The MainGate

Promise.
It’s the MainGate, only better!

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Akram Zaatari (BAR ’89), a filmmaker, photographer, and archival artist, reimagines images and reinvents cultural artifacts.

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The start of this academic year was certainly a surprise in terms of planning. The Syrian crisis happened at a time when faculty and students were already on campus for orientation week, so we had to make very quick decisions in case any kind of US military strike against the Syrian regime took place. Because, in the worst case, it probably would have affected AUB and its ability to maintain its international staff, faculty, and students. In thinking about options for international students and faculty, we had to consider logistical supplies, things like fuel and water, and also supplies of medicines that would be needed to treat chemical attacks. We even had to consider what might happen if we had to evacuate some people from campus. In 2006 there was a land route out through Syria. If the airport were closed, evacuation would be very challenging. Those were the big questions, but thus far we’ve had a very normal academic year. What surprised me was the way in which the threatening political situation escalated so suddenly and then dissipated very quickly. I think it’s kind of a model case for how things can happen here in the Middle East.

**COMPARING & CONTRASTING**
There are some obvious differences between being president of a US university in Lebanon versus being president of a university in the United States, one of which is that AUB must comply with two completely different legal systems, Lebanese and American. For example, we are compelled by American federal regulations to have policies on sexual harassment. On the other hand, sexual harassment is not recognized as a criminal offence in Lebanon. So in the past we have dismissed employees for violating our policies on sexual harassment in accordance with US law, but such employees can take us to court in Lebanon. Another difference is the prominence with which AUB is viewed here in Lebanon. AUB has a national significance that is really not matched by any university in the United States. I find I’m representing a university that reaches every part of the population, and that almost everything that AUB does is very closely followed and often imitated. This places quite a burden on the presidency, the University, and on its faculty to set standards for the country, and in many ways for the region as well.

**ADVISING**
New students need to understand that they are not here just to fulfill course and degree requirements. A major part of their education has to do with taking advantage of all the opportunities that AUB has to offer. It’s not only a beautiful campus, but it’s also a campus rich with cultural events, academic conferences, club activities, and sports that are here for the taking. It’s very important for students to engage with their peers, and interact with faculty mentors. Having a campus like ours, where this kind of interaction can happen, is at the very heart of a liberal arts education, which is one of AUB’s great distinguishing characteristics among universities in the Middle East.

**READING**
The most important book I’ve read recently is Robert Fisk’s *Pity the Nation*. I’d been putting it off, because of lack of time, but as soon as I started reading it I found it very hard to put down. It’s a compelling book; it sets the stage very nicely for the cultural and political context of today’s Lebanon.

**AUB has a national significance that is really not matched by any university in the United States.**

**UNWINDING**
There is a small, shaded gully down below Van Dyck and the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Building that is still quite wild, contrasting with the rest of the campus which is beautifully maintained. I just learned recently that part of that wadi is shored up with stones from the College Hall building that was destroyed in 1991. I’ve often heard students remark about the different feeling they get when they walk out of the urban fabric of Beirut onto campus. It’s like a step back into a different world, and it’s even quieter than the main campus. -K.D.
Dear AUB friends, faculty, staff, and alumni worldwide,

We’re proud to welcome 2014 with a new look—and a new approach to the MainGate. Since the magazine was founded 11 years ago, the way we communicate has changed dramatically. Social media keeps us up to the minute with events that are happening half a world away. New stories are posted on the AUB website every day.

So, do we still need a beautiful 70-page magazine in a world in which we’re bombarded with data all day long? We say “yes!”—and our readers have too.

Many alumni refer to the “transformative” and “life changing” AUB experience. At the MainGate, we share stories and explore how we inspire. How we lead. We focus on the students, faculty, and staff who change lives. Bring you transformative research. Spotlight community impact. Show how AUB is addressing the health needs of the region, at AUBMC and beyond. Three times a year, we bring you the big picture view of AUB, tell you why AUB still matters—and how.

We believe this redesigned format does this better than before. Here are the new sections:

**INSPIRATION**

Student life, the liberal arts, and the personalities that make AUB tick.

**DISCOVERIES**

Research stories from students and faculty. Discover labs on campus. A chance to push boundaries and learn something new.

**WELLNESS**

Stories related to health and wellness featuring interdisciplinary work from across the faculties. Look for Q&As with doctors on major health issues facing the region—like the one in this issue on cardiovascular health.

**IMPACT**

AUB making a difference in the region like the HSON students giving polio vaccines to refugees and research to make safe working conditions for children the law.

**AUB EVERYWHERE**

Class notes, alumni interviews, WAAAUB chapter activities, and news. Be sure to check out the great photo pages on the WAAAUB website.

One more thing—this is now printed on 100 percent recycled fiber, a much more environmentally friendly product. We’re working on our website too, so you’ll have even more reasons to enjoy the MainGate online.

Looking forward to your feedback, and to receiving more of your stories.

Ada H. Porter, Editor
One of dozens of Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP) scholarship students at AUB, business-major Rama Mosleh (BBA ’15) says that she is taking advantage of every moment on campus to make it an unforgettable experience. “I’m working hard to make myself and all the people who helped me reach AUB proud.” In addition to keeping up with a full course load, Rama is also participating in various volunteer activities on campus with the Palestinian Cultural Club and raising money for Syrian refugees.

Rola Atwani (BS ’15) is also grateful to ULYP for giving her the chance to attend AUB where she is learning not just the skills that will “increase my chances of promotion,” but also the confidence that “I’m going to need in bucket loads as I go through life.” She is also enjoying the opportunity to make new friends and meet people from different backgrounds and cultures. After she completes her undergraduate degree, Rola is looking forward to a career in pediatric medicine — and to supporting scholarship students in the future as ULYP does: “they support us at every single step along the way.”

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving(at)aub.edu.lb or make an online gift at https://give.aub.edu.lb.
Inspiration

Student life, the liberal arts, AUB personalities past and present

East West Interlocutor  8
AUB’s former provost Peter Heath reflects on a career of bringing the American model of education to the Middle East.

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Exhibits:
- Conceptual artist Akram Zaatari (BAR ’89) the MoMA, New York and Sfeir Semler Gallery, Beirut.
- Designers Maria Hibri and Huda Baroudi (BBA ’80) Bokja Design’s Migration Stories, Beijing.
- Painters Lena Kelekian (BS ’81) and Hagop Sulahian (BAR ’84) Shenzhen International Watercolor Biennial Exhibition, China.
- Fashion designer Reem Acra’s (BBA ’82) trunk show tours the United States.

Websites:
Founding editor Mona Harb (BAR ’93) makes Jadaliyya’s “Cities Page” a must read.

On Stage:
Alternative musical group Mashrou' Leila and jazz musician Tarek Yamani (BA ’01) transcend boundaries.

Written Word:
Academic Books: Scholarly works by Octavian Esanu, Syrine Hout (BA ’86), Sonja Mejcher-Atassi and John Pedro Schwartz, Lara Deeb & Mona Harb (BAR ’93).
Fiction/Non-fiction: Kim Ghattas (BA ’99) chronicles a high-powered life.

Face to Face  12
Nabil Tu'mih has been keeping AUB athletics in shape for nearly 50 years.

Globetrotters  13
Where students go to dip a toe into the waters of the real world and what they discover.

From Rusted Radishes  15
"Why I Am Who I Am" by Rewa El-Jarrah.

Legends & Legacies  20
Southern Charm: Nami Jafet, a successful entrepreneur committed to bringing it back to Beirut.
Had it not been for a long queue at Princeton back in 1967, Peter Heath might never have served as provost at AUB or as chancellor at the American University of Sharjah (AUS).

As a freshman, Heath was unaware that he was about to make a life-altering decision. What should he study to meet the university’s foreign language requirement? He had already studied Spanish and Latin in high school.

Maybe something non-western, he thought, as he stepped toward the line of students enrolling in Chinese. But that line was too long. Remembering that his advisor had told him that if he was really interested in the Crusades, he should study Arabic, he saw a professor sitting alone at the Turkish, Persian, and Arabic languages table, and went no further.

At a time when few people studied Arabic, Heath spent two summers as an undergraduate doing just that at the American University in Cairo, followed by a year there on a Fulbright grant. After earning a PhD in Near Eastern Language and Civilization from Harvard, he took a position teaching cultural studies at Bir Zeit University (BZU) in the West Bank where he remained for five years. At Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he spent the next 12 years, Dr. Heath helped found the Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilization. In 1998, he came to Beirut.

Dr. Heath’s experience at Bir Zeit University had primed him for working as provost at AUB.

“It was through teaching cultural studies at BZU,” he explains, “that I became aware of the educational model the American University of Beirut provided, because Bir Zeit University modeled its program on the AUB curriculum.”

“Peter was delighted to go to AUB,” says his wife of 41 years, Marianne. “It was an unexpected career move at a time when he was focused on academics more than administration. However, it was a transformational time for AUB, and Peter recognized that he had an opportunity to help the University get back on its feet after the civil war.”

One thing he brought to his position as provost at AUB, Dr. Heath explains, was “an interest in the structures of universities in general.” A university’s responsibilities, he had come to understand, reach far beyond the classroom. Universities must understand their relationship to the society they are a part of and consider ways to benefit that society. He saw this reflected in AUB’s mission.
Heath’s broad vision of the university, however, preceded his arrival in the Middle East. It had begun with a remark Marianne had made to him early in their relationship.

“She said,” he recalls, “It’s really strange; you are reading a book that was written more than a hundred years ago by Alexander Pushkin.’ I said, ‘That’s because it’s still a great book.’ That led me to think how it would feel to be involved in something that somebody is going to benefit from a hundred years later. I wanted to be a part of that process of building knowledge because I care about adding to the sum of human knowledge and maybe providing a new perspective. I want to communicate that knowledge and some of the understanding involved in that to students. That was, and still remains, my dream.”

Fulfilling this dream has taken him down many paths.

Dr. Heath brought both academic and administrative experience to AUB, having worked with both professors and students. Beginning at BZU, he had held positions such as department chairman or center director in addition to always continuing to focus on teaching and research. He actively maintained his interest in scholarship during his time as provost, teaching graduate students in AUB’s Department of Arabic Languages and Literature and continued to do research and publish in his field. This helped him, he says, to implement “the expectation that students improve not only academically but also as human beings during their time at AUB. Another important contribution I made to AUB was to focus on faculty research. Before I arrived, there was not a great emphasis on this, but I consider faculty research an extremely important way to keep professors engaged in their subjects and to continue to develop themselves in their chosen field.”

Dr. Heath’s position as provost required him to reflect on the broader university system as he worked with “all the departments, programs, and internal support units in the University.”

His awareness of the interconnectedness of every component of the University insured that he paid close attention both to the internal workings of each and to the connections among them so “sectors … developed not only as independent units, but also in such a way that they supported and interacted with each other.” This focus built the foundation for much of AUB’s current interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Additionally he saw the interconnectedness of student services revolving around the library, information technology, student affairs, admissions, and financial aid and made sure these services were integrated to enhance students’ educational experience.

He brought these experiences and insights with him to AUS in 2008. As chancellor, he explains, he hoped to implement the best of what he had learned from his AUB experience.

In this new role Dr. Heath found himself faced with greater responsibilities outside the university, charged as he was with representing the institution in the wider community. In the United Arab Emirates, the community is made up of powerful political leaders and influential businessmen. It was Dr. Heath’s job to nurture these relationships, and also to meet regularly with leaders of nearby universities. Speaking to Shiva Kumar Thekkepat of Gulf News in 2011, Chancellor Heath described his efforts to emphasize to other university leaders in the UAE the importance of promoting the establishment of a “research funding agency like the National Science Foundation in the US [where] faculties would compete with each other and cooperate on projects.”

All his efforts, however, were based on his belief in the American model of education: “I think of the ‘American model of education’ as the process in which the educational institution fosters not only students’ academic learning but also their individual growth and development and at the same time trains them to think critically, to become good team players, and to become good and productive citizens for the society in which they live.”

It was this model that he had encountered and nurtured at AUB and that he had found at AUS which is, he says, “successful in incorporating those traditions in the education that it offers... [But AUS] doesn’t try to imitate—we take the curriculum and the American model and adapt it to the needs of the region. [AUS] wants to integrate more with the business sector, find out what they need from [the] students, and also how [the] faculty can help them.”

He explains that this successful blend is thanks in large part to the support—both financial and philosophical—of Sharjah’s ruler, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi. Dr. Heath took the AUS position primarily because of the vision of university education that the two shared: “to provide a modern and scientific and knowledge-based education for the youth of the region.”

Whether his work involved teaching or administration, many terms come to mind when you think of Peter Heath, not the least of which are mentor, innovator, collaborator, and visionary.

In 2013, Peter Heath left AUS for health reasons. He is currently spending time with family in the United States. -N.B.
Published & Produced

Exhibits

1. **BOKIA DESIGN**
   See Maria Hibri and Huda Baroudi (BBA '80) and their Bokja Design's *Migration Stories* at the Tales Pavilion in Beijing.

2. **WALKTHROUGH**

3. **GEORGES CORM**
   There is a terrific exhibit at the AUB Art Gallery on Sidani Street through March 2014 featuring the works of Georges Daoud Corm (1896-1971).

4. **GARDEN SHOW**
   Maggie Baroud (BBA '80) is taking part in the Garden Show and Spring Festival at the Beirut Hippodrome, May 27-31, 2014.

5. **CRITICAL MACHINES**
   Coming to the Byblos Bank Art Gallery in February 2014, *Critical Machines* is a series of events and an exhibition featuring objects that monitor and report on the flow of cultural production, such as books, blogs, print and e-journals, and software.

6. **SHE WHO TELLS A STORY**
   *She Who Tells A Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World*, curated by Kristen Gresh, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, August 27, 2013 - January 12, 2014. Henry and Lois Foster Gallery (Gallery 158) features the work of 12 leading women photographers from Iran and the Arab world including Rania Matar (BEN '98).

7. **REEM ACRA**
   Even if you don't live in New York or Beirut, you may still be able to see some of Reem Acra's (BBA '82) stunning wedding dresses at one of the many bridal trunk shows taking place around the country.

Websites

Check out the new Cities Page on Jadaliyya E-Zine, a website that attracts almost a million viewers each week. cities.jadaliyya.com

Cofounded and edited by AUB Associate Professor Mona Harb (BAR '93), the Cities Page is full of lots of interesting information and great pieces about urban issues, politics, and infrastructure.
On Stage

Remember Mashrou’ Leila (*MainGate*, winter 2011)? They’ve been busy with appearances in Toronto, Paris, and London this past fall. Check the *MainGate* online for the dates and times of future shows.

Tarek Yamani (*MainGate*, summer 2012) has also been on the road – and is gearing up for a busy schedule in 2014 too.

The year-long Zaki Nassif Program Music Festival kicked off on September 29 with a concert by Rima Khcheich in Assembly Hall. It’s not too late to get in on the fun.

The always-popular AUB Choir Christmas Concert took place on December 2 and 3, 2013. Enjoy the video online! 😊

There has been a lot of buzz on campus about AUB Professor Robert Myers and LAU Assistant Professor Nada Saab’s (BA ’83) production of *Tuqs al-isharat wa al-tahawwulat* (Rituals of Signs and Transformations), a play by the late Syrian playwright Saadallah Wannous. The play was performed at the Babel Theater in early December.

