

# MBRU360

July 2023 ISSUE 18

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#MBRU



## MBRU Celebrates 'Class of 2023'

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# MBRU Celebrates the Class of 2023

MBRU celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2023 with a grand ceremony held at Dubai Opera on June 22nd, 2023. A remarkable 35 percent of the cohort comprised Emirati nationals, serving as a testament to the increased enthusiasm for pursuing medical education in the UAE.

The event was held under the patronage and presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, MBRU Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dubai Academic Health Corporation (DAHC). His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of DAHC, was also in attendance.

The Class of 2023, consisting of 136 graduates from various healthcare professions and 29 different nationalities, exemplifies MBRU's commitment to inclusion and excellence in healthcare education. The graduating cohort showcased an exceptional blend of talents from Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, the College of Nursing and Midwifery, the College of Medicine and the Deanship of Postgraduate Medical Education.

This year's ceremony is the first of its kind that celebrates the graduation of all postgraduate specialty programs offered at Dubai Academic Health Corporation, honoring the achievements of 56 medical residency and 18 fellowship

programs' graduates. Notably, 78 percent of the cohort consisted of accomplished female learners.

Expressing His appreciation for the dedication and commitment to excellence of the Class of 2023, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum congratulated the graduates and commended MBRU's remarkable progress throughout the past 7 years since its inception. He emphasized the university's unwavering commitment to upholding

excellence, fostering innovation, and nurturing the remarkable talents of its students.

His Highness also highlighted that MBRU's dedication aligns with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who is transforming Dubai into a thriving global hub for education and healthcare.



His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum acknowledged the invaluable role that MBRU plays in preparing qualified healthcare professionals, capable of serving patients with utmost sincerity and commitment, while also elevating the quality of medical services and adapting to future challenges. His Highness extended his heartfelt wishes to the graduates and emphasized that medical education is not merely a degree, but a profound responsibility to serve humanity. His Highness expressed his hope that their passion for healing would continue to drive them forward, urging them to always strive to put the patient first.

The ceremony's guest of honor, Sultan Al Neyadi, the history-making UAE astronaut currently embarking on a six-month space mission and the first Arab astronaut to walk in space, delivered a captivating commencement address from the International Space Station (ISS).

*"Medicine and space exploration are interconnected and without a comprehensive medical preparation, we are not able to undertake space missions, conduct scientific research, contribute to the advancement of humanity and bring all the benefits of technology and space down to earth," he said, adding he has been able to assist on numerous medical experiments over the past 3 months on the ISS, collaborating with local universities such as MBRU.*

In his welcome address, Dr. Amer Sharif, President of MBRU and CEO of DAHC, expressed gratitude to the visionary leadership for their trust and exceptional support, which played a

vital role in the university's development and growth. Dr. Sharif thanked the families of the graduates, acknowledging their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the students' academic journey. He also extended sincere appreciation to MBRU's partners, supporters, and the dedicated medical, academic, and administrative staff, who have played an integral role in shaping the educational experience of the graduates.

Speaking to the graduates, Dr. Sharif said: "Your presence here today is a testament to your unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and profound passion for healthcare, human service and humanity. As you embark on this journey, always remember our values: Respect, Excellence, Teamwork, Integrity and Empathy.

Above all, keep our primary value of 'Patient First' at the forefront of your minds," he added.

Celebrating its seventh anniversary since its establishment on 9 June, 2016, MBRU stands proudly as one of six universities in the UAE to have achieved high-confidence accreditation from the UAE Ministry of Education (MOE). It has recently been selected by MOE for the launch of the first phase of the automated attestation service. The university has made substantial contributions to the field of healthcare through more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications and has produced. Today, MBRU offers 43 programmes in various health specialties.







"I am honored to express my utmost pride in our dear graduates - Class of 2023.

You have come a long way in your academic journey, and today we have the right to be proud of you, as the torchbearers of the future of healthcare."

