## CLASS OF 2024 WRAPPED



جامعــة نيويورك أبـوظــي NYU ABU DHABI





#### Message from the Vice Chancellor

Dear Class of 2024,

As another academic year draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of witnessing your incredible journey. As I reflect on my time serving as your Vice Chancellor, I am awed by the remarkable determination, passion, and resilience that you have demonstrated throughout your time at NYU Abu Dhabi.

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you. You've come a long way. I hope you continue cherishing the memories you've made here and celebrating your achievements.

As I bid farewell to my time as Vice Chancellor, I have every confidence you will continue to grow and excel in everything you do. You have overcome many challenges and achieved numerous triumphs. Always remember that you are well prepared for the journey ahead and there is so much more to explore.

I leave you with this parting advice: embrace uncertainty with resolve, pursue your dreams with determination, and always remain true to yourselves.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and have no doubt our paths will cross again. Congratulations!

Mariët Westermann Vice Chancellor





Dear Class of 2024,

Congratulations! You did it!

Turning the pages of this yearbook, filled with memories of friendship, learning, and campus cats, I hope you are able to look back with pride at what you have accomplished during your time at NYU Abu Dhabi. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, whether it be further education, entering the workforce, or pursuing your responsibilities or passions in other realms, may the lessons you have learned here endure always and serve as a foundation for a lifetime of learning still to come.

Class of 2024, you leave behind a great legacy at NYUAD and you will always have a home here.

As you step out into the world and embrace the inevitable uncertainties that lie ahead, remember that you are ready for what's ahead.

Best wishes,

Michael Martinez Dean of Students







#### NYUABU DHABI





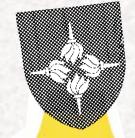


# NYUAD CLASS of



### WRAPPED

#### I CAME TO **NYU ABU DHABI...**





to immerse myself in a diverse community

wanting to challenge what I thought I knew

ready to leave my comfort zone

with a suitcase and a mind full of curiosity

eager to grow, explore, and make meaningful friendships

excited to meet new people and make lifelong connections

feeling nervously excited

as a seeker of knowledge



for sunshine, sand, a tan ... and a degree

looking for more answers

with dreams in my backpack and uncertainty in my heart

friendships I experience

feeling

fulfilled by the

with best four vears I could ask for

excited about what the outside world has to offer

with a global vision and universal love

feeling successful, surrounded by my new chosen family

> fixated on my life's purpose

with an appreciation

for the intersection of

academia and travel

having great memories with beautiful people < 3

grateful for acquiring a new home

#### LEFT NYU ABU DHABI...

feeling empowered

> ready for my next chapter

with lifelong friendships and connections















































## ARTSand HUMANITIES

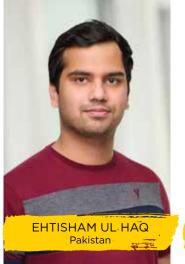
















#### EVERYONE CAME ALIVE WITH VIOLET PRIDE!

I joined the volleyball team in truly unprecedented times – the spring of 2020 when the news of a pandemic would change the way we lived for the coming years. It was a time when a lot of us just arrived on campus, we were joining Zoom classes from our bedrooms, and there were no in-person activities, including physical activities. But somehow, our team spirit persevered. Believe it or not, we had completely remote practices at that time! So, picture me, doing jumping jacks and playing against the wall in my room... In those trying times, from day one, Coach Grace Maina and the team have been a big part of my university life.



# PLAYING VOLLEYBALL HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE BLESSING

If I have to pick one, game day has to be the highlight of my volleyball journey! There is something very special about facing off against a different school. It not only brought our team closer together but the entire campus too. It's like everyone came alive with Violet Pride! Friends would come to watch, cheering us on with every hit and block. And the best part? It wasn't just about our game – it was about supporting each other, no matter the sport. It was about the whole community rallying together. Seeing everyone wearing NYUAD colors, whether they were cheering on the sidelines or competing on the court, exchanging well wishes and sharing in each other's victories really captured the essence of the school spirit. It's moments like these that make you realize just how special being part of a team truly is.

Playing volleyball at NYUAD has been an absolute blessing. The lessons learned - both on and off the court - are priceless. I'm beyond grateful for every moment, every victory, and every setback. It's all part of the journey, and I wouldn't trade it for the world.

**AIGERIM** 



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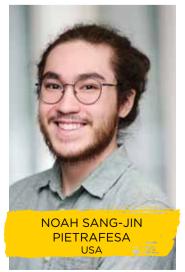




















WHY NOT GO OUT
OF MY COMFORT
ZONE AND MEET
PEOPLE?

I could have easily stuck to my own bubble. But I thought, this is four years, and I'm in the most diverse university in the Middle East, if not the world. Why not go out of my comfort zone and meet people? As I met people, I became a more extroverted person and I would talk to everyone.

I value how NYU Abu Dhabi changed my perspective and exposed me to people from all around the world.

# WE SHOWED RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF MANY UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

I think we are truly an exceptional class. What I find unique about our experience is that we showed resilience and determination in the face of many unprecedented challenges that came our way. I'd like us to take a moment to reflect on the beautiful journeys we've had here at NYU Abu Dhabi.

I'm truly excited to see the positive impact each one of us will make on the world as we step outside.

#### ALL OF THESE EXPERIENCES GAVE ME A SENSE OF GROWTH

I've grown a lot. If you want to compare my freshman year to my senior year, there's been a huge incline. I feel like the classes I took, the interactions that I've had with the other students, different perspectives that I encountered with other people, all of these experiences gave me a sense of growth.

I'm going to miss the community over here.

## ABU DHABI'S HIDDEN GEMS, AND WHY I LOVE THIS PLACE SO MUCH

During J-Term, I made two new friends. Later in the semester we took a nice little night trip to this place in Abu Dhabi called Mina. And it was very beautiful. Lots of lights, a very cute little playground. For me, this just exemplifies how many hidden gems are in Abu Dhabi and why I love this place so much.

I will definitely miss it, as well as the friends, both old and new, that I've made since I was a first-year.

#### A UNIQUE NYUAD EXPERIENCE THAT I WILL FOREVER CHERISH

My most memorable experiences are all the traveling that I have done as an NYU Abu Dhabi student. I've had the chance to embark on study away opportunities in South Africa, Madrid, and New York, and I've traveled with my friends to Jordan, Lebanon, and Sri Lanka.

