

SGILIGITS FALL 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

"

This issue of SciLights brings to light some of our important collective achievements for Fall 2024, by which we made significant progress toward our strategic objectives.

The College of Science's most notable achievement is its scientific research achievements and outcomes, where the college has topped in research productivity at the university level, with its faculty and students were able to publish a total of 722 publications in Scopus journals in 2024, an increase of more than 13% from 2023. About 70% of these publications were published in Q1 journals, including 10 in the top 1%, 285 in the top 10%, and 502 in the top 25%, demonstrating the College's research high quality.



Furthermore, the College of Science faculty members have recently been successful in winning several internal and external research grants. The COS programs have made significant progress in subject rankings, rising from 301-400 to 251-300 in the Times Higher Education rankings for 2025.

The international conference (GULF4) was inaugurated by the State Minister Dr Fatma AlShamsi and the Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Ahmed Alraeesi, and was attended by a group of high-profile scientists and experts in climate change and ecosystems managements. They come from different Universities, Research Institutes from East Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and the Gulf countries. And the Department of Mathematical Sciences hosted two significant international workshops: (1) Workshop on "New Trends in Algebra and its Applications", and (2) Workshop on "Knots and Spatial Graphs 2024".

Furthermore, the Biology B.Sc. program was re-accredited by the Royal Society of Biology for another 5 years, and our students have won national and regional prizes, such as the Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Scholars Program Scholarship (SMSP), Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition, Best Poster Award at NANO 2024, First place with two gold medals for the UAE National Karate Team at the 5th edition of the South Asian Karate Championship.

We had the pleasure of hosting a few well-known scientists in the Fall of 2024. They include: Prof Michael Small (University of Western Australia), Dr. Richard Murray (Editor-in-Chief of Advanced Intelligent Systems, Advanced Robotic Research, and Advanced Intelligent Discovery, Wiley), Dr. Tanweer Khan (Senior Director, Global Head of Discovery Chemistry, Atai Life Sciences), Prof. Theodoros Ntaflos (University of Vienna, Austria), Prof. Chun-Feng Li (Zhejiang University, China) and Dr. Toby Underwood (Royal Society of Chemistry, UK).

Additionally, with the support of the Ministry of Education, 5 COS undergraduate students enrolled in its international student exchange program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA in Fall 2024. The College of Science worked hard to attract and retain both undergraduate and graduate students, who currently total 1943 undergraduate, 139 master and 103 PhD students. This semester, 161 undergraduates and 19 graduate students graduated from different COS programs.

It's always been a pleasure to collaborate with our faculty, staff, and students to create a welcoming environment that allows them to reach their full potential and strive for greater and more outstanding achievements; therefore, let us all continue to work hard to improve this environment and pursue our ambitious goals.

Prof. Maamar Benkraouda

Dean, College of Science

FACULTY MEMBERS

The new faculty members joining the College of Science in Spring 2024

We are delighted to welcome the new faculty members to the College of Science community. Your expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication to academia make you a valuable addition to our faculty team. As you embark on this new journey with us, we want to express our confidence in the positive impact you will have on our students, your colleagues, and the broader academic community.



Abbas Hassan Associate Professor Department of Chemistry PhD: The University of Texas at Austin



Arwa Abdulla Omar Assistant Professor Department of Mathematical Sciences PhD: University of Alberta, Canada



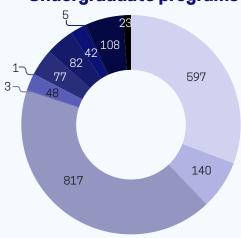
Stefan Wuttke Visiting Professor Department of Chemistry PhD: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

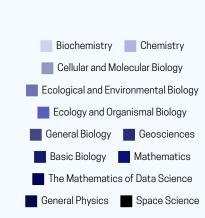


Mohamed Salaheldeen Abdelgader Abas Visiting Instructor Department of Mathematical Sciences PhD: Central China Normal University (CCNU), China

