

SCILIGHTS

SPRING 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dean's Message	03
New Faculty Members	04
Students' Data	06
Conferences, Workshops & Meetings	08
Social & Student Activities	14
Prominent Scientific Visits	21
Research Activities	24
Faculty & Student Achievements	28
Coming Events	37

Editors

Dr. Asma Al-Menhali (Vice Dean)

Mr. Mohamed Shahid (Dean's Office)

Dr. Mohammed Kalim Akhtar (Chemistry)

Dr. Khalid Muhammad (Biology)

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



As we conclude Spring 2025, I am happy to highlight some of the College of Science's most notable accomplishments, which are the result of the combined commitment, dedication, hard work, and excellence of our faculty, students, and staff.

The College of Science led the university in research productivity, with faculty and students publishing an impressive 722 Scopus-indexed articles in 2024 an increase of over 13% compared to 2023. In the second quarter of 2025 alone, the College produced 402 publications, with 76.7% of them published in the top 25% of Scopus-indexed journals. Additionally, a number of competitive internal and external research funds have been awarded to our faculty. Notably, UAEU and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore partnered to win two joint projects, highlighting our expanding global research presence.

The College's high rankings in international rankings reflects its academic strength. We are ranked between 251 and 300 for the natural sciences and between 201 and 250 for the life sciences in the Times Higher Education (THE) subject rankings. During Spring 2025, we successfully hosted several significant events, including an international conference titled "The First UAE-ITALY Bilateral Conference: Advanced Materials for the 21st Century," which was the first bilateral conference between the UAE and Italy. In partnership with the National Water and Energy Center, the Department of Geosciences organized a Workshop on Radioactivity in the Environment: Measurement Techniques and Applications. A one-day forum titled "Recent Trends in Applied Mathematics and Quantum Information" was successfully held by the Department of Mathematical Sciences in partnership with the Physics Department as part of UNESCO's International Year of Quantum Science and Technology. Other notable events included the workshop "Al in Science Education and Research," the Mini-Symposium - Al in Education: Student Perspectives, Science Week 2025, Innovation Month activities, the Fall 2024 Dean's List and Honor Students Recognition Ceremony, internship poster presentations, International Chemistry Olympiad training sessions, and the year-end gathering ceremony.

One of the most remarkable achievements of COS is the establishment of the CERN Data Center, accomplished in cooperation with the College of Information Technology and the Division of Information Technology, which makes UAE University the first in the Gulf region to join the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid.

Nine outstanding students from the College of Science at UAEU took part in a prestigious two-week summer internship at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. The program offered an intensive, hands-on curriculum in entrepreneurship, where participants explored innovative business ideas, assessed their potential, and developed strategies for success.

Our faculty and students actively participated in prestigious competitions, earning distinguished awards and certificates. A notable highlight was Prof. Fathalla Rihan from the Department of Mathematical Sciences, who received the Khalifa Award for Education in the Distinguished University Professor category (18th Session, 2024–2025). In addition, faculty members were honored with College Faculty Excellence Awards for their exceptional performance in teaching, research, and community service. Our students also demonstrated their talent and dedication by competing in the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) organized by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the UAEU Colleges Trophy competitions, and the 5th Forum for Women in Research, where they showcased innovative projects and research excellence.

The College of Science remains committed to attracting and supporting students of all levels. We are proud to report that there are 1,708 undergraduate students, 127 master's students, and 89 PhD students currently enrolled. During Spring 2025, the College of Science taught 11,355 registered students from other colleges, in addition to its own science students. This semester, 118 undergraduate students, 18 master's students, and 9 PhD candidates graduated from our various programs, demonstrating the dedication of both our students and faculty and the college's commitment to contribute to the development of the nation by graduating high caliber future leaders in science and technology.

Together with our strong commitment and resolve, we shall continue to work with dedication and consistency to further advance our community and attain our common goals.

Prof. Maamar BenkraoudaDean, College of Science



FACULTY MEMBERS

The new faculty members joining the College of Science in **Spring and Fall 2025**

As we reflect on the current academic year, we extend a warm welcome to the faculty who joined our community in the Spring and Fall 2025 semesters. Your knowledge, fresh perspectives, and energy have already begun to enrich our academic environment. We are grateful for the enthusiasm you bring to the classroom, your research contributions, and your participation in campus initiatives. We are enthusiastic about the prospects that await us and look forward to working with you in the coming months and years. Below, we are proud to introduce our newest faculty members. Please join us in welcoming them to the community!



