

EduVision: Graduate School of Education NEWSLETTER



**Welcome to the Second Edition of
the M.Ed. Newsletter!**

Dear Educators,

Welcome to the second issue of the M.Ed. Newsletter. This edition highlights the remarkable achievements of our students, the leadership of our alumni, and the vibrant professional learning community we continue to build together.

From research showcases to inclusive education initiatives, these stories reflect the heart of our mission: Learning & Teaching through Relationships.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Nadera Alborno, Ed.D.

Dean, Graduate School of Education

Announcements:

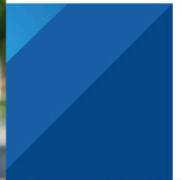
New Leadership Pathway: Elevate Your M.Ed. Experience



LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

EXPAND YOUR CAREER. ELEVATE YOUR LEADERSHIP.

- ✓ Replace 6 M.Ed. credits with two graduate leadership and management courses from the Business (MBA) or Communication (MALICM) programs.
- ✓ Build the expertise needed to **lead schools, corporate training initiatives, or organizational teams** with confidence.



The Graduate School of Education (GSE) now offers an exciting Leadership Pathway for M.Ed. students looking to expand their impact. This option allows you to replace 6 credits with two graduate-level courses from AUD's MBA or MALICM programs—equipping you with the skills to lead schools, corporate initiatives, or interdisciplinary teams. Take the next step in your professional journey.

This edition highlights the moments, milestones, and voices that define our community across these themes:

1. Current Student Achievements
2. Professional Learning
3. Community Engagement
4. Research and Beyond: Faculty in the Field
5. Alumni Spotlight

1. Current Student Achievements

Celebrating the Class of 2025



Graduation marked a proud milestone for the Class of 2025 — a cohort defined by collegiality, dedication, and gratitude. We commend their academic journey and the spirit they brought to our community.

Congratulations to our graduates as they step forward to inspire, educate, and lead.

A special recognition goes to **Lubna Zrein**, recipient of the Master of Education Award for the highest academic standing at AUD's 28th Graduation Ceremony. Lubna exemplifies academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and a strong dedication to inclusive teaching.

Congratulations to all



Annual Graduation Dinner



The Graduate School of Education (GSE) hosted the annual graduation dinner to mark the thesis signing for the Class of 2025. The evening brought together students, graduates, faculty, and members of the Alumni Advisory Council in a celebration of research, reflection, and next chapters.



A heartfelt congratulations to **Shahna Aby**, recipient of the Dean's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement, in recognition of her outstanding performance and dedication throughout the program.

Here's to the future educators who lead with purpose.



Research in Action: Poster Presentation Highlights

The Class of 2025 showcased their research during the annual Poster Presentation evening, attended by faculty, students, alumni, families, and educational professionals. The event was enriched by the thoughtful engagement of a distinguished panel of judges: **Prof. Eman Gaad (BUID)**, **Dr. Sarah Benson (UOB)**, and **Dr. Sandra Alexander (AUD)**

The evening concluded with the announcement of the Top Poster Awards:

1. Sara Hussien – 1st Place
2. Afroz Shaikh – 2nd Place
3. Fiona Kanjao – 3rd Place

Congratulations to all our presenters for their academic excellence, and sincere thanks to the esteemed judges and the alumni who returned to support and celebrate their peers.



Champions in the Classroom and Beyond

Congratulations to our **M.Ed. student-athletes** for their outstanding contribution to **AUD's historic victory at the University Games**, where the university was crowned **Grand Champion** among all UAE institutions.

Balancing academic excellence with athletic achievement, our students played a key role in securing **first-place** finishes across multiple sports – including volleyball, basketball, and soccer – at both regional and national levels.



Rabeb Rebai



Lehcen Bahja

Their discipline, leadership, and teamwork reflect the very qualities we strive to cultivate in future educators.

Congratulations to **Rabab** and **Lehcen**, who continue to shine as outstanding P.E. teachers and professional coaches.

Multicultural Teaching in Action



Nurturing culturally responsive teaching is one of our goals at the Graduate School of Education. This was reflected in the achievement of our M.Ed. candidate **Hala Gawdat**, whose KGI class was awarded the title of **"Ambassador of World Cultures - 2nd place"** at Dubai Municipality's World Cultural Day.

We celebrate Hala's dedication to creating classrooms where every culture is seen, valued, and celebrated.