Send submissions for Published & Published to maingate(at)aub.edu.lb

Written Word

**TRANSITION IN POST-SOVIEt ART**

Octavian Esanu, Curator, AUB Art Galleries, *Transition in Post-Soviet Art: The Collective Actions Group before and after 1989* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2012). This volume offers a detailed look at Collective Actions, a Moscow-based conceptual artist group. Esanu examines the group’s 10-volume publication *Journeys Outside the City* and compares the volumes produced in the Soviet period with those assembled after the dissolution of the USSR.

**POST-WAR ANGLOPHONE LEBANESE FICTION**

Syrine Hout (BA ’86), Professor, Department of English, *Post-War Anglophone Lebanese Fiction: Home Matters in the Diaspora* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012). Published as part of the “Edinburgh Studies in Modern Arabic Literature,” this volume presents a comparative generation-specific critique of 11 novels – by Rabih Alameddine, Tony Hanania, Rawi Hage, Nada Awar Jarrar, Patricia Sarrafian Ward, and Nathalie Abi-Ezzi—that focuses on growing up during the Lebanese civil war (1975-90) and later living in exile. This study demonstrates how “homeness” is defined differently by these authors in their explorations of Lebanese identity in the twenty-first century.

**LEISURELY ISLAM**

Lara Deeb & Mona Harb (BAR ’93), Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Design, *Leisurely Islam: Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi’ite South Beirut* (Princeton University Press, 2013). This book explores how the recent establishment of new cafés and restaurants in South Beirut has affected the diverse community that lives and works there. Hailed as “an important and fascinating study that will be read and discussed for years to come,” this volume provides “marvelous detail” and “will greatly interest all those working on the subject of the contemporary Middle East, in particular Beirut and Lebanon.”

**ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS AND COLLECTING PRACTICES IN THE MODERN ARAB WORLD**

Sonja Mejcher-Atassi, Assistant Professor, Civilization Sequence Program, and John Pedro Schwartz, Assistant Professor, Department of English (eds.), *Archives, Museums and Collecting Practices in the Modern Arab World* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012). This is the first book to explore collecting practices in archives and museums in the modern Arab world. It includes many case studies and will be of great interest to scholars and students not only of the modern Arab world, but also to professionals in museums and collections everywhere.

**THE SECRETARY**

Nabil Tu’mih has been with the AUB Athletics Department for 45 years. His first job was as a clerk when physical education was mandatory for freshmen and students received a grade. Later he became the athletic assistant, organizing all indoor and outdoor activities from overseas athletic delegations to intramural competitions (football, basketball, etc.) along with supervising the AUB Beach and lifeguards. In February 2008 Nabil became building supervisor at the Charles W. Hostler Student Center where he still oversees the intramurals and tournaments, making sure the center is always shipshape.

He feels nostalgic for the old days, the multi-national student body, and their athletic spirit.

While Nabil regrets that there are fewer athletic events these days, his eyes light up when he describes the new track and how easy it is to maintain the Green Field. He feels nostalgic for the old days, the multi-national student body, and their athletic spirit, but he counts his blessings including the indoor courts and, of course, his long career at AUB.  
-M.A.
Many AUB students enjoy exceptional internship opportunities around the world and right next door. Here’s a look at where some of them went recently, what they learned, and their post-graduation plans.

Interested in providing an internship to an AUB student? Email: maingate(at)aub.edu.lb, and we’ll put you in touch with the right person.

**Name:** Tarek Amro  
**Major:** Agribusiness, FAFS  
**Graduation Year:** 2014  
**Where I went:** Purpan University, Toulouse, France  
**What I learned:** I learned about the different types of wine produced in France, met a lot of people from around the world, and put in long hours doing manual labor in the fields and also indoors where I helped to label, package, bottle, and filter wine.  
**Where I’m going:** After doing a graduate degree in food and beverage management in the United States, I’d like to work in the business side of the agro-food industry.

**Name:** Elie Antoun  
**Major:** Electrical and Computer Engineering, FEA  
**Graduation Year:** 2014  
**Where I went:** Telus Technology Strategy, Edmonton, Canada  
**What I learned:** Working with the software team, I helped to develop several applications on Optik TV. I also got a chance to see what the working world looks like.  
**Where I’m going:** Definitely to graduate school, probably in the United States.

**Name:** Farah Jurdi  
**Major:** Elementary Education (Language Arts/Social Studies), Diploma in Special Education, FAS  
**Graduation Year:** 2013  
**Where I went:** Wellspring Learning Community, Beirut  
**What I learned:** I learned about the PYP and MYP (two International Baccalaureate programs), student-centered classrooms, and teaching thematic lessons/units using the inquiry approach.  
**Where I’m going:** I am working at etcetera (Educational Teaching Consultancy) where I was recently promoted to be a special needs and language arts consultant and am pursuing a master’s degree in TEFL at AUB

**Name:** Kourken Kadehjian  
**Major:** Environmental Health, FHS  
**Graduation Year:** 2014  
**Where I went:** Food processing companies, waste management facilities, water treatment plants, etc. in Lebanon.  
**What I learned:** I was surprised to see how primitive and poorly managed many essential facilities are in Lebanon; there is need for a lot of improvement.  
**Where I’m going:** I am interested in doing research and consulting in the field of environmental science and sustainable development.

**Name:** Seung Kharma  
**Major:** Nursing, HSON  
**Graduation Year:** 2013  
**Where I went:** Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, AUBMC  
**What I learned:** I learned that the spirit of an individual simply “is”. It is not something developed or accumulated. The spirits within these tiny individuals are evident even when many of their physiological systems are underdeveloped. It makes me appreciate God.  
**Where I’m going:** Back to the United States.

**Name:** Melissa Menassa  
**Major:** Business, OSB  
**Graduation Year:** 2014  
**Where I went:** H&C Leo Burnett, Beirut  
**What I learned:** I gained a lot of experience on how to research, observe, and analyze target audiences; also how to write creative briefs, develop marketing plans with improved ideas using social media, plan and organize events, and to work with people.  
**Where I’m going:** After I graduate I’m planning on working for at least six months before doing a master’s degree abroad – most likely in PR and advertising.
The essentials for Richard Kline, graduate student in political science. Here he tucks into the only private space on campus (though he keeps his phone handy for “breaks”), and brushes up on political philosophy before heading out to Nadia Abu Ali’s class on nationhood and nationalism.

01 Homelands and Diasporas—background reading for his thesis proposal.
02 Just for fun: The Hunger Games and a fitness book.
03 Political philosophy book.
04 Protein powder gets the brain going before heading out to a class on political trends in contemporary Middle East politics.
05 Best eaten with labneh: corn cakes.
06 Who said political scientists don’t want to smell good? Burberry London.

07 Flash cards for the advanced Lebanese Arabic course he’s taking (he’s half Lebanese, and “getting in touch with his roots”).
08 Patchouli oil: “hippie souvenir” from a California friend.
09 Idea board: to pin ideas for his thesis.
10 The shaker (for the protein powder).
11 His high top Tom’s shoes: a gift from a friend.
12 More shoes here.
13 The Noisy Jacket: stays put in Jafet. The material makes so much noise he can’t wear it in the library.

Tag Tour

Graduate Carrel #17, Jafet Library
“Why I Am Who I Am”


“We don’t have such a thing. Not now. It’s too early for you.”
“But I’m almost eighteen. I’m actually coming to you for once, letting you in.”
“Yeah well, it’s just not something we do and you know that. Focus on your studies... you shouldn’t be thinking about this for the next two or three years.”
“It’s dating for God’s sake.”
“Forget it, you’re from two completely different worlds. How do you expect this to work?”
“Worlds. You mean religions.”

As I walked down the streets of Beirut, my path was blocked by the huge green garbage truck. Two men grabbed the dumpsters and disposed the garbage into the truck; I could smell day old tuna and fresh diapers react with old moldy bread. It was the exact same smell that was buried into my nostrils seven years ago when I dropped my schoolbook near a public bathroom on the corniche. My family always said my back brace didn’t show. It did. It was so bulky everyone would always stare. But that corniche was the one place where I felt like I fit in. Everyone was so in over their head with problems, that no one even cared about the weirdly-structured girl, no one even looked my way. I loved that corniche. I hated the girl who walked it.

As I walked down the street thinking of my perfect blue getaway, I felt sick to my stomach.

His cheeks felt like a lawn of grass, smooth and inviting at first, until you hit the dry and dead parts. As I stroked them, my hands turned warm. Those cheeks were all I cared for. They smelled like the new “One Million” perfume. Whenever I pulled a cheek, my fingers would tickle and I would laugh endlessly. And if I ever kissed it, my lips would feel as if I had just eaten cotton candy; but sometimes, they’d burn after.

Rewa El-Jarrah

**By the Books**

**Course: Engl 306K
Introduction to Digital Humanities**

**SYLLABUS**

Data mining, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Twitter, visualization, what has any of this to do with studying literature and language? According to Professor David Wrisley, a lot. In his seminar, “Introduction to Digital Humanities,” students are “learning to use computers to do much more than just word processing; they are modeling phenomena of interest to the humanist.” Interdisciplinary collaboration is a key feature of this emergent field; professors of computer science are guest speakers, and IT specialists are even learning alongside the English majors.

Wrisley says ENGL 306K, perhaps the first such course offered in the Arab world, is virtually paper-free. Open-access readings include *Debates in Digital Humanities and Literary Studies in the Digital Age.*

**BIO**

David Joseph Wrisley, associate professor and chairman of AUB’s Department of English, earned his BA in medieval studies at the University of Chicago (1991). His MA (1993) and PhD (1997) are in Romance languages and literatures from Princeton University. His teaching interests range from medieval and comparative literatures to translation and digital humanities. Since 2012, Wrisley has been immersed in research and teaching in digital humanities, an interest spurred by the fellowship he received in 2012-13 from the Andrew Mellon funded Arts and Humanities Initiative at AUB. He can be found on Twitter (at)DJWrisley.

**CLASS TIME**

This MA-level course introduces students to some of the major debates in digital humanities by addressing four modes of digital analysis: topic modeling, TEI-XML, social network analysis, and mapping. The seminar takes place in a computer lab and alternates between theory and hands-on learning. Students write personal “digital narratives” and reflective essays and build “digital objects” such as an encoded text, a statistical model of texts, a spatial data set, or a literary or linguistic map. Last semester, students worked on encoding poems by Robert Frost, social networks in Chekhov, memory maps of post-war Beirut, and even a statistical model of the topics in *MainGate* over the past 10 years.
### By the Numbers

#### Jafet Library

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<thead>
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<th>Number</th>
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<td>Jafet Library visitors last year</td>
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<td>51,710</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>2,039</td>
<td>Items lent to other institutions</td>
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<td>1,948</td>
<td>Maps</td>
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<td>1,131</td>
<td>Items borrowed/purchased from other institutions</td>
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<td>270</td>
<td>Cartographic images and aerial photos</td>
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<td>160</td>
<td>Linear feet of archival papers of famous intellectuals</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Miles of occupied bookshelves</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Digitization lab</td>
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</table>

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.**

**Milestones in AUB History**

- **150 years ago** – the Board of Trustees of the Syrian Protestant College formally elected Daniel Bliss as president, in 1864.
- **130 years ago** – AUB founder George Post wrote *The Flora of Syria and Palestine*, in 1884.
- **100 years ago** – West Hall was built, in 1914.
- **90 years ago** – AUB became completely coeducational, in 1924.
Welcome to AUB

AUB recently welcomed three new members to the Board of Trustees.

**GHaleb Hasan DaouK**

An AUB graduate (MD ’84), Ghaleb Hasan Daouk is assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, director of Extramural Renal Clinical Services, and attending pediatric nephrologist at Boston Children’s Hospital. A 1974 graduate of IC, Dr. Daouk also earned degrees from Syracuse University (BS ’79) and the MIT Sloan School of Management (SM ’91). He is a founding member of MGH Telemedicine, an international medical center, and has cofounded two biotechnology companies. A former copresident of the New England Chapter (1998-2000), Daouk was a board member and chair of the AUB Alumni of North America (AANA) Fundraising Committee (1999-2001).

**JoHN E. SUnUnu**

John E. Sununu is a former US senator (2003-09) and congressman (1997-2003) from New Hampshire. He is currently executive vice president at PWC Management Consultants, senior policy advisor at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, and a member of the board of directors of both Time Warner Cable Corporation and Boston Scientific Corporation. Sununu has received numerous awards including the Gibran Award for Distinguished Public Service from the Arab-American Institute. In 2008-09, he was appointed to the Congressional Oversight Panel that evaluated the performance of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). He is a graduate of MIT (BS ’86, MS ’87) and Harvard School of Business (MBA ’91).

**AyMan Kichly**

An AUB graduate (BEN ’03) and Penrose Award winner, Ayman Kichly is commercial advisor at Shell UK Limited in the United Kingdom. He previously worked as a project engineer, lead electrical engineer, and business development manager at ILF Consulting Engineers. Kichly earned a master of power engineering degree from RWTH Aachen University in 2005 and an MBA from INSEAD in 2012. He has been particularly active in WAAAUB, AUB’s worldwide alumni association. He was elected as a member-at-large of the WAAAUB Council in 2007 and again in 2010 and was a member (2007-11) and chair (2011) of its Outreach Committee.
Provost Ahmad Dallal (BEN ’80) was awarded the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) prize for lifetime contributions to the field of Arabic and Islamic scientific heritage. Established in 1976, the KFAS supports science, innovation, and technology in the Arab world.

Professor Dallal received the KFAS prize during a formal ceremony held in Kuwait, under the patronage of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Ahmed Al-Jaber al-Sabah. Professor Dallal shares the prize with Tunisian researcher Faeza Al-Aridi Bensal. “This is a great honor for me, as this prize is the foremost, internationally refereed, Arab prize recognizing scholarly achievement,” said Dallal.

The Farouk K. Jabre Center will promote research on Arabic and Islamic science through outreach and education.

Provost Dallal praised the KFAS for being a pioneer in supporting scientific advancement in the Arab world. He noted that it is very important to create different hubs for scientific research so that each can contribute in a unique way to the larger mission of advancing science in the region. Provost Dallal said that it was his hope and expectation that AUB’s recently-established Farouk K. Jabre Center for Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy will serve as one of these hubs by promoting research on Arabic and Islamic sciences and raising awareness about these fields through outreach and education.

After earning his doctorate in Islamic studies at Columbia University in 1990, Dallal taught at a number of US universities, including Smith College, Yale University, Stanford University, and Georgetown University, before joining AUB as provost in 2009. He has published two books: An Islamic Response to Greek Astronomy (Brill, 1995), and Islam, Science, and the Challenge of History (Yale University Press, 2010), as well as many articles on Arabic science and Islamic history.

-B.R.
Southern Charm

Born in Dhour Choueir on October 28, 1860, Nami Jafet immigrated to Brazil in 1893 where he and his brothers launched a family enterprise that would grow to become one of the largest business groups in Latin America.

One of six children, Nami Jafet attended the Free Church of Scotland missionary school in Dhour Choueir. While still a student, he taught at the St. Elias Orthodox School where his father was also a teacher. He excelled academically and won a scholarship to attend the Syrian Protestant College, which he entered in 1878.