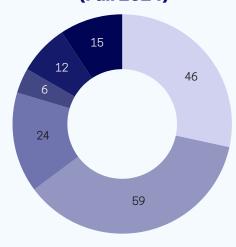
STUDENT STATISTICS

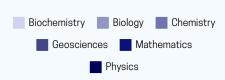
Enrollment of Undergraduate programs



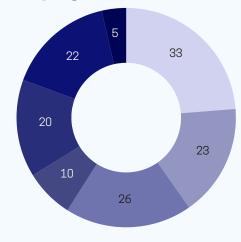


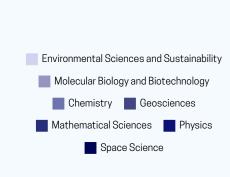
BSc Graduation Statistics (Fall 2024)

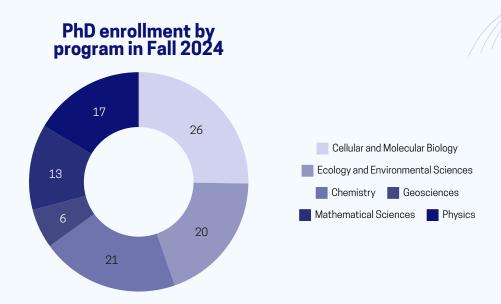




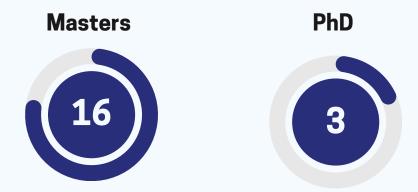
MSc enrollment by program in Fall 2024







Master and PhD Graduation (Fall 2024)



Newly Approved Programs

- MSc in Forensic Science
- BS-MS Program in Chemistry

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

The GULF 4 Conference

The GULF 4 conference was held on November 26-28, 2024, under the patronage of the Chancellor of the UAEU and Cultural Advisor to the President of the UAE (H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh), with the presence of the Vice Chancellor (H.E. Prof. Ahmed Al Raeesi) and the honor of having the Minister of State (H.E. Dr. Maitha Bint Salem Al Shamsi)

The event was jointly organized by the Biology Department at the College of Science, UAEU and the Canadian Society of Aquatic Ecosystem health and management, Ontario-Canada. This conference was sponsored by the United Arab Emirates University and the Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi, as well as other private companies who are serving the scientific research at the Biology Department.







This edition of the GULF conference series focused on the management of the Gulf's ecosystem with a special emphasis on climate change, sustainable regional experiences, and global practices of ecosystems management. The conference was attended by a group of high-profile scientists and experts in climate change and ecosystems managements. They come from different Universities, Research Institutes from East Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and the GULF countries. About 75 presentations and posters were presented during the three-day conference parallel sessions, with the presence of up to 150 participants who represented 15 countries.

Workshop on New Trends in Algebra and its Applications

The Workshop on New Trends in Algebra and its Applications, held from November 5-8, 2024, was successfully conducted by the Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Science. This important event brought together outstanding mathematicians from around the world, including experts from the United States, Russia, China, Norway, Slovenia, Romania, India, and Kazakhstan, as well as students from New York University Abu Dhabi. The workshop focused on cutting-edge advances in algebra and its various applications, providing a great forum for knowledge sharing. It also provided graduate students with a rare opportunity to interact with top experts, develop collaboration. and broaden their professional networks.



Workshop on "Knots and Spatial Graphs 2024"



The Workshop on Knots and Spatial Graphs 2024, the latest in a series of events previously held in Korea and Japan, was hosted by the Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Science, from November 5-8, 2024. This significant gathering brought together leading topologists from several countries, including renowned experts from South Korea, Japan, China, in addition to participants from New York University Abu Dhabi and Sharjah University.

The workshop focused on foundational and cuttingedge questions in knot theory and low-dimensional topology, providing a platform to explore the latest advancements in research. Discussions spanned both fundamental problems interdisciplinary and applications, bridging the gap between theoretical insights and practical implications in other areas of science and mathematics.

Workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence in Science and Engineering'



The College of Science and the College of Information Technology organized a joint workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence in Science and Engineering' on October 18, 2024. Four Colleagues from the College of Science, Prof. Ranjith Vijayan (Department of Biology), Drs. Ayham Zaitouny and Zsolt Balogh (Department of Mathematics), and Dr. Mohamed Belfkir (Department of Physics) presented their work on the topic and participated in discussions along with colleagues and graduate students.