2. Professional Learning

Common Core Boot Camp: A Celebration of Collaboration and Excellence

For the second time this academic year, we proudly hosted the **Common Core Boot Camp**—a transformative professional development event that brought together approximately **600 educators and school leaders** from across the UAE and GCC.

The event is organized by **Copperstone Education** in collaboration with **Growmore**. The program included a rich variety of hands-on workshops, strategy sessions, and dynamic networking opportunities focused on the effective implementation of Common Core Standards.



The day also featured an AUD Leaders Panel, moderated by **Dr. Nader Ayish** and presented by **Dr. Sabrina Joseph**, Provost of AUD, with expert contributions from faculty members, **Dr. Wael Bazzi**, **Dr. Prince Kouassi**, **Dr. Farah Arkadan**, **Dr. Nezar Andary**, and **Dr. Georges Kachaamy**. The panel addressed how schools and universities can work together to shape future-ready learners.



Our students and alumni proudly represented their school and actively participated in various sessions reflecting their commitment to lifelong learning.



Thank you to all participants for your dedication to educational excellence. A special thanks to **President Long** for his continued support. Together, we are not only elevating standards but also building a thriving, inclusive educational community.



Workshop Spotlight: Multisensory Approaches to Teaching Literacy

Multisensory teaching isn't optional—it's essential. When we engage multiple senses, we empower all learners to decode and understand language more deeply and meaningfully.

The Graduate School of Education recently hosted an engaging workshop led by **Sherry Maher**, Head of Learning at **DYStinct Learners**, focused on multisensory strategies for teaching literacy to children with **dyslexia**.

Students, alumni, faculty, and guests actively participated in hands-on activities, exploring research-based methods that integrate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic



elements to support reading comprehension. Our sincere thanks to **Sherry Maher** for her insightful facilitation, and to all participants for their commitment to inclusive and effective literacy instruction.

Public Speaking Unplugged: Speak, Connect, Inspire



As part of our ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration at AUD, the Graduate School of Education hosted an interactive Public Speaking Workshop led by **Dr. Madiha Hashmi**, Assistant Professor of Oral Rhetoric.

The session focused on clear and confident communication, offering useful strategies for speaking effectively in classrooms, meetings, and public settings. Participants took part in hands-on activities to build their skills.

Thank you to Dr. Hashmi for leading the session and to all who attended for their active participation. We look forward to continuing this collaboration to support effective communication across disciplines.



Shining from Within Career Growth & Professional Presence

Members of the **Alumni Advisory Council** remain connected to their alma mater by giving back through meaningful initiatives. They organized a professional development workshop for educators, **"Shining from Within,"** led by **Ms. Haleema Karout (M.Ed. '14)**, Chief Academic Officer at Brilliant Minds Management and Consultancy.



Our sincere thanks to Ms. Karout for her inspiring guidance and to the organizing committee – **Sarah Ahmed, Haiat Fattal, Joelle Chamoun, Nancy Sedky-Tolba, & Ghina Kalaji**– for making this workshop a success.



This interactive session offered educators and professionals an opportunity to reflect on their personal and professional presence, explore actionable strategies for career advancement, and engage in meaningful networking.



Building Reading Fluency to Improve Comprehension

After the great success of the the multisensory workshop, **Sherry Maher of DYStinct Learners** was welcomed back for a hands-on workshop focused on strengthening **reading fluency and comprehension strategies for young learners**. Participants—including students, alumni, and faculty—explored practical, research-based methods to support struggling readers, with an emphasis on inclusive and multisensory approaches.



Our sincere thanks to Sherry for her expert facilitation and to all attendees for their enthusiasm and thoughtful participation.

Together, we continue to champion literacy for all.

3. Community Engagement

Graduate Open House Inclusion, Well-being & Purpose-Driven Leadership

Our annual Graduate Open House this year brought together educators, alumni, and prospective students for an evening of purpose, connection, and professional growth.

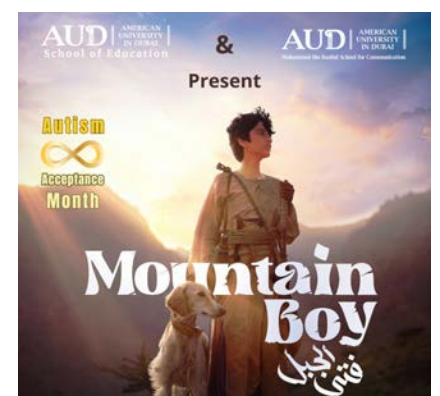
The event marked the **launch of the new Special and Inclusive Education concentration**—designed for educators committed to building classrooms where all students feel seen, supported, and empowered.