In addition to taking courses, he also taught mathematics and biology at SPC. Nami Jafet graduated in 1882—the same year his father died at the age of 46. Although he was offered a teaching position at the College when he graduated, Nami chose instead to teach at the Thalathat Akmar School where his father had taught for many years. During this period he authored several mathematics textbooks and articles for literary and scientific journals. In 1891, he married Afife Nassif al-Tabsharani with whom he had 13 children: seven sons and six daughters.

In 1893, Nami decided to join his brothers – Benjamin, Basílio (Basil), and João (John) – in Brazil. Although they had started out with only very meager resources, they had been successful enough to open a small – and then a larger – shop on March 25 Street in Sao Paulo. After Nami arrived, the Jafet brothers founded Nami Jafet & Brothers. Originally focused on textiles, the business expanded into mining, banking, and transportation, and by the mid-1930s employed more than 3,000 people.

In addition to his economic success, Nami Jafet also attained social and political prominence in Brazil. He held many important positions including head of the Brazilian Red Cross Society in Sao Paulo during WW I. In 1917, Nami was elected to be the representative of the Brazilian branch of the Comité central syrien that was headquartered in Paris. The French government awarded him the Legion of Honor in recognition of his services to the Allied cause. He was also a dedicated alumnus. He launched a fundraising campaign to raise scholarship funds, organized an alumni association in Brazil, and served as its first president.

Nami Jafet returned to Lebanon for a brief visit in 1921 with his wife and son Nagib. During a small gathering in his honor at AUB, he spoke eloquently about his alma mater, describing it as “the school where (I) drank of the fountain of learning and was nourished by the moral principles of life…”

Nami died in Brazil in 1923.

The Jafet Memorial Library, which was dedicated on May 5, 1952, was made possible by a generous $200,000 gift from Nami’s sons. Other members of the family donated an additional $50,000 to furnish the building. The Jafet Library remains to this day AUB’s main library.

Nami Jafet’s legacy continues to inspire and provide resources for students at AUB.
Discoveries
Research, the arts, and current events

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Contextualizing Corm
AUB celebrates the art of Lebanese painter Georges Daoud Corm.

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PhD candidate Hani Al-Naghi (MEN '05) tackles one of AUB's biggest problems, parking and congestion.

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If man cannot tame nature, can nature tame man?
Building on its burgeoning reputation as Beirut’s preeminent venue for modern Lebanese art, the AUB Art Gallery kicked off an exhibition of the works of renowned painter and poet Georges Corm on November 21, 2013. The show, entitled *Lebanese Painterly Humanism: Georges Daoud Corm (1896-1971)*, features 60 of the artist’s oil paintings, 15 drawings, and the entire text of the controversial manifesto he published in 1966, *Essai sur l’art et la civilisation de ce temps.* “We have always wanted to exhibit Corm because he has played a very important role in the history of art in this country,” says Octavian Esanu, curator of AUB’s galleries. “And since AUB is an academic institution, we don’t only exhibit an artist’s works but also aim to contextualize them.

**Corm believed that art should elevate the human soul.**

We try to understand who the person was and what he contributed to Lebanese art.” To this end, the gallery is making the Francophone Corm’s essay available in Arabic and English, along with additional critical and historical material written by the organizers. The painter’s son, Dr. Georges Corm, a prominent economist and former minister of finance, has contributed a short biography of his father, offering a glimpse into the motivations and experiences that galvanized the artist’s style and his hopes for his country. On display in the gallery space on Sidani Street are the portraits for which Corm is best known: ladies and gentlemen of means with luminous eyes and, often, a haunted air. A number of the still lifes and landscapes were inspired by his years in Alexandria, Egypt, where his wife’s family originated. Corm’s influences shine through his...
works, calling to mind his father, the renowned painter Daoud Corm, and Khalil Saleeby. Both men are among Lebanon’s greatest artistic luminaries. Present as well are self-portraits of the artist, his diffident expression, round glasses, and, in one case, his smock and palette, the uniform of a working painter.

Describing the vagaries of life as a professional artist, Corm’s son writes of “...the bitter experience of the artist’s condition in a society that, in rapid movement, could not preoccupy itself with art, and still less with its artists’ social status and conditions of existence.” As a result, he adds, “[Corm] had to sacrifice many of his spontaneous pictorial impulses to the confection of certain overpolished portraits of personalities in polite society.”

But the artist’s willingness to cater to patrons had its limits. Like his European artistic forbears dating back to the Renaissance, Corm believed that art should elevate the human soul. He was vehemently opposed to the avant garde, reserving a special contempt for abstract art, and denouncing works that he describes in his essay as “some spots of color assembled at the whim of sensorial reflexes or indulged by slick intelligence.” Among the works in the collection are some attempts at abstraction and surrealism, featuring in a few cases brushstrokes that could almost be called Impressionistic or Expressionistic. But in the end Corm clearly felt the aesthetic and spiritual pull of Classicism.

Corm’s “Essai”, written in lively and unsparing prose, highlights the artist’s wit and erudition, as well as his abiding belief in a European Christian ethic. Hoping to impart these values to citizens of the struggling nascent republic, Corm was devoted to creating an art establishment in Lebanon which would not only preserve the nation’s artistic heritage but nurture local talent and foster public art appreciation. Following unsuccessful appeals to the Lebanese government to create an institution devoted to fine arts, Corm began lobbying for the creation of an art department at AUB in the 1950s. Although it would be some years before his vision was realized, AUB does now have a Department of Fine Arts and Art History. It seems especially fitting that an exhibition commemorating his legacy and his enduring influence on art in the region should be featured at one of the University’s galleries. -N.Q.
They were destined to meet - they were, after all, professors in the same AUB department, but neither Afaf Zurayk (BA ’70) nor Cornelia Krafft could have predicted that their initial encounter would lead to a close friendship and an inspirational working relationship.

"Of course our paths would have crossed," says Afaf, "but when I saw the performance “777” (staged by Cornelia in the Dome Downtown Beirut-see MainGate winter 2011) I said to myself, I must meet this person properly.”

A performance piece created in the space of 10 continuous hours without retakes, a symphony of images in red and white, the 11-minute film transforms the silent power of Afaf’s drawings, animating them with vibrancy and passion. In the drawings, the potent symbol of the pomegranate becomes an expression of love, life, fecundity, fertility, and a woman’s most intimate thoughts, her “inner eye.”

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“I was fascinated by the progression of the pomegranates, their evolution within the drawings,” says Cornelia. “I started researching the mythology
and history of the pomegranate, its iconography within different cultures and religions through millennia, including the story of Persephone being condemned to Hades for eating its seeds.

The film explores a young woman’s journey to maturity, capturing the playful, the sensual, the benign, and potentially the malign. It was filmed by AUB student Lea Najjar and features, alongside Cornelia, visiting Spanish exchange student Alana Mejia Gonzalez, whose instinctive responses, Cornelia believes, echo her own region's deep rooted connection with the symbolism of the fruit.

Shot in natural light against the stark white background of her Ain Mreisse studio, the film is propelled by a series of startling images igniting the screen in vivid shades of pomegranate red. These stand out in sharp contrast to the whiteness of the background, the bodies of the performers, and other evocative imagery such as a copious torrent of white sugar momentarily obliterating redness.

Apparent opposites, the two share a unique understanding of their mutual creative talents and cherish the notion of working together again.

When not actively collaborating, the two artists meet frequently to discuss their work and exchange ideas. Apparent opposites, they share a unique understanding of their mutual creative talents and cherish the notion of working together again. Currently “A Day in the Life of a Pomegranate” is on the international short film festival circuit. A copy will be available at the AUB Jafet Library in 2014.

-M.A.
AUB Spaces
The experimental fluid dynamics lab on lower campus is in high demand by researchers working on projects with a wide range of applications related to aero- and hydro-dynamics, non-invasive surgery, and energy studies. Mechanical engineering Assistant Professor Ghanem Oweis is one of those researchers. He is using laser assisted flow visualization and imaging in a wind tunnel to study the flow behavior around a cactus-shaped cylinder to explore how large cactus trees such as the saguaro are able to resist wind so well. Researchers have long suspected that it is their longitudinal surface grooves that run parallel to the plant axis that are the key, but there is still much to learn about how exactly this works.

Structural engineers who are being challenged to build ever taller buildings show a great deal of interest in this type of research. The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, for instance, implements some of the longitudinal rib/groove features found in cacti. Tall buildings must not only be able to withstand relatively rare natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, but also more routine weather events such as high winds. Even on a “normal” day, wind currents can exceed 100 miles per hour at the top of tall buildings.

One of Ghanem Oweis’ challenges is to create an environment in the lab that replicates what is found in nature. This isn’t easy. For example, in the original experiment he mounted the cactus model cylinder securely from both ends, rendering the flow mostly two-dimensional. In reality cactus plants are “mounted” – i.e. rooted – only at one end, which makes the flow inherently three-dimensional. In future experiments he will be using a modified wind tunnel that will enable him to conduct unsteady aerodynamics investigations that more accurately mimic what occurs in nature.
Health Costs of the Iraq War

Omar Dewachi
Assistant professor, medical anthropology and public health.

Over the past 20 years, American interventions in Iraq have contributed to the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and caused suffering for millions of people. After American military occupation and sanctions, Iraq’s health-care system is in complete shambles. With the targeting and distribution of medical services by insurgents, militias, and coalition forces, the infestation of government corruption hindering any serious reconstruction, and the exodus from Iraq of more than half of its medical doctors, many Iraqi patients and their families are unable to find adequate care inside Iraq. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have sought health care in countries like Lebanon, Jordan, India, and Iran often having to sell belongings and property or relying on the charity of others. My ongoing research on the mobility of Iraqi patients to seek essential medical and surgical procedures in the region contributes to the Costs of War Project (www.costsofwar.org) based at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies that considers the human, economic, and social and political costs of war. You can also find information online at www.irinnews.org/report/97964/iraq-10-years-on-war-leaves-lasting-impact-on-healthcare.

Modeling Oil and Gas Reservoirs

George Saad
Assistant professor, civil engineering

Fouad Azizi
Assistant professor, chemical engineering

This project draws on our shared background in mathematical modeling and builds on George’s previous experience in modeling flow in porous media. We’re seeking to identify new ways to recover more oil from reservoirs at lower costs thereby achieving more efficient resource management and lengthening the life span of oil reservoirs. Although our research is relevant to oil exploration anywhere in the world, it will be especially relevant for Lebanon’s reserves. We have worked closely with two research assistants. Marwan Harajli (BEN ’12) helped us develop our own oil reservoir simulator by solving the governing equations and coupling them with an optimization routine. Ahmad Harb (BEN ’11, MS ’12) is assisting with the $1.7 million reservoir simulation software that Schlumberger recently donated to AUB. With this software, we are able to model oil and gas fields and reservoirs and their flow through layers of porous rocks. For more information about what Professors Saad and Azizi are doing, email fa48(at)aub.edu.lb.

Colon Cancer

Ala Sharara
Professor of medicine, gastroenterology

One of my primary interests at the moment is the role of colonoscopies in the screening and diagnosis of colorectal cancer (CRC), which is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the world. CRC is also a concern in Lebanon where it is the second most common cancer in females and the fourth in males. At AUBMC, we have pioneered the use of split-dose purge in colonoscopy preparation. We have found that when patients take half of the prescribed laxative the night before colonoscopy and the other half on the day of the procedure, it results in enhanced patient tolerance, greater adherence, and improved overall quality of the examination.

I am also investigating the prevalence of colon cancer and advanced pre-cancerous polyps in Lebanon. In a study of 1,000 asymptomatic Lebanese above the age of 50, we identified daily consumption of red meat, heavy tobacco use, and obesity as leading risk factors for pre-cancerous lesions of the colon with obesity being the most significant risk. These research findings are informing our ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Health about launching a national campaign for colorectal cancer screening. You can find more information about colorectal cancer on the American Cancer Society website www.cancer.org/index.
### Quiz

What’s that patent for? Match the professors with the research area targeted by their patent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coinventor:</th>
<th>Name of Patent:</th>
<th>What does it solve?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey Hamade</td>
<td>Treatment for malignant melanoma.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose-Mary Boustany</td>
<td>Therapy for JNCL, a fatal pediatric neurodegenerative disease.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rouwaida Kanj</td>
<td>Invention to make Quinoxaline dioxides with antibacterial properties; known as the “Beirut Reaction.”</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Liermann</td>
<td>Provides a fast track to developing functional prototype PCBs (printed circuit boards).</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costas H. Issidorides and Makhluf Haddadin</td>
<td>An electro-hydraulic brake that controls itself.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Bazarbachi</td>
<td>Improves sub-nm designs in cell phone and computers.</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:** Ramsey Hamade: D; Rose-Mary Boustany: B; Rouwaida Kanj: F; Matthias Liermann: E; Costas H. Issidorides and Makhluf Haddadin: C; Ali Bazarbachi: A
Although the date of this charming trio is only estimated to be Roman, and its provenance is unknown, this molded statue still reveals a lot, and raises some questions too. We look at this elegant lady, with her sophisticated jewelry and gown, who stands joined to two small musicians, and wonder. Is she the mother of the two? Their music teacher? Are they performing as we watch? One small figure plays a drum, the other a flute. They lean together happily, the lady’s hand on the shoulder of the drummer. The statue is hollowed out, showing a hole in the back that allowed the terra cotta to be baked successfully. The three share a case with other figures of musicians and instruments, together making up a small collection focused on music in the ancient world. Represented in the case is a flute, made from bone, still white after many centuries. Both male and female musicians are displayed playing a variety of instruments. You can see a mandolin, a lute, a tambourine, and a cithara, which is a kind of harp. The pieces hail from several periods, Roman, Hellenistic, and Persian, attesting to the timelessness of our need for music.

-K.D.
Biggest discovery to date: that there might actually be a solution to AUB’s parking and congestion problems!

On a typical weekday, AUB students and staff occupy nearly 4,000 parking spaces (75 percent private and on-street parking in the Hamra neighborhood and 25 percent on campus). I am developing a tool that encompasses all the factors and criteria for evaluating the feasibility of alternative organization-based ridesharing initiatives that could be used by any institution or university to select the most feasible ridesharing scheme.

Where is this going? Demand responsive transit (DRT) such as carpooling could be a good fit for AUB whereby users would gain an exclusive dynamic taxi-sharing service that combines the benefits of a private taxi (professionalism, reliability, vehicle comfort, etc.) with the reduced cost and occupancy of a shared taxi. I am currently working on the mathematical formulation of the current problem and proposing new ride matching methods that are context-related in terms of the existing road network characteristics and the distribution of potential users. My goal is to provide a comprehensive framework that includes every alternative service option, the associated parameters and factors of each, and the necessary database of information that is needed to compare the feasibility of various service design alternatives. I am also reviewing various existing ride matching methods and algorithms and investigating whether they could be viable for a university or other large institution.

How I got here: During my graduate studies, I have been involved in various Neighborhood Initiative studies at AUB involving issues related to student commutes, traffic congestion, and parking demand.

What I’ll remember most about AUB: The community and the campus.

Best moment of the day: Enjoying an early morning walk on campus.
We are living in a changing world. We see this wherever we stand or look: with time, continents drift, mountains shift, hills erode, streams change course, vegetation is modified, and life evolves. Change is the natural way of things and climate change is no exception.

