



QUOTE of the Issue

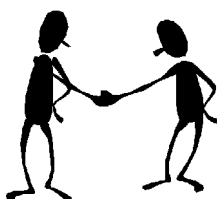
“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King Jr. [American Pastor and Activist (1929-1968)]

2019

January

Issue 21



HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY OR Dialog Letter

Editorial

3 Eureka about How and Why to Enjoy Learning!

While preparing for this Editorial on Sunday, January 27, 2019, I tried to google “enjoy learning”. Here is what I got: about 3,160,000 results (about 30,600 results on Google Scholar). I narrowed down my inquiry and searched for “ways to enjoy learning”, I found about 228,000 results (about 14 results on Google Scholar). Whereas “how to enjoy learning” had 885 results (69 results on Google Scholar), “reasons to enjoy learning” had 4 results (2 results on Google Scholar) and “how and why to enjoy learning” had only 1 result (0 result on Google Scholar). As a matter of fact, these numbers put me out of track; my purpose was not to examine ‘how’ Google functions and ‘why’ I got all those numbers. After spending half an hour trying to understand how google functions, I felt that I wasted my time on useless inquiries and numbers for the Editorial. Hence, I decided to go back to the first inquiry about “enjoy learning”. When I scrolled down the page, I found a *Eureka* title to start with. It was “3 Ways to Enjoy Learning—WikiHow”. I surfed it; it contains the following methods: a) ‘Making School More Fun’, b) ‘Continuing Your Education’, and c) ‘Understanding the Benefits of Learning’ [1]. Although it contained many useful ways “to make learning fun”, I felt that this is not all what I’m looking for. So, I moved to YouTube. Here I found another list of results. I asked myself, which ones shall I watch and how much time shall I spend on that task? I started to click on some titles like “A Love of Learning” [2], “10 Steps to Love Learning Again” [3], and again, *Eureka*, I came across “Dr. Mark Stevens Teaches Students How to Experience Academic Confidence and Enjoy learning” [4]. The speaker kept me focused till the end; Stevens is a university professor, a psychologist and the director of CSUN university counseling services who introduced himself as “a dream navigator”, and thus I considered him a good reference to my Editorial. He presented 7 steps “to enhance motivation and enjoyment of learning for college students”, as CSUN Career Center stated (2014). I won’t summarize here his talk; I will leave that task to your curiosity, interest, and time to find out what those steps were and how you can benefit from his experience. Later, I came across a TEDx talk entitled “The Importance of Learning. Learning What Exactly?” [5], given by Daniel Pavljuts who was in 2012 the Minister of Economics of Latvia. I thought it’s always good to have a diversified approach, and wondered, asking why not to watch it since the speaker comes from the world of politics and numbers. But then, I said to myself, I need to listen to something totally different, new, inspiring, and of course, to add a flavor to my inquiry. And again, *Eureka*, it was another TEDx talk given by Robert E. Grant, an entrepreneur, inventor and investor. His talk was on “Beautiful Minds are Free from Fear” [6] in which he focused on how we can be “the masters of our fate” and “the captains of our own souls”. Finally, I noticed that the time allocated to write my Editorial has ended; I reflected on what I did, smiled, and confessed that this morning experience was exactly what I needed to enjoy learning!

DR. BERGE TRABOULSI, *Orientation Program Director*

NEWS

A Token of Joy

During their last meeting on December 3, 2018, the OR Faculty members officially celebrated the newest academic achievement of HU Campus Minister and OR Faculty member, Rev. Wilbert van Saane, who lately received his PhD from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. As a token of joy, Rev. Van Saane received Hal Gregersen’s new book entitled *Questions Are the Answer: A Breakthrough Approach to Your Most Vexing Problems at Work and in Life* that was published by HarperBusiness (November 13, 2018). Gregersen is the Executive Director of the Leadership Center at MIT. He is recognized by Thinkers50 as one of the world’s fifty most innovative minds.



The OR Program in the Words of New Students

"The Orientation Program is well-organized. It provides students with the needed information about Haigazian University. It helps students to socialize and achieve new friendships, acquire knowledge and learn new communication skills. The Orientation Team members supported and helped us in addressing and answering whatever needs to be done. I'm glad I was present that day or else I would've had a hard time in university."