Vikas Kumar **Assistant Professor** Department of Biology PhD: Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany (Spring 2025)



Ilias Fernini Visiting Professor Department of Physics PhD: University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, USA) (Spring 2025)



Sahar A. Kitaz **Visiting Instructor** Department of Biology PhD: British University, Dubai, UAE. (Spring 2025)



Nour ElHouda Debouza **Visiting Instructor** Department: Biology PhD: United Arab Emirates University (Spring 2025)



Full Professor Department of Mathematical Sciences PhD: McGill University, Canada (Fall 2025)

Mohammed Al-Refai



Mostafa Mohamed Associate Professor Department of Geosciences PhD: Beni-Suef University, Egypt (Fall 2025)







Muhammad Aufaristama Assistant Professor Department of Geosciences PhD: University of Iceland, Iceland (Fall 2025)

Marwa Alhashimi Assistant Professor Department of Biology PhD: Purdue University, United States (Fall 2025)





Samson Afewerki Assistant ProfessorDepartment of Chemistry
PhD: Mid Sweden University, Sweden (Fall 2025)



Georgeos Hardo Assistant ProfessorDepartment of Biology
PhD: University of Cambridge, UK (Fall 2025)



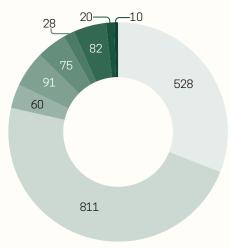
Dr. Mohammed Kamel Alhagyan InstructorDepartment of Mathematical science
PhD: Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Malaysia (Fall 2025)

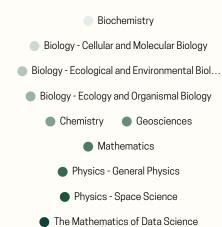


Khaled Ahmed InstructorDepartment of Geosciences
PhD: University of Potsdam, Germany
(Fall 2025)

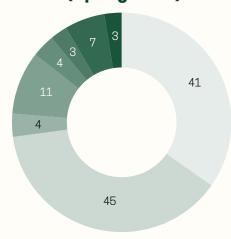
STUDENT **STATISTICS**

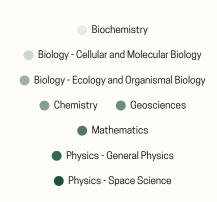
Enrollment of Undergraduate programs



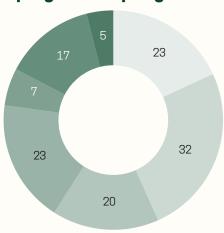


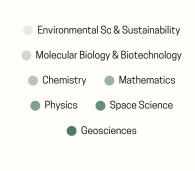
BSc Graduation Statistics (Spring 2025)





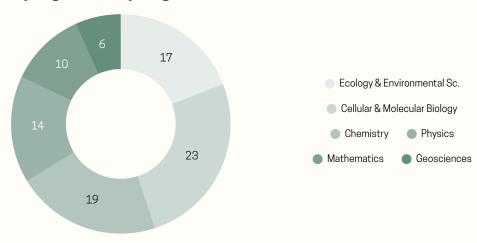
MSc enrollment by program in Spring 2025





page

PhD enrollment by program in Spring 2025



Master and PhD Graduation (Spring 2025)



Newly Approved/Revision Programs

- MSc in Forensic Science
- BS-MS Program in Chemistry
- BS-MS Program in Geosciences
- BS-MS program in Environmental Sciences & Sustainability (under review)

Student Workshops - Spring 2025

- Time Management (22-01-2025)
- Innovation and Creativity (5-02-2025)
- Critical Thinking "JAHEZ" (12-02-2025)
- Decision Making (19-02-2025)
- Plan your Future Career "Jahez" (26-02-2025)
- Negotiation Skills (19-03-2025)
- Public Speaking "JAHEZ" (10-04-2025)
- Alumni Talk "JAHEZ" (17-04-2025)

CONFERENCES,

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

The First UAE-ITALY Bilateral Conference: Advanced Materials for the 21st Century, February 3-4, 2025

The first bilateral conference between the UAE (led by UAEU) and Italy (led by the University of Sassari) was held with plans to alternate hosting every two years. The conference theme was centered on advanced material applications in the 21st century, and covered topics such as energy, environment, biomedicine, optics, electronics, magnetism, and 2D materials. The event featured 12 speakers from the UAE, 12 speakers from Italy, 2 keynote speakers, as well as participation from 40 students. In promoting exchange between UAE and Italian researchers, the conference provided an excellent platform for UAEU graduate students to disseminate their work.

The theme centered on advanced material applications in the 21st century, covering topics such as energy, environment, biomedicine, optics, electronics, magnetism, and 2D materials.

The event featured 24 speakers (12 from each country), 2 keynote speakers (one each day), 6 sessions across two days, 2 poster sessions, and participation from 40 students. An estimated 120 attendees were expected daily.

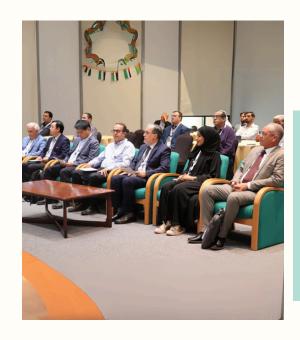






Workshop on Radioactivity in the Environment: Measurement Techniques and Applications

The Department of Geosciences, in collaboration with the National Water and Energy Center, hosted a oneday workshop on 17th February 2025, titled "Radioactivity in the Environment: Measurement Techniques and Applications." The workshop focused on advancements in technology and methodologies for detecting and measuring radioactive isotopes in environmental settings. In addition to exploring cutting-edge measurement techniques, participants examined case studies illustrating the distribution of radioactivity across different environments and discussed the potential hazards associated with radioactive contamination. Designed for researchers, technicians, students, and professionals working with radioactive materials or environmental safety, the workshop fostered meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange across disciplines.



