EduVision: Graduate School of Education
NEWSLETTER

Dear Students, Alumni, and Partners,

Fall 2025 has been a semester of focused growth for our community. This issue highlights key milestones—from the launch of our Special and Inclusive Education concentration to expanding faculty scholarship, student research, and regional engagement, including our work in AI-informed education grounded in human judgment, ethics, and learner-centered values.

We also mark an important moment in our identity with the formal adoption of the Graduate School of Education name, reflecting our graduate-level focus, research-driven practice, and commitment to inclusive, future-ready education.

Thank you for being part of this journey as we continue to grow with purpose.

Warm regards,
Nadera Alborno, Ed.D.
Dean, Graduate School of Education

Graduate School of Education (GSE):
A Name that Reflects our Practice

AUD has formally adopted the name **Graduate School of Education, reflecting** the school's clear focus on advanced academic programs and research-driven practice.

This transition highlights GSE's graduate-level program structure, its role as a center for research and scholarship, and its commitment to innovation in teaching and learning. It also reflects the school's growing influence across the UAE and the wider region.

Aligned with international standards for postgraduate education, this update affirms GSE's mission to prepare educators, researchers, and leaders who apply evidence-based practices to strengthen their professional and educational contexts.

Ed. Technology Course-Redesigned
Emerging Technology In Education

Redesigned by **Dr. Fariha Hayat Salman**, the Education Technology course offers a practical, forward-looking learning experience aligned with national priorities for human-centered digital transformation. The updated curriculum introduces global and regional digital and AI literacy frameworks and supports informed decision-making in curriculum design, teaching, and policy.

Students examine how emerging technologies, including AI and XR, shape learning across the PK–12 spectrum, while engaging with key concepts such as algorithmic inference, bias, and data agency, positioning AI not only as a tool but as a conceptual partner in educational practice.

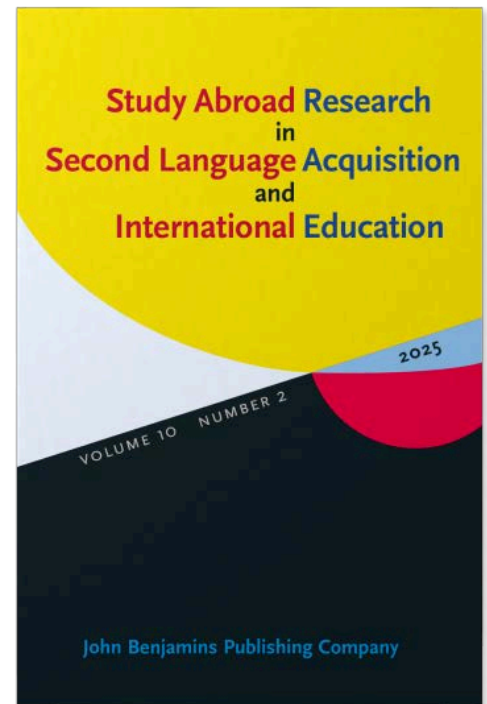# 1. Faculty Scholarship, Research, and Global Engagement

Publication Spotlight: Language Immersion Research

Dr. Nader Ayish has recently published a Q1-ranked Scopus-indexed journal article contributing to research in second-language acquisition and study-abroad contexts.

The paper investigates how learners engage in real-time communication with native Arabic speakers during an immersion experience, highlighting

the linguistic challenges posed by Palestinian colloquial Arabic. Findings shed light on how students adapt to dialectal differences, build communicative confidence, and derive meaning through authentic interaction — offering valuable insight into how immersion settings strengthen language development.

Research Spotlight: Heat Transfer Enhancement Study Featuring Dr. Ayish

Dr. Nader Ayish has co-authored a recent publication in the Q1 Scopus-indexed journal International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer.

The paper presents an experimental evaluation of radially arranged delta winglets in heat exchanger tubes and reports increased heat transfer efficiency under tested conditions. The findings contribute to ongoing work in energy-system optimization and provide useful reference data for future heat-exchanger design and engineering application.

AIME-Con 2025: AI-Driven Assessment Research

Dr. Fariha Hayat Salman represented AUD at AIME-Con 2025 in Pittsburgh, organized by the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME). She chaired a research session and presented her study titled:

AI-Enhanced Postural Assessments for Educational Measurement

Her work explores how AI-driven feedback can support self-assessment, movement correction, and measurable skill improvement in K–12 athletics — offering a forward-thinking model for Human–AI collaboration in educational measurement.