I think that's a unique NYUAD experience that I will forever cherish.

#### I LEARNED A LOT OF SKILLS THAT HELPED **SHAPE ME INTO THE PERSON** THAT I AM TODAY

During my time here at NYU Abu Dhabi, I've had the chance to meet so many people from different backgrounds and I've had the pleasure of working alongside them through all these beautiful years. I learned a lot of skills that helped shape me into the person that I am today, and will shape the researcher I aspire to be.

After graduation, one of my biggest dreams in this world is to become a research scientist.

Hamad Alshamsi Interactive Media Fiza Hanif Mechanical Engineering Sri Lanka Hamdan Jaroor Business and Political Science Moyo Olatosi Biology Nigeria Kevin Bansal Economics India Salma Abubakar PhD Chemistry Somalia





























#### **NOT SHOWN**

CHARLOTTE JADE HALL (UK)
LIU CHIHLING
DHABIA ALHOSANI (UAE)
DOROTTYA ILOSVA (Hungary)
DANIAL TAJWER (USA)
HASSAN ABUHALIGA (Saudi Arabia)
HAMDA ALI ALKHOOR (UAE)

JUNG HO HAN (Australia)
MOUZA ALSUWAIDI (UAE)
MOZA AL OTAIBA (UAE)
MARYAM ALREMEITHI (UAE)
ROCK HYUNG KANG (Mexico)
SHAMMA ALSAWALEH (UAE)
SARA MUTAAB ALEFARI (UAE)

# STUDENT... STORIES





#### EACH MEAL EVOLVED INTO A CELEBRATION

At NYU Abu Dhabi, almost every meal transformed into a memorable experience, shared around the tables in our dining hall and dorms, where friends quickly became family. Whether it was Christmas, when we couldn't make it back home, suhoors during Ramadan, or spontaneous midnight quests for parathas with newly made friends, each meal evolved into a celebration. These moments of togetherness made my time at NYUAD truly unforgettable.

**VANESSA** 













HAB

### STUDENT VOICES





OF OUR LIVES

WE'RE GOING INTO

I know times have been tough these past four years, but we've been resilient and we've made it. And now look at us! We're going into the next chapter of our lives. Whatever path you take, I hope it brings you joy, I hope it brings you happiness, and most of all, I hope it brings you peace.

Abraiz Azhar Computer Science Pakistan

There's been a lot of growth, a lot of learning about who I am as a person, and who I want to be in the future. I believe that the person that I was entering university was completely different to the person that I am today. It was through these last four years that I was able to learn about who I am as an Emirati and who I am as a global leader through this global, diverse environment.

I WAS ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT WHO I AM



Salama Alnajjar Bioengineering UAE



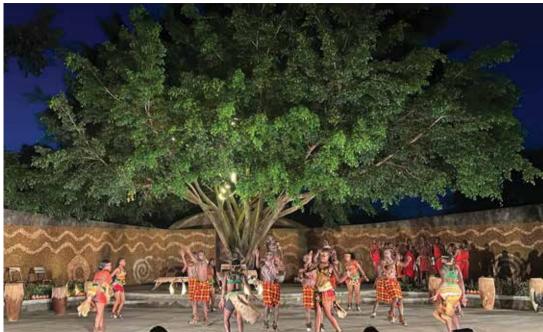
MEETING MY CHOSEN FAMILY

Andres Ugartechea Interactive Media and Visual Arts Mexico My favorite memory of NYUAD is meeting my chosen family, the people who anchor me to this place. They have taught me so many great things about inclusion and diversity. I'm trying not to be cliché, but I'm really going to miss the people. I'm going to miss all my friends and just feeling loved. But I know that NYU Abu Dhabi, my community, has prepared me for life and I am just excited.



















#### "DANCE IN THE RAIN"

It was 1am a few years ago, when I heard the once very familiar but now very foreign sound of rain hitting my windowsill. Shocked, perplexed, and curious, I opened my shade and saw a complete downpour. It was raining! Growing up, rain was always seen as a bummer, something that prohibited me from going outside, or a threat to freshly done hair. But now, after over 300 days of no rain, it felt like a miracle. After finally realizing what was going on, I rushed outside. I was not alone in this thought as the Highline quickly began to fill with others curious and in awe of what was happening. Calling my friends to come outside, everyone began to make their way to the Palms, where it was quickly beginning to flood, both with water and students.

To put it in context, we had spent our first year disconnected and limited to groups of four. This rain dance was the first time I experienced the NYU Abu Dhabi community being a community. Everyone naturally came together, dancing, sliding, and singing in the rain. Looking back, this moment has always been and will continue to be my favorite moment of my NYUAD experience. It was a time when despite feeling like we had missed out on the typical first year university student experience, we were able to unite under something as simple yet so special as rain. Now when it rains, although slightly annoying at times, I think back to the late night dance in the rain and the memory of our class finally coming together.















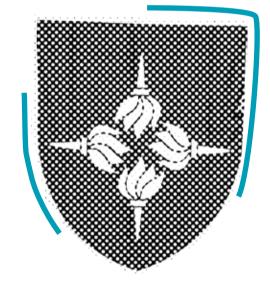




















### ENGINEERING





























**TOGETHER** AS A FAMILY

extracurricular activities, or

whether it's campus culture

and campus life, or whether

All of those memories and

experiences that we share

together are a beautiful, binding glue that holds us together as a family.

it's integrating with Abu Dhabi, my hometown.

AN
INCREDIBLE
COMMUNITY

THE **BEST** FIRST IMPRESSION

Through all of the places that I will never forget the incredible educators, we've come from and all of thinkers, knowledge holders, the places that we're going to artists, and community go, the one thing that binds members that have come us together is a short, sweet, through and remain on this and beautiful time here. We campus, and have shared should never let go of that. their insight with me. It's very beautiful, having these shared experiences on campus, whether they're

NYU Abu Dhabi has changed me by helping me develop and strengthen the expertise of my artistic practice. I think my most memorable experience at NYU Abu Dhabi was definitely when I was released from my first quarantine during my first semester on campus.

This was memorable to me because it was the first time I interacted with anyone in-person in 14 days, and it was really nice that those interactions happened to be the first time I was meeting my classmates in-person.