Honor Students Workshop

The Honor Students Committee of the College of Science organized a workshop on October 30, 2024. Dr. Alavikunhu Panthakkan from Dubai University presented "Federated Learning in Science Applications: Revolutionizing Data-Driven Discovery." Federated Learning (FL) is a novel method that allows for shared training of diverse machine learning models while protecting sensitive data. This workshop emphasized FL's ability to inspire innovation and foster collaboration in biology, medicine, mathematics, and chemistry.



Fossil Day Workshop

On the occasion of Fossil Day (October 16, 2024) the Department of Geosciences hosted a workshop titled "Where are Dinosaurs in UAE?" A group of students from Reefaa School in Al Ain attended the session and they visited the Geosciences Museum. The fossil exhibitions were introduced by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Saima, Dr. Osman Abdelghany, and the members of Geosciences Student Club.





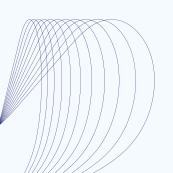
College Advisory Board Meeting

The College of Science held its first Advisory Board meeting for 2024-2025 on November 14th, 2024, at the College of Science. Mr. Sultan Hajji, the Advisory Board Chair, presided over the meeting. A wide range of subjects were reviewed and passionately discussed during the meeting, including recent accomplishments by the College, newly proposed and reaccredited programs, the upcoming International Conference on Engineering Geophysics, cooperation with other institutions, among others. The College thanks the Board Members for their support and full engagement and commitment to the success of the College in realizing its strategic goals.

Meeting with Al Ain City Municipality

On October 10, 2024, a delegation from the College of Science led by Profs. Maamar Benkraouda, Haydar Baker, and Hakim Saibi met with His Excellency Eng. Ahmed Abdulla Ahmed AlKuwaiti, Executive Director of Town Planning Sector - Al-Ain Municipality, and his team to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Eighth International Conference on Engineering Geophysics (ICEG 2025), which will be held at the UAEU on November 11-13, 2025.





SOCIAL & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Recognition Ceremony - Dean's List and Honoring Students (Spring 2024)

The College of Science held a Recognition Ceremony on November 13, 2024, to honor exceptional students for their accomplishments during the 2024 Spring Semester. Along with Dr. Yusra Al Dhaheri, Assistant Dean for Students Affairs and Head of the Departments, the Dean Prof. Maamar Benkraouda, distributed trophies and certificates to the top students on the Dean's List and the top Honors Students with the highest cumulative GPAs.

Prof. Mohammad Masud (CIT, UAEU) gave a talk during the occasion titled "How science has enabled the rise of AI, and in turn, how AI is advancing science?" Dr. Arwa Baabdulla (COS, UAEU) delivered a presentation entitled "From aspiration to achievement: My Ph.D. journey." The ceremony celebrated the students' hard work, devotion, and academic success.



Culture & Entertainment Day

College of Science Culture and Entertainment Day (November 7th, 2024) was an unforgettable evening that included sporting events and cross-cultural interactions with the COS family. The event was led by Prof. Muhammad Syam, the coordinator of the social activities committee, and the department representatives of the committee. A multi-cultural dinner was also organized in conjunction with the programs.



Internship Poster Exhibition

A poster exhibition day was held on 12 December 2024, by the College Science's Internship Unit. Students from all departments presented and exchanged their during internship experiences training programs at different institutions during Fall 2024.



53rd National Day Celebrations

On the occasion of the 53rd UAE National Day. the Dean's Office and the Departments of the College of Science hosted a social breakfast gathering along with several social activities. All faculty and staff members are attended and enjoyed the colorful day.



Students Orientation Day

The academic departments and the advising unit at the College of Science hosted a Student Orientation Day on October 2, 2024. The event aimed to introduce the programs offered and to encourage new students to join the college's Bachelor programs. It was an engaging day filled with valuable information and activities.