LORI KELECHIAN, HOM

"As the experience of high school was over, it was time to open a new chapter in our lives, which is University. The first step of starting this chapter is orienting ourselves with the new system we are going into. HU OR Day is a fundamental learning experience for all new students. As students, we get to meet other classmates, our Deans, and the university faculties. In addition, we get to know all about the history, origin, values, and missions of our University. Personally, discovering how Haigazian University was founded and by whom was very interesting. I also loved the introduction to the new credit course system which makes life easier and more rewarding for students."

MAHMOUD ITANI, FIN

"Back when I was in high school, I was confused about courses, credits and everything else about university life. However, that completely changed after coming to the Orientation Day. I can still recall the warm welcome that I received from the OR assistants as I walked into the campus. They were guiding us to the different sessions with enthusiasm. The instructors were also friendly and most importantly, they succeeded in introducing us to various concepts like the HU culture, Alma Mater and Student Life. At the same time, they were giving us advice on how to study and teaching us about the university regulations. Not only did I learn about HU, but also made many new friends and spent a day that will remain in my memory forever."

LAURA HERGELIAN, MLS

OR 099 Sessions



Orientation Program
Teaching & Studying



Orientation Program
Research & Writing



Orientation Program
HU Culture



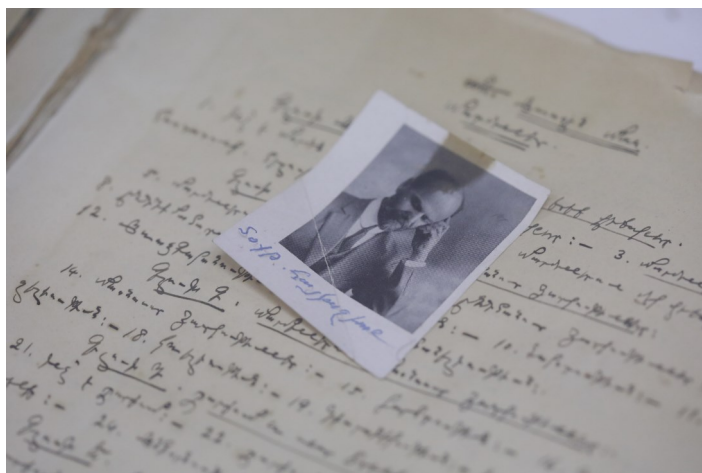
Orientation Program
University Life and Personal Development



Orientation Program
Advising



Orientation Program
Information Technology



The OR Program in the Words of an OR Assistant

When it comes to transitioning from high school to university, students may find themselves in need of a little guidance. At heart, they are both academic institutions yet they do have slight changes. Haigazian University offers a great Orientation Program, in which students get a full grasp of how university life is like and how it works. The Orientation Day consists of a series of sessions offered by various faculty members. In this way, students get to meet some of their future professors, get to see their dean, the campus minister, and the university counselor. It creates a space of familiarity between the students and the faculty members. That space extends to the university's campus and soon to be classmates. Students get a real feel of how their coming years will be like. In order to further assist students in understanding the academic aspect, the sessions given include introducing the students to the terminology that they will need to know, the grading system, how to access the library database for future research, how to get their university emails in addition to their portals and Classroom Management accounts working. But the Orientation Day is not only centered on academic aspects. Students get to interact with one another, over a series of snack & lunch breaks. It is a great way to make friends and interact with one another without the added pressure of when university actually starts. Having been an Orientation assistant for the past two years, I was able to see how students' fear of the future and university life decreases. During the Orientation Day a lot of students have come up to me and said that they feel more reassured now that they have a better understanding of what is coming their way.

MARWA SAAD, ENG



The Importance of First Impression

First impressions matter. In fact, a first impression can be a life-changer. I have heard many people say: “As soon as I set foot in that house, I knew that this was the right place for me and my family!” That’s the choice of a home, but what about the choice of a life partner? I know couples who are happily married and they would claim that their love started when they first met: it was love at first sight.

First impressions also matter when it comes to entering university. A first impression can draw you in and reassure you that this is the right place for you. It can also discourage you and cause you to take mental distance.

When I was a senior high school student, I visited several universities before I made up my mind. The first impressions I got of those universities – their buildings, faculty, staff and, most of all, their students – were very important to me. I chose not to study in Amsterdam, because I did not find the students there interesting and engaging. Instead, I chose to study at Utrecht University, largely because I liked the students there. It was a fun and honest crowd; good people to be around. It was a choice that determined the course of my life.

The Orientation Program is a first impression. Admittedly it is not the very first one that new students get; but it is an important one that will influence their careers at HU and their futures beyond it. I am sure that most of you remember your Orientation vividly: what you saw on that day; what you heard; and how you felt. Let’s not underestimate the importance of Orientation Days.