IT'S JUST A SINGLE DINNER BUT I GET TO **EXPERIENCE** THE WORLD

My most memorable experience so far in my four years in this university was dinner with my friends in D2. My friends are from all around the world, and I've had the privilege of interacting with people from every continent. When we're talking, it doesn't have to be something poignant or important, but just hearing about simple experiences is a big deal because I get to learn from other cultures.

It's just a single dinner but I get to experience the world.

DEFINITELY THE SMALL MOMENTS

My most memorable experiences at NYU Abu Dhabi were definitely the small moments, such as watching the sunset with my friends, stargazing in the desert, grabbing a meal at D2, just being able to decompress from everything, and forget about the world and be present in the moment.

That's what truly warmed my heart throughout these four years.

#### PRICELESS OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY OUT BRAND NEW

**THINGS** 

My most memorable experience has to be the people. They came from so many different backgrounds and had so many different stories and experiences to share, which in turn pushed me to try out brand new things that I never would have done on my own. I joined a band, I recorded an album, and I did my first ever rock concert.

These are just priceless opportunities that, without the people around me, I would never have done.

Fatima AlRemeithi Philosophy UAE and Bahrain Ciel Arbour-Boehme
Master of Fine Arts in Art and Media

Shamma Younus Mechanical Engineering UAE and Philippines Sonny Mandakhnaran Computer Science Mongolia Valentina Juarez Ortiz Mechanical Engineering Mexico Claudio Falcioni Economics, and Business, Organization and Society Italy



















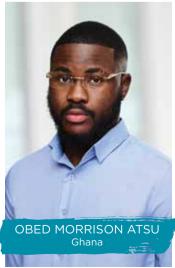
























































#### **NOT SHOWN**

BAYAN ASSALI (Syria) KIRUBEL SOLOMON TESFAYE (Ethiopia) SHAIKHA MARWAN ALSHEHHI (UAE)







# STUDENT VOICES





REALLY GREAT EXPERIENCE

IT HAS BEEN A

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I've been a part of the basketball team for the last four years. I think just as an experience, in and of itself, that has been one of my favorite parts of being at NYU Abu Dhabi. Getting to meet people from all over the world, playing with them, and bonding over waking up at 6am to be at practice at 6:45. It has been a really great experience and the people I've met along the way have really grown to be my family.

Political Science United States

For me, the most unforgettable experience would be the volleyball game we played against Sorbonne University last semester. The community really turned up to that game, everyone was cheering for us. I'll never forget it because it was a really tight game and I was so grateful for all the people that came in to support us. It was my most memorable experience on this campus.

SO GRATEFUL

FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

THAT CAME IN TO

SUPPORT US



Cheng-Yeh "Ryan" Wu Interactive Media



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## TRAVELING ACROSS EUROPE

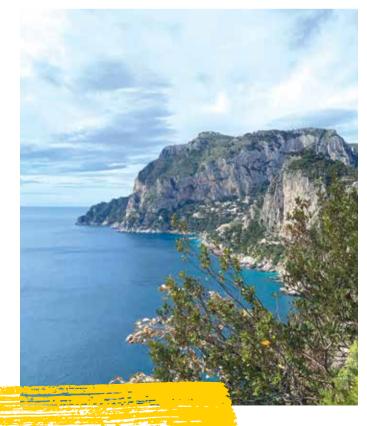


AN EMIRATI WOMAN STEPPING INTO INDEPENDENCE

In the spring of 2023, my semester at NYU Florence unfolded as a chapter far beyond academics. As an Emirati woman stepping into independence, Florence served not just as a residence but as a crucible for personal growth and cultural exploration. This period was defined by the challenge of self-reliance amidst the Renaissance City's art-laden streets.









As I stand on the brink of graduation from NYU Abu Dhabi, that chapter of my life in Florence stands out as an era of profound transformation and growth. That experience illuminated the strength found in vulnerability, teaching me to embrace the unknown with open arms and a resilient spirit.

That journey was not just about traversing geographical boundaries; it was an inward voyage that challenged my perceptions, expanded my horizons, and fostered a deepseated sense of empowerment.

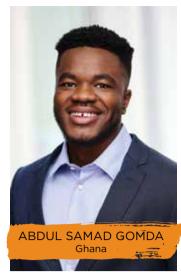
**ROUDHAH** 





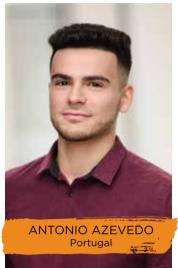








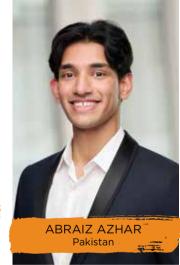


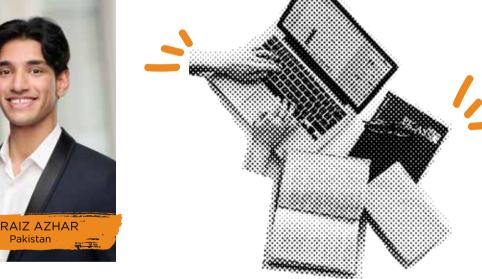






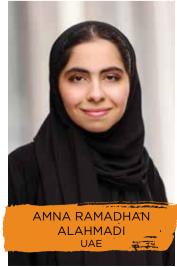
ARSHIYA KHĀ-TUK





















# SCIENCE









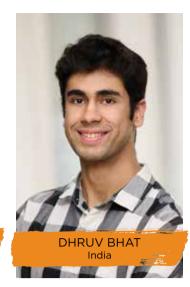






































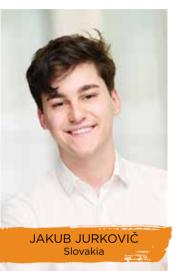






















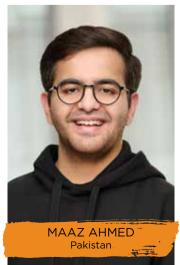












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#### WE WERE OFF

It was around 9pm on a random Tuesday so I went back to my dorm, and I had already completed all of my work. I texted a friend to ask if she wanted to go out to watch a movie. She immediately replied with "Let's go" and then recommended a movie that started in 45 minutes. We were off.

On the way, she mentioned that this would be her first time going to the cinema. I was shocked to hear that because, as a visual person, the cinema is my safe place and I wrongly assumed this was just a common experience. That's when I made sure that she would have the best visit ever. I was so happy that she told me she really enjoyed the experience after the credits rolled. We've gone back many times over the years.



