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The MainGate



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What we can do **Together**



Aiducation.

Although he is Palestinian and was born in Tyre, Lebanon, Mohammad El Hussein has spent most of his life in Lusaka, Zambia. He graduated from Baobab College, where he enjoyed playing football and running cross country. Mohammad applied to AUB because it offered the best education in the Middle East. "I knew it would be the perfect place to study and meet new people," he remembers. He especially loves AUB's diverse student body that "encourages students to learn about, and how to live with, people from different cultures and backgrounds."

Mohammad is able to attend AUB thanks to financial aid from AUB and scholarships funded by Samir and Malak Abdulhadi and the Mahmoud Abbas Foundation. "Without this support, I wouldn't be able to study at AUB." A premed chemistry major, Mohammad is hoping to stay at AUB after he completes his undergraduate degree. "My dream is to become a doctor," he says. "I am hoping that the next stop on my journey will be medical school at AUB."



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Views from Campus



On September 2, 2019, I made my opening day remarks in Assembly Hall, including the statement: “We are committed, as we have always been, to the education of our students, in good times and in bad. As Lebanon and the region move into a period of increased instability, we are committed to helping all our students complete a world-class, fully supported education to the best of our abilities.”

I could not have known that 45 days later, a period of instability would test every one of those words. As of this writing, Lebanon is almost three months into a protest that has galvanized our students, faculty, and staff, caused the closing and reopening of the university, inspired new ways (and venues) of teaching, and affected the finances of every citizen in the country. Being committed to helping all our students complete their education suddenly looks infinitely more complicated than when the school year started.

I have been clear throughout the past couple months that AUB cannot play a political role in this uprising but needs to continue to do what it has done over a century and a half: act as a beacon of hope and a bastion of liberal values. AUB’s role as a university is to be an essential incubator for a better kind of

leader in the Arab world, and we need to do that without fear or favor. But practically, how does an institution fulfill its role when students are in danger of not being able to complete the semester?

Believing that charity begins at home, in November we took steps to protect and secure our community from the impact of further deterioration of the economy. With the support of our Board of Trustees, we created emergency funds to help alleviate the impact of the crisis on both students and patients at the medical center having trouble paying their fees. We have been committed to doing everything in our power to ensure that our enrolled students are able to complete their education without dropping out for financial, psychological, or other reasons related to the current situation.

We are also committed to refraining from using capital raised for building AUB’s future to cope with today’s crisis, as far as this is possible. Instead, we are looking at opening new revenue streams and cutting costs wherever we can, with temporary curbs on hiring, travel, and capital expenditure. Finally, we are taking care of our most vulnerable employees, while other members of our faculty and staff have

committed to donating part of their salaries to the emergency funds.

I am proud that as of this writing, we have brought the first semester of the school year to a successful close, with great thanks to the leadership team that has met consistently throughout and charted new territory in terms of scheduling, teaching, counseling, and financing at this great university. And because we are AUB, I can say that also as of this writing, a student-led initiative is taking place outside my door to gather and distribute food boxes to the most needy in our surrounding areas.

I am aware that AUB will be judged by the world on how we weather this Lebanese crisis, and whether we emerge as a stronger, better institution, or as a battered and bruised one. If past experience is anything to go by, we could end up bruised, but stronger; battered, but better. I trust we will look back on the October 17 revolt as a time when AUB repositioned itself as a more nimble, impactful, and sustainable institution that provides even more opportunities to the best and brightest learners.

Fadlo R. Khuri

For current news summaries, read *President’s Perspective*, published twice a month. www.aub.edu.lb/President/Perspectives/Pages/

Inbox



Dear *MainGate* readers,

The dramatic events gripping Lebanon since October 17, 2019, have highlighted for me more sharply than ever how a university can be several different things at the same time. The word “university” denotes a physical location, an institution with policies and hierarchies, and a community of teachers, learners, and employees. This complicates the task of explaining how the Lebanon protests have impacted AUB.

Our campus remains the peaceful and purposeful sanctuary it has always been through good times and bad, albeit with the occasional noisy protest just over the perimeter. Indeed, having just moved our Office of Communications to the Old Pharmacy beside Medical Gate in October, my window is now a few meters from the strategic Bliss-Abdel Aziz intersection that has been the scene of several determined occupations by AUB students, drummers and all, from which I get the full benefit.

At an institutional level, AUB addresses the security and the economic conditions as challenges to be managed as best as possible, while continuing to build our mission of educating students to be ethical future leaders, advancing knowledge through research, and serving the communities around us. To succeed we must and will remain strictly impartial in the prevailing controversies.

As a community, however, the upheaval has galvanized AUB faculty, staff, and students like nothing before, and their voices are among the loudest and most eloquent to be heard across a country witnessing a protest movement that cuts across societal divisions that have long prevented authentic national unity in Lebanon.

This edition of *MainGate* includes a special section highlighting some of these new realities and how they intersect with life at our university, as well as rejigged sections to fit with our new digital offering. As always, the editorial team hopes you find the AUB stories that we offer here compelling and enjoyable—I can’t think of a time when your support and engagement has been more necessary!

Martin Asser, Executive Editor



Cover
Music at the Intersection.
Photo by Marwan Naamani,
courtesy of AUB Neighborhood
Initiative.
Oumaima al-Khalil, Yo-Yo Ma,
Bach Project, Beit Beirut,
August 25, 2019.



Back Cover
Astronaut David Saint-Jacques
flies the AUB flag to the
International Space Station
(December 2018–June 2019).

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Common
abbreviations
found in
MainGate (MG):

AUB
American University
of Beirut

AUBMC
American University of
Beirut Medical Center

CCECS
Center for Civic
Engagement and
Community Service

FAFS
Faculty of Agricultural
and Food Sciences

FAS
Faculty of Arts
and Sciences

FHS
Faculty of
Health Sciences

FM
Faculty of Medicine

HSON
Rafic Hariri School
of Nursing

IFI
Issam Fares Institute
for Public Policy and
International Affairs

KSA
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

LAU
Lebanese American
University

MSFEA
Maroun Semaan Faculty
of Engineering and
Architecture

OSB
Suliman S. Olayan
School of Business

REP
Regional
External Programs

SPC
Syrian Protestant College

UAE
United Arab Emirates

UN
United Nations

WAAAUB
Worldwide Alumni
Association of AUB



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Yo-Yo Ma: What we can do together



Music has the power to unite. Having experienced this throughout his life, Yo-Yo Ma, the world's premiere cellist, has been on a pilgrimage to find the one universal truth in the many answers he is receiving to the timely question, "What can we do together that we can't do alone?" An AUB 2004 honorary degree recipient, Ma chose Lebanon as the midpoint of his travels. In late August, he returned to the AUB campus as part of the Bach Project, an initiative he launched in 2018 to perform Bach's six Cello Suites, each of which has six movements, in 36 locations around the world, and to start local and global conversations to address pressing cultural issues. At each stop, Ma plays all six suites in a single spellbinding two-and-a-half-hour performance.

Ma's Beirut visit was curated by the director of the AUB Neighborhood Initiative, Mona Hallak. It culminated in a memorable musical performance and critical discussion enlivened by local cultural actors and social activists in Assembly Hall. The program included Nadine Touma Dar Onboz who gave a delightful *hakawati*, or storyteller's performance accompanied by guitar and piano, and a joyful performance by the internationally award-winning Fayha Choir conducted by Maestro Barkev Taslakian. The choir, established to counter negative stereotypes of Lebanon and the Arab world, was joined by Ma and Kinan Azmeh for a surprise and unrehearsed performance of Lebanese artist Marcel Khalife's song *Asfour*.

President Khuri spoke of the importance of using culture and education to counter fundamentalism and extremism: "AUB, founded by Protestant missionaries, has found that impactful and transformative education can be best achieved with a humanist philosophy that respects every credo—religious or secular—but it does not insist upon one or the other of them. And we understand that we are responsible for modeling an inclusive and liberal society outside our university gates in Lebanon and in the wider Arab world."

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Reflections from the street.
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By Lina Ghaibeh



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A brief sampling of views on the protests culled from faculty email group





Lebanon mirrors a historic regional rebellion

by Rami G. Khouri

Senior public policy fellow, Issam Fares Institute; director of the Anthony Shadid Archives research project; journalist in residence, Media Studies Program
November 8, 2019



The spontaneous citizen uprising throughout the country against the Lebanese government since mid-October has sparked a great confrontation. The unstoppable force of an enraged citizenry that has long been abused and neglected by its own government now challenges a power elite that refuses to reform its corrupt ways, despite repeated demands from the citizens.

The first week of the uprising—or the “revolution,” as protesters call it—was telling, because after the government ordered state institutions, schools and universities, and private businesses to return to normal activities, most of the protesters stayed in the streets, and the protests escalated to new areas around the country. Protesters refused to budge in their belief that structural changes must be implemented to shatter the sectarian power-sharing oligarchy that has ruled Lebanon—misruled it, they say—for many decades.

The government of Prime Minister Saad Hariri reacted to the unprecedented protests against it by agreeing to undertake a dozen major reforms that it feels respond to the demands of the citizenry. These include key changes in eliminating deficit budgeting, reducing the state debt, halving ministerial and parliamentary salaries, reducing taxes on citizens and raising them on corporations and banks, assisting society’s most needy, rehabilitating the decrepit electricity sector, retrieving billions of dollars in the bank accounts of corrupt officials and their cronies, and other measures.

Despite the unprecedented scope and gravity of these measures, most of the

individuals and groups demonstrating in the streets refused to go back to business as usual. Hariri resigned a few days later, perhaps recognizing that the citizenry—or at least its members on the streets—no longer trusts the prime minister or the entire power elite that he represents to make the deep structural reforms that are needed to save the country from economic and environmental collapse. The protesters would seem to have history on their side, given that Lebanese governments have often promised but never delivered the structural reforms that would boost the economy and improve the delivery of essential services. Lebanon’s poor governance legacy has resulted in disastrous conditions for a majority of families that must spend much of their limited incomes to compensate for the dilapidated state social services, including water, electricity, education, transport, and healthcare.

◆◆ **We shall not be deterred from speaking up for the values of this university.** ◆◆

President Fadlo Khuri

The citizenry faces a seemingly invincible force in the oligarchic power elite—comprising the country’s 18 formally recognized confessional groups—that allocates the state’s budget, ministerial positions, and senior posts in a way that serves their narrow interests rather than the public’s rights and needs. This has been succinctly captured by Christiana Parreira in a new analysis from the respected Synaps research

and analysis network in Lebanon: “Since gaining independence in 1943, the Lebanese state has existed in astonishingly minimalist form, failing to deliver satisfactory levels of social welfare and public services. The country ranks 113th out of 137 in terms of infrastructural quality, according to the consulting firm McKinsey & Company. Electricity provision stands as the fourth worst in the world as per the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index. Public schools and hospitals are avoided by all Lebanese who can afford to do so and many who cannot. Lebanon’s political class thus presides over a system serving little more than its own interests.”¹

As has happened in the past during other bouts of political unrest, AUB finds its students, staff, and faculty deeply involved in the quest for a more stable, equitable, and prosperous Lebanon. Members of the AUB community have participated in peaceful street marches, manned medical aid tents in central Beirut, offered online classes for students who could not come to campus, held public lectures on topics relevant to the desired political changes, and proposed an assortment of remedies for the country’s shattered economy.

“We shall not be deterred from speaking up for the values of this university,” President Fadlo Khuri said, right after issuing an unprecedented joint statement with Salim Daccache, Rector of St. Joseph University. They described the protests as “an authentic national outcry, the largest unifying national protest movement since 1943, an outcry that profoundly expresses the sufferings and needs of our people and their

1. Christiana Parreira, “The Art of Not Governing,” Synaps, October 23, 2019.



immense desire to rebuild our country on new foundations.”

The breadth, depth, and intensity of the protests across the entire country are unprecedented across all religious, political, and age groups. Never before has Lebanon witnessed such a universal and national expression of shared anger among what seems to be a majority of its citizens. An interesting phenomenon is that demonstrators in some regions traditionally run by single political-sectarian groups are expressing solidarity with their fellow citizens in other areas run by groups opposed to them. Equally novel and significant are public protests in areas where groups like Hezbollah and Amal are strong, such as the eastern Beqaa or cities in the south. Even more unusual—and telling of the intensity of citizens’ anger and humiliation at finding themselves both poor and helpless due to decades of being mistreated by their leaders—many protests include direct, often brutally offensive slogans chanted in public against powerful political leaders.

All this suggests that Lebanon’s citizens may be at a historic turning point. The pauperization and marginalization of a majority of Lebanese—as is the case across the Arab region—is clearly a major reason for the intensity of the current rebellion in Lebanon. Lydia Assouad, a leading scholar of inequality in the Middle East, notes: “The richest 0.1 percent of the population—around 3,000 individuals, among them a large part of the political class—earns 10

percent of total national income, which is what the bottom 50 percent of the population earns. This gap is probably a main driver of the unity observed in the streets...”²

The protesters have focused their immediate demands on a series of steps that would revamp the entire governance system and replace the existing ruling elite. They envisage an independently monitored transitional salvation government of technocrats, leading to new parliamentary elections on a non-sectarian basis, the election of a new president, and vastly revamped state policies that respect citizen rights and their demand for social justice.

Concurrent to the Lebanon protests are demonstrations in Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Morocco, and other Arab lands, revealing pan-Arab structural weaknesses in governance. A recent dramatic moment reflecting the sentiment of these demonstrations occurred during a soccer match in Morocco when the crowd chanted an anti-corruption song entitled “This is a Land of Humiliation.” This speaks to a bitter situation, where corrupt and uncaring government officials make empty promises and build expensive houses, while their desperate citizens are forced to seek out a migrants’ boat to a new life abroad. Hundreds of millions of Arabs appear to feel in their bones the “humiliation” referenced in the Moroccan football fans’ protest chant, which haunts a vast majority of them. The chant’s specific mention of economic and employment distress, state corruption,

uncaring officials, and the desire to emigrate all resonate widely with citizens across the region. The collective feeling of “humiliation” best captures how government disdain for citizens’ rights and needs generates daily humiliations of degradation and helplessness among ordinary men and women, which is the sentiment that most Lebanese protesters express.

New research by UN agencies and international NGOs shows that poverty in the Arab region is as much as four times higher than previously assumed, with some 67 percent of Arabs in the categories of “poor” or “vulnerable.” The Arab Barometer project, which surveys the entire region every few years, recently released the results of its 2018–19 fieldwork, which showed that about one in every three citizens across the Arab region is considering leaving to live abroad, a trend that is increasing steadily.

2. Lydia Assouad, “Mass Protests Have Taken Place in Lebanon,” *Diwan*, October 21, 2019, carnegie-mec.org/diwan/80133?lang=en.



◆◆ In order for this revolution to be a credibly populist one, trial and error is necessary for its healthy development as an organic movement. ◆◆

◆◆ We are at a point of no return and pure peace won't lead us anywhere. ◆◆



Student voices

by Rita Bassil (BA, philosophy '14, MA, public administration '18)
Program manager, Center for Arts and Humanities



As generations young and old came together for a common cause at the end of October, students across Lebanon proved to be a powerful component of the uprising. Many students saw the protests as a singular opportunity to join the fight for a future in which they can build their lives in their home country instead of leaving behind family and friends in order to find gainful employment. Grounded in the bedrock values of an AUB education—civic engagement, freedom of expression, tolerance of difference, and simply standing up for what you believe, students participated in large numbers in

peaceful demonstrations and marches across Lebanon. The AUB faculty and administration supported their peaceful protests and their well-organized gatherings on campus, and recognized their right to join protests off-campus. When the administration sought to accommodate students who had missed classes, those students insisted that resuming their studies did not mean that they intended to abandon their activism.

I sought out AUB students for their impressions of this remarkable moment in Lebanon's history. I wanted to get the student perspective

on what they thought were the causes of the "revolution" and what changes they hope to see materialize.

What is clear to me as I reflect on these potentially life-altering protests is that the youth of Lebanon are a powerful political constituency, more connected through technology and better educated through financial aid opportunity. They deserve a better future, and they know it.

◆◆ We are attempting at detoxifying our country and our government from federal crime and civil injustices. ◆◆

◆◆ The economic situation in Lebanon is bad, with much poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities. ◆◆

◆◆ Our revolution has to bring out social grievances, social ailments, civil disagreements, and overall our monstrous tendencies because they have been buried and have been accumulating under the surface for a long time with no cure or outlet. ◆◆

◆◆ The revolution is only a month old, whilst the people in power have been committing crimes and civil injustices for the past 30 years. Thus, criticizing such a young revolution is not fair. ◆◆



◆◆ It's due to the political machine that the majority of the Lebanese population is living somewhat under the poverty line while the educated youth is forced to seek employment opportunities outside of country. It falls on the political machine's operatives, that is our ministers and parliament members, to provide the country with a sound economic foundation and development and to create suitable job opportunities across the board. ◆◆

◆◆ Revolution is like a bicycle; when the wheels don't turn it falls over, so everyone needs to keep peddling. ◆◆







Photo by Rita Bassil

Reclaiming the city through art

by Sari Mounzer (BA, graphic design '05), contributing writer



Popular uprisings such as the people's protest movement, or *thawra*, that began in Lebanon on October 17, can be seen as a complex negotiation of space and power, a living example of the concept of "My house, my rules." With a substantial segment of Lebanon's population united in its demand for a massive change in the status quo, perhaps the most pressing question is, "How do you overthrow a repressive regime in a peaceful manner?" The *thawra* has utilized the time-honored vehicle of art to spread its message without inciting violence. Almost overnight, the glossy facades of Martyr's Square and the neighboring Riad El Solh became the people's canvas. The invisible hand of law that had preserved the prestige of these areas—a prestige that was maintained by an inaccessibility of sorts—was met with bold defiance.

Street artists usually reserve their interventions for old, dilapidated spaces that have a minimal bearing on the overall aesthetic of a neighborhood. It is one thing to put pen to paper or brush to canvas, but something else entirely to apply spray

◆◆ **The *thawra* has utilized the time-honored vehicle of art to spread its message without inciting violence.** ◆◆

paint to public property. To intervene on public property, or even public space, is seen as a gesture of entitlement. Between the interventions of protesters who merely want to vent, notable local talents,

and those who want to experiment with their work, artworks have claimed the most unlikely of spaces. Interventions have been made on directional street signs, on well-maintained walls adjacent to main roads, on the ever-so-glossy facades that line downtown Beirut, and the iconic Martyrs' Monument. Even the barbed wire installed as a protective measure by security forces just outside of the Parliament in Riad El Solh has invited artistic intervention.

The voices of the *thawra* are many and varied. It seems every individual has their own frustrations and vision for how things ought to be, and this is reflected in each artistic statement. Collectively, these interventions are so pronounced that they silently scream, "This city is ours!"





“The revolution is a woman” الثورة أنتي

The popular demonstrations have seen women take the lead on the front lines, even using their bodies to prevent clashes between security forces and male protesters. Women have featured prominently in public conversations, debates, and educational sessions aimed at understanding and shaping the uprising. They have been seen carrying a child with one arm and holding a Lebanese flag with the other. They have encouraged their children to participate, and have organized street cleanups and recycling groups. Women’s artwork has spread across the streets and social media, communicating messages that have defined the uprising, including the saying “*al thawra untha*,” meaning, “The revolution is a woman.”



Dr. Brigitte Khoury

Dr. Brigitte Khoury, associate professor in AUB’s Psychiatry Department and president-elect of the international division of the American Psychological Association, observed that women are not only influencing the uprising, they are being influenced by it. The protests have given women a platform to voice concerns that are unique to their gender, and have allowed them to push for much needed change.

