A senior project is what most students think of once they enter the university. It is also what they put their four years or more of education into, and dream of achieving something they would be proud of. Being a student in the major of Environmental Science and Sustainability gave me the opportunity to cover many aspects in the science field such as renewable energy, earth systems, human body etc. However, the least covered subject during my study period was plants, which made me more curious and passionate to learn more about agriculture and plants in general. Therefore, I decided to do something related to plants and combine it with what we have covered intensely in the university courses. ICBA (International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture) is one of the leading agricultural research institutions in the UAE, in which I had the privilege to work on my senior project.

“When confronted with difficulty, a person has two options: to stop and admit defeat, or to innovate and triumph”
Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid

The project covered one of the main subjects we have studied in our major, which was energy along with plants and agriculture. My project was about comparing two protected agriculture structures, which were a greenhouse and a net house in terms of their energy and water consumption, yields and yield components.
The study focused on two types of tomatoes, to determine whether the production of tomatoes in the net house can be comparable to the high energy-consuming greenhouse.

The research gave me an opportunity to experience the fieldwork, where I had to record the energy and water data daily, monitor the developments of fruit and flower clusters, and harvest the ripe tomato fruits and take their measurements weekly.

The experience of working in the field taught me a lot as a student, I was able to handle and find solutions to many problems, overcome obstacles, and grow as a researcher. Moreover, I realized that I enjoyed the fieldwork more, as it gave me more knowledge and experience than what we have studied in books since I was able actually to observe and analyze my own results. Presenting my senior project in a conference was another opportunity I was given from the university. Being a part of a huge global conference was a dream come true to me. The SWC (Solar World Congress) is an international conference on solar heating and cooling for buildings and industry, in which each participant was shortlisted by an evaluation committee evaluating submitted abstracts. This gathering of many scientists and researchers gave me a chance to meet and know more about different studies coming from different parts of the world. The highlight of my experience during the conference was that most attendees to the explanation of my project thought that I was a PhD student, which made me so proud of achieving such great results and working on such project at a young age. The support of my father and my senior project supervisor Dr. Shoaib Malik is something I really appreciate and it meant a lot to me, seeing how proud my father was as his daughter, and my teacher as one of his students.

By Hamda Al Masoum

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The psychology undergraduate research event was held for the sixth time at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi Campus. The event gives students a platform to showcase exciting research in psychology proposed and carried out by them. Around sixty very motivated students took part for the event this year, and gave poster presentations. We asked them to share their experiences and here is what they said:

“It was a great experience to present our work on face perception to other students and explain the experiment for them, and see that everyone was interested in the findings. I aim to share our study to more people and perhaps take it to a major conference in Psychology in the UAE, since it is one of the first face recognition studies done in the UAE. Thanks to Dr. Mariana for giving us this opportunity to present our study at Zayed University.”

By Iman Ahmed

“In fact, this was my first experience presenting a research project in a research event. I have done presentations before but always in class. I enjoyed it because I had the chance to communicate with new students and professors about an experiment that I did about the effects of sugar
consumption on attention. I was proud when I saw students from other majors curious and pleased to hear about my study. Many thanks to Dr. Mariana because she was the one who encouraged us to present there and she was the one who invited professors to come and talk to us.”

By Marya Younos Jamal Poor.

“I thought that telling people about my study titled “Differences in visual memory between Arts and Psychology Students” was very motivating. I was asked many questions by students who visited my poster, those questions gave me new ideas that might be included in further studies.”

By Khloud Jamal

“We had a lot of fun at the psychology undergraduate research event because it was our first time presenting in a research forum. We presented our study, which was about "face recognition across cultures" to many faculty and students, including Dr. Justin from the Psychology Department and Dr. Melvin from UC. We loved seeing how interested and curious they were about the findings,. That makes us feel happy and proud of the good work that we did.”

By Arwa Dahman

“Being part of the psychology undergraduate research event was a very rewarding experience. We enjoyed telling others about our study looking at cultural differences in face recognition . We felt very proud of what we did specially that the idea of the project was developed by us.”

By Maha Al Marzouqi

“Participating in the undergraduate research event was a great experience as we got to show off our hard-work and dedication and discuss our findings with our fellow students and professors! It was a fun experience that made our course more interesting and made us reflect on our own research.'

By Dalal Al Atiqi.