#### STUDYING AT NYUAD

#### VISITS AROUND ABU DHABI AND DUBAI

As an Emirati studying at NYUAD, I had a lot of classes where I was the only local enrolled. On several occasions, I was asked about my culture when it came to the food, music, clothes, etc. I will never forget when we had a few visits around Abu Dhabi and Dubai and the professor asked me to rate an Emirati dish called "harees" in literally every restaurant we went to.

Or when I asked my roommate if she wanted some Vimto during Ramadan, she didn't know what I was talking about. Or when people reach out to me to ask where they can get their first abaya in Abu Dhabi, so I join them on a trip to the city.

Even when we're abroad the "warqa" game is with us so we can have fun in our free time. It's been a real pleasure and source of pride to share my city, and Emirati culture with so many people from around the world.









### STUDENT VOICES





I FEEL LIKE I WILL **ALWAYS CARRY** WITH ME WHAT

**NYU ABU DHABI** HAS GIVEN ME

I read something recently in a book that said "The closure of something beautiful is an opening to something even more beautiful." So I'm looking forward to my next step. I feel like I will always carry with me what NYU Abu Dhabi has given me, and it will allow me to navigate my next chapter and make it even more beautiful than the one before.

Computer Engineering Morocco

There's a lot of uncertainties in the journey ahead of me and I'm also sad because all of my friends are going to different parts of the world. We're not sure when we'll see each other again, but I am also excited because now we can go into the world to explore our passions and to put everything we learned at NYU Abu Dhabi into the real world.

NOW WE CAN GO INTO THE WORLD TO **EXPLORE OUR PASSIONS** 



Lynnette Huang Legal Studies and Film and New Media



NYUAD WAS A PLACE WHERE I COULD DEVELOP MYSELF

Computer Science and Mathematics

Because of my experiences abroad, I felt like I came back to NYU Abu Dhabi with a whole new perspective. I felt my attitude towards studying and the university changed, where I saw it not only as a place to study, but also as a place where I could develop myself professionally and develop my character so that I can best prepare myself for entering the workforce or academia.





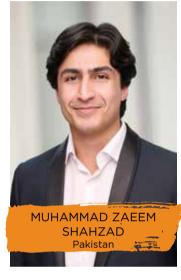










































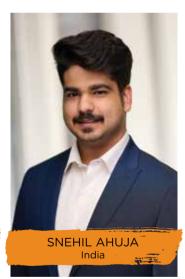
















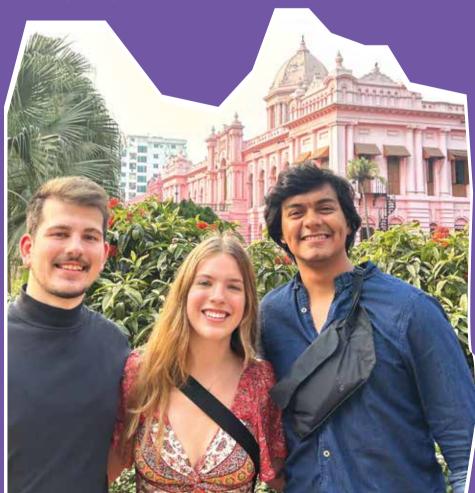




#### A REFLECTION ON FOUR YEARS AT NYU ABU DHABI

Reflecting on the past four years feels like flipping through a book filled with unexpected twists and turns. As I try to capture the essence of life at NYU Abu Dhabi, I find myself grappling with where to even begin.

Before stepping foot on this campus as a sophomore, my world was confined to Skopje, Macedonia. Albeit, not by my fault. After borders closed and the pandemic worsened for so many of us, I was unsure how our community as the Class of 2024 would look once we'd all be on campus. My first year at that point felt like a distant Zoom blur, and the prospect of embracing a new home here seemed daunting, shrouded in uncertainty and hesitation. Like many of us, I harbored doubts about finding my place after feeling out of the loop for such a long time. As time went on, I discovered that overcoming these doubts wasn't merely about determination; it was about embracing them, allowing myself to feel vulnerable, and finding strength in the support of friends and mentors.



From my first roommate showing me how to purchase food at D2, working on my first in-person group project, to organizing that inaugural Dubai trip with people from Senegal, Pakistan, China, US, Ethiopia, and Vietnam, I realized that every moment at NYUAD has been a lesson in collaboration, cultural exchange, and personal growth.

In the crucible of the pandemic, our sense of community grew stronger. Whether that was applying for another study away semester, maximizing our Falcon Dirhams value through the bookstore, or dealing with the everlasting course registration mishaps, we persevered through it all. Amidst the chaos and uncertainty, we found solace in each other's presence. We navigated our challenges together, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder

#### HOME ISN'T TIED TO A PLACE

Throughout my journey at NYUAD, I've come to realize that home isn't confined to a particular place; it's woven into the collection of relationships, the shared experiences, and the unwavering support of those who journey alongside us. Here, amidst the sand dunes and city lights, I've found a home in the hearts of my peers, mentors, and friends. Taking me to Washington, DC, Accra, and Dhaka, NYUAD has shown me how to establish a connection with anyone.

As we prepare to turn the page to the next chapter of our lives, I carry with me the cherished memories of our time together. Regardless of the directions we take in life, the profound impact of NYUAD will always remain deeply ingrained within us.

We may always be a little jetlagged, our internal clocks ticking to the rhythm of different time zones, but it's a testament to the global perspective that has shaped us. As I look back on these memories, it's clear to me that NYUAD is more than just a university. So, as we bid farewell to these four years and embrace the adventures that lie ahead, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the memories shared, and the bonds forged. We are the authors of our own stories, so let's bookmark this chapter and come back to it time and time again.