As an example of how women’s leadership and public participation has altered the nature of the Lebanese uprising, consider Dr. Brigitte Khoury’s Psychological First Aid Tent, which she was inspired to build after seeing a medical tent in downtown Beirut. It provides mental health support, a much-neglected component of overall health and wellbeing. Dr. Khoury’s call for volunteers has yielded a highly



The 2019 Lebanese uprising has signaled a major social transformation with its inclusion of segments of Lebanese society that have been either dormant or only lightly involved in the country’s public and political life. Since October 17, women, children, individuals with disabilities, the country’s global diaspora, and other marginalized groups of Lebanese citizens have made significant contributions to the uprising’s historical impact.



trained staff of professionals from several universities and from within the community. The tent provides a safe space for walk-ins to decompress, vent, and receive generalized therapeutic counseling (not specific treatment or in-depth work), and to join in group sessions on self-care during the uprising. Children are also welcomed into playgroups and child-focused discussions on the protests. Flyers on these subjects were prepared in Arabic and English and widely distributed. The tent also makes referrals to low fee resources throughout the country.

“Our tent was destroyed and tables and chairs stolen the first time there was violence, but three hours later we were up and running thanks to colleagues who volunteered to buy a new tent and new furniture,” said Khoury. “It was important for us to be functioning after the first bout of violence and to attend to the victims. As word of our services spread, more and more people starting coming to us for support and help. Incidentally, the tent was destroyed again a few days later. It was rebuilt as a larger, more secure structure.”



Dr. Mona Fawaz

Dr. Mona Fawaz, professor of urban studies and planning and coordinator of AUB’s graduate programs in urban planning, policy, and change, points out that the most poignant aspect of what many are calling a “revolution” might be the cultural and social transformation that rejects the oppressive structures that have so far thwarted the emergence of a more inclusive collective identity. “We are seeing signs and chants in protests openly denouncing the structural discrimination against women in our political and social systems.”

Fawaz was one of the first to take her classes to downtown Beirut, where she organized daily teach-ins until classes on campus resumed. “I find it important to strengthen political discussions in the public sphere and contribute as much as I can to the organization of public events around timely issues where conversations are needed,” she said. “There is also a need to put out information that helps consolidate the critique of the current

◆◆ We are seeing signs and chants in protests openly denouncing the structural discrimination against women in our political and social systems. ◆◆

political system through issues that touch people’s lives: Why can’t I go to a public beach? Why is Beirut’s historic downtown—the core of the city—a playground for property speculators rather than a space for the public to gather? The protesters have reclaimed this empty hole, using it to develop the embryo of a collective that may ultimately restore it as the heart of the city. As an urban researcher, I have joined with colleagues and others to try and make these causes real, link them to everyday life, and use them to explain what good government and an inclusive political imaginary would mean.” Fawaz also works with Beirut Madinati, an active political group, to produce simplified content that translates popular demands into actionable items and actual reforms that are shared and debated in daily public discussions.

Also engaged in contributing to the uprising through their respective areas of expertise are OSB’s Dr. Lina Daouk-Öyry, associate professor of organizational behavior, and Dr. Charlotte Karam, associate professor of management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. “We decided to develop a research-based competency model and to translate it into words commonly used by the public,” said Daouk-Öyry. They revisited data from



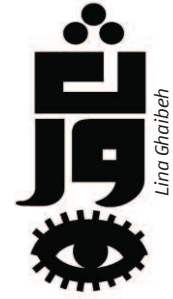
Dr. Lina Daouk-Öyry

research Daouk-Öyry had conducted with Dr. Pia Zeinoun and Dr. Lina Choueiri, which identified four competencies that the next cabinet should have. “The aim was to create some sort of mental reference derived from research, but that anybody can easily relate to and remember when it comes to naming the next cabinet members.” To communicate this effectively, Dr. Lina Ghaibeh, associate professor of graphic design at AUB, helped create videos that presented this information in an accessible, constructive, and visually appealing manner. Fawaz and Dr. Mona Harb, AUB professor of urban studies and politics at the Department of Architecture and Design, also helped conceptualize the material and narrow down the competencies to address critical issues of importance to people in Lebanon today.

The response inspired by this unprecedented involvement of Lebanese women in the public and political spheres continues to reverberate throughout the country. *Annahar*, one of Lebanon’s popular newspapers, recently issued an edition dedicated to the women of the uprising. The name of the newspaper, which means *The Day*, was changed to *Naharouki*, a word that translates to Your Day, gendered in Arabic to address women. The newspaper also offered a bold change to the Lebanese national anthem by adding the word “women” to a lyric that referenced only men. A video of this version of the anthem performed by Lebanese artist Carole Samaha went viral in the following days—further proof that women are major drivers of this potentially pivotal event in Lebanon’s history.

O Rebellious Beauty

by Sahar H. Koubar, MD
Assistant professor of Medicine and Nephrology
Director of the Nephrology Fellowship Training program



Rise up
Rise up in revolt
Be the earthquake that shakes their thrones
The storm that smashes their barges
A flood that sweeps away their palaces
A volcano that destroys their land
May you grow from your womb a new nation
And men made of iron and wheat

Rise up
Show them your most ferocious femininity
Tear away their masks of masculinity
Crush their timid endeavors with your fist
And show them what they can never grasp
The force of your heroism
And the strength of your forearms

Rise up, my lady
Let your tears rain down on their arid plains
To plant both love and seed
And season the flour with your drops of sweat
To make the revolution glorious
Rip out the thorns of their corruption
And if your hands should bleed
Let it be the scarlet that illuminates our flag

Declare it a revolution
Against sectarianism...
Against machismo...
Against discrimination...
And classism...
Declare it a women's revolution
And give birth after a cesarean operation
To a nation worth of humanity

إنتفضي
إنتفضي ثورة
كوني زلزلاً يهزُّ عروشهم
كوني إعصاراً يحطمُ مراكبهم
كوني فيضاناً يجرفُ قصورهم
كوني بركاناً ودمري أرضهم
علّه ينبت من رحمك وطنٌ جديد
ورجالاً من قمح وحديد

إنتفضي
أريهم أشرس أنوثتك
أزيلي عن وجوههم قناع الرجولة
واسحقي بقبضتك محاولاتهم الخجولة
واربهم ما لا يفقهون
أريهم عنفوان البطولة
وسواعدك المفتولة

إنتفضي سيدتي!
أمطري بدموعك جفاف سهلهم
لتنبت حباً وحباً
واخلطي الطحين بطيب عرقك
واصنعي للثورة عزاً
إقتلعي أشواك فسادهم
وان نزت يداك
فهي لحمرة العلم جبراً

أعلنها ثورةً
على الطائفية...
على الذكورية...
على العنصرية...
على الطبقة...
أعلنها ثورة أنثوية
ولدي بعد عملية قيصرية
وطناً يليق بالإنسانية.

Crisis management at the Medical Center



Dr. Ziyad Ghazzal



Conditions in Lebanon post-October 17 have posed serious challenges to the provision of world class healthcare at the AUB Medical Center (AUBMC), but staff and administrators have managed to maintain standards of excellence throughout while providing all regular services. The first month of demonstrations saw numerous roads to and in the capital obstructed by protesters, creating significant difficulties for staff attempting to reach AUBMC. Relying on the inestimable dedication, resourcefulness, and bravery of staff who reported for work despite major travel disruption, the Medical Center was able to handle all its usual cases, in addition to treating an increase in injuries from the demonstrations. Essential staff who could not get home, such as nurses, pharmacists, and anesthesia residents, were put up in makeshift accommodation in and around the Medical Center.

“We have been very proud of our medical staff for providing the same quality care that AUBMC is known for, despite the challenges,” Interim Medical Center Director and Chief Medical Officer Ziyad Ghazzal told *MainGate*. “What we saw was a real desire among all the staff to continue serving our patients through the very difficult situation and to provide the

same quality of healthcare without interruption of regular services.”

Concurrent to the initial travel disruption, priority was also placed on ensuring sufficient medical supplies, increasing the stockpile of critical items, and creating new space for longer storage times. The banking crisis has had a major impact, putting a burden on medical suppliers unable to access credit lines for imported goods and inflating costs. Patient volume dropped owing to security and financial reasons as people postponed clinical visits and elective surgery. Although numbers have picked up gradually, they have not returned to the levels seen before the protests.

“Our hope is that the political situation stabilizes with a favorable impact on the economy, so that the Medical Center and healthcare system generally can recuperate the very significant financial losses incurred during the crisis,” Dr. Ghazzal told us. In the meantime, in order to treat more patients struggling to pay medical bills, with insurance companies also suffering from the banking squeeze, AUB has established solidarity funds for patients as well as students. Please contact advancement@aub.edu.lb for more information.

Comments collected from the AUB faculty email group



"We can all support the demonstrators' aspirations for capable, honest officials who exercise their responsibilities thoughtfully. And, here we come to the one service that we, as university professors, can hope to provide: we can help our students learn how to think, we can help them learn the facts they will need to execute their lives competently, and we can model the values that will help them contribute to something larger than their own self-interests."

"At the personal level, i am in full support of the people of lebanon movement and their calls for change. I am deeply disturbed that for the first time in recent history there is a serious risk for the country to fall in complete chaos. At the same time, i am excited that we are at the verge of a new lebanon being born. Yet, i have to think as a responsible citizen of the country, and a good citizen of aub."

"It is not unusual and quite possible that a noble cause can be diverted by political groups into chaos and protracted conflict. Suddenly, we may be on the wrong path. What will be our exit strategy if this movement malfunctions or becomes endless?"

"Our call is for social and political work that is in alignment with our mission as intellectuals, pedagogues and social critics, and ultimately in alignment with the mission of the university as an institution that safeguards critical and transformative pedagogic practice."

"We should not act as a barrier to the people's voice (of whom students are an essential component), but rather (in the least) facilitators for a chance at reform and positive change."

"Intellectuals are needed to translate the demands from the streets into actual laws and plans that secure and protect our kids' futures in this beautiful country regardless whether the government is resigning or not."

"I fully support the demonstrations—their goals and methods. I fully support faculty who demonstrate instead of teaching. And, i fully support students who demonstrate instead of attending classes. I don't know whether i support faculty who divert their classes in service of the demonstrations."

"We need to lead our students by setting an example of commitment to citizen voices."

"Spontaneous mass demonstration could fizzle out or even turn ugly but who are we to discourage their [student] participation. We failed during our tenure, but at least we had hope. Don't take away their hope. At least, not yet. We should not drag them back to 'business as usual.' it isn't."

"You cannot expect the spontaneous reaction of the people to produce an organized leadership and a program in five days. It needs time. That is why we as educated people need to work with all our good willed co-citizens and thus be on strike."

Inspiration & Discoveries

AUB people, student life, the liberal arts, arts and research



Bold Steps

FHS Dean Iman Nuwayhid reflects on public health challenges on the ground and in the broader context

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Zein AUB iPark

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Legends & Legacies

Stephen B. L. Penrose Jr.

An AUB president dedicated his life to the notion "that they may have life"

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Education for Leadership in Crisis

(ELC) provides talented Afghan students with the leadership skills needed to build civic institutions

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Students move into the newly renovated Penrose Hall



Bold Steps

Aspiring for peace and justice, FHS gets its hands dirty in a messy world

“The world is a messy place,” explains Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Dean Iman Nuwayhid, “but we are completely committed—as a faculty—to being engaged in the world as it is.” The way Nuwayhid and his colleagues see it, if you care about people and their health, you don’t really have a choice. “You can’t begin to address public health issues unless you look at them in their broader context,” says Nuwayhid. “We don’t have all the answers, but we have the will. We’re always looking for people to work with who bring a different perspective and can inform our work. What we want are meaningful results and change.”

FHS’s vision is to be a driver for a set of values—equity, justice, better health, and peace—in the Arab region and beyond. Nuwayhid shakes his head, saying, “We are very aware that this may sound odd—even a bit pretentious. After all, can we claim to be a driver for peace? Is that something we, public health academics, should try to do?” For Nuwayhid and his colleagues at FHS, the answer is obvious: not only is this something they can strive toward, but something they must strive toward. “You can’t achieve equity, justice, and better health without peace,” he explains. “Living in this part of the world, we know this. We see the evidence every day.” Nuwayhid notes that the absence of peace has very real consequences for the health of people, health systems, and healthcare workers. Current armed conflicts around the globe are witnessing a dramatic increase in the number of attacks on health facilities and healthcare workers. In coordination with four governments, FHS organized a side event on “Protecting Health Care in Armed Conflict” at the UN

General Assembly in September 2017. More recently, in September 2019, FHS hosted an international conference on “Children in Armed Conflict” organized by the International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health.

FHS researchers are currently focusing on the health of population groups (children, youth, women, workers, refugees, older adults); selected health outcomes (injuries, communicable and non-communicable diseases); risk factors (tobacco, drug use); and environmental issues and their management and impact on health, health systems, health policy, and

research ethics. To address the complex web of social, environmental, economic, and political factors that

determines the health of individuals and communities, and to transform research into a tool that impacts policy and practice, FHS adopted a 360° systems-network approach. With a focus on teaching and learning, this approach institutionalizes the three critical public health functions of research, practice, and policy translation into the Center for Research on Population and Health (CRPH), the Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP), and the Knowledge to Policy (K2P) Center.

Nuwayhid and his colleagues know that the challenges are enormous and that they cannot face them alone, so they partner with colleagues within AUB and across the globe. Their joint research and educational programs in humanitarian engineering with MSFEA and in the Water, Energy, Food, and Health Nexus (WEFRAH) led by FAFS are recent examples. Another example is the joint global

FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

MS in global health and sustainable development with EARTH University in Costa Rica that will provide students with opportunities for experiential learning and a chance to develop social entrepreneurship skills in different political and historical contexts. “We cross boundaries, be they geographical, disciplinary, or otherwise,” says Nuwayhid.

Established in 1954, FHS is the oldest and leading academic public health institution in the Arab world. Its graduate public health program was accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2006 and reaccredited in 2012. It remains the only accredited program in the Arab region and one of only nine accredited programs internationally. The program received its second reaccreditation from CEPH in January 2020. Modest in size but not in ambition, FHS’s impact in Lebanon, the region, and globally has been impressive. It has made an especially important contribution to strengthening the field of public health in the region by offering scholarships to promising undergraduate and graduate students from Lebanon and surrounding countries. FHS has also introduced relevant new programs, such as a BA in health communication, an MS in public health nutrition with FAFS, and a PhD in epidemiology.

FHS has earned a global reputation. In 2012, FHS edited *Public Health in the Arab World*, the first academic book on this subject; in 2014, it led a special *Lancet* issue on health in the Arab world; and in 2016, it was chosen to lead the *Lancet*-AUB Commission on Syria, the first time that a *Lancet* commission was led by an institution from the Global South. Emerging from the commission’s work was a Global Alliance on War, Conflict and Health that will be launched in May 2020.

Nuwayhid and his colleagues are proud of what they have accomplished. “Our faculty

probably attracts more external research funding than any other AUB faculty. What’s even more important, though, is that we are doing research that has an immediate impact on people’s health,” says Nuwayhid. There is no sense of complacency at FHS. “We are self-critical and rather demanding of ourselves,” Nuwayhid says, “and while working every day with real people, real communities, and real problems, we never cease to dream and think outside the box. We sense that no matter what we do, there is still a lot that needs to be done.”





The Zein family with AUB leadership

Zein AUB iPark

Inspire. Enable. Connect.



Sleek walls, signage in looping modern typeface, a maze of crisscrossing ductwork set against a high, unfinished ceiling, a sprawling open office hemmed by a green wall—grass, red-leafed cabbage, ivy—large screens tucked to corners, glass-walled meeting rooms. The newly-built Talal and Madiha Zein AUB Innovation Park (Zein AUB iPark),

recalls the offices of tech giants like Google and Facebook and is no doubt meant to inspire the same kind of innovative, digitally-focused entrepreneurship. To enter the iPark, about a mile east of AUB's main campus in Beirut's Digital District (BDD), is to feel empowered to "build things"—a website, an app, a company.

◆◆ **To enter the iPark is to feel empowered to 'build things'—a website, an app, a company. ◆◆**



“This is the first time that AUB has established an institutional presence off campus,” explains Professor of Finance Salim Chahine. “The location of the iPark in the Beirut Digital District in the heart of the city is critical to our plans for its future. We are very grateful to the family of the late Talal Zein for their generous gift to endow this new facility.” The iPark’s location also sends a powerful message about AUB’s intention to play a role in the emerging entrepreneurship ecosystem in Lebanon.

In his remarks at the Zein AUB iPark inauguration on September 2, President Fadlo R. Khuri noted that less than five percent of young people from the Arab world who leave the region for work or education return to their home countries, the lowest percentage in the world. “At AUB, we recognize the importance of unleashing the potential of our youth, with people under 25 making up 60 percent of the population of our region. Investing in youth through initiatives such as this one is therefore a key driver to economic and social growth,” said Khuri.

What Chahine and his colleagues want to do is make the Zein AUB iPark a place where students, faculty, and alumni get the support and resources they need to develop innovative ideas and convert them into profitable and scalable startups. “We want our students and graduates to be able to innovate and develop successful businesses here,” says Chahine.

There are already a number of AUB initiatives that promote entrepreneurship at the university, such as the Samih Darwazah Center for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business, which organizes the annual Darwazah Startup Accelerate (DSA) competition. In addition, the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and

◆◆ **We want our students and graduates to be able to innovate and develop successful businesses here.** ◆◆

Zein AUB iPark Founding Director Salim Chahine

Architecture offers an undergraduate track in entrepreneurship that includes hackathons, coursework, a summer internship at a startup at BDD, and a year-long design experience in the final year of study, during which teams of students develop their own startup companies based on technologies they developed. Since 2015, AUB’s Center for Research and Innovation (CRInn), under the leadership of Dr. Fadia Homeidan, has trained more than 2,000 students, organized 15 student competitions, and supported the launch of 84 startups—51 of which are active in one way or another. “The Zein AUB iPark will support all of these initiatives and also enable us to expand into new areas and offer aspiring entrepreneurs even more support,” says Chahine, who is the founding director of the Zein AUB iPark.

Chahine points out that a number of AUB graduates have become successful entrepreneurs—people like Ayah Bdeir (littleBits), Habib Haddad (Yamli), Hind Hobeika (Instabeat), and Bassam Jalgha (Roadie Tuner). All of them had to leave Lebanon in order to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams. “That’s what we want to change,” explained Chahine. “Thanks to the efforts of BDD CEO Mouhamad Rabah and others, Beirut now has a lot more to offer young entrepreneurs. The Zein AUB iPark is now part of what Beirut has to offer. We are very excited about this initiative—and eager to move ahead.”

Face to Face

Ensuring an abundant life at AUB



As AUB’s director of financial planning, Maria Mansour plays a central role in the functioning of the university. From the Office of Financial Planning, nestled in a cozy nook of College Hall, funds that are the lifeblood of every professor’s paycheck, every student’s final project, every lab, every classroom desk, air conditioner, and light bulb, are earmarked for payment.

In her role, Mansour must often manage competing demands from ambitious department chairs who want to expand and support student bodies. But not all dreams can be fulfilled. And so Mansour must preside like Speaker of the House in a raucous parliament. “I negotiate the needs of departments, assess sources of income, and allocate that income to faculties and departments, all of whom have worthy causes,” she says. “The most challenging aspect is trying to satisfy everyone.”

Mansour’s whole life—from birth on—has been linked to AUB, having grown up in Ras Beirut. “The campus was my playground,” she says. She spent her childhood picking at the exotic trees and shrubs nestled between the Ottoman-style buildings and jumping off the rock face that is AUB Beach. As a teenager, she witnessed the bombing of College Hall: “I heard it, felt it the night before, and saw the damage in the morning.”

Despite that tragedy and many others that came with the civil war, she remembers her childhood fondly. Ras Beirut, with its mixed, international character, offered some solace from the

sectarian forces that ate up the rest of the country.

“AUB was always the place to go,” says Mansour, and not just for her, but for her uncles, aunts, cousins, and siblings, most of whom are AUB alumni. She entered the university herself in 1990 and graduated with a business degree in June 1993. After a brief summer of leisure, she returned to campus a few months later as an accountant in the Comptroller’s Office.