- Dr. Amer Sharif  
President of MBRU and CEO of DAHC



# Class of 2023 at a Glance

**136**  
**GRADUATES**



**34**

Undergraduates

**102**

Postgraduates



**29**

Nationalities



**35%**

UAE Nationals



**78%**

Females



**22%**

Males

# His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed visits MBRU



In line with the UAE leadership's agenda to prioritize scientific research as a key pillar in advancing the emirate's healthcare sector, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai visited MBRU in June. The leadership is also strongly committed to improving scientific education and nurturing skilled medical professionals, factors that are critical to strengthening Dubai's position as a leading healthcare destination, he noted.

Sheikh Ahmed stressed the importance of supporting scientific research, which plays a key role in enhancing knowledge and discovering new and effective ways to diagnose, treat and prevent diseases.

His Highness also underlined the need to expand the scope of academic curricula to ensure that students in medical sciences are equipped to handle modern technologies and effectively utilize



them in delivering exceptional diagnostic and treatment services. Of particularly significance are “advancements in artificial intelligence techniques, big data analysis and medical robotics, which have revolutionized the healthcare field,” he said.

During his visit, His Highness was welcomed by Dr. Amer Sharif, CEO of Dubai Academic Health Corporation and President of MBRU; Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Chief Academic Officer of Dubai Academic Health Corporation and Provost of MBRU.

His Highness received a comprehensive overview of MBRU's plans, programs and notable accomplishments in medical education and scientific research. Additionally, Dr. Amer provided a detailed briefing on the plans, objectives and operations of Dubai Academic Health Corporation, along with an overview of the hospitals affiliated with the Corporation, in the presence of the CEOs of these hospitals.

As part of his visit, His Highness was also briefed on the organ transplant program in Dubai. Sheikh Ahmed also reviewed operations of the MBRU-Biomedical Research Center, which is a joint project between MBRU and Al Jalila Foundation to develop Biomedical Research in Dubai.





# MBRU Dental Symposium

The dental community within the UAE gathered in early June for the MBRU Dental Symposium, a two-day event for professionals to learn, network, and share clinical and research expertise.

The event promoted collaboration among dental professionals, researchers, policymakers, dental students, and health authorities to align local practices with international standards. Through these collaborations, attendees explored new and emerging trends in clinical dentistry and gained insight into the latest advancements and techniques in various dental disciplines.

This year's agenda covered a variety of topics, including traumatic dental injuries, root canal treatments, interceptive orthodontics, contemporary endodontics, the ABCs of functional crown lengthening, infant maxillary orthopedics, and more. Renowned experts hosted various educational sessions including workshops, lectures, panel discussions, and hands-on workshops for participants to develop practical skills. Participants also learned about the leading research project and developments at Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine.





# From the MBRU Family



GRADUATION  
GALA DINNER  
**2023**



"MBRU kicked off its graduation season this year with a gala dinner on June 18 at Johara Ballroom in Madinat Jumeirah. It had over 600 attendees, with guest of honor Her Excellency Dr Raja Al Gurg, member of the Dubai Academic Health Corporation Board of Directors, among them. MBRU faculty shared their final words of congratulations, followed by speeches by Professor Alawi Alshaikh-Ali and

Dr Amer Sharif, and the recognition of some of the many achievements of the graduates. My sister Maryam and I were honoured to emcee this event, and we were humbled at the opportunity to share this special evening with everyone. We hope that we represented MBRU students well! A special thanks goes to the organising task force behind this smooth-sailing program."

- Zainab and Maryam Al-Abdullah,  
Year 4 and 2, MBBS, Gala Emcees



## Class of 2023







GRADUATION  
GALA DINNER  
**2023**



Class of 2023





## What's happening on campus?

# Sultan AlNeyadi interacts with medical professionals and students at exclusive 'A Call from Space'



## Watch Live "A Call from Space"

DAHC edition with Astronaut Sultan AlNeyadi

**DATE**  
7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**TIME**  
1:15 PM

**VENUE**  
MBRU AUDITORIUM



In June, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) held 'A Call from Space – Medical Science edition', hosted by UAE astronaut Sultan AlNeyadi from the International Space Station (ISS). The event, held in partnership with MBRU, attracted close to 400 attendees, including medical professionals and students from universities in the UAE.

