about the importance of Bkassine forest as being the biggest from its kind in the Middle East. The Pine trees in the forest date back to 350 years from the time of Prince Fakhreddine II and it covers almost 500 hectares of land.

The reforestation in Bkassine is very important as it helps re-generate the forest especially after the fire that took place last year and destroyed a lot of old pine trees and plants. The students were excited to help the community reserve their forest and the cultural and touristic heritage it provides. The scholars accompanied by members of the OCE, hiked in the forest of Bkassine for half an hour in order to reach the designated reforestation area. Together they managed to plant 340 pine trees.



USP II and fellow scholars hiking to the reforestation site through the forest of Bkassine



USP II and fellow scholars from various cohorts gathered at Bkassine for the OCE's reforestation initiative

USP VI Homecoming Reception

LAU's University Scholarship Program (USP), a USAID-funded initiative that covers scholars' full tuition and related expenses, has recently received substantial funding toward its seventh cohort of students for what will be known as USP VII. To celebrate the USP VII grand and welcome the newly admitted USP VI cohort, the Outreach and Civic Engagement unit at LAU organized a welcoming reception. The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Ambassador attended the reception along with LAU's President, Vice-President of Student Development and Enrollment Management and the Assistant Vice president for outreach and Civic engagement. USP scholars from all cohorts were there to celebrate this event with some of them sharing how their experience as a USP scholar changed their life.



USP II and fellow scholars in a group photograph at the conclusion of the USP VI Homecoming Reception

Reach Out and Dazzle (ROAD) program

The Outreach and Civic Engagement unit at LAU asked volunteers to be part of the "Reach out and Dazzle" (ROAD) program that is taking place at the Outreach and Leadership Academy "OLA" in Saida. Students interested in reading in their spare time to various target audiences and spreading the culture of knowledge around them registered, amongst those students are USP II scholar 201204***, USP III scholars 201304*** and 201304***. On February 3, 2016 scholars began sorting the reading material for the upcoming Reach Out and Dazzle project.



USP III with fellow scholars 201304 and 201304*** sorted the reading material for the Reach Out and Dazzle project in Saida.***

Visit to Bonheur du Ciel

The Outreach and Civic Engagement unit at LAU organized a visit to Bonheur du Ciel rehabilitation center in Maaysra as a part of the Outreach and Corporate Visits. The visit took place on Wednesday 17 February, 2016. A total of nineteen USP scholars (USP II, III, V, and VI) participated in this visit (7 scholars commuted from Beirut and 12 from Byblos). The students watched an informative video about the NGO and another one about the severe consequences of using drugs. They also heard the testimony of two young patients and asked them questions about their experiences. The scholars found the visit highly enriching and interesting as it helped educate them about the tragedies in life and what to avoid. Thus the USAID is not only helping the scholars achieve their dream careers but also raising their awareness about social issues.



USP scholars of various cohorts visited Bonheur Du Ciel rehabilitation center in Maaysra

Entrepreneurial Training Workshop

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University held an Entrepreneurial Training Workshop for the USP I and II scholars. The workshop took place via video-conference on Thursday February 25, 2016 in both the Byblos and Beirut Campus. Berytech trained the scholars on how to translate their ideas into businesses and the ways in which they can discover and explore opportunities through the power of networking. The scholars acknowledge the USAID for providing them with the guidance to pursue a successful life.



USP II and fellow scholars in the Beirut and Byblos Campus engaged in the Entrepreneurial Training Workshop

Visit to the Geitawi Hospital – Children Cancer Center

USP II scholar 201204*** approached the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University to help her initiate a visit to the Geitawi Hospital – Children Cancer Center. Her initiative was incorporated into the Outreach and Corporate Visits that the unit is organizing. Her enthusiasm to help the community she lives in as a USP scholar spread to several other USP II, III, V and VI scholars. The visit took place on Wednesday March 2nd, 2016.

The scholars volunteered to help cheer the children residing in the Cancer Center by singing, dancing, playing games and giving them gifts.



*USP II scholar 201203***, 201204*** and 201203*** took a group picture at the Geitawi Hospital – Children Cancer Center.*

Pepsi Co. Visit

The Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at the Lebanese American University organized an Outreach corporate visit to Pepsi Co. on April 2, 2016. Several USP scholars from various cohorts joined the visit as part of their civic engagement activities as per their grants. They toured the Pepsi factory and gained insight on how the business runs; the computer science students were interested in the machinery while the business students were interested in the production line. They were also given the opportunity to visit Pepsi's quality control laboratories to learn about the food safety measures of the factor which truly benefited the nutrition students. Overall the tour was successfully implemented and the scholars were enriched with a general knowledge that they can use to benefit their country when they enter the workforce.