“I found a job there. I didn’t search for any other position. This is where the journey started, and where it continues. It was a very smooth transition. Since then I’ve climbed the professional ladder, year after year.” She pushed herself, enrolling in the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business’s Executive MBA program. “I was a full-time student and employee. There were times I had to wake up at 4 a.m. to finish assignments.”

But it was a labor of love. “I love my job; I am detail-oriented and like to analyze all the figures that are part of AUB’s big puzzle. I supervise three people—an extremely hard-working team. We are one family. AUB is my first family, not my second. I’m married to AUB,” she laughs.

Looking ahead, she hopes to find more creative ways to solve the university’s budgetary challenges: “I was honored to be part of the new master planning for the university. I’m looking forward to 2030 when this master plan is in place. I think this will be a challenging time and a transformative one for AUB.”

By the Numbers

AUB Libraries

“One of the most significant challenges that university librarians encounter in an increasingly digital world is to ensure effective and wise use of available library resources. This challenge becomes even greater during times of economic instability. Regardless of the circumstances, we make every effort to maintain continuous access to world class library resources and services in support of the university’s mission.”—Lokman I. Meho, PhD, University Librarian

AUB Libraries: Jafet Library, Engineering and Architecture Library, Saab Medical Library, Science and Agriculture Library (*Figures cover the period September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019*)

Services:

Opening hours during regular days	106.5 per week
Opening hours during exam periods	24/7
Visits to main library website	500,000 approx.
Online catalog searches performed	2,500,000 approx.
Library instruction session participants	6,695
E-journal articles downloaded	1,248,860 approx.
E-books full-text downloaded	781,704

Collections:

Print book titles	424,438 titles / 512,737 volumes
Print journal titles	5,365 titles (1,653 in Arabic) / 156,451 volumes
Electronic book titles owned	1,292,805 titles
Electronic journal titles	132,107 unique titles
Database subscriptions	381
Print books purchased/added	7,890 titles / 9,124 volumes
Manuscripts	1,373 titles / 1,408 volumes
Maps	1,729 titles / 2,072 volumes
University archives	1,169 linear feet / 3,507 archival boxes
Microform items	11,258 titles / 32,055 volumes
Film and video titles	12,962 titles / 4,144 volumes
Audio recordings	437 titles / 686 volumes

By the Books

Course: Rural Development: Theories, Debates, and Challenges

SYLLABUS

“This course provides students with the tools they need to analyze key contemporary agricultural and rural development issues and challenges,” explains Assistant Professor Giuliano Martiniello. “We look at global issues, but the focus is on the Global South—the MENA region in particular.” The syllabus has been structured to provide students with an interdisciplinary perspective of rural development that blends political economy, political sociology, and political ecology. Students read a rich selection of texts, including works by Philip McMichael (*Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*), Robert Chambers (*Rural Development: Putting the Last First*), and Ian Douwe Van der Ploeg (*The New Peasantries: Rural Development in the Time of Globalization*).

CLASS TIME

Martiniello uses various techniques to encourage class participation, such as discussion-oriented class presentations, individual exercises, in-class pair and small group exercises, group projects, and documentary screenings. He usually begins the class with an hour-long lecture on that week’s topic; the second part of the class is conducted as a seminar during which students discuss key ideas from the readings, formulate critiques or appreciations of the arguments, watch video documentaries, and/or present their research.

INSTRUCTOR’S BIO

Prior to joining AUB in fall 2015, Martiniello was a research fellow at the Makerere Institute of Social Research in Uganda. He has also spent time in South Africa. Martiniello’s research interests include land reform, food systems, large-scale land enclosures, the integration of smallholders within global agricultural commodity chains, rural social conflicts, and agrarian movements in Africa and the Middle East. He has published in top-ranked international peer-reviewed academic journals and is co-editor of *Uganda: The Dynamics of Neoliberal Transformation* (Zedbooks 2018).

Published & Produced

Art



Rise of the Phoenix, Raja Srour

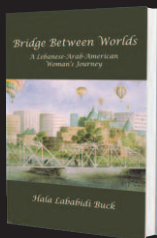
Raja Srour (BS '65, MD '69) is both a highly successful cosmetic surgeon with his own practice in Los Angeles, California, and an accomplished artist. He reserves his artwork for private showings and auctions at charitable organizations where his paintings fetch prices in the high thousands. *Rise of the Phoenix*, painted in 1991, was inspired by the promise of a lasting peace. He writes, "I have dedicated my life to the pursuit of artistic creations as a harmonious symphony between 'the scalpel and the brush.'"



Three artworks by the artist known as "g".

George Maktabi ("g") lives in Beirut, a city he loves. His art, which mixes modern and nostalgic images with street scenes, creates emotional narratives that are bold and painfully honest. He writes, "Behind every window, over every roof, and in every corner of my beloved Beirut there's a story to be told." Maktabi was in the advertising field for 20 years.

Written Word



1

1. BRIDGE BETWEEN WORLDS: A LEBANESE-ARAB-AMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNEY

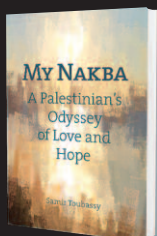
Bridge between Worlds: A Lebanese-Arab-American Woman's Journey by Hala Lababidi Buck (2019, New Academia Publishing/SCARITH) is a profound and inspiring memoir of the author's journey to deepen her sense of belonging and home by integrating all of the elements of her multifaceted life. As a professional artist and integrative therapist born in Beirut, Lebanon, who is of mixed Muslim and Christian parentage, married to an American diplomat, and the mother of a "third culture" daughter, Lababidi Buck has both rich material and multimedia at her disposal. She tells her story with honesty, empathy, and humor through prose, poetry, and watercolors. Having learned how to navigate a transient life in seven Arab countries, West Africa, and Canada, she knows what it means to be a human bridge across cultures. Her book offers fresh perspectives and a timely message that diversity and unity need not be at odds.



2

2. YOU'RE NOT HERE

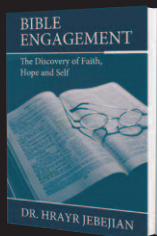
You're Not Here by Tariq Mehmood (2018, Daraja Press) is a disturbing but ultimately uplifting love story that depicts the destruction that politics, religion, and ethnicity can inflict on relationships, families, communities, and countries. Bitter divisions engulf an English town where young Muslims oppose the British army's presence in Afghanistan, while white youth condemn the Muslims as traitors. One brother goes missing in action in Afghanistan, while the other falls in love with an Afghan girl in England. The lovers fall apart. But far-off events and sinister forces at home bring the lovers together again in a journey in which they will not only discover themselves but also heal the wounds of their families and friends. *You're Not Here* is the sequel to the award-winning novel *You're Not Proper*.



3

3. MY NAKBA: A PALESTINIAN'S ODYSSEY OF LOVE AND HOPE

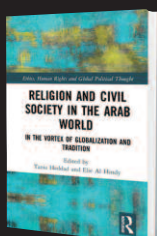
My Nakba: A Palestinian's Odyssey of Love and Hope (2019, Olive Branch Press, Interlink Publishing) by Samir Toubassy (BBA '62) is a poignant memoir of flight, searching, and achievement from a survivor whose aspirations were always tied in constructive ways to the fate of his homeland. Toubassy offers valuable life lessons and encouragement from his childhood recollections of the trauma of his family's expulsion from their home in Jaffa in 1948 to a mature understanding of the continuing plight of Palestinians. Toubassy served as AUB's budget director from 1967-76 and went on to build a far reaching and highly successful international business career, most prominently with the noted Olayan Group. He is currently a Harvard Advanced Leadership Senior Fellow, seeking to apply his experience to global education in the developing world.



4

4. BIBLE ENGAGEMENT: THE DISCOVERY OF FAITH, HOPE, AND SELF

Bible Engagement: The Discovery of Faith, Hope, and Self by Hrayr Jebejian (for more information, contact: hrayrj@mtnmail.com.cy). Jebejian holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Bible Engagement from the New York Theological Seminary. His book is a scientific study of the impact of the message of the Good News on abused, lonely, and homesick migrant workers in the Gulf. It documents heartwarming and heartbreaking firsthand accounts of the practical applications, implications, and life-transforming impact of creative and meaningful scripture engagement.



5

5. RELIGION AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE ARAB WORLD: IN THE VORTEX OF GLOBALIZATION AND TRADITION

Religion and Civil Society in the Arab World: In the Vortex of Globalization and Tradition, edited by Tania Haddad and Elie Al-Hindy. (2018, Routledge, London). A comprehensive study of how Arab civil society came into being and its changing roles, this eclectic work will be of interest to scholars and researchers of politics, especially political Islam, international relations, Middle East studies, African studies, sociology, and social anthropology. The book examines the links between civil society, religion, and politics in the MENA region. It explores the role of religion in shaping and changing the public sphere in regions that are developing and/or in conflict. It further explores civil society organizations and the role they are expected to play in transitional periods, the conceptual dilemmas regarding what 'civil society' is in the Arab world today, the future of the Arab civil society post Arab Spring events, and how the latter continues to reshape the demand for democracy in the region.

The rededication of Penrose Hall: A 21st century renovation for a beloved dormitory



The September 3 ceremony rededicating Penrose Hall provided an abundance of reasons to celebrate. The event took on added dimensions with the presence of three members of the Penrose family as well as multiple former recipients of the Penrose Award. The residence hall was named for Dr. Stephen B. L. Penrose Jr., AUB's fourth president, who died while in office in 1954. For President Penrose's daughter, Dale Penrose Harrell, the rededication marked her first return to campus in 64 years. She was joined by her brother, Stephen Penrose III, and his daughter, Kate Penrose. Former Penrose Award winners were visibly moved to connect with family members of the president who was known for his tireless and innovative work on behalf of the university.

Stephen Penrose addressed the crowd saying he felt both pride and humility: "Pride that my father's

name is associated with an award that celebrates academic excellence, character, leadership, and contribution to university life." He added, "It is simply not possible for me to be in the presence of so many whose character and accomplishments, during your times at AUB and afterwards, are indeed that extraordinary, and that inspiring, without feeling a deep sense of humility."

Ghadeer Hamati (BBA '16) was one of the Penrose awardees who attended the rededication. She remembers that receiving the Penrose Award "made me feel like AUB saw me for who I am and was honoring me for what I had done—not just academically, but for who I am as a person and my passion for student life. The Penrose Award is a constant reminder of the impact I can create every single day in any community!"

Also cause for celebration was the recently earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for the new Penrose Hall. It is the first LEED Gold certification for a renovated building on campus and it represents an important milestone in AUB's campus master plan. The transformation is thanks to the hard work of Senior Director of Facilities Bassem Barhoumi and the team at AUB's Facilities Planning and Design Unit. Penrose Hall includes 106 rooms for 266 students (six rooms are ADA compliant for students with special needs), study areas, TV lounges, outside gardens, and extensive landscaping.

It's not easy to earn LEED Gold certification—especially for an old building. "The way it works," explains Barhoumi, "is that you earn points for implementing different



energy efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly features in the design, construction, and operation of the building. Depending on the number of points you earn, you are either certified with LEED, LEED silver, gold, or platinum certification.”

What are the features that earned Penrose Hall its LEED Gold certification? They relate to the quality of indoor spaces, the percentage of open spaces surrounding the building that encourage interaction with the environment, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and the materials that were used in the renovation.

President Fadlo R. Khuri enumerated some of those features during the re-dedication ceremony. “We have

installed reflective materials on the roof and interior passages to reduce the heat island effect and minimize the building’s impact on microclimate and human and wildlife habitats; we anticipate a 29.4 percent reduction in total energy cost for this building thanks to the use of low-e glazing and construction materials that have special thermal properties, efficient HVAC systems, and lighting fixtures; and we project an increase in the self-supply of renewable energy by sourcing a quarter (23.59 percent) of total energy by cost from renewable energy.”

As students filled the new spaces, getting ready for the academic year, they may not have been thinking about history and the man their residence hall was named for. But

outside, former President Penrose was very much on his son’s mind: “History attests to his steadfast commitment to principles of integrity, transparency, collaboration, fairness, and above all, respect,” he said. “My father loved AUB and was absolutely dedicated to providing opportunities for its students in a rapidly changing world. That Penrose Hall has been, and will be hereafter, a home for students of many cultures, faiths, and interests would please him greatly.”



Legends & Legacies

Stephen B. L. Penrose Jr.



AUB President, 1948–54



Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose Jr. was born in 1908, the youngest son of the revered president of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Penrose Jr., or “Binks,” as he was affectionately known, grew up on the Whitman campus and graduated *magna cum laude* from Whitman in 1928, majoring in Greek and chemistry. Immediately following commencement, he embarked on a horizon-broadening venture that took him to AUB, where he served as a physics instructor from 1928–31. Penrose then earned his PhD in philosophy at Columbia University and taught for brief stints at Whitman College and Rockford College before taking a job as assistant director of the Near East College Association in New York City. Among his responsibilities was the coordination of recruiting, funding campaigns, and personnel support for six American institutions, including AUB.¹

As the first AUB president who was not a member of the Bliss and Dodge founding families, President Penrose had much to prove during a period of rapid development in the region. Appointed in 1948, Penrose was also the first AUB president to have formerly held a US government position. During World War II, he worked in an administrative role for the Office of Strategic Services in Cairo. He later served as a special assistant to US Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal.² While these appointments led to speculation that the university might be too closely linked to US foreign policy, AUB’s integrity as an institution that supported national autonomy and promoted freedom of thought and expression was never in doubt. Penrose’s ties to the US government also paved the way for a robust pipeline of US-funded scholarships and program grants through the Point Four Program of foreign aid and USAID (Agency for International Development).³

During 1953 and 1954, Penrose traveled extensively in the United States, where he secured financing for the much-needed expansion of both AUB and its then-affiliated preparatory school International College. On December 9, 1954, while drafting a new constitution for AUB, Penrose worked late into the night. He then slept, never to awake. As with his predecessor, Howard S. Bliss, Penrose may have been the victim of the impossible pace of institutional rebuilding in the aftermath of a world war. At the time of his death, Penrose was one of America’s best-known advocates for Palestinian rights. As the Palestinian representative at the United Nations cabled Penrose’s widow Margaret “Peggy” Penrose: “The Palestine Arab refugees lost a champion and hero.”⁴

◆◆ Penrose was one of America’s best-known advocates for Palestinian rights. ◆◆

As a lasting memorial, the university established the Penrose Award to honor exceptional students. Penrose’s book on AUB, *That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut, 1866–1941*, remains an invaluable history of the university’s first 75 years.

1. “Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr.: A Biographical Tribute,” Frances Copeland Stickles, 1993 publication of a collection by Lawrence L. Dodd, archiveswest.orbiscascade.org
2. *A Mutual Concern: The Story of the American University of Beirut*, John M. Munro, Caravan Books, 1977, pg. 100
3. *The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism & Liberal Education*, Betty S. Anderson, University of Texas Press, 2011, pg. 137
4. “Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr.: A Biographical Tribute,” Frances Copeland Stickles, 1993 publication of a collection by Lawrence L. Dodd, archiveswest.orbiscascade.org

The International Advisory Council: consultation and collaboration



Since 1992, AUB has enjoyed the support of a diverse group of thought leaders in its International Advisory Council (IAC). The IAC meets annually during AUB's November board meetings in New York City, but its members can be counted on as year-round advisers with specialized knowledge and fresh perspectives. This year's meeting featured Dr. Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University (ASU). His expertise as a knowledge enterprise architect and science and technology policy

scholar is especially valuable to AUB as it invests in new technologies and better e-learning tools. ASU is also one of AUB's partners in the MENA region, and recently 15 AUB faculty visited ASU to observe their efforts to increase the agility and impact of educational outcomes. At the IAC and AUB Board of Trustees dinner at the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center, IAC Chairman Frank Wisner led a lively Q&A with American journalist and novelist David Ignatius.



The transformative power of learning



The BBC, in collaboration with the UNESCO-affiliated International Association of Universities (IAU), has launched a series of short films focused on transformative stories of impact at universities around the world. The film *From Crisis to Success* showcases the educational pipeline AUB has created for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities. It tells the story of Kotan Machhadany, who came to AUB as a Mastercard Foundation Program scholar from a temporary settlement in the Beqaa Valley. She is the first PADILEIA (Partnership for Digital Learning and Improved Access) graduate to attend AUB. Run by CCECS (Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service), PADILEIA helps vulnerable youth access higher education. The film also features University Libraries Director Lokman-Meho and CCECS Director Rabih Shibli, who spearheaded the GHATA project.

GHATAs are cost-efficient, modular buildings in temporary settlement



communities. With two new hubs now erected in Iraq and plans for a third in Jordan, GHATA is fast becoming a source of relief for communities across the region.

To view the film, go to: player.vimeo.com/video/371381645.



The journey of 15 young women from Afghanistan to AUB



After a long, rigorous journey, 15 of the best and brightest Afghan women made AUB their new home. Their arrival was made possible by the newly established merit-based scholarship program Education for Leadership in Crisis (ELC), which is funded by the US Department of State through the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Kabul. The students, selected on the basis of their academic performance and potential for leadership, will spend four years at AUB pursuing an undergraduate degree and working towards developing leadership skills and strategies to tackle a variety of daunting challenges back in Afghanistan.

MainGate spoke with ELC director Dr. Carmen Geha about the demanding process of outreach and recruitment across 23 provinces in Afghanistan that brought the first ELC cohort to AUB this fall.

Q. How did this program start?

A. For a number of years, I have been involved in different scholarship programs for youth from all over the Arab region. These programs bring students to AUB not only to learn but also to contribute to the university's global mission. The students are change makers who influence the campus through their stories and journeys. When the US Embassy in Kabul announced their call for proposals, I leapt at the opportunity to help design a proposal. Working with Dr. Fadia Homeidan at AUB's Office of Grants and Contracts, we decided to direct our request towards young Afghan women with the idea that an educational experience at AUB would enable them to reflect on leadership crisis and develop the skills needed to address it. ELC is partly an academic scholarship and partly a purposeful investment in the future of women in Afghanistan.



Q. Tell us about the recruitment process. How did you spread the word to different provinces?

A. Since we could not be physically present in Afghanistan, AUB partnered with a local NGO called Women for Afghan Women (WAW). WAW had offices in 13 provinces and extensive experience working on gender issues and protecting women from violence. Together we devised a recruitment strategy that included town hall meetings, school visits, flyers, social media advertisements, and television and radio announcements. WAW did a brilliant job in opening up networks and building trust with local actors to encourage girls to apply. We received 400 applications for 15 slots.

Q. What motivated the applicants to go through this complex process? What kind of obstacles did they face?

A. The students are amazing. In all my years of teaching, I have never seen such bravery, courage, and determination to learn. The students have overcome unimaginable personal, political, and security challenges to get to where they are today. Some students had to convince their parents, while others were encouraged by their parents to come to AUB. Many of them had heard about AUB's reputation, and some knew more about its history than I did. One obstacle that stuck with me during the recruitment process was the security issue in and around Kabul. The applicants literally had to avoid bombings, kidnappings, and long dangerous travel in order to submit applications, take the English exams, and sit for interviews.

Q. Can you tell us more about the students who applied?

A. While living with the legacy of the Taliban, these women were remarkably brave and resolute. You would think that their experiences would have made them bitter or apathetic but they are positively radiant, funny, kind, and hardworking. One student was an English teacher working summers from 5 a.m. until the afternoon teaching older adults. Her English is impeccable; her demeanor and drive are contagious. Almost all of these women want a career in politics or business. They say that they came to study here in order to invest in themselves and lift up their communities. The program coordinator Cyrine Ghannouchi and I had to hold back tears in most of the initial interviews.