Our appreciation goes to **Coach Alim Jeli (MPAC Sports Dubai), M.Ed. candidate Hala Gawdat and alumna Eman ElNossiry** for their roles in enabling this innovative research. A meaningful contribution to the future of AI-empowered assessment.

International Conference on Emerging Technologies: Keynote Participation

Dean **Alborno** delivered a keynote address at the *International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Interdisciplinary Fields in Muscat, Oman* — a national event hosted under the patronage of **H.H. Sayyid Nadir bin Al Julandi Al Said** and organized by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The conference brought together more than 35 international and local experts to examine how emerging technologies are reshaping higher education. In her keynote, Dr. Alborno emphasized the centrality of *human agency and ethics in AI-powered education*, underscoring the need for learner-centered and responsible implementation as universities adopt advanced digital tools.

We extend our appreciation to **Mazoon College** for their hospitality and for facilitating this platform for academic and technological dialogue.

Book Chapters: Accepted for Publication

Dr. Nader Ayish has contributed to two forthcoming **Routledge volumes** in the field of teacher education and English language teaching. Both chapters are currently accepted for publication.

1. An antiracist faculty book club: Multi-voiced dialogues for self-reflection and decolonizing teacher education. In T. Austin & M. Ebsworth (Eds.), Building Antiracist Communities. Routledge.
2. What Palestine's context teaches English language educators: Lessons for healing during times of precarity. In J. Chen, L. Veliz, & M. Farias (Eds.), Love, Healing, and Hope: Transformative Practices in Decolonial ELT. Routledge.

These contributions highlight Dr. Ayish's ongoing engagement with issues of decolonial pedagogy, antiracism, and English language education within complex sociopolitical contexts.

Early Childhood Inclusive Education Forum 2025

The **AUD Graduate School of Education** was a strategic partner in the Early Childhood Inclusive Education Forum 2025, hosted by the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) under the theme *Bridging Practice and Innovation*.

Dr. Nadera Alborno moderated a high-level panel titled *Inclusive Early Childhood Education in the UAE: Progress Toward SDG 4.2*, highlighting the importance of cross-sector collaboration, teacher development, and policy alignment. Her participation reflected GSE's leadership in shaping inclusive education discourse and practice at the national and regional levels**.**

The school's engagement was further strengthened by the participation of two M.Ed. candidates, **Sara Hussien** (Class of 2025) and **Hala Gawdat** (Class of 2026), who were awarded first place in the forum's poster competition, underscoring the quality of graduate preparation and applied research fostered by the Graduate School of Education.

We congratulate Sara and Hala for representing AUD with distinction and contributing meaningfully to this important regional platform.

Accessibility Expo: CDA Knowledge Platform

Dean **Alborno** represented the American University in Dubai at the **Accessibility Expo on the CDA Knowledge Platform**, participating in a panel discussion on **the role of Artificial Intelligence in advancing accessibility for people of determination**.

M.Ed. alumna **Susan Haidar and Reem El Osmani** (Class of 2025) also participated in the Expo, where they presented their research **on accessibility in both K–12 and higher education settings**. Both have recently been promoted in their respective roles, reflecting their ongoing commitment to inclusive education.

GESS Dubai 2025 — Panel Participation

Dr. Nadera Alborno participated in a panel at GESS Dubai 2025, hosted by **Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation (AGF)**. The discussion addressed **how teacher preparation grounded in Universal Design for Learning (UDL), action research, and the integration of emerging technologies—including AI—support educators in leading inclusive and innovative practice.**

The panel emphasized that while AI can enhance access, human-centered qualities such as empathy, ethical judgment, and reflective practice remain central to effective teaching.

GSE M.Ed. alumni **Salma Akhtar ('17) and Ghina Kalaji ('21)** attended the session, demonstrating continued engagement with professional learning and the broader AUD community.

Bright Start International Conference — Voices of Children Pedagogy™ Initiative

Dean **Alborno** participated in the *Voices of Children Pedagogy™* initiative at the *Bright Start International Conference* in the UK, where she presented action research projects conducted by M.Ed. candidates at AUD.

These projects illustrated how teacher-led inquiry strengthens reflective practice, supports deeper attention to children's perspectives, and builds productive partnerships with parents, colleagues, and school leadership.