"What a fun time we had at the psychology undergraduate research event! I got to talk to many students and to Dr. Mariana. I loved to see how interested they were in what I had to say and I truly appreciated their feedback. I hope I will have another opportunity to participate in an event like this one. It was really nice especially that I discovered something new and positive about myself.”

By Zainab Alhosani

“I like the idea of presenting my research study to others especially that it was my first time conducting my own experiment -as I wanted to do always but did not have the chance before-, and the experience helped me to present better in front of others. I would like to thank my team members, teachers and student who listen to us and of course our supervisor Dr. Mariana Coutinho.”

By Reema Sumaida

“I feel proud to be a part of the psychology undergraduate research event, and I really had an amazing experience when we invited others to come and listen to our presentation. Dr. Justin Tomas joined us as well with more than 6 student or more. Seeing their interest made me feel very confident and proud of my work.”

By Maitha Smail
“I really enjoyed the experience of presenting at the undergraduate research event. I met new people from our university and had very stimulating conversations about our project on implicit memory. My group members and I enjoyed every single moment we spent it at this event.”

By Ayesha Ebrahim

“Taking part in this event was rewarding. We got to show many students the hard work that goes into producing a research project like the we presented, and we got to transmit the knowledge we acquired to other students and faculty. We also enjoyed the feedback that professors like Dr. Mariana and Dr. Kelly gave us as they stimulate our minds to think in other ways and elaborate more on our study.”

By Wadhha Albreiki

Crash Diets - A Recent Fad

Just two months left to a BIG occasion? Want to lose weight as soon as possible? The best solution to achieve a quick weight loss is to go on a "crash diet". How about "Juice diet", or maybe "Cabbage soup diet"? Oh and how about the "GM diet"? Great ways to lose weight, right? NO! This is the worst possible thing that you can do to your body. Crash diets seem to be a great option due its drastic effects but in the long run they cause more harm than good to the body. Such diets are programs that assure rapid weight loss over a short period of time and are mostly done without exercise. They mainly involve extreme food restrictions, thereby creating large calorie deficits, and eventually leading to weight loss. Losing weight, is basically just a math, wherein if your calories consumed are lesser than calories burned, you will eventually lose the weight. However, losing weight should not be the main priority, one should also be mindful of the nutrients that they consume. Consumption of a healthy nutritious diet is extremely crucial in order for one to stay healthy and fit. One should aim at staying fit and not “thin”. By Anam Shakil
Five students delivered professional presentations at the conference. These included:

1. “Effect of intradialytic-aerobic exercise on clinical outcomes of hemodialysis patients in United Arab Emirates: study protocol and baseline data” By Fatma Ahmad Qurwash Saeed Rashed Al Qurwash Al Falasi
   Supervised by Dr. Mirey Karavetian

2. “The Prevalence and Deterents of Eating disorders among Emirati Female Students Aged 14–19 Years in Ajman, UAE” By Maryam Saleh Abdulla Mohamed Almarzooqi
   Supervised by Dr. Mirey Karavetian

3. “Smoking Among Children And Adolescences (10-19 Years Old) in the UAE, Dubai” By Shurooq Ali Mohammad Al Asmawi
   Supervised by Dr. Haleama Al Sabbah

4. “Development of a Dietary Mobile Application (KELA) for Hemodialysis patients: UAE experience” By Shatha Omar Ibrahim Mohamed
   Supervised by Dr. Mirey Karavetian

5. “Assessing health literacy among female Arabic college students” By Jawaher Al Dhuhoori
   Supervised by Ludmilla Scott
Dhuha Abdulla Naser Alwahedi and Maitha Mezahem, Public Health and Nutrition students, conducted a pilot study about weights status and dietary habits among children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Both students got their project accepted for presentations at the International Dubai Nutrition Conference in October 2017. The results presented below are concerning and deserves more attention to support this vulnerable group of children.

Dhuha Abdulla Naser Alwahedi’s research project titled “The Weight Status Among Autistic Children” was conducted in Abu Dhabi. The study employed a cross-sectional design assessing the weight status and dietary patterns among autistic children in Abu Dhabi capital district. The dietary intake indicates unhealthy food choices, similar to those reported among healthy children in the UAE. The study showed that 49.1% of the children were normal weight and underweight was found in 5.6%. There was a high prevalence of the obesity (30.2%), overweight (15.1%), among participants which is higher than what is being reported among healthy children where 34.9% are considered overweight or obese. The study was supervised by Dr. Amal Elamin and co-author Dr. Malin Garemo.