Q. How did the students who were admitted to AUB deal with the move to Lebanon?

A. I think that it is difficult for any young woman to leave her country and go study abroad, especially if abroad means Beirut. AUB has been making great strides in a country and region that continues to suffer the consequences of bad policies and crumbling infrastructure. It is not easy for an 18-year-old girl anywhere to prioritize higher education. Frankly, while



Sidiqa Kamran

“I had heard about AUB from *The Envoy*, a book I read by Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. He was an AUB student from Afghanistan back in the '70s, along with our current president Ashraf Ghani. This is how I learned about the standards and quality of education at AUB, and this is also what motivated me to work hard on getting this scholarship.

I would like to acknowledge my family's support in considering this scholarship and going for it, since in my community, as well as society in general in Afghanistan, it is very challenging for women to receive an education, especially on the university level within the country, and even more so abroad.

Now that I and my fellow scholars have taken this step, I am hearing more and more about women in our community being inspired and encouraged to take similar steps as well.”

the students expressed that their families were concerned and worried about their well-being, we did not face insurmountable challenges. On the first day of classes, one student came crying to me saying she missed her family. I video-called her mother who was encouraging her to stay strong! Here I need to thank Dr. Samar Harkouss and the wonderful team at AUB's University Preparatory Program (UPP) for providing the students with support, lectures, and workshops to ease their transition from home and to life on campus and in the broader Beirut community.

Q. How are the students adapting to life at AUB?

A. They are learning to fit in very quickly. These are very serious, studious, and hardworking young women. ELC is part of Leadership, Equity, and Diversity (LEAD), a wider initiative directed by Dr. Malek Tabbal. LEAD works towards greater diversity and inclusion in AUB and provides ELC with great programmatic support, especially in terms of liaising with various units across the university to make sure the students are safe and well integrated. We also work closely with Hala Dimechkie and the whole team at the Office of International Programs who have offered their invaluable experience in terms of securing visas and residency. Cyrine, who I mentioned earlier, is also my graduate research assistant and a master's degree student in public policy and international affairs. She has been staunchly dedicated to all the students, offering moral and technical support, and follow-up. Last, but not least, credit is due to the amazing freshman advising program at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, initiated by Dean Nadia El Cheikh and directed by Dr. Sabine Khoury. This has made course registration and integration a very efficient and enjoyable process. The program teaches ELC students about liberal arts and pairs them with advisers and mentors at a time when they need them the most.

Q. How are you planning to move forward with this project?

A. With an eye on providing this opportunity to young Afghan men as well, we applied for more funds and we were delighted to have received an additional \$3 million from the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs through the US Embassy in Kabul in order to welcome another cohort of 29 students. I hope that in the future, we can leverage AUB's contacts in Afghanistan, including AUB alumni, President Ashraf Ghani, and First Lady Rola Ghani, who is of Lebanese origin. Right now however, all our focus is on the students' well-being. We hope they get good grades and transition into their majors of choice. Next semester, we start with the leadership component of the program, which includes a final capstone project to take place in Afghanistan. We will keep you posted!



Zobaida Jamal

“I heard about this scholarship over social media, and to be honest I was not sure if I should go for it or not because I didn't know a lot about Lebanon or AUB. But after some research I found that AUB had so much to offer, and decided that this is worth a try. After I was accepted, my friends found it strange that I would choose to go from Afghanistan to this part of the world since most students would go to places that are familiar to Afghans in general.

Now that I am here at AUB, I am very happy and satisfied that I made this choice. I found my dream university. I hope that by coming here I will be able to inspire other Afghan students to apply for this scholarship and have the opportunity to also experience this amazing journey.”



R+D

Riccardo Paredi

PhD, Arabic and Near Eastern Languages, projected class of 2022

Life before his PhD: I grew up in a small, mountainous village in Lake Como (Italy). I always felt the need to be challenged by what I considered “otherness,” so I went north to Denmark for a year (2008) to learn about Scandinavian culture, and then I went south, studying Spanish and Arabic at the Università degli Studi di Milano, where I obtained my BA in cultural and linguistic mediation (2013). As an undergraduate, I studied at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain (2011–12), where I tasted the richness of the culture of al-Andalus. I also spent time (2013–14) in Morocco (Meknes) living in a community of Christian monks specialized in Islamic studies who passed on their passion to me. I was able to pursue this interest thanks to a scholarship from USJ, where I obtained a master’s degree (in 2016) in Muslim-Christian relations under the supervision of Dr. Jad Hatem. I studied Arabic at Dar Comboni Institute in Cairo (2016–17) before enrolling in AUB’s PhD program, where I am focusing on Sufi studies under the wonderful supervision of Dr. Bilal Orfali.

What matters most: Arabic and Islamic studies are often influenced by agendas and ideologies that do not allow a historical, academic, and intellectually honest approach to the sources. At AUB we try to avoid such biases and narratives, reviving Arabic’s huge but frequently neglected literary heritage. Sufi texts in particular present an outstanding richness, with their refined prose and poetry, theological and philosophical questionings, and mystical intuitions. They provide deep insights that allow a better understanding of the development of the Arabic language

and the Islamic cultural and religious milieu.

Research: I am in the process of defining the focus of my doctoral research. During my first year, I studied emotions in Ascetic and Early Sufi texts, concentrating on ḥuzn, sadness, as a possible virtuous feeling. I am currently working on al-Thaḥālibī’s geographical and adab worldview, exploring how our understanding of space and the world is shaped—and influenced—by literature. I am deeply interested in anything concerning Islamic mysticism, especially the so-called formative period of Sufism. Old manuscripts fascinate me.

10 am Tuesday, 10 am Saturday: On Tuesday, I am most likely racking my brain on some Sufi text without understanding much. On Saturday, I am probably racking my body on rock climbing routes in Tannourine el-Fawqa.

Most admires: I admire great scholars who share their knowledge and wisdom with everyone who asks—and do it with humility and passion. I also admire people, like Miro, my grandfather’s uncle, who live blissfully. Their profound joy seems to affirm: “Wallahi, I found my place in this world!”

Why this topic interests him: It is in the mystical experiences and speculations of Sufi texts that I find what I believe matters most: the will and effort to progress in our humanity and divineness through an unescapable quest for meaning and love.





Celebrating Arab women pioneers and leaders



“You can’t possibly be an Arab woman, you’re too successful.’ I heard this so many times,” remembers May Rihani (BA ’68), the Kahlil Gibran Chair for Values and Peace at the University of Maryland. “I used to wonder why it was so hard for people to believe that an Arab woman could, for example, hold a leadership position in an organization. After all, I’m not the only one to do this.”

Rihani quickly realized that many people knew very little about Arab women pioneers—women like Dr. Sameera Moussa¹ (“Actually, I had never heard of her,” admits Rihani), AUB alumna Dr. Jamal Karam Harfouche², and Zaha Hadid, also an AUB alumna. What really bothered Rihani, though, was that there was no one place where people could go to learn about these and so many other successful Arab women. “I looked and found nothing. I asked my colleagues to look. They found nothing. The Pioneers and Leaders Hub that we launched on March 8, 2019—International Woman’s Day—is an absolute first,” Rihani says. “There is no other place where you can go and find this type of information about women from 15 Arab countries.”

In addition to being a resource, the hub is also a tool for empowerment and networking. It has, for example, connected lawyers working on labor law issues in Morocco with lawyers working on similar issues in Jordan. It is already being used as a teaching tool by several university professors. What Rihani wants most of all, however, is for “Arab women—and Arab men—to use the site, to read about these women, and to acknowledge their accomplishments.”

The response to the hub has been overwhelmingly positive. “It is clear that I was not the only one who felt that something like this was really needed,” says Rihani. But she has also heard some complaints. Rihani shakes her head: “I can’t tell you how often I hear, ‘Why isn’t this in Arabic—or French?’ It was a question of resources. I had to pick one language,” she explains. “My priority was to break stereotypes about Arab women—especially in the West—so I knew that if we could only do this in one language, it had to be English.” The other criticism she hears is, “Why only 15 countries? Why not all 22 Arab countries?” Again, it’s a question of resources.



May Rihani

The hub, which is hosted at the University of Maryland, was launched with over 200 entries for women pioneers and leaders as well as civil society organizations focusing on women’s issues. The hub continues to grow. “It will never be complete,” explains Rihani. “We have developed selection criteria for women pioneers and different criteria for women leaders. We invite—we urge—everyone to go to our website, familiarize themselves with the criteria, and propose women who fit these criteria.”

Learn more at:
gibranchair.umd.edu/news/pioneers-and-leaders-hub-knowledge-center-about-arab-women.

1. A world-renowned Egyptian nuclear scientist.
 2. A Lebanese public health advocate.

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Medical personnel join the march, October 2019



Check Up:

Maya Romani, assistant professor of family medicine and director of the Health and Wellness Center (HWC) at AUBMC

Q. What is integrative medicine? How did you become interested in it?

A. Integrative medicine (IM) is holistic medicine. The focus is on the whole person. IM addresses the physical, emotional, mental, social, spiritual, and environmental factors of health. It combines mainstream medicine with complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Examples of CAM include acupuncture, Tai Chi, yoga, hypnotherapy, dietary supplements and herbs, mindfulness meditation, chiropractic and osteopathic medicine, and aromatherapy. It's a growing field.

I became interested in IM as a means to optimize patient health. Most medical schools don't teach IM. The Department of Family Medicine at AUBMC started a new lifestyle medicine curriculum for fourth-year medical students to learn about diet, exercise, sleep, stress management, smoking cessation, culinary medicine, coaching models, and IM practices and therapies. I started teaching IM at the department with the hope that my students could go on to recommend CAM to their patients. I've lectured on IM outside the department as well, at workshops, forums, and conferences.

Q. As Lebanon's work culture evolves, how have ideas about wellness in the workplace changed?

A. Corporations have started to invest

in wellness programs as a means of improving productivity and reducing sick leave. Our wellness center at AUBMC has witnessed a significantly increased demand for our corporate wellness services and packages.

◆◆ Integrative medicine is holistic medicine. The focus is on the whole person ... the physical, emotional, mental, social, spiritual, and environmental factors of health. ◆◆

Q. Burnout and stress related issues can be somewhat subtle. Sufferers aren't always able to identify the cause of their distress. How do you get out the message that non-medical interventions, such as yoga, Tai Chi, and meditation are important?

A. Mind-body practices such as yoga, Tai Chi, and meditation focus on the interaction between the brain, mind, body, and behavior and their combined impact on overall health. By performing physical movements, focusing on the mind, and controlling the breath, they help people with both fitness and relaxation, thus reducing psychological stress.

During the yearly Wellness Fair, we distribute flyers throughout the university and to related clinics, recruit more physicians to support our efforts, offer free sessions to potential patients, and organize awareness campaigns around AUBMC, making use of our social media platforms.

Q. Usually doctors are on one side or the other of the research-teaching, clinical-practice divide. As director of the HWC, what is it like to oversee both functions?

A. My passion for teaching began when I was a medical student. I decided to embark on an academic career to serve patients in clinical practice and doctors in training. I became more interested in wellness and lifestyle approaches and felt that overseeing the day-to-day operations of the HWC would allow me to promote those approaches to AUB and wider Lebanese communities.

Q. Negative coping behaviors, such as smoking or overeating, are very hard to change. Can the HWC help with these types of addictive behaviors?

A. Yes, definitely. Our smoking cessation program addresses the behavioral, physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of addiction. Patients work with a nurse, dietician, and physician, and may use acupuncture and hypnotherapy as well. We focus on behavior modification, support, and

long-term follow-up. In this way, we attempt to reverse addictive behavior gradually. Meanwhile, the Weight Management Program combines multiple data-driven approaches, including clinical advice, behavior and lifestyle modification through nutrition counseling, as well as acupuncture and mindfulness.

Q. Physicians can have highly stressful and emotionally draining jobs. What are the particular stressors and treatment challenges for physicians?

A. The main factor that contributes to physicians' stress and burnout is the lack of a good work-life balance. I break down stress into three categories: work-related, personality-related, and organization-related.

Examples of work-related stressors include long hours, night shifts, having to learn to use electronic health records and other new technologies, and dealing with illness and death. Personal characteristics or stereotypes such as the workaholic, superhero, and perfectionist can dovetail with a

◆◆ **I break down stress into three categories: work-related, personality-related, and organization-related.** ◆◆

“never show weakness” medical school culture to ramp up pressure. Meanwhile, administrative duties in addition to teaching and clinical responsibilities, difficult bosses, and limited opportunities for support and advancement can lead to stress as well.

Combining both individual and organizational interventions can have a positive impact in reducing stress among doctors. However, it is not always easy to make organizational changes, and stress management programs are not yet widespread in the field. HWC offers periodic stress management and work-life balance workshops. We are also currently working with the administration to add stress management and personal growth curricula to medical students' and residents' educational programs. The medical committee initiated a new taskforce committee to tackle physician burnout. It is an ongoing challenge.



Under Discussion

Feminist Forum on Climate Change

When good is not good enough...



Speakers: Mary Robinson, president and founder of The Mary Robinson Foundation on Climate Justice, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former UN special envoy on Climate Change, former president of Ireland (1990–97), AUB 2011 honorary degree recipient; Rami Khouri, journalist-in-residence; Mahnaz Afkhami, president and founder of WLP; Najat Aoun Saliba, award-winning scientist and director of AUB's Nature Conservation Center; Bridget Burns, executive director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization; Sherine Tadros, head of the New York Office of Amnesty International; Sarah Costa, executive director of the Women's Refugee Commission; Gay McDougall, distinguished scholar in residence at the Leitner Center on International Law and Justice at Fordham University

Commentators: Abena Busia, Ghana's ambassador to Brazil; Asma Khader executive director of WLP Jordan/Solidarity is Global-Jordan; Barbara Phillips, human rights activist; Lina Abou-Habib, executive director of WLP

On September 20, 2019, the Feminist Forum on Climate Change held its inaugural session at the Debs Center—AUB New York Office. Nearby, the 74th session of the UN General Assembly convened as a historic climate crisis protest by school-age children progressed through the city's streets led by the young activist Greta Thunberg. Attuned to these events, the Feminist Forum participants wasted no time in getting to the point—the critical role of women in averting the threat of climate change on human survival.

A joint venture of AUB and the Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), the forum brought together high-level academicians, civic activists, policymakers, and thought leaders from human rights and environmental organizations, interfaith communities, and governmental and non-governmental agencies to initiate a conversation on the connections between climate justice, gender equality, sustainable development, and peace. Speakers focused on the harsh effects of climate change on women and children, people living in poverty, indigenous peoples, and people of color. Scientist Najat Aoun Saliba represented AUB's research with her collaborative "citizen science" method of involving local communities in university research projects. This initiative gives locals a heightened awareness of—and a stake in—their surroundings and can provide tools on the ground for amelioration.

President Fadlo Khuri opened the forum with a video message that introduced Mary Robinson, the keynote speaker and former president of Ireland. "Ms. Robinson is a fierce champion for climate justice, for those with the least responsibility for causing it and the least resources to combat it," he said. Robinson noted

that women leaders have finally woken up to the urgency of climate justice (a term she prefers to the deceptively benign "climate change"). She asserted that the subject is now on a par with issues related to female disempowerment, violence against women, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, gender inequity, and job discrimination. Not only are women adversely affected by climate change, but they are neglected as a resource. Experts should be seeking out women, who are caregivers and good stewards of their environments, for local knowledge and solutions to the climate crisis.

The forum was deftly moderated by Melann Verveer, executive director of Georgetown's Institute for Women, Peace and Security. Many at the table referenced solidarity with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ established in 2015 and emphasized their work creating and bringing policy into practice on a local level and forming partnerships to combat climate crisis on a global level.

Ghana's ambassador to Brazil Abena Busia bemoaned the limitations of modernization, which often provides a higher standard of living at the expense of environmental damage. Her statement that "good is not good enough" resonated with the group of deeply committed activists. The urgency of a time-bomb issue that will potentially affect every aspect of life on earth demands environmental advocacy, especially for marginalized populations who will be the first to suffer the consequences of climate change. The Feminist Forum shed light on why the status quo will not suffice. We can do better.

1. The UN SDGs are a call for action by all countries—poor, rich, and middle-income—to promote prosperity while protecting the environment by 2030.

Mary Robinson's three steps to climate justice advocacy:

- 1) Make climate change personal in your own life; do something you were not doing before. Conserve energy, recycle, and develop eating and consumption habits that are aligned with environmental sustainability.
- 2) Get angry and get active. Confront those who have more responsibility but who aren't doing enough, such as governments and businesses, including agribusiness and transportation. Take action to support people who are doing the right thing.
- 3) Imagine the world you are trying to create. A much healthier world of clean air and water, devoid of the byproducts of fossil fuels.



(L to R) Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, president and founder of The Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice; Mahnaz Afkhami, founder and president of Women's Learning Partnership



(L to R) Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and the Autochthonous Peoples of Chad; Bridget Burns, executive director of Women's Environment and Development Organization

Pursuits

From the office shredder to the farm



Mirella Aoun

Assistant Research Professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

Sandra Yanni

Assistant Professor at the Department of Agriculture

Isam Bashour

Professor at the Department of Agriculture

Farmers are always looking for ways to improve crop output. They pay close attention to the seasons, the crop yields, warming and drying. In Lebanon, they cover the ground with black polyethylene sheets to improve the soil. The use of plastic mulch is very common in agriculture during the growing season. At the end of season, it is plowed into the ground or thrown away, forming part of a massive dump of plastic into the ocean. Substituting shredded office wastepaper for plastic sheets has proved to be more efficient. A concern that office paper ink might leak into the soil was assuaged by the discovery that ink is now vegetable-based. Comparing the effects of office wastepaper versus plastic mulch on a broccoli crop planted at the AREC facility, agriculturalists found that papered soil had higher moisture content than plastic-wrapped soil.

◆◆ **The use of plastic mulch is very common in agriculture during the growing season. At the end of season, it forms part of a massive dump of plastic into the ocean. Substituting shredded office wastepaper for plastic sheets has proved to be more efficient.** ◆◆

The many faces of waste management



Randa Salamoun

Assistant Professor at the Olayan School of Business

It's been four years since Lebanese protesters first took to the streets en masse to decry the country's waste management problems, yet many of those problems remain today. Lebanon's waste management system is antiquated. And while actors from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors are working to address the issue, a sustainable model remains elusive. A qualitative study consisting of in-depth interviews with founders and managers of various kinds of waste management initiatives throughout Lebanon revealed that business models and level of success vary dramatically. Some waste management companies are thriving while others are in the process of closing down.

Collection fees are a contentious issue; companies say they need them to survive, but some residents are unwilling to pay. There is a lack of public awareness of the importance of recycling. Residents do not appreciate how critical recycling is to the health of their communities. Other challenges facing recycling operations include lack of support and accountability from public authorities, insufficient funds, and lack of clear, enforceable regulations. Many of the organizations are hybrid initiatives, each with their own set of rules and objectives, whether for profit or to serve the public good. The goal is for a uniform sustainable model.



The AUBMC Stem Cell Processing Lab where cells are stored and prepared for transfusion.



1,000 bone marrow transplants: A milestone in cancer care

Advances in bone marrow transplantation (BMT) have softened the blow of a dreaded diagnosis of leukemia, or cancer of the blood and lymph system. BMT has grown exponentially since the 1990s and has been available in Lebanon for 20 years. The BMT program at AUB Medical Center (AUBMC), the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI), and the affiliated Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) has been at the forefront of advancing this lifesaving intervention and recently celebrated the milestone of 1,000 transplantations, 80 percent of whose recipients are adults and 20 percent of whose recipients are children.

Unfortunately, BMT is not a cure for leukemia. But treating refractory Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma with auto-transplant (using the patient's own stem cells) is "curative," raising success rates from 10 percent without BMT to 50 to 70 percent. Patients with multiple myeloma frequently relapse, but only after living normal lives and gaining precious years with their loved ones. Acute leukemia cases—treated with an allogeneic transplant from a compatible stem cell donor—are now cured around two-thirds of the time, which is more than double the efficacy of non-BMT treatments. But no clinical researcher or physician treating cancer will rest until those rates are brought to below one percent mortality.