The School encourages continued support for this work through structured time for teacher inquiry, strong school–university research collaborations, and platforms that recognize and share teacher-led research.
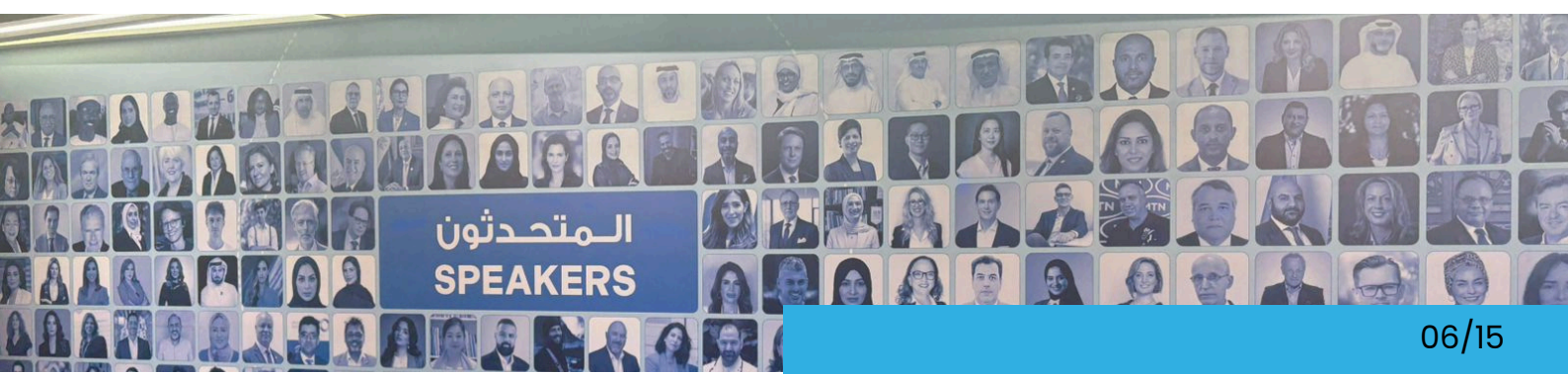
Knowledge Summit 2025: Dean Alborno on Sustainable Knowledge Economies

Dr. Nadera Alborno represented AUD at the **10th edition of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF)–United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Knowledge Summit 2025**, held in Dubai under the theme "*Knowledge Markets: Developing Sustainable Communities.*"

At the event, Dean Alborno moderated a panel on **"Education for Sustainable Knowledge Economies."** The discussion emphasized that while emerging technologies, including AI, can enhance access to education and data-driven policy, it is essential that **teacher training, ethical judgment, and inclusive support systems remain at the core of educational reform.**

The Summit, drawing more than 130 international speakers and over 45 sessions, focused on how knowledge, innovation, education, and sustainable practices converge to shape future-ready economies and communities.

2.Community Networks & Collaborative Initiatives

COIL Initiative — International Collaborative Learning

As part of Steven's COIL initiative, the AUD Graduate School of Education participated in **Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)** through two graduate courses, strengthening international academic collaboration and cross-cultural learning.

The course **Teaching in Multicultural Classes, led by Dr. Nadera Alborno**, partnered with **New Mexico University** on a cross-cultural project titled **Know Yourself to Know Others,** focused on identity, cultural awareness, and teaching in diverse contexts.

The course **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, led by Dr. Nader Ayish**, partnered with **Western Washington University (Bellingham, USA)** through the project **Reflecting on Teaching Across Cultures.**

Over a ten-week period, GSE students collaborated with senior undergraduate education students, engaging in synchronous Zoom sessions and asynchronous exchanges. The experience supported reflective dialogue on teaching across cultures and highlighted both shared challenges and global perspectives in education.
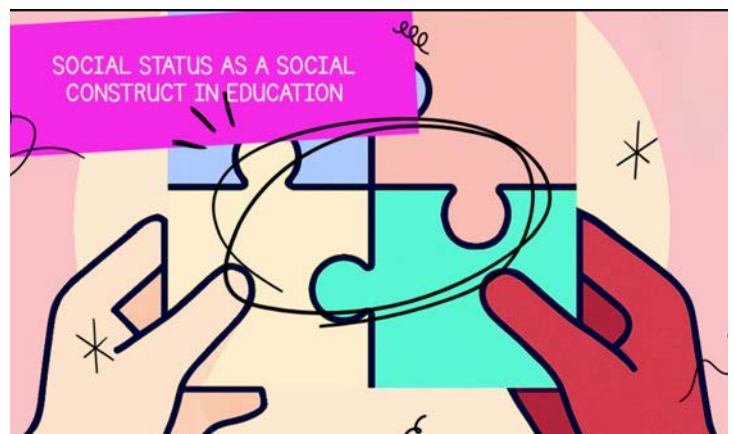
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO®