STEFAN











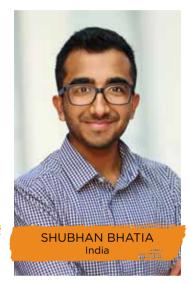
















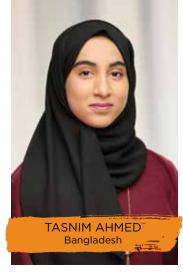






















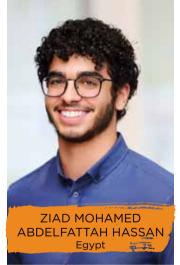
















#### **NOT SHOWN**

ABDULLAH AHMED (Pakistan)
ALYAZYEH AL HAMMADI
ABEL MEWLEDDEG (Ethiopia)
ANANYA KRISHNAKUMAR (India)
BASIL AYOUB (Jordan)
BALÁZS SZERÉNYI (Hungary)
ELYAZYA MOHAMMED AL KOBAISI (UAE)

HYUN WOO LIM (South Korea)
LINA UTENOVA (Kazakhstan)
MAJID IBRAHIM (UAE)
OMAR MAGED IBRAHIM (Egypt)
SAKRIT KARMACHARYA (Nepal)
TUQA UMSALAMA ABDELNASIR (Sudan)
NINA ZHAO (China)

As I stand at the threshold of a significant milestone, graduating from NYU Abu Dhabi in 2024, I reflect on a journey that has been nothing short of extraordinary. Being the only student from Fiji in a class of almost 500 students initially filled me with apprehension. "Would I be lost in this vast sea of diversity? Would I feel a sense of belonging so far from my tiny island nation, 15,000 kilometers away?" I remember asking myself.

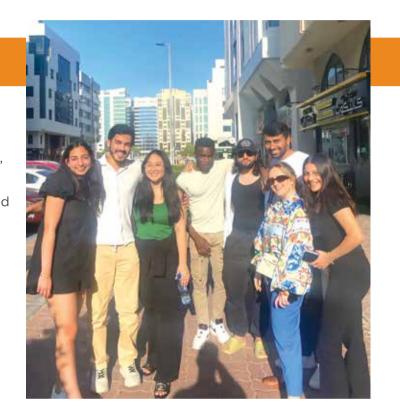
These fears, however, quickly vanished. Among classmates from 82 different countries, I never felt alone. The vibrant, multicultural student body of NYUAD embraced me, ensuring that I never longed for home, even during the most challenging times, like being stranded on campus during the COVID19 pandemic. This experience, challenging as it was, brought us closer together, forging bonds that I am confident will last a lifetime.

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## A JOURNEY OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY

From my freshman year, having roommates from Morocco, Ghana, and Pakistan, all hailing from vastly different cultures and backgrounds, wasn't a hindrance but a gateway to building life-long friendships. Our shared living spaces became hubs of cultural exchange, laughter, and mutual support. The diversity we often speak of at NYUAD was not just a concept to me - it became my lived experience.

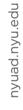
I vividly recall listening to John Sexton over Zoom at 1am in Fiji during our virtual Marhaba. His words resonated deeply with me as I realized that NYUAD was not just an institution but a community where every individual mattered. Here, I have cultivated cherished friendships. As I look to the future, I am confident that I have a friend and a "couch to sleep on "in any part of the world.



As I bid farewell to NYUAD, I take more than just a degree with me. I carry a collection of experiences, memories, and relationships that span the globe. My journey here has taught me the true meaning of unity in diversity. It's a lesson I will carry forward as I step into the next chapter of my life, forever grateful for the sense of belonging and community I found in this unique corner of the world.

DE/











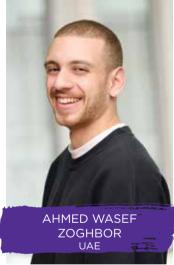






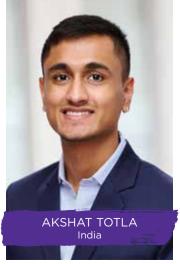










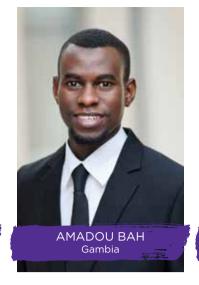














## SOCIAL SCIENCE





































































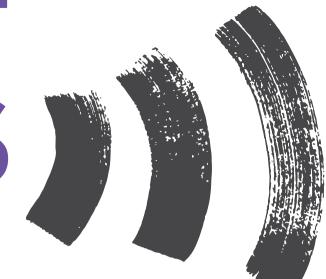












#### TIME TO CELEBRATE BEING A FALCON

For me, Interclassico is one of the most special parts of the year. In the weeks leading up to the match, students divide to work in secret on rap parodies. The result is two competing videos playfully roasting the other side, which seem to be highly anticipated by students even outside of the football team. Sometimes there is even recruitment of classmates who study film to edit the videos to perfection. The past couple of years' competition has fallen during Ramadan, which allowed us all to participate in a community Iftar before the match. It's special to share a meal with teammates and staff that you have spent the whole year training with.



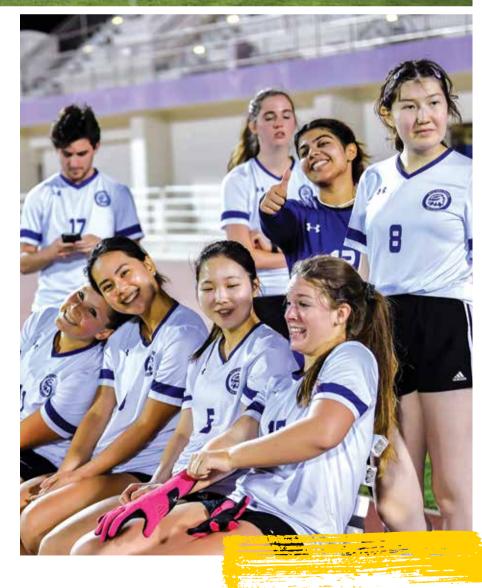
#### **INTERCLASSICO**





The whole event is so highly anticipated because it brings the men's and women's teams together, along with fans from all classes to participate in a school tradition. It's essentially a Homecoming that we have here at NYUAD, a time to celebrate being a Falcon. At the end of the match each senior receives an NYUAD Falcons scarf, which is put on their shoulders by an underclassmen. It's a bittersweet moment, a batonpassing and celebration of an accomplishment all the same.





# STUDENT VOICES



From engaging debates to late nights in the library and spontaneous walks through Abu Dhabi, I'm deeply grateful for all the interactions and invaluable lessons that I learned from each one of you. As we step into the world. I hope we embrace it with open hearts and minds, ready to contribute with the same passion, curiosity, and determination that brought us here.