A One-Day Forum on "Recent Trends in Applied Mathematics and Quantum Information"

On February 19, 2025, as part of UNESCO's International Year of Quantum Science the Department of Mathematical Technology. Sciences, in partnership with the Physics Department, organized a one-day forum titled "Recent Trends in Applied Mathematics and Quantum Information." The event gathered students, faculty, and experts to explore new ideas in these fields. Three keynote speakers-Prof. Dumitru Baleanu, Prof. Farhan Saif. and Dr. Mohammad AlRefai-presented talks on fractional operators, qubit control via optomechanics, and the solvability of fractional differential equations. The forum fostered rich discussions and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration between mathematics and quantum information science.



College of Science Holds Second Advisory Board Meeting for 2024-2025

The College of Science convened its second Advisory Board meeting for the academic year 2024-2025 on April 24, 2025, via an online platform. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sultan Hajji, Advisory Board Chair. Board members engaged in thoughtful and energetic discussions on a range of key topics, including: Recent accomplishments of the College, The College Action Plan (2025-2029), Newly proposed and reaccredited academic programs, Upcoming events and initiatives, Opportunities for collaboration external institutions, and so on. The College extends its sincere appreciation to all Advisory Board members for their continued support, active participation, and dedication to helping advance the College's strategic vision.





Workshop on "AI in Science Education and Research"

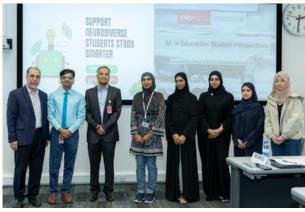
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being utilized across various fields, including education and research. On 24 February 2025, the College of Science organized a mini workshop for faculty members to showcase their use of Al in science teaching and research. The event also provided a platform to discuss key issues and concerns related to deploying AI in education. Prof. Naser Qamhieh Abdessamad (Physics). Prof. (Mathematical Sciences). Prof. Muhammed Syam (Mathematical Sciences), Prof. Ranjit Vijayan (Biology), and Mr. Mohammad Qatrawi (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. UAEU) shared their personal experiences with using AI in teaching, learning, and research. Each speaker shared personal insights and real-world examples of using Al to enhance both classroom learning and research productivity.





Mini-Symposium - AI in Education: Student Perspectives

Al tools are now being widely used by students to help with their academic activities. To bring students together to discuss how they use Al. the College of Science organized a minisymposium titled "Al in Education: Student Perspectives" on 16 April 2025. Undergraduate students of the COS shared their experiences related to using Al for a variety of activities, including summarizing study materials, creating podcasts, scheduling activities, managing time, creating presentations, drafting emails, assisting neurodivergent students, etc. The sessions were very engaging and provided a fresh perspective on how AI can assist students. Two students - Ms Fatima Almaazmi (Chemistry) and Ms Tageya Ahmed Yahya Alnuaimi (Biology) - shared the best presenter award. The event was organized by Prof. Ranjit Vijayan (Biology) with the support of the College of Science.





Online Workshop: How to Prepare for Your Postgraduate Studies

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, senior students on the Dean's and Honor's Lists attended an interactive online workshop titled "How to Prepare for Your Postgraduate" Studies," led by Dr. Asma Al Menhali, Vice Dean of the College of Science. This informative session provided students with expert advice on how to select the right graduate program, secure funding and scholarships, and maintain a healthy balance between academic achievement and personal well-being. The workshop concluded with a lively Q&A session, where students had the opportunity to ask questions and receive tailored guidance to help shape their academic and professional futures.



Engaging with Excellence: Honors Students Meet College Leadership

On Friday, May 2, 2025, the College of Science held an informal meeting with top Honors students in their third and fourth years. The meeting was attended by the Dean of the College of Science, Prof. Maamar Benkraouda; Dr. Yusra AlDhaheri, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs; and Prof. Salem Ben Said, Coordinator of the Honors Students Committee."

The session fostered open dialogue between students and college leadership, focusing on academic experiences, future goals, and available support. Students shared advice on navigating their academic paths, whether aiming for graduate studies or entering the workforce. The meeting highlighted the College's continued commitment in cultivating a student-focused academic environment.





Meeting with Dr. Shawqi Kharbash (Executive Director, UAEU SIP)

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, the College of Science hosted a meeting with Dr. Shawqi Kharbash, Executive Director of the UAEU-SIP (UAEU's Strategic Initiatives and Programs), and his team. The meeting explored the College's potential involvement in SIP's upcoming incubation and commercialization programs. This meeting marked an important step in strengthening collaboration between the College and UAEU-SIP, with exciting opportunities ahead.





Showcasing Our Forensic Science Master Program on the Global Stage

The MSc Forensic Science Program at UAE University was prominently showcased at the World Police Summit 2025, held from 13-15 May at the Dubai World Trade Centre under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The university delegation highlighted its advanced forensic research facilities and academic excellence while engaging with international law enforcement leaders and scientific experts. A key outcome was a promising meeting with Monash University, Australia—initiated by H.E. Ahmed Alraeesi, Vice Chancellor-focused on future collaboration, including the potential expansion of the MSc program into a PhD track. development of joint research grants, and shared scientific initiatives. The delegation included Prof. Maamar Benkraouda (Dean, College of Science), Prof. Ali Al Marzouki (Dean, College of Graduate Studies), Dr. Ruwaya Alkindi, Prof. Iltaf Shah, Dr. Abbas Hassan, and Dr. Khalid Muhammad, along with PhD students who also participated in the exhibition.