One of the reasons why I am proud and happy to work at Haigazian University is our personal approach to students. We want to look people in the eye and at least try to know their names. During the OR program, new students get a first taste of that. Their names get read out several times and, by the end of the day, at least some people will know their names. That in itself is a meaningful thing.

The OR assistants have a key role in conveying that first impression of what Haigazian University is all about. During Orientation Days, they are the chief ambassadors of the University. As an OR assistant, you can make the day of new students by smiling, striking up a conversation, knowing their names, and simply being an encouraging presence.

What does it mean to be an OR assistant? It means that you give your time and effort to represent and promote the University. It means that you make yourself available to people that you do not yet know. It means that you patiently accompany and guide them. It means that you check on them and make sure they are present and okay. It means that you share a meal with them, making them feel at home and appreciated. It means that you, as ambassador of the University, start a friendship with some of them, maybe even taking the role of a mentor. You give, give, give; and by giving, you grow as a person and as a leader.

We honor the OR assistants because they volunteer their time and effort to be ambassadors of this University. We honor them because they are part of a professional team that is well-prepared for its task, under the able leadership of Dr. Tra-boulsi. We honor them because they give that crucial first impression of the spirit of Haigazian University, the spirit of truth, freedom and service.

REV. DR. WILBERT VAN SAANE, *Campus Minister*



OR Senior Assistants' Testimonials



OR Day—FL 2018

Four years ago, I nervously entered Haigazian University for my Orientation day not knowing exactly what to expect. However, at the end of that day I fully understood and appreciated the purpose of this program when I felt readier and more self-confident to take the first step of an unforgettable journey in a place, I now call “Home”.

The positive atmosphere and friendly environment I experienced during this day have encouraged me to participate in the Orientation Program.

After becoming part of the orientation team, I understood that the enjoyment and fun which I, as well as all new students feel during the Orientation Day are the results of training, organizing, and careful planning.

As a member of Haigazian University's orientation team for three consecutive years, I have learnt more than I have served. Through working in a group, I have learnt how to organize, to communicate, to follow and to lead. Through serving beside dedicated instructors, I have learnt how to be passionate and through working beside Dr. Traboulsi, a true role model, I understood the true meaning of leadership.

Thank you, Haigazian University, orientation team, and Dr. Traboulsi for providing me as well as all students with the great opportunity of learning and growing.

It will be impossible, even after graduating, not to remember, at the beginning of each academic year, my excitement for the OR day, Dr. Traboulsi's encouraging message the day before the Orientation, and the entering of many new students whose nervousness would soon be replaced by enthusiasm and excitement.

Now, as I am about to graduate from this institution I look back to this experience and realize that the Orientation Program has strengthened in me so many values and skills and has prepared me to confidently take the next step and be ready to face all the future challenges.

NAYDA BEDIGIAN, B/O (CLASS OF 2019)



OR Day—FL 2018

My journey at Haigazian University started with failure, my first year was a mess, I was placed on probation twice, and I had to attend the orientation day two consecutive semesters because I missed the date of the exam, all in all I was lost.

But somehow people grow up; I woke up one day with a different mentality, willing to take the right decisions to succeed in life. And Haigazian University never failed me, I found a second home here, friends, instructors, everyone who works here even the security guards. They are all lovely people who gave the support needed to succeed. As the third semester started, I chose to be part of this supportive team and joined the Orientation Team in order to help others who might face similar situations.

So I did it, I turned my failure into success, I've changed and matured and now I am graduating. However, thanks to our director and leader Dr. Berge Traboulsi. Joining the OR team gave me a better understanding about the university life, how a group can function together towards one goal, how to organize, how to help and orient and how to become a better leader,

Finally, as my grandfather used to tell me *“Compassion is given for free, but Respect is earned”*; so hereby I am planting the seed of love hoping that one day I'll be worthy of your respect.

HABIB SAAD, HRM (CLASS OF 2019)



JOIN THE TEAM. APPLY ONLINE.