Mole Day

The Chemistry Club, led by Dr. Abdelouahid Samadi, celebrated "Mole Day," one of the Chemistry Department's highlighted events. The event took place on Wednesday, October 30th, 2024, in Science and Innovation Park. The event highlighted the Avogadro's number (6.022 × 10²³) and aimed to increase knowledge of the mole concept in chemistry. The event featured instructive activities, scientific experiments, and engaging talks, as well as five interactive stations titled "Make Your Perfume, Discover Magical Chemistry, Chemistry in Crime Scenes, Chemistry & Fitness, and Chemistry in Food". The event was attended by faculty members and students from various colleges across UAEU.





World Space Week

The Department of Physics and the Physics Club celebrated World Space Week by organizing an exciting 3-day of event (7-9 October, 2024). The event highlighted the wonders of outer space and promoted interest in astronomy and space science. Throughout the celebration, a variety of activities were held, including workshops, lectures, interactive exhibits, and a sunspot viewing on campus. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the latest advancements in space exploration and the role of physics understanding the universe. They also participated in hands-on experiments, making the event both educational and engaging. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to expand their knowledge and appreciation of the cosmos while fostering curiosity and innovation.





Young Researcher's Forum on Physics Frontiers

On Friday, 22nd November 2024, the Physics Department hosted the Young Researcher's Forum on Physics Frontiers at UAE University, which brought together Faculty, PhD students, Postdocs and Researchers from UAE University and Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi. The forum was an inspiring platform for showcasing innovative research and fostering academic collaboration. The presentations covered a diverse range of topics, highlighting innovative solutions and fresh perspectives across various fields in Physics and material science.



College of Science Participation in International Education Show

UAEU attended the International Education Show, which took place at the EXPO Centre Sharjah from October 9 to 12, 2024. Professor Salem Ben Said from the Department of Mathematical Sciences represented the College of Science in the exhibition. This presentation was a huge success, highlighting the numerous programs offered by its five departments. This collaboration not only increased the College's visibility, but also provided a significant platform for connecting with exceptional students interested in furthering their studies in a variety of subjects at prestigious universities. The goal is to attract future academics to the College of Science, where they can further their academic and professional goals.



College of Science Participation in the Najah Abu Dhabi Education Fair

The Najah Abu Dhabi Education Fair is the leading higher education fair in the MENA region and a successful platform for higher education student recruitment in the UAE. The 2024 edition took place in the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from October 27 to October 29 and Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Saima represented the College of Science.





UAE Gears Up to Host the Prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad 2025

In a remarkable achievement, the United Arab Emirates has been chosen to host the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) in 2025. This global event, widely regarded as one of the most challenging competitions for high school students, will gather the brightest young minds from over 90 countries. Participants will engage in an intense examination of their chemistry knowledge, tackling both theoretical and experimental problems that challenge the limits of their understanding.

The UAE's leading institution, the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), will play a central role in ensuring the success of ICHO 2025. Leveraging its academic excellence, UAEU will provide a team of expert professors to contribute to the event's scientific committee, working in collaboration with world-renowned academics from leading institutions. The scientific committee will be responsible for designing and refining the competition's curriculum, crafting questions that reflect the high standards of ICHO, and preparing the experimental challenges that will test students' practical skills.

In preparation for this monumental event, UAEU hosted the second ICHO 2025 training camp from September 18 to 23, 2024. This camp was a crucial phase in the planning process, bringing together local and international members of the ICHO scientific committee along with select UAEU students. The main objective of the camp was to validate and refine the experimental tasks that students will face during the Olympiad. Several rounds of rigorous testing were conducted, with both committee members and students executing the experiments to identify any potential issues related to feasibility, margin of error, or practical challenges.



PROMINENT SCIENTIFIC VISITS

Delegation Visit from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Chemistry Department was pleased to welcome two faculty members from the University of Ljubljana's Chemistry Department during September 16-20, 2024. Dr. Franc Perdih, an inorganic chemist, and Dr. Krištof Kranic. an organic chemist. participating in a mobility exchange program under Erasmus+. They met with the Dean of the College of Science, Prof. Maamar Benkraouda and Prof. Abbas Khalil, the Chair of the Chemistry Department, and other faculty members during their visit. This visit has resulted in good cooperation among faculty members, as well as research mobility activities for faculty members graduate students.