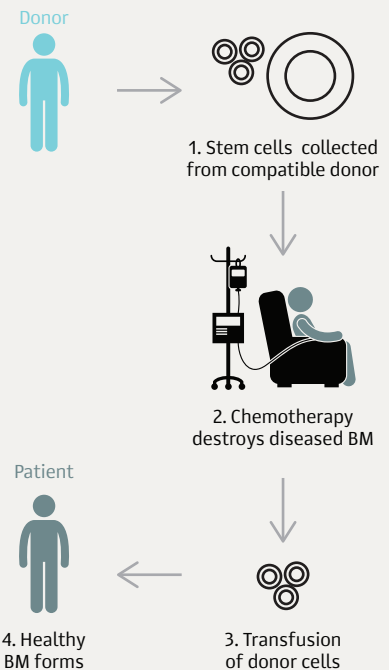
A decisive victory against cancer is unlikely to occur through a single breakthrough, but rather with myriad skirmishes. The development of AUB's world-class blood and bone marrow transplant program is a major step in this direction. Established and led by Ali Bazarbachi for the last two decades, the program has survival

results that rival those of the world's premier medical institutions. Although AUBMC is Lebanon's only accredited center with the capability to search the International Donor Registry, donor cells matching Middle Eastern characteristics are rare, leading AUBMC to collaborate on developing alternative solutions, such as haploidentical stem cell transplant between close family members.

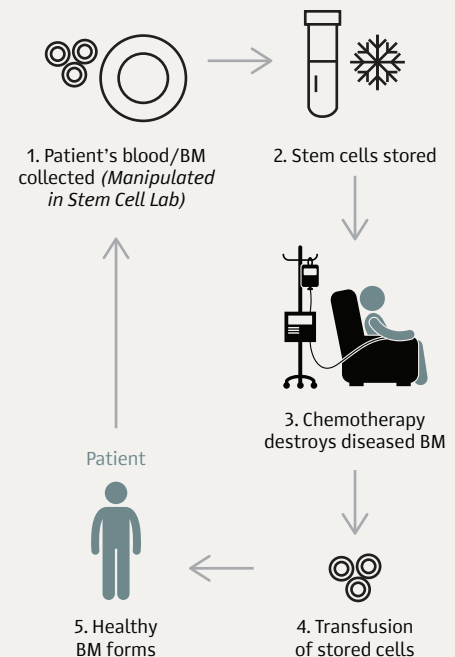
AUBMC is also helping change the concept of allogeneic BMT as treatment of last resort. Our team has joined a global effort to treat a common form of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) by using BMT as a platform for adoptive immunotherapy and oral pharmaceuticals that are normally used post-relapse as a prophylaxis. This has increased the cure rate from about half to 75 percent of patients, with overall survival rates of 80 percent (including patients who ultimately relapse). This near-elimination of the counterbalance between survival and relapse represents a revolution in the management of AML.

BMT is a discipline with immense potential to further transform the treatment of cancer and other hematological conditions, but it is complex and remains a very expensive procedure that is unsupported by many insurance providers. This needs to change, and AUBMC is working with the Ministry of Public Health to improve patient coverage. The BMT program collaborates with the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon and the Cancer Support Fund to facilitate access to advanced medical services for needy patients, and to provide psychological and financial support throughout the recovery journey.

Allogeneic transplant



Auto-transplant





A cellular skeleton key

Balance is a central concept in medicine. When the body fails in its ongoing mission to maintain homeostasis, disease creeps in. Medicine's goal is to tweak, to make minor adjustments. If medicine were a politician, it would be a balance-of-power realist, working hard to make sure that no one biological actor upsets the prevailing order, a goal that requires precision.

AUB alumna and Kuo Family Endowed Professor at UC San Francisco Hana El Samad (BEN '98) and her colleague, University of Washington's David Baker, have made a significant stride in the direction of precision with the creation of a synthetic protein that makes cells "smart."

In the first of two papers published in the journal *Nature*, El Samad and colleagues discuss LOCKR, a fully synthetic protein having no analogues in nature, yet made from the same chemical building blocks that nature relies on.

Shaped like a barrel, LOCKR can be programmed to interface with a cell in innumerable ways. The barrel remains closed until it encounters a specific protein that acts as a key to open the barrel. Once open, a molecular arm springs out, grabs hold of cell circuitry and makes adjustments. The arm might steer molecular traffic, break down specific proteins, or cause the cell to self-destruct. "It's like a Swiss Army knife, a tool that has many different functions," says El Samad.

Researchers can program LOCKR to open and close as they see fit in response to the surrounding cellular environment. In that sense, LOCKR is like a switch, the building block underpinning modern electronics. A system of LOCKRs operating inside a cell can function like a complex circuit or nanorobot, balancing out functions and maintaining human health, reminiscent of the fictional technology found in the popular video game franchise *Metal Gear Solid*. El Samad sees this kind of functionality as the means to medical precision.

LOCKR has been tested in living cells. "We hacked a cellular pathway in yeast cells and turned their mating signals—they secrete pheromones—on and off in a regulated way," says El Samad.

In the second paper, El Samad and colleagues describe using a system of LOCKRs to regulate cellular activity in response to cues from a cell and its surroundings.

Cellular engineering is currently in use in modern medicine. The FDA recently approved the use of engineered T cells as a means of fighting certain blood cancers. El Samad sees LOCKR as a potentially transformative tool with limitless potential that folds seamlessly into this branch of medical treatment. She cites traumatic brain injury as being particularly suited to treatment with a LOCKR-like smart cell. Brain injury causes inflammation, which is necessary for healing; however, the amount of inflammation triggered is often far greater than what's needed and may result in permanent brain damage. LOCKR-style proteins could help cells maintain precise inflammation levels, kicking on and off at certain thresholds.

"The idea that you can take cells from our own body, engineer them and then put them back to be like little living robots that fight diseases such as cancer and neuro inflammation, this is the future," says El Samad.





Sahtein

Soybean Whole Wheat Spaghetti

Sara Farhat Jarrar (BS '06, MS '10)

Sara (MS, LD) is a former nutrition research assistant at FAFS. Her cookbook of healthy recipes will be published in 2020. Follow her on Instagram (homemade_health) or Facebook (Sara Farhat Jarrar).

This is my favorite high-protein vegan spaghetti dish, loaded with soybeans, vegetables, and whole wheat spaghetti. It offers high-quality protein and heart-healthy fats, while providing a great source of fiber, micronutrients, and antioxidants.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups (340 g) dried soybeans
- 600 g whole wheat linguine spaghetti
- 3 diced large green bell peppers
- 2 diced large red bell peppers
- 1 minced medium yellow onion
- 2 tsp pressed garlic (~2 medium cloves)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ cups ketchup
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tbsp mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- 1 tbsp mild curry powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp turmeric powder
- 2 tsp dry oregano leaves
- 1 tsp dry basil leaves
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp Tabasco pepper sauce (or chili pepper powder)
- 1 tsp baking soda

PREPARATION:

Soak the soybeans in water with the baking soda and refrigerate for 24 hours. Drain and add fresh water, then soak for another 12 hours. Rinse and drain.

Place the soybeans in a pot, cover with water, and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and cook until tender, about 3 hours. Drain and set aside. In a separate pot, add the olive oil to the onions, and cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Then add the peppers, covering and cooking on low heat for another 15 minutes.

In a small bowl, mix the garlic, ketchup, soy sauce, mustard, water, dry herbs, and spices, and then pour over the vegetables. Turn up the heat, bring the sauce to a boil, then cook over low heat, covered, for 5 minutes. Turn the heat off and stir in the soybeans. In a separate pot, boil the spaghetti with a pinch of salt until al dente. Drain (but do not rinse), then fold into the pot of vegetables, beans, and sauce. Let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

Makes 9 servings (2 cups spaghetti per serving).

GOOD FOR YOU? The expert weighs in...

Many people tend to avoid soy products, fearing they may cause undesirable health effects such as thyroid problems and even breast cancer. Recent studies suggest that soy has beneficial and/or neutral effects on various health conditions and can be safely consumed in moderation. In fact, soybeans are an inexpensive, rich source of high-quality protein comparable to meat and dairy, whereas other beans and plant-protein sources often contain incomplete proteins lacking some essential amino acids. This soybean whole wheat spaghetti dish is both energy- and nutrient-dense, providing not only a great source of high-quality protein, but also complex carbohydrates and fiber, as well as heart-healthy unsaturated fats with barely any saturated fat and no cholesterol. It offers a multitude of vitamins, including vitamins A (as beta carotene), E, K, C, folate, and some B vitamins, and is rich in many minerals, especially potassium, phosphorous, magnesium, calcium, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, and selenium, as well as health-boosting phytochemicals.

Per serving:

calories (kcal): 476	carbohydrates (g): 72.7
protein (g): 29.2	fiber (g): 14
fat (g): 13.4	

Send your recipe submissions to maingate@aub.edu.lb

AUB Connects

AUB Alumni & Friends



Alumni Profile

Adele Khodr (BA '81, MA '85)

Resilience, resourcefulness, and respect for difference prepares the UNICEF representative for a life dedicated to future generations

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Events and Announcements

Recently elected chapter leadership in Northern California, South Florida, Germany, Ivory Coast, Missouri, and South Lebanon

The WAAAUB leadership election results

AUB on the Move in North America

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StandingOUTstanding

Moe Hamzeh (BS '92, MS '00) moves from geology to a career in music

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Class Notes

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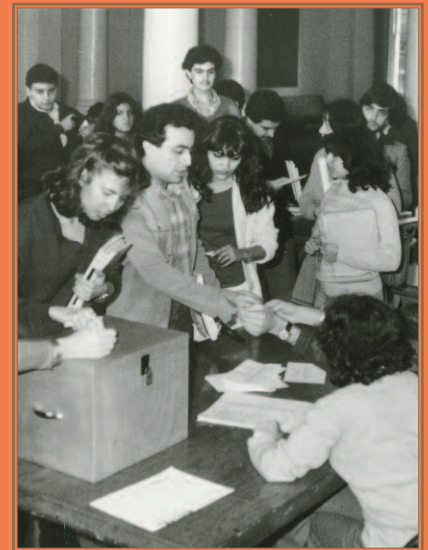
Alexander S. Geha (BS '55, MD '59)

The Surgical Alumni Association of North America honors a cardiothoracic surgeon for a lifetime of service

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In Memoriam

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Voting on the constitution of the University Student Faculty Committee in 1982



Alumni Profile

Facing the challenge with resilience, tenacity, and compassion



“We in UNICEF have the best mandate,” says UNICEF Representative in Ethiopia Adele Khodr (BA ’81, MA ’85). She should know, having worked for UNICEF for 29 years, fiercely upholding the mandate the United Nations General Assembly gave to the organization in 1989: to advocate for the protection of children’s rights. “Nobody can say no to a child,” she says. “They are our future, and we can influence their world. That mandate works everywhere. Even if you are sitting with a villain, when you start talking about a child, it’s different.”

The year 1989 was also when Khodr began with UNICEF in Lebanon after

graduating from AUB and teaching at both AUB and LAU. “It was the beginning of the end of the war and a tremendously difficult time,” she says. “When I defended my thesis in 1985, bullets were flying outside. The professor I had worked with was American and left because of the kidnapping. My main thesis adviser had changed. My work in the hospital (AUBMC) was changing. The doctor in charge was Dr. Vazken Der Kaloustian, a Lebanese Armenian who had lost three of his best friends during the Lebanon war and gone to Canada. We had finally started the National Unit of Human Genetics and had researchers, medical practitioners, and laboratory

◆◆ **Nobody can say no to a child. They are our future, and we can influence their world.** ◆◆

technicians all productively working together until we had to disband. I was the last to leave the unit. The UNICEF position felt like a volunteer job at first, but I stuck with it.”

The Beirut office Khodr worked in was so small she did everything—health, vaccinations, gender equality counseling, and basic social services, water, sanitation, and child protection. Maybe most important to her career, she managed a team and traveled throughout Lebanon. She thought she would stay in the country forever, but after ten years she was accepted for a UNICEF position in Sudan.

Almost immediately, she was sent to Juba. “It was the bush,” she says, still sounding surprised by what she saw. “There were all these insects and I thought, ‘what did I do to my life?’ I spent weeks in a place with nothing—no generators, just candles. It was one of the toughest first encounters with Africa I could have had.”

But again, Khodr didn’t give up and slowly began to get bigger assignments, managing bigger and bigger teams in South Asia, Sierra Leone, India, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, and in 2019, becoming the UNICEF Representative in Ethiopia, one of UNICEF’s five largest programs in the world with 430 people and eight field offices. In addition to managing staff and their security, Khodr will work on UNICEF’s plan for 2020–2024 for Ethiopia, as always, focused on safeguarding children’s rights.

Khodr has memories of each assignment—fighting to eradicate polio in India, the beauty of Nepal, learning to manage a team in Sierra Leone, and maybe most challenging, of being a woman in Afghanistan in

charge of almost 400 people, making daily security decisions. “Through all the difficulties there,” she says, “I was able to meet the first lady, Mrs. Rola Saadeh Ghani, a beautiful Lebanese woman and AUB graduate, and another female Lebanese journalist, Tania Mehanna. Together, we braved the difficult conditions in Afghanistan.”

When asked what influence the civil war has had on her life, Khodr immediately answers, “Resilience. Every morning, we had to frantically look for means of surviving the day; every day we had to cope with a new challenge. At UNICEF, in the difficult contexts I work with, I wake up every morning with a determination to bounce back despite setbacks. The war also made me decisive. I’m now known for taking the bull by the horns. But one must do that; problems only get bigger with inaction, so we need to move fast and move in the direction of solutions.”

“AUB also shaped me,” she adds. “It made me accept differences among people. My studies there in cultural anthropology enabled me to discover other cultures by reading about them. Working at UNICEF enabled me to experience those cultures physically and establish a house and support with people I don’t know. I have to accept everything—dress, customs, food. Coming from AUB, the sky is the limit as far as adapting to different environments.”

In the end, Khodr simply loves a challenge. Many have suggested she seek easier assignments. “It doesn’t work,” she says, preparing to travel to Addis Ababa. “I know myself and what makes me thrive.”



◆◆ Coming from AUB, the sky is the limit as far as adapting to different environments. ◆◆

unicef 

for every child



WAAAUB Events and Announcements

Recently Elected



Adi Hajj-Ahmad, President
Northern California
Chapter

Northern California Chapter

President: Adi Hajj-Ahmad (BEN '11)
Vice President: Sandra Skaff (BS '00)
Treasurer: Rana Akel (BEN '14)
Secretary and Communication
Chairperson: Murad Al Hajj (BEN '06)
Member at Large: Mashhour El Solh
(BEN '05); Social Media Chairperson:
Ahmad Merhebi (BEN '17); Outreach/
Networking Chair: Ziad Shehadeh
(BEN '13); Young Alumni Chairperson:
Zeina Sinno (BEN '13)



Jimmy El Hokayem,
President
South Florida Chapter

South Florida Chapter

President: Jimmy El Hokayem (MS '07)
Vice President: Diana Azzam (MS '06)
Treasurer: Rachid Akiki (BS '11)
Secretary: Sara A. Hosn (BA '07)
Member at Large: Fouad Souki
(BS '97, MS '99, MD '03)



Jad Khoury, President
Missouri Chapter

Missouri Chapter

President: Jad Khoury (BS '95, MD '99)
Vice President: Huda Altannir (BS '89)
Elie Chahla (BS '03, MD '07)
Co-treasurers: Amine Noueir (BS '86),
Pascale Salem (BS '93, MD '97)
Secretary: Rania Farhat (BS '09, MD '13)
Directors: Programs and Events, Elie
Abdelnour (BS '12, MD '16);
Communications, Natalie Boulos
(BS '10, MD '14); Mentorship, Lana
Hamieh (BS '09, MD '13); Public
Relations, Nada Zmeter (BS '12, MD '16)



Mohamad Ali Bitar,
President
Germany Chapter

Germany Chapter

President: Mohamad Ali Bitar
(BEN '11, MEN '13)
Vice President: Dima Faour-Klingbeil
(BS '93, MS '96)
Treasurer: Pascale Harb (BA '09)
Secretary: Rudy G. Spiridon: (BAR '12)
Members at Large: Jinan I. Abi Jumaa
(BS '12, MPH '15), Omar Al Moughrabi
(BEN '15), Rim Bassil (BBA '05), Ali
Hussein Kaouk (BS '06), Sabine
Maamari (BS '15)



Khalil Khraibani, President
Ivory Coast Chapter

Ivory Coast Chapter

President: Khalil Khraibani (BBA '09)
Vice President: Mirna Daher Kalot (BS '93)
Treasurer: Batoul Hamdan (BS '14)
Secretary: Moustapha Chalhoub (BA '12)
Members at Large: Moustapha Cheaitelli
(former student), Moussa Kleit (BEN '94)



Hiba Bitar, President
South Lebanon Chapter

South Lebanon Chapter

President: Hiba Bitar (BEN '99, MEM '05)
Vice President: Yasser Mohanna (BEN '86)
Treasurer: Abbass Naim (BEN '15)
Secretary: Ali Al Khatib (BS '95, MS '98)
Members at Large: Mariam Dokmak
(BBA '12, MBA '19), Mariam Mohanna
(BEN '99), Mohammad Rammal
(BS '92, MS '95)

WAAAUB By the Numbers



Total number of ballots received 3,233 from alumni in 48 countries

Most ballots received from Lebanon, US, UAE

For alumni-elected positions on the Board of Trustees

Number of candidates 9
(6 men, 3 women)

Regional distribution 3 MENA, 3 North America,
2 Lebanon, 1 Rest of the world

Faculty distribution* 5 FAS, 3 FM, 3 OSB, 1 MSFEA

Number elected 3
(2 women, 1 man)

Regional distribution 1 Lebanon, 1 MENA, 1 North America

Faculty distribution* 2 FAS, 1 FM, 1 OSB

For 9 elected positions on the Advisory Board

Number of candidates 29
(22 men, 7 women)

Regional distribution 12 Lebanon, 7 MENA, 7 North America,
2 Europe, 1 Rest of the world

Faculty distribution* 12 FAS, 9 OSB, 7 MSFEA, 4 FM, 3 FAFS

Number elected 9
(5 men, 4 women)

Regional distribution 4 Lebanon, 2 MENA,
2 North America, 1 Europe

Faculty distribution* 5 OSB, 4 FAS, 2 FM, 1 MSFEA

For 18 (9 elected and 9 appointed) positions on the Advisory Board

Gender distribution 9 men, 9 women

Regional distribution 7 Lebanon, 4 North America,
3 Europe, 3 MENA, 1 Rest of the world

Faculty distribution* 8 FAS, 8 OSB, 3 MSFEA, 2 FM, 1 FAFS, 1 FHS

About WAAAUB

In fall 2019, AUB organized elections for its worldwide alumni association, WAAAUB. In accordance with the bylaws, which the Board of Trustees approved in March 2019, the president appointed a Transitional Nominating Committee (TNC) to oversee the election process: Lina Dalloul (BA '91), from the MENA region; Samia Hazim (BS '80), from North America; Samir Trabulsi (BEN '73, MEN '75, MBA '80), from Lebanon; Ioannis Violaris (BA '78), from Europe; and Maha Zabaneh (BA '84), from North America. "The president could not have chosen a better committee," commented VP for Advancement Imad Baalbaki. "The committee, led by the tireless Dr. Trabulsi, did a truly outstanding job and put in long hours to meet a very tight deadline."

