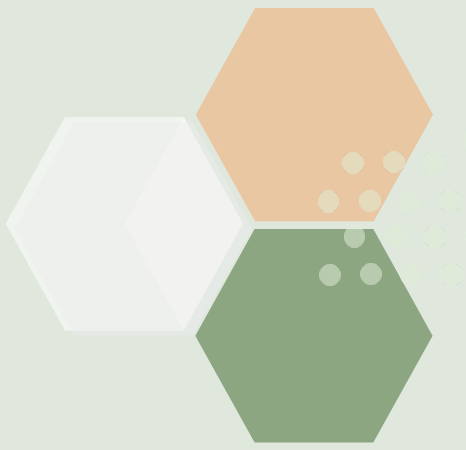


# THE SPRING GAZETTE

ASC NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2021-22



# BITTERSWEET

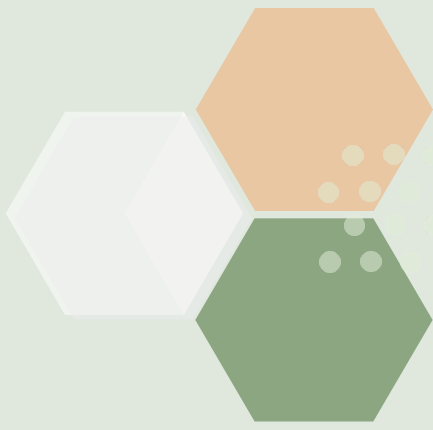
Seneca, a Roman philosopher, once wrote: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end”. As we approach the end of the Spring 2021-22 semester, Seneca’s wisdom rings in our ears. Beginnings must come to an end while fresh starts forge new paths and speak of new possibilities.

It is always bittersweet to say goodbye to friends and colleagues who have been with us for a long time: bitter, because we must bid farewell to them, but sweet because we rejoice in their decision to move to new and improved futures.

Thus, we say goodbye to our graduating students who have served us well at the ASC either as peer mentors, peer tutors or course assistants. We sincerely hope that this service to your peers has brought you growth, fulfilment and many new skills.

We also say goodbye and hello to Ms. Tarteel, who has served in the ASC for the past four years as Academic Tutor. I am sure all of us will remember her for her dynamism, her close working relationship with the students and her positive nature. Ms. Tarteel will remain at CAS, as the College Adviser in Al-Ain.





# BITTERSWEET

Finally, we pay tribute to our very own Ms. Beena, who will be leaving ADU after 15 awesome years. Most of us know Ms. Beena, who has built, nurtured, guided and championed the work of the ASC for the past many years. Her steady leadership, her deep desire to ensure students found academic support, and her dedication to the ASC have been truly outstanding. We thank you for all you have done for the ASC, and you should leave with the knowledge that you have provided solid foundations for future growth.

We also have a welcome message for all our new Course Assistants, Peer Tutors and Peer Mentors - stay and make this your home. Bring your knowledge, your skills, your positivity to help your peers. We hope you will enjoy serving with us.

To all our friends and supporters, we say, thank you, Chill and enjoy the summer.

Your ASC Coordinators

Deenaz Kanji (AA Campus) and  
Duha Labibdi (AD Campus)



# MEET OUR TEAM!



## ABU DHABI TEAM



Marhaba! I'm Ms. Duha Lababidi and I love interacting with people!



Hi! I'm Sara Herzallah and I love pizza!



Marhaba! I'm Aqsa Gul and I love camping!



Hello! I'm Huda Haggag and I love solving puzzles!



Hey! I'm Abdulkarim Rageh and I love sushi!



Marhaba! I'm Mahdeya Abuoudah and I love traveling!

# MEET OUR TEAM!



## AL AIN TEAM



Hello! I'm Ms. Deenaz Kanji and I love learning (NERD)!



Marhaba! I'm Feda Mustafa and I love visiting new places!



Hola! I'm Juman Kaddoura and I love music!



Hola! I'm Mahnaz Baloch and I love going to the beach!



Hey! I'm Tarteel Jaafar and I love my cat, Timon!

