Uniquely Positioned
The IFI is up for a good debate

Healthcare for the New Millennium
AUB receives the largest gift in its history

A Matter of Opinion
For veteran journalist Michael Young (BA ’85), it helps to get a little bit angry

American University of Beirut Magazine. Spring 2014, Vol XII, No.2
Hanaa Dakour Aridi was raised in a village in Mount Lebanon called Baissour. Her mom is an amazing housewife and her father is a construction worker. Hanaa’s older brother studied engineering and is now working abroad. Hanaa attended a private school in her village until Grade 6 when she had to move to a public school where she spent six years. Her high scores on the Lebanese Baccalaureate exam got her a three-year scholarship to AUB. After she finished her BS in biology, Hanaa entered medical school. She will be graduating in June.

In addition to being a medical student, Hanaa has been a private tutor, had a part-time job, and got involved in student government. All of these activities have helped make her the person she wants to be. After medical school, she plans to do research in surgery and obstetrics/gynecology and then take the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination).

Attending AUB was not just a dream for Hanaa, it was impossible. Thanks to the financial support she got from AUB and from the Dubai and Northern Emirates Alumni Chapter, Hanaa was able to do just that—the impossible.

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
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2014 is a banner year for building dedications. In winter, AUBMC opened the Wassef and Souad Sawwaf Building, a sleek modern facility that contains offices for the University Health Services as well as shielded rooms for the Medical Center’s first PET-CT scan and cyclotron, reflecting AUB’s historic mission to provide the best in patient care for our own community and the people of Lebanon and the region. The building is a gift to AUB from Mu’taz Sawwaf, one of AUB’s newest trustees, and named for his parents.

Similarly, the Irani-Oxy Engineering Complex will open this fall, designed to affirm and expand AUB’s historic legacy in graduating the region’s best engineering students. Located on the lower campus in the heart of the engineering campus and open to the sun on its northern and southern faces, the IOEC is equipped with modern laboratory equipment and provides badly needed space for growing programs in engineering as well as offices to accommodate graduate students in their advanced work. Be sure to look at the punctuated sliding metal screens over the windows for impressions of woodland trees.

Hadid’s visionary design reflects the way in which AUB also looks toward the future in its commitment toward shaping emerging societies. The building, with its modern communications technologies, is already being used by other faculties and centers at AUB.

Dealing with refugees from Syria is now one of Lebanon’s most pressing problems. It is not just a concern for the IFI. AUB has also coordinated efforts to alleviate, at least in a small way, the tragic suffering that is now happening on an epic scale. Student clubs have been gathering donations of clothing and blankets, and our Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service together with faculty from FEA have designed simple but sturdy shelters that can be erected out of local materials and adapted for use as schoolrooms or modest homes, according to need. Our AREC campus in the Beqa’a has been distributing food from its farm produce and AUBMC has set up field clinics in the Beqa’a, as well as a mobile unit in the north to see to immediate health needs, all thanks to generous donors to AUB; some patients are brought to Beirut for treatment if necessary. As for education, special donations have also made it possible for AUB to admit some Syrian refugee students.

Tweeting is a great way to connect informally, although I don’t use it consistently: I find my tweets come in bursts. Perhaps one advantage is that you’re limited in text, so you can’t go on too long. I love hearing feedback, especially from students, and it’s a great way to discover what friends and public figures in Lebanon are on about.

-K.D.
To our readers worldwide,

Please keep your comments coming on the redesign of the magazine and your ideas for future issues. Fall is right around the corner. Here are some notable moments and quotes from this magazine:

“My dream right now is a dream for the Middle East, to see real liberal democracy happen here. This is what drives my career.”  
– Lina Khatib (BS ’98), pg. 64

“A recent study of three rural Lebanese communities found 19 percent of families to be food insecure.”  
pg. 44

“The best articles are when you are a little bit angry.”  
– Michael Young (BA ’85), pg. 48

“It might seem strange to think of a Sufi artist stuck in Cairo’s traffic and staying in composure or at peace, but feeling Zen is a state of mind.”  
– Rana Chalabi (BA ’81), pg. 65

“Dr. McDonald had a profound impact on my life: first by operating on me, and then by advising me on what to do with my life.”  
– Fayez Suidan (BA ’51, MD ’55), pg. 57

Fifty-three percent of the officially registered refugees in Lebanon are under the age of 18.  
pg. 38

“Education is a right, but it should be treated as a privilege.”  
– Nerses Arslanian, pg. 14

Ada H. Porter, Editor
maingate(at)aub.edu.lb
AUB Emeritus Physics Professor Harry Mavromatis sent the following excerpt from his memoirs on Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to campus.

I consider myself privileged to have been one of those many thousands who saw this living legend casually stroll across the campus from College Hall, the University's administrative hub, to the Chapel, accompanied by AUB's president, Dr. Paul Leonard. After a few appropriate, introductory remarks by the University's President, this cultured, gentlemanly world leader proceeded to address the overflow and attentive audience in a firm, determined, and confident tone of voice as he calmly reviewed the various “challenges” facing the globe of the early 1960’s.

Yes I was there—I do not remember much about the speech itself, but I do remember the Chapel (is it now called Assembly Hall?) packed with an enthusiastic crowd eager to listen to one of the three leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement. Nehru was calm and neat in his white suit and cap. I was thrilled to hear of plans for my daughter Mariam Tamari, the soprano, to perform at the hall later this year. Hear her at mariamtamari.com

Best wishes to all AUBites.

I attended the lecture as a 17-year-old- freshman student. My memory is of his presenting “the means condition the end” alternative reality, in a simple, profound exposé of the “end justifies the means” mantra of the epoch. Delighted that you are revisiting that event! It has been a permanent horizon in my own intellectual trek.

I am a 2006 medical graduate. Our class was phenomenal, and some of us finally met up after a long time. As we caught up, we kept coming back to memories of idyllic days on campus when commonly held values connected people from vastly different cultures and backgrounds.

Every class is diverse. Our class of medical students was no different. Universal instincts of competition, and thirst for knowledge, food, love, and even hate drove all our interactions, achievements, and failures. This immense diversity sometimes fueled disagreement and conflict. Despite these disruptions, our class was great for one unique reason, mutual respect. I believe that everyone from the Medicine Class of 2006 played a role in this. Our bond was strengthened by our willingness to access common values when dealing with each other, and by our determination to build common ground on the fertile soil of our shared humanity. We tried always to act in good faith, to wear a smile, and to listen to what others had to say. In this way, disagreements inevitably evolved into greater understanding. Campus life fostered an inclusive and tolerant environment, and helped each of us to develop a special sensitivity for mutual respect that has acted as an enduring shield against acrimony. To put all of this more simply, people fundamentally respected each other. Fellow AUBites, you will always be diverse. Embrace your diversity with all its different qualities, but never disregard mutual respect, or lose sight of common values. I have the Class of 2006 to thank for teaching me this important lesson. I hope to see many of my former classmates at the Medicine Class of 2006 10-year reunion in 2016.
Inspiration

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

Uniquely Positioned

In an iconic new building on the Green Oval, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs is raising the bar on policy-related debate and decision making in the Arab world and abroad.

Healing Arts

Faculty of Medicine students learn about the art and science of healing in a course unlike any they have taken before.

Published & Produced

Exhibits:
*Cedars in the Pines*: Commemorating Lebanese immigrants who have made North Carolina their home since the 1880s. At the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, North Carolina, through August 31, 2014.

Film:
Philippe Aractingi’s latest film *Heritages* (Mirath) narrates the history of his family across five generations and 100 years.

On Stage:
Christiane Karam (BS ’94), workshops and performances in Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East.

Written Word:
*The Second Arab Awakening: And the Battle for Pluralism* (Yale University Press, 2014), by Trustee Marwan Muasher; *Putin’s New Order in the Middle East* (London: Hurst, 2013), Dean of Student Affairs Talal Nizameddin; *Memoir: An Early Arab Feminist: The Life and Activism of Anbara Salam Khalidi*, translated by Professor Tarif Khalidi.

Face to Face

Master of the mailroom, George Musa reflects on changing times.

Student News

Organized activism; students make their voices heard. FEA students build an energy efficient car for Shell’s global eco-marathon.

Legends & Legacies

Poetic Justice: A glimpse at the tangled relationship between SPC and Yaqub Sarruf (BA 1870).
Uniquely Positioned

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) is settling into its new home overlooking the Green Oval. Amidst the hustle and bustle of a grand opening and a plethora of events marking the inauguration of the controversial building in which it is housed, scholars and administrators are quietly taking stock of achievements to date and the challenges ahead.

While opinions differ over the merits and demerits of the structure designed by top world architect (and former AUB student) Zaha Hadid, and made possible by the generous support of Issam Fares, IFI director Rami Khouri and his team are thrilled with the building’s many assets and are preoccupied with how to best position IFI going forward; how to consolidate the substantial body of work achieved by the institute in the last six years, and how to exploit the hi-tech space with its sophisticated facilities.

The first institute dedicated to full-time study of how policy and research intersect and how policies evolve in the Arab world, IFI is carving out new ground across a spectrum of research programs and projects to discern policy mechanisms: the players, the constraints, the forces, the processes—technical and political—and crucially how academe can better inform policy.

Drawing on a prodigious pool of AUB research, IFI has identified seminal topics with potential high impact on the future of the Arab world, including climate change and the environment, youth, the Arab uprisings, the Middle East’s changing international relations, the UN in the Arab world, the refugee
problem, and social justice. “We look at how the University and its research centers generate knowledge to ascertain how that knowledge can be applied to the wider society,” Khouri explains. “We want to know how policymakers can draw on research and knowledge to make better policy.”

A prime example of what lies ahead is the new multi-component study of social justice that partially evolved out of IFI’s studies on youth and the Arab Uprisings Initiative. “This involves focused intersectional research,” Khouri explains. “Social justice has 10 or 12 different components: housing, food, transport, jobs, income, health, political participation, human rights, dignity, and so on. You can only understand how people relate to the concept by disaggregating the elements and putting them back together again. We have to figure out how to study all these different dimensions in an integrated way. The difficulty is that in this field it is hard to prove empirically that research has an impact, but we feel we are on the right track.

Mapping the trajectory from humble beginnings in an office in the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Building to the purpose-built signature structure, IFI’s assistant director Rayan El Amine says, “We have upgraded our ability in all ways–staff, expertise, communication skills, and an increased capability to get the material out there. We have learned what our strengths are. Now we need to leverage our ability to promote the work of AUB in tackling pressing regional issues which need a response.”

Positioning IFI in the context of Lebanon and the region, Khouri says, “A policy oriented think tank in an academic institution is new in this part of the world. You have to stand alongside research centers, international and local think tanks, and nongovernmental organizations that do both research and advocacy. But we are novel in many respects–like being able to draw on the research of 600 professors. Of course we are also new to AUB, so we have had to find our way.

In this regard El Amine welcomes the establishment of an academic steering committee, an MA program, a new program for postdoctoral visiting scholars, and improved facilities. “We are well placed to contact leaders in the field and to coordinate between government and academia to achieve effective analysis,” he says.

We are working to get the work of AUB academics and other researchers into the hands of policymakers.

“Our single, most immediate focus at present is how to translate information into different and digestible formats in order to use knowledge to better influence policy and inform society via the mass media. In the Arab context we are pioneering this idea, working collaboratively with colleagues throughout the region to determine how best to get the work of AUB academics and other researchers into the hands of policymakers. AUB has a very good name, which bolsters our credibility because people are willing to listen. We have a lot of challenges ahead of us once we settle into our exciting new home.” - M.A.
Healing Arts

The next generation of doctors will strive for a more holistic approach to healthcare that focuses on the whole patient, and a new physician-patient relationship.

AUB Faculty of Medicine students are learning what it means to be on the other side of the stethoscope. A new course, Physicians, Patients, and Society 1 (PPS 1), highlights the value of the patient’s narrative and “becoming a doctor,” adding studies in literature, art, and history to the traditional science courses that still form the backbone of medical school.

Student reaction to the new course was overwhelmingly positive (only one student said he found it useless for medical students): Rasha Raslan wrote, “I think this course is crucial to remind us of the human and social aspect of medicine that often isn’t taught in our curriculum. . . . This course was an important reminder of the humanistic side of this field, a side often ignored.” Jacqueline Attallah said, “This course aims at helping us understand the patient as a whole within his/her social and economic background [and] helps us understand . . . and recognize the subtle cues that the patient might give [as to] how the disease affects the patient and how that patient affects the disease.” Savo Bou Zein Eddine wrote, “The blend of the artistic, social, and scientific aspects of medicine . . . sets the basis for the creation of better doctors who can appreciate the feelings of the patients . . . and draws out subtle signs that might not be noticeable on the patient’s face.” Most students agreed they “were pushed to leave behind the objective nature of science [to come to terms with medicine as more] a reflection of human diversity.”

The blend of the artistic, social, and scientific aspects of medicine . . . sets the basis for the creation of better doctors who can appreciate the feelings of the patients.