Collaboration Visit of Dr. Richard Murray

On October 16, 2024, Dr. Richard Murray (Editor-in-Chief of Advanced Intelligent Systems, Advanced Robotic Research, and Advanced Intelligent Discovery) visited the Department of Chemistry at the College of Science. He also gave a presentation for faculty members and students about Artificial Intelligence and publishing in Wiley's Materials Science journals.



Collabration Visit of Prof. Theodoros Ntaflos and Prof. Chun-Feng Li

The Department of Geosciences at the of Science welcomed College Theodoros Ntaflos from the University of Vienna (Austria), and Prof. Chun-Feng Li from Zhejiang University (China) to UAEU. Both distinguished geoscientists are conducting groundbreaking research on the mafic and ultramafic rocks and their platinum group element (PGE) mineralization within the UAE's ophiolites. During their visit, they presented two insightful seminars on 4th of November 2024 and engaged with faculty on potential future collaborations across a range of geoscience topics.



Collaboration Visit of Dr. Tanweer Khan

In our continual aim to grow our drug discovery footprint, the Department of Chemistry recently hosted Dr. Tanweer Khan (Senior Director, Global Head of Chemistry. Atai Discovery Life Sciences) invited by Dr. Yasir Raouf. During his visit, Dr. Tanweer presented a thrilling talk into the principles of medicinal chemistry and drug design where he discussed structure-based approaches on a series of aspartyl protease inhibitors as novel against Alzheimer's treatments Disease, hypertension, Malaria, and Leukemia. We look forward to many more visits and potential collaborations with kev industry leaders in small molecule drug design.



Post-accreditation Visit – Dr. Toby Underwood, Head of Professional Accreditation Standards, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)

We are proud to share that the Department of Chemistry, COS at UAE University welcomed Dr. Toby Underwood, Head of Professional Accreditation Standards, from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) for a long-awaited postaccreditation visit that was postponed due to COVID-19. The RSC is deeply committed to fostering growth and innovation within the chemical sciences. During his visit, Toby toured classrooms, labs, UAEU Library, and met with the Dean, Head of the Department, faculty members and students. He led insightful discussions on recent changes in RSC standards, free student memberships, career opportunities, trends, and innovations chemistry. Toby also shared perspectives on the global job market, improvements in research and academic skills, and comparisons of chemical education in different countries. emphasizing the essential skills students need to thrive in a constantly evolving job market.



Collaboration Visit of Prof. Michael Small

Prof Michael Small from the University of Western Australia (UWA) visited the Department of Mathematical Sciences during 19-22 November 2024. Prof, Michael Small is a pioneer researcher in Applied Mathematics and Data Science. Prof Michael presented two interesting seminars on Al and Mathematics, and on applications based on collaboration with industry and other sectors.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES





Top 1% Journals



Top 10% Journals





Top 25% Journals

Departmental Seminars (Fall 2024)

College of Science departments organized several scientific seminars featuring UAEU speakers and speakers from international institutions. The number of seminars organized are as follows:

# of Seminars	Department
4	Department of Biology
5	Department of Chemistry
6	Department of Geosciences
5	Department of Mathematical Sciences
5	Department of Physics

DEAN'S LIST - FALL 2024

The Dean's List for Fall 2024 includes the top ten male and fifteen female students. 166 honor students maintained their Dean's List ranks due to their outstanding performance. The College congratulates them on their academic achievements and encourages everyone to strive for excellence in academic performance.