GRATEFUL
FOR ALL THE
INVALUABLE
LESSONS



Anghelina Gherghelejinic Economics Moldova

NYU Abu Dhabi has changed me in every sense. I came here very scared,



Nastassja Gerlich Political Science Germany and Switzerland

It was a bit tricky to figure out

what was my most memorable experience. But I realized that it was cooking with friends.

Through these experiences, I was able to find out more about my

friends, asking about their cultural experiences and heritage. Cooking

brought us together.

"

I'VE HAD THE
MOST INCREDIBLE **EXPERIENCE** 

very unsure, having never been by myself for more than a month. Today, I am leaving as a strong, confident woman who is a little less sure of what she wants to do in the future, but definitely a little more sure of how to present herself, how to speak to people, and just ready for more. I've had the most incredible experience.

**COOKING** 

**TOGETHER** 

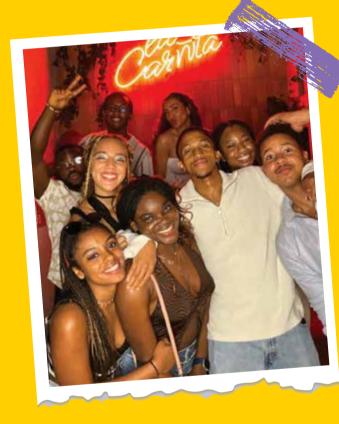
**BROUGHT US** 

R - J;



Tasnim Ahmed Computer Science Bangladesh









































































#### GOOD MORNING, BABY GIRL

Rosita would always greet me as I entered D2. Amidst laughter and challenges, the staff at NYU Abu Dhabi have consistently made me feel at home. Their warm greetings each morning, engaging chats between classes, and constant words of encouragement have filled our hearts and eased our homesickness. Despite them perhaps missing their own homes even more, as they only return occasionally, they have always treated us like family – like their own sons and daughters.



## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

NYUAD is home to over 800 contracted staff from 36 different countries, each contributing uniquely to the fabric of our institution.

They serve tirelessly across various roles – public security and cafeteria staff to facilities management and janitorial staff. They do more than just ensure the smooth operation of our campus and our safety; they bring a sense of familial warmth, making our university more than just a place of learning. It is their smiles, stories, and dedication that transform our campus into a vibrant, multicultural community.



Working with the Office of Social Responsibility (OSR) at NYUAD has allowed me to forge strong bonds with our contracted colleagues through genuine interactions. My involvement in the OSR's year-long programming initiatives went beyond just organizational tasks, as it became a journey of understanding the individual stories and backgrounds of the staff. Hearing about their lives, their families, and the paths that led them to the UAE, I witnessed the pride and joy they take in their work and also shared moments of laughter and empathy that transcended our different roles.

My journey at NYUAD has been enriched immeasurably by the presence of these extraordinary individuals. Their stories, laughter, and care have been integral to my daily life. As I move forward, I carry with me not only the knowledge gained in classrooms but also the life lessons learned from these extraordinary people. To all our contracted colleagues – I am incredibly grateful to you all. You have touched my life in ways you may never fully realize, and for that,

I am eternally thankful.





NYU ABUDHARI

































































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My time at
NYUAD was about
exploration,
learning from the
various people
I met and the
experiences I had,
which ultimately
led to growth in
how I understand
the world.



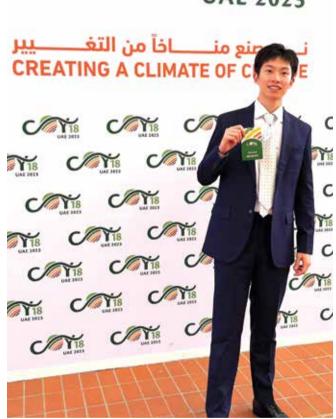
## DREAM BIG AND EXPLORE MORE

I am incredibly fortunate to have found a group of beloved friends here. Despite us coming from various cultural backgrounds, our shared traits brought us together at NYU Abu Dhabi, and our unique explorations and pursuits of life made us deeply appreciate, cherish, and encourage each other. We have shared many experiences, from having a great time doing outdoor sports to late-night discussions about future life, attending lectures by senior World Bank experts to understand how real international aid projects work, and deeply engaging with top executives from leading funds.

Participating in COP28, where we met over thirty presidents in one day, and volunteering at the United Nations through school initiatives, made me realize that those who impact the world are not far from us. Subsequently, I represented NYUAD at the Raisina Dialogue in India, adopting a global perspective on the connections between countries, and contemplated cooperation strategies with different regions as a delegate in the UAE's climate ambassador program.







These unforgettable people and events have given me the courage to dream big and explore more possibilities in the future. The knowledge I've gained is no longer just formulas and theorems from textbooks, but an integration and reflection on real-world issues, along with a budding determination to make even a small change in the world.

I am thankful for NYUAD and everyone I've met on this journey. I also wish for everyone to find their passion and use their intelligence, courage, and perseverance to slightly push the world forward.

**PENG** 























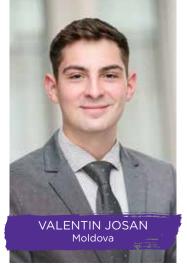




















































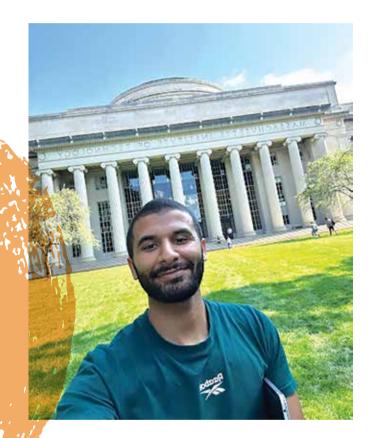
#### **NOT SHOWN**

ABDULLA ALHEMEIRI (UAE)
ADYAN HASAN (BAHRAIN)
ALYAZYAH ALMARZOOQI (UAE)
AMNA HAMAD ALMESAFRI (UAE)
AMNA M ALKHOORI (UAE)
AXCEL JASSO (MEXICO)
FATIMA ALZAROONI (UAE)
FATIMA MUBARAK AL KETBI (UAE)
HASSA MOHAMED AL NAHYAN (UAE)
HESSA AHMED ALDARMAKI (UAE)