Made up of four separate modules on literature, art, history, and patient shadowing, AUBMC’s new course is in line with changes taking place in major medical schools throughout the world. The creation of PPS 1 was motivated by the belief that “purely scientific forms of knowing are no longer deemed adequate to the practice of medicine.” The widespread changes have even affected the MCAT, the medical school
admission exam, suggesting that similar changes will soon be seen in pre-medical school courses. “Becoming a doctor” takes on added meaning as the new exam (for medical students expecting to graduate in 2016) continues to test the physical sciences, but also tests critical reasoning, reading skills, and how well those who wish to become doctors “understand the social and behavioral side of medicine.”

PPS 1, was planned, designed, and coordinated by Thalia Arawi, PhD (BA ’90, MA ’96), founding director of the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program at the AUB Faculty of Medicine. The course reflects changes taking place throughout the medical curriculum: the broadening of the historic emphasis on science to embrace the humanity of the patient by using a “more holistic approach that focuses on the whole patient,” on the student’s “becoming a doctor,” on treating illness vs. disease. Method as well as content is stressed: “Practicing medicine requires an understanding of the human condition through use of analytical, critical, and speculative approaches traditionally employed in [teaching] the humanities.”

Significantly, when the course was launched in fall 2013, two of the four modules were taught by Faculty of Arts and Sciences professors. Roseanne Khalaf, EdD (BA ’72), English Department, taught the literature module in which students discussed patient and physician narratives—from a depressed patient’s autobiographical report on her life to a physician’s description of an agonizing decision on whether or not to amputate a young girl’s leg in light of the possible diagnosis of a rare life-threatening, flesh-eating disease. Students wrote their own narratives, writing assignments which “allowed us” said one student, “to re-experience ourselves as writers, giving us a chance to express our artistic side” and appreciate the value of the patient’s narrative.

Rico Franses, PhD, of the Department of Fine Arts and Art History, said his art module was definitely not a course on medicine in art. His aim was rather to enhance the students’ knowledge of both themselves and other people by exploring, through close analysis of painting and sculpture, “the question of what it means to be human,” thus supporting the new emphasis on knowing and respecting the value of the patient’s perspective. “Although at first sight one may wonder what exactly art has to do with becoming a better MD,” wrote one student, “I strongly believe that not only does [this course] add to our personal culture, making us more well-rounded individuals, but it also has implications for how we learn to read the emotions and see deeper into a given situation.”

The history module was taught through online lectures and discussions with extensive use of the elearning platform, Moodle, by Duke University School of Medicine’s Jeffrey P. Baker, MD, director of the History of Medicine Program at the university’s Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and History of Medicine. His presentation of the history of medicine described the holistic emphasis of early times giving way to a focus on disease, how “medicine was transformed from an art to an applied science.” The path medicine has taken to become what it is today fascinated the students. Many, heavily burdened with the oppressive demands of med school studies, appreciated the opportunity to follow the course online at times of their own choosing.

The Caring Spotlight Experience (CSE) module, designed and coordinated by Thalia Arawi, pursued the humanization of the profession from another route: students were assigned specific AUBMC outpatients to shadow through their clinical experience. Accompanying the patient from check-in to waiting room, from MRI to mammography, and finally to the MD’s office, the students actually walked in the footsteps of the patient, vividly participating in his/her visit to the Outpatient Department. The CSE module, wrote one student, “makes us know what the patient might think, feel, be afraid of during a check-up . . . , a surgery, so we would know how to communicate with patients [and] address their fears and concerns.” Tarek al Ariss noted how deferential patients are to doctors. The students documented everything they witnessed: both patients’ and family members’ attitudes and responses, encounters with staff, and time spent in waiting rooms and at other facilities. The module also included a two-hour anatomy lesson that promoted a more respectful attitude toward the human cadaver. In January, having completed their four modules, Med 1 students held a memorial for the cadavers, honoring their “first patients” with a moment of silence and prayer lit by candles.

**Focusing on illness rather than disease, playing down “cure,” stressing “a more comprehensive restoration of wholeness to the patient’s person and being”—all suggested an entirely new physician-patient relationship.**

Each module offered many “eye-openers;” “becoming a doctor” was quite different from what students had expected. Focusing on illness rather than disease, playing down “cure,” stressing “a more comprehensive restoration of wholeness to the patient’s person and being”—all suggested an entirely new physician-patient relationship.

The new course is part of restructuring and renewal of the entire medical school curriculum begun in 2007 under the leadership of Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education Ramzi Sabra (BS ’81, MD ’85). Students, faculty, members of the administration, and education experts from the United States and Canada are taking part in the ongoing process. Currently PPS 2 is under development and will be offered to second-year medical students in the future.

-J.M.C.
Published & Produced

Exhibits

1. **SAMIR SAYEGH**
   Former AUB lecturer Samir Sayegh is participating in *Tariqah*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE, through October 24, 2014.

2. **THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB**
   *AUB Student Handwritten Magazines* (1899-1933), open to the public May 29-June 5, West Hall Common Room.

3. **ALI CHERRI**
   Ali Cherri (GD '00), at the Helsinki Photography Biennial, commissioned project on the archives of the Finish Photography Museum, Finland, through May 14, 2014; also *Songs of Loss and Songs of Love*, group exhibition at Gwangju Art Museum, South Korea, May 2014.

**BYBLOS BANK ART GALLERY**

*Critical Machines*, at the Byblos Bank Art Gallery, AUB, through June 26, 2014.

**AUB ART GALLERY**

*Art in Office: Artworks from around AUB Campus*, AUB Art Gallery, Sidani Street, Hamra, opens April 29, 2014.

**CEDARS IN THE PINES**

The first exhibition to commemorate the history of Lebanese immigrants who have made North Carolina their home since the 1880s, *Cedars in the Pines*, at the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, North Carolina, through August 31, 2014. Admission is free.

**Film**

Lebanese filmmaker Philippe Aractingi’s latest film *Heritages* (Mirath) narrates the history of his family across five generations and 100 years.

**On Stage**

Christiane Karam (BS ’94), workshops and performances in Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East.

More online
AUB Trustee Marwan Muasher (former student 1972-75), The Second Arab Awakening—And the Battle for Pluralism (Yale University Press, 2014) offers thoughtful reflections on political change in the Arab world dating back to the first Arab awakening that began in the late nineteenth century.

Currently vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment where he oversees research on the Middle East, Marwan Muasher previously served as Jordan’s ambassador to the United States (1997-2002), foreign minister (2002-04), and deputy prime minister (2004-05). With his extensive background in the Middle East and the United States and experience in the worlds of diplomacy, development, civil society, and media, Muasher offers a unique and nuanced perspective.

He argues that it was simplistic to think three years ago that removing despotic rulers would lead inevitably—and quickly—to the establishment of democratic and pluralistic regimes. He also faults those who have concluded that the opportunity for change has passed. According to Muasher, “it will take decades to build the foundations of political systems that actually defend democracy and preserve its basic tenets year after year. Some countries will succeed in this process, others will struggle, and yet others will fail.” The key to success, he argues, lies in a genuine commitment to democracy, pluralism, and human rights, by all the parties involved.


AUB Dean of Student Affairs Talal Nizameddin, Putin’s New Order in the Middle East (London: Hurst, 2013). Nizameddin, who also teaches at AUB, has drawn on his more than 20 years of experience studying and researching Russia and the Middle East to write what has been described as “a masterful guide to the complexities of Russian policy in the Middle East.” He chronicles how Vladimir Putin has become an historic Russian figure focusing primarily on the impact that Russia’s growing prominence in the world has had on the Middle East.

Former FAFS Professor P. L. Pellett and Research Associate Sossy Shadarevian (BS ’61), Food Composition: Tables for Use in the Middle East, 3rd edition (AUB Press, 2013). First published in 1963, this volume is still in high demand by students of nutrition as well as individuals interested in its nutritional details, recipes, and English-Arabic translations of some popular food items.

Alumnus Faisal Abu-Izzeddin (BS ’65, MS ’69), Memoirs of a Cedar–A history of deforestation, A future of conservation (Shouf Biosphere Reserve, 2013). An independent environmental consultant and senior adviser to the Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Abu-Izzeddin has written an engaging account of the cedar trees and forests of Lebanon. The book includes many illustrations and a rich collection of quotes attesting to the importance of Lebanon’s cedar trees throughout history.

AUB instructor Jasmine Najjar, Beirut Knights (Beirut: Turning Point, 2013). This light-hearted fun read recounts the fictional travails of Nadia and her friends as they navigate the Beirut dating scene.

Helen Wadsworth Mugrditchian, Remembering the Dietary Department–American University of Beirut Medical Center 1945-1987 (2013). Mugrditchian shares stories and reflections from the more than 40 years she spent at the AUB Medical Center before retiring as director of the Dietary Department in 1987. The book is illustrated with some wonderful old photographs and what the author describes as her “rough drawings.”
Her resistance culminated in her appearance at the Syrian Protestant College in 1928 to lecture, without the veil. According to historian Albert Hourani, she was the first Arab woman to remove her veil in public.

The young woman beams pertly from the cover of *Memoirs of An Early Arab Feminist: The Life and Activism of Anbara Salam Khalidi*. She is wearing a stylish mid-calf dress in the manner of the 1920s, her hair cut in a bob, her pose relaxed and confident. Anbara Salam, in her mid-twenties at the time this picture was taken, had come a long way. The journey that started with an imposed veiling (“... and so it was that I entered this iron cage at 10 years of age, stumbling in my shawl, and joining my mother and her mother before her”), was fraught with challenges. She could no longer play or climb trees with her brothers. She was prevented from attending a lecture at the age of 14 at the Syrian Protestant College (SPC) because her status as a veiled woman would not allow it. Her resistance to the shackles represented by her veil culminated in her appearance at SPC in 1928 to lecture, without the veil, effectively ending what she described as her imprisonment. According to historian Albert Hourani, she was the first Arab woman to remove her veil in public.

The quest for freedom—personal, political, and social—pervades the book. Khalidi celebrates prominent leaders, including her fiancé, Abdel Ghani Arayssi, who was hanged by the Ottoman Jamal Pasha. She describes the absence of sectarian tensions as the Arab intelligentsia stood united against Ottoman rule, citing, as an example, editorials by Muslims in Christian newspapers, and vice versa. She also includes a description of some remarkable young Arab women, pioneers in social activism, literature, culture, and education.

Perhaps the most poignant passage in the book describes the events of 1918 when Khalidi woke one morning to hear that Turkish rule had been replaced by Arab rule. The Turks withdrew, the governor leaving hurriedly in a convoy. Reading about this almost a hundred years later, one can feel the exhilaration of the Beirutis. An Arab government was established, and Fatima Mahmassani, last survivor of her family after her two brothers were hanged, was selected to raise the Arab flag over the Serail. And then, the shock: news that the country had been placed under French mandate. Occupation was again imminent.

In the words of its author, “Join me as I travel the thorny road traveled also by the women of my generation who sought knowledge, dignity, and self-respect.” *Memoirs* is an invitation you should accept. You will not regret it.

-Mishka Mojabber Mourani (BA ’76, MA ’81, DIPLM ’83)
Almost everyone at AUB must have spoken with Post Office counter clerk George Musa some time over the past 34 years, but who is he?

George Musa began working at AUB when he was only 14 years old, first as a messenger in the Department of Education for ten years, then at the Post Office starting in 1980.

Musa likes working with people: daily he helps students, professors, and staff, alerting them to constant changes in the price of stamps, outlining special mail services, and generally processing the sending and receiving of mail.

He gives special help to students; each semester he assigns their post boxes and frequently directs them to important places on campus.

In summer Musa is a daily swimmer at the AUB Beach. But the best thing about working at AUB are the health insurance and educational benefits for his two children.

Elia, 23, graduated from AUB with a degree in business accounting in 2011; Wael, 20, joined AUB this spring and is majoring in public administration.

Email is high on the list of changes Musa has seen over the years. The volume of traditional Post Office mail has decreased noticeably. Before computers, at Christmas time the Post Office might handle some two thousand pieces of mail each day.

Musa has seen changes in people, too. Before the civil war everyone seemed more open, forthcoming, ready to talk. Nowadays, he finds students, professors, and staff, more reserved, closed in, living in their own private worlds. -J.M.C.
Since January 2014, students have mobilized to protest a proposed hike in tuition rates. Looking back at four months of heated debates, Outlook staff writer Nerses Arslanian writes that education is a right, but it should be treated as a privilege.

The protests on campus have struck a chord with me and left a strong impression. Seeing fellow students working together for the same cause instead of competing for grades is a sight for sore eyes. The ongoing progress of the protests and later developments, along with the belief that education is a right and not a privilege, have given me the opportunity to do some serious thinking.