# ASC EVENTS

---



## MARHABA

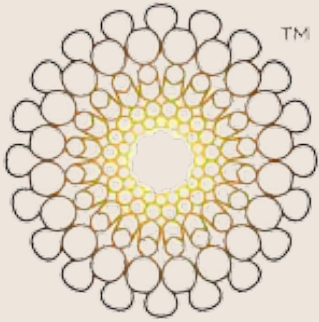
Marhaba sessions are a series of introductory online sessions that aims to introduce the different e-services of Abu Dhabi University to the freshmen students. Starting with the amazing services that every student should check out that are available on campus are insights on Blackboard, Peoplesoft, ADUGroups, Email, etc. These sessions were initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic where we wanted to still be connected with our students and make them familiar with the university systems. The members of the Academic Success Center took the responsibility to run the sessions in a clear and simple way.



## WEEK OF WELCOME

The orientation week was a week full of informative sessions presented by ADU students about registration, advising, student campus life, sports, the Academic Success Center, student support services, and student council, followed by amazing interactive activities such as Kahoot games between the sessions to add excitement for the students with the chance to win gifts! The students benefited a lot especially when it comes to mentoring and supporting.

# ASC EVENTS



EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE

## EXPO TRIP

The ASC planned an exciting trip to EXPO 2020 located in Dubai for the ASC volunteers, where they got to visit many pavilions and learn more about their different cultures and enrich themselves with what each country prides its self with. The students got a chance to meet some of their instructors in a non-study environment and have a moment of entertainment and adventure with them.



## MARHABTEYN

The ASC hosted an event for ADU students which hosted a number of esteemed speakers that discussed the different aspects of the student journey. In addition to that, the event was packed with students that engaged in several fun activities and games that brought a fun element to their semester and got them to see what ADU has to offer.



# ASC Appreciation Ceremony

ASC's 1st appreciation ceremony was held as a token of gratitude for all the ASC volunteers for all their hard work and support. As a small gesture, the ASC coordinators and Academic Tutors distributed thank you notes with flowers and gift bags along with the end of semester certificates and most importantly, Pizza! The appreciation ceremony was the first step to continue appreciating our members.





# ASC Appreciation Ceremony





# RAMADAN COMPETITION

An exciting competition was held during Ramadan where students were asked questions related to Ramadan and Islam. In a rapid-fire competition, students were expected to answer those questions very quickly. Many students and faculty participated in these impromptu Q&A round and the winners were rewarded with a goodie bag and vouchers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the competition video



# MOVIE NIGHT

ASC hosted a movie night as it is a great way to gather friends and enjoy a fun and relaxing night in. Students were invited from all around the campus to get together to have a good time. The movie streamed during the movie night was voted on the popular demand of the students. No movie is complete without great snacks, therefore popcorns and crisps were provided to students to serve them a ton of fun with the movie of their choice. The experience was more entertaining by having good food to go along with the movie. The ASC is planning to have such movie nights on a weekly basis, with many more exciting movies to be streamed in the future.



# OUR NOT-SO-LITTLE GIRL IS GRADUATING!

Hello readers! This is Tasneem. I am a 5th-year architecture student, and I am graduating this semester. I have been part of the ASC for 3 years and it has been one of the best things I experienced since I started my university journey, as I volunteered with them to be a peer mentor, peer tutor, and as a course assistant. When you come to think of it, as our university journey comes to an end, so does our parents' journey in helping and supporting us to graduate and reach the top. We should take into consideration their feelings just as much as ours. Therefore, I decided to interview my parents and dive into how they are feeling about their child graduating.

When I asked my parents to tell you about me they said: "We can see you as a cooperative, kind-hearted person who is open to new changes, challenges, and opportunities". They believe that I have grown since I started at ADU and that I learned how to multi-task, as I was experiencing more group work, presentations, and stressful situations to deal with and that I have grown mentally and gained more intellectual and interpersonal skills.

"We are happy and proud of our little girl who has grown fast in a blink of an eye, we are also curious about the future and looking forward to what's coming next. We wish you good luck, and we pray that you graduate with the high grades you worked hard for, fulfill your dreams, have a stunning future, and design amazing projects".