“READY TO ORIENT”

[FL 18 OR TEAM]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK

ALI RAHHAL
ALIK SARIAN
AZIZA KHALIL
FARAH AL MASRI
FARAH FATHALLAH
HABIB SAAD
JANA ZBEEB
MARWA SAAD
MOVSES BDRKIAN
NAYDA BIDIKIAN
NOURA BADRAN
NOURA DERIAN
RASHA NEHME
REINA SLEIT
SARAH IDRIS-RABATI
SERENE SHATILA
SERLIE ABRILIAN
VAHAN SAGHDEJIAN
YARA BADRAN



OR PROGRAM FACULTY MEETING

[December 3, 2018]



AGENDA

- Welcome
- The OR Days
 - The New PPT and Content of sessions
 - FL 17 / SP 18 University Evaluations
 - SP 18 / FL 18 Grades
 - FL 18 Exit Survey Results
 - FL18 Student Evaluation Results
 - FL18 Survey Results by Groups & Instructors
 - Evaluation of the whole program
- Update of OR099
 - OR 099 Reference Manual
 - PPT of Sessions
- e-Publications
 - OR Dialog e-Letter:
 - OR Dialog Letter 20 – Special Issue [SP 18]
 - OR Dialog Letter 21 – Special Issue [FL 18]
 - e-Brochures
- Souvenir Items for SP19
 - Bag; USB; Notebooks; E-publications; AV Materials
- Other issues +Announcements
 - SP 19 Orientation Day (Feb. 2, 2019)
 - FL 19 Orientation Day (F., August 23, 2019) / Late Orientation Day (S., September 21, 2019)
 - OR Appreciation Event (Speeches, Certificates, Cake)

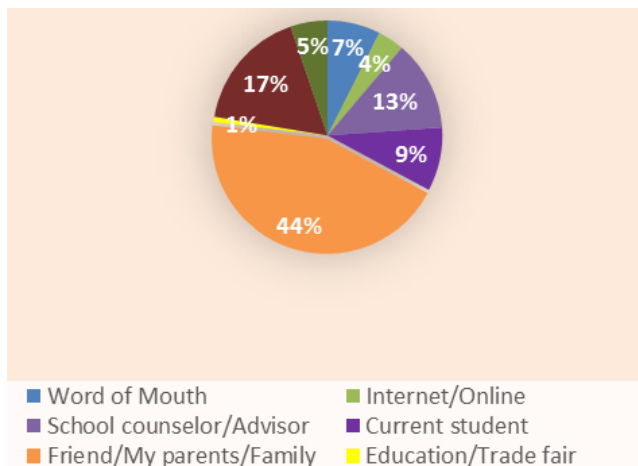
From left to right: Dr. Najoie Nasr [BAD], Ms. Anita Moutchoyan [ENG], Ms. Rita Merhej [EDU/PSY], Ms. Sahar Hamzeh [ENG], Dr. Farah El Zein [SPE], Rev. Dr. Wilbert Van Saane [REL], Ms. Rula Halaby [BIO], and Dr. Berge Traboulsi [REL]

Not in the picture: Ms. Shaghig Hudaverdian [PSY], Mr. Ali Mukallid [CSC], and Mr. Shant Estepan [CSC]

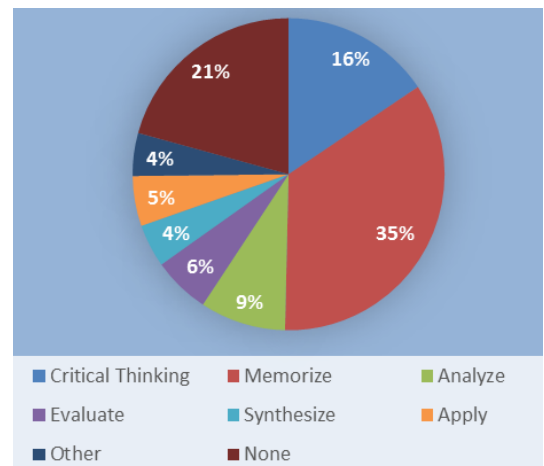
OR 099 EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

The OR Office conducted the OR 099 Exit Survey during FL18 semester and gathered information about the learners' experiences, achievements, challenges, needs and problems in order to better serve and orient HU learners in the future.