The nine elected and nine appointed members of the Advisory Board will, as stated in the bylaws, "lead and promote positive alumni relations and nurture an alumni community that is active, engaged, and inspired to maintain lifelong relationships with AUB." Advisory Board members will work closely with the president, the Alumni Relations Offices in Beirut and New York, the general secretary, and the Chapters Council, which includes all alumni chapter presidents. AUB is currently recruiting for the position of general secretary. The general secretary will liaise between the Advisory Board and the university, between the Advisory Board and the Chapters Council, and between and among the members of the Advisory Board.

In addition to electing nine members of the Advisory Board, alumni also elected three trustees who will serve as full members of the AUB Board of Trustees: Ghassan Abou-Alfa (BS '88, MD '92), Leila Bissat (BA '76), and Salwa Darraj (BBA '13).

"I want to commend all of our alumni who took part in these elections—the members of the Transitional Nominating Committee, those who stood for election, and also everyone who voted. My colleagues and I are looking forward to joining with the elected and appointed alumni representatives to strengthen and enhance the already strong bonds that unite our worldwide community," said AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri.

*Some candidates have earned degrees from more than one faculty.



Meet WAAAUB's new leadership

Alumni-Elected Trustees



Ghassan Abou-Alfa
(BS '88, MD '92)

Ghassan Abou-Alfa (BS '88, MD '92) is professor of medicine, attending physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering, chair of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Hepatobiliary Task Force, and president of the International Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and serves on the Blue Faery Liver Cancer Foundation. He and his wife, Dr. Eileen O'Reilly, support the AUB Trinity Endowed Exchange Program for Medical Students. Abou-Alfa received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.



Leila Bissat (BA '76)

Leila Bissat (BA '76) is a member of the Baalbeck International Festival, a founding member of the Friends of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, a member of the Next Step NGO, and a founding member of the Ajialouna Association. Bissat is also a member of the President's Club, a member of the Society of the Friends of the AUB Museum, and a founding member and president of the Executive Committee of the Zaki Nassif Program Friends Club.



Salwa Darraj (BBA '13)

Salwa Darraj (BBA '13) is a senior consultant at Ernst and Young (EY), where she is the Women's Network Champion. She is a Board of Directors member and committee chairman for the Welfare Association for Youth and serves on the Imperial College Alumni Advisory Board. A published writer and student mentor, Darraj is also a registered adviser with AUB's Alumni Mentoring Platform and a fellow at the Chartered Management Institute in the UK.

Alumni Advisory Board Members

Wael Abdul Malak (BA '94, BBA '99, MMB '03) is the executive director of Alpen Capital. He is a senior corporate and investment banker with 25 years of experience at different institutions in Lebanon, Kuwait, and the UAE. Abdul Malak was a board member and president of the WAAAUB Programs Committee (2015–17). He was also treasurer of the AUB Alumni Association in Abu Dhabi (2008–13). (MENA; elected)

Rania Afiouni Monla (BEN '95, MBA '01) is currently a PhD student at McGill University. She has extensive entrepreneurship experience in Lebanon and the Middle East. Afiouni Monla has also held academic appointments at Prince Sultan University in Riyadh and at AUB and LAU in Beirut. She is a member of the Montreal Alumni Chapter, LebNet, and of the Montreal AI Ethics Group, which is part of the Montreal AI Ethics Institute. (North America; appointed)

Rim Bassil (BBA '05) is the CEO of FAST Contracting & Development. As an AUB student, she was a member of the Business Students Society, the Marketing Society, and the International Students Society. She is currently an active member of the AUB alumni chapter in Germany. (Europe; elected)

Randa Bdeir (BBA '79, MMB '93) is the deputy general manager and head of E-Payments Solutions & Cards Technology at Credit Libanais SAL. Bdeir was the first Arab woman to become a member of the Board of Directors of Mastercard Worldwide for the Middle East and Africa region, a position she has held since 2000. In 2017, Bdeir established the Randa Bdeir Leadership Award in Recognition of Outstanding Leadership in Supporting the Careers of Women at AUB. (Lebanon; elected)

Christina Bilalian (BS '06) is a general practitioner and family physician at the Wandsworth Medical Centre in London where she has worked since August 2016. Dr. Bilalian is the former vice president and current president of the UK Alumni Chapter. (Europe; appointed)

Tarek Bolbol (BBA '05) is a Dubai-based entrepreneur and founder/CEO of Booklava, the first subscription-based audiobook platform in the Arab world. In 2018, he was selected as an Arab Youth Pioneer by the UAE Prime Minister's Office. Since graduating from AUB, he has lived

and worked in Switzerland, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and the UAE. Bolbol was an elected member of the WAAAUB Council in 2009–11. (MENA; elected)

Abdallah Darwiche (BEN '75) is vice chairman of Alfayhaa for construction contracting and a board member of Paravision. He previously worked at Khatib & Alami in Beirut (1975–77) and Sogex Co in Saudi Arabia (1977–84). In 1984, he cofounded Alfayhaa. He has been a member, treasurer, and vice president (1998–2008) of the Riyadh Alumni Chapter, and was a member of the WAAAUB Council (2011–15) and Nominating Committee (2013–15) and the treasurer of the Board of Directors of WAAAUB (2014–15). (Lebanon; appointed)

Karam Doumet (BBA '78, MBA '80) is the honorary consul general of Ecuador to Lebanon. A founding member of WAAAUB's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, he is a long-standing member of the Mount Lebanon Chapter's Board of Directors and also a current member of the Managing Board of the newly restructured AUB Alumni Association (AAA). (Lebanon; appointed)

Adham El-Khalil (BS '85) is the CEO of Eurofind Participation, a group based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, with subsidiaries in three countries in Africa. It is active in the steel, PVC, and food products and beverage sectors. (Rest of the world; appointed)

Haya Imam (BBA '99) works in the Group Compliance Office at Hikma Pharmaceuticals. She is also a member of the B2o Anti-Corruption Taskforce and an active member of the UN Global Compact's Anti-Corruption Working Group and World Economic Forum's Partnering Against Corruption Initiative's (PACI) working group. Imam serves on the selection board of Takreem Organization and is also the vice president of the Jordan Alumni Chapter. (MENA; appointed)

Racha Itani (MEM '18) is a university lecturer in the Department of

Architecture, Art and Design at Notre Dame University. In April 2009, Itani co-organized and participated in Youth Building Reconciliation II for ALEF Act for Human Rights in Beirut, Lebanon. Since February 2013, she has been a board member and vice president of the Lebanon Green Building Council (LGBC) in Beirut. (Lebanon; Young Alumni/Recent Graduate; elected)

Haytham Kaafarani (BS '99, MD '03) is an associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, a trauma surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), medical director of the MGH Center for Outcomes & Patient Safety in Surgery (COMPASS), and the TESSCC Director of Research. He was vice president and later president of the AUB Surgical Alumni Association of North America (SAANA) and is an active member of the New England Alumni Chapter. (North America; elected)

Amin Nadim Khalaf (BA '90) is a partner at Ernst & Young, LLP based in New York. He has been with the firm since 1998. Prior to joining Ernst & Young, Khalaf taught economics at Columbia University and Vassar College. Khalaf received his MA (1992) and PhD (1997) degrees in economics from Columbia University. He is a former president of the New York Alumni Chapter. (North America; appointed)

Nabil Kronfol (BS '65, MD '69) is currently retired. He was previously a professor and chairman of the Department of Health Services Administration at FHS. He has been a board member of the Al-Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut (since 2002), Dar Al Aytam (since 2005), and Dar Al Ajazza (since 2014) and a former board member of the Joint Commission International (2010–16). He was the secretary of the WAAAUB Board of Directors, 2013–15. (Lebanon; elected)

Eliza Markidou (BS '84) is head of the Nutrition Department at the Ministry of Health in Cyprus. She coordinates activities related to dietetics and

nutrition at the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Agriculture where she is in charge of the Nutrition Action Plan for Cyprus. She is the current president (since 2018), former vice president (2015–18), and member-at-large (2010–15) of the Cyprus Chapter. (Europe; appointed)

Elias Melhem (BS '84) is the John Dennis Tenured Professor and Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Melhem has been the vice president of the Greater Baltimore alumni chapter since 2014. He was formerly a member of the International Advisory Committee for the Faculty of Medicine (2011–15) and the AUB Tenure Review Committee (2018). (North America; elected)

Darine Najem (BS '01, MPH '03) is an independent behavioral, organizational, and systemic change consultant in Beirut. She has extensive professional experience in the Middle East, North Africa, Greece, and Turkey. Najem previously held leadership positions in the pharmaceutical and FMCG industries including general manager at L'Oréal ACD for Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq (2011–15). She was formerly president of the FHS Alumni Chapter. (Lebanon; appointed)

Nada Safa (EMBA '11) is director of a family office. She has 22 years of professional experience in the financial sector. One of her core areas of expertise is knowledge of the BRIC markets and technical analysis (behavioral finance). Safa was a member of the WAAAUB EMBA Chapter (2012–15) and has been president of the WAAAUB Business Chapter since December 2015. (Lebanon; elected)

AUB On The Move

Leadership around the world

Michigan



Presentation by President Fadlo R. Khuri
Lifting the Quality of Education and Health Across the MENA Region
AUB delegation invited to University of Michigan
October 9 – 12, 2019

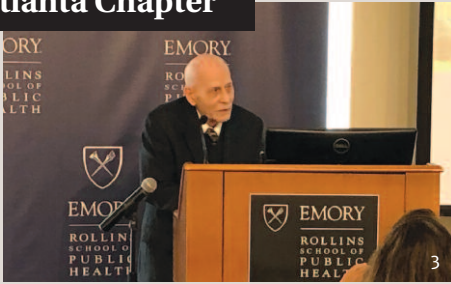
Boston, MA



President Fadlo R. Khuri
Voices in Leadership
Medicine, Academia, and the Syrian Refugee Crisis
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
Boston, MA
November 5, 2019

1. Front row, seated L to R: MSFEA Dean Alan Shihadeh, FHS Dean Iman Nuwayhid, President Fadlo R. Khuri; Executive VP, Dean Faculty of Medicine Mohamad Sayegh, Dr. Eva Felman, Dr. Sami Azar, Dr. Assaad Eid
2. AUB International Advisory Council member Dr. Howard K. Koh with Dr. Khuri
3. Dr. Eugene J. Gangarosa
4. L to R: Ms. Angela Khoury, Mr. Jimmy Nassour, Mrs. Sylvia Shihadeh (the Dean's mother), Dean Alan Shihadeh, Mrs. Dina Nassour

Atlanta Chapter



FHS Founding Dean Eugene J. Gangarosa
FHS Dean Iman Nuwayhid (remotely)
FHS Professor Mey Jurdi
GoWash Lecture
Emory University
Druid Hills Golf Club
Atlanta, GA
November 8, 2019

Austin, Texas



MSFEA Dean Alan Shihadeh
Home of Jimmy and Dina Nassour
Austin, TX
October 19, 2019

Central and North Florida



Chapter Dinner with OSB Dean Steve Harvey
Maggiano's Little Italy
Tampa, FL
November 8, 2019

Midwest Chapter



WAAAUB Midwest Chapter Gala Dinner
President Fadlo R. Khuri remarks and Q & A
Park Hyatt
Chicago, IL
November 16, 2019

New York Chapter in conjunction with the Debs Center, New York Office



Chairman Philip Khoury
Honoring the service of Majdi Ramadan
Counsil General of Lebanon in New York
Debs Center, New York Office
November 13, 2019

North American Chapters Leadership Retreat



The Debs Center
New York, NY
September 27, 2019

StandingOUTstanding

A conversation with Moe Hamzeh reveals that dreams sometimes do come true...



- Moe Hamzeh (BS '92, MS '00)
- Became involved with the AUB Music Club in 1990
- Formed his band, the Kordz, in 1992
- Graduated with a BS in geology in 1992
- Earned an MS in geology in 2000
- Founded Temple Entertainment Ltd. in 2000
- Managing Director, Warner Music Middle East, since February 2018

Did you imagine when you were a geology student that you would end up having a career in music?

Not really. I enjoyed geology, but I always dreamed of performing on stage. Geology requires creative thinking and imagination just like music. I learned other things as a geology student as well—like complex problem solving, discipline, and scientific reasoning—that have been invaluable.

You were a very active member of the AUB Music Club, is that right?

Yes, very... It became my life on campus. Being a member of the Music Club at AUB was truly a life-changing experience for me.

How were you involved?

In every way. As a member of the cabinet, I was involved in lighting, stage design, promotion, getting sponsorships, finding media partners—all of it. We had to raise money as well so we could purchase the equipment we needed. I loved it and it was a great learning experience. I met people through the Music Club who became lifetime friends. I also established networks that have continued to be part of my career.

Did you consider a career in geology?

Yes, initially, as I was interested in geology—I still like it. I worked for a couple of years on a major water resources project for Howard Humphreys (an engineering consultancy firm), but I was always involved with music. Actually, there was a period of time in the mid-1990s when I was working on my master's thesis, doing consulting in geology, playing with my band (The Kordz) all over Lebanon, and also involved with the AUB Music Club. It is partly because of all these activities that it took me so long to finish my master's thesis but, to be honest, I wasn't in any rush to finish because I knew that as long as I was an AUB student, I could still be involved with the Music Club. I didn't want to give that up.

How did you make the change from a career in geology to one in music?

I had just finished a hydrogeology project and was working on my thesis when a friend mentioned that Music Master, then a Warner Music licensee in the region, was looking for a label manager—and that I would be perfect for the job. I hesitated, because I was not confident enough of my music biz knowledge, but I decided to go for the interview. They offered me a job starting the next day. I took the offer and followed my passion.

Tell us about your current position as managing director for Warner Music Middle East.

This job is a dream come true for me. I feel like this is where I belong. I'm in my element. It is great to be at the heart of the music industry in the Arab world today. I owe it to AUB. If I had not been there, I would not be here.

Class Notes



1950S

Ann Potter McGurk (former student, 1954–56) writes, “After spending two years at AUB (1954–56), I returned to the US, where I graduated from Marietta College in Ohio. My husband Terrence McGurk and I got married right after I graduated. I have had five children; four are still alive. I know this sounds pretentious, but they are all good people and contributing to making the world a better place. I look for news of classmates and rarely see any. I would love to hear from anyone. I am well-known at the local post office because of the number of letters I mail.”

Sandy Sanbar (BS '56, MD '60) writes, “I am currently a legal medicine consultant, executive director of the American Board of Legal Medicine, and adjunct professor of medical education at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. I am a grateful and proud alumnus who has had the privilege of working during my career as a cardiologist, biochemist (PhD '63), and attorney (JD '78). I am most active these days teaching about the ethical and medico-legal aspects of medical practice, both on land and at sea. My wife Dorothy and I have been married since 1961. We have two children and three grandchildren.”

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1960S

Nadeem T. Zakharia (BE '60) is currently retired. During his long career, he worked for various highly regarded construction companies, which included ten years with Consolidated Construction Co. (CCC), on heavy civil engineering projects throughout the Middle East. Nadeem worked with Modern Arab Construction Co. (MAC) in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, from June 1981 until June 2015, in the positions of VP for Construction, general manager, and president of the company (2005–15). From August 2015 until August 2018, he was adviser to the director of facilities at International College (IC) in Beirut on the construction of the new school buildings.

Salim Batri (BA '64) writes, “Following my graduation with a degree in economics, I worked in Beirut for about three years, then went to Toronto, Canada, to do graduate work in business administration at the University of Toronto. Since then, I have worked in middle management for multinational companies in the fields of marketing and purchasing in different countries, including Liberia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia. I finally settled in Montreal, Canada, with my family. My wife and I have been living in this lovely city for the past 30 years but visit Lebanon often. I am now retiring gracefully and would love to hear from my classmates.”

Ivan E. Araktingi (BS '65) writes, “I have been happily retired from Chevron since 2016 but continue to do

consulting work with Precipio, a consulting company I started with a friend back in 2002. My wife and I moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to be near our son’s family and our grandson. We still maintain a house in Wisconsin where we go to escape the Arizona summer heat. I have been happily married to the same college sweetheart for 51 years now! I would like to hear from all of my classmates.”

Raja Hawit (BS '60, MD '65) retired from a solo pediatric practice two years ago. He lives in Maryland, about a one-hour drive from Washington, DC. He writes, “I was sorry that I had to miss our 50-year class reunion in 2015 because of an acute illness. Having come to the fourth quarter of life, I thank my Lord for enabling me to run my race with faith, hope, and love. So, where to from here? It is certainly a final question that deserves our serious attention as we all have to face the hereafter soon.”

Ismail Sukkariyyah (sophomore diploma '65), MD, is a part-time gastroenterologist at AUBMC. His parliamentary membership activities caused him to become interested in social health issues, mainly pharmaceutical products and human-ethical aspects of medicine. Since May 1997, he has been fighting against corruption in the health sector and in health policy. He heads a National Association for Social Health (NASH) and has published three books: *Drug Mafia*, *Health Rights in Lebanon*, and *Health = Right & Dignity*, which was introduced by EVP Mohamed Sayegh, MD. He is currently preparing to publish his memories of AUB, focusing especially on the hard years of the 1980s.



Standing, L to R: Arpy Donaganian (Taratinian), Vartoug Aintablian, Asdghig Samuelian, Asdghig Daderian, Rosig Balikian (Baroutjian), Hermine Tashjian, Evelyn Emirzian, Dichy Khanjian (Dodd), Khatcho Shahnazarian, Hasmig Prudian, Rita Melkonyan (Brody), Suzy Konyalian. Seated, L to R: Elize Minassian (Frayha), Ani Markarian (Chmsian), Hermine Darakjian (Yeghianian)

A large group from the Nursing Class of 1969 gathered on August 7 at the home of Rosig and Mardiros Baroutjian to celebrate their half-century graduation. Alumnae came from as far away as Texas to take part in the once-in-a-lifetime event. Some classmates who could not travel to California connected via FaceTime. “We laughed about some of the childish things we had done, remembered how the residents used to escort some of us to the yearly medical parties, and shared memories from our time at the Psychiatric Department of Asfurieh,” says Rosig. “We had such a good time.”



1970S

Georges Karawani (BEN '70, MEN '72) writes, “I have been living and working in Canada since 1976. My wife Nadia and I have two sons—both engineers—and two grandchildren (Ryan and Jacob), all born in Montreal. I am currently working at Parkland Fuel Corp where I play a consultancy role on renewable energy. I am president of Consultation Energy & Biodiesel Inc. I am the past president of the Quebec Council of Biodiesel and volunteer with the Can Celiac Association.”

Tarek Kettaneh (BEN '70) writes, “I graduated with a bachelor’s in civil engineering in 1970. I then did a master’s in civil engineering at MIT,

worked for two years, and then did an MBA at Harvard. Since then my career has led me to Iran (for seven years), then to the US (another 14 years), and then back to Lebanon, where I teach entrepreneurship and family business at AUB’s Suliman S. Olayan School of Business. I am happily married. We have three sons, two of whom are currently AUB students. My roommate from my AUB days, Manuel Hazim, keeps track of our class graduates from his Bazbina lair or from Nigeria.”

Nabil Sakkab (BS '70) writes, “On a bright sunny day in the spring of 1970 I graduated from AUB with a BS degree in chemistry. Those were the beginnings of turbulent times on campus. However, this event, enabled by a generous university program, kicked off an incredibly fortunate path for me to continue my education in the US and to be blessed with an unbelievably supportive family and a distinguished career. It could not have gone any better.”

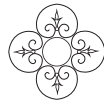
Shahron Williams [Van Rooij] (MA '70) is an associate professor in the Learning Technologies Division of the College of Education and Human Development of George Mason University in the US. She has recently published *The Business Side of Learning Design and Technologies* under the Routledge imprint. The book is available on Amazon.

Ilyas Absi (BS '75) writes, “After I graduated from AUB in 1975, I went to Canada and completed an engineering degree. I live in Ottawa. I have been married for 25 years to Carol Sfeir Absi. We have two children: Marissa (23), who is in medical school, and Michael (21), who is studying pharmacy. I was in Lebanon this past summer but may return next summer for Reunion 2020.”