SOCIAL & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Science Week 2025

Science Week 2025, held on January 28-29, was an exciting and immersive event that invited students to explore the wonders of science through 15 interactive and educational booths. The event showcased a variety of scientific disciplines, from chemistry and biology to mathematics, geoscience, and even an illusion area. Key highlights included: The Science Museum, The Magic Lab, The Art Corner and The Gallery. Each booth offered handson experiments, captivating demonstrations, and artistic displays, bringing the beauty application of science to life. Additionally, scientific debates on stage sparked curiosity, igniting meaningful conversations about the impact and importance of science in our daily lives. The event attracted students and teachers from 35 schools, with a total of 1,345 participants registered. This event served as a celebration of science, aimed at inspiring students to pursue science majors while challenging and correcting misconceptions about these fields.





Innovation Month Activities 2025

As part of UAE Innovation Month 2025, which took place throughout February, the College of Science (COS) hosted a series of impactful events coordinated by Dr. M. Kalim Akhtar, Coordinator of the College Innovation Support Committee, with the support of a dedicated team of faculty members, administrators, and both PhD and undergraduate students. COS organized three key events during the month: the UAE-Italy Bilateral Conference on 'Advanced Materials for the 21st Century, an Intercollegiate Debate, and an Entrepreneurship Challenge. For the competition-based events, COS collaborated closely with the College of Law, the College of Business and Economics, and the Emirates Center for Entrepreneurship Research. These cross-college initiatives encouraged dialogue and collaboration across disciplines within the UAEU community, while also nurturing a strong spirit of innovation among students. COS showcased innovation not only through the content and outcomes of these events but also in its collaborative and inclusive approach, laying the groundwork for sustained progress in scientific and entrepreneurial innovation.





Internship Poster Exhibition - Spring 2025

On May 12, 2025, the College of Science's Internship Unit hosted a dynamic Poster Exhibition Day. Students from various departments showcased their internship experiences from the Spring 2025 semester, presenting insights and highlights from their training programs at different institutions. This event provided a valuable platform for students to exchange their experiences, discuss key takeaways, and gain inspiration for future internship opportunities.





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

On April 15, 2025, the College of Science Honor Students Committee hosted a prestigious Honoring Ceremony in the IT Auditorium (female side), celebrating students who earned a spot on the Dean's List and Honors List for Fall 2024. This event highlighted the exceptional academic achievements and dedication of our students. The ceremony began with the National Anthem followed by a warm welcome from Professor Maamar Benkraouda, Dean of the College of Science. In his address, Prof. Benkraouda emphasized the importance of academic excellence and how such recognition can significantly impact students' future success.

A special presentation titled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Being Brilliant" was delivered by Dr. Alistair Vogan from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at UAEU, offering insightful advice on the role of Al in shaping the future of academic brilliance. The ceremony concluded with the recognition of students on the Dean's List and Honors List for Fall 2024. Students were called to the stage to receive their certificates and well-deserved gifts, marking their outstanding academic accomplishments. This meaningful occasion celebrated the students' hard work and provided inspiration and practical guidance for their future academic and professional journeys.





Biology Graduate Research Day - Spring 2025 Highlights

The Biology Graduate Research Day (BGRD) was held successfully on May 2, 2025, bringing together MSc and PhD students for a dynamic exchange of research insights, scientific dialogue, and peer feedback. Organized each semester, BGRD serves as a valuable platform for students to showcase their research progress and gain constructive input from faculty and fellow researchers. The event concluded with recognition of outstanding student presentations. In the PhD category, first place was awarded to Muhammad Ibtisam Nasar for his work on metabolic interactions using gene expression profiles. Syed Sabih ur Rehman secured second place for his systems biology approach to gut microbiome-related diseases, and Amanpreet Behl took third place for her analysis of marine pollution in the Arabian Gulf. In the MSc category, Huda Meqdad was recognized as the top presenter for her research using satellite remote sensing to monitor coastal water quality in Abu Dhabi. Congratulations to all participants for their impressive contributions. We look forward to continued innovation at the next BGRD!







5th International Chemistry Olympiad

The United Arab Emirates proudly hosted the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2025) from 5-14 July in Dubai, welcoming over 360 students and 300 mentors from more than 90 countries. As the official Knowledge Partner, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) played a leading role in both organization and scientific oversight, with several faculty members serving on the prestigious Scientific Committee.

The UAE national team comprising four outstanding high school students was selected through rigorous national trials and received intensive training at UAEU and the Sirius Educational Centre in Russia. During the Olympiad, they competed alongside the brightest young chemists worldwide, proudly representing the nation.