Hearing those words from my parents made me realize that my success is theirs as much as it is mine. No words can describe how much I thank my parents for everything they did and are still doing. Their support, guidance, and prayers were the keys that helped me continue my journey.

"Many thanks goes to the supportive and lovely family of the Academic Success Center, who taught me a lot and made my journey at ADU more special."

- Tasneem Elmandouh



# REFLECTIONS



Maleeha Mehveesh  
Mohammad Rasool  
- Peer Mentor

## The Contentment in Mentoring

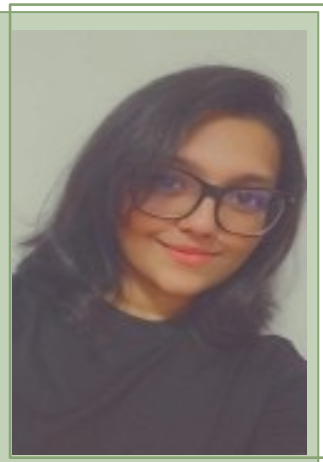
When freshmen walk into the university, the look of confusion on their faces makes me feel uneasy. I wish to put a smile on their face and help them make their tasks easier from "location of the library" to "course combinations". This semester I got the opportunity to do all of this, and it was one of the most satisfying, enjoyable and fun experiences that I've come across.



Ahmed Salah Khalaf  
Abdalla  
- Course Assistant

## The Treasure of Knowledge My Experience in Tutoring

I have always had a passion for helping people out and teaching them. This was enhanced only when I joined the Academic Success Center. My passion for helping and meeting different students started increasing and I gained more knowledge, confidence, and communication skills. I would love to take the opportunity again and again.



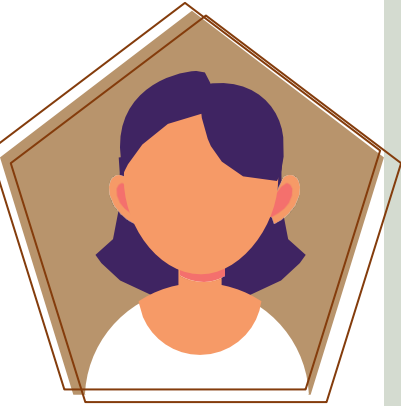
Violet Sarah Prince  
- Course Assistant

## A Lesson Not a Lecture

Being a course assistant for almost a year and a half now, has been a great experience to spread my knowledge with the students; to help them succeed in their academics. The most important thing that I value is the tutor-tutee relationship, and it has blossomed in all the sessions that I have taken so far. As I am in my final year, I would definitely want to cherish each and every moment that I get to spend with my tutees and definitely influence them positively.

# REFLECTIONS

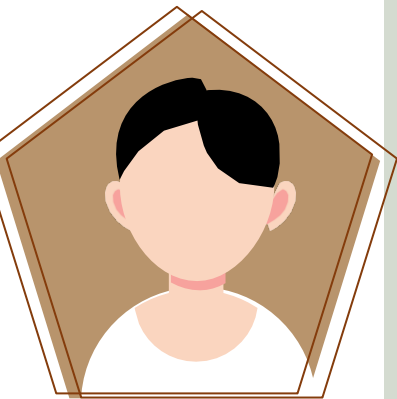
## My Pleasant Days at ADU Have Begun!



Fatima Ali  
AlNasri  
- Mentee

As a first-year student, navigating through the different educational resources provided by the university can be tricky and maybe overwhelming to some. Knowing that I have access to the best students in the University to help me with my studies is a really comforting thought. ADU's Academic Success Center's tutors and mentors are exceptional, my experience has been nothing but pleasant.

## Achieving Greater Heights



Abdullah  
Mowaffaq Qasim  
- Tutee

I would love to thank my tutor for his professional work that helped me during my tough times. The lessons were entertaining, and it was easier to ask questions no matter how silly it felt. Thanks to the sessions, I was able to reach greater heights in academic success and I would love to be part of the team in the future to help other students that are going through the same thing I went through before coming to the ASC.