The event was attended by H.E. Salem Humaid AlMarri, Director General of MBRSC, H.E. Dr Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Undersecretary for the Public Health Sector, Ministry of Health & Prevention, Dr. Amer Sharif, CEO of the Dubai Academic Health Corporation and President of MBRU, and Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Chief Academic Officer of the Dubai Academic Health Corporation and Provost of MBRU, in addition to other leadership team members.

Addressing the attendees before the live call, H.E. Salem Humaid AlMarri, Director General of MBRSC said: "Over the past few months, through the longest Arab space mission in history, Sultan has provided us invaluable scientific data. Each one of the experiments he is part of is fuelling our drive towards unprecedented advancements in science. These research initiatives reflect our commitment to integrating space exploration with diverse scientific disciplines. Thus, ensuring that our space programme contributes not just

to the field of space science but to multiple sectors."

The fifth installment of the live call series with AlNeyadi, who is on the longest Arab space mission in history, was focused exclusively on the medical science field. During the event, Adnan AlRais, Mission Manager, UAE Astronaut Programme, gave an overview of the UAE Astronaut Programme and briefed the attendees on updates about the mission. "This mission is a platform for international collaboration, as well as to advance our science and technology. We are working very close with the international space community, to share our knowledge and experience and are also giving access to our scientists, researchers and students to this unique environment to conduct experiments," said AlRais.

Furthermore, Dr. Hanan Al Suwaidi, who is the flight surgeon for AlNeyadi, shared information and insights into space medicine, physiological deconditioning in space and medical operations related to flight, among others. Talking about the current mission, Dr. Al Suwaidi said, "The impact of this mission has been great, with the youth of our country having real life examples of space science that they can utilise going forward. It is a living legacy, touching all of humanity with real genuine curiosity that has brought us to where we are and we need to continue taking it forward."

Dr. AlSuwaidi was selected to look after AlNeyadi's health before and after his journey to space, as well as while he is currently on board the ISS. She was also the flight surgeon for Hazzaa AlMansoori during his mission to the ISS back in 2019.



During the live call, AlNeyadi answered queries put forth by the attendees, including about the benefits gained from his exercise routine, special medical training undergone by astronauts, physiological changes experienced by him and key lessons gained from space to better healthcare on Earth, among others. He also shared insights into the ongoing medical experiments and research on the ISS.

Concluding his interaction, AlNeyadi said, "We are here for the sake of science and advancing technologies and healthcare for humanity. It is a great deal for the medical

community in the UAE and the world. We are going to keep this going and hope we will have more missions in space, where we can help humanity and represent the UAE within the scientific community and beyond."

Over the course of three months, AlNeyadi has conducted several groundbreaking experiments and routine tasks, all contributing significantly to the field of medical science and the understanding of human health in space.

One of AlNeyadi's most intriguing experiments included treating samples for the Engineered Heart Tissues-2 experiment in the Kibo laboratory module using Kibo's Life Sciences Glovebox. This research could potentially help doctors treat space-caused heart conditions and terrestrial cardiac disorders. He has also been actively engaged in monitoring his cardiovascular system through a wearable Bio-Monitor smart shirt and headband, providing critical data amidst his routine activities. This ongoing mission is a significant step toward understanding the cardiovascular implications of extended space travel.

Other noteworthy medical experiments carried out by AlNeyadi involve the Monoclonal Antibodies Protein Crystal Growth-2 (PCG2) experiment. This study aims to understand the process



of crystallizing biotherapeutics in microgravity, potentially improving production techniques both in space and on Earth, and accelerating the development of new medicines. In addition, AlNeyadi has participated in a host of human research activities that dominated the ISS crew's schedule. These studies included ultrasound scans, vision checks, and hearing exams, using standard medical imaging gear found in an optometrist's office on Earth.

Alongside Ax-2 Mission Specialists Ali Alqarni and Rayyanah Barnawi, AlNeyadi also conducted space biology studies, examining human cell responses to microgravity. These include observing the inflammatory response of cells to microgravity, which is key to understanding how human biology adapts to space travel.