Marking the largest edition of the Olympiad to date, the event unfolded across ten days of intensive theoretical and experimental competitions, fostering global collaboration and celebrating scientific excellence. Beyond competition, more than 200 UAEU undergraduate, Master's, and PhD students contributed significantly to supporting the preparation and review of the Olympiad's problems, assisting organizational tasks, and ensuring the exams met international standards. The Scientific Committee alone invested over 100,000 working hours to prepare and refine the challenging tasks of IChO 2025, reflecting the immense dedication and effort behind the success of this global event.

This milestone not only set new benchmarks for participation and excellence but also underscored UAEU's leadership in advancing chemistry education, nurturing young scientific talent, and strengthening international scientific exchange.



World Space Week

The Department of Physics, in collaboration with the Physics Club, celebrated World Space Week from October 7–9, 2024, with a dynamic series of events aimed at fostering curiosity and awareness of space science and astronomy. The three-day program featured interactive workshops, expert-led lectures, hands-on experiments, educational exhibits, and sunspot viewing sessions, offering students and visitors valuable insights into space exploration and the critical role of physics in understanding the universe. With strong participation and engagement across all activities, the event successfully created an inspiring atmosphere of discovery and learning within the university community.





Chemistry Club and UAEU ACS Student Chapter Honor Graduating Students

The Chemistry Club and the UAEU ACS Student Chapter, under the supervision of Dr. Abdelouahid Samadi, at the Chemistry Department proudly hosted the Graduation Honoring Ceremony, recognizing the exceptional contributions of graduating students from the 2024–2025 academic year. The event celebrated students who demonstrated remarkable dedication and active involvement throughout their academic journey. Certificates of appreciation were awarded as a token of gratitude for their hard work and lasting impact on the university community.



College of Science Hosts End-of-Year Gathering 2025

The College of Science successfully organized its End-of-Year Gathering 2025 on 17th June, bringing together Assistant Deans, Head of the Departments, faculty members, staff and students to celebrate the accomplishments of the academic year 2024-2025. The Dean of the College, welcomed the attendees and highlighted the collective efforts and achievements of the College of Science community. A special video presentation showcased the college's key achievements, including top research publications of the year 2023. The College Academic Quality Assurance Committee received the 'Best Committee of the Year' award in recognition of its outstanding contributions.

On behalf of the Dean's Office, Vice Dean of the College expressed appreciation to all participants and extended sincere thanks to the team members who worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the success of the event. The gathering concluded with a social dinner, providing an opportunity for the COS community to connect and reflect on the year's successes in a friendly and informal setting.





Physics and Astronomy Day



The Physics Club at the Department of Physics organized Physics and Astronomy Day on 15 April 2025, under the theme "From Atoms to Stars: The Physics Adventure." This full-day event aimed to promote the Physics and Space Sciences programs among high school students and newly admitted university students. The program featured engaging hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and foster a deeper interest in physics and space science disciplines.

page

PROMINENT SCIENTIFIC VISITS

Delegation Visit from China University of Petroleum

On January 22, 2025, the Department of Geosciences welcomed a delegation of faculty and students from the School of Geoscience at China University of Petroleum (East China). The visit served as a platform for fruitful discussions on potential student exchange programs and faculty visit collaborations between UAEU and China University of Petroleum



Collaboration Visit: Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Saad from ADNOC Onshore

On April 15, 2025, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Bin Saad from ADNOC Onshore – TC (SS&DM) visited the Department of Geosciences to explore potential collaboration opportunities. As part of his visit, he attended the IBA 2025 Student Team Presentation in the Geophysics Lab alongside faculty and staff. He also held a constructive meeting with Prof. Maamar Benkraouda, Dean of the College of Science, and Prof. Hasan Arman, Chair of the Department, to discuss future partnerships. The visit underscores a shared commitment to strengthening industry-academia ties and enhancing geoscience research and student engagement.



Insilico Medicine Delegation Visit

On May 12, 2025, the Department of Chemistry hosted a seminar with a delegation from Insilico Medicine, led by Dr. Yasir Raouf. Representatives Vlad Aladinskiy, Arkadii Lin, and Aisha Aldhanhani from the Masdar City team presented on Alpowered drug discovery, highlighting structure generation, early-stage screening, and the Chemistry42 platform.



Collaboration Visit from Lund University and TII Researchers

As part of an ongoing international collaboration under Dr. Mohamed Qenawy's startup grant, the College of Science welcomed distinguished visitors from 21 to 23 April 2025.

Prof. Tönu Pullerits and Prof. Kaibo Zheng from Lund University (Sweden), along with Dr. Pavel Chabera from the Technology Innovation Institute (TII), Abu Dhabi, visited the college to discuss joint research activities and future collaboration opportunities between their institutions and UAEU.



During their visit, the delegation held in-depth discussions on the progress of ongoing projects between Lund University and UAEU research labs. They also met with the Dean of the College of Science, the Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and faculty members from both the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. Additionally, the visitors engaged with undergraduate and graduate students, sharing their research experiences and offering valuable scientific insights.

ADNOC Upstream Visits the College of Science for Strategic Collaboration

On June 9, 2025, a delegation from ADNOC Upstream, including Dr. Mohamed Mahgoub, Ms. Hamda Alshehhi, and Ms. Safeya Alkatheeri, visited the College of Science to explore potential collaborative opportunities.