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Religion in Education
Cross-Cultural Insights from the UAE and the USA

SOCIAL STATUS AS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT IN EDUCATION

Examples of Cross Cultural presentations

Start of Academic Year: Library Orientation

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) began the new academic year with the launch of its Special and Inclusive Education concentration, reinforcing the school's commitment to equity, access, and inclusive learning for all students.
As part of their orientation, students also participated in a library session led by Randa Al Chidiac, Director of the AUD Library, where they were introduced to key research tools and resources to support their academic and scholarly work.
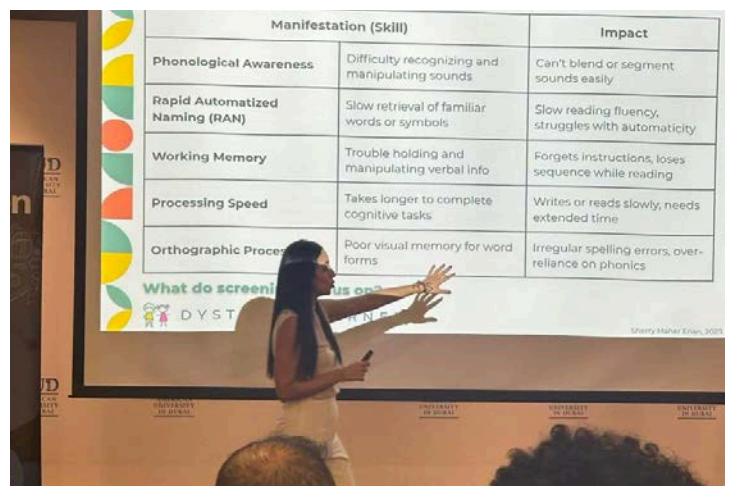

Professional Learning Workshop: Dyslexia Decoded

The Graduate School of Education hosted **"Dyslexia Decoded: From Screening to Comprehensive Evaluation,"** a workshop led by **Sherry Maher Erian** that introduced educators to evidence-based approaches for identifying and supporting learners with dyslexia. The session covered practical tools for screening, diagnostic assessment, and targeted intervention, offering participants a clear framework for moving from initial concern to informed educational support.

Held on October 30 on the AUD campus, the workshop brought together educators from diverse settings and contributed to the School's ongoing efforts to strengthen professional learning in literacy and inclusive education

We thank all participants for their engagement and contributions to this successful event.

American School Principals Network (ASPN) Third Meeting

The **AUD Graduate School of Education**, in collaboration with **Copperstone Education**, hosted the third meeting of the **American School Principals Network (ASPN)**, bringing together school leaders from across the UAE for professional dialogue and collaboration.

The session centered on two key questions: how school success is measured and how teacher capacity can be strengthened to support professional growth and well-being. The discussion reflected the network's purpose of creating a constructive space for principals to share perspectives and learn from one another.

Panelists Dr. Jamie Cardwell, Ms. Amy Protano, and Mr. Dane Satchell contributed valuable insights, with Ms. Veronica Griffin facilitating the conversation.

The GSE looks forward to the continued development of ASPN as a platform for leadership learning and school improvement.

Disability Etiquette & Inclusive Services Workshop

The Health Center and the Graduate School of Education hosted a workshop led by Ms. Nelly Halabi, Director of the AUD Health Center, and Dr. Alborno to **strengthen AUD's inclusive practices**. The session highlighted inclusion as a universal right and aligned with the UAE's terminology, People of Determination, **emphasizing ability over limitation**.

Participants revisited AUD's commitment to reasonable accommodations that ensure equitable access while maintaining academic standards. With **140 Students of Determination** currently enrolled, the workshop underscored that disabilities may be visible or invisible and that barriers often stem from the environment.

Through case studies and discussions, the session reinforced a unified goal: **creating a campus where all students feel respected, supported, heard, and included.**

AUD Alumni Festival

The Graduate School of Education joined the annual AUD Alumni Festival, reconnecting with graduates, families, and friends in a vibrant community gathering. Several GSE alumni stopped by to share updates, enjoy the activities, and celebrate their continued connection to AUD. It was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen alumni ties and community spirit.