MISHEL RASHID (PAKISTAN)
MOUAD KOUTTROUB
MOUHAMED BA (SENEGAL)
SAFIYAH ALTAYER (UAE)
SANAM PARWANI (USA)
SARA NASSER ALMANSOORI (UAE)
SHAMMA AL FAHEEM (UAE)
SHAMMA KHALID ALMANSOORI (UAE)
SHAMSA AL MARZOUQI (UAE)
VIGEN YAVRYAN (ARMENIA)







#### A DREAM I HAD FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER

Coming to NYU Abu Dhabi, I was very determined to pursue medicine, a dream I had for as long as I can remember. However, I was advised to include some research experience on my CV, which led me to apply for a position posted by Professor Khalil Ramadi's lab. There, I was going to support a project to build a point-of-care device for Alzheimer's diagnosis. Before I even knew it, my interests began to shift tremendously. Questions like, "How can I create better and easier-to-use devices for healthcare?" and "How can I create better treatment modalities, reduce hospitalization, and improve the quality of life for individuals with neurodegenerative diseases?" captivated me. It's this question of 'how' that has kept me in the lab for countless hours since my freshman year.

Just like all of my classmates, I was able to cultivate my safe space to thrive and ask questions, which happened to be in the ERB. Being just a door away from scientists, researchers, and individuals with whom I share similar interests was particularly inspiring. This is when I knew that I was better off as a scientist in medicine, not a physician. I went from not being able to properly handle a pipette in the lab to designing experiments, leading projects, and working with scientists at Harvard and MIT.

This fall, I will be joining Professor Ramadi's lab at NYU Tandon, where we continue to collaborate with MIT scientists on creating novel therapeutics for various disorders through innovative drug delivery and neuromodulation approaches.

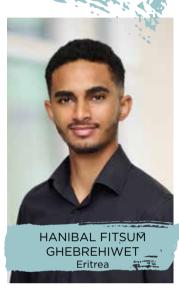
MAHMOUD

## MASTER'S



















#### **NOT SHOWN**

ALFRED HENRICO SHAURI (Tanzania)
GEORGIY SOLOMANCHUK (Ukraine)
HESSA MUATH ALMESHARI (Bahrain)
MARIAM ASIF (Pakistan)
SARA DHAFER AL AHBABI (UAE)
TALA FADI BARAKI (USA)

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# NYUAD IS A PLACE WHERE THINGS CAN HAPPEN



NYUAD ended up becoming a place where things can happen. I was able to find opportunities that allowed me to travel and do meaningful work around the world, from Münster to Manhattan to Mumbai. I was able to make meaningful connections along the way, from friends to mentors and networking. I was able to learn a lot along the way, about civil engineering, about the world, and about myself. It allowed me to pursue architecture in a way I never expected, through awards to build my first ever building, and a sculpture that's now on permanent display in front of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Through NYUAD, I was able to leave my mark on Abu Dhabi. NYUAD is a place where things can happen, and where we can make things happen.

**JASON** 



#### A LEAP OF TRUST INTO THE UNKNOWN

Four years ago, I was faced with a decision that was daunting to me. I could either study at one of the top architecture schools in the Philippines, or I could choose to come to NYU Abu Dhabi. Despite not having the major I wanted, something compelled me to choose the latter. It was a leap of trust into the unknown. At the time it was a decision full of uncertainty, but I had told myself that I still wanted to pursue architecture, despite how impossible it seemed. I could never have predicted what would happen next.



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### STUDENT STORIES

When I told my high school mentor who graduated from NYU New York that I would like to apply to NYU Abu Dhabi, she said that all the Abu Dhabi people she met were very passionate.

I was going to write about my 2024 J-Term trip to Rwanda for this "favorite memory" question but deep down I realize that it's all the great people I met at NYUAD that are vital to these memories. People who take initiative. People who are creative and adventurous. People who persist in doing what they believe. And people who taught me to care and love.

Thank you everyone, including those whom I was sometimes too socially exhausted to say "hi" to in D2.



