Maitha Mezahem project titled “Feeding Practices among Autistic Children and Adolescence in Abu Dhabi Capital District” assessed feeding practices and potential feeding problems in children with ASD. The results showed that the main challenges are related to children refuse to eat certain food or textures, children don’t like to try new food or that they prefer unhealthy food. Children are struggling with vegetable, fruits and legumes. Parents are mainly using positive strategies to overcome the challenges by encouraging their children, changing the food texture, using special diets or eating in quite environments. The study received positive attention from conference attendees, and was successfully selected for poster and oral presentation. The study was supervised by Dr. Malin Garemo and co-authored by Dr. Amal Elamin.

We would like to thank the College of Natural and Health Sciences for the financial support which allowed students to attend the conference.
Hydroponics Club

Creating an innovative and practical approach to impacting sustainable lifestyles in the UAE

Problem
The practice of home farming contributes to environmental sustainability, family economics, food security and wellbeing. The challenge of developing the practice within UAE society include the lack of know-how, the harsh weather and the availability of fertile soil and fresh water. Our solution to these challenges is to introduce Hydroponic farming, which can be practiced indoors and outdoors depending on the season. Hydroponics do not require soil and use up to 90% less water than traditional soil farming.

Solution
This Club aims to facilitate the uptake of Hydroponic home farming in UAE homes. In the first phase we will be producing and selling Zayed University branded Hydroponic kits thematically designed to appeal to the UAE culture. Our first-generation kits that are currently under prototyping include a kit designed to grow tea and mint plants, a kit designed to grow plants that are traditionally used as beauty products, another for healing, a decorative flower kit, a cooking herb kit and a child friendly kit. We believe through this phase of the project, we develop public knowledge and interest for the practice.
In phase two, we will establish and run a medium scale Hydroponic farm at ZU producing fresh produce. We will work with ZU interior design students to create a farm design that can be aesthetically implemented within the UAE home décor. We will use our farm as a feasibility proof of concept and start promoting our know-how through our clients’ network. We will offer consultation services to support the uptake of these medium scale home farms.

Innovation
Often achieving environmental sustainability goals relies on promotion and educational approaches. Our approach is innovative in that we go beyond education. We make it easy for our target population to respond to the promotion by providing them with the tools necessary to take on the practice. Furthermore, our thematic designs make our products particularly attractive for uptake. We believe that many of our targets will buy-into hydroponic for the sake of having a ZU branded kit or for the uniqueness of each kit.
Zayed University being a public school is the perfect environment to start a grassroots movement to affect the culture of Emirates with a sustainable practice. Although hydroponic kits are available for purchase online, we believe the custom designs and theme we created will be particularly attractive to the UAE culture, generating public interest and ensuring uptake of this practice.

Another innovation of this project is that it nurtures the entrepreneurial spirit in students and demonstrates the importance of collaboration amongst various disciplines.

### Nutrition and Health Club

#### About Us

- Who we are? Passionate student who will insight you to live a healthier lifestyle.
- Instagram & Snapchat: nhclub_zu

#### Club’s Purpose

- To bring good nutrition to a community of like-minded individuals who periodically meet and recognize one another for their friendship & nutrition results.
- Provide a valuable service, informing people about the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise in order to achieve optimum health.
- To engage more activities in the university that are related to nutrition and health.
- Through professional opportunities and acts of public service, we strive to expand our campus community’s understanding of food and its impact on all aspects of life.
- Activate the sports center by arranging some events.
- Spread public health awareness all over university members including: faculty, staff, workers...etc.

#### Club’s Goals

- To educate students about public health and nutrition in an entertaining way outside the classroom environment.
- Improve our communities and to raise awareness by creating a healthy living styles.
- Enrich the experience of membership by helping our fellow students accomplish their health-related goals, develop confidence in leadership, and educate the campus community.
• Everyone deserves good health and happiness. Our goal is to help people achieve both.
• Get students to know more about how our major is like so that they know if they're interested in studying it.
• Highlight the important events related to nutrition and health such as: world health day, breast cancer day.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increasing the level of physical activity.
2. Encourage individuals to make healthy food choices.
3. Increasing health literacy.
4. Decreasing the sedentary lifestyle by effective programs and interventions aimed to improve the student's behavioural health practices.
5. Decreasing mindless eating and keeping healthy snacks and correct misconceptions regarding nutrition or diet.