As an earth-scientist I have seen evidence that significant amounts of snow once capped Mount Lebanon all year, rivers of ice flowed from the high plateaus; that until “recently” marshes and lakes covered large inland areas, and along the coast; that years ago different fauna and flora existed on land and in water; that severe weather events are becoming more frequent; that climate change in Lebanon is a certainty.

Interpreting these climatic observations is no easy job, for this we try to build a (complete) record of past climate conditions. Natural processes in the planetary system are responsible for steady changes over relatively long timescales. The fast-rate changes we are now witnessing seem to be the result of that unique invention of nature—mankind—whose impact on the earth system has precipitated major modifications on an unprecedented scale. Since the industrial revolution, increasing atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have accelerated, rising to over 400 ppm in May 2013 for the first time in the last million years while the average land temperature increased by ~1.5°C during the same period. We still don’t know exactly how this will impact our environment. Certainly civilization, as we know it, will be under duress, its survival threatened.

Mankind cannot tame nature, and ultimately must endure its laws. Change is one of these laws.

-M.A.
Wellness

AUBMC 2020, health, and medicine

The Art of Giving Back
Mutaz and Sadek Sawwaf pay tribute to parents Wassef and Souad Sawwaf with a building that will house state-of-the-art medical equipment and much more.

Check Up: Heart Health
Dr. Hussain Ismaeel (MD '01) is following your heart. What and why you should know about cardiovascular disease.

Stubbing Out the Habit
Why Dr. Christine Abbyad thinks it’s so important to help smokers quit.

Help in Mind
A groundbreaking national mental health awareness campaign strives to end the stigma and misconceptions surrounding mental illness.

Sahtein
Vegetarian lentil kebbe: tastes good, good for you?

AUBMC News: NSQIP acclaim for surgical care; nurses score for top service.
A compact, energetic man with a leonine but friendly demeanor, Mu’taz Sawwaf (BAR ’74) has demonstrated an impressive and enduring allegiance to AUB. He is a successful businessman with a passion for philanthropy, who attributes his success to God, his parents, and his alma mater. Mu’taz has been giving back to AUB almost since the day he graduated from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture in 1974 (with the support of a merit scholarship based on exceptional academic performance, no less). Asked what keeps him so connected to campus, he explains that AUB did a good job of educating and training him, and even more importantly, it inculcated values of civic responsibility that have served him well throughout his life. But in addition to working hard, Mu’taz emphasizes that he also made lifelong friends at AUB, some of whom have become his colleagues.

While architectural design was his chosen field, Mu’taz’s first love was—and is—cartooning. A longtime fan of the legendary Lebanese cartoonist Mahmoud Kahil (1936-2003), he hoped to follow in his footsteps, but his father intervened with some fateful advice. Not keen to see his son living as a “starving artist,” he cautioned Mu’taz to secure a fallback position. After earning a degree in architecture from AUB, Mu’taz headed to London where he was certified in animation at the Bob Godfrey studio. He stayed on to work as an animator, but soon realized that his relentless work ethic needed more than the industry’s sporadic work opportunities. He decided to accept the overtures of his friend Bassem Nicolas Ziadeh (BAR ’74) to come to Sharjah and take advantage of the many design and construction opportunities in the Emirates. However, after a year of full-time employment, he made another momentous decision—not to be...
In 1978, Mu'taz left Beirut to test the market in Saudi Arabia for a year. That year has now stretched into 35 with no end in sight. Introduced to Bakr Mohammed Binladin, he began a partnership with the Saudi Binladin Group (SBG) in 1986 that has produced some of the world’s most remarkable buildings and public projects. Mu’taz is based in Jeddah, but he heads enterprises in trading, construction, and investment around the world, including companies in Europe, Africa, and Asia and of course all over the Middle East. Ever the philanthropist, he helped secure both SBG’s endowment to name FEA’s Al Mu’allim Mohamed Awad Binladin Chair in Architecture in the Islamic World, and the Saudi Binladin Group Scholarship for engineering students at AUB. Most recently, he lent a humanitarian hand by helping to establish medical care centers for Syrian refugees in the Beqa’a and Tripoli in cooperation with AUBMC.

Asked about his commitment to AUBMC, Mu’taz explained that in 2010 he and his wife Rada were blessed with a baby girl, Maymouna, who was born prematurely. Weighing only 870 grams, her chances of survival were slim. Thanks to the outstanding care she received at AUBMC’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the couple now has a rambunctious toddler. To show their appreciation, Mu’taz and Rada helped found and support a volunteer effort at AUBMC called The Neonate Fund, which offers financial support to the parents of babies being treated at the NICU. In addition, they established a neonatology research fund in their daughter’s name.

But, these acts of generosity were only the beginning. When Vice President for Medical Affairs Mohamed H. Sayegh told Mu’taz about the far reaching benefits of a PET-CT scanner, he immediately offered to purchase it. He wanted not just to provide the unit, but with his extensive experience building hospitals in Saudi Arabia, he also signed on to build the new structure to house it. Ever mindful of the ultimate recipients, he has also created an endowment to cover the costs of needy patients who would benefit from PET scans. “The Wassef and Souad Sawwaf Building is another example of not only the generosity of Mu’taz Sawwaf and his wife Rada but of his support and commitment to the AUBMC 2020 Vision and our goal of transforming health care in the Middle East,” said Mohamad Sayegh. “The donation of the PET/CT scan ensures that AUBMC remains at the forefront of medical technology in the region. It will allow us to more accurately diagnose and provide the best possible course of treatment to patients suffering from three of the most devastating diseases impacting the people of the Arab world—cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurological disorders. The building itself will house the PET/CT scan, University Health Services, and a cyclotron.”

The demands of a high-powered career, a long list of charitable giving, and a young family have not put a damper on Mu’taz’s passion for cartoon art. He believes that recognition for Arab cartoonists and animators is long overdue, and he is working to establish an annual prize named for his hero, Mahmoud Kahil. He hopes that someday this award will be on a par with the prestigious American National Cartoonist Society’s Reuben Award. He is also helping to create a center for Arabic comics studies to promote production, scholarship and teaching of comics in the Arab world. He also plans to continue publishing a series of books by talented Arab cartoonists.

On the subject of his philanthropy, Mu’taz recites a Muslim saying, “Your money is not your money. It was given to you by God and it goes to others.” He modestly refuses to take credit for his achievements, attributing his success to his parents. “They raised me well. They instilled in me the values of kindness, generosity, and self-respect. My father was always helping those in need - family members and friends. He taught me to be straight, and to be direct. He gave me a strong work ethic. What I am today is because of my parents.”

As a tribute to their parents, Mu’taz, his brother Sadek, and sisters Zahira and Rima established the Wassef Sawwaf Foundation, and today Mu’taz is honoring them through the Wassef and Souad Sawwaf building, a flagship structure with its medical equipment and facilities that will help elevate the quality of health care in Lebanon and the region. - B.R.
Check Up: Heart Health

Faced with startling facts about cardiovascular disease (CVD), what do the experts say? MainGate talked to AUBMC’s Dr. Hussain Ismaeel, (MD ’01), an expert in cardiac imaging and preventive cardiology.

Q. What is your role at AUBMC?
A. I am codirector of the Vascular Medicine Program (VMP) with Dr. Kamal Badr and a practicing physician in the Division of Cardiology. Our emphasis in the VMP is on research that addresses public health concerns, educational training within AUBMC and at the national level, and hopefully policy change.

Q. What kind of research?
A. One of our first research projects was the salt reduction program, part of the VMP preventive cardiology effort. We have a multi-disciplinary group with members from five AUB faculties: FAFS, FAS, FEA, FHS, and FM. We first researched which foods contribute to salt consumption and what steps are needed to reduce it. After identifying that bread and its derivatives account for the majority of our salt intake, we agreed, with other regional players at the WHO Advisory Board meeting for Salt Reduction in the Eastern Med in 2012, to try and achieve a 10 percent reduction in the salt content of bread and its derivatives.

Q. This is a long-term project. What can be done in the short term?
A. Given the gravity of the situation, we cannot wait 15-20 years for a tool to properly assess risk so the major task now is to promote awareness. Instead of assessing CVD through risk factors, we need to look directly at the organs. One of the tests we are promoting is the coronary calcium test. It applies to everyone, but we are currently trying to raise awareness among women at the Women’s Health Center. The test takes a minute on a CT scanner. It reveals the white spots that show evidence of calcification or clogging in the heart vessels. We can measure and quantify the calcium, estimate the risk of myocardial infarction, and prescribe treatment.

Q. Why are you focusing on women in particular?
A. There is a misconception that women aren’t subject to CVD risk, but it’s not true. The second misconception is that since we are in the Mediterranean area we are ‘healthier,’ which is also not true; urbanization has been a major cause of diet change. The third factor is that we have not succeeded in dropping the incidence of heart disease or sudden death. There is huge urgency to attend to preventive care. Women are at risk, and because it is primarily women who care for the other members of the household, they are the ones best placed to implement preventive care in the home and cause a health ripple effect.

Q. So what preventive measures should we be taking?
A. Traditional risk factors account for 80 to 90 percent of heart disease and we need to combat these traditional risk factors. It is a lifelong commitment and it takes work from

Facts:
- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the No.1 killer in the world in low- and middle-income countries.
- CVD is the No. 1 killer of women.
- CVD is the cause of 45 percent of total deaths in Lebanon, 56 percent among women.
- Deaths from CVD are predicted to rise in Lebanon because of changes in diet and lifestyle leading to increased obesity, and smoking.

"Preventative care, starting with low salt intake, is crucial."
each one of us. Prevention starts at birth, on day one. It all goes back to birth weight. Low birth weight makes us more susceptible to hypertension. There is a trajectory from in utero, and thereafter genetic and environmental factors kick in.

A. Preventive measures include
• Exercise
• Not smoking
• Healthy diet—the Mediterranean diet with high fruit and vegetable content and less processed food
• Reduced salt, sugar, and saturated fat intake
• Adhering to your doctor’s advice

The bottom line is to go back to basics. We are lucky in Lebanon because the components of a healthy diet are still available. People in the west cannot afford the Mediterranean diet, whereas here we still have an abundance of fruit and vegetables.

Q. What should we look out for in terms of heart disease?
A. • New onset of shortness of breath or chest discomfort with exercise
• Decreased tolerance of exercise
• Waking at night with shortness of breath
• Need to increase number of pillows to avoid shortness of breath while sleeping

If you have chest pain, head to the ER. Don’t wait.

Early detection is vital. We have devised a heart disease awareness workshop that we will be offering through the University for Seniors at AUB and elsewhere. We’re doing an AUB neighborhood salt map, assessing the salt content in bread; and in so doing we are looking at how we can devise an AUB neighborhood sudden death prevention initiative, but the levels of pre-hospital care are so poor that whatever we can do on our ER doorstep might not be sufficient to reverse the damage or cause any beneficial outcome. The gravity of the situation is enormous. Preventive care, starting with low salt intake, is crucial. -M.A.

Tips and Information on Salt Consumption

Salt (sodium chloride) is one of the major contributors to sodium intake. Excess sodium intake is associated with increased blood pressure, which in turn, increases the risk of chronic diseases such as stroke, heart disease and kidney disease.

Therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that adults reduce sodium intake to less than 2000 mg of sodium/day (5 g of salt/day) (refer to Box 1). Research conducted in Lebanon has shown that salt intake among adults is higher than the recommended maximum intake level. Data from these studies have also indicated that the major sources of salt in the Lebanese diet are processed foods that include the following: bread and ‘ka’ak’, cold cuts and luncheon meats, dairy products, snacks and fast foods (potato chips, ‘falahel’, pizza, “manaeesh” ...). These food items constitute 65 percent of daily salt intake (refer to Table 2).

To decrease salt consumption, read food labels carefully in order to be able to choose the food item with the lowest salt content (less than 140 mg/100g). Therefore, it is important that you familiarize yourself with these labels and what they mean (refer to Table 1).
Stubbing Out the Habit

Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Christine Abhyad established AUB’s group smoking cessation program in fall 2011. The MainGate asked Chris about the program and why she thinks it is so important that it be continued.

How did you first get involved with the topic of smoking cessation?
As soon as I knew I was coming to Lebanon, I decided to change my research focus from pregnant black women and racism. Having grown up and lived in Lebanon and visited many times, I knew there were many smokers. Before leaving the University of Texas at Austin, where I taught for 16 years, I enrolled in their smoking cessation program to see how it was run. When I got to Beirut, Dr. Huda Huijer (director of the Hariri School of Nursing) suggested I contact Dr. Nakkash of the AUB Tobacco Control Research Group. She welcomed me. Others on campus, however, were less enthusiastic about stopping smoking saying, “We’ve tried it before and it didn’t last.” Dina Mahmassani from the Wellness Program, however, nagged me incessantly to start the program.

Can you tell us something about the program?
It is based on a group approach. We follow the US clinical guidelines that recommend counseling plus pharmacotherapy. AUB paid for the cost of the medications, about $200 per month, which was critical. This would have been a prohibitive expense for many who participated in the program. We conducted eight 45-minute sessions over eight weeks and also provided individual support and follow-up. Twenty-six people completed the program; 12 were still nonsmokers as of October 2013. So, that’s about a 40 percent success rate.

By the way, AUB was the first university in Lebanon, maybe in the Middle East, to offer a campus-based group approach to smoking cessation. We have had people from other campuses come and observe how we conduct the program. Unfortunately, AUB recently suspended the program because of a lack of funding. This is too bad as smoking cessation is the single most cost effective intervention in all of medicine.

Can you say a little bit more about that?
Let me give you an example. I have been following one of our former smokers who relapsed. She is now pregnant and smoking a pack a day during pregnancy. Because she is smoking during pregnancy, there is a much greater chance that her baby will need to spend some time in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). A single day in the NICU costs about $2,000. Compare that with the cost of the smoking cessation program, which is about $600 in total. That’s the cost for three months, which is the recommended period. Wouldn’t it be better to spend money helping this mother to quit (she quit for six months last time) than to pay for hospitalizing her baby?

There are of course all sorts of health reasons to quit smoking quite apart from the cost savings. Smoking cessation is the most effective preventive intervention for tobacco-using patients against all sorts of diseases – heart disease, cancer, cerebrovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc.

AUB was the first university in Lebanon, maybe in the Middle East, to offer a campus-based group approach to smoking cessation.

How successful has AUB’s policy been to restrict smoking to a very few designated areas on campus?
I would say it is partly successful. I know that there are many hidden smokers who smoke on balconies, in stairwells, and even in their offices. They try to hide their smoking. We need to eliminate or at the very least greatly reduce the number of smoking areas on campus. Smoking should not be allowed anywhere. I’m sure that Dr. Nakkash and others would agree that policy is the most effective approach to getting people to quit.
AUB’s Department of Psychiatry and Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) launched the first comprehensive national mental health awareness campaign last October. The goals of the Embrace Fund initiative Fikko el 3ideh (Untie the Knot) are twofold: to end the stigma and misconceptions surrounding mental illness through community dialogue, media outreach, and public education; and to provide assistance for financially needy individuals suffering from mental illnesses in Lebanon and neighboring countries.