Make no mistake, education is an important part of molding younger generations into responsible, conscientious adults, aware of the problems and issues of the world in day-to-day life. No one should be denied a future based on his or her socioeconomic status, sect, or creed. However, I find it hard to accept that education at a prestigious institution should be considered a right when there are other institutions that are just as capable of providing the same service (even if the quality of the service is different in other colleges, one of the main points students make to administrators is about the declining quality of services). Not to discourage those who are fighting for their rights, but education is about being socially responsible and growing as an individual. AUB is not the only college in the world to offer that. Once education becomes a right, once it is available to all people of socioeconomic status (as it ought to be in an ideal world), it starts to be taken for granted. Remembering how high school students take their work for granted (e.g., how I myself sometimes doubted the point of memorizing homework, etc…) made me think about how most people aren't fully aware of how lucky they are to be in college in the first place. To be blunt, I myself have passed through this anti-institutional phase when I saw universities as a scam to make money off of students and to normalize people to conform into society as “responsible adults.” But that is not the case and not what I came to learn now as I look back. It is really about challenging yourself as an individual to help you learn how to think for yourself by making day-to-day value decisions, to learn about choosing what to think about (based on what you decide to major in, what you learn about your interests and ambitions, and so on…) and, most importantly, to know what kind of person you are by knowing what kind of people you find yourself most comfortable with, and building long-lasting, meaningful connections that define your long-term value system.

Students may be right in assuming the increase in tuition is the administration's way of restricting students from different socioeconomic backgrounds from enrolling, and it is just as reprehensible to increase the financial burden on already enrolled students. Nevertheless, with what I said in mind, it really doesn't make a difference if you understand what I'm trying to get at. Education is a right, but it should be treated as a privilege.

-Nerses Arslanian

*Reprinted with Permission from Outlook, Vol XLVI, No. 24, April 23, 2014*
# By the Numbers

## Campus

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<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>The tuition increase for current students</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>The tuition increase for incoming students</td>
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<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>Students who gathered outside College Hall to peacefully protest tuition hikes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Students who signed a petition objecting to 6 percent tuition hike</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Tents outside College Hall for the Occupy College Hall student movement</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Members of 2013-14 University Student Faculty Committee Tuition Increase Committee</td>
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# By the Books

## Course: LDEM 204 Cultural Landscapes

### SYLLABUS

The course (design studio) is taught collaboratively with students and teachers in three countries. The goal is to train students to answer the question: “What does a more sustainable future look like for my site/community?” Groups of four to six students choose a site/community of focus in Lebanon, Egypt (American University in Cairo), or central Massachusetts (CalArt) and assemble a creative answer to the basic sustainability question for that setting. Half of the answer involves technical innovation with collaboration among a broad range of disciplines (environmental science and landscape design as cornerstones). The other half involves social and political innovation with collaboration among diverse social groups that represent affected communities (anthropology as a cornerstone).

### CLASS TIME

Lectures provide a common platform and foundational knowledge. Students work in groups in weekly classroom sessions to craft their projects with instructors as guides. Projects include film, performance, music, social justice actions, and more. Students upload their work and connect online to find partners in other communities that share common interests. They eventually meet in person but some works are created or at least started via online communication.

### BIO

Rabih Shibli is a lecturer in the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management, which he joined after receiving his master’s in urban design from AUB in 2006. The course, originally titled Remodeling Harshscapes grew out of Rabih’s personal experiences during the post-2006 war reconstruction process, and while working with students in 2008 to redesign and transform the problematic spaces around two impoverished Beirut neighborhoods: Sabra Market and Karm el Zeitoun. A CCECS associate director, Rabih also leads the Community Development Projects unit. In this capacity he works with students from disciplines across AUB to apply the conceptual framework of Harshscapes to sites in Lebanon.
A behind-the-scenes peek at the AUB Choir practice in West Hall as they get ready for their spring performance.

01 The choir is practicing *Neue Liebeslieder* by Johannes Brahms and *Light Mass* by Vytautas Miškinis.

02 Olga Bolun, the accompanist, has played the piano and harp since the age of 5. She was 10 when she performed with an orchestra for the first time.

03 Choir director Thomas Kim’s first concert at AUB was in Christmas 2010. His favorite choral production? J.S. Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* by Helmuth Rilling. Favorite food? Bagels with salmon.

04 Claire and Janmarie are having a heated discussion about the role of the UN in Lebanon. Claire works on UNICEF’s national campaign. She was in Baalbek and just made it to practice in time.

05 Lynn is an education student with an emphasis on music and the arts. Her favorite musical piece is *Sonata No. 2* by Mozart.

06 Leila, a philosophy master’s student, FHS research assistant, and animal rights activist, performs the alto solo.

07 Meike is a theology student at the Near East School of Theology (NEST).

08 OSB professor of marketing Lawrence Leigh occasionally takes tango classes and participated in the Beirut International Tango Festival at AUB recently. His motto in life— if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly!

09 Jean and Ingrid are discussing the movie *August: Osage County*.

10 Hala, the director of the Office of International Programs on campus, has raised a family of music lovers! Her two kids play piano and violin and love to come to concerts to watch their mother and grandmother (Jean in 9) sing.
Kinda Hatoum led a team of mechanical engineering students including Gacia Kekejian (driver); Rayya Karaa (reserve driver); and Farah Cheaib, Joe El Asmar, Georgio Haddad, and Johnny Khalil to the Philippines in early February to participate in the Asia Shell Eco-Marathon 2014. The car, which was originally built for a final-year project in spring 2012, was modified in 2013 and again in 2014 under the supervision of Professor Kamel Abou Ghali and Ghassan Deeb, manager of the mechanical engineering labs. Hatoum and his classmates made a number of changes to the vehicle before they left—fuel inlet to the carburetor, frontal brakes, bearings, and tires—and had to improvise on the spot to deal with some unexpected problems. The team persevered though, finishing 13 among the 44 participants in the gasoline category.
Yaqub Sarruf was born in 1852 in Al Hadath near Beirut and attended the Abayeh American School. He enrolled at SPC in 1866. After he graduated in 1870, Sarruf taught for three years in Sidon and later in Tripoli before returning to SPC to teach Arabic, mathematics, and physics. It was in 1876 while he was an instructor at the College that Sarruf began to publish *Al-Muqtataf*. Several SPC graduates and faculty members contributed articles to the journal including Dr. William Van Dyck, son of SPC founder Cornelius Van Dyck.

Sarruf was at SPC when another AUB founder, Dr. Edwin Lewis, made his now infamous Commencement speech in July 1882 in which he spoke about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. The speech, which was written originally in Arabic, was published in *Al-Muqtataf*. So too were letters both critical and supportive of Edwin Lewis’ speech.

It was also in 1882 that the College’s Board of Managers voted to establish two adjunct professorship positions in 1885 for Yaqub Sarruf and SPC alumnus Faris Nimr (BA 1874). In July 1884, however, the College very suddenly and without explanation, withdrew their offers to both men while “at the same time commending them for their ability and assiduity during their long term of service.”

A number of explanations have been offered for this abrupt decision including Sarruf and Nimr’s involvement in local politics, their support for the student protests that erupted at SPC after Dr. Lewis’ dismissal, and the College’s desire “not to promote any natives to professorial rank . . . ”

Surprisingly, given its decision in 1884 not to offer them faculty positions, SPC’s Board of Trustees voted to award Yaqub Sarruf and Faris Nimr the College’s first honorary doctoral degrees in 1890.

Sarruf died in Cairo in 1927.

In 1930, the Egyptian Alumni Association had a statue of Yaqub Sarruf delivered to campus; today it stands behind Ada Dodge Hall.

1 Stephen B.L. Penrose, Jr., *That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut 1866-1941*, page 69.
2 Shafik Jeha, *Darwin and the Crisis of 1882 in the Medical Department*, page 130.
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<td>Art in Office</td>
<td>An eclectic exhibition lifts a cross section of art literally off AUB office walls and into the AUB Art Gallery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change Agents</td>
<td>Scholars in HeAlth Research Program researchers are in the fast lane to beat a regional rise in cancer, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disorders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pursuits</td>
<td>Current research in cancer therapies, food technologies, and the environmental impact of vegetable oil spills; quiz: match professors and partners in research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery/Rediscovery</td>
<td>Fascinating fish fossils and more in Post Hall’s esoteric Geology Museum.</td>
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<td>AUB Spaces</td>
<td>The industrial and decorative applications of innovative light harvesting systems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>R+D</td>
<td>Melissa Anne Stockman, PhD 2014, Electrical and Computer Engineering, is using artificial intelligence to make microchips mega fast.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under Discussion</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Agricultural Sciences Jad Chaaban (BA ’99) discusses Lebanon’s brain drain.</td>
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Art in Office

One of the most eclectic and fun exhibitions that AUB has mounted recently, Art in Office lifts a cross section of art literally off AUB office walls and into the AUB Art Gallery. There it is displayed, along with texts written by (temporarily) deprived office occupants, taking on new life and meaning. Works range from framed comic book pages from Henry Matthews’ (Office of Communications) encyclopedic Arabic comic collection, to Professor Samir Khalaf’s sober black and white photographs of venerable sociologists. There are fine sketches of AUB notables drawn by Farroukh (courtesy of Archives) nestled alongside cartoons, caricatures, and posters all mingled with somber oil paintings of the founding fathers of the Syrian Protestant College. The fanciful flowers that brighten up Arabia Ali Osseiran’s day (Alumni Relations) are juxtaposed with David Roberts’ works are prized by modern scholars for their detailed accuracy of ancient sites, many of which have suffered damage or collapse since his visit.”

- Philosophy professor Robert Myers

- Kathy Dorman

- Kathy Dorman
Roberts prints (Marquand House). Riad Dimechkie’s (OSB) favorite photograph and Reza Abedini’s (Architecture) installation showcase their own creative skills. According to legend as told by David Kurani, senior lecturer of fine arts, the panoramic mural of campus, purloined from West Hall, was meticulously executed by a professor perched in a boat anchored off the Corniche. The personal commentaries place the art in the context of daily office life but, sadly, perusing them is problematic. Often positioned at navel level or lower, and written in tiny, pale font, these narratives are hard to decipher. Thus this exhibition comes with a health warning: best enjoyed by those with a strong back and 20/20 vision.

-M.A.
The Eastern Mediterranean region has seen a disturbing rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in recent years, especially cancer, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disorders. “Unfortunately,” says FHS Professor Abla Sibai (MS ’86) “there are very few local researchers working in this area presently.” That situation is changing because of the Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) that AUB launched in July 2013. “Our goal,” explains SHARP Director Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan (BS ’79, MD ’83) “is to graduate ‘change agents’ who are able to bridge the worlds of research and academia, clinical practice management, and health policy.”

SHARP is funded by a four-year $863,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, one of only two awards granted to institutions outside the United States. It includes a summer certificate program and an MS in health research offered jointly by FM and FHS, the first of its kind in the region. The program is unique, offering an intensive summer course in quantitative methods, a multidisciplinary curriculum, hands-on...
“Words are not enough to describe the role that SHARP played in my intellectual, personal, and career growth.”

Two recent FM graduates are already putting their knowledge to the test in postdoctoral fellowships at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Victor Nauffal (BS ’09, MD ’13) credits the program with giving him all the skills he needs—and more. Dr. Mohamad El Zein (BS ’08, MD ’12) describes SHARP as “a turning point in my career.” Two Harvard Medical School hospitals are also home for SHARP graduates. “Words are not enough to describe the role that SHARP played in my intellectual, personal, and career growth,” says Dr. Maroun Yammine (BS ’09, MD ’13), currently at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Rami Kantar (BS ’08, MD ’13), who is at Massachusetts General Hospital, advises all physicians to “take the types of courses—library sciences and informatics, biostatistics, medical ethics—that we took last summer.”

Nauffal, El Zein, and Yammine presented projects on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, completed under the mentorship of Robert Habib (BS ’84) at recent meetings at the NIH, the Annual Meeting of Thoracic Surgery, and the American College of Cardiology.

Habib, who directs the SHARP summer program, credits the students for much of the success of the program so far. “We could not imagine that our students would be so eager to learn—and that they would be able to produce—and publish—such excellent work so quickly.”

Three SHARP summer graduates, Maya Barake (BS ’02, MD ’06), Karine Al Feghali (BS ’08, MD ’12), and Marlene Chakhtoura, are now enrolled in the MS program. “In just my first semester, I was able to design a randomized controlled trial comparing the effect of different doses of vitamin D administered during pregnancy on maternal and neonatal health outcomes and have submitted it for funding. It is a subject I have been interested in for a long time,” says Chakhtoura.

“The speed of SHARP’s outstanding success speaks to the need for this program, the competitiveness of its graduates, the dedication of its summer program director, and our skilled faculty. But this is only the start. We plan to introduce SHARP to the region and offer blended learning modules, so this novel program becomes more accessible to health-care professionals outside Lebanon,” reports Dr. El-Hajj Fuleihan.

AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business has re-accredited the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business.

There was a special exhibition at the AUB Museum in January-February. Organized by the Society of the Friends of the AUB Museum with the National Museum of Carthage, The Young Phoenician Man of Carthage showcased a reconstruction of a Phoenician man, whose 2500-year-old skeleton was discovered in Tunis, in 1994.

