



The Department Congratulates

2022 Jindia Scholarship Award Winner

Mr. Khaled El Droubi



I was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, and moved to San Jose in 2021 to continue my Industrial & Systems Engineering degree. Being a student in Lebanon was a burdensome experience. It required working hard amidst the electrical shortages, the road closures around my house (which eventually made it challenging to reach school), and the fear of not knowing if I could fulfill my ambitions due to the country's political instability. However, working in such a harsh environment also taught me a valuable lesson that I will carry for the rest of my life. The lesson is to always be resilient and continuously expand the scope of knowledge that I have toward my passion, Industrial Engineering, despite the problems that life throws at me.

Moving to San Jose was the best decision I could've made. Studying at SJSU has helped me learn from highly industry-experienced professors and collaborate with students from diverse backgrounds. The Industrial Engineering courses I took at San Jose State University have helped me learn the software that are demanded in the workforce. For example, ProModel was used to simulate processes (ISE167), and MiniTab to construct control charts and interpret a regression model (ISE135&ISE131). Moving to the Bay Area also helped me network with professionals working on groundbreaking products. By attending networking events and career fairs at SJSU, I was able to build connections that will hopefully open many opportunities in the future.

Hobbies?

During my free time, I enjoy exercising outdoors. Exercising regularly has helped me feel less stressed, more productive, and, most importantly, healthier. By building this routine, I have been able to meet new friends with the same interest. Exercising with other people helps me stay committed, and it's more fun. Therefore, I also enjoy playing team sports such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball. During the winter vacations, I enjoy skiing in Lebanon's beautiful mountains with my family. Ever since I was seven years old, I learned how to ski and instantly became interested in the sport. Outside of sports, I love reading astronomy books to learn more about the cosmos.



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Khaled El Droubi continued:

...And some other Facts about me?

- In elementary and middle school, I studied in a French system school, and thus I know how to speak three languages: Arabic, English, and French.
- I have traveled to over ten countries; my favorite destination is Venice, Italy. After traveling to Italy, Italian cuisine became my favorite!
- During my first semester at SJSU, I stayed in the International House, a home to 70 US and international students attending San Jose State University.

Internships?

I interned as an Industrial Engineer at Tesla, PepsiCo, Middle East Airlines, and Dar Al-Handasah. Those internships helped me implement the lean manufacturing tools and techniques I learned in my classes to improve production processes and eliminate non-value-added activities.

Why Industrial Engineering?

I've always wanted to do something useful for the rest of society. Creating solutions that are highly valuable to people brings me a sense of purpose. That's what Industrial Engineering is about. We solve problems and apply engineering tools to improve processes and, most importantly, other people's work. Employees, customers, and anyone involved in the making of a product or service are part of our solution map.

Post-graduation?

Upon graduation, I'd like to work as an Industrial Engineer for a few years to gain more hands-on experience in the field. I've previously interned in different industries (Automotive, Airline, Food and Beverage, and Engineering consulting) and enjoyed every one of them. Thus, I'd be eager to work in any industry and implement the lean methodologies that I've learned in my classes to drive improvements. After gaining a few years of experience in the field, I plan to pursue a master's degree in Industrial Engineering to strengthen my background and knowledge in the field.