1. I heard about HU via:

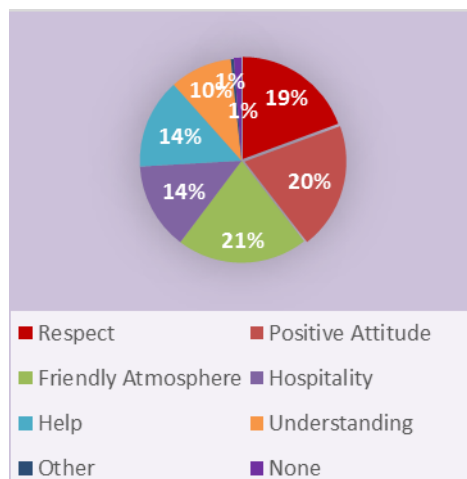


2. I had a learning difficulty at school in the following areas:

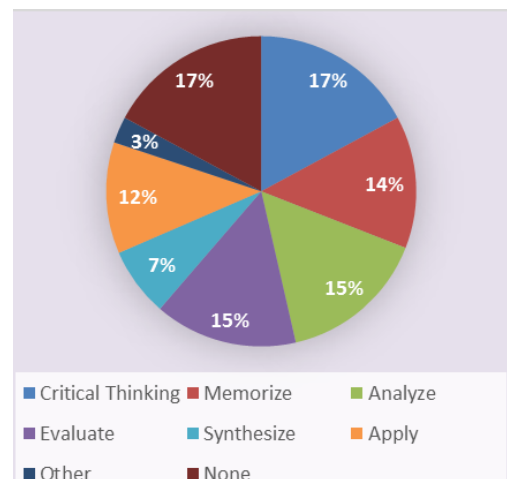


'Other' includes: Focus; time management; no time to finish studies completely; participation

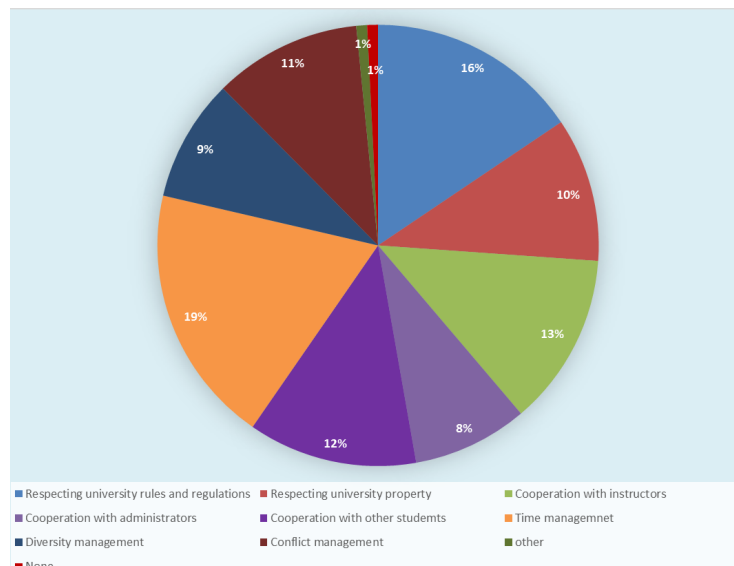
3. The issues that attracted my attention during the Orientation Day are:



4. The OR Program helped me deal with difficulties in the following areas:



5. Upon the completion of OR099, I think I can further develop in myself the following specific attitudes:



'Other' includes: How to effectively study; Time management

FL18 - OR 099 EVALUATION RESULTS

The OR Office studies all numbers and comments received from the various evaluations that are administered at the faculty, staff, assistants, and learners' levels. Moreover, measures are taken where needed based on experts' recommendations.

Location Place	MEH	MUG	MEH	MEH	MEH	MEH
OR 0099 Topic	[Advising]	[Research]	[Studying]	[HU Culture]	[IT]	[Self-Awareness]
Time Classroom	(307)	Bar. Library	(207)	(AUD)	(MHG 4th)	(206)
8:00-8:15	Get Together [Courttyard]					
8:30-8:45	Opening Ceremony [Church Basement]					
9:00-9:50	G1 [Moukallid]	G2 [Hamzeh]	G3 [Halaby]	G4 [Van Saane]	G5 [Estepan]	G6 [Merhej]
10:00-10:50	G2 [Moukallid]	G3 [Hamzeh]	G1 [Halaby]	G5 [Van Saane]	G6 [Estepan]	G4 [Merhej]
10:50-11:10	Coffee Break [Church Courttyard]					
11:15-11:30	HU Student Life [AUD/MC]					
11:30-11:35	HU Counseling Services [AUD/MC]					
11:35-11:50	HU Spiritual Life [MC/AUD]					
12:00-12:50	G3 [Moukallid]	G1 [Hamzeh]	G2 [Halaby]	G6 [Van Saane]	G4 [Estepan]	G5 [Merhej]
13:00-13:50	Lunch [Church Basement]					
14:00-14:50	G4 [Nasr]	G5 [Mouthchayan]	G6 [Al Zein]	G1 [Van Saane]	G2 [Estepan]	G3 [Hudaverdian]
15:00-15:50	G5 [Nasr]	G6 [Mouthchayan]	G4 [Al Zein]	G2 [Van Saane]	G3 [Estepan]	G1 [Hudaverdian]
15:50-16:05	Coffee Break [Church Courttyard]					
16:10-17:00	G6 [Nasr]	G4 [Mouthchayan]	G5 [Al Zein]	G3 [Van Saane]	G1 [Estepan]	G2 [Hudaverdian]