The meeting was initiated by Prof. Maamar Benkraouda, Dean of the College of Science, who welcomed the visitors and opened the discussion by highlighting key areas for potential collaboration between ADNOC and the College. During the meeting, the ADNOC team presented their proposal and outlined the scope of work for a new integrated project.



UAEU College of Science Meets with ADOC Japan to Explore Future Collaboration

On June 23, 2025, a delegation from the College of Science at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) visited Abu Dhabi Oil Co., LTD (ADOC) Japan in Abu Dhabi to discuss potential areas of collaboration in research, education, and training.

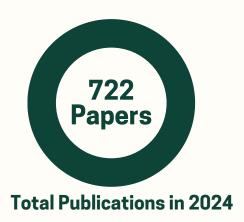
The College of Science delegation was represented by Prof. Maamar Benkraouda, Dean of the College of Science, Prof. Saleh Thaker (Chair of the Department of Physics), Prof. Yaser Greish (Chemistry), and Prof. Hakim Saibi (Geosciences). The ADOC team included Mr. Tamura Shigetoshi, Mr. Nobuaki Monzawa, Mr. Hideaki Kuramata, Mr. Nobuhiko Motegi, and Mr.



Adel Al Hosani. This meeting marked a positive step towards fostering academic-industry partnership, with discussions focusing on joint research projects, student internship opportunities, and knowledge exchange programs.



RESEARCH **ACTIVITIES**

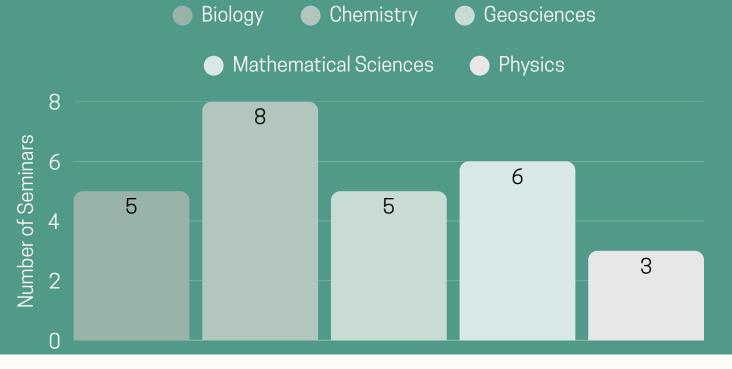






Departmental Seminars (Spring 2025)

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



Granted Patents 2025

Title	Country	Inventor	Granted Date
ELECTROANALYTICAL SENSOR FOR MELOXICAM DETECTION	UAE	Prof. Iltaf Shah	12 Feb. 2025
TAILORING NEW COVALENT ORGANIC FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHLY EFFICIENT IODINE CAPTURE	USA	Dr. Shaikha Alneyadi	01 April 2025
METHOD OF PREPARING A HYBRID INORGANIC-ORGANIC MOF COMPOUND WITH HIGH PHOTOLUMINESCENCE (PL) QUANTUM YIELDS (PLQY)	USA	Prof. Nail Ibrahim	25 March 2025
VOLTAMMETRIC SENSOR FOR OXYTOCIN DETECTION	USA	Prof. Iltaf Shah	06 May 2025

MoUs 2025

Party	Party Category	Field	Country
Mediso	Corporate	Research & Development	Hungary
Federal State Budgetary Institution of Science Federal Research Center A.O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS	Academia	General	Russia
NYUAD - COS	Academia	Research & Development	UAE
NetZero Technologies FZ LLC	Corporate	General	UAE
Insilico Medicine Al Limited	Corporate	Research & Development	UAE

UAEU College of Science Signs MoU with Insilico Medicine to Boost Al-Driven Drug Discovery

On June 10, 2025, a delegation from the College of Science (COS), UAEU, visited Insilico Medicine's regional headquarters at Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration in research, student training, and infrastructure development. Led by Dr. Yasir Raouf & Dr. Abdelouahid Samadi, and joined by Prof. Maamar Benkraouda (Dean of the College of Science) alongside representatives from



student affairs, graduate studies, the research office and several departmental faculty members, this partnership aims to create a productive bridge between industry-academia and foster cutting-edge research in medicinal chemistry, bioinformatics, data science, and artificial intelligence (AI). Overall, this marks a strategic step in building a strong drug discovery community within UAEU's College of Science, with a long-term vision focused on producing a translational research environment, focused training the next generation of medicinal chemists to advance the growing biotech sector in the UAE.

Insilico Medicine is a global Al-driven drug discovery (AIDD) powerhouse with over 30 programs in preclinical and clinical development, including 3 in Phase II trials, and multiple regional hubs worldwide (Canada, US, China, Europe). It recently opened in Abu Dhabi in 2023 and is known for its cutting-edge platforms such as Chemistry42* and Panda0mics*. Insilico integrates generative AI and biological insight to accelerate therapeutic development across various disease areas.

New Publication Highlights

The College of Science is proud to announce that Dr. Nayla Munawar, Associate Professor of Biochemistry (Department of Chemistry), has contributed as an editor to the new book titled "Gene-Edited Crops – The CRISPR Solution for Global Food Security", published by Taylor & Francis.