Activities in the Past

1. **BEEP fitness Test**
   
   **Event title:** BEEP fitness Test  
   **Event Date:** 11/10/2017  
   **Location:** sport center (indoor basketball court)  
   **Event purpose:** We did the “Beep test” activity to spread awareness among students about their fitness level, to make more use of our university gym, to let students try something new in their free time, to break their daily routine and motivate them to live healthier active life styles.

Upcoming Activities

1. **Walk 2017**
   
   **Event Date:** 17/11/2017 (5:00 Pm – 8:00 Pm)  
   **Location:** Yas Marina Circuit, AbuDhabi  
   **Event purpose:** family-friendly activities. Amazing circus performers, DJs, children’s arts and crafts, an interactive ‘happiness and health’ wall, bubble football, gladiator challenges, bouncy castles and trampolines, Zumba and much more! You’ll also have the chance to win amazing prizes throughout the day!
2. UAE Healthy Future
   Event Date: 22/11/2017
   Location: ZU campus
   Event purpose: awareness about cohort study

3. Healthy Cooking Session
   Event Date: TBA
   Location: Nutrition Lab (ZU campus, Abu Dhabi)
   Event purpose: to encourage healthy cooking and learn new healthy recipes and cooking methods.

4. Healthy Shopping Tour
   Event Date: TBA
   Location: Supermarket
   Event purpose: learn about food labels and choose healthier choices.

5. The Spring Picnic
   Event Date: January
   Location: Female campus (outdoor)
   Event purpose: provide healthy snacks, prepare healthy sandwiches
The Environmental Sustainability and Science is a major provided by ZU that contributes towards UAE’s vision towards a sustainable plan of economic action.

The ESS college has provided us with the best standards of quality and quantity of teaching materials alongside the excellent teaching staff. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness, and your patience with our shortcomings, and your lending ears when we burdened you with our problems. We would particularly like to thank the Dean, Dr. Fares Howari, the Associate Dean, Dr. Munawwar Khan, and the chair, Dr. Robert Boldi, for their wilful cooperation in sustaining our academic needs and demands, and always encouraging us towards our graduating endpoint. In addition to our academic endeavours we thoroughly enjoyed our out-of-classroom experiences. These include the several field trips we had to field sites and football matches with Dr. Shoaib Malik and Dr. Munawwar Khan.

We also enjoyed the lab lessons where our theories were put into action

Thank you dear professors, ESS and ZU for these culminating experiences through which we have seen and experienced growth in ourselves, individually and collectively. We hope to make you proud where after graduation we become contributing citizens towards UAE’s prospective future.
An interesting SETS day presentation by McGraw-Hill CONNECT representatives, to members of faculty at the Dubai Campus, announced the arrival of new Learn Smart online tools at Zayed University (ZU). For the most part we learned that ZU courses can be aligned to complementary material in the form of an “e-book” plus assignments and test banks can be added to the lecture material easily through BlackBoard. The tool has the added benefit of linking assignments directly with Learning Outcomes. So, to evaluate this new tool with student stakeholders, on Thursday 2nd November, a workshop was organized so that students who have experienced CONNECT were able to offer their valuable opinions. These students were instructed by Dr Heba Barazi in a previous semester. Overall the session was a lively discourse between senior management and the students with many positive remarks and discussion resulting. The outcome of the session was extremely positive: (1) the CONNECT learning tool benefitted the students-learning in the course Biology 201 and (2) in general the students are still on the learning curve towards accepting a 100% paper-free assessment program, (3) it was generally agreed that this session was a valuable experience which connects decision makers and stakeholders.
Our student Shadha Alaidarous had been accepted into graduate school in Korea. She is an outstanding student very motivated and diligent. We wish her all the best for her studies. She had also did an amazing effort in her senior project.

“I was very impressed with her and few others who were beyond outstanding.” - Dr Fatme Al Anouti

Congratulations to Shadha our senior ESS student

Student Advising

The following is some general advice for students with regards to the role of advisors, Degree Works and some deadlines you need to be aware of.