'A Call from Space' event series will now move to other emirates in the UAE, as it continues to inspire and educate audiences about AlNeyadi's mission, life on the ISS, and space in general.

The UAE Astronaut Programme is one of the projects managed by MBRSC under the UAE's National Space Programme and funded by the ICT Fund of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), which aims to support research and development in the ICT sector in the UAE and promote the country's integration on the global stage.





# MBRU'S Teddy Bear Hospital

Children and their cuddly toys were invited to the Teddy Bear Hospital at the Simulation Center on May 27th. During their visit, the teddies underwent a series of health checks and simulated medical procedures.

MBRU launched the Teddy Bear Hospital program to familiarise children with the world of healthcare and alleviate preconceived anxiety towards hospitals and doctor visits.





# Speakers @ MBRU

Guaranteed to inspire, inform, and enlighten! MBRU Talks offers audiences an opportunity to experience and learn from remarkable individuals who are shaping the world of life science.

- 1 MBRU Talks presents: Engineering next-generation nanodiscs for membrane proteins and viral entry studies  
Dr. Mahmoud L Nasr, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (June 20, 2023)
- 2 Career Talks with Dr. Mariam Elsaban:  
Surviving the Match and How to Succeed (May 9, 2023)
- 3 Live Surgery Broadcast: Robotic Radical Prostatectomy presented by the Global Robotic Institute at AdventHealth Celebration  
- Dr. Vipul Patel (June 15, 2023)

1



Engineering next-generation nanodiscs for membrane proteins and viral entry studies

**Mahmoud L. Nasr**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School

2



**Career Talks with Dr. Mariam Elsaban:  
Surviving the Match and How to Succeed**

3



**SURGEON:**

**Vipul Patel, MD**  
Medical Director of Global Robotics  
Institute at AdventHealth  
Director of Urologic Oncology  
at AdventHealth Cancer Institute

# Student Life



## Send-off Party

"On June 21, a Friends-themed send-off party was held for our graduates, aptly subtitled Season 20, Episode 23! Highlights included opening the letters they wrote to their future selves during their orientation prior to starting Year 1 (so... did they predict that life was gonna be this way?), and building a time capsule as well as a thumbprint collage on canvas. May these bonds remain and continue to be celebrated!"

-Zainab Al-Abdullah, Year 4, MBBS

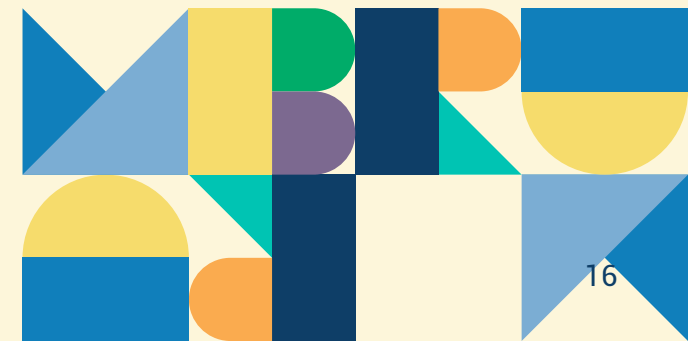


## SESAM Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to four students who advanced to the semi-finals at the Society in Europe for Simulation Applied Medicine in June. The team competed against twelve other teams from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

- Fatma Alawadhi (Alumni 2023)
- Ghazal Saeed (Year 6)
- Montaser Al Smady (Alumni 2023)
- Mohammed Amaan Khokar (Year 2)

The competition, SIMUniversity, provides teams of healthcare students from around the world the opportunity to compete and learn from each other under the supervision of experienced clinical and simulation experts.





# How well do you know your campus?

By: Zainab Al-Abdullah, Year 4, MBBS

Let's play a fun game! Guess where these photos were taken, then look at the next page to find out the answers. How many places did you correctly recognize?

If you couldn't get any of them right, try going there. You might just find exactly where the photo was taken!

Answers can be found on page 23.