This publication explores the scientific, practical, and policy dimensions of CRISPR and gene-editing technologies in agriculture. It serves as a valuable reference for those engaged in biotechnology, crop improvement, and sustainable food systems.

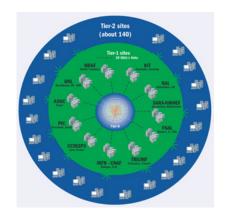
The book is now available online.



UAEU Joins CERN's Worldwide LHC Computing Grid

United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first institution in the Gulf region to join CERN's Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG). This was made possible through the deployment of a Tier-2 storage site - a 1-petabyte dCache system dedicated to the ATLAS experiment at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

CERN's WLCG is a global infrastructure of 1.4 million CPU cores and 1.5 exabytes of storage across 170 sites in 42 countries, with the CERN Data Centre at its core. This massive network supports the analysis of particle collision data from the LHC, the world's most powerful scientific instrument.



For UAEU, this breakthrough opens new horizons in data-intensive research and high-performance computing, benefiting cross-disciplinary projects in physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology, and geosciences. Within just the first month of operation, the UAEU Tier-2 site received nearly 200 TB of LHC data, reflecting its critical role in global research collaboration.

Dr. Mohamed Belfkir, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics, emphasized the significance of this achievement: "This first-of-its-kind infrastructure in the Gulf significantly enhances research capabilities locally and globally by providing robust computing and storage resources."

This initiative underscores UAEU's commitment to research excellence and international engagement, strengthening its position as a leading scientific institution in the region and beyond.

FACULTY &

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLEGE EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024-2025



Prof. Muhammed Syam Department of MathematicsFor Excellence in Teaching



Prof. Hakim Saibi Department of GeosciencesFor Excellence in Service



Prof. Sabir Bin Muzaffar
Department of Biology
For Excellence in Scholarship - Experimental Science



Dr. Muhamed Abdul Latif Department of PhysicsFor Excellence in Scholarship - Theoretical Science

Prof. Fathalla Rihan Receives the Sheikh Khalifa Award for Education

The College of Science is proud to announce that Prof. Fathalla Rihan, from the Department of Mathematical Sciences, has been honored with the prestigious Khalifa Award for Education in Distinguished University Professor category (18th Session 2024-2025).

This well-deserved recognition reflects Prof. Rihan's outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and community service. His dedication to fostering excellence in education and his significant contributions to the advancement of mathematical sciences have earned him this distinguished honor.

The College extends its warmest congratulations to Prof. Fathalla Rihan and wishes him continued success in his future academic and research endeavors.



Chancellor's Innovation Award 10th Cycle

The College of Science proudly congratulates Dr. Fathy Hassan from the Department of Chemistry on receiving the prestigious Chancellor's Innovation Award (10th Cycle) for the 2024/2025 academic year.

Dr. Fathy Hassan was honored in the category of Renewable Energy, recognizing his innovative contributions and impactful research in this critical area. This award highlights the College's continued commitment to advancing sustainable solutions through scientific excellence.



FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Dr. Adel Najar from the Department of Physics has been promoted to Full Professor, and Dr. Youngwook Kim from the Department of Biology has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Adel Najar and Dr. Youngwook Kim on this significant professional milestone.



Dr. Adel Najar **Department of Physics**



Dr. Youngwook Kim Department of Biology

Celebrating Dr. Marwa Alhashmi's Remarkable PhD Achievement

The College extends its warmest congratulations to Dr. Marwa Alhashmi, Teaching Assistant in the Department of Biology, on successfully completing her PhD at Purdue University, USA.

Her dissertation, titled "Adenoviral Vector-Based Next Generation Vaccines to Overcome Emergence of SARS-CoV-2," represents a valuable contribution to the field of biomedical research, particularly in the development of innovative vaccine strategies.

We are proud of Dr. Marwa Alhasmi's achievement and look forward to welcoming her back to the College community soon.



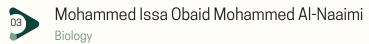
DEAN'S LIST - SPRING 2025

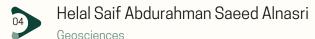
The Dean's List for Spring 2025 includes the top 11 male and 15 female students among a total of 225 honorees. Additionally, 159 students were recognized on the Honors List for their exceptional academic performance. The College congratulates all students on their achievements and encourages continued excellence in their academic journey.

TOP MALE STUDENTS















Abdulla Abdulqader Hasan Alshateri Alhashmi
Biology

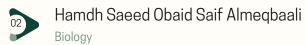


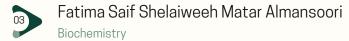
Mohammad Ali Saleh Alkhamis Alnuaimi Biology

Hazza Nasser Abdulla Khamis Aljuneibi

TOP FEMALE STUDENTS



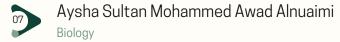


















Mahra Rashed Saeed Ali Alshamsi
Mathematics of Data Science

Bakhita Rashed Hamad Mubarak Alameri Geosciences

Salma Ahmed Mohammed Saif Alhassani
Biology

Aya Moualla Haidar Chemistry

Sana Abdallah Salim Chemistry

Geosciences Team Earns Top Honors at IBA 2025

The College of Science is proud to announce the success of the IBA UAEU Team in the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) 2025, organized by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and held at the National Energy Centre in Abu Dhabi. The team exceptional delivered an performance, securing a Top 3 position in the Middle East Region Semifinal, along with a \$500 award from AAPG and official Certificates of Recognition. Their achievement was further honored by ADNOC, who presented the team with the prestigious ADNOC Trophy - a testament to their excellence in geoscience. innovation, and teamwork.