USP II scholar took a group picture with fellow peers while touring Pepsi Co.

Part II: Individual Success Stories

201204***

Born and raised in the Lebanese village Tannourine, 201204*** was often praised by his teachers and admired by his fellow students for his fast learning skills and attentiveness.

Knowing that his family's financial status wouldn't have allowed him to get the quality of education he desired, 201204*** stopped at nothing in order to accomplish his goal of ensuring himself a proper higher education.

Graduating High School in 2012 with a good academic standing, 201204*** got into the USP II majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Mathematics. He managed to become one of the best students in his major and was actively involved in many clubs such as the Association of Computing Mechanisms club and the Math club. During his bachelor studies, 201204*** was also a mentor to younger USP scholars guiding them towards the right path and helping them out with technical issues he's experienced before. Other than that, 201204*** interned at E-Smart solutions – one of the leading Computer Science companies in Lebanon, where his performance was exemplary to other interns and employees.

Being keen on absorbing as much knowledge as he can, and driven by the fact that the learning process is a non-endless one, 201204*** graduated with honors and thereafter is pursuing his Master's degree in Computer Science at the Lebanese American University with a Graduate Assistantship. 201204***, who was once a USPII-LAU student, is currently teaching undergraduate computer science courses at the Lebanese American University and he is still a mentor to USP students as a way to repay his debt to the USAID and the American people.



201203***

Born and raised in the Lebanese village Barouk, 201203*** was an exceptional student at Baakline's Official High School.

After the sudden death of his father who provided for the family while working abroad at the Gulf, an enormous responsibility fell on the shoulders of the seventeen years old 201203***, since he had to step up and help his mother provide and raise him and his siblings given the fact that he's the eldest child.

Maintaining a good academic record and becoming the man of the house at the same time wasn't an easy task for 201203***, but he still managed to do both excellently. He became a role model for his siblings and his fellow classmates by graduating high school the top of his class and with honors as well.

Post high school graduation and given the tough financial state his father's loss left them in, 201203*** aimed for the USP II which he successfully managed to achieve.

201203*** is now a Mechanical Engineering student at the Lebanese American University, where he is successfully balancing between a good academic standing and a record full of civic engagement achievements. He's heavily involved in many clubs including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Engineers without borders club as well as being the treasurer for the Chess club. Other than that, 201203*** is an exceptional trainer at the LAU Model Arab League Program.

201203*** already started constructing his career, as he got himself an internship with Enterprisers A.R Hourie – the second best contracting company in Lebanon.

“An arrow can only be shot if you pull it backwards” is 201203***'s strategy in life and what keeps him going towards more successful achievements.



IV. Challenges

There were no challenges faced in this quarter. OCE Continues to develop and strengthen internal processes to meet the requirements of the USP grant.

V. Planned Activities

USP Civic Engagement Coordination

Date: Use only the following: MM/DD/YY YY	Start time (9:00am)	End time (11:00am)	Event Title	Event Location (Campus, Building, Room number or exact address if outside university)	Event Objective & Synopsis (what, who, how)	Event Type (drop down menu only)	If other, Specify	Restrictions & Other Notes: Is the event restricted only for the same university students? Any required pre-requisites? How many outside students can the event accommodate? Any particular preference to majors or faculties?
2-Apr-16	11:00am	01:00pm	OCV Visit to MTV	MTV, Naccache	Outreach and Corporate visits: The visit will give them the chance to explore one of the most watched and successful TV stations in Lebanon and the Middle East. They will also have the chance to inquire about the management, production, behind the scenes operation rooms in charge of the airing and the camera management.	Other	Field trips	USP I, II, III, V & VI
6-Apr-16	09:00am	04:00pm	Career Fair-Byblos	Byblos Campus	The chance to meet different organizations for future job and internship opportunities	Other	Career Fair	USP I, II, III, V & VI
6-Apr-16	09:00am	12:00pm	International Heritage day	Beirut Campus-Upper gate	The chance to know more about the Lebanese heritage	Other	UNESCO Club activities	USP I, II, III, V & VI
16-Apr-16	11:00am	01:00pm	OCV visit to Fanar Psychiatric Hospital	Al Fanar Psychiatric Hospital	Outreach and Corporate visits: The visit will give them the chance to meet the patients and listen to their thoughts	Other	Field trips	USP I, II, III, V & VI
13-Apr-16	01:30pm	03:00pm	USP Awards Distribution Ceremony	Beirut Campus-Irwin Auditorium	Honor the USP Student leaders	Other	Honoring Ceremony	USP I, II, III, V & VI
18-Apr-16	12:00pm	01:00pm	CV Writing Workshop	Beirut Campus, AKSOB 903	Explore the steps to write a CV	Focus Group		USP V
18-Apr-16	11:00am	01:00pm	OCV visit to Four Seasons Hotel	Beirut-Zaitouna	Outreach and Corporate visits: The visit will give them the chance to explore the different departments of the hotel	Other	Field trips	USP I, II, III, V & VI
19-Apr-16	10:00am	11:30am	OCV visit to An-Nahar Newspaper	Beirut-Down Town	Outreach and Corporate visits: The visit will give them the chance to explore the different departments of the newspaper	Other	Field trips	USP I, II, III, V & VI
20-Apr-16	12:00pm	01:00pm	CV Writing Workshop	Byblos Campus, Science 608	Explore the steps to write a CV	Focus Group		USP V