The AUB Choir and Choral Society performed a wonderful program in Assembly Hall on April 28 featuring Brahms’ Neue Liebeslieder and Miškinis’ Light Mass.

More than 100 scholars from 15 countries traveled to Beirut in January to participate in CASAR’s fifth annual Transnational American Studies conference. Among the topics that they discussed: gender, religion, sexuality, and race in the context of transnational American studies.

The Issam Fares Institute organized a one-day symposium on the refugee crisis in the Middle East on March 13.

The Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) and the Department of Mathematics hosted a workshop on algebra, Lie groups, and related topics in April.

The 2014 International Organic Chemistry Competition OC3 took place in Issam Fares Hall in January.
Developing targeted therapies for human leukemias is the primary focus of my research. The outcome of my previous research on Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia and Adult T cell leukemia led to the discovery of several targeted therapies and to enhanced understanding of how existing therapies work. I have done studies specifically targeting leukemic stem cells in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) using the combination of Interferon and arsenic trioxide. My research team has been able to show that this combination inhibits the proliferation of CML cell lines, keeps primary CML bone marrow cells from duplicating, and more importantly, prolongs the survival of CML mice through the targeting of CML stem cell activity. I am also doing research on the role of microRNA in cancer, especially breast cancer. MicroRNA seem to correlate with disease onset and progression and so are potential biomarkers that could help with the early detection of breast cancer, which is urgently needed.

My research interests are broadly divided into three areas: product development of local foods, sensory methodology, and the nexus of sensory and nutrition/medical research. I have conducted studies on the shelf-life of frozen chicory, the development of a carob-based dairy beverage, and preference mapping of concentrated yogurt (labneh) on the Lebanese market. I have also developed an Arabic version of the nine-point hedonic/acceptability scale, which is badly needed in the Arab world for marketing research and product development.

I am particularly interested in the nexus of sensory evaluation and nutrition/medical research because of the impact this line of research might have on people’s health. I am collaborating with colleagues from the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department and the Faculty of Medicine to develop low-salt Arabic/pita bread that bakes well and tastes good. My graduate student, Nathalie Barakat (BS ’12), who coincidentally did an internship at a major Lebanese bakery, is leading this project.

There has been a steady growth in the global production of vegetable oils during the past decade prompted by rising demands for food and a worldwide increase in the production of biodiesel. Perhaps not surprisingly, there has also been an increase in the number of spillages of vegetable oils as they are transported, handled, and stored with greater frequency to meet this demand. Although there have been no accidents of note in the Mediterranean yet, there have been serious incidents in North America. The harmful effects of vegetable oil spills on the aquatic environment have been well documented. In 1994, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expanded existing regulations concerning the cleanup of oil spills to include vegetable oils and animal fats. There is still a lot we don’t know though about how various types of vegetable oils affect aquatic environments. I am conducting research to evaluate how specific vegetable oils such as canola oil and sunflower oil affect aquatic environments. I’m also exploring what effect oil additives, namely antioxidants, have on the fate and impact of spilled vegetable oils.
### Border Crossing

Some people will go to the ends of the earth for a research project. Match AUB professors and departments with their partners abroad.

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<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>London School of Economics, Middle East Centre and Cities Programme</th>
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<td>B</td>
<td>The Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) of Birzeit University (BZU) in the occupied Palestinian territory, and The Lancet</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>MAREX - coordinated by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Helsinki, Finland; 19 partners from 13 countries</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Copenhagen Business School</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University and Penn State Hershey College of Medicine</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, Regional and Urban Economics Lab – NEREUS</td>
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### Discovery/Rediscovery

Opened in 1902, the Archaeological Museum is the third oldest museum in the Near East.
Tel: 961-1-340549, museum@aub.edu.lb, Hours: 9 am to 5 pm.

Post Hall is home to much more than AUB’s Archaeological Museum and its offices. On the second floor of this gracious old building is the Geology Department and its substantial museum featuring a collection of fossils, rocks, minerals, and maps, that illuminate the studies of geology students and fascinating visitors. In one of the displays, which concentrates on the Middle Cretaceous Period of the Mesozoic Era, you can see fossilized animals that lived 100 to 85 million years ago, including a surprisingly detailed example of Cyclobatidae, an extinct genus of stingray-like skate, and an ancestor of today’s stingray. The name “cyclo” is applied to fish in this genus because of their wheel-like shape, although a well defined tail can be seen as well. This revealing glimpse of the past is the result of the fish being buried quickly in very fine sediment when it died. The fast burial allowed its form to be fossilized with sharp definition in the pale limestone of northwest Lebanon, before any organic decay could begin. Many of the ancient fish, octopus, shrimp, and worms on display were found near Jbail, (Byblos) by geologists from the University. AUB’s fossil collection illustrates sea animal life from the area, including examples of rare and extinct species, to a degree that makes it of global importance to scholars. - K.D.
By pooling its resources, FAS is able to afford state-of-the-art research equipment that is used to support scientific research in the Kamal A. Shair Central Research Science Laboratory (CRSL). This core facility on lower campus is used by faculty and students in the natural sciences, engineering, medicine, health sciences, and agriculture. AUB researchers are investigating topics as varied as finding new drugs for cancer and other diseases; studying nanostructured materials for solar energy conversion, environmental remediation, biosensing, drug delivery, and other applications; and finding new dyes for nanostructured solar cells.

The CRSL is equipped with numerous instruments including a 300 MHz NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance), a scanning electron microscope, various types of spectrometers, and an electrochemical station. These are four of the instruments that are essential for associate professor of chemistry Tarek Ghaddar (BS ’93, MS ’95) who is conducting research on dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSC). Unlike conventional silicon-based solar cells, the low cost and easily manufactured DSSCs are made primarily of photosensitive dyes and nanostructured titania films and generate electricity by converting energy from light absorbed by the dye.

The goal of Ghaddar’s research, which is funded by AUB’s Munib R. and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources and the University Research Board, is to synthesize a new class of cyclometalated ruthenium complexes. He is seeking to demonstrate that these complexes can be used as light harvesting systems and increase the efficiency of photo-to-current conversion by more than 10 percent for large area solar cells.

A new class of complexes might increase the efficiency of photo-to-current conversion by more than 10 percent for large area solar cells.

Ghaddar’s research has critical implications for many industrial areas. It has also attracted the attention of designers because dye-sensitized solar cells can be created using various colors of dye, which make them attractive as decorative appliances.
Biggest discovery to date: I learned that patience and perseverance are the two most important components to finishing a PhD.

Where is this going? Microprocessors are found in everything from computers and phones to cars and clock radios. Recently, the amount of power a microprocessor uses has become a major design concern due to overheating issues as well as the proliferation of battery powered devices. Chips are now being designed so that portions of them can be turned “on” and “off” as needed to save power. You need to know though which parts of the processor a running program will need in the next few million instructions because shutting down a resource that is needed may reduce performance. In my research I have used machine learning (a branch of artificial intelligence) to predict which resources are needed while the program is running so as to minimize power and maximize performance.

Five years from now I would like to have my own software development company that uses my machine learning research as the backbone for the product. Machine learning can be applied to a large variety of problems so it could be a product related to cancer detection, pharmaceutical drug discovery/design, stock market prediction, or even personalized advertising.

How I got here: My advisers Professors Haitham Akkary and Mariette Awad have been the biggest influences on me. They led me to my PhD topic. Without their guidance and support I would not have succeeded.

What I’ll remember most about AUB: the view to the sea overlooking the Green Field.

Best moment of the day: I love finishing at the gym [in the Charles W. Hostler Student Center], walking up the stairs to upper campus, smelling the plants that line the road and watching the happy kitties play.
Emigration is a Lebanese tradition, but brain drain is a more recent phenomenon. Motivated by high salaries in petrodollar-rich countries, more rewarding business cultures, and an established network of Lebanese abroad, more than half of Lebanese university graduates, including students graduating from AUB, work overseas. People feel pushed to leave for other reasons as well: political instability, the high cost of living, a tight labor market for skilled graduates, and a mismatch between the educational programs being offered and the needs of the market. As a result, we are losing the country’s human capital and paying locally for an investment that has its returns abroad. AUB can play a large role in helping to remedy brain drain through lobbying and by identifying for Lebanese policymakers the bottlenecks that prevent the Lebanese economy from creating jobs: the high cost of infrastructure, electricity, and the red tape that governs the creation of companies. We can create and host a national roster that helps match job creators with job seekers. And we can create new diplomas in fields that answer local job needs.

For instance, we have an aging population. It is forecast that within 20 years, 15 percent of the Lebanese population will be over the age of 64. So we have a big need for nursing services and eldercare, and need to encourage students to pursue advanced diplomas in these fields. Energy experts and environmentalists are needed to help Lebanon become more energy independent.

Brain drain empties a country of much-needed knowledge and skills. It also means losing vocal, engaged people who can criticize the status quo and make change.

-N.W.
Wellness

AUBMC 2020, health, and medicine

Healthcare for the New Millennium

The Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center is set to transform medical care in the Middle East.

Check-Up: Curing Cancer

Beyond medical intervention, Dr. Hassan El Solh (BS ’76, MD ’80) discusses what everyone can do to prevent cancer.

The MS Connection

The director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center and the Abu-Haidar Neuroscience Institute Dr. Samia Khoury (MD ’84) is changing attitudes while treating MS through a multidisciplinary approach that provides a holistic experience for patients.

AUBMC News

More Help for the Heart: AUBMC launches a Cardiac Rehabilitation Program; iCAN (Intensive Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Disorders Treatment Program) treats adolescents who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, and/or family problems.

Sahteen

Fish fillet in Tahini sauce: tastes good, good for you?
In February, AUB announced that it had received the largest gift in its history. Inspired by AUBMC’s ambitious plans, Syrian-American businessman Jamal Daniel has donated $32 million in support of the AUBMC 2020 Vision. “The first-class medical staff, new recruits and long-time senior doctors and staff, are worthy of every encouragement by all of us as we begin to build for the future with hope. No place better exemplifies this hope with its focus on basic human needs and service to the community than AUBMC,” says Daniel.

The gift is already transforming the Medical Center and will impact patients and medical research for generations to come.

Born in Tartous, Syria, Jamal Daniel was five when he moved with his family to Beirut, where he completed his primary and secondary education. Although he himself did not attend AUB, his father, uncle, and wife Rania are all alumni. The University has always figured prominently in his life. “My family’s history with AUB runs deep. The University was always present during my teenage years in Beirut,” says Daniel. “My most vivid memories are of what I remember as our ‘Dream Walks,’ when we would go for walks on the AUB campus once or twice a month after family lunch. My father would recite to us his and my late uncle’s experiences as AUB students, and the history-making events that took place on campus.”

As President and Chairman of Crest Investment Company in Houston, Texas, Jamal Daniel has managed global investments in telecommunications, technology, media, manufacturing, oil and gas, and real estate. But it may be his work outside his professional career that best reflects his deep desire to help create a more stable and prosperous Arab world. In 2012, Daniel founded Al-Monitor (www.al-monitor.com), an online news outlet that provides original in-depth analysis of trends and events in the Middle East by well-known local and international experts on the region. Reflecting an all-encompassing and true “Pulse of the Middle East,” Al-Monitor was awarded the 2014 prestigious Free Media Pioneer Award by The International Press Institute in a ceremony held in Cape Town last April. His donation to AUB is one of numerous gifts to educational, artistic, and research institutions, many focusing on issues of the region, that he has made both personally and through his Levant Foundation.

“My faith in AUB, in Lebanon and in the New Levant in general is built first upon an optimism that grows out of my past in the region...”

“I feel the region’s revival is imminent and am eager to be a part of it. I encourage everyone to prepare for the healing, faith, and state of mind necessary to usher in the next phase.”

Working for the greater good, an integral part of AUB’s mission from the beginning, is vitally important to Daniel as well. “My faith in AUB, in Lebanon and in the New Levant in general is built first upon an optimism that grows out of my past in the region and, second, on my analysis of the ultimate dynamic fueling the region,” he says. “I feel the region’s revival is imminent and am eager to be a part of it. I encourage everyone to prepare for the healing, faith, and state of mind necessary to usher in the next phase.”
The Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center

The completion of the new center in 2016 will be an extraordinary achievement in AUBMC’s expansion. The 14-story Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center (DACC) will house outpatient clinics as well as major medical centers for teaching and clinical research in a variety of areas. At the DACC, AUBMC will be able to provide medical care under one roof for patients requiring treatment in psychiatry, oncology, ophthalmology, heart and vascular diseases, and otolaryngology.

Located at the corner of Maamari and Abdul Aziz Streets in Ras Beirut, the 30,000-square-meter building will have a contemporary, eye-catching exterior. With a floor plan that makes optimal use of the space and available natural light, the DACC is poised to be the most modern facility of its kind in Lebanon.

-N.W.
Check Up: Curing Cancer

MainGate talked to AUBMC’s Dr. Hassan El Solh, chief of staff, director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, and director of the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon.