# Faculty Corner

**Congrats,**  
*Farah Ennab!*

At the 3rd International Congress of Health Education and Research & Academy of Medical Educators annual academic meeting in Cardiff, Wales; Farah Ennab, MBRU Alumni and Clinical Tutor with the College of Medicine, presented her research abstract on enhancing digital medical education. Her insightful research shed light on ways to optimize digital medical education and highlighted the innovative E-courses offered by the Institute of Health Professional Education at MBRU.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Farah Ennab for representing the UAE at this esteemed conference and for achieving an Associate Membership from the Academy of Medical Educators.





# Welcome message from the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to Hassan Al Mazmi, who joins us as the Vice President of Administration and Professional Services at MBRU. Hassan brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise from various professional roles, making him an invaluable addition to our team.

Hassan's professional journey began at the Department of Health and Medical Services in Dubai (DOHMS), later known as the Dubai Health Authority. He served in various roles in administration and health professions education and development. He then moved to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving in our embassies in Bern, London, and most recently Berlin. This diverse experience has enhanced his strategic thinking, leadership skills, and commitment to excellence.

Hassan holds a bachelor's degree in education from the UAE University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of St Mark and St John in the UK. His educational background combined with his extensive professional experience positions him as a valuable member of our community.

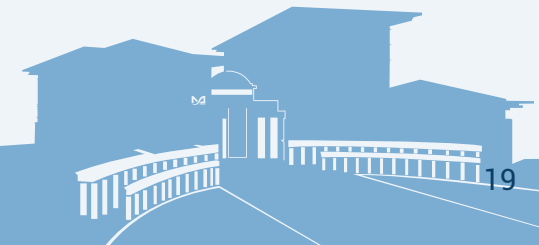
I am confident that Hassan's contributions will significantly enhance our professional services and operations, ensuring the highest level of service to our learners, faculty, staff, and external partners. I look forward to working closely with him, making the most of his expertise and strategic vision that will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in achieving our organizational goals and driving us toward new milestones.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Hassan, as together we serve to impact lives and shape the future of health through the integration of care, learning, and discovery.

Best regards,

**Alawi Alsheikh Ali**

Provost



# New Faces @ MBRU



**Noof Abdulla**  
Senior Officer - Scheduling  
Student Admissions and Registration



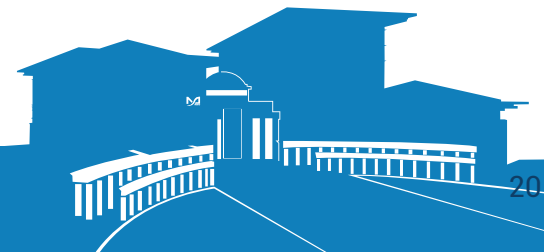
**Bipin Balan**  
Bioinformatician  
Genome Lab



**Sumaiya Alobaidli**  
Senior Officer - Registration  
Student Admissions and Registration



**Joselito Batacan**  
Senior Simulation Technologist  
Institute for Excellence in Health  
Professions Education





# New Faces @ MBRU



**Hanan Elsokary**  
Research Assistant  
Genome Lab



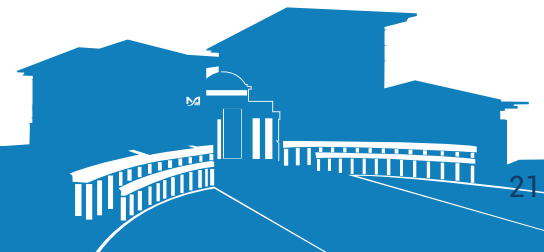
**Walter Muringayi**  
Laboratory Technologist  
Research and Graduate Studies



