

## ATHLETICS



LAU's high-achieving athletes deserve world-class facilities in which to develop their talents. As such, in April 2017 the Byblos campus saw the groundbreaking ceremony for the Antoun Nabil Sehnaoui-SGBL Athletics Center, projected as an 8,500 square meter, three-story facility housing a swimming pool, multipurpose indoor court, outdoor football, basketball and tennis fields, as well as a gym and other amenities.



This year, under the leadership of LAU Byblos Campus Athletics Director Joe Moujaes, who was appointed head coach of Lebanon's senior men's basketball team, the LAU men's basketball team won its fifth University Sports Conference championships in a row, as well as the title at AUB's #150 International Sports Tournament. In the fall 2016 semester, the team won third place at the prestigious Moscow Games.

Throughout 2016-2017, LAU's unparalleled student athletes proudly represented the university in national and international tournaments across a wide range of sports, bringing back ever more first-place trophies. Between the two campuses, more than 500 young men and women participated in 30 varsity teams across 21 sports on the Beirut campus and participation in varsity sports increased by 20 percent, while the Byblos campus saw a rise of eight percent.

Other teams were not far behind. At the four-day AUB International Sports Tournament, LAU students won six gold medals in track and field events, as well as medaling in swimming, rugby, tennis and football. In November, the elite relay team won first place among participating universities at the Beirut Marathon for the second year running.

This past year Athletics focused particularly on increasing the participation of women in sports at LAU, adding two women's teams — handball and rugby league — and hiring a new female physiotherapist, taekwondo instructor and volleyball coach. In September 2017, the department was getting ready to launch the Girls Sports Academy — the only one of its kind in the country — which will begin by offering basketball training for girls between the age of 7 to 17.



Close to 1,500 students from 39 different high schools participated in the Annual LAU High School Tournament. During the two-week tournament more than 167 matches were played, in four different sports venues.