Role of Advisors

1. Guide students in choosing their academic path and assisting them in all forms of academic advice
2. Improve the retention of students and increase graduation rate
3. Help At-Risk students achieve higher CGPA
4. Obtain higher overall student satisfaction at Zayed University

Main Tools and Instruments

- Student Records, Courses, Forms
- Excel Sheets
- Updating records
- Students Information
- PAP
- Communicate with Faculty
- Blackboard
- Communicate with students
- Outlook (Emails)
- Registration and add/drop
- Banner Web
- Grades First
- Degree Works
I want to share my rewarding experience with volunteering in The 4th Middle East Molecular Biology Conference and Exhibition (MEMBS). I’m a graduate student from Zayed University, is a Bachelor degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability. I volunteered as the leader of the volunteering group and I was assigned within the registration area.

The volunteered group were trained by Amir Maani from MEMBS before the conference. Our positions included registration, lecture rooms, and an assistant group. We planned a timing sheet for the whole four days from 8 am till 4 pm. The entire process of effectively planning and executing such an impactful conference was rewarding and surprisingly not at all overwhelming; and after a month of planning, it was a pleasure seeing the event come to an end.
We were able to think and act fast when facing any problems regarding registration. The volunteering team were able to cover all the seminars and help the speakers. Visitors and speakers came from different countries to attend the conference, thankfully we were able to express a great idea about Zayed University. During registration, there was a lot of pressure since it’s the opening day, but the volunteering team did a great job to fill the gaps and help with registering every visitor and speaker. We had volunteers waiting at the entrance to guide the visitors and answer any questions and help them with transportation.

Overall, volunteering for the conference has further enhanced my professional development, and I am grateful for this opportunity. It has been my pleasure to support my university by giving back and volunteering for MEMBS, and I look forward to volunteering in different events.

By Asma Ameen Ali Al Harthy
Dear students, I (Dr. Mirey Karavetian) would like to walk you through the following questions and answers to give you some information about internships. Your university will certainly invite you to attend internship workshops aimed to provide you with additional more detailed information. You will also have the opportunity to attend training sessions on the use of the new internship portal.

**What is an internship?**
It is an official program designed to integrate the theory and practice you have acquired in the classroom at ZU in a supervised setting. It’s a course you enroll in under your academic component.

**Why must I intern?**
An Internship would help you obtain the following:
- Career and work experience
- Practical knowledge
- Opportunities to explore and identify career avenues.
- Valued work experience that you can add to your resume.
- Potential to earn academic credit.
- Increased self-confidence and good communication skills.
- Practice of theory learned in classrooms.
- Enhanced opportunities for future jobs.

**How many semester credits can students earn from an internship?**
According to our college curriculum plan, 3 (three) credits for all our majors: PHN, ENV, and PHS.

**Are the internships paid?**
No, they are unpaid. You will be paid with experience and knowledge that is going to open doors for your future after you graduate from Zayed university.

**What is the duration of the internship and when am I supposed to do it?**
It depends on each department, ranging from 8 to 15 weeks. Some are full time (every day) and some are part time (3 days a week), run during your last semester at ZU.
How do I know if I’m eligible for the internship?
You will be notified automatically after you complete 90 credits.

What do I do after I receive the notification?
You must log in the Career and Internship portal through Zayed University internet to create a CV and complete your profile. Additionally you must provide the parent permission form where you will list your preferred internship choices.

How do I know about the internship choices?
After you register for the internship course, both the internship coordinator and your advisor will help you with all you need.
When am I supposed to login on the Career and Internship portal?

As soon as you complete 90 credits and receive a notification, you should be ready to login on the internship portal. Usually, that would be prior to your last semester.

How do I login?

To login you need to follow these steps:

1. Connect via URL (https://careers.zu.ac.ae) to access the Student Career Portal site. Sign in using your account.
2. Create a Student Account: If this is the first time you access the Career Portal, you will be prompted to create a Student Account.
3. Select your current employment status and click Register to proceed.
4. Manage your profile: Complete your personal information. Make sure to provide your latest contact information.
5. Upload your CV file: Upload your latest Curriculum Vitae (CV). One of the Career Councilor will review it and will get back to you with their suggestions (if any) as to how it could be improved to ensure it is viewed more positively by a prospective employer. Once approved, your CV will be posted automatically.
6. CV Review: After you have uploaded your CV, one of the Career Councilor will check and review it. Should there be any changes or comments, the councilor will communicate with you through the Message Board system. You will get a notification if a message has been sent to you.
7. CV Approval: Your CV will be published online automatically once it has been approved.
Internship