Colleges Trophy 2025: College of Science Shines!

The College of Science proudly celebrates a remarkable achievement in the Colleges Trophy 2025! Our female students claimed 1st place overall, winning the overall trophy in female competitions - a testament to their talent, determination, and team spirit. Meanwhile, our male students secured a strong 3rd place, showcasing excellent performance and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding efforts in representing the College with pride and excellence!





Success at the 5th Forum for Women in Research

The College of Science is proud to announce that Dr. Khadega Al-Maqdi and Dr. Lamia Ali have been awarded a prestigious AED 10,000 research grant at the 5th Women in Research Forum, held on February 20, 2025, at the University of Sharjah. Competing among 890 proposals from 260 universities across 57 countries, only 297 proposals were shortlisted - making this achievement especially commendable.

Their winning project, titled "Advanced Pollutant Degradation Using HRP Immobilized on MOF," explores innovative solutions for environmental sustainability. The research is supervised by Prof. Iltaf Shah (UAEU) and Prof. Salman Ashraf (Khalifa University).

Congratulations to Khadega, Lamia, and their supervisors on this outstanding international recognition, which highlights the excellence of the Chemistry Department and the College of Science at UAEU.



Dr. Khadega Al-Maqdi Department of Chemistry



Dr. Lamia Ali
Department of Chemistry

Mahra Al Ameri Wins at MOHAP Hackathon with Al-Powered Anti-Smoking Innovation

Mahra Al Ameri (Department of Biology), was a winning team member of the Health Hackers team at the Ministry of Health and Prevention's Hackathon. The team created an innovative Al-powered solution integrated with a smart device to help individuals quit smoking.



Mahra Al Ameri Department of Biology

Congratulations to Ms. Noor Albastaki on her Outstanding Achievement!

We are proud to announce that Ms. Noor Albastaki, a student from the Department of Chemistry, was a member of the UAEU Chess Team that secured first place in the Inter-University Chess Championship, held on 19th April 2025 at the RIT campus in Dubai.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Albastaki and the entire UAEU Chess Team for their remarkable performance and for representing the university with such distinction. Their victory is a testament to the strength and spirit of UAEU students.



Best Presenter Award - "Al in Education: Student Perspectives"

Ms. Fatima Almaazmi (Chemistry) and Ms. Taqeya Ahmed Yahya Alnuaimi (Biology) shared the Best Presenter Award at the mini symposium "Al in Education: Student Perspectives", held on 16 April 2025. The titles of their presentations were "Al Tools for Students with ADHD and Neurodivergence" and "Al as the Ultimate Teacher", respectively.



Fatima Almaazmi
Department of Chemistry



Taqeya Ahmed Yahya Alnuaimi
Department of Biology

UAEU Chemistry Students Shine in National Research Competition

Noura Khamis Ali Aldhaheri, Rauda Saif Salem Almazrouei, Wadima Khamis Saif Alhassani, and Mouza Mohamed Alghafri Alzaabi, undergraduate students from the Department of Chemistry, College of Science, UAE University, proudly represented their university at the 12th Undergraduate Research and Innovation Competition (URIC) on 29th May 2025, held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan. Their research project was presented to an international audience and received high praise for its scientific rigor and relevance. The students conducted their work under the supervision of Prof. Iltaf Shah. Their outstanding performance reflects Chemistry Department's strong commitment towards undergraduate research and innovation.



International Summer Training Program - Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore (19 June - 04 July, 2025)

Nine outstanding students from the College of Science at UAEU took part in a prestigious twoweek summer internship at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. The program offered an intensive, hands-on curriculum in entrepreneurship, where participants explored innovative business ideas, assessed their potential, and developed strategies for success.

They gained practical skills in idea generation, customer needs analysis, team building, and effective resource management.

Beyond academics. the students engaged with peers from around the world, exchanging perspectives building cross-cultural understanding. This international environment enhanced their communication, presentation, and problem-solving abilities, while tours of Singapore provided valuable insight into the local business landscape. program concluded with impactful project presentations and a practical exam, where the students' efforts were formally recognized. The training was expertly supervised by Ms. Fraya Al Mazrouei.





COMING EVENTS

8th International Conference on Engineering Geophysics (ICEG) April 14-16, 2026

17th Edition of "Dynamical Systems Applied to Biology and Natural Sciences" (DSABNS)TBC

9th Asian PGPR International Conference - 2026 TBC

CONTACT INFORMATION



Thank you for reading the College of Science's newsletter (Scilights). If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact cos.office@uaeu.ac.ae