A highlight of the evening was the Teacher Well-being Panel, moderated by **Sherry Jenio**, featuring expert insights from **Joelle Chamoun, Ross Moore, and Dr. Holly Voorhees-Carmical**. Together, they shared powerful reflections on navigating burnout, setting boundaries, and prioritizing mental health in schools. Special thanks to **President Long** for his inspiring opening remarks and to the **Alumni Advisory Council** organizing committee for their tireless efforts to bring the event to life.

Celebrating Autism Acceptance through Film & Dialogue

In recognition of **Autism Acceptance Month**, the Graduate School of Education (GSE), in collaboration with the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication (MBRSC), hosted a powerful evening centered on inclusion, storytelling, and empathy. Attendees gathered for an exclusive screening of the behind-the-scenes making of **Mountain Boy—a multi-award-winning Emirati film** that sheds light on autism through a deeply human lens. The event concluded with a live Q&A featuring lead actor **Nasser Al Meesabi**, whose personal insights sparked meaningful dialogue around identity, resilience, and inclusive representation in media. We extend our thanks to **Ms. Sophie Boutros** (Executive Director, MBRSC), the cast, attendees, and community members who joined us for this meaningful experience.



A Heartfelt Ramadan Gathering

In the spirit of reflection and togetherness, we hosted a warm and inclusive Iftar gathering during the holy month of Ramadan.

Students, faculty, and alumni came together to share a meal and honor the values of gratitude, kindness, and community.

Ramadan offers a powerful reminder of the importance of connection and compassion—both in our personal lives and in our educational spaces.



US Education Leadership Reception: Advancing School Leadership Together

The Graduate School of Education, in collaboration with **Copperstone Education and the American School Principals Network (ASPN)**, proudly hosted the latest US Education Leadership Reception, a biannual event designed to bring together principals and school leaders from US curriculum schools across the UAE.

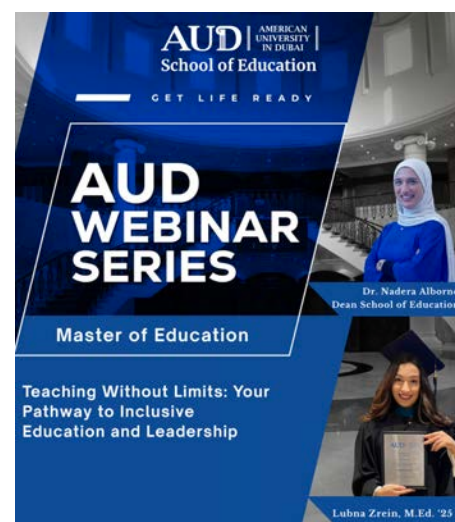


The evening featured two workshops led by **Canace Newby (NWEA MAP)** and **Marwa Elsayed (M.Ed. '2016)**, offering practical strategies on data-driven learning, curriculum leadership, and health education. Attendees engaged in meaningful dialogue, networking, and shared insights to strengthen school communities.

Webinar: Pathway to Inclusive Education and Leadership

As part of our efforts to raise awareness about **inclusive education** and the importance of preparing teachers to champion inclusive initiatives in schools, Dean Alborn, together with Lubna Zrein, M.Ed. '2025, led a webinar titled **"Teaching Without Limits: Your Pathway to Inclusive Education and Leadership."**

The session explored how inclusive teaching practices and educational leadership can transform both classrooms and careers. Attendees also gained valuable insights into the M.Ed. program at AUD, including its concentrations, admissions process, and the newly launched Special and Inclusive Education pathway.



4. Research and Beyond: Faculty in the Field

Bridging Minds & Machines

The Graduate School of Education proudly celebrates **Dr. Fariha's** innovative contribution to **TESOL 2025**, where she led a forward-thinking workshop on **AI model training and its connection to learning theory**.

By bridging Piaget's cognitive development framework with the principles behind artificial neural networks, Dr. Fariha invited educators to explore the evolving intersection between human learning and machine intelligence.



Her session sparked meaningful dialogue on the future of teaching, learning, and educational technology—positioning AUD as a thought leader in the global conversation on AI in education.

Championing Multilingual Education

Dr. Nader Ayish was invited to chair the Higher Education session in the **Ireland International Conference on Education (IICE)** held on April 10, 2025.