# Student Achievements

## Every Design Tells a Story!

This spring semester I had this wonderful opportunity to be hand-picked by my professors (Arch. Alessandra Misuri) along with 5 other peers, to be part of the first competition held by Gensler Middle East in collaboration with the universities. The competition was called “Every Design Tells a Story”.



The Gensler DE&I Inter-University Design Competition aims to promote awareness of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the design industry.

The goal is to expose students to workplace interactions in order for them to acquire creativity, competence, and knowledge of characteristics that reassure “we are stronger together”.

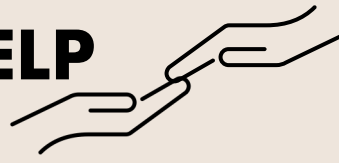
I was grouped with three American University in Dubai students and a Design Institute of Design and an Innovation student. Together with my mentor Mr. Anas we were able to create “RoOtS” - a table that embraces INCLUSION.



- Dana Ali (Course Assistant)



# ASK FOR HELP



For the past two years, I've been a member of the ASC. The satisfaction of knowing you contributed to someone's success is indescribable and I cannot put into words how it feels. I worked as an Eng200 course assistant this semester. I regularly request professors to provide me with a list of struggling students so that I may focus my efforts on them. However, one of the grade reports I received caught my eye. The students were evidently having a difficult time. So much so that half of the students in the class were failing.

Not only that, but the preparation was completed in less than two weeks! I was pleased with them, as well as with myself and the faculty. Her concern had provided me with the opportunity and incentive to work diligently with the students who expressed their delight with the progress as a result of the progress we had made together.

I made an attempt to work closely with the faculty of the class in order to aid the struggling students. The professor's concern for her students was evident, and she did her best to assist them as much as possible. We decided to collaborate and strategize in order to help students. I worked with the professor's three sections for a total of eight hours. We went over every detail together and the students were quickly able to react confidently. They were not allowing the fear of giving an incorrect answer to creep into their minds. Let's fast forward to the day of their exam. Their grades soared to new heights. They were able to improve their grade from a D to a B!

That gave me some time to reflect. We would not have gotten these amazing outcomes if the professor hadn't addressed them and got me involved. I came to the conclusion that students who are clearly in need of help rarely ask for it. This might be due to the fact that their self-esteem is tied to their grade. Professors are always willing to make things as simple as possible for their students. If you're having trouble, talk to them and come up with a viable solution. To tell you the truth, the more you ask for help, the more powerful you become. If you are a student who is having problems with their classes or if you know someone who is, think about the ASC. Students like you serve as peer tutors and course assistants. They are well-versed in the circumstances you're in. All you have to do is extend your hands for help and that help will never let you down.

Rabiya Shaukat  
- Course assistant



# TRENDING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

## Crazy Wordle

Wordle is a daily word game. It's fun, simple and, like a crossword, can only be played once a day. Every 24 hours there's a new word of the day, and it's up to you to figure out what it is.

According to The New York Times, over 300,000 people play it daily. Wordle is more than a word game. It's also a conversation starter and people are absolutely bonkers over it. That's why it's become so popular!

[CLICK HERE](#) to play the Wordle of the day!



Not sure what to make for lunch? How about a healthy, tasty and colorful kale salad?

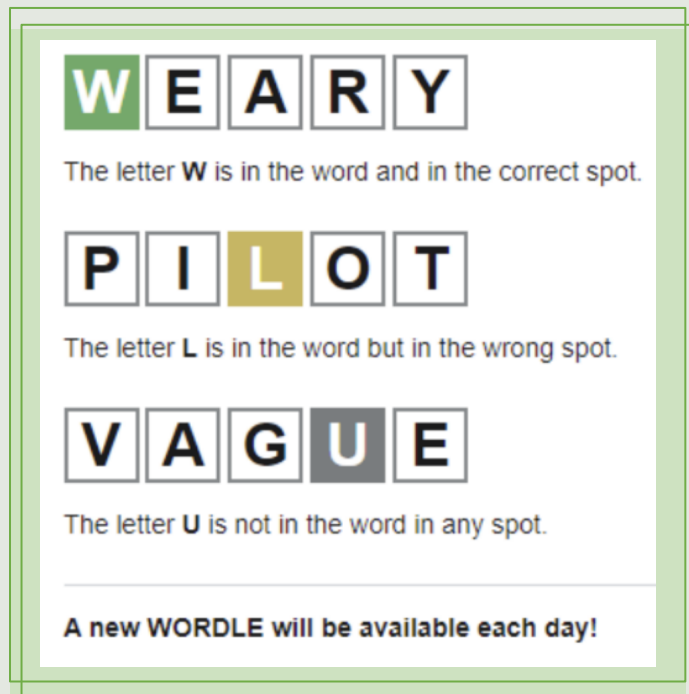
Kale and avocados are considered to be superfoods, so including these in one meal is sure to give your body a healthy boost.