AUB has adopted a multidisciplinary approach to address the complexity of these issues calling on the expertise of the Department of Psychology at FAS and public health education and outreach at FHS.

According to Dr. Ziad Nahas, chairman of AUB’s Department of Psychiatry, one in four Lebanese will suffer from a mental illness at some point in his or her life. Roughly two out of three of them will not seek treatment because of the stigma of mental illness and/or the prohibitive cost of treatment. Many sufferers believe that the stigma is worse than the illness itself. This is especially true in the Middle East where discrimination against the mentally ill is far greater than in Europe and the United States. And, while some financial support for the needy is available through the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the MOPH, middle income people often have to pay for psychiatric care out of their own pockets since it is not covered by private health insurance in Lebanon.

AUBMC has introduced several medical procedures and mental health treatments to the region including magnetic stimulation of the brain for the treatment of severe depression (TMS) and Focal Electrically Administered Seizure Therapy (FEAST). The Department of Psychiatry is conducting research to understand the nuances of how patients in Lebanon and the region respond to various treatments. Ziad Nahas says that new mobile technologies have made a difference in treating mental health by helping health-care workers contact, and stay connected to, hard-to-reach adolescents. “For a 19-year-old in the grip of a psychotic episode or a 16-year-old on the path to serious mental illness, we urgently need an action plan to alter the course of their illness. Our best hope of reducing mortality from serious mental disorders through suicide, substance abuse, and other complications of medical illness, will come from realizing that just like other medical illnesses, we need to diagnose and preempt the illness before the symptoms become chronic and disabling. Early detection and intervention is just as important for mental illnesses as it is for cancer and heart disease. Through advanced medical and psychological research, we know that just as things can go wrong with the lungs, heart, liver, and kidneys, so too, they can go wrong with the brain. Today, we have effective treatments for mental illnesses. The Embrace Fund and Fikko el 3ideh are designed to write a new chapter in the chronicle on mental health in Lebanon.”

-B.R.
Singular Achievements

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SINGLES OUT AUBMC FOR TOP SURGICAL CARE

The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) recently singled out the AUB Medical Center as one of only 37 participating hospitals – and the only one outside North America – to earn meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care.

“Receiving this international recognition affirms the meticulous attention we have devoted to patient safety, which is top priority at AUBMC,” said Dr. Jamal Hoballah, professor and chairman of AUBMC’s Department of Surgery.

With more than 74,000 members, the American College of Surgeons is the largest organization of surgeons in the world and is widely recognized as an important advocate for surgical patients. Its NSQIP is the only validated quality improvement program in the United States that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. It evaluates actual surgical results 30 days postoperatively as well as risk adjusts patient characteristics to compensate for differences among patient populations. As a participant in ACS NSQIP, AUBMC tracks the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collects data in nine areas: mortality, unplanned intubation, ventilator for more than 48 hours, renal failure, DVT (deep vein thrombosis, thrombophlebitis, and pulmonary embolism), cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction), respiratory (pneumonia), SSI (surgical site infections-superficial and deep incisional and organ-space SSIs), and urinary tract infection. The goal of the ACS NSQIP program is to reduce infection, illness, or death related to surgical procedures. Hospitals earn meritorious distinction based on actual clinical results.

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM FOR AUBMC NURSES

In 2009, AUBMC became the first health-care institution in the Middle East and only the third in the world outside the United States to receive Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services. AUBMC nurses are continuing to distinguish themselves—and to bring credit to the Medical Center as well. Their most recent triumph was to score higher than the mean in an April 2013 Registered Nurse Satisfaction Survey of Magnet designated hospitals worldwide.

AUBMC nurses scored higher on all parameters related to nursing participation in hospital affairs, foundations for quality of care, nurse manager ability, leadership and support of nurses, staffing and resource adequacy, and collegial nurse-physician relations.

The National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) was established by the American Nurses Association (ANA) in 1998 because of the growing recognition of the strong link between positive patient outcomes and nurse satisfaction. NDNQI tracks up to 18 nursing-sensitive quality measures supplying hospital administrators with critical data that they can use to evaluate key components of nursing satisfaction.

Director of Nursing Iman Al Kouatly credits AUBMC leadership for creating “an environment that fosters a culture of shared decision making in hospital affairs.” She notes that collaborative inter-professional teams “play an essential role in providing excellent and safe quality care for our patients.”

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

AUBMC opened Lebanon’s first holistic headache clinic in the fall. “The process of caring for patients suffering from headaches requires proper documentation, planning, and counseling about lifestyle modification,” said Dr. Nuhad Abou Zeid, neurologist and assistant professor of neurology at the Department of Neurology at AUBMC. “Having a specialized clinic will impact all patients with headaches as it gives them comprehensive care in one location with the highest standards of evidence-based management.” More info: www.aubmc.org

AUB now offers certificate courses in fitness education.

The first Neuroscience Open House took place on October 18.
A Grateful Patient Honors Dr. Jaber Sawaya

For more than 40 years, Dr. Sawaya has provided meticulous and compassionate care at AUBMC, touching the lives of countless men, women, and children. One particularly grateful patient has chosen to express his appreciation by making an anonymous gift to name the Professor Jaber I. Sawaya Lecture Hall in the Saab Medical Library. Family, friends, and colleagues gathered on October 31 for the celebration.

In his remarks, Dr. Fuad Ziyadeh, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, lauded Dr. Sawaya for having set a “very high standard” for his colleagues. VP and Medical Dean Mohamed Sayegh shared his memories of the first time he met Dr. Sawaya when he was a medical student at AUB. He thanked him and his family, and the anonymous donor, for their support for the AUB Medical Center. Sawaya too thanked the donor. He also called on “all of us who have made a career at AUB” to do what they can to support the University to ensure the success of the “revolution in administration, revolution in teaching and research, and very visible revolution in construction” taking place with the implementation of the AUBMC 2020 Vision.

In Focus

Advertised as “truly one of the most indispensable business machines in today’s modern office setting,” wire recorders were also cranky and limited systems. They were, however, widely used in the 1930s to 1950s primarily for office dictation and home recordings. We found this particular Webcor 228 Business Dictation Machine in the Electrical Engineering Department. We’re not sure how it got there – or how it was used. Can you help? Email us at maingate(at)aub.edu
A delicious choice for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. It’s a nutritious dish, loaded with non-animal proteins and iron. Straight from the kitchen of Sossie Puzantian in Glendale, California, with nutritional insight from AUB’s Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

**Sahtein**

Vegetarian lentil kebbe recipe.

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 ¼ cup dried red/orange lentils
- 2 ½ cups water
- 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
- ¾ cup olive oil or vegetable oil
- ½ cup fine cracked wheat (#1 bulgur)
- 1 bunch of parsley, finely chopped
- 1 bunch of green onions, finely chopped
- Salt, black pepper, cumin (to taste)
- Red pepper paste (optional)
- Red pepper or paprika

Makes 18-20 large kebbe

**PREPARATION:**
- Rinse the lentils in a colander under cold water. Place them in a heavy 6-quart pot, add 2 ½ cups of cold water, and cover. Bring it to a boil, and then leave it to cook on low heat for 20 minutes loosely covered with the lid. (Check on it every few minutes. If it boils over and foams, remove the lid. If the water boils off completely, add 1/8 of a cup of water at a time and stir.)
- After 20 minutes turn off the heat and stir in the ½ cup of bulgur and cover. At this point the mixture should become soft and mushy (similar consistency as oatmeal).
- Sauté the chopped onion in ¼ cup of olive oil until golden brown then add it to the lentil mixture.
- Add the spices and red pepper paste as desired.
- Keep mixture covered and leave to cool.
- Once it becomes cool enough to handle, use your hands to make ball shapes out of the mixture.

**TO SERVE:**
- Arrange on a serving platter with the finely chopped green onions and chopped parsley at the center of the plate.
- Serve at room temperature.
- Sprinkle with red pepper or paprika.

This dish goes especially well with a fresh tomato salad.

**GOOD FOR YOU?**

Marie Claire Chamieh (BS '86, MS '93), Instructor, Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, says:
“This recipe is a good source of essential proteins, carbohydrates, and fibers. Carbohydrates are an important source of energy providing the fuel the body needs to function adequately. The presence of fibers in food is important for better digestion, reduces cholesterol, and satisfies your hunger for a longer period of time. Fibers are also a great source of iron containing around 68 percent, along with other essential vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin A, vitamin C, and calcium. Not only is this menu nutritious, it is also low in calories (400 kcal /whole recipe; 20 calories/piece). It is also low in saturated fats, and contains some essential unsaturated fats (MUFA-monounsaturated fatty acids and PUFA-polyunsaturated fatty acids). This dish is a great way to add some nutritious variety to your meal. It is particularly recommended for weight watchers as well as for vegetarians who are looking for a good source of proteins and iron in something other than animal products.”

-M.A.
Impact

Regional impact, advocacy, and policy initiatives

Relief in Site 44
Bringing warmth, education, and medical aid to Syrian refugees.

The Power of a Toothbrush 47
MasterCard Foundation scholars discover the hidden rewards of helping those with less.

Toxic Regulations 48
FHS brings national attention to the toxic work conditions of child laborers.

Case by Case
HSON students join with UNICEF and the Lebanese Ministry of Health in a nationwide polio vaccination campaign to help the youngest and most vulnerable refugees.
Relief in Site

Some 1,200 people in three refugee settlements now enjoy the benefits of proper toilets and washing facilities thanks to AUB’s Community Development and Projects unit (CDPu) at the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS). Funded by private donations and the Al Madad Foundation, the three “WASH” projects (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) introduced sewage disposal and water tank distribution, toilets, and washbasins where none had previously existed in a dilapidated, unfinished building in Sidon, a basement structure in nearby Aakbiye, and an informal, open-air tented settlement in Sarafand, near Sour.

The WASH projects are the prelude to a potential four-part refugee relief program being rolled out by the CDPu in conjunction with AUB faculty members and students to include shelter, education, and medical aid.

Shelter
Designed by CDPu Director Rabih Shibli, the AUB ghata (cover) will provide shelter and protection for up to 10 people in conditions vastly superior to that of a tent. The first ghata prototype was test-built in the Sarafand settlement by AUB civil engineering (CE) and architecture students during their summer camp. This simple, removable structure made from locally sourced steel beams, wooden supports, marine plywood, and corrugated iron, initially cost $1,500. With economies of scale, the per unit cost could be reduced by as much as half. Durable and solid, it can withstand the onslaught of the Lebanese winter and will outlast a tent by years.

The students who erected the first ghata were thrilled with their hands-on experience and by the opportunity to initiate something that could have a major impact on the plight of thousands
of displaced people in Lebanon. The ghata’s double walls provide insulation against heat and cold, while its corrugated roof allows for rainwater run off (and collection).

One CE student described the summer camp experience as unforgettable from every point of view: “Working with real materials, preparing the components for the ghata, laying the foundations, erecting the walls, putting the roof in place – this was a real opportunity to actually build something of value while improving the living conditions of at least one family.” Other camp activities included organizing games and activities to take children’s minds off their daily deprivation and anxiety. Many of the students plan to remain involved in the CDPu’s refugee relief effort.

CDPu has also attracted support from faculty members from various departments in FHS, FEA, and FAFS. Engineering Professor Majdi Abou Najim is studying ways to improve the ghata by introducing innovations like solar energy and fiber optics; Professor Fouad Fouad from FHS is undertaking a study of the public health needs of refugees focussing on the WASH projects in Aakbiye and Sarafand. Maria Gabriella Trovato from FAFS Landscape Design is keen to reduce the adverse environmental impact of informal settlements as well as orienting the settlements to mitigate the negative effects of wind, sun, snow, and rain.

Education
Statistics indicate that 50 percent of Syrian refugees are children who have already lost two full years of education. Thanks to private donations, Rabih has set up a prototype school in Aakbiye to serve as a model for other refugee communities. For this school, staffed
by a Syrian teacher, Rabih is
anticipating the participation of AUB
faculty members and students willing
to volunteer to help this “lost generation”
enjoy the benefits of an education.

Medical Aid
Discussions are underway to explore
the feasibility of introducing primary
health care and first aid to the refugee
populations and locals. AUBMC’s Dr.
Kamal Badr, in tandem with the CPDu
and overseas NGO International
Medical Corps (IMC) is exploring a
range of options including outpatient
care and a mobile clinic. Neil Singh,
MD, a consultant with the CPDu on
sabbatical from the UK, hopes to
coordinate an AUBMC volunteer
program steered by Dr. Badr.

Generous student donations and
a successful fundraising event with
the screening of Not Who We Are,
a film exploring the lives of Syrian
refugee women, meant that the
amended ghata prototype could
be erected on campus in December.
Drawing on experience gained with
the first structure, the new ghata
includes a modified breeze block
door that can be easily disassembled;
insulating panels slotted between
the double walls, a solar panel
for heating water, and an external
oven also powered by sunlight,
devised by Majdi Abou Najim,
that is being tested for the first
time on campus. The new ghata
will be showcased to donors and
agencies involved in refugee relief.

With economies of scale, the per unit cost
of the ghata could be reduced by
almost half.

The basic structure of the ghata lends
itself to either a multiperson dwelling
or a small scale classroom. Already
donors have expressed interest in
investing in the ghata to provide an
educational space for youngsters who
have nowhere to go and nothing to do
in the informal shelters and camps
where they now live.

As the onset of harsh winter conditions
served to further highlight the plight of
the hundreds of thousands of displaced
people in Lebanon, AUB students
launched a used clothing drive which
elicited a positive response. Student
volunteers are sorting and categorizing
the items preparing them for distribution
to refugee settlements. CCECS is
expecting to receive further generous
donations of clothes thanks to a
used clothing drive by universities
in Switzerland.

Meanwhile discussions are under
way as to how to further involve AUB
students and professionals on the
medical and educational fronts. -M.A.
The Power of a Toothbrush

“I could not believe a simple toothbrush could make a child so happy. It was not about cleaning his teeth, it was the sense of ownership.”

AUB’s first cohort of 15 MasterCard Foundation (MCF) scholars (see MainGate, winter 2012) underwent a transformative experience during their recent four-week summer volunteer program. Their quotes tell it all.

“At the beginning, they were just kids, but they soon became my kids from whom I learned to face life with a smile.”

After receiving training at the Faculty of Health Sciences in life skills and community intervention methods, and identifying personal goals, they took up assignments in children’s summer camps run by the Lebanese NGO Mouvement Social.

“We thought at the beginning we will teach children general health principles but actually at the end they taught us lessons for life.”

Working in some of Beirut’s poorest neighborhoods, St. Simon (Ouzai), Bourj Hammoud, and Nabaa, they encountered poverty and deprivation on a major scale. Tackling a gamut of problems from violence to illiteracy, this was a formative experience and a milestone in the MCF scholars’ personal evolution.

“The summer project made us realize that our mission should be to look for the causes behind our misery and eradicate them. It is our commitment to our societies that will distinguish us not the position or job we occupy.”

Confronting issues including conflict and hygiene, while holding the attention of 70 unruly children, is a big challenge even for the most experienced teachers, yet it is one most of the MCF scholars would be happy to do again.

“I not only gave to them, but I also took a lot... Every time I looked in those kids’ eyes, the first question I had was, “what would I ask to learn or to have if I was in their place?”

