

Obituary

Antoun Georges Daou

b. January 28, 1978 - d. May 18, 2018

Antoun G. Daou, PhD., was a Rice University Research Scientist in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He was an international consultant, space scientist, mechatronics engineer and a public figure in education and leadership. He received his degree in Mechanical Engineering at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1999. He began his Rice graduate career in astronomy working under the direction of Prof. Chris Johns-Krull before switching to solar physics where he completed his M.S. (2005) and Ph.D. (2008) with Prof. David Alexander. He received several leadership awards from Rice, including the “Sallyport Award” from the Association of Rice Alumni in 2008. He was the founder of the Rice/NASA/Lockheed Martin Science competition in Lebanon and was instrumental in the deployment of many Stanford ionospheric (SID) monitors. He had numerous scientific publications, inventions and patents. His professional experience in multiple disciplines and his rich international connections, coupled with his adaptive leadership approach, made him a trusted advisor to C-suite executives of multinational corporations across the world. He was the Chairman and CEO of Earth National, LLC, where he developed unconventional processes, combining state of the art techniques and technologies in communication, A.I., robotics, neural networks, V.R. and immersive environments. As a cofounder and Chief Operations and Consultancy Officer of BioD Partners, Inc., he led the global innovation and disruption management consultancy. As Chairman and CEO of Pearl Advisers SAL, he provided strategic advisory, diplomatic consultancy and conflict resolution, as well as educational roadmaps and technology transfers. He was awarded the King Saud Welcome Shield (2009), the Antonine Sisters Appreciation Trophy (2010), the Royal Commission for Jubail and Tyanbu Appreciation Shield (2010) and the Ha’il University Appreciation Shield (2011). He remained active in solar and space physics and returned to Rice in 2015 as a Research Scientist, continuing to work with Prof. Alexander and joining the team working on MMS data analysis with Prof. Patricia Reiff. He worked part-time at Rice so that he could continue his consulting work. His public outreach, education, social and fundraising efforts left positive imprints across the world, making a difference in many countries, especially in the lives of the youth in both advanced and underserved communities. He was Chairman of the Lebanese National Network, an NGO. He supported “ePlanetarium”, a Rice University spinoff company, in the MENA (Middle East and North African) region while also developing new educational technology. His website displays his many activities: <http://www.antoundaou.com/>. Antoun had many friends around the world who will dearly miss him.



He spoke 9 languages, was a public and media speaker, taught martial arts (Kung Fu and Chayon Ryu) and played 5 musical instruments. His interests revolved around education, cutting-edge technologies, fundraising, charitable activities, history, geopolitics and religious scholarly research.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca Akl (married in 2013) and son Georges-Raphael (“G.R.”), born in 2015. His parents Georges and Joséphine Daou and his sister Dr. Aline Daou and her husband Dr. Firas Eladoumikdachi reside in New Jersey but also maintain homes in Lebanon.

His remains will be buried in Lebanon. A local prayer service in his memory will be held Thursday May 24 at 7pm at the “Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Catholic Church”.