You will receive a notification to be ready and start your internship application. Go to the Internship Program page and then click on Application. Follow the steps below to apply:

Step 1 - Placement Sites
Choose the companies you are interested in according to your preference. Your first choice will always be given the priority. Once done, click “Save” to save your selection. You can click on a certain icon to view more information about the company. If the company of your choice is not in the list, click on “request to add a company” to send a request to add the company information. Provide the company name and the contact person with contact details.

Step 2 – Agreement Form
Download and upload the signed copy of the Student and Parent/Guardian Work Experience Agreement form. The form needs to be signed by you and your parent or guardian.

Step 3 – Required Documents
Upload the required documents. Make sure that all documents are accurate and correct to avoid delays in processing your application.

Step 4 – Submit
You will have the option to submit the form to your advisor for review and approval. Your advisor will review all the information. Be sure that all information is correct before submitting the form.

Approval Process
Once you have submitted your application, your advisor will check and review your application. You will be notified once your application has been approved or rejected. You can use the Message Board to check the status and communicate with your Advisor.

While you wait
Once approved by your advisor, the Internship Coordinator will facilitate the process to place you in one of the organizations you have selected, however this CANNOT be guaranteed. When one of the above cannot be secured, the Internship Coordinator will find an alternate site based on your choices.

Hired and Accepted
Congratulations. You will receive a message that one of the company you have selected has accepted your internship application.

Evaluation Report
During the internship, you and your advisor will meet regularly to discuss your activities and progress. Your evaluation report will be posted on your personal Internship program page. Your evaluation will be based on weekly journals, presentation and a report.
Importance of Degree Works for Advising

1. Students admitted in Fall 2017:
   - Follow the new catalogue Fall 2017
   - Exact number of credits (120 hours)
   - Follow 8 semester plans in DW
   - Academic advisors are responsible for the students in the second year although they are admitted to the majors (30 credits)
   - Academic advisors make sure to work with advisees to avoid being on probation before taking their major courses
   - Academic advisors see if advisee need to transfer to other majors based on their capabilities

2. Students admitted in Autumn 2016 and later:
   - Follow the new catalogue Fall 2017 (120 credits)
   - Will show that they have more credits
   - Follow 6 semester plans in DW
   - Courses are not required and not yet taking: not necessary to take or repeat (36 courses are required only)
   - Apply to major on time so students have the correct number of credits (15 min)

3. For faculty and academic advisors:
   - Minimizes errors through consistent degree plans
   - Supports more timely degree certification
   - Reduces paperwork and manual program check sheets
   - Supports and monitors unique program changes

Plans in Degree Works

- Show the students what courses needed to take each semester
- Advisors agreed with the students their plans and make it active and lock
- Off track and on track students: after the registration period
- Plans will help later in forecasting
- Students can save as their plans and make changes then discuss it with advisors
On the 28th of November 2017, Zayed university students from the Natural and Health Sciences department had the chance to visit Abu Dhabi Housing Authority under the supervision of Dr Yousef Nazzal as a part of Case Studies: Environmental Hazards curriculum. ADHA are responsible for developing housing programs and initiatives to meet the needs of the citizens of the Emirate.

Upon arrival to the authority, the faculty and students were welcomed by warm hospitality and led to an auditorium where the lecture was held. Dr. Sulaiman Al Suwaidi, Head of Knowledge Management gave a brief explanation about the authority what they do, when it was established, their vision, mission and values. The authority was founded in October 2012 built upon 10 main principles divided into three main areas aiming to develop housing programs that benefits the citizens and implementing policies, strategies and regulation related to housing programs in the Emirate.

Later the students were introduced to GIS system; Dr. Sulaiman Al Suwaid elaborated that the geographic information system links different government sectors together to easily facilitate data update and although the system has been operating for two years it is considered the best GIS system in the area that it became a reference to other government sectors. GIS system adapted in ADHA aims to evaluate the facilities needed in residential communities that will help with decision making in order to create a sustainable, integral residential area.