-M.A.
In 1997, Dr. Iman Nuwayhid, now dean of AUB’s Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), began the rigorous work of uncovering and documenting the impact of toxic working conditions on the mental and physical health of Lebanon’s child laborers. This was no small task. It was “difficult to identify or recruit [the children],” says Iman, “because of their mistrust in the benefit of research to their wellbeing, their fear of legal repercussions, and their frequent moves and mobility between jobs.” What’s more, he says, since the legal age of employment in the country is 15, some funding agencies were reluctant to support research that

**Toxic Regulations**

FHS brings national attention to the toxic work conditions of child laborers.

Young people need to know what their rights are, as do the people hiring them.
included children under the age of 15, preferring instead to “fund intervention programs to remove [these children] from work.” Despite these obstacles, Iman and his colleagues managed to conduct a number of research studies and collect data on children, mostly boys, between the ages of ten and 17, setting in motion an ongoing chain reaction of policymaking.

In 1999, the International Labor Organization Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (No. 182) required that nations append their own lists of hazardous occupations for working children. Over time, and building on the various research and training activities funded by AUB, ILO, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and UNICEF, Iman’s team has collaborated with the Ministry of Labor (Child Labor Unit) to come up with a Lebanon-specific list of hazards to which no working child should be exposed. Iman decided that coming up with this list was a more appropriate response than working to ban child labor in Lebanon completely, since this was not practical or possible. “The approach [that we adopted],” says Iman, “was recommended by ILO-Geneva to other countries developing their national lists” since it had a better chance of actually impacting children’s lives.

Since his original foray into child labor conditions, Iman has expanded his initial findings to include work sites in the agricultural and industrial sectors. He has examined in particular the pernicious effects of neurotoxins found in many industrial workshops. The data was alarming. Children employed in automotive spray-painting and other industrial activities were found to have higher incidence of substance abuse, depression, and cognitive and motor skills damage than both schoolchildren and child laborers in less toxic environments.

Iman’s research led to Decree 8987 signed by President Michel Suleiman, Prime Minister Najib Mikati, and Labor Minister Salim Jreissati in September 2012 banning anyone under the age of 18 from working in environments “that may harm their health, safety or morals.” The decree was the first of its kind in Lebanon. “Until that point, before the decree, the list we had was very outdated, more than 40 years old, and just something that was copied and pasted from other countries,” says Dr. Hayat Osseiran, national consultant for the ILO on labor issues. “All our work now is based on this list.”

To make the decree a more useful document, FHS’s Outreach and Practice Unit has developed a guide for employers of child laborers and the children themselves. According to Dr. Rana Barazi, a public health consultant and lecturer at AUB’s Health Promotion and Community Health Department, young people need to know what their rights are, as do the people hiring them. “This law is in a language that is probably difficult to understand for employers in sectors such as carpentry, car repair, glass-blowing, shoe repair, the leather industry, and so on,” she says. “So my job was to take each of these eight articles and explain them in language that someone with a fifth grade education might understand,” since this is the minimum level of education mandated by Lebanese law. The guide, says Rana, will be useful for all the stakeholders in this issue: labor inspectors, social workers, and members of the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers trade union.

With the recent increase in the number of at-risk Syrian refugee children who have no choice but to work, child labor in Lebanon today is even more widespread than it was. In addition, an ever-evolving spectrum of dangerous working conditions makes identifying and monitoring hazardous work environments a complicated enterprise. But, thanks to Iman’s research, his subsequent work with the National Committee for Child Labor, and the continuing efforts of numerous contributors, the tools are finally in place for the Ministry of Labor to begin to enforce laws affecting the most vulnerable members of Lebanon’s workforce.

-N.Q.
Case by Case

Six HSON students spent a recent Saturday volunteering their time and expertise to support a nationwide polio vaccination campaign by UNICEF and the Lebanese Ministry of Health. Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Chris Abayad joined students Jad Bou Diab, Tiffany Halabi, Miray Harakeh, Amani Hashem, Dima Kamar, and Hanady Merhi at the Hariri Clinic in Aramoun, Mount Lebanon for an eye-opening and very rewarding day. “The students really got a feel for how many of the refugees are living,” remembers Chris. They are in crowded conditions with few amenities... no electricity, no heating, no running water, and no hygiene facilities. I am very proud of our students. It was an amazing day.” It was an especially “amazing day” for Dima who celebrated her birthday by participating in the polio vaccination campaign.

After receiving instructions from clinic staff, the nursing students were assigned specific streets. They set out in teams of two, stopping at every building and knocking on the door of each apartment where there were children under the age of five. “We were often guided by children we met playing on the streets,” says Tiffany. To each child, they gave two drops of the vaccine and a vaccination card. Word spread quickly and soon parents were coming to them with their children.

The HSON team vaccinated 150 children, the youngest of whom was just 7 days old. Although they performed an invaluable service for these children and their family, the nursing students unanimously agree that they received even more than they gave. “I know now that nurses can make a lot of difference,” says Amani. Miray agrees. “It is not until you experience it yourself–on the ground—that you really understand that even the smallest action can make a huge difference.”

Chris points out that the students also learned many skills—“knowledge about the vaccine, also how to store it in the ice chests, how it works, possible side effects, who could not be given the vaccine (some kids had a fever or a recent infection, one child already had an immune disorder), also communication skills. They also learned the importance of working with parents to solicit their help to persuade their reluctant children. They learned—they experienced—what we mean when we talk about community health.”

150 young children vaccinated for polio

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AUB Everywhere

Alumni lives in action, WAAUUB and chapter news, every day and extraordinary class notes, and unexpected revelations

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Akram Zaatari (BAR ’89), a filmmaker, photographer, archival artist, curator, and cofounder of the Arab Image Foundation, Zaatari reimagines the image and reinvents cultural artifacts.

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Meet class correspondents Lina Shihabuddin (BS ’85, MD ’89) and Takhouli Mahdessian (BBA ’64).

Class Acts

Rihab Uri (BBA ’86), a volunteer who gives back by getting it done. Marwa Abou Davia (BA ’05, MA ’08) and Carmen Geha (BA ’06, MA ’08), a friendship that fosters social justice.

Alumni Weddings

Wael Saasouh (BS ’04, MD ’08) and Solandia Saab (BSN ’06, MSN ’11) Nader Dalibalta (BA ’07, MA ’10) and Ola Osta (BBA ’10).

The Reveal

67

Camille Zakharia (BEN ’83), a photographer who captures the ephemeral.
Akram Zaatari is an excavator. Be it through his films, his photographs, or his documents, he is unearthing objects, stories, and moments in time and bringing them to light. He is an archaeologist at work in the art world, digging up the stories that have been buried and would not be believed were it not for the evidence. In his latest work, *Letter to a Refusing Pilot*, he tells both sides of the oft-repeated story about an Israeli pilot who refused to blast a school in Saida in 1982, choosing instead to release his bombs over the sea. The film has been shown at both the Venice Biennale and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York recently making this a particularly busy year for Akram. Born in Saida in 1966, Akram has always had an interest in filming and documenting found objects. Growing up in Saida during the Lebanese civil war had a profound influence on him. He was particularly affected by the Israeli invasion of 1982 when he was just 16 years old and hungry for news. Because there were no film schools in Lebanon, he enrolled in the bachelor's degree in architecture program at AUB in 1983. He does not regret it, saying that it has had "a huge impact on [my] work as an artist today, because being formed as an architect means you follow a certain logic and a certain order in thinking and methodology." After graduating in 1989, Akram studied for his master's degree in media studies at the New School in New York.
In 2011, Akram Zaatari won the Grand Prize of the International Contemporary Art Festival, Videobrasil, for his film "Tomorrow Everything Will Be Alright." The film breathes life into a typewriter that engages in a dialogue with its owner’s former lover. It is a commentary on the chat culture that has dominated life since the late 1990s. Akram is interested in evoking emotions "in something that supposedly doesn't have any, like a typewriter. It’s nice if you're able to animate an object that is otherwise inert. Once you create a narrative, you can make the object speak with emotions." This search for emotions continues to motivate his cinematographic projects.

Despite his experience and success as a filmmaker, Akram says that he sees himself primarily as a historian. He aims to speak to a timeless audience, to the present and the future, and this is why he does not address any particular group of people while making his films. After all, historians never inscribe history with addressees in mind; they simply want to document their times. Akram wants to do the same for film history, for he believes that “we belong to the history of our media. Once you say 'I'm a video artist' or 'I'm a filmmaker' you belong to a history of making films, and you know that today you are speaking a language that was different 50 years ago and will be different 50 years from now." Akram says he is inspired by cinema history, especially the films of Jean-Luc Godard, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and Rainer Werner Fassbinder. He says he cannot do what they did 50 years ago because "they are a part of [the] system, and now we do things differently, but you can definitely see their influences in my work."

In 2005 Akram released a film called "In This House." It tells the story of what happens when the owners of the house dig up a letter that a veteran wrote to his resistance group that once occupied the house. Akram has since explored this theme in another more recent documentary, "Time Capsule," filmed in dOCUMENTA(13) in Kassel. He explains that it is similar to what happens when you cut and plant trees. “You cut trees [down] because you need them and you need the wood, but at the same time you plant trees because someone in the future will need them.” Akram says that "Time Capsule" was inspired in part by the Lebanese National Museum's project to bury certain objects during the war in order to preserve them for the future.

Considering how prolific he is, it is not surprising that the motto the artist lives by is "work leads to work." He is not a workaholic though. For Akram, work is a source of inspiration. "When you start working," he says, “you start discovering things about yourself or about your interests and then you start rebuilding on top of them different layers of work and fine tuning your interest." It is a process of constant self-discovery.

What’s next for Akram Zaatari? He is working on three back-to-back exhibitions. He’ll be in in Kingston, Canada, then in London, and finally in Beirut for an exhibition at the Sfeir-Semler Gallery, which represents him.

-E.M.
WAAAUB Events and Announcements

WAAAUB Recently Elected Leadership

RIYADH

Mazen Kachmar (BBA '09)
President

Farid Saleh (BS '92, MS '94)
Vice President

Omar Ardati (BBA '08)
Treasurer

Donna ElSayyed (BS '08, MPH '10)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Faisal Al Hariri (BBA '01)
Hiba Dandachli Al-Hariri (BS '04)
Tarek Atallah (BEN '09)
Muhammad El-Mir (BBA '09)
Ahmad Hamieh (BEN '10)
Riebal Hmaydan (BBA '02)
Loulwa Kalache (BS '09, MS '12)
Hassan Kojok (BBA '02)

ABU DHABI

Samer Salim Gharzeddine (BA '90)
President

Suha Eid Takieddine (BA '86)
Vice President

Robert Emile Choucair (BEN '88)
Treasurer

Imad Fouad Richani (BEN '83)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Rebecca Raymond Abi Hanna (BA '98)
Ghada Najjar Assaf (BSN '89)
Joseph Shukrallah Atallah (BBA '88)
Ayman Elbaitam (BBA '01)
John Nicola Elhelou (BEN '95)
Farah Afif Kassab (BAR '09)
Imad William Khalil (BS '93)
Johnny Ishac Khouri (BAR '86)
Najib Badri Makarem (BBA '00)
Zuhair Makarem (BEN '82)
Mazen Sweidan (BAR '96)
Antoinette Salim Yazbeck (BS '86)

SOUTH LEBANON

Amer Abou Taam (BS '91)
President

Hiba Bitar (BEN '99, MEM '05)
Vice President

Hassan Soueidan (BBA '90)
Treasurer

Mariam Dokmak (BBA '12)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Mohamad Karnib (BS '92)
Every third Thursday of the month, teams of AUBites get a chance to flaunt their worldly knowledge as they compete for prizes on topics ranging from physics to celebrity gossip, history to tabloid headlines, and the classics to pop culture. The first Quiz Night of the academic year took place on October 24 at its new home, the Blue Note Café. To register, and for more information, visit: www.presella.com/event/waaaubquiznight

DON’T MISS OUT!
Be a part of the AUB International Alumni Directory. Please look for email and/or mail asking for your input.
Questions: alumni(at)aub.edu.lb

The WAAAUB Annual Christmas Party took place on December 22 at the Malhas Common Room in West Hall.
There was an abundance of fun, games, and holiday cheer!

Career Speed Networking Event

The inaugural WAAAUB Career Speed Networking Event (CSNE) for marketing and digital media professionals took place on November 29 at West Hall. Successful graduates shared their personal career-related stories and job tips with young alumni and current AUB students in a fun and interactive environment.

Annual Christmas Party
On the map: Find recent alumni activities from around the globe. Visit the WAAAUB website at www.aub.edu.lb/alumni to find a chapter near you and to learn about upcoming events.
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<th>North Carolina</th>
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<th>Kuwait</th>
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<tr>
<td>HALLOWEEN PARTY</td>
<td>THEATER OUTING</td>
<td>SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENT</td>
<td>ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE PRESENTATION by Bassem Barhoumi, Director of Facilities</td>
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<td>Gibran, The Play “Rest Upon the Wind”</td>
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<th>England</th>
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<td>RECEPTION with President Dorman</td>
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<td>Roy's restaurant</td>
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Q. Rapid Results has pioneered a model that leads to large-scale change after just 100 days. You’ve worked in Central America and Sub-Saharan Africa, and also in the United States. Tell us about your work with homeless veterans.

A. In November 2011, the director of a wonderful organization called the 100,000 Homes Campaign saw an article on our work in Africa in the New York Times, and she contacted me to ask if we could apply our Rapid Results approach to the issue of veteran homelessness in the USA. Since then, our two organizations have collaborated with federal agencies, city governments, and local non-profits to launch Rapid Results teams in more than 40 cities. Each team aims to increase the pace at which it is moving homeless veterans and other chronically homeless individuals into permanent housing. Many cities have doubled or even tripled their monthly housing rates since then. And the work continues.

Q. What is the “last mile” problem?

A. Most social and economic development programs are designed with the best intentions in mind. And governments and development agencies generally base them on sound analytic work. However, these programs rarely yield the intended outcomes. For these programs to deliver results, people at the local level need to get engaged, feel motivated, and innovate their way around countless implementation hurdles. Without this, programs do not travel the “last mile” to connect with communities, schools, and health centers. Rapid Results work inspires local actors to get in the game—it helps connect the last mile.

Q. What inspires your work?

A. The first time we introduced this work in a developing country was in Nicaragua. Rapid Results teams were working on farmer productivity. At the end of the first cycle of 100-day projects, I asked a member of one of the teams—an old farmer—to comment on his experience over the past 100 days. He said “this was the first time in my 40 years as a farmer that someone in government asked me what I wanted to do, rather than telling me what I should do.”

I am inspired by what people can accomplish, in the most difficult circumstances, when they find their voice and are given a chance to make their own choices. Once they experience what they can accomplish, there is no turning back. This is how this work can lead to personal transformation and sustained impact.

Interview edited and condensed by B.R.
WHEN DID YOU LAST VISIT THE AUB ONLINE COMMUNITY?