Dr. Hassan El Solh

Q. What is your role at AUBMC?
A. As chief of staff in medical administration, I oversee many functions including patient care, resource utilization, risk management, credentialing and privileging of medical staff, professional practice evaluation, and infection control. I work with a very qualified and motivated team. Our objective is that AUBMC medical and clinical operations be patient-focused, not staff- or physician-focused.

As the director of the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBI) and of the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL), I oversee the operational establishment of new cancer programs and the expansion/development of existing programs. NKBI has partnerships with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston that include exchange programs and research projects. CCCL is the result of a tripartite partnership of the CCCL Foundation, AUBMC, and St. Jude Cancer Research Hospital (SJCRH) in Memphis. It provides full medical care and financial coverage for children with cancer.

In addition, I still continue my clinical practice including clinics and inpatient services, dealing with management of cancer patients, and stem cell transplantation. My specialty is pediatric cancer with a focus on stem cell transplantation, a field I was attracted to because of its potential for curing children with fatal diseases; cancer, hematological disorders, and immune deficiencies.

Q. What kind of treatment does AUBMC offer in relation to stem cell transplantation?
A. We have established two programs:
  • Allogeneic stem cell transplantation when we take the bone marrow or stem cells from someone other than the patient.
  • Autologous stem cell transplantation taking the stem cells from the patient him/herself.

Over the last year we have increased the number of stem cell transplants from about 40 to 100 per year. We have also developed new programs in terms of treatment, management, and follow-up like the haploidentical (when we transplant stem cells from a partially matched family member) and unrelated stem cell transplantation.

Q. What do we know about the incidence of cancer in Lebanon? Is it higher than in the west?
A. We have no evidence now that the incidence of cancer in our region is greater than in Europe, the United States, or Asia. Here at AUBMC we have many newly diagnosed cancer patients because we have referrals from across the region (Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and other countries). Certainly for children with cancer in Lebanon the figures are no higher than elsewhere. This is true even for children with certain types of immune deficiency or genetic diseases where there is a predisposition to develop cancer.

Q. People worry about environmental factors contributing to cancer. Can you address these concerns?
A. There is no question that certain environmental factors and lifestyle are associated with some types of cancer; for example, smoking with lung cancer, along with bladder and renal cancer.

There are studies of other environmental factors like damaging emissions from high voltage power lines or particulate matter from exhaust fumes, but there is still no hard evidence to really prove this association. Of course exposure to radiation, benzene derivatives, organic solvents, pesticides, and dyes is associated with certain cancers like leukemias and lymphomas.

Q. What about skin cancer?
A. There is a predisposition to skin cancer from exposure to ultraviolet rays and clearly too much exposure will increase that risk. People should have regular skin checks; if ever they have a skin lesion that looks elevated or abnormal in color they should rule out skin cancer and melanoma, a type of skin cancer that can spread into the body systems. People need to be more careful during the summer about protecting their skin and having checkups regularly.

Q. The role played by diet in cancer is also much discussed. What is the evidence for this?
A. Certain studies have looked at diets
that are rich in proteins (grilled animal meat and fat) that could be associated with colon cancer. The results are still under review. Some studies have shown that a fiber-rich diet could reduce the predisposition to colon cancer but we need more evidence-based studies.

Q. What about breast cancer? AUBMC researchers have identified certain genes in the Lebanese female population that indicate a role in breast cancer in young women.
A. There are specific genes associated with predisposition for breast cancer, and in Lebanon there are certain known ones; BRCA1 and BRCA2. We are also seeing breast cancer presenting in young women, and more advanced breast cancer at presentation than what has been reported in western countries. This could be due to a lack of proper screening, sometimes because patients fail to present for regular screening and also because of limitations in our region in the implementation of screening programs. Women who have not breastfed their babies are also at higher risk of breast cancer.

Q. Can you tell us about the genetic screening program?
A. We have a new program for genetic screening, the Cancer Genetics Clinic, to evaluate and counsel patients who may have a predisposition to cancer. Our understanding of genetic predisposition to cancer has increased enormously with the development of the human genome identification, so through these specific genetic tests we have much greater ability to identify people who may be predisposed to certain cancers during their life spans. With time the cost of testing for genetic predisposition will go down and we will be able to achieve even better diagnosis. This raises an ethical question. Do people really want to know if they have a predisposition to cancer? Also, if the physician knows this, should he/she inform the person? It is controversial as there is stress in knowing about a predisposition for cancer, so we offer advice and counseling for patients and their families.

Q. Screening tests are very important in early detection; perhaps you could identify which ones are recommended?
A. The following are the common tests/procedures for screening for cancer:
• Routine complete blood count
• Mammograms for breast cancer
• Chest X-rays or CT scans for patients who are at risk for lung cancer
• PSA test, which is a simple blood test for prostate cancer, that should be done annually or even once every two years
• Pap smears for cervical cancer
• Colonoscopy, after a certain age, for colon cancer
• Having moles and skin lesions checked for cancer
People should also have checkups if they have any symptoms or signs that could suggest the possibility of cancer.

Q. This is a difficult field but you seem very optimistic?
A. I am very optimistic. We have early and better diagnosis. Treatments have improved significantly and we have better survival rates, even for patients with recurrence, as we have new lines of treatment. In the 1960s the cure rate for children with cancer was around 20 percent, now it is 80-85 percent. This rate varies for adults but there are improvements for them as well especially for breast cancer and other cancers where you can diagnose at an early stage and intervene with surgery, with chemotherapy and radiation therapy if needed. We have programs for comprehensive management of cancer: supportive care, psychiatric and psychological counseling, which are important factors that contribute to the improved survival rate. At AUBMC, we have state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic equipment (radiology, laboratory, radiation therapy...), intensive care with cutting-edge technology, novel cancer medications, and superbly trained physicians and other health-care providers.

In the 1960s the cure rate for children with cancer was around 20 percent, now it is 80-85 percent.
Every time Dr. Samia Khoury (MD ’84) hears that multiple sclerosis has no cure, she feels something akin to indignation. “What diseases have cures?” she asks. “Does heart disease? Hypertension? Diabetes? Nothing has a cure. The only things we cure are infections. MS is like any other disease. You live with it and treat it and control it.” Dr. Khoury is the director of both the Multiple Sclerosis Center and the Abu-Haidar Neuroscience Institute (AHNI) and a professor of neurology at the Faculty of Medicine.

The key to treating MS, she says, is a multidisciplinary approach. Dr. Khoury and her fellow physicians at the MS Center work with specially qualified nurses and an in-house pharmacist to provide patients with the knowledge and support they need following a diagnosis. The nursing staff receive special training and are certified in MS care. The result is a holistic experience for patients who benefit from having information reinforced by every staff member they meet.

Much of the MS Center’s work consists of demystifying the disease and alleviating the pervasive fear and anxiety surrounding a diagnosis. Dr. Hala Darwish (BSN ’97, TD ’01) is managing director of the MS Center and AHNI and assistant professor of nursing at the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing with a joint appointment at the Faculty of Medicine. According to Dr. Darwish, treatment protocols in other countries don’t necessarily translate for patients in Lebanon. “In the US people already know about MS,” she says, “but in Lebanon it’s still a taboo [subject]. People hide their MS here, they don’t tell their friends. They’re afraid of it.” So it’s not surprising that Dr. Khoury cites changing patients’ attitudes as one of the center’s greatest achievements. “Patients’ expectations have changed,” she says. “Lebanon is a very patriarchal society. You go to the doctor and they tell you what to do. We’re changing that. We’re treating patients as partners. They have to participate in their own treatment, they have to understand what they’re doing and why.”

Along with changing attitudes, meeting the needs of regional MS patients also means conducting cutting edge research that is specific to people in the Arab world. According to Dr. Khoury, MS is about 30 percent driven by genetics and 70 percent by environment, and while environmental contributors are well documented in the west, “we don’t know all the factors that may affect the risk or course for MS in our population.” For example, low vitamin D is known to be a risk factor. Now, thanks to Dr. Khoury’s and Dr. Darwish’s research, the numbers have emerged that will paint a clearer picture of MS in Lebanon and enhance treatment of the disease. “We’re discovering a lot of things about our population that we can’t learn from looking at research in the western world,” says Dr. Khoury.

Patient numbers have tripled since the center opened, making it easier to collect credible data. But Dr. Khoury would like to see the center cast an even wider net. “What is needed is a center not only for Lebanon but for the region, where we could collaborate with other institutions and have good scientific connections, because we really need the numbers.” For now, the Multiple Sclerosis Center is committed to providing a new, more complete model of patient care, starting with teaching people that while there may be no “cure” for MS, there are numerous treatments available and advances being made right here in Lebanon.

According to Dr. Darwish, there is reason to be optimistic. “Cancer started this way,” she says. “For years, people wouldn’t even say the word. It was too frightening. But now it’s much better. I think it’ll be the same with MS. It’s just a matter of time and continuing to educate the public.”

-N.W.
AUBMC Dr. Ramzi Alami performed an innovative surgical procedure on February 12 to treat a patient with colon cancer, the first time in the region and only the second time worldwide that this surgery has been performed.

AUB has been awarded a five-year $2.1 million US federal grant to study novel tobacco products, such as electronic cigarettes.

AUBMC has been officially reaccredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI).

More Help for the Heart: AUBMC’s Expanding Cardiology Program

Cardiac rehabilitation decreases the risk of a heart attack, hospitalization, and death by 25 percent, improves cholesterol and blood pressure, reduces stress, and helps with weight loss. It comes as no surprise then that AUBMC has recently launched a Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, the first of its kind in the region. “It is a comprehensive outpatient program targeting people at-risk for, or with, cardiovascular disease,” explained Dr. Wael Al Jaroudi, assistant professor of medicine at the Division of Cardiology in the Department of Internal Medicine at AUBMC and the director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. “We are designing the program to maximize recovery and help patients resume an active and heart-healthy lifestyle. In the first phase of the program, we will be reaching out to individuals at risk of developing cardiovascular disease in Lebanon, to modify their risk factors, and preempt cardiac diseases and events.”

Al Jaroudi and his colleagues have started preparing for phase two of the project, which will target patients already diagnosed with cardiovascular disease.

iCAN (Intensive Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Disorders Treatment Program)

There is now an innovative new program at AUBMC for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, and/or family problems. “The Partial Hospitalization Program will positively impact the lives of our young patients in Lebanon,” explained Dr. Fadi Maalouf, assistant professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program. “It has been specially designed to address their needs.” The program, which was launched in fall 2013, offers a range of treatment plans. Participants meet in group sessions for three hours at a time once, twice, or three times a week for between six and 12 weeks. Group sessions are facilitated by a psychotherapist who is assisted by a psychology intern, and a nurse or psychiatry resident.
INGREDIENTS FOR FISH:
- 4 pieces of fillet of white fish, 150 g each
- 4 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt

INGREDIENTS FOR TAHINI SAUCE:
- 4 cups low fat yoghurt
- ¾ cup tahini (sesame butter)
- 2 tbsp corn flour, dissolved in little water
- 1 tbsp garlic, minced
- 4 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp white pepper
- Fresh chopped coriander
- Pinch of salt
- Roasted pine nuts (to taste)

PREPARATION:
- Marinate the pieces of fish with oil, ground coriander, cumin, paprika, and salt then place in oven proof dish and bake for 22 minutes at 200 degrees.
- In a cooking pot place the yoghurt and stir it on medium heat while adding the tahini and the corn flour, garlic and lemon juice, salt and pepper. Keep stirring until the sauce boils for a few minutes.
- Serve the fish fillet hot with tahini sauce on top and garnish with fresh coriander and roasted pine nuts if desired.

It is a fact that seafood and fish are an important part of a healthy and balanced diet and may even help promote heart health and children’s growth. Fish is considered an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, and selenium. Despite some fish being labeled as “fatty fish,” they are actually low in calories and saturated fat.

When it comes to savouring the fish, it can be consumed either cooked, raw or smoked. It’s always best to cook seafood thoroughly to minimize the risk of food borne illness. For maximum health benefits, broil, grill or bake your fish and avoid frying it.

-Thuraya

AUB is currently on par with top institutions in providing scientists with sophisticated tools to perform complex experiments. We can now probe cells and tissues with high resolution and understand the underlying mechanisms of disease.

-M.S.
Impact

Regional impact, advocacy, and policy initiatives

Providing Cover

AUB's Syria Relief Project expands as the needs of the displaced become more urgent day after day.

Quiet Please

Mapping noise pollution, assessing its impact, and finding ways to address it in Ras Beirut and on campus.

Heartfelt Congratulations

Happy Birthday Brave Heart! 10 years of life-saving surgeries for children with congenital heart disease.

Food Insecurity

The human rights dimensions of food security and how FAFS has positioned itself to make a difference.
Providing Cover

With over one million Syrian refugees officially registered in Lebanon, and countless others not accounted for, the needs of the displaced are reaching epic proportions. Among this million plus population, an estimated 53 percent are children under 18. In the absence of a national response plan, relief agencies are struggling to meet the basic needs of refugees, which include a fundamental expansion of the educational infrastructure.