3. Students and Alumni Achievements

M. Ed. Class of 2026: Research Proposal Presentations

The M.Ed. Class of 2026 successfully presented their **research proposals,** demonstrating strong alignment with current priorities in leadership, inclusion, AI integration, and student well-being across UAE schools.

Topics included leadership for innovation during AI adoption; Universal Design for Learning and well-being; play-based literacy in kindergarten; transformational leadership and teacher motivation; challenges in inclusive classrooms; AI-supported skill development in physical education; meeting diverse learning needs in elementary settings; and parental perspectives on the impact of video gaming.

These proposals reflect the cohort's commitment to evidence-informed inquiry and their engagement with real issues shaping UAE education today.

New Appointments

Hussein Alsalehy
M.Ed. '26
Homeroom and
SEN Teacher

AL MAWAKEB

Fiona Kanjau
M.Ed. '25
SEN Teacher

GEMS
أكاديمية جيمس دبي الأمريكية
Dubai American Academy

Aya Antar
M.Ed. '25
Educational
Consultant

ALL PRINTS

Roleen Mikkawi
M.Ed. '25
Elementary
Science Teacher

Lubna Zrein
M.Ed. '25
Secondary Math
Teacher

DUBAI SCHOOLS
NAD AL SHEBA

Promotions

Nadia Halabi, M.Ed.'14
New Role:
Literacy Specialist
Dubai Schools Al Barsha

Ollie Compaore, M.Ed. '24
New Role:
Discipline Referent in Moral Education and
Social Studies for primary 2025- 2026
& Grade 3 homeroom teacher
Lycée Français Jean Mermoz

Susan Haidar, M.Ed. '25
New Role:
Associate Registrar
American University in Dubai

Reem El Osmani, M.Ed. '25
New Role:
Early Years Administrative coordinator
Lycée Libanais Francophone Privé Meydan

Published Authors

Gizem Balata, ME.d. '26

English Children Book Collegial celebration

Leila Cheblak, ME.d.'17

Bilingual (Arabic/English) Children's Book
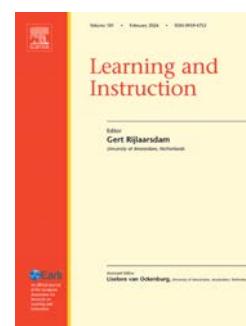
Academic Achievements

Samira Al Awadhi, M.Ed.'23
Pursuing Ph.D. in Leadership and
Policy Studies
United Arab Emirates University

Shoug AlSayegh, M.Ed. '21
Ph.D. candidate at City University of NewYork
Published first paper: "Spatially-Enhanced
Science Instruction in Elementary School:
Impacts on Teachers' and Students' Spatial
Skills"

Dr. Rami Saleh, Ph.D.
Tiffin University, USA

Leadership, work-life balance and employee well-being in Dubai's service industries: implications for HRM

Personnel Review

Rami M. Saleh
Tiffin University, Tiffin, Ohio, USA
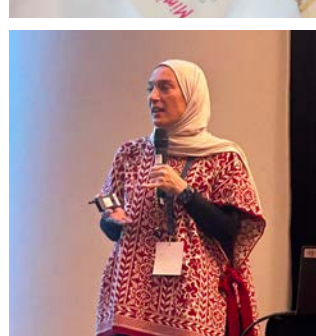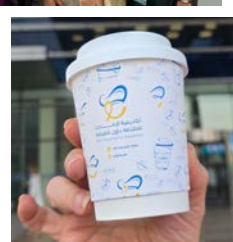Tamer Koburtay
Copenhagen Business School, Frederiksberg, Denmark, and
Zuzanna Staniszewska
Kozminski University, Warszawa, Poland

Received 18 June 2025
Revised 31 August 2025
28 September 2025
Accepted 28 October 2025

emerald PUBLISHING

Gallery

Stay Connected!

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

- **Email:** gse@aud.edu
- **Phone:** +971 4 399 9000 Ext: 234
- **Website:** www.aud.edu
- **Social Media:**
  - *Instagram*: Graduate School of Education – AUD
  - *LinkedIn*: AUD Graduate School of Education
  - *YouTube*: AUD Graduate School of Education

Stay informed and inspired … let's shape the future of education together!