### Suggested Ingredients:

8 oz. kale stemmed  
¼ green apple  
1 oz. walnuts (pecans and almonds also work)  
3-4 cherry tomatoes  
½ ripe avocado  
2 tablespoons of olive oil

### Dressing:

5 tablespoons olive oil  
1-2 cloves garlic (minced)  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 teaspoon honey  
Salt and pepper to taste



## Fitness and Health

### Steps:

1. Kale is a tough green leaf, be sure to soften it with 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Wash and dry the kale. Place the kale in a bowl and rub the olive oil carefully into the leaves. Allow this to stand for 30- 45 minutes while you prepare the rest of the salad.
2. Peel and chop the green apple into bite-sized pieces.
3. Peel the avocado, remove the central seed and chop the avocado into similar-sized pieces as the green apple.
4. Wash and add the cherry tomatoes.
5. In a frying pan, toast the walnuts for 2-3 minutes, and add to the salad when cool.
6. Prepare the dressing by combining the ingredients until emulsified.
7. Drizzle the dressing on the salad, and enjoy!





# TRENDING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

## SOCIAL MEDIA CELEBRATIONS



### June 4: National Donut Day

The only circle of trust you should have is a Donut.



### July 30: International Day of Friendship



Having friends is the best way to get through your university years, and ADU is the best place to make great friends.



# A WORD FROM OUR EXPERTS

## Professor Tania Tahtouh

### Assistant Professor at the College of Health sciences



Dr. Tania describes herself as an outgoing person with traveling and having lab experience from all over the world. She stated that she had a very diverse experience as a student that helped shape her throughout her life. “I met some amazing colleagues and professors that helped me grow as a student and person. My advice to students is to stay open and never miss out an opportunity to learn; whether it’s through an internship, attending additional workshops or even watching videos. Grab any chance of learning, personally or educationally.”

## Dr. Adel Khelifi

### Associate Professor of Computer Science and IT



Dr. Khelifi holds a high level of knowledge and expertise. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and a Canadian ISO member in Software Engineering. He is ABET PEV and passionate about Archaeology. His advice to students is “Please enjoy using the tremendous available infrastructure to make your learning journey as amazing as possible. Kindly put in mind that you may not have such opportunity to found your career and to shape your future. Finally, I advise you to choose a major that you love not you like”.



## Professor Illias Kampouris Assistant Professor of Finance

Dr. Illias Kampouris describes himself as ambitious and always striving to pursue his goals and dreams.

“I believe that students should capitalize on their strengths. It provides you with a distinct advantage. Specialize in whatever you are good at. It would distinguish you from others, giving you a higher opportunity in the labor market. You can only attain your goals and do whatever you want in life if you have that light in front of you. You need to build and practice over time. After some practice, you begin to understand things differently. Make the most of your abilities”.