TOP MALE STUDENTS



Mohammad Abdulghafoor Yousef Abulqasim Altamimi

Biology



Ahmed Abdullah Ahmed AlAqel
Biology



Abdallah Humaid Mohammed Al Jabri Physics



Adam Eqhbal Balideh

Biology



Mohammed Abdulla Saeed Obaid Aldhaheri
Mathematics



Abdulrahman Abdulla Abdulaziz Alhaj Alteneiji Biology



Khaled Saif Sawayeh Matar Alkhyeli

Physics



Abdulla Abdulqader Hasan Alshateri Alhashmi Biology



Yousef Waleed Yousef Laywad Alnuaimi
Mathematics



Hazza Nasser Abdulla Khamis Aljuneibi Geosciences

TOP FEMALE STUDENTS



Noorah Saif Salem Shumail Alkaabi

Geosciences



Haneen Weesam Niyazi

Biology



Latifa Saeed Jaber Mohammed Alkuwaiti

Chemistry



Aiyah Ahmad Hasan

Biology



Jude Khaldoun Ababneh

Biochemistry



Mariam Yaqoub Yousuf Qasem Alhammadi

Biology



Mashael Ahmed Hasan Abdulla Almansoori

Biochemistry



Nouf Saeed Saleh Naser Alhemeiri

Biology



Jawaher Ali Salem Ali Alqaydi

Biology



Bayan Osama Hakim

Biology



Alaa Mohamed Abdullah Elameen

Biology



Ameera Badr Rashed Alkharraz Alteneiji

Biology



Fatima El Yadali

Biology



Sahar Farid Allaban

Biochemistry



Aishah Saeed Obaid Saif Khalfan Almeqbaali Biology

FACULTY & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Scholars Program Scholarship (SMSP)

Gamilah Wagih Abdulgabar Ibrahim (Department Chemistry) and Sora Adeeb Jarrah (Department of Biology), have been selected for the Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Scholars Program Scholarship (SMSP) for 2024/2025, which courses, lectures. leadership provides experiences, networking, and graduate school counseling to a select cohort of talented university students. The program provides a unique platform for students to build leadership and creativity abilities, showing pride in the UAE's ongoing support in cultivating future leaders who will carry the torch of innovation and excellence, contributing to the country's international reputation.



Gamilah Abdulgabar Department of Chemistry



Sora Adeeb Jarrah Department of Biology

Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition

Under the supervision of Dr. Shaikha Alneyadi, the Department of Chemistry students. Muneb Mukhtar, Hamad Alblooshi, Sultan A. Jama, and Ibrahim Al Mujaini, who came second out of 22 international university teams in the 24th Cycle of the Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition, which took place on November 25, 2024.



20th Asian Karate Championship

Mr. Zayed Mohammed Ahmed, a Chemistry student at the College of Science, represented the UAE National Team at the 20th Asian Karate Championship (Kumite Category), which took place in China from September 19 - 22, 2024. Mr. Zayed won the silver medal at the Future Stars UAE Karate Championship in the 84 kg category. He also won first place with two gold medals for the UAE National Karate Team at the 5th edition of the South Asian Karate Championship (Kumite Category), held in Sharjah Sports Club, UAE, from November 29 to December 2, 2024.



American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter

The College of Science proudly announces that the American Chemical Society Student Chapter at UAE University (led by student Noor Anwar Albastaki), has been honored with the Outstanding Student Communities Award 2023-2024 by the American Chemical Society (ACS). This prestigious recognition reflects the collective efforts, dedication, and innovative initiatives carried out by the chapter to promote chemistry education and engagement within the community. Under Noor's leadership, the chapter has made considerable gains in promoting passion for chemistry through relevant projects, events, and collaborations.



Graduate Students Research Competition - Department of Biology

The following students won the Graduate Students Research Competition at Department of Biology:

PhD Category:

- First Place: Irfa Anwar (202090095)
- · Second Place: Areej Mustafa Mohammad Jaradat (201350361)

MSc Category:

- First Place: Al Maha Al Shamsi (201700813)
- Second Place: Rauda Al Shamsi (201600885)



Best Poster Award at NANO 2024

Under the supervision of Dr. Shaikha Alneyadi, a group of Chemistry students won the best poster award at NANO 2024, the 17th International Conference on Nanostructured Materials, held for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi.





COMING EVENTS

Reticular Chemistry Symposium May 7-8, 2025

8th International Conference on Engineering Geophysics (ICEG 2025)

November 11-13, 2025



Thank you for reading the College of Science's newsletter (Scilights). If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact: mohamed.shahideuaeu.ac.ae