Building on its strong track record in civic and community engagement, the wealth of expertise among its faculty and staff, the dynamism of its student clubs and activists, in October 2012 AUB initiated the Syria Relief Project (SRP), offering support to communities of Syrian refugees directly and by influencing national policies and interventions (see MainGate, fall/winter 2014).

In February 2014, the AUB Community Development and Projects unit (CDFu), at the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS), partnered with a local NGO, KAYANY Foundation, working with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), on a project entitled

**Among this million plus refugee population, an estimated 53 percent are children under 18.**

Ghata: Bringing Education to Informal Tented Settlements. The project aims to provide schooling for refugee children by constructing portable classrooms within their tented settlements, and training qualified teams from the targeted communities to lead the educational process.

Each teaching module is hosted in an AUB-designed ghata (Arabic for cover), recently patented and officially approved by MOSA for use in Lebanon. These portable units are easily assembled, adjusted, and disassembled. They can endure severe weather conditions, and can be built by refugees from low-cost, locally sourced materials. Under the AUB-KAYANY initiative the standard 20-square-meter ghata is doubled to 40 square meters to accommodate a class of 45 refugee students. Portable materials are also used to create a food corner (kitchen) that offers two healthy meals a day to refugee students.
To date some 20 ghata classrooms have been erected to form “campuses” in two informal settlements in the Beqa’a known as Moukhayem Arab al Jilid and Moukhayem Arab al Italyani. The latter provides classroom space for some 700 children aged 4-16 years, the former can accommodate between 350 and 400 children. A teacher-training program for both Syrian and Lebanese teachers has been devised to deliver the Lebanese Arabic curriculum to the 1,000 plus student body.

As part of the ghata initiative, FEA professor Majdi Abou Najm, working in conjunction with the CDPu, has been exploring the use of solar panel electricity, solar cooking and, of vital importance in the prevailing drought conditions of the Beqa’a, the AUB-KAYANY semi-dry latrines project. As Abou Najm explains, “Widespread pollution from the primitive sanitation facilities in the Syrian refugee camps brings a new dimension to the water problem: not only are we dealing with limited water amounts (a quantity problem), but also pollution has rendered some of the groundwater aquifers unusable without considerable treatment (a quality problem). Dry sanitation targets a potential reduction in water usage by millions of daily flushes, and a significant reduction in wastewater treatment.”

The first four prototype low-cost toilet cubicles have been erected in the al Jilid camp. “This is the first time semi-dry sanitation units have been tested in Lebanon. We hope that this new model will turn into a reference to be adopted in other camps across Lebanon and beyond,” Abou Najm says.

Meanwhile, throughout the spring semester students from AUB’s University Scholarship Program, (USP II and USP IV) took on the sizeable task of sorting some three tons of donated clothes. Led by Lucinda Currell, wife of FAS English professor David Currell, the students sorted through the clothes mountain according to various categories: gender, type of item, and size, working from lists of refugee family needs. The clothes were part of a generous donation from various places—including a particularly large shipment from Switzerland imported into Lebanon with support from the Aramex freight company.

Commenting on this initiative, Malek Tabbal, FAS associate dean and director of the USP program, praised the students’ work. As another ton of clothes was set to roll in from the UK NGO Toys4Refugees, Tabbal outlined the next stage of the distribution chain. “There are plans for the students to create family packages to give to both needy Syrian and Lebanese families in the students’ respective hometowns. Each student will be asked to create a need-based profile of four or five families with basic information on the family background and clothing needs. Students will then distribute the items to families themselves thus increasing their sense of direct engagement with their own communities as well as with the refugees.”

-M.A.
Quiet Please!

Map shows findings for 3 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, a time of day with comparatively high noise levels.

What do AUB faculty from audiology, psychiatry, environmental health, psychology, English, fine arts, graphic design, computer engineering, construction management, and business information systems share with staff from the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department and students from the AUB Environmental Club? They have all had enough of the cacophony of noise that characterizes Ras Beirut. But, more than that, in one way or another they have all contributed to the creation of the campus noise maps shown here.

The faculty, staff, and students are all members of the Neighborhood Initiative-facilitated project Sawt wa Samt: The AUB Noise and Silence Research Group dedicated to studying the impact of noise, and exploring...
Map shows findings for 6 pm on Friday, April 19, 2013, when there is less noise.

A decrease in traffic after 6 pm accounts for lower noise levels 65 dBA.

Early evening traffic on the Corniche is noisy 73 dBA.

Dramatic reduction in noise on lower campus after construction ceases 55 dBA.

Noise levels are reduced after construction stops for the day 66 dBA.

66 dBA

06:00 PM apr 19 2013

how to illustrate and tackle, raise awareness about, and lobby against it. Theirs is a remarkable, cross disciplinary collaboration addressing the physical and mental health effects of noise pollution. Their approach ranges from purely scientific to creative and artistic and includes visual essays, theater performance, graphic design, and collection of hard facts with straightforward initiatives like campus noise measurement conducted by students from the Environmental Club. A Ras Beirut noise map and survey are next on the agenda.

-M.A.
Heartfelt Congratulations

Coming out of childhood into adolescence the Brave Heart Fund (BHF) has created a new look—a new logo, new brochure, a new corporate identity if you will, complete with an updated website and a new Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Campaign for 2014 supported by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health and headed by BHF goodwill ambassador, filmmaker Nadine Labaki.

Entitled This is not a film, the bilingual, multimedia campaign produced by Impact BBDO, and conceived and fronted by Labaki, includes billboards, press adverts, posters, and a TV spot. It will be followed by a host of classic BHF fundraising events. The pressure to raise funds is always present. The BHF needs over a million dollars a year for children’s surgeries; as a small, lean operation, it works nonstop to meet its targets.
Looking back over the last 10 years, BHF cofounders Joumana Atallah and Riham Serhan cannot believe how quickly the time has gone and how much has been achieved.

**Highlights include**

- Fruitful collaboration between the AUBMC Children’s Heart Center and BHF, leading to a dedicated pediatric cardiology team now responsible for almost 75 percent of all Lebanese pediatric cardiology surgeries. The team is led by pediatric cardiologist and BHF cofounder Dr. Fadi Bitar (BS ’82, MD ’86).
- No child with congenital heart disease in need of treatment is turned away—regardless of sex, age, nationality, or religion.
- Collaborations with stakeholders such as Impact BBDO and Impact Porter Novelli (IPN).
- A 10-year relationship with Beirut International Marathon and multi-year collaborations with other organizations.
- More than 2,400 children with congenital heart disease treated at the AUBMC Children’s Heart Center with the support of BHF.
- Last but not least, minimal overheads and 100 percent of all donations used to pay for surgeries during the last decade.

The gains, however, come at a cost. The continued success of the AUBMC Children’s Heart Center means that BHF must raise an additional 30 percent to cover the increased number of annual interventions. This year’s projection is more than $1.5 million. “The way that AUBMC’s pediatric cardiology center of excellence has developed is wonderful,” says BHF cofounder Riham Serhan. “The support AUBMC gives us is outstanding, but it means we have to work all the harder so that every child in need can be operated on.”

Joumana Atallah identifies several key challenges going forward. She stresses the need for financial stability, which means many more donors, and new volunteers to take over. “It should not be us in 10 years,” she insists. An advisory board and endowment are also on her wish list.

Dr. Fadi Bitar is proud of his association with BHF, and of the successes of the Children’s Heart Center and the BHF over the last decade. He mentions that “the BHF team has established and set the machine in motion. We will work with BHF to put a structure in place, and a plan for the next 10 years, as many children are now dependent on support from BHF.”

-M.A.
Good news. The worldwide “Global Hunger Index” (GHI) dropped from 20 percent of the world’s population in 1990 to 13 percent in 2013, meaning that in 2013, 842 million people worldwide were “food insecure”—that’s down from 868 million in 2012.

In the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region, the GHI remained at around 6 percent, although one quarter of Egypt’s population and almost half of Yemen’s remains food insecure. A recent study of three rural Lebanese communities found 19 percent of families to be food insecure.

The term sounds so clinical, so distant from the day-to-day realities that most of us will ever experience.

Scratch the surface, however, and you get closer to what food insecurity actually means as you encounter concepts like undernutrition, chronic hunger, and malnutrition. Dig a little deeper to get closer to the gritty realities: stunting; wasting; starving.

“Malnutrition doesn’t shout. It doesn’t cry—it is silent,” says Zerourai Azzeddine, UNICEF-Lebanon’s chief of health and nutrition, about the stunting, wasting, and starvation.

Such food insecurity created the despair that caused Tunisian fruit and vegetable seller Tarek Al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi to immolate himself in 2011, triggering the Arab uprisings. In fact, many experts point to the sharp spike in food prices that hit the MENA region in 2008 as primarily responsible for the recent regional tumult.

Such realities are not lost on AUB’s Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), which recently chose “food security as a human right” as one of four themes to guide its teaching and research activities.

FAFS Dean Nahla Hwalla (MS ’74, PhD ’77) explains: “The concept of food security bears complex and interrelated social, economic, and political dimensions that cannot be addressed separately. When compartmentalized thinking prevails, food security is narrowly perceived as an issue that can be addressed solely from the supply side by increasing agricultural productivity.”

In keeping with this new understanding and because “food security at national and household levels is one of the main causes of conflict in Arab countries,” several international organizations gathered for a workshop in Rome in January 2014 to discuss food security and conflict in the Arab world.

“This gathering came on the heels of FAFS’s seminal 2011 conference on Food Security in the Middle East and North Africa: The Role of Academic and Research Institutions.

It is no accident that AUB is in the vanguard of this effort to broaden and deepen scholarly work on food security in the MENA region. Dean Hwalla had, years earlier, recognized two things: First, the inter-connectedness that is becoming central to food security studies; second, that FAFS offered a perfect launching pad for multidisciplinary research to provide the information needed to address the issue.
Many experts point to the sharp spike in food prices that hit the MENA region in 2008 as primarily responsible for the recent regional tumult.

“We had all the components at FAFS, but we weren’t seeing each other and working together. We needed to deal not just with agricultural problems or nutritional problems or marketing or consumer education problems—we had to address the societal problems that connected them all.”

So faculty members started talking about the role FAFS could play to enrich knowledge about food security, particularly in the MENA region, and, more particularly, in Lebanon.

It didn’t take long to get members from the various departments—Agricultural Sciences, Nutrition and Food Sciences, and Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management—on board. Soon members from other departments and faculties were drawn into the work as well, including Biology and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

In the past several years, AUB faculty concerned about regional, national, and local food security issues have researched everything from the impact of food prices on nutrient intake, to ways to support urban agriculture, to the food security status of various refugee and minority communities in Lebanon.

FAFS scholars have used resources such as FAFS’s Agricultural Research and Education Center (AREC) in the Beqa’a, and the Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU). They have engaged in collaborations with the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Lebanon’s Ministries of Agriculture and Public Health, and academic organizations such as Georgetown University’s Qatar Center for International and Regional Studies. One scholar has even collaborated on a novel.

Hala Ghattas, PhD, director of FHS’s Center for Research on Population and Health, has brought her experience studying the social dimensions of health and nutrition to bear on her work. Among other things, she has found that “there are many misconceptions about what is nutritious. . . . Certain less well-educated households believe that imported food must be better, so they may want to give their children chips and chocolate biscuits.” She finds that some food-insecure adults sacrifice their own health in order to feed their children.

To AUB biologist Mounir Abi Said, PhD, part of the problem stems from two facts: farmers throughout the region are leaving the land, and those who remain may be replacing indigenous crops and techniques with exotic ones.

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Professor of Agriculture Shady Hamadeh and collaborator Mairi McLellan wrote Food Wars “to introduce global food issues to youth and expose them to the threats that the current global food system poses to food security. . . through the eyes of young heroes who decided to fight back.”

Teenagers from around the world awaken to the food insecurity posed by a few corporate giants and team up to. . . well, to save the world. A fun, hopeful, and eminently readable work, available at authorhouse.com and amazon.com.

Nahla Hwalla, Hala Ghattas, Anniebelle Sassine, and Karin Seyfert worked with others on “Development and Validation of an Arab Family Food Security Scale,” now under review by the Journal of Nutrition. Studying the food security situation among Palestinian refugees and southern Lebanese, they found that food insecure households spent less on food and were more prone to go into debt or accept gifts to feed themselves. They also found “the higher the educational attainment of the head of household, the lower the risk of food insecurity.” Equally important, the study validated the accuracy of the Food Security Scale, which can now be used as a means of measuring food security in other Arab countries.
And then there's water. Saudi Arabia abandoned a project to become “food sovereign” in wheat—producing what its people need—in the 1980s, after investing so heavily that it became the world’s sixth largest wheat producer. The cost of desalinizing water and aquifer depletion were unsustainable.