Sami Chalhouh (BBA '75) writes, “My wife Marcelle and I manage our private jewelry business in Aliso Viejo

in southern California. We enjoy living in close proximity to our two daughters and their husbands: Caroline (and Devin Silberfein) and Christine (and Dr. Rabih Zaouk), and to the jewel of our life and our first grandchild, Luna Zaouk.”

Bayan Tabbara (BS '77, MA '80) writes, “I joined the UN while working on my MA thesis in economics. That is when I met my husband, Mohammad Wahab. We moved to Baghdad in 1982. I worked for the UN for 31 years. The Arab uprising movements made me realize that all the work I had done during my UN career had been futile, so I took early retirement. After doing a yoga program in India to rejuvenate my life, I returned to Beirut, where I am now living. I volunteer with NGOs and feel I am contributing more to human development than ever before. I have also started painting and am spending more time with my family. Early retirement was the best thing I ever did.”



1980s

Suhayl Dhib-Jalbut (MD '80) is the Ruth Dunietsz Kushner and Michael Jay Serwitz professor and chair of neurology at Rutgers–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and New Jersey Medical School. He also directs the Rutgers Center for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and is past president of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in MS (ACTRIMS). Dr. Dhib-Jalbut resides in Princeton, NJ, with his wife, **Dr. M. Maral Mouradian (MD '82)**, vice chancellor for faculty development at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, director of RWJMS Institute for Neurological Therapeutics, and William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology. They have one daughter, Marla Jalbut, MD, MBA, who is currently a medical resident at the Yale School of Medicine.

Amenah Mukdad [Moussawi] (BSN '80) is working as a registered nurse at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. She is looking forward to attending Reunion 2020.

Marlene Sahyuni [Abi-Mansour] (BS '80) has been residing in Chicago since 1985. She completed a doctorate in public health and is married to Pierre Abi-Mansour, MD. They have four adult children. She writes, “We continue to visit Lebanon regularly and enjoy our extended family and the country that we will always love.”

Jamal Staytiyeh (BEN '80) is living in Lebanon. He is a manager at SALCO, where he has worked since January 1991. Between 2015 and 2018, he was deputy CEO of SALCO in Saudi Arabia. Jamal has been involved in a number of notable projects during his career, including the Jeddah New Corniche Project Phases 4 and 5, 2017–18; the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies & Research Center (KAPSARC), 2010–12; the King Abdullah University for Science and Technology (KAUST), 2008–10; the power plant in South Jeddah, 2005–08; and Imam University in Riyadh, 1990–95.

Maher Siraj (BEN '85) writes, “After graduation, I continued my academic studies and earned degrees from the University of Michigan (master’s) and Southern Methodist University (PhD). I am married with two daughters and live in the Dallas, Texas, area, where I work for Texas Instruments in chip design. I consider my superior AUB education to have been the tool that shaped my career. (I hope it is still superior!) I enjoy biking, jogging, and music.”

Nabil Khlaf (BEN '86) writes, “My wife and I have recently moved back to Beirut after 30 years abroad. Since June 2018, I have been CEO and chairman of the board for Liban Cables.”

May Mikati (BA '87) has been teaching English at AUB since the early 1990s. She has also tutored at the Writing Center and coordinated the Extension English Program (Continuing Education) as well as the English Department’s Communication Skills Program. She enjoys teaching online and offers technical English in a blended/hybrid format. In her spare time, she blogs, having started a teachers’ blogging community. Additionally, she initiated a Facebook group for Oxford and Cambridge alumni in Lebanon to facilitate connections among alumni, both local and international.

Walid Ali-Ahmad (BE '88) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I went to the US, where I earned a master’s and PhD from the University of Michigan. In September 2019, I joined Samsung Electronics as VP of the RF Systems SoC Architecture team working on 5G smartphones. I previously worked as RF engineering lead at Facebook in Menlo Park, California; before that, I worked at QUALCOMM in San Diego as VP Technology, and as Senior Director at Mediatek Inc. in Singapore. I am in regular contact with my alma mater, especially former colleagues at MSFEA, where I was an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering from 2004 to 2007. I am an IEEE distinguished lecturer and hold several patents in the area of RF design.”

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Lamia Moubayed (BS '88, MS '90) writes, "In July 2017, I was nominated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to serve on the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). This subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for providing policy advice and drafting resolutions that help countries implement their commitments under Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, namely Goal 16 (justice, peace, and strong institutions). I have also been selected to evaluate candidatures of countries to the United Nations Public Service Awards, which is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service." publicadministration.un.org/en/unpsa



1990S

Maha Halaweh (BS '90) writes, "I have been working at Fouad Khoury Hospital as a laboratory supervisor since 2012. I am still living in Choueifat, Lebanon."

Noha Mazraani (BS '90, MA '96), PhD, writes, "I am now the founding school principal of Ghaf Primary School in Dubai. I have worked in international schools in Lebanon, Egypt, UAE, and Turkey and have extensive experience as a teacher and educational leader and with teacher training, curriculum development, school improvement, and accreditation. I love to travel and learn about different cultures: I have lived in five countries and visited many more. I have also volunteered over the years with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Greenline Association. I currently support student scholarships at AUB."

Suha Mohsen (BA '90) is a counselor in public schools. She writes, "The credit goes to AUB, which gave me the opportunity to achieve my dream. AUB

is our past and future, memories that won't fade. Thank you AUB."

Wafaa Chebaro (BS '91, MS '94) writes, "I have been working in the health and science field in multiple disciplines for many years. I moved to Canada in 2006 and later pursued a graduate diploma in healthcare management at McGill University. I presently work at McGill University Health Centre in clinical genetics. I am a passionate health and wellness entrepreneur with a global company helping people live a healthier lifestyle and create time, freedom, and financial security for their families. I recently attended Reunion 2019. It was amazing and brought back so many emotions and great memories."

Robert Mansour (BE '91) writes, "Since graduating, I have worked in the public and military sectors in the fields of private mobile radio (PMR) and universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS), project management, business support systems (BSS), defense acquisition systems, and network design. I have a PhD in cyber security and cyber deterrence, international relations, and diplomacy from Centre d'Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (CEDS) in Paris."

Samir Samhat (BS '91) writes, "I am an environmental technician and work with the federal government/Natural Resources Canada on a contract or casual basis."

Amal Shahine (BS '91) writes, "After graduation, I joined Abu Dhabi International School and stayed there for 15 years. I started as a science and biology teacher and became head of the Science Department and later principal of the high school. I was then asked to be the founding principal of Horizon Private School in Abu Dhabi. The school is truly international, with students from more than 47 countries. I was recently appointed by the owners of the school to be director general of all of their schools."

Zahi Ghantous (BEN '92) writes, "Since graduation, I have been working with Consolidated Contractors Group SAL (offshore) in Greece, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia in various fields, domains, and roles. I am currently living in Athens, Greece, and working in the corporate Athens office as assistant vice president."

Mohamad Kallas (BS '92, MS '93) writes, "After graduation, I worked as a research assistant at FAFS before joining Karmadex Nigeria as a production manager (1994–97). From 1997 to 2004, I worked for Shuman Farms in Lebanon as a production manager and then for Zartech Nigeria as account manager (2004–06). During 2006–08 I worked for Hybro BV Poultry Breeding Company as a technical manager for MENA and Turkey. In 2008 I joined Cobb Europe as a technical manager for the Middle East, where I am currently senior accounts manager."

Antoine "Tony" Saliba (BBA '92) writes, "After graduating from AUB, I completed an MBA degree at the University of Massachusetts in 1998. I spent the next 15 years in the banking industry moving between different postings within corporate banking between Lebanon and the GCC. I moved to Canada with my wife and two kids in 2012. I have been living in Toronto since 2012 and working in corporate finance at the Royal Bank of Canada."

Amal Abdallah (BS '95) writes, "I am a full-time writer and have published two Arabic novels as well as six books for children (for ages 9–13)."

Lena Al-Rahbany (BA '95) writes, "I am a business editor, web editor, and web consultant to universities, web developers, and institutions, helping them to improve their website/social media content, design, outreach, search engine optimization (SEO), and audience. I have also been certified as a fitness trainer by the ISSA Association in the US and am a seasonal painter."

Rania Bizri (BA '95, MMB '01) writes, "I previously worked as an economic consultant but am now an intensive short-term dynamic psychotherapy (ISTDP) psychotherapist. I have a private practice in Sidon as well as in Beirut. I train and collaborate regularly with the ISTDP Institute in the UK."

Nahida El-Assi (MA '95) earned a PhD in educational management and administration at the University of Leicester in 2003. She is an ESL project manager, teacher trainer, materials writer, and lecturer at the University of Montreal. She has published a considerable amount of research in international and regional journals. Nahida is married and has three children who are excelling in business, medicine, and engineering.

Chafic Kharma (BA '95) writes, "After 18 years of GCC experience working for a multinational organization, I decided to open my own firm so I could share my expertise with local companies. My interest is in the oil and gas industry. I hope to be part of this if Lebanon overcomes this challenge."

Carolina Noueihed [Khalek] (BA '95) moved to California in 2000 and has been working in the human resources management field ever since. Early this year she proudly founded an online business: oursheritage.com. She is currently the secretary of the WAAUB Orange County Chapter. She writes, "AUB has always been a part of who I have become. I am looking forward to participating in the 2020 AUB alumni reunion... I guess once an AUBite, always an AUBite!"

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Ihab Tabbara (BBA '96) writes, "I recently graduated from London Business School with an Executive MBA and received the best student award. I am the general manager of Roots Group Arabia with 21 years of extensive experience specializing in retail, building materials, and supply chain in Saudi Arabia. I am proud that my son, Ryan, is currently studying electrical and computer engineering at AUB. I believe that the key to success is to be perseverant, to have ambitions, and to be fully dedicated to achieving greatness."

Basile Chouéri (BEN '97) writes, "I have been living in London for the last ten years working for British American Tobacco in its Next Generation Products (NGP) Division. I am the senior operations development manager responsible for operations due diligence for mergers and acquisitions and also lead strategic NGP operations projects."

Mariam Shebaya (BS '97) writes, "In 2017, I returned to academia, while keeping up with consulting and coaching work (Mpact Consulting & Coaching). Little did I know how invigorating teaching would be! I had taught before, but this time a renewed passion was kindled in me! I love the interaction with students at Notre Dame University and the University of Balamand. I love that they are eager to learn and listen. I love that I can make a difference (even if very small) in educating the upcoming generation, hoping that they will bring much-needed change to Lebanon."



2000S

Farah Ghandour (BBA '00) writes, "I am currently living in Dubai, where I work as a freelancer in public relations and events management. I previously worked in banking."

Amer Karam (BS '96, MD '00) writes, "I am an associate professor at Stanford University, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where I have been for the past six years. My wife Summer and I are expecting our third boy this fall. His brothers, Lucas (6) and Alexander (3), are very excited to meet him."

Fadi Hashem (BBA '01) writes, "I am a leadership and talent management consultant and consult with Fawaz Al Hokair Group and Jeddah Chamber of Commerce. I have also worked with Qatar's Ministry of Administrative Development to train its middle and top management. I currently teach at the LAU Executive Center and Continuing Education Program. I am also a visiting professor at the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies."

Joseph Malkoun (BEN '02) writes, "After graduating in 2002, I decided to pursue my true passion: mathematics. I got a master's from McGill University in 2006 and then a PhD from Stony Brook University in 2012, both in mathematics. I am a professor of mathematics at Notre Dame University. I got married to the lovely Vivecca in 2015. If someone is interested in reconnecting with me, I'd love to hear from them."

Ziad A. Hage (BS '00, MD '04) writes, "I am a cerebrovascular, endovascular, and skull base board certified neurosurgeon, practicing at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where I serve as lead physician for cranial and endovascular neurosurgery. I am adjunct associate professor in the Department of Surgery at the Campbell University School of Medicine. I live here with my wife Murielle and my two boys, Christian and Alexander. We love the city and feel very fortunate to be part of our community."

Fatmeh Abbas (BS '05, MPH '10) worked as a medical laboratory scientist at AUBMC's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine from 2005 to 2018. Since May 2018, she



has been the department's program coordinator for graduate medical education.

Bashira Al Khalidy (MPH '05) writes, "Receiving an MPH from AUB changed the path of my career forever. I was promoted to chief lab technician and lab quality manager at Makassed General Hospital after receiving my MPH degree. I am now an instructor at the Lebanese International University. More than a decade after graduation, I cannot be more proud to be an AUB alumna."

Osmat Awar (BBA '05) writes, "After graduation, I moved to Jeddah for five years and worked at both Ogilvy and H+K Strategies as a communication consultant. I then moved to Riyadh and got married in 2013. I have been working for McDonald's for the past seven years as head of the Corporate Communication and Social Responsibility unit. I will be continuing my postgrad studies at INSEAD and hope to complete my EMBA by 2020."

Gaby E. Gabriel (BS '01, MD '05) is married to **Rawan Shoucair (BA '01)**. He is an interventional radiologist at the University of Kentucky and the Interventional Radiology Residency Program Director. He specializes in interventional oncology focusing on minimally invasive cancer treatments. He writes, "I am thankful for all the education and opportunities that AUB provided me."

Wassim Hamade (BBA '05) writes, "After graduation, I moved to Toledo, Ohio, where I pursued my education and earned an MBA in management information system (MIS), with honors, from the University of Toledo. I then went to Houston where I got a job at S4 Communications as a business analyst. I recently joined Verizon, where I am currently a senior systems analyst."

Ali Hammoud (BE '05) writes, "I have been working in the construction field in Qatar since 2005 with Midmac Contracting Co. and am currently an MEP section manager. *MainGate* has always been a true voice of AUB for alumni all over the world. I hope that Lebanon will have an equally good/unified tool one day to listen to and benefit all Lebanese expats!"

Nasri Qumri (MUDS '05) writes, "I have been living in Dubai since June 2006 and am currently working with Meraas, Dubai Holding, and Dubai Properties, heading development approvals and master planning. I am also the founder and managing director of AlphaSquare Dubai, which is the only specialized unit to provide development approval strategies in the region. I am married and have four children: Cybele and Chloe, who are eight years old; Enzo, who is four; and Sia-Rain, who is three. I would like to connect with classmates."

Alia Sabra (BS '05, MS '07, MS '17) writes, "After receiving the Academic Excellence Award from AUB in 2007, I had the opportunity to present my MS thesis on New TV (in 2007) and on El Etijah Iraqi Regional TV (in 2013). I received the Best Researcher Award at the 11th Plant Protection Conference in Amman, Jordan, in 2014. In 2017, I completed my MS in energy studies. As a master's student, I participated in conferences in Lisbon and Cambridge. In 2017, I won the First School on Humanitarian Engineering Hackathon at AUB with my team 'Bracsee.' In 2018, I was selected for One Health Approach, a fully-funded program at Duke University in the US."

Hala Shehadeh (MA '05) writes, "I am currently an associate professor of mathematics at James Madison University in Virginia. I did my PhD at New York University and my post-doc at University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. I have a wonderful eight-year-old daughter, Sary. We live near the beautiful National Shenadoah Park near Washington, DC, and visit Lebanon regularly. My research is in mathematical aspects of materials science. I cofounded the Women in Mathematics of Materials Network."

Abir Tannir (BA '05, MA '12) writes, "I graduated from AUB with a BA in education and an MA in educational psychology. I am the assistant director of alumni affairs and career development at the American University of Kuwait. I have two lovely daughters who are always connected

Partnerships for AUB: TELUS

TELUS's partnership with AUB began 15 years ago. It is centered around funding research that generates intellectual wealth for students while also providing practical research material. Working with the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, numerous world-leading research outcomes have been realized with respect to cybersecurity (vulnerabilities, IDS, modeling, and

crowdsourcing), as well as networking (SDN, mobile, and wireless). This partnership, complemented by the internships TELUS offers third-year students, sparked the creation of the first

AUB-incubated startup—SAUGO 360—now producing intellectual property at an international level. TELUS is committed to continuing its investment in AUB and its students.



to AUB through my beautiful memories and alumni reunions.”

Zaina Al Falah (BA '06) writes, “I have been working in the marketing communications and advertising field in the banking industry in Kuwait, my hometown, for 12 years. I love this field: it’s fun and dynamic and a never-ending challenge. I have also worked on several side projects regarding events entertainment for children, which is my second passion and one I hope to expand and grow very soon as my own business. I’d love to hear from anyone who has tips and tricks for starting your own business.”

Khalid Ashour (BS '06) writes, “Fifteen years later I still look back very fondly on my time at AUB. The education I received and friendships I made are something to treasure. I live in New York, where I work at Facebook, figuring out what new things to build and develop. AUB will always have a special place in my heart.”

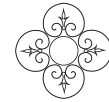
Kassem Jouni (BS '06, MS '09) has spent 13 years working with private and international development agencies and the UN on developing forage production, crop and soil management, irrigation scheduling, impact evaluation for agricultural projects, preparation of feasibility studies to identify crop production estimates, and development of agricultural training materials on large farming schemes—primarily in Sudan and Ethiopia, in addition to urban and innovative agriculture. He is currently a programme policy officer for the UN World Food Programme in Beirut. Kassem and his wife **Nadine Mohanna (BS '08, MBA '14)** have one son, Adam.

Saly Shamra (BS '06) writes, “I am the owner of LoCal Wheat Free Bakery in Tripoli, Lebanon. I have a dietetic clinic in the bakery. I am also the director of monitoring, evaluation, and learning at a USAID-funded project called The Lebanon Water Project.”

Bilal Hallab (BBA '07) writes, “After graduation, I spent five years working in advertising and communications in Saudi Arabia. In 2011, I started my own digital agency and social business consultancy. I grew it into a multimillion dollar firm and sold it in 2018. I have been happily married for nine years with a beautiful five-year-old daughter and a newly born son. I visit AUB at least monthly to have my morning coffee on the Main Gate stairs.”

Sarine Beukian (BSN '08) writes, “After gaining work experience at AUBMC, I moved to Cleveland and joined Case Western Reserve University as clinical faculty while earning my master’s degree (2014). I am now a board-certified acute care nurse practitioner at Mount Sinai Hospital in the Department of Heart Failure and Transplant in New York City and a member of the American College of Cardiology. A lot of my dreams and career path decisions were made on the AUB campus. AUB holds a special place in my heart.”

Leila El Alti (BS '08, MA '14) earned a BS in nursing and an MA in philosophy at AUB. She worked as a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at AUBMC, an instructor and clinical preceptor to nursing students at the Lebanese University, and at SANAD: The Home Hospice Organization of Lebanon, before moving to Sweden. She is currently a PhD candidate in practical philosophy at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and the mother of Freya, who is half-Swedish, half-Lebanese. Leila and Freya visited campus in spring 2019.



20IOS

Hala Abou Assi (BS '10) writes, “After graduation, I continued my education by earning a PhD in chemistry from McGill University in Montreal. I am currently a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University, studying the effect of epitranscriptomic modifications on RNA structural dynamics and biological function. I have many fond memories from my time at AUB and am so thankful to have maintained close friendships with many of my classmates and professors. During my last year at McGill there were seven AUB students pursuing their PhDs in chemistry, which made McGill and Montreal feel like a home away from home.”

Raghida Bou Zerdan (MS '10) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I joined the PhD program at the University of Florida, where I focused on the development of ‘smart’ π -conjugated oligomers for organic electronic applications, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Santa Barbara. In May 2019, I joined the Dow Performance Silicones–Product Development Group as a senior research scientist. I am currently working on a sustainable approach for organic compatible silicone derivatives, low cyclics aminosiloxane emulsions for haircare, and water-based high temperature coatings.”

Carole Sioufi (BA '10) writes, “After managing the family business for eight years in the Middle East, I am now completing an MLA in gastronomy at Boston University in the US. I’ve always wanted to start a company in food. This master’s is the

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ideal stepping stone for doing so. The program is unique: it investigates food from a social science perspective, touching upon food policy and nutrition and uncovering some of the structural inefficiencies of the food system. With this background and an entrepreneurial spirit, I plan to start my own company and find a way to help people eat healthier.”