**Shamma Jaber**  
Senior Officer - Admissions  
Student Admissions and Registration



**Deepa Nair**  
Dental Assistant  
Dubai Dental Hospital



# Upcoming Events



» **MBRU Undergraduate Orientation**

**Date: August 21-22, 2023**

» **MBRU Postgraduate Orientation**

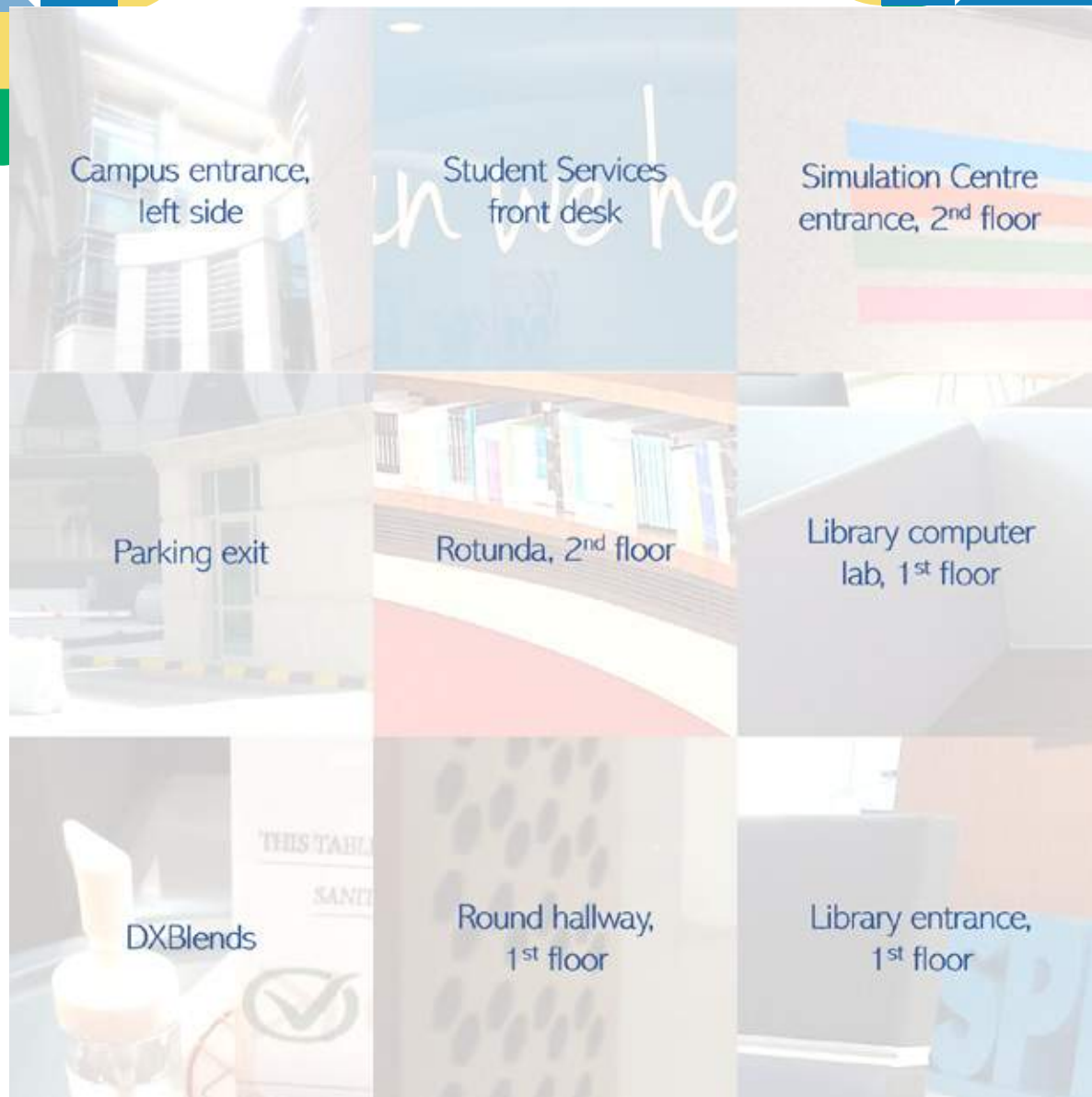
**Date: August 28-31, 2023**





Answers:

How well do you know your campus?





A special thank you to everyone who has contributed and made our newsletter possible.

We are happy to hear from you, please send us your suggestions, or story submissions at

[MBRUcommunications@mbru.ac.ae](mailto:MBRUcommunications@mbru.ac.ae)

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THE WORD WIZARD

**Eva Davies**  
**Safia Benbrahim**

THE CREATIVES

**James Cruz**  
**Mark Mones**  
**Glendon Potato**