While Lebanon has more water than Saudi Arabia, importing 80 percent of its food makes it vulnerable to price fluctuations. Moreover, according to FAFS Associate Professor Nadim Farajallah (BS ’85), since Lebanon uses 60 percent of its freshwater for agriculture, climate change and population growth will cause “20-25 percent of people’s livelihood to be in jeopardy and thus their ability to fend for themselves and feed their families.”

FAFS Community Nutritionist Lamis Jomaa (BS ’04), who is new to the food security field, says, “It’s not just government policies and what households are doing. It’s the wars and conflict in the region. We have rates of malnutrition in Lebanon we haven’t seen since the civil war. . . . We have to address root causes, not just put in place a patchwork of solutions.”

-N.B.
AUB Everywhere

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

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A Matter of Opinion: With a delicate balance of passion and restraint on tough subjects, the veteran author and journalist Michael Young (BA ’85) is a trusted barometer of the political climate in Lebanon and the region.

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Newly elected leadership in Germany and Oman; 2014 Reunion; a call for volunteers to help form new WAAUUB chapters.

WAAUUB Around the Globe 52

Everything from family fun, picnics, sporting events, brunches, cocktails, and gala dinners, to career networking, intercultural films, expert lectures and serious art from Lebanon to California.

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Class Acts

News from class correspondents Taki Mahdessian (BBA ’64) and Lina Shihabuddin (BS ’85, MD ’89); reminiscences from Fayez Suidan (BA ’51, MD ’55) and Ward Wehbeh Christofi (BEN ’08); career moves, honors, impressive academic degrees, and growing families.

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Lina Khatib (BS ’98), director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, brings her formidable intellect to the daunting, but never dull project of liberal democracy in the Middle East.

The Reveal 65

Rana Chalabi (BA ’81) A Sufi artist brings a Zen state of mind to the busy streets of Cairo.
In conversation, just as in his columns, Michael Young (BA ‘85) chooses his words carefully. A writer who prefers analysis to bombast, Young has established a reputation in Lebanon and throughout the region for his carefully constructed (albeit with occasional suppressed fury) interpretations of the maelstrom that is Lebanese and Middle Eastern politics.

A veteran columnist and opinion editor for the Daily Star, and a regular contributor to NOW (New Opinion Workshop) and The National over the years, Young has made a significant contribution to political debate in the region. It’s a responsibility he takes in his stride after years on the job.

A PSPA major, Young recalls his AUB days with fondness: “I would rather talk about AUB than anything else. I look back on those years (1981-85) with nostalgia. Even though Lebanon was at war and there was the 1982 Israeli invasion, AUB was an exciting place. Beirut was compressed; there were not many outlets for one’s curiosity, but for me AUB provided them. I enjoyed my electives—history, literature, and archaeology. It was a release for us to break out of the closed environment and look at something beyond.”

With a master’s under his belt from Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies, Young returned to Beirut in 1992 to work for the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. His career with the Daily Star started on a freelance basis in 1997 when the newspaper resumed operations in Lebanon; in 2003 then-editor Rami Khouri hired him on a permanent basis. “I wanted an editor with proven technical skills: to spot factual error, suggest minor amendments, and rearrange text for clarity or simply for occasional elegance. I wanted punch and dazzle, an opinion page from across the ideological spectrum that accurately reflected a range of thought in and about the Arab region,” remembers Rami. “Young was, and remains, the most qualified person for the job.”

How does he choose his topics? “I think it is really events that one way or another push me to write about a topic. If I have a particular beef or am feeling angry about something that
helps. The best articles are when you are a little bit angry,” he admits. Regular readers will recognize some of his triggers, including the Assad regime and certain clergymen: “I don’t think it is the business of a cleric to interfere in politics,” he says.

Each Wednesday morning finds Young at his desk poised to write. Oftentimes he is not sure what he is going to write until he actually gets started. “An idea needs a hook and once you have that the rest follows. I don’t like pieces that are mere expressions of emotions. An article has to be based on facts and provide an analysis of what is taking place. The discussion has to progress logically and not simply state the same thing at the beginning and at the end. What I try to do is look at a situation from all angles, bring together different and confusing segments of reality, and sustain an argument.”

Has he always succeeded in this endeavor? Young’s one apparent regret is a piece written at the time of the assassination of journalist Samir Kassir. “I wrote under the impact of the event, saying justice would find his killers. It was the spirit of 2005, but in fact they didn’t find the killers and they never will, and when I look back on it I feel I was carried away by hope and expectation. A good piece needs to be grounded in reality. This sounds dry, but time and again the best pieces are when you look at reality coldly and reach conclusions based on what you see rather than what you would like to see.”

Young applies these same criteria to the pieces he selects or commissions for the Daily Star’s opinion pages. He runs three a day, a mixture of commissioned and syndicated works; he tries to establish a balance between the two, keeping in mind the paper’s budget limitations. What really stimulates him is a piece that tells him something he doesn’t already know. At the same time he appreciates the tightness and brevity of a columnist like David Ignatius who, in Young’s estimation, achieves a balance between analysis and reporting while including tidbits of news, all within 750 words. Other favorites include the late Christopher Hitchens and Charles Krauthammer of the Washington Post.

How does Young assess the impact of these pieces in a changing world dominated by internet access, online news, blogs, social media, and Twitter? Does he still see a place for this kind of finely balanced opinion writing?

“With the plethora of information swirling around, people are perhaps more open to opinion pieces than ever before,” he says. “Look at the impact of the Fox News Channel which is based primarily on opinion. People have quickly learned to create their own menus and combine media that interests them, and so they tend more towards opinion in compiling these sites. When I was growing up you bought a paper, and read it and that was how news was defined. Now you define the pages you want to read. That is what makes the internet stimulating, and that is where I try to position myself.”

How does his readership assess his position? “The feedback comes mainly through the website, and frankly 90 percent of it is totally uninteresting—people insulting me or trying to sound off. There is no real political debate.” In fact, he believes that readers in Lebanon view politics through a fractured prism. “Attitudes have changed, people follow politics but they are skeptical about the politicians. It’s somewhat schizophrenic. They simultaneously condemn the political class and are depoliticized, yet they remain loyal to the politicians.

“These days people react more to pieces on Lebanese society than they do to ones on politics. For example, when I wrote a piece on how cynical Lebanon had become, how someone was left in the street after being hit by a car and how different Lebanon is now compared to the country I grew up in, that triggered a response because it reflected what people are feeling. In many respects Lebanon feels worse off than 30 years ago. Problems manageable then do not seem manageable today, and by and large things have regressed. This is reflected in what journalists write, think, and feel. They mirror this reality and the reality is grim. There comes a time when you say, enough, I want to do something else.”

So does he have any regrets? “Not really, not regrets. I would like to write more books, but that needs discipline and good time organization. I am capable of doing this and I did it when I wrote my first book (The Ghosts of Martyrs Square), which was immensely stimulating; but a certain laziness takes hold and routine takes over. I regret it when I fall into routine.”

Perhaps Young has found an antidote to this routine. He is flirting with an outline for a novel centered on an investigation, based on a true story during the Lebanese war. Watch this space.

-M.A.
WAAAUB Events and Announcements

WAAAUB Recently Elected Leadership

**GERMANY**

Elie Touma (BEN ’82)
President

Bilal Khaddaj (BEN ’05)
Vice President
Mohamad Mounir El Dana (BEN ’09)
Treasurer

Member at Large:
Malek El Khatib (BEN ’08)
Noha Ibrahim (BEN ’03)
Tania Safar (BEN ’08)
Aida Rebeiz Sayegh (BS ’87)

**OMAN**

Samih Abdullah Rahhal (BEN ’66)
President

Ghassan Shammas (BBA ’00)
Vice President
Marwan Atef Ashkar (BS ’90)
Treasurer
Mohamad Kamal Al-Bolbol (BS ’98, EMBA ’08)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Daniel Nasri Abdelnour (BEN ’04, MEN ’12)
Muhammad Aref Abu-Zaki (BEN ’68)
Zeina Achi (BEN ’98)
Nicholas Philip Barakat (BA ’74)
Philippe Georgiou (BEN ’71)
Raffy Manoug Kozadjian (BAR ’77)
Bilal Mohamad Ghazi Raad (BAR ’91)

**PHILADELPHIA/ Delaware Valley**

Samir Akruk (BS ’65, MS ’67)
President

Suzan Juraydini (BS ’84)
Vice President
Hanan Saab (BS ’82, MPH ’84)
Treasurer
Maya Khezam (BS ’08, MS ’10)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Aref Aref (BS ’61, MS ’63)
Maher El Chaar (BS ’94, MD ’01)
Asma Ghannam (BS ’82)
Nasri Kawar (BS ’56, MS ’59)
Ahmad Shibel (BBA ’98)

What's a WAAAUB Website for?

For all things WAAAUB and more, go to: www.aub.edu.lb/alumni/Pages/home.aspx

All the latest news about chapter and campus events, photo streams, our Facebook and Twitter accounts . . . alumni in the news . . . A-Z about WAAAUB. Visit us today.

Questions/comments: alumni(at)aub.edu.lb
Alumni Family Picnic Day

On April 27 WAAAUB held its annual Family Picnic Day on the Green Oval. Taking shelter from the sun under a sea of white beach umbrellas, families enjoyed a host of fun activities from mule rides and super soaker water fights to tug-of-war and potato sack races. There were also refreshments on hand to help cool things down.

Professional Speed Networking Event
FOR ECONOMISTS

On March 27 WAAAUB held its second Career Speed Networking Event in West Hall. Sponsored with the Economics Student Society, this was an opportunity for young alumni to interact in a fun and informal setting with accomplished alumni professionals in economics-related fields.

WAAAUB wants to hear from alumni in Arizona, Pittsburgh, and Vancouver!

The Chapters Committee is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to build alumni communities in those areas.

Interested alumni, please write to the committee at: chapterscommittee(at)waaaub.org

AUB alumni in Spain and the Ivory Coast are interested in forming a chapter in their countries. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, join other members on their WAAAUB Facebook pages by Googling “AUB alumni in Ivory Coast” or “AUB alumni in Spain.”
WAAAUB Around the Globe

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.

1. New York
   NETWORKING EVENT
   - Upstairs at the Kimberly
     New York, NY 3/6/14

2. New England
   FILM OUTING: WHERE DO WE GO NOW?
   - Belmont Studio Cinemas
     Belmont, MA 3/16/14
   BRUNCH
   - April “Foul’s” Day
     Al Wadi Restaurant
     West Roxbury, MA 4/6/14

3. Washington, DC
   CONCERT
   - An Evening with Rami Khouri
     Director, Issam Fares Institute
     AUB Debs Center
     New York, NY 4/16/14
   by Mike Massy
   - Artsphere Spectrum Theater
     Arlington, VA 3/7/14

4. Toronto
   MIX & MINGLE
   - Proof, the Vodka Bar
     Toronto, Ontario 3/13/14

5. Ottawa
   LEBANESE BRUNCH
   - El-Mazaj Restaurant
     Ottawa, Ontario 3/1/14
6 Montreal
   BOWLING and 6 à 9
   AMC Pepsi Forum 22
   Montreal, Quebec 3/13/14

9 Houston
   FAMILY FUN DAY
   YMCA
   Houston, TX 2/23/14

11 United Kingdom
   TALK
   Photographic Journey Through Lebanese History, 1840-1960
   Bob Bell, Mosaic Room
   London, 2/19/14

7 North Carolina
   EASTER PICNIC AND EGG HUNT
   Jordan Lake
   State Park, NC 5/3/14

10 Southern California
   HAPPY HOUR
   Valentine's Day
   Paul Martin's Grill
   Irvine, CA 2/15/14

12 Paris
   NETWORKING EVENT
   for American Universities
   French American Salon
   Paris, 4/9/14

8 Atlanta
   FILM OUTING & DINNER
   Belmont Studio Cinemas
   Belmont, MA 3/16/14

13 Sudan
   RECEPTION
   with President Dorman
   Maktabat Al Hafeed
   Ahfad University Library
   Omdurman, 2/17/14

14 Riyadh
   FAMILY FUN DAY
   Arizona Golf Resort
   Riyadh, 3/21/14

   Westward Beach
   Malibu, CA 4/27/14

   Layalina Restaurant
   London, 4/13/14
15 Eastern Province

GALA DINNER
Saudi Arabia, 5/9/14

16 Kuwait

RECEPTION

with President Peter Dorman
Sheraton Hotel, Asshamiya Room
Kuwait, 5/6/14

17 Abu Dhabi

FAMILY FUN DAY

Armed Forces Officers Club
Abu Dhabi, 1/10/14

18 Dubai and Northern Emirates

GALA DINNER

Al Bustan Rotana
Dubai, 5/1/14

19 Beqa’a

TALK

Mother’s Day
Crystal Grand Hotel Al Kadiri
Zahle, 3/28/14

20 Mount Lebanon

CONCERT

Asil Ensemble
Assembly Hall
AUB, 5/8/14

21 Jordan

DANCE PARTY

Oldies but Goodies
Villa 14
Amman, 3/28/14
The 50th & 25th Reunion Honoring Ceremony  
Friday, June 20, 2014, 6:00–8:00 pm Assembly Hall  
This event is to honor those who will be celebrating their golden (50th), and silver (25th) anniversaries (Classes of 1964 and 1989). Keynote speakers are Mr. Hamid Bibi (BS Business ’64) and L’Emira Hayat S. Arslan (BA ’89). Open to classes 1964 and 1989 and their families and friends; free event!