He also presented a paper titled: **“What are the attitudes and reported practices of mathematics and science teachers toward the use of learners’ L1 (Arabic) at an Emirati EMI university?”**

This study explored the complex dynamics between content delivery in English and the support role of Arabic in STEM education, offering key insights into bilingual teaching strategies in the UAE's higher education landscape.



Exploring AI Through Human-Centered Design

"I welcome all teachers to this course as it resonates with the National Initiative on AI Curriculum for UAE Educators," says **Dr. Fariha Salman**, introducing a transformative learning journey in the Graduate School of Education. "The course builds on the principles of learning sciences and incorporates contemporary frameworks from UNESCO, the World Economic Forum, Dubai Future Foundation, Carnegie Learning, and more."



Designed to empower educators across all grade levels, the course equips participants to **unpack complex concepts, ideate, prototype, and implement AI-driven solutions tailored to their subject areas. Teachers actively explore AI not just as a tool, but as a discipline grounded in ethics, bias awareness, and human impact.**

From Barriers to Bridges

Dr. Nadera Alborno was invited as an expert panelist in **The Millennium School's International Inclusion Conference** in Dubai, themed "**From Barriers to Bridges: Fostering an Inclusive Culture.**"

Dr. Alborno joined an inclusion panel with **Berna Bouwer and Dr. Funke BA**, moderated by **Nargish Khambatta**, stressing that ***inclusion and well-being must go hand in hand***. The event brought together educators committed to relationship-building, reflective practice, and teacher-led change.

Dr. Alborno's presence further reinforces AUD's Graduate School of Education as a leading voice in inclusive, human-centered education across the region.



RAK Awards for Educational Excellence

Dean Alborno continues to serve as a member of the evaluation committee for the **Ras Al Khaimah Awards for Educational Excellence** for the second year. The award is launched under the patronage of **His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi**.

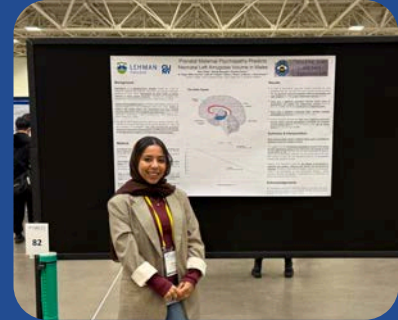
Now in its 19th edition, the award recognizes excellence in areas such as wellbeing and sustainability, innovation in teaching and learning, educational research, and inclusive education with community impact.



5. Alumni Spotlights



Ghofran Yezbek (M.Ed. '20) published a STEAM-based article on sustainable agriculture in STEM BEST PRACTICE and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Education at BUI.D.



Shoug Al Sayegh (M.Ed. '21) and Ph.D. candidate at CUNY, USA presented her research at SRCD 2025, examining how prenatal maternal psychopathy may influence neonatal left amygdala volume in males.



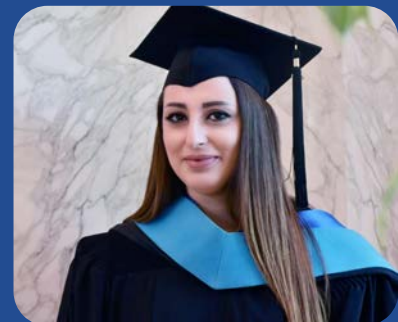
Nadine Baki '21 supported over 600 students at STEAM Champions UAE 2025, celebrating their qualification for the international competition. **Haiat Fattal '21** judged the Enjoy AI Junior Mat segment, highlighting student innovation and teamwork.



Lina El Zein (M.Ed. '14) serves as Head of Marketing & Communications and recently represented her field as a panelist at the Customer Experience Live Show Middle East 2025, exemplifying leadership cultivated at AUD.



Maryam Abu Talib (M.Ed. '21) is currently a **Fulbright Scholar** and Arabic Teaching Assistant at Ursinus College, where she creatively promotes Arabic language and culture while continuing her academic pursuits in education and the humanities.



Chourouk Kobeissi (M.Ed. '20) has been awarded a prestigious **four-year Ph.D. scholarship** at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, where she will explore the role of language mediators in supporting culturally responsive pedagogy in Qatar's private schools.

Gallery





Stay Connected with Us!

Have questions or want to learn more about our program? Reach out to us:

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- **Social Media:**
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Stay informed and inspired—let's shape the future of education together!