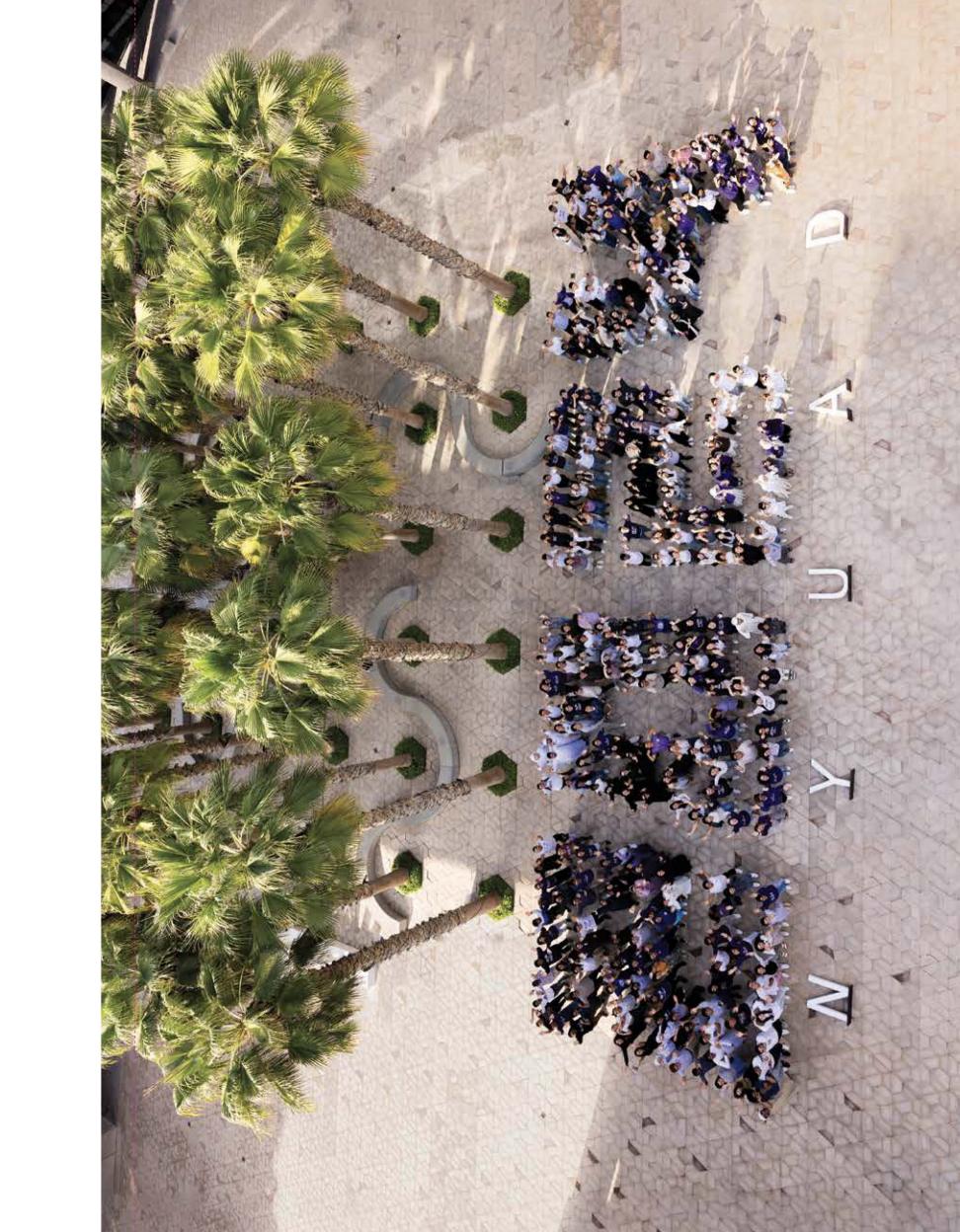
#### ASEEL DIRAR ALATO

**NOT SHOWN** 

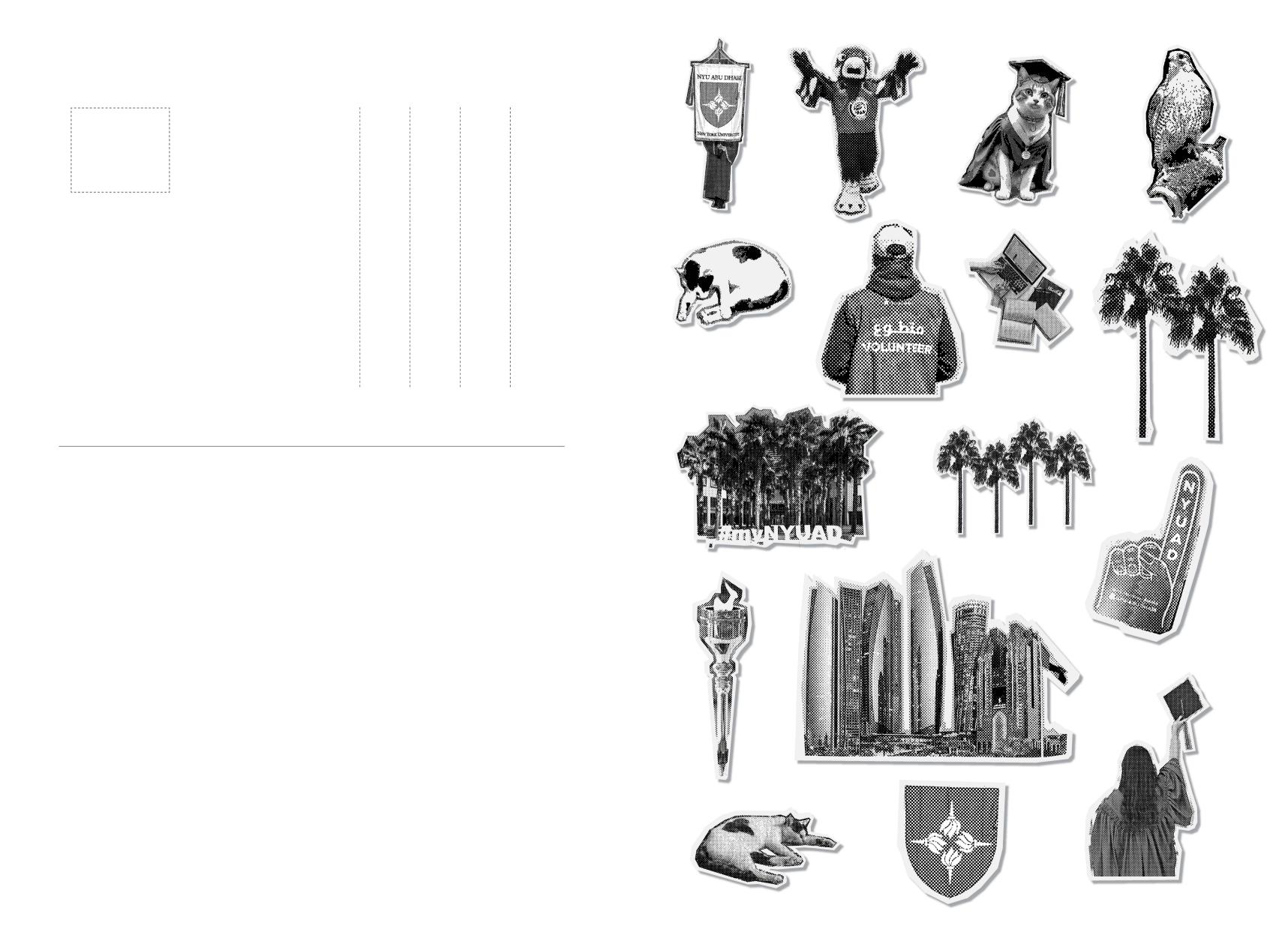
ASEEL DIRAR ALATOOM (Jordan)
BO PENG (China)
CHUHAN YANG (China)
DIMA SAMER ALI (Jordan)
DIMITRIOS CHAIKALIS (Greece)
DONGCHI (DANIEL) YAO (China)
ISAAC BELEW SARNOFF (USA)
MUHAMMAD MUNEEB AFZAL (Pakistan)
MUHAMMAD OSAMA KHAN (Pakistan)

MUHAMMAD SHUJAAT MIRZA (Pakistan)
OLAWALE MAKANJUOLA (Greece)
PUTI WEN (China)
STEFAN WATERVAL (Switzerland)
SUMESH MANJUNATH RAMESH (India)
VAHAN BABUSHKIN (Armenia)
XUE NIAN (China)
ZAID KHAN (Pakistan)

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جامعـة نيويورك أبـوظـبي NYU ABU DHABI