In addition, Mr. Sultan Al Memari Planning and Design Section Head at Abu Dhabi Housing Authority addressed about Abu Dhabi vision to become a sustainable city and how that is being incorporated in the authority. Then he gave a brief introductory of some of the projects the supports the sustainable message that is already implemented in the Emirate and future projects currently under study. Mr. Sultan Al Memari elaborated that the aspect of sustainability doesn’t focus only on environment but it takes the social aspect in consideration as well.

The students stated that the trip to ADHA was an extremely optimistic experience for them and that the trip was an important educational trip where they had the opportunity to know more in depth on how ADHA operates, the process behind decision making regards building certain facilities. In addition, the students had the chance to learn about GIS system and got to ask questions regards the Emirate vision to become more sustainable since it lays within their line of studies.
For a microbiology project, students had to learn in groups how to prepare compost on Campus. The Composting Journey of Amna resulted from that Common project. The student was tempted to try it at home and involved all her family in composting.

1. After installing a compost box like the one we have in the university in my backyard.
2. I collected organic wastes, grounded coffee and brown leaves with my sister.
3. Then, I started with my father’s help by staking the sticks and the brown leaves.
4. We poured the wastes evenly and covered them with another layer of brown leaves.
5. We added water and covered the box. We are waiting a week to mix and aerate the compost.
Two students from the College of Natural and Health Sciences at Zayed University developed a child-friendly app for diabetes, named the Blue Bear.

Hanan Alenezi and Fatma Alfalasi said the app was developed to benefit parents in monitoring and better controlling their toddlers via inserting the child’s blood sugar level to the app, which then calculates the nutritional intakes required per day, and much more, “Parents can say whatever they want through the animated interactive Blue Bear which displays on the mobile screens tablets or computers.”

The app provides physical activities, children imitate the bear by either dancing, jumping, and signing, it also delivers educational health tips through a questionnaire presented to the children, “Example, the Blue Bear asks young viewers to choose between a chocolate bar or an apple, then interacts by either crying or smiling according to the positive or negative choice.”

“What’s interesting is that according to the blood sugar data, which is either manually entered by the parents on daily bases or linked to the child’s blood sugar monitoring senior, the Blue Bear appears either happy or tired on the displayed screen, and that itself has triggered many children to encounter the situation and cheer the Blue Bear over his proposed activities.”

“We provide the Blue Bear show for 30 minutes a day, preventing, therefore, children from wasting time on the mobile phone and be more active, plus excite them for the next coming day.”
On the 21st of November 2017, Zayed university students from the Natural and Health Sciences department had the chance to visit Al Qusais landfill in Dubai under the supervision of Dr. Yousef Nazzal as a part of water and solid waste management curriculum, accompanied by Dr. Alya Arabi. Al Qusais landfill is one of two major landfill that the city of Dubai uses to dispose of the household wastes, taking 6500 tons of waste daily.

Upon reaching the landfill site, the faculty and students were welcomed by Mr. Ahmed from Dubai municipality, who explained the role of Al Qusais landfill in terms of dealing with waste and what the city plans to do in the future in terms of waste production and management.

After being equipped with safety vests, masks and gloves, the students headed out to observe the landfill close-hand. There, Mr. Ahmed gave a brief explanation about the site, how long it been operating, how its operating and the system adapted to maintain the place. In order to fully utilize all waste and limit environmental damage, the sand used for the landfill process is the waste of building and construction projects.

Later the students were introduced to the Green Energy Solutions & Sustainability LLC project station where they aim to utilize the methane gas produced in the landfill to supply energy, some of which is used to operate the landfill and station. This facility is considered the first of its kind in the region and also the biggest. The students were given a tour through the station where it harbors the machinery that is responsible for converting methane gas to electricity and were talked through how the system works as well as the precautionary measurements it installed to avoid any leakage.
In addition, the students were invited to visit the Tadweer Waste recycling center, which works closely with Al Qusais landfill. ZU students were given a tour through the facility in order to see the recycling process from the beginning till the end product. The center also has large scales composting systems, which the students visited and observed, as the system is a real-life example of the composting project they are required to complete as part of the waste management course.

The field trip was an important educational trip where the students were given the chance to visualize the process behind waste management that they learnt through textbooks. The students stated that the trip to Al Qusais landfill was an extremely optimistic experience for them where they got a rare chance of exploring firsthand what the waste they generate on a daily base goes through to get disposed of.