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Reunion 2014
June 27-29, 2014
alumni(at)aub.edu.lb
1940s

**Farid Sami Haddad** (BA '41, MD '48)
Farid has published a rich history of one of AUB's iconic professors, **George Fawaz**, MD, PhD (BA '33, MS '35). Professor Fawaz was at AUB for over seven decades starting in 1934. The book is a memorial tribute on the occasion of George's 100th birthday on November 22, 2013. For copies, email: haddadmd(at)cox.net

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In March 2013, **Zuhair Annab** (PHCH '48) received an award from Princess Basma Bint Al Hussein for his pioneering work establishing medical laboratories in Jordan. He writes “I graduated from AUB during the war in Palestine. I was offered a job at Altounyan Hospital where I established the first medical lab in Aleppo. In 1952 I moved to Amman, Jordan where I joined the medical services unit of the Jordanian Army and established the first lab in army medical services. The army sponsored my education, and I earned a post-graduate diploma in bacteriology, virology, and mycology from the University of London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I also received training in the forensic lab of London's Scotland Yard police force. In 1956, I went to Jordan and resumed my work at the army hospital. In 1962, I resigned as a major in the army. I then started my own private medical laboratory, which was one of only three labs in the country” zuhairannab.com

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**Mihran Agbabian** (BA '44, BS '47) continued his studies at Caltech (MS '48) and the University of California (UC), Berkeley (PhD '51). He then started Agbabian Associates, an engineering consultancy, and transitioned into education as chairman of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Southern California. Inspired by the story of the founding of AUB, Mihran cofounded the American University of Armenia (AUA) and became its first president in 1991, the year Armenia gained its independence from the Soviet Union. As a graduate school, AUA became an affiliate of the UC system, and received funding from the Armenian General Benevolent Union and sponsorship from the Armenian government.

In 2013, AUA added an undergraduate school with an entering class of 280 students. Currently a president emeritus of AUA, Mihran was succeeded in 1997 by **Haroutune Armenian** (BS '64, MD '68), who after serving as president for 14 years, also retired as president emeritus. On the occasion of AUA’s 10th anniversary in 2001, former AUB President John Waterbury wrote Mihran that “Whether with the experience of AUB’s 136 years or AUA’s 10, we know the vital role we play. We must provide an education based on high ethical standards, academic freedom, analytical thinking, and social responsibility. We must never back away from our principles.” Mihran credits AUB with providing the foundation for his commitment to these principles.
Muhammad Tawfik Salaymeh (BA '53, MD '58) was born in Hebron, Palestine. He completed his thoracic and cardiovascular surgery training in the United States. Starting in the late 1960s Muhammad became a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, and the American Society of Contemporary Medicine and Surgery. He was the recipient of the AMA Physicians’ Recognition Award for his practice from 1973 to 2004. Muhammad is married to Maha A. Minkarah, who has a BA from the Beirut College for Women (now LAU). The couple has two sons and one daughter. One son is a surgeon; the other son and daughter are lawyers. The Salaymehs have seven grandchildren.

Florence Touryan (DIPLM ’56) After earning her nursing diploma, Florence moved to San Luis Obispo, California where she earned BSN and PHN degrees at California State University in Bakersfield, California. As director of nursing at San Luis Obispo General Hospital, Florence reorganized the Nursing Department, implemented Total Patient Care, initiated the Nursing Quality Assurance Program, and developed an active in-service education program. Her attempt at retirement in 1990 fizzled when she realized that she was really just looking for a change of venue. In 1992, she resumed her nursing career as a valuable member of an excellent hospice team at the San Luis Obispo County Home Health and Hospice Agency, from which she fully and finally retired in September 2012. In 2003, Florence Touryan was awarded the Local Health Treasure Award from the San Luis Obispo Medical Society.

Taki Mahdessian (aka Takouhi Devian) (BBA ’64) is the class correspondent for the Class of 1964. She will be contacting classmates throughout the year and writing a short column on their news and views for Class Notes. Her own class note follows: “I was involved in track and field, ran the 100- and 200-meter dash, and won them a few times. I worked as a controller at Banque du Liban with HE Salim El-Hoss (BBA ’52, MBA ’57) until 1969 when I moved to Los Angeles. I then worked in medical malpractice for several years before starting my own business, a computerized billing service for anesthesiologists. Now retired, I have been living in Malibu for the past 27 years. I have a great relationship with my 42-year-old son Levon. I miss my friends and classmates. I have lost touch with almost all of them. If you remember me at AUB, please feel free to contact me. I enjoy living by the ocean and make the best of it by walking on the beach daily and doing yoga in that wonderful environment.” takie1(at)verizon.net

Georges Y. El-Khoury (BS ’65, MD ’69) received the Medal of the International Skeletal Society at a ceremony at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on October 1st. He has been a member of the faculty of the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa since October 1975. He is currently director of the Musculoskeletal Imaging Department at the university’s hospitals and clinics. Georges has worked extensively with the American Board of Radiology where he served as an oral board examiner for more than 20 years. He is chairman of the Core Board Examination for Musculoskeletal Radiology and former chairman of the Musculoskeletal Radiology Subcommittee for the Annual Scientific Program of the Radiological Society of North America from 2003 to 2005. In addition to the medal from the International Skeletal Society, Georges has a gold medal from the Iowa Radiological Society where he formerly served as president representing the society at the annual convention of the American College of Radiology. A sought after visiting professor and speaker both nationally and internationally, Georges has authored and coauthored three books and 218 scientific articles. He lives with his wife Salam in Iowa City, Iowa. They have two sons, Joseph (Yusef), an orthopedic surgeon; and Hany (born at AUBMC), a family law and criminal defense lawyer.
Last August, Shamira Derakhshani Nicolas (BA ’66, MA ’72) received the “Award for Excellence” from the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester for her work that was included in their annual exhibition. (More about Shamira can be found in MainGate, Connections, fall 2008, vol. VII, no. 1; and Class Notes, spring 2011, vol. IX, no. 3.) shamiranicolas(at)hotmail.com

Garbis Jaloyan (BS ’70) lives in Paris, France. After graduation, he worked as a biology teacher in Syria, then in Algeria. Since 1984 he has been a planning manager at the Maison des Etudiants Arméniens in the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (CIUP). Garbis has three sons and one daughter.

Huda N. Abbud (BA ’75) writes: “7:45 in the morning, grey clouds outside, inside smoking clouds ... smells of coffee ... Oum Koulsoom from the juke box. Yalla, we’ll have a croissant and a coffee and then head to CS 202. The course was examining the Qur’an and the Bible.... This is back in 1972.

That's the way it was, a real cosmopolitan campus, with students and professors from all around the world. We were part of a universal cultural village ... and that is completely obsolete!” hnabboud(at)gmail.com

“That's the way it was, a real cosmopolitan campus, with students and professors from all around the world. We were part of a universal cultural village”

Huda N. Abbud, BA ’75

Huda Hibri Zoghbi (BS ’76) AUB Trustee Huda Zoghbi was recently awarded two prestigious prizes: The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize from The Rockefeller University and The Dickson Prize in Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Huda is professor of molecular and human genetics, neuroscience, pediatrics, and neurology at Baylor College of Medicine, director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. She is best known for her research on neurological diseases. With Dr. Harry Orr of the University of Minnesota, she discovered the gene for a disorder called spinocerebellar ataxia 1 in 1993.

In 1999, she identified the gene for Rett Syndrome, another neurological disorder that affects primarily young girls. She also identified the gene for Math1, a gene that plays a role in the formation of many different cell types. Huda has won numerous awards, including the Arab American Medical Association (AAMA) Houston Chapter’s Ben Qurrah Award, the E. Mead Johnson Award in Pediatric Research, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Neuroscience Research, the Vilcek Prize in Biomedical Science, and the Gruber Neuroscience Prize.

She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Elias Maroun Absi (BS ’75) moved to Canada in 1976, where he studied chemical engineering at the University of Ottawa. For the past three years, he has served as president of the Ottawa Chapter, which won WAAAUB’s Outstanding Chapter Award in 2012. Elias generally visits Lebanon every other summer. He is currently a senior program manager at Sanmina, Inc.

He and his wife Carol Sfeir Absi have two children: Marissa (17); and Michael Antonio (15).

emabsi(at)gmail.com

1970s

1970s
Mahmud Hamzah Dalibalta (BS '75) writes, “Being at AUB was one of the happiest times in my life. I started my academic studies in the Chemistry Department where I became a teaching assistant in 1975-76. Unfortunately war erupted and it was not possible for me to stay in Beirut. I travelled to the United Kingdom where I earned a master’s degree in mechanical-chemical engineering in 1978 from Loughborough University. I worked at Metito Saudi Arabia in water and waste water treatment for two years.

In 1982 I moved to my current place of employment, Medreco Refinery in Lebanon. I am now the refinery and technical affairs manager at Zahrani Oil Installations (formerly part of Medreco). No doubt AUB played a significant role in my character development and how I deal with problems in my daily life.”

mahmoud-hamzeh1(at)hotmail.com

Badih Ghusayni earned his PhD in mathematics from Auburn University, Alabama in 1986. He remained in the United States for 12 years before returning to Lebanon in 1998. Badih is currently a tenured full professor at the Lebanese University. He is the founder and managing editor of the International Journal of Mathematics and Computer Science, a semiannual, peer-reviewed research journal covering mathematics and computer science, published in Lebanon. Since its inception in 2006, this journal has achieved international recognition through its distinguished editorial board from 15 countries. Badih and his wife

Badih(at)futureintech.net

Fadia Saad (BS '83, MS '86) taught science at IC before leaving Lebanon to do a doctorate at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. After completing her PhD in 1993, she worked as a scientist in industry for a few years, and completed an MBA in 2000. Since then, she has been working in the pharma/biotech field, leading business developments teams. Most recently she cofounded and is CEO of ArthroSolutions, an organization which seeks to maximize sustainability through the effective use of insects. She met her husband Real Roy at McGill. They have two children, Chadi (19) and Liam Saad-Roy (16).

We are grateful to Fadia for helping us fill out her mother’s side of the Shbaklo family tree, which includes many AUBites, who were also occupants of the Shbaklo home featured in MainGate’s piece, “Our Olive Tree, Your Olive Tree, A Heritage,” (MainGate, winter 2013, vol. XI, no. 2, Views from Campus, page 13).
**Iman Chafik Chahine** (BS ’85, MA ’97)
An assistant professor of mathematics education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, Iman is also the director of three study abroad programs in Brazil, Morocco, and South Africa. Her research is centered on ethnomathematics with an emphasis on mathematical knowledge systems across indigenous and techno-literate societies. Iman earned her doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

She enjoys traveling and yoga. ichahine(at)gsu.edu

**Lina Shihabuddin** (BS ’85, MD ’89) is the class correspondent for the Class of 1989. She will be contacting classmates throughout the year and writing a short column on their news and views for Class Notes. She writes: “I am the medical director for behavioral health at Barnabas Health in New Jersey, medical director for the Visiting Nursing Association of Central New Jersey Hospice, and president-elect of the local chapter of the New Jersey Psychiatric Association. Since much of my work is concerned with end-of-life issues, I also work with state legislators to help create laws for this nascent field. My husband Abbas Shehadeh is very busy with his interventional cardiology practice. Sarah, the oldest of our three children, just started college where she plans to study for a career in health care. I enjoy traveling and keeping in touch with all my AUB friends. I am very excited to be a class correspondent for the MainGate and foster these connections.”

**Arwa El Amine Halawi** (BA ’87, TD ’87) is arguably the Middle East’s most effective advocate for people with autism. She is president and a founding member of the Lebanese Autism Society and of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and director of the Technical School for Adolescents with Autism, Early Intervention and Diagnostic Center (CDIP), and Classes for Children with Autism (CCA). Arwa also serves as project director for special government programs promoting the acceptance and rights of autistic, special needs, and vulnerable children and youth in Lebanon. In addition to organizing major conferences on autism for UNESCO, Arwa is responsible for an impressive number of exhibitions, lectures, and performances, and has received many prestigious awards for her achievements in helping to promote awareness of this marginalized population. ahalawi(at)autismlebanon.org

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**Rihab Uri** (BBA ’80) lives in Beirut with her husband Nasser. For 25 years Rihab worked at Al-Rawdah High School as a chief accountant. Always civic-minded and active in many clubs and committees, she is involved in AUB’s Volunteer Outreach Clinic, the American Women’s Club of Lebanon, the Welcome Club International, USA, where she published an international cookbook in 2012; the AUB Women’s League, where she served as an editor of the bulletin and program chairperson for five years; and AUBMC–MEMA, where she served as chairperson of the Social Committee for the gala dinner under the auspices of MEMA chairman Dr. Ala’ Sharara (BS ’83, MD ’87). With the Green Oval serving as her children’s playground while she attended classes, Rihab developed a strong bond of loyalty and attachment to AUB. She has two sons and two daughters, all AUBites: Ghada (BA ’85), Suhaia (MA ’95), Ahmad (former student), and Bilal (BS ’95) who served as treasurer of WAAAUB’s Southern California Chapter from 2006-08. For more information on MEMA and the AUB Women’s League, visit: mema.aub.edu.lb/users/indexvery and www.aub.edu.lb/women_league

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**Arwa El Amine Halawi** (BA ’87, TD ’87) is arguably the Middle East’s most effective advocate for people with autism. She is president and a founding member of the Lebanese Autism Society and of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and director of the Technical School for Adolescents with Autism, Early Intervention and Diagnostic Center (CDIP), and Classes for Children with Autism (CCA). Arwa also serves as project director for special government programs promoting the acceptance and rights of autistic, special needs, and vulnerable children and youth in Lebanon. In addition to organizing major conferences on autism for UNESCO, Arwa is responsible for an impressive number of exhibitions, lectures, and performances, and has received many prestigious awards for her achievements in helping to promote awareness of this marginalized population. ahalawi(at)autismlebanon.org
Akl Fahed (BS ’06, MD ’10) is a resident physician in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He serves on the committee of the WAAAUB New England Chapter, and is excited to be able to keep strong ties with AUB through the vibrant network of alumni in Boston. His best AUB memories are from the “terrific clinicians and patients at AUBMC, who taught me how to be a doctor.”

Rabih Kamel Hassan (BS ’94, BEN ’98) earned his BS in physics and his BEN in mechanical engineering. He was on the varsity tennis team during his student years and still goes to campus for sports and other activities. After starting his career as a physics lab instructor, he began working with contracting companies on such large-scale projects as Solidere’s Bank Audi Plaza, ABC Achrafieh, and Fakra Catering. Rabih is currently an operations and maintenance manager for consulting firms in downtown Beirut and works part-time as a cost estimator, consultant, and technical manager for power plants. He writes that he has never left or wanted to leave Lebanon because his AUB education provided him with such good tools to serve his country.

Janah Nabil Boukhzam (BEN ’97) is now a major in the police force which he joined in 2000. He is married with two daughters. The family lives in Kfarhim el Chouf, Mount Lebanon. Janah looks forward to visiting the AUB campus and connecting with former classmates.

Azza Yehia (BA ’00, MBA ’05) is a quantitative researcher who recently moved back to Lebanon after living in Dubai for six years. In Dubai, she worked with a multinational media conglomerate serving the Arab region. She also became involved in comedic acting, where she took part in the first all-female stand-up comedy show in the region entitled “Funny Girls.” Now back in her home country, Lebanon, Azza is setting up her own specialized research consultancy that monitors digital platforms and social media to provide comprehensive assessments for individuals and organizations undertaking socio-developmental projects in the MENA region. Read more about her venture on www.zoomaal.com/dalala.