Samar Temsah (BA '10, TD '10) is an instructor at the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdelaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR). Her MA research focused on popular culture and identity politics, looking especially at nationalism and country music post-9/11. Samar previously worked in the educational field (with both preschools and high schools) and the corporate world, specifically in the banking and executive search industries. She is considering doing a PhD in American/ethnic studies with an interest in Arab American studies, African American studies, popular culture, cultural hybridity, identity politics, and liminal spaces as empowering instead of as marginalizing and disenfranchising.

Amal Nasser Eddin (BS '05, MD '11) writes, “I always knew that I wanted to be a doctor so I could help conservative women in our community who suffer due to a lack of female gynecologists. My goal was to improve the livelihood of women and avoid preventable diseases. Today I practice obstetric and gynecological primary care, surgery, and preventative medicine for women in medically underserved areas in Lebanon. Being able to make a difference in the lives of women in our community makes me feel that all of the hard work and sleepless nights have been worthwhile. Over the years, I have also been blessed with a fabulous husband and two children.”

Sara Kadi (BSLEM '11) writes, “I am currently working in Beirut at DIB Lighting, a lighting consultancy firm with offices in Lebanon, Dubai, and Kuwait. I am the design team leader,

handling all sorts of landscape, architecture, and interior lighting projects across Lebanon, the GCC, the Arab world, Canada, etc., from the conceptual design phase until execution and supervision.”

Rita Abou Samra (BSLEM '12) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I earned my master’s degree in urban and regional planning in Madrid, Spain. I then relocated to Washington, DC, where I got my LEED accreditation in neighborhood development. I am currently a community planner with the government of the District of Columbia, and part of an organization and online publication called Greater Greater Washington, for which I mainly write articles on planning, sustainability, transportation, and social justice.”

Maher Nadar (BE '12) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I worked for 20 months as a product design engineer at Al Zamil Air Conditioners in Saudi Arabia. I then went to Barcelona, Spain, for a couple of years, where I earned a master’s degree in automatic controls and robotics. I was especially interested in computer vision and machine learning, which led me to do a thesis on image classification using convolutional neural networks (a deep learning application). Following this, I secured my current job as a data scientist at Envio Systems, a startup in Berlin, Germany, that helps smart buildings save energy.”

Samar Attieh (MPH '13) writes, “I am a PhD student in experimental medicine at McGill University, Quebec, Canada. I have more than five years of research experience in data collection, management, analysis, and reporting gained by working on multidisciplinary research projects in Beirut, Ottawa, and Montreal. For my doctoral studies I am primarily interested in examining the relationship between oncology team functioning and patient cancer-related experiences and reported outcomes. This project builds on my research work at the Loisselle Research Lab focusing on how to best support

patients with cancer and enhance their experience throughout the cancer trajectory.”

Salwa Darraj (BBA '13) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I earned an MS degree in economics and strategy for business and a pre-MBA certificate from Imperial College London. I then joined Ernst & Young, where I now work as a senior consultant. I am also a member of the Imperial College Alumni Advisory Board and a fellow at the Chartered Management Institute in the UK. During my free time I work on developing and launching my own startup.”

Raya El-Kadi (BBA '15) writes, “I am leading organization and business transformation projects at Byblos Bank Group. I was recently awarded a scholarship to pursue my master’s degree in France. I am still in touch with people at AUB who continue to support my career endeavors.”

Eman Sharara (MPH '15) writes, “I spent several years working as a research assistant on different health-related projects. I recently started a new project about sexually transmitted disease screening among Syrian refugees. I am now a mother to one baby boy. I feel this next year will be full of success.”

Dominique Tegho (BA '15) writes, “I currently live in Berlin. I made a complete career change in 2016 when I decided to pursue my passion, which is dance. I moved from Beirut to Germany two years ago and enrolled in a few dance programs. I recently graduated from Tanzfabrik Berlin and have launched my career as a freelance performer and choreographer. I have also trained in India to be a yoga teacher.”

Hamzeh Halawani (former student 2011–16), MD, trained at Abington-Jefferson, Pennsylvania, and did an accredited fellowship in bariatric and metabolic surgery in 2017. Hamzeh is Jordanian board- and European board-

certified (FEBS) and a member of the American Medical Association (AMA), American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), American College of Surgeons (ACS), Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), Jordanian Surgical Society, and the Jordanian Medical Association. He has 18 publications in peer-reviewed journals including the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Mazen Zein (BAR '16) writes, "I am currently a project architect at a contracting company based in Lebanon. I have been handling several tasks, from producing execution drawings to site surveying and coordination between electrical and mechanical trades. The recent years have been productive and fruitful in terms of opportunities to learn new skills and techniques in the construction industry. I hope to establish a small office in the near future."

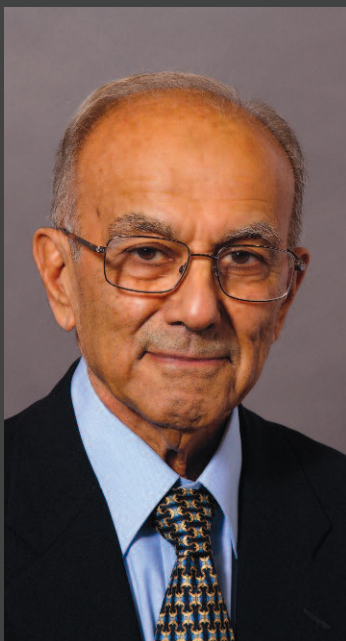
Lara Tamer (BBA '17) writes, "Right after graduation, I landed a job at MSE (Management Solutions Experts), a management consulting company."

Most of our projects are in the MENA region. I was recently assigned to projects in Saudi Arabia, which is now considered a hub for most consulting companies. I have always been interested in discovering new cultures and meeting people from different backgrounds and traditions. Being part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is not something I ever planned to do, yet I am glad to be involved and look forward to seeing what the future holds for me."

Razan Amine (BA '18) writes, "I graduated with high distinction and was selected for the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Student Leaders Program. As part of this program, I implemented an informal educational project, Building Mindsets, for educating Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. The project is ongoing. I received a Fulbright grant for 2019–20 and am currently studying international economics at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC. I proudly represent my home, AUB, everywhere I go."

Abdulrazzak Tamim (BA '18) writes, "I was awarded a scholarship from the US-Middle East Partnership Initiative program to pursue my BA degree at AUB. I graduated with distinction and received a scholarship from Al Ghurair Foundation for Education to pursue my studies at McGill University, where I am a graduate student majoring in agricultural economics. I have founded Arab Economist, an online platform to create active citizens through explaining economic issues, and am a cofounder of DigitArab, a venture aiming at providing employment opportunities for young people."

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Our Legacy: The Dr. Sami Kabbani Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Sami Kabbani was an AUB alumnus (BS '58, MD '62) and a lifelong supporter of the university who grew up in Damascus. After completing medical school, he continued his education at prestigious hospitals in the US, including the Henry Ford Hospital and Texas Heart Institute. He returned to Damascus in 1973 and founded the Damascus University Cardiovascular Surgical Center in 1975, serving as its director until 2004.

Sami and his family have maintained a strong connection to AUB. One of his sons, Nader, was a faculty member with the Department of Economics before leaving to set up a policy research center in Damascus. Another one of his sons, Loay, attended AUB

until the tragic bombing of College Hall in 1991 prompted him to complete medical school in Damascus. He then followed in his father's footsteps, pursuing a career in cardiovascular surgery. Sami's wife Sally and daughter Nada visit AUB regularly.

When Sami passed away in 2017, his family established the Dr. Sami Kabbani Endowed Scholarship at AUB as an enduring memorial to his life and a tribute to the institution that he credits with grounding him in scholarship and setting him on his professional path. His family plans to expand the scholarship fund and invites others to join them in helping AUB medical students launch their careers.



(seated, center) Dr. Alexander Geha (standing, L to R) Wassim Mazraani (MD '95), AUB SAANA President Peter Naman (MD '89), Anthony Tannous (MD '10), and Savo Bou Zein Eddine (MD '17)

A lifetime of service



A celebrated cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Alexander S. Geha (BS '55, MD '59) has been affiliated with the University of Vermont (1967–69), Washington University in St. Louis (1969–75), Yale University (1975–86), Case Western Reserve University (1986–98), the University of Illinois at Chicago (1998–2006), and UC San Diego (since 2006). He has published widely and is the co-editor of *Glenn's Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and the *House Officer's Guide to ICU Care: Fundamentals of Management of the Heart and Lungs*. He is proudest, however, of the 60 residents he has trained over the years: 10 were AUB graduates.

Many AUB legends have played important roles in Geha's life, including Dr. Joseph McDonald, who was then dean of the School of Medicine. "He was my preceptor during my first year as a medical student. He used to take us first-year medical students with him—there were just four of us—on rounds every Saturday. It was during those rounds that I got interested in surgery."

Over the years, Geha has generously supported many initiatives at the university, including scholarships and awards. In 2005, he established the Alexander S. Geha, MD Endowed Lectureship, which he continues to

support. "I have always been grateful to AUB for providing me with the educational and academic backgrounds I needed to succeed. I think it is important for alumni to support AUB," he says.

On October 29, 2019, the members of the Surgical Alumni Association of North America (AUB-SAANA) recognized Geha, selecting him to receive both the Academic Achievement and Outstanding Service Awards. "It was a wonderful and very special evening for me," Geha says, "and especially meaningful to be recognized in this way by my fellow AUB surgeons."

His legacy has lasted over 150 years and changed countless lives...

The AUB Clock Tower Society recognizes legacy donors like the men and women who supported Daniel Bliss.



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In Memoriam

Alumni



**Antoine Hanna
Sayegh, PhD
(BS '53)**

Antoine Hanna Sayegh, PhD (BS '53). Born in Jaffa, Palestine, in 1932, Sayegh passed away on September 6, 2019. After earning his BS degree in chemistry, he received an MS and PhD at Oregon State University in soil and farm crops. He returned to AUB as a professor of soil science at FAFS from 1957–82. In 1976, when AUB sent a group of faculty to Saudi Arabia to advise the Ministry of Agriculture, Sayegh was among the original eight members. In 1982, Sayegh joined his family in Germany and started a

consultancy business. Four years later, he joined the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome as a senior soil research officer and worked with them until his retirement and return to Lebanon in 1994. Sayegh is survived by his wife Nibal Chehab Sayegh, his two daughters Diana and Christina, and many nieces and nephews. He will be remembered by his students and colleagues for his dedication, compassion, and generosity.



**Raja M. Bitar
(BA '51)**

Raja M. Bitar (BA '51) passed away in Boca Raton, Florida, on September 24, 2019. With his degree in civil engineering, he traveled to the United States to complete a master's degree at Georgia Institute of Technology. He had a distinguished career at Westvaco Corporation, where he served as vice president and as president of their subsidiary in Brazil, Rigesa Celulose Papel e Embalagens Ltda. Raja was a dedicated and loyal employee of Westvaco and Rigesa for 31 years. In 1993, he retired to Florida. A

man of great integrity and honor, Bitar will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, humility, business acumen, and sense of humor. The son of Mulhim Bitar (BA 1908), the first librarian of Arabic publications at AUB who cataloged the collections in the Dewey Decimal system, Raja Bitar is survived by his wife of 50 years Samia Nassif (BA '64), his three daughters Neda, Layla, and Leena, and nine grandchildren.



**Basil Wahid
Hakki, PhD,
(BEN '57)**

Basil Wahid Hakki, PhD, (BEN '57) of Marco Island, Florida, and Portland, Oregon, died peacefully at home on August 2 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 84. Born in Damascus, Syria, Hakki earned a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1960. He joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1963 and his work there, until his retirement in 2001, resulted in numerous inventions

and patents and the development of what became a standard for measuring optical gain in laser diodes, termed the "Hakki-Paoli" method. Upon retirement, he began playing competitive bridge and honed his golf and tennis games. Hakki is survived by his wife of 51 years Maria Hakki, and a son, Morgan, of Portland, Oregon.

Notices for "In Memoriam" may be sent to maingate@aub.edu.lb



Alumni

Catherine Kano Kikoski (BA '61) passed away at the age of 79 on March 26, 2019. She spent her youth in Aleppo, Syria. Prior to earning her degree in psychology at AUB, she graduated from the Beirut College for Women (now Lebanese American University) in 1959. In 1963 she earned a master's degree in psychology from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and in 1980, she was awarded a EdD in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. From 1981–86, Kikoski was a psychologist for Catholic Charities in Orange, Massachusetts, and led a foster parent program at Greenfield Community College. In 1986, she moved to Saint Joseph College (now the University of Saint Joseph), where she founded the MA program in Marriage

and Family Therapy, which she directed until 2008. An accomplished author in three languages, Arabic, French, and English, Kikoski authored numerous articles on Middle Eastern feminism as well as on marriage and family therapy. She coauthored two books addressing cultural diversity and knowledge creation with her husband John F. Kikoski. Kikoski spent her final years at the Alzheimer's Resource Center (now Live Well) in Plantsville, Connecticut. She is remembered as a warm and generous person, a dedicated spouse, a devoted mother and grandmother, and an inspirational therapist. Kikoski is survived by her husband John, sons John and Andre, daughter Nicole, five loving grandsons, and a large extended family.



Catherine Kano Kikoski
(BA '61)

Fuad S. Ashkar (MD '62). Born in Broumana on June 13, 1935, the son of a Lebanese hotelier and noted poet, Ashkar passed away on August 6, 2019, in Miami, Florida. He completed his medical residency and fellowship in nuclear medicine at University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he met his wife Theresa, who was a Pan Am flight attendant. In addition to his work as a physician, Ashkar was a highly regarded professional who served as chairman for the Probable Cause Panel for the Florida Board of Medicine, a member of the Board of Governors for Florida Medical Quality Assurance, director of the University of Miami/Kuwait Comprehensive Medical

Education Program, director of Nuclear Medicine for the University Diagnostic Center in Miami, a diplomat of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, a fellow of the American College of Endocrinology, chief of medical staff at Kendall Regional Center, and chairman of the Florida Board of Medicine. A recipient of Lebanon's National Order of the Cedars, Ashkar published over 67 articles in medical literature and four books on science medicine. He holds two patents related to his research on thyroid disease. In addition to his wife Theresa, he is survived by his sisters Mona and Nayla, his daughter Anda, his son Alexander, and two grandchildren.



Fuad S. Ashkar
(MD '62)

Huguette Caland (student 1964–68) passed away at the age of 88 in Beirut. A trailblazing artist, Caland was born in 1931 to Bechara El Khoury, Lebanon's first president following its independence from the French mandate. In 1964, the year of her father's death, Caland created her first painting and enrolled in the art program at AUB. Her pursuit of a career as an artist took her to Paris, France, and Venice, California. Caland's work, which was the subject of a Tate St. Ives survey earlier this year, is associated with a strain of feminism in which artists sought to liberate the bodies of women. Provocative, sensual, and erotic, Caland produced an oeuvre that radiated a

sense of freedom, courage, and humor. Some of her most winsome works are the abayas she made in 1979 in collaboration with the famed fashion designer Pierre Cardin. Some of these garments were on view earlier this year at the Sharjah Biennial in the United Arab Emirates. There is a celebratory quality to Caland's work that exemplified her life. She once said, "I love every minute of my life. I squeeze it like an orange and I eat the peel, because I don't want to miss anything." In 2017, Caland was the recipient of AUB's distinguished University Medal. She is predeceased by her husband Paul Caland, and survived by her children Brigitte, Pierre, and Philippe.



Huguette Caland
(student 1964–68)

Photo credit:
L'Or Iman Puymartin





**Lina Marie
Obeid Hannun**
(MD '83)

Lina Marie Obeid Hannun (MD '83). Born in New York City 1955, Obeid grew up in Beirut and passed away on November 29, 2019, in Stony Brook, New York. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rutgers University and completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in endocrinology at Duke University, where she served on the faculty before moving to the Medical University of South Carolina. In 2012, Obeid joined Stony Brook State University of New York, where she was dean for Research, Distinguished SUNY Professor at the Renaissance School of Medicine, and

professor of medicine. Obeid and her husband Dr. Yusuf A. Hannun (BS '77, MD '81, DHL '14) have been widely recognized for their pioneering work in lipid biochemistry and cancer research. In 2019, they shared the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th International Conference on Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and Related Diseases. Obeid was the first woman to receive this honor. She is survived by Yusuf, her parents Dr. Sami Obeid and Rosette Obeid; her siblings Kamal, Ramzi, and Jihad Obeid; her children Reem, Awni, and Marya, and two grandchildren.

Friends



**John M.
Munro**

John M. Munro passed away on July 19, 2018, in Cyprus at the age of 85. Born and schooled in England, he earned a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and embarked on a career teaching English literature at the University of North Carolina, the University of Toronto, and London University, before arriving at AUB, where he taught from 1965–90. In addition, he served as an associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1970–74. Munro is well known to the AUB community for his informal and informative history of the university, *A Mutual Concern: The Story of the American University of Beirut*, published by Caravan Books in 1977. During his time in Lebanon, Munro also developed a career as a freelance journalist and co-producer with his wife Falak Farra (BA '74, MA '76) of English language

teaching programs for radio in the Arab world. During the Lebanese civil war John participated enthusiastically in amateur performances of the Art Theatre Group. In 1988, he moved to Egypt and was appointed Professor of Mass Communication at the American University in Cairo. Later he became media and political adviser to the European Commission in Cairo. In retirement, Munro taught academic courses on human rights and democratization at the University of Malta. He is the author of several books on various aspects of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature. He also wrote prolifically on eclectic topics of Arab culture, ranging from historic photographs to early public transport. He is survived by his wife Falak and his children Peter, Stephen, and Kirsten.



**AUB Trustee Emeritus
Theodore Van Itallie**

AUB Trustee Emeritus **Theodore Van Itallie**, MD, passed away on September 14, 2019, at the age of 99 in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Educated at Deerfield Academy, Harvard College, and the then named Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Van Itallie pioneered research in metabolic diseases and the epidemiology of obesity. He was director of medicine at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City (1957–75), where he founded the Obesity Research Center and later served as chief of the Division of Metabolism, Nutrition, and Endocrinology. Under his leadership, St. Luke's (now Mount Sinai St. Luke's Medical Center) became a Columbia University teaching hospital. Van Itallie was a visiting professor of international medicine at AUB in

1968–69. His ongoing contributions to the university and its hospital led to his election as a trustee in 1976 and a trustee emeritus in 1993. He advised numerous US government officials and agencies—including the National Institutes of Health, the White House, the US Surgeon General, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Agriculture—on human nutrition, recommended dietary allowances and dietary fat, and advanced teaching of nutrition and surgical treatment of obesity. At the time of his death, he was working on a supplement to treat Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by five children, Lucy, Theodore Jr., Christina, Elizabeth, and Katharine, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Stephen Penrose III
and his sister Dale
Penrose Harrell rekindle
childhood memories
at the September 3, 2019,
rededication of
Penrose Hall.





Return Address

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In 2003, as a young medical student at Laval University, David Saint-Jacques spent a summer working in refugee camps under the umbrella of AUB. The experience had an impact on his mission to the International Space Station from December 3, 2018 to June 24, 2019, when Astronaut Saint-Jacques took the AUB flag with him.



DAVID SAINT-JACQUES

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY



David Saint-Jacques

David Saint-Jacques
Soyuz MS-11, Expedition 58/59



Canadian Space Agency Astronaut
David Saint-Jacques flew a mission to the
International Space Station from
December 3, 2018 to June 24, 2019.

*"Space exploration enriches humanity
with new perspectives on ourselves
and the world. I thank the*

American University of Beirut

*for symbolically taking part in the adventure
through this flag that was on board with me."*