TBA			USP Graduates' dinner with parents	LAU Beirut	USP Graduates gathering	Focus Group		USP I, II, III, V & VI
7-Jun-16	06:00pm	10:00pm	Commencement Exercises	Byblos Campus	Graduation ceremony	Focus Group		USP I, II, III, V & VI
10-Jun-16	06:00pm	10:00pm	Commencement Exercises	Beirut Campus	Graduation ceremony	Focus Group		USP I, II, III, V & VI
11-Jun-16	06:00pm	10:00pm	Commencement Exercises	Beirut Campus	Graduation ceremony	Focus Group		USP I, II, III, V & VI
TBA			Basic Studio Skills Workshop	Beirut and Byblos Campus	Enhance their basic studio skills	Focus Group		USP III new and V
TBA			Entrepreneurial Training	Beirut and Byblos Campus	To develop necessary knowledge and skills, basic managerial knowledge and understanding and to help in selecting the right type of projects and products	Focus Group		USP V & VI
TBA			Conflict Resolution and Negotiation skills workshop	Beirut and Byblos Campus	Understanding conflicts that affect the team process, Ability to handle team conflicts, knowledge of negotiation and improve their communication skills	Focus Group		USP V & VI
TBA			Group Work and team building activities	Outdoors activities	Team building activities	Fun Events (outdoors ...)		USP I, II, III, V & VI
TBA			Reforestation activities	Outdoors activities	Team building activities	Fun Events (outdoors ...)		USP I, II, III, V & VI

VI. Work Plan

(Available on a separately attached document, refer to the Work plan for USP II- Year 2015-2016)

VII. Quotes from Scholars

“The USP program is brilliant, for education is the foundation of any society’s evolvement. Being part of this program, and because of its impact on my educational and personal growth, I now feel the need to give back, contribute and make a difference in our Lebanese Society.”

201203***- *Mechanical Engineering*

“The University Student Program gave me an amazing opportunity, a one of a kind experience that I will never forget throughout my life.”

201203*** - *Civil Engineering*

“Life is just a series of beautiful opportunities. Our destiny is determined by the way we size those opportunities, and being a part of the USP program is that turning point that changed my life and destiny forever!”

201203***: - *Mechanical Engineering*

VIII. Appendix I

Mentors List (Fall 2015)

Family	Mentor
201203***	5
201203***	
201203***	
201305***	
201203***	
201204***	6
201304***	
201304***	
201303***	
201304***	
201304***	1
201301***	3
201203***	
201304***	
201304***	2
201203***	
201204***	5
201203***	
201203***	
201304***	
201304***	
201304***	2
201203***	
201203***	3
201200***	
201203***	
201203***	5
201204***	
201204***	
201203***	
201203***	
201204***	5
201204***	
201203***	
201203***	
201204***	
201203***	5
201201***	
201203***	
201203***	

Family	Mentor
201203***	3
201204***	
201203***	
201204***	

Mentors List (Spring 2016)

Family	Mentor
201305***	7
201204***	
201304***	
201304***	
201303***	
201304***	
201304***	
201301***	4
201203***	
201304***	
201304***	
201203***	2
201204***	
201304***	3
201304***	
201304***	
201203***	1
201200***	2
201203***	
201203***	3
201203***	
201204***	
201203***	5
201201***	
201203***	
201203***	
201203***	
201204***	2
201203***	