Hala Hanna (BA ’05) graduated last year from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government with a master’s degree in public policy. She accepted a position in Geneva, Switzerland with the World Economic Forum as senior manager and global leadership fellow where her portfolio includes Middle East and North Africa programs.

Mariejoe Raidy (BGD ’05) majored in graphic design and minored in business administration at AUB before specializing in print. She is a partner in the Raidy Printing Group, a leading printing company offering commercial, magazine and book, and packaging and security printing. Mariejoe is also a partner in Creative Lounges, an award-winning new media agency specialized in branding, social media development, e-commerce, neuromarketing, and on-line advertising optimization. She was the subject of a MainGate alumni profile in fall 2011.

Wael Saasouh (BS ’04, MD ’08) was a third-year medical student in 2006, and Solandia Saab (BSN ’06, MSN ’11) was a third-year nursing student when they met outside the computer lab of the Diana Tamari Sabbagh building. There was instant chemistry on that first day, and they soon realized they were meant for each other. As the nurse and the anesthesiologist journeyed forth in their chosen professions, they decided to permanently join forces. Seven years after that fateful first meeting, they tied the knot on June 7, 2013.
Hind Hobeika (BEN ’10) Wanting to build not a better mousetrap, but a better heart rate monitor for swimmers, the brilliant and competitive Hind Hobeika invented smart swimming goggles long before Google invented smart glasses. A young entrepreneur and inventor, Hind founded the hot new company ButterflEYE, was the only female competitor among the top five contestants on Qatar’s reality TV show Stars of Science, and was a winner of the 2012 MIT Middle East business plan competition.

John Justin Hayden (MA ’11) worked with a team of advisers on the recent launch of Zoomaal, the first general crowd funding platform in the Arab world (based on the Kickstarter model). Zoomaal is backed by four venture capital firms led by the multifaceted entrepreneur and FEA student Abdallah Absi.

www.zoomaal.com

Christine Basha (BBA ’12) writes, “I was one of those people who was not happy to be graduating. Weird, no? Well, I always told people that two of my unforgettable memories at AUB are being a proud member of the AUB Choir and the AUB Lebanese Red Cross Club.”

Paul Salameh (BEN ’11) has joined the ranks of very successful app creators with his game, Pou (Paul’s nickname). The app made it to the global Top 5 iPhone and Android downloads and was #1 in the iPhone kids’ games category in 90 countries.

Nader Dalibalta (BA ’07, MA ’10) and Ola Osta (BBA ’10) write that although they are both from Saida, Lebanon, it was at AUB that their beautiful story began. They were married on December 13, 2012, and had their wedding photos taken on campus.

Marwa Abou Dayya (BA ’05, MA ’08) and Carmen Geha (BA ’06, MA ’08) Public administration grads Marwa and Carmen founded Beyond Reform & Development, a social reform consulting firm that operates in 10 countries across the Levant, the Gulf, and North Africa. Having bonded as activist students at AUB, the two have advocated together on a number of issues including electoral reform, free speech, civil society development, and government transparency. They now advise public officials, parliaments, international organizations, UN agencies, and civic and political groups on public policy, management reform, and capacity building. Both Marwa and Carmen teach part-time at AUB’s Political Studies and Public Administration Department. They continue to be deeply committed to social progress, and are the closest of friends.

The couple live happily in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where Ola works as a sales executive at Foodonclick and Nader is a financial controller and business analyst at JCDecaux. They are grateful to AUB for a lifetime of memories.

Hamed Ziade (BEN ’11) While pursuing his master’s degree in energy management and sustainability at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Hamed has been making news with his work on renewable and smart energy sources for refugee camps. Replacing diesel and firewood with photovoltaic solar panels in parts of the world where sunlight is abundant helps to provide refugees with energy that is clean and reliable. While creating “smart refugee camps” Hamed is mastering the science of balancing renewable energy production, consumption monitoring, and energy storage to cast light on the darkness.

Christine Basha (BBA ’12) writes, “I always told people that two of my unforgettable memories at AUB are being a proud member of the AUB Choir and the AUB Lebanese Red Cross Club.”

Christine Basha, BBA ’12

made me want to stay at AUB and not graduate, it was those two activities. I am the first member of my family to study at AUB and will definitely make this a tradition for the upcoming generations of my future family!”

christinebasha(at)gmail.com
“Gufool 3, Masjid Al Sadiq Bahrain” is part of a series titled Distorted Memories. It was first exhibited in a large-scale, lens-based project, “My Father’s House” organized by the British Council which toured the Middle East from February 2009 to March 2010. The Distorted Memories: The changing character of Bahrain series is a metaphysical journey around the island Camille has made his home. Though the individual pictures appear to be realistic, they are in fact composite collages, through which Camille tries to capture his personal impressions and recollections of places – landscapes and cityscapes, deserts and villages – that are already lost. Camel markets and traditional shop windows have been replaced by commercial complexes; festivals and elections have come and gone; surreal situations and odd juxtapositions may or may not have occurred. Through his images Camille also raises questions about “the reliability of memory, the very basis of history and identity.”

Camille Zakharia (BEN ‘85) lived in the United States, Greece, Turkey, and Canada after leaving Lebanon during the civil war. He moved to Bahrain in 1999. Camille earned a BFA from NSCAD University in Halifax, Canada in 1997. His “Coastal Promenade” was the photographic essay for the Reclaim project that earned Bahrain the Golden Lion Award for best national pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2010. In 2009, he was a finalist for the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum’s Jameel Prize for Islamic Art. Camille’s works can be seen in many public collections, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Musée suisse de l’appareil photographique, the Wichita Center for the Arts, National Museum of Bahrain, Qatar Museum Authority, and Saint Mary’s University Art Gallery. His work will be showcased at the Fotofest 2014 Biennale in Houston, Texas.

Camille is represented by Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York.
In Memoriam

HE Ahmad Abdul-Jabbar passed away on September 29 in Geneva, Switzerland at the age of 92. After earning his BA in political studies at AUB, he earned a master’s degree in political science at Georgetown University. Ahmad was Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to the United Nations for more than 30 years starting in 1960. He also served as the Saudi ambassador to Japan, Germany, and Italy, and held various posts in the Royal cabinet in Riyadh.

Samir Hajj, a respected gynecological surgeon and a beloved teacher, Samir was born in Aley, Lebanon in 1932, and passed away on August 28 at his home in San Diego, California. He completed an internship and residency in surgery at the American University Hospital in 1958, followed by a residency at the Lying-In Hospital of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hajj joined AUB’s Faculty of Medicine in 1963 and became the first non-American chairman of the Department of OB/GYN in 1973. In 1981, he moved to the University of Chicago where he spent the rest of his career as a professor and section chief of gynecologic surgery, retiring in 2007. Samir maintained a deep commitment to AUB and Lebanon throughout his life, and remained active in civic affairs as a sought-after consultant to government ministers. Samir is survived by his wife Dorothy Farnworth Hajj; sister Afaf Najib Hajj; daughters Dana Farnworth Hajj-Weaver, Karin Maya Hajj, and Randa Suzanne Hajj; son Ramzi Samir Hajj and his wife, Jennifer Marie; and one granddaughter.

Naziha Knio passed away on May 13 in Beirut. She was a painter and an educator who spent her early childhood in Nablus and Tulkarm, Palestine. Naziha went to Beirut College for Women, (now LAU), and then on to AUB, where her father, Daher Hamzah (BA ’25), studied, and where she developed a deep appreciation for the arts and democratic values. After graduation, Naziha became the only female teacher in the boys’ section of the Suq al-Gharb High School. She married Dr. Mohammed Knio and raised their two children in Beirut: Professor Omar Knio (BEN ’84), and AUB Professor Khouzama Knio (BS ’84, MS ’87). Naziha served as president of the LAU Alumni Club and participated in various art exhibits.
Alumni

John I. Domian was born in Haifa, Palestine on October 17, 1937. He passed away on August 26, at the age of 75 in Los Angeles, California. With a degree in pharmacy, John went to work for the multinational corporation 3M, but soon joined his father at Domian Pharmacy on Abdul Aziz Street in Ras Beirut. Under his stewardship, the pharmacy became an integral part of the Ras Beirut community.

In 1984, Domian immigrated to the United States and settled in the Los Angeles area with his family. After earning California State Board Certification, he worked with the pharmaceutical provider, Merck-Medco, as a consultant in strategic planning. John retired in 1999 after a successful and fulfilling career. He is survived by his wife Viviane Farah Domian (BBA ’63), three children, Dina, Ibrahim, and Dahlia, and five grandchildren.

Amin Fekrat passed away on June 23 in northern Virginia. Amin received his doctorate in educational psychology from Indiana University and taught in the United States before going back to Iran to lead the newly-built school of education at Ferdowsi University in Mashad. He subsequently served as Iran’s cultural attaché in New Delhi, India, before returning to the United States. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Homa, two sons, Bruce and Brian, a daughter, Soraya, and two grandsons.

Hassan Smadi was born in Damascus, Syria in 1941, and passed away in Beirut on March 16. A successful businessman and real estate developer, Hassan was the coowner of Orient Company Weavers Ltd (OCC Weavers), a general contracting company established in Saudi Arabia over 30 years ago; and the founder of SV Properties and Construction SAL, a real estate development company focused on high-end residential projects such as 3Beirut. He is survived by his wife Randa Fouad Al Farra (BA ’62, MA ’65); three children, Wael, Nadine, and Faris; two brothers, and a sister.

Khalil Abdel-Rahman Sinno was born on April 18, 1948 in Beirut and passed away on July 8. Upon receiving his medical degree, he boarded the last plane out of war-torn Beirut and headed to North Carolina where he completed his residency in urology. He later went on to complete a fellowship in pediatric urology at the Mayo Clinic. Khalil’s love for Lebanon compelled him to return in 1980 despite being offered a position at the Mayo Clinic. He married the love of his life, Zane Siraj (BA ’74, MA ’77), with whom he had three children: Ola (BGD ’04), Abdul Rahman (BS ’04, MD ’08), and Hamed (BFA ’11). Dr. Sinno was an associate physician at AUBMC and maintained his private practice in the Blue Building. He served on multiple NGO boards and dedicated his life to serving those less fortunate. He was president of the jazz committee at the Baalbeck festival for many years and served on its executive committee for more than a decade. In 2012, Khalil was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Even in the terminal stages of the disease, he still found the energy to be humorous and cheerful. Despite being on chemotherapy, he continued to attend concerts, and to enjoy the beach and his beautiful mountain house and garden in Sofar. A truly free spirit who would jump into a joyful dance whenever he heard a tune, he was also a physician, a husband, a father, a friend, a cultural figure in Lebanon, and a philanthropist. He lived a happy life devoted to service.

Saad Abdul-Latif died suddenly on August 19 while on vacation with his family in Italy. He earned his BA in public administration and an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. Saad was chief executive officer of PepsiCo for the Asia, Middle East, and Africa sector. He was a committed philanthropist who supported many educational causes. A board member of Planet Finance, former chairman and current board member of World Links, the founder of PepsiCo’s Tomooh education program, and an International Council Member of Harvard University’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Saad was also a long-time supporter of AUB’s financial aid programs, and the WAAAUB Dubai and Northern Emirates chapter. He is survived by his wife Alya, and their three children Steve (BA ’03), Kareem, and Ramzi.
Jassim Abdulaziz Al-Qatami was born in Kuwait in 1927, and passed away on June 29, 2012. He was a well-known figure in the Arab world, a strong and effective human rights advocate; a founding member and president of the Arab and the Kuwaiti Associations for Human Rights; a generous supporter of the arts, education, and scientific training in the Arab world; and an Arab nationalist. He participated in the drafting of Kuwait’s first constitution, and fought tirelessly for reforms that would lay the foundation for democracy in his country, including issues of women’s rights, youth rights, and equality for all. AUB’s impressive Jassim Al-Qatami Engineering Lecture Hall is the result of his generosity to the University and his strong belief in higher education.

Edward Nicol was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and passed away in Baltimore, Maryland on January 13, at the age of 96. The son of missionaries, he was raised in Beirut, and graduated from the American Community School in 1934, and from Oberlin College in Ohio in 1938. In 1942 he was stationed in Africa with the Army Air Force. He worked for the Social Security Administration (SSA), first as a field representative in Youngstown, Ohio, and then in public affairs at the SSA headquarters in Baltimore where his duties included explaining the SSA system to migrant workers. Upon retirement, he began a 32-year career volunteering for Meals on Wheels, an organization that delivers meals to people in need. Throughout his long life of service to others, Edward maintained a lively interest in the arts. He enjoyed acting in regional theater and writing poetry. He also published a memoir of his childhood in Beirut, entitled One Brief Moment. He is predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Mary Chuey, and survived by his sister Margaret Nicol Gutelius, his devoted daughter Susan Saunders, her husband Larry, and by grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many loving friends and neighbors.

We Remember

Joseph Sackler  MD ‘40
Nehayat N. Zein  Nursing DIPLM ’43
Edmonet M. Jbara  BA ’50
Elias B. Debbas  BA ’51, BEN ’52
Richard K. Mishalani  BA ’51, BEN ’52
Samir N. Hajj  BA ’52, MD ’56
Henry F. Batruni  BBA ’54
Aida Kutran Shamma  Public Health DIPLM ’57
Maaz S. Khayri  BEN ’58
Sami S. Hawi, PhD  BA ’59, MA ’66
Tony B. Ramlawi  BBA ’59
Nawal S. Halaby  BA ’60
Nemi Maroun Jabbur  BBA ’60
George Spiridon Haddad  BA ’61
Samir A. Ishak  BA ’64
Nabil F. Serhan  BA ’68
Liliane Diab Gholmeh  BS ’69, MS ’71
Constantine (Costi) Baramki  BA ’69
Jecton O. Menya  BS ’70, MS ’73
Nabil Amin Hilal  BS ’70
Wadi’ N. Saoud  Bassem A. Abyad  BS ’82, MD ’87
Khaled A. Sudki  BEN ’87
Raja Wadih Mufarrij  BS ’93
Ali Hachem Kheireddine  BEN ’11
Dana Mustapha Karmouta  Student
Ibrahim El Hajj  Parent
Muna Iskandar Karmouta  Parent
Richard G. Wood  Former Faculty Member
Basile Antoine Meguerdiche  Former Student
Bishara M. Lorenzo  Friend

Our Legacy

My children and I established the George K. Farah Endowed Scholarship to honor the legacy of my late husband, George Farah. Although he was forced to abandon his own dreams of attending university and studying law when he and his family were uprooted from their homes in Palestine in 1948, he never abandoned his dream to succeed in life. He worked hard and diligently for many years. With this scholarship, we pay tribute to his legacy of hard work, hope, kindness, and respect. We are also helping Palestinian students at AUB to pursue their own dreams.

Mary Farah, daughters Mona and May (MA ’97), and son John
The man who created, designed, made, and installed the distinctive iron grill above the main gate of AUB on Bliss Street was Abed Al Fattah Sidani. He was a local blacksmith and also the father of twin sons, Adel and Seif El Deen, both AUB alumni. It is a defining symbol of AUB.
Students clambered through the windows of Assembly Hall for a glimpse of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960.

Were you there? Tell us more at maingate(at)aub.edu.lb