General Info

106 Total Number of Students

7 Humanities	33 Social & Behavioral Sciences	18 Sciences	46 Business & Economics	2 N/S
7 ENG	0 ARM	5 ECE	0 EDU	3 PSC
4 BIO	6 CSC	0 MAT	4 MLS	4 NSD
1 ACC	2 ADC	12 BAD	2 ECO	14 FIN
			3 HOM	7 HRM
				5 MIS

(1) Strongly Agree (2) Agree (3) Neutral (4) Disagree (5) Strongly Disagree

1. Publications and Campus Tour	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
1b The Group Leaders were helpful.	73.3	14.9	6.9	2.0	3.0
2. The sessions					
2a Studying					
2a1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	59.0	21.0	16.2	1.9	1.9
2a2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	61.9	27.6	8.6	1.0	1.0
2a3 The concepts were explained clearly.	65.7	21.9	11.4	0.0	1.0
2a4 I enjoyed attending this session.	47.2	28.7	18.5	0.9	4.6
2b Research & Writing					
2b1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	70.1	26.2	0.9	1.9	0.9
2b2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	68.2	25.2	3.7	1.9	0.9
2b3 The concepts were explained clearly.	69.7	23.2	5.1	1.0	1.0
2b4 I enjoyed attending this session.	57.5	26.4	11.3	2.8	1.9
2c Advising					
2c1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	79.8	14.4	2.9	2.9	0.0
2c2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	78.8	12.5	5.8	1.0	1.9
2c3 The concepts were explained clearly.	80.8	12.5	2.9	1.9	1.9
2c4 I enjoyed attending this session.	66.0	22.6	5.7	2.8	2.8
2d IT					
2d1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	84.0	12.3	0.9	1.9	0.9
2d2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	80.4	15.0	1.9	1.9	0.9
2d3 The concepts were explained clearly.	76.1	15.9	4.4	1.8	1.8
2d4 I enjoyed attending this session.	70.3	19.8	5.0	3.0	2.0
2e HU Culture					
2e1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	82.4	12.7	1.0	2.9	1.0
2e2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	83.3	13.0	0.0	2.8	0.9
2e3 The concepts were explained clearly.	88.5	8.7	0.0	1.0	1.9
2e4 I enjoyed attending this session.	78.3	17.0	0.9	0.9	2.8
2f Self Awareness					
2f1 The session content was valuable and worth learning.	80.4	16.8	1.9	0.0	0.9
2f2 The instructor explained the importance and significance of the session.	82.2	16	0.9	0.0	0.9
2f3 The concepts were explained clearly.	81.1	16.0	1.9	0.0	0.9
2f4 I enjoyed attending this session.	76	18.3	2.9	1.0	1.9

Data entry prepared by NAYDA BIDIKIAN, BIO & JANA ZBEEB, PSY

The Orientation Office would like to express its gratitude to:

- Ms. NAYDA BIDIKIAN [BIO] for her hard work on preparing the needed statistics and for e-documenting all evaluations and comments.
- Ms. SAHAR HAMZEH [ENG Lecturer] for her editing of this OR Dialog Letter issue.

Student Life Presentation

"I would like to be in one of the clubs that were mentioned."

"It made me feel closer and more excited for the university. I enjoyed it."

Spiritual Life Presentation

"Peaceful, Enlightening, Excellent, Informative, Interesting, Helpful, Entertaining"

"This presentation helped me a lot in understanding diversity at HU."

"It was great in understanding my emotional and spiritual health."

Lunch

"Delicious and perfect quality and quantity."

"It was a great experience to get to know new people and professors."

The OR Program as a Whole

"Very welcoming, very needed, and well prepared"

"Exciting, fun, educational, and useful"

"Haigazian has the most eligible team with a colossal area of experience."

"It was very informative and important but a bit long."

Suggestions

"It could have been shorter."

"Activities to make it fun instead of presentations."

"Don't want to nag, but more breaks please!"



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