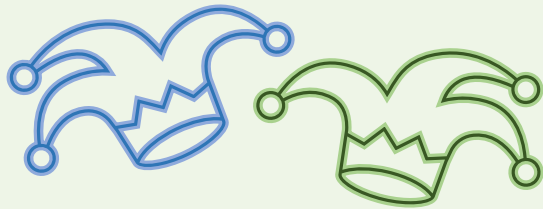
## Dr. Sullay Kanu Senior Instructor of English

Dr. Sullay was born and bred in Sierra Leone and studied there up to masters level, then he continued his studies where he took his second masters and followed it by a PhD. He labeled his experience as a student as very interesting, as he stated: “I carry with me the idea of studying in 3 parts of the world, Africa, Europe, and North America”. As an advice he hopes for the students to cherish, he stated, “Let the library be your friend”. This advice, he himself acquired from his high school teacher who coincidentally then became his professor at the university. He also advises every student to ask themselves, “Why are you here studying at the university?”, this question will help every student understand their goal and set their mindsets straight about what they want to achieve.

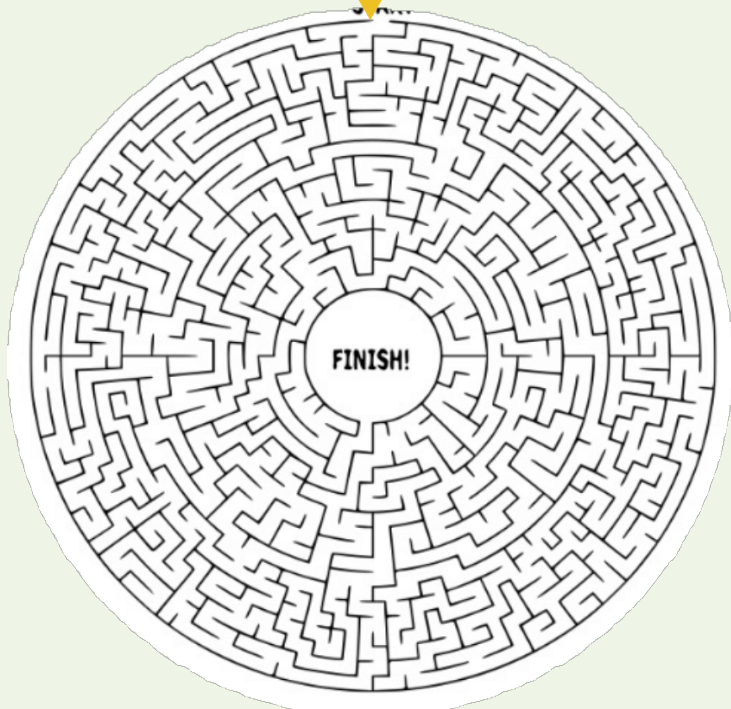
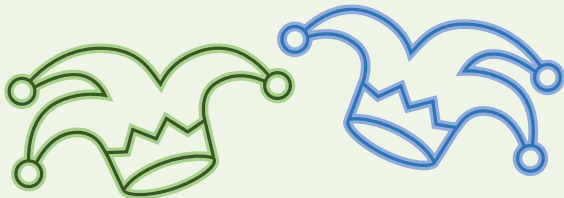
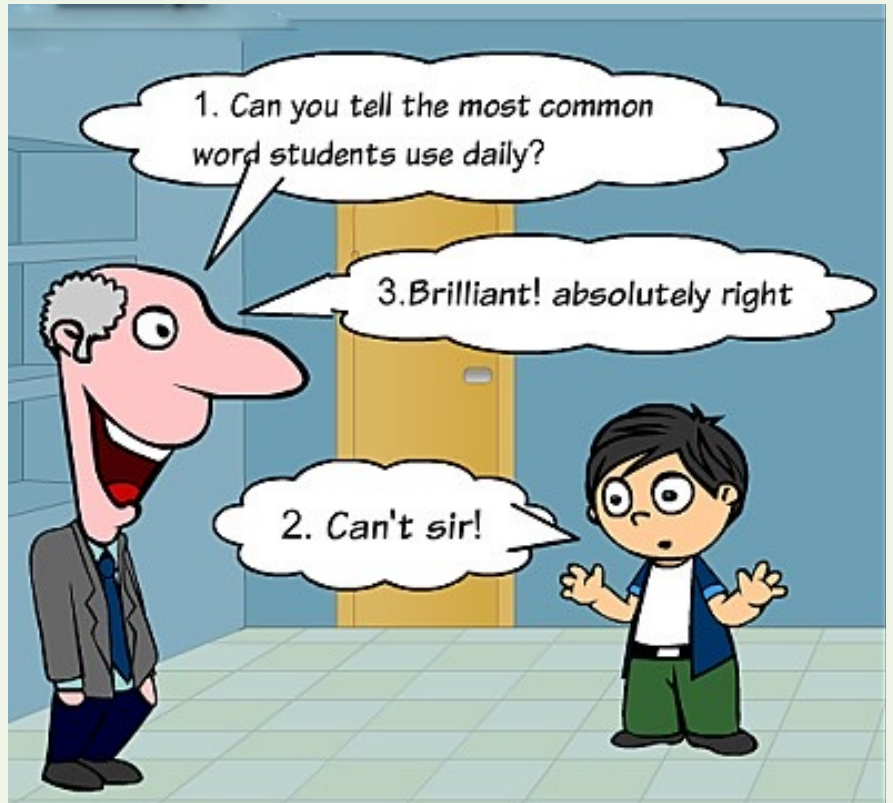
Credits to the interviewers:

- Ariba Naushad
- Syed Muhammad Norman
- Rabiya Shaukat
- Amal Al-Harbali

# Entertainment



## Joke corner



## Solve the maze



# Entertainment



```
We have received a message from an unknown sender...
The message is {D TIAN NHRUIDNMSE STLIGIFUDTETESRHEAR K O AE}

Our engineers are working to decode this message, and they've
already succeeded in identifying the method that is used to
encode this message. This method is called Rail Fence cipher
(also called a zigzag cipher). It's a classical type of
transposition cipher. It derives its name from the way
encryption is performed.

They are using a special Rail Fence cipher method
We found that "HELLO WORLD" will become "LWDEL OLROR" by using
this method...

But so far, no one has been able to decode the message.

Help us to decrypt this message ...
```

[Click here](#) to solve the trivia question and win a prize!



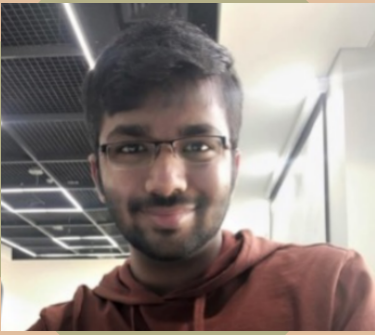
**OPEN DISCUSSION ALERT!**

What is the most interesting series you are currently watching and why?

[Click here](#) to submit your answer!

# Spotlight on our volunteers

As we appreciate all the hard work our volunteers are doing for the ASC, here are some of our outstanding volunteers who throughout this spring semester kept showing their love for helping others.



**Ahmad Jasim - Course Assistant**

Never think "why is this happening to me?" instead replace it with "what is it trying to teach me?", and it can show you a successful path.

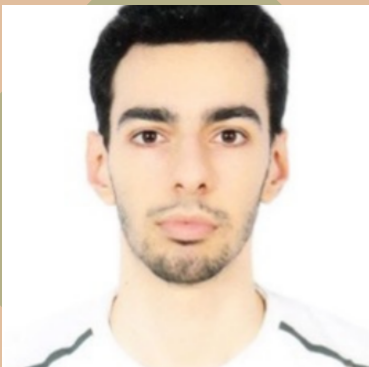
-Ahmad Jasim



**Fayrouz Aksam - Peer Mentor**

"There are those who dream of success, and there are those who wake up early to achieve it"

-Ibrahim Elfiky



**Ahmad Hasna - Peer Tutor**

"The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up"

-Paul Valery



### **Shagufta Siffat - Course Assistant**

"Never forget to have courage to change because we are always one choice away from changing our life."

-Anonymous



### **Mostafa Ashraf - Peer Mentor**

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'what are you doing for others?' Martin Luther King JR



### **Umme Habiba Abu Jaher - Peer Tutor**

"Never sacrifice your dream for someone else because no one is gonna suffer for you. Remember that you were born alone and you will die alone." -

Umme Habiba

**Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the ASC!**



# ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

*With an aim to change learning*

*Designed by  
Hayfaa Nasri*