Homecoming Reception  
8:00–10:00 pm Jafet Library Court Yard  
Homecoming Reception and Musical Performance  
Open to celebrating classes and their families and friends; free event!

Homecoming Brunch  
Saturday, June 21, 2014, 12:00–2:00 pm WAAAUB Clubhouse – Mary Dodge Bldg.  
Meet with AUB deans, catch up with alumni, friends, and faculty members from various AUB faculties and departments while enjoying a Lebanese brunch and great conversation. Open to celebrating classes and their families and friends. Cost: $10 per adult / free entrance for children below 12.

Commencement Ceremony Class of 1974  
5:00–6:30 pm Assembly Hall  
For those who missed out on their graduation ceremony the first time around, this one is especially for you, Class of 1974! Open to celebrating classes and their families and friends; free event!

Reunion Gala Dinner  
9:00 pm Four Seasons Hotel  
Cost: $120 per person

Football Tournament  
Sunday, June 22, 2014, 9:00 am Charles Hostler Center  
A football tournament between AUB Alumni and Alumni Central (a network of alumni from 25 international universities). Open to celebrating classes and their families and friends; free event!

Family Day Out  
12:00 pm AUB Beach  
A barbecue at AUB Beach. Cost: $20 per adult and $10 per child (age below 12), including beach admission and lunch.

For details, check out the AUB Reunion 2014 website: www.aub.edu.lb/alumni/reunion and don’t forget to like our 2014 AUB Reunion Facebook page for updates. Questions/Further Information? reunion(at)aub.edu.lb | Phone Beirut: +961-1-738009; New York: +1-212-583-7662
Class Notes

REMINISCENCE

In response to the photograph featuring Dr. Joseph McDonald on the back cover of the fall 2012 issue of MainGate, Associate Professor of OB-GYN at AUBMC Fayez Suidan (BA ’51, MD ’55) wrote:

As a sophomore student in 1948, a glass rod broke and cut the tendon of my right little finger during a chemistry lab session. This resulted in my first encounter with Dr. Joseph McDonald. I was referred to him because I could not flex my finger and he was a plastic surgeon. He operated on me and had to use a graft from the palmaris longus tendon to fix my finger. Dr. McDonald was the chairman of the Surgery Department at that time. The operation was a success.

After my graduation from medical school in 1955, I joined the Surgery Department as a resident. By that time, Dr. McDonald was dean of the medical school. He attended most of the conferences that I, as a fourth-year resident, used to prepare. When I was about to finish my fourth and last year of residency in surgery, Dr. McDonald sent for me and asked about my future plans. I told him that I liked urology and orthopedics. He looked at me and calmly said, “We have Dr. Bahij Azoury (BA ’44, MD ’48) for urology and Dr. Afif Nsouli (BA ’42, MD ’46) for orthopedics. What we need is somebody in OB-GYN.” He asked if I was willing to shift, and since training for a subspecialty would take the same amount of time as taking an OB-GYN residency all over again, I agreed.

1940s

Two young Lebanese-American sisters traveled from Texas with their mother to visit relatives in Beirut in 1938. As World War II approached, they ended up getting stuck there for what turned out to be “one of the best times of my life” according to surviving sister Alva Salem (BA ’42). At age 91, Alva is as sharp and passionate as someone half her age. She fondly remembers her classes in English literature at AUB, and working as a secretary at the School of Pharmacy under Director Rudolph Pauly. After returning to Texas in 1945, she went on to earn a master’s degree at Southern Methodist University before embarking on a nearly four-decade-long corporate career at United Airlines. Though this afforded her the opportunity to travel the world, nothing quite compared to her experience in Beirut where she enjoyed the warm embrace of distant relatives, the beauty of a uniquely modern and ancient city, the lush and lively AUB campus, and interesting new friends.

1950s

Sitting from left to right: Dr. Ibrahim Dagher; Dr. Najdat Pasha; Miss Maude Pearson, in charge of the operating room; Dr. Joseph McDonald; Miss French; the head of the Nursing Department, Vervant Jidejian (MD ’28); Dr. Fayez Suidan; Dr. Sami Obeid.

Standing from left to right: Fuad Dagher (BA ’54, MD ’58); Taher Dajani (BA ’49, MD ’53); Dr. Tabbara; Philip Antypas (BA ’43, MD ’48); Dr. Afif Nsouli; Dr. Bahij Azoury; Dr. Yacoubian; Dr. Samir Shehadeh; Kamal Hemadeh (BA ’52, MD ’56); and Dr. Aram Abdulian.

It’s easy to submit a class note and share your news! Email: maingate(at)aub.edu.lb or submit a class note AND update your information with AUB by logging on to the online community at alumniconnections.com /aub/
Zaven Messerlian (BA ’59, MA ’64) was awarded the St. Mesrob Mashdots Medal and an encyclical by the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia H. H. Aram I.

He wrote to the University of Chicago and arranged for my residency at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital.

My stay at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital was not an easy one as I transitioned from a chief resident in surgery to a first-year resident in OB-GYN. I used to shudder seeing some of the senior residents operate clumsily while not being in a position to correct them. In Chicago as a first-year resident, I applied for the American Board of Surgery exams, passed them, and received board certification. This was a big boost to my ego. The news spread fast and the residents wondered what I was doing in OB-GYN. The chief invited me to scrub with the residents on their cases, and he would ask me to help him with difficult cases even when I was not on his service.

When I finished my residency in OB-GYN I returned to AUB and joined the OB-GYN Department in 1962. My four years of surgical residency under the guidance of Drs. John Wilson, Ibrahim Dagher (BA ’47, MD ’41), Sami Obeid (BA ’45, MD ’49), Bahij Azoury, Afif Nsouli, and Fuad Haddad (BA ’49) had prepared me well for my career in gynecological surgery.

Dr. McDonald had a profound impact on my life: first by operating on me, and then by advising me on what to do with my life. May God bless his soul.

1964 Class Correspondent
Taki (Devian) Mahdessian (BBA ’64)

It has been half a century since we graduated from AUB, the Class of 1964!!!

In my role as a volunteer class correspondent, I received responses from my classmates which were at times nostalgic, sometimes funny, and often expressed love and gratitude for our alma mater. In spite of the 50 years that have elapsed, it seems that the majority of us have maintained a deep affection for our University. We are scattered all over the world. A lot of us are in the United States, some in Lebanon, and some in other Middle Eastern countries and elsewhere. Yet, we seem to find each other mainly through our local alumni chapters. I, for one, live in Malibu, California where I ran into another AUBite, Mazen Habibi (BAR ’69), while at my physical therapist’s office. We recognized each other’s distinct AUB accent.

I bicycle on Sundays with my son, and for fun I travel to Antarctica, the Arctic, and other exotic places. Taki

Nabil Abboud (BBA ’64, MBA ’69) lives in Lebanon with his wife Lina. They have three children. He is happily retired and enjoys being with his two grandchildren, traveling, and playing bridge.

Usama al-Azm (BA ’60, MA ’64) lives in Kuwait with his wife Murshida. He is looking forward to his elusive retirement, when he will return to Lebanon and retire in Broummana.

Basim Faris (BBA ’64) and his wife Esther (BA ’66) have lived in Athens, Greece for the past 38 years. They continue to stay in touch with AUB alumni friends.

Leila Jammal (BS ’64, MS ’68) remembers me from our days in track and field competition when we both ran the 100- and 200-meter races. She is now married to Hussein (BS ’67). They live in Jordan and have three daughters living in Paris and the United States. Leila is happily retired and ended her note with the following message, “Love to you and to AUB.” This simple statement touched my heart.

Nicolas Khairallah (BBA ’64) is retired and living in Beirut. Many members of his family are part of the AUB family: wife Hind Haddad (BS ’74), son Choucri (BEN’07), daughter Zena (BGD ’05),
and her husband Imad Bashour (BA ’94). Of his own life, he writes, “Et moi, je cultive mon jardin.”

“Et moi, je cultive mon jardin.”
           Nicolas Khairallah
           BBA ’64

John Makhoul (BEN ’64) earned graduate degrees from Ohio State University and MIT, and joined BBN Technologies in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is a chief scientist leading research in speech and language processing. His outside interests include choral singing and dancing Argentine tango. He is now involved in raising funds for the FEAA Class of ’64 Endowed Scholarship, which will fund student scholarships at AUB.

Victor Nassar (BA ’60, MD ’64) is a retired professor emeritus at Emory University School of Medicine. He has taken up the art of watercolor as a hobby. He tends to his flowers and rose garden, and he and his wife Jane enjoy their two grandchildren.

Joyce Said (BA ’64, MA ’66) went to Columbia University after AUB, worked for the UN, lived in Geneva, Switzerland and Washington, DC, and is now happily retired in Broumana, a favorite spot of a few others.

Jabber Sawaya (BS ’64, MD ’68) reminisced, “The dream of every first-year medical student in those joyful years of the 1960s, was to wear the green jacket with the medical school emblem on it, and show off on campus. Those were the days when a first-year medical student considered himself a doctor.”

Samir Sidawi (BEN ’64) lives in Abu Dhabi, UAE and wanted to share a sentence which he felt reflects the feeling of every AUB alumnus, “It is not the wealth that you accumulate but what you give to others, the lives you touch, and the legacy you leave, that you take with you for eternity.”

Edward Wahbe (BEN ’64) is now a published poet and lives in Montreal, Canada. He summed up my classmates’ prevailing feeling with this statement, “Class of 1964, a tale of diversity, affiliation to our alma mater, friendship that lasted over half a century... AUB remains on my mind.”

Lina Mahmasani (BA ’64) worked as a librarian at AUB and later at the Social Institute Library at the Lebanese University. Retired from that profession, she now works as a sworn translator.

Munther H. Salameh (BS ’65) and Nihad Hashim (BS ’66) met at AUB and married in 1974. As students, both made the Dean’s Honor List and served in leadership positions. Munther was editor-in-chief of the Campus ’65 Yearbook, vice president of the Pharmacy Student Society, and president of the Chess Club; and Nihad was president of the Nursing Student Society. With their respective degrees in pharmacy and nursing, Munther and Nihad also became leaders in their professions. Munther opened a pharmacy in Amman and led the effort to establish Al Razi Co., a major pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Amman. Nihad pursued graduate studies at Indiana University and Purdue University in the United States, taught at AUB, and moved to Jordan where she contributed to the development of nursing in the public and private sectors. The couple has four children: Halim (BEN ’98); Issam, who has a degree in pharmacy; Ziad, whose degree is in industrial engineering; and Jana, who has a bachelor of science degree.

Rima J. Hatoum (BA ’68, MA ’74) is a psychology and special education consultant. She was recently honored by Worldwide Branding for showing dedication, leadership, and excellence in her field. With more than 20 years as a consultant, Rima has used her expertise in special education and psychology to improve education and related services for children with disabilities in several developing countries.

Amin I. Kassis (BS ’68, MS ’71) recently received the Scientific and Technological Achievement Award in Paris from Takreem (www.takreem.net), an organization that recognizes remarkable Arabs whose achievements inspire others to pursue cultural, educational, scientific, environmental, humanitarian, and economic developments in the Arab world. Born in Aleppo, Amin earned his doctorate at McGill University in Toronto and went on to become a professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School in Boston and director of the experimental radionuclide therapy and radiobiology sections at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Amin holds over 60 issued and pending US and world patents, and is the cofounder of two startup biotechnology companies for cancer detection and therapies: Sabik Medical, Inc. and OncoCell MDx, Inc.

Nadim Shamat (BEN ’69) earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota. For several years, he worked as a process engineer at the wastewater treatment plant in St. Paul, Minnesota and also as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota. Nadim is married and has two sons. He is now disabled and unable to communicate, but his wife Sylvia would very much like to be in touch with people who knew her husband as a student. Please email her at sylviaeschwarz(at)gmail.com

Sylvia would very much like to be in touch with people who knew her husband as a student. Please email her at sylviaeschwarz(at)gmail.com

“Class of 1964, a tale of diversity, affiliation to our alma mater, friendship that lasted over half a century…”

Edward Wahbe
BEN ’64
Patrick Hitchon (BS ’70, MD ’74) writes: I read with sadness the news of my classmate Kamel Muakassa (BS ’70, MD ’74) (In Memoriam, summer 2012). He and I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1974. Thereafter, our paths crossed many times in the United States and Lebanon. I recently came across an old photograph, forwarded to me by Dr. John L. Wilson, who was also at AUB in 1966-67. This is a photo of campers on the Damour River, just east of where the tributaries meet, or Multaka el Nahrain. A popular camping site I had frequented many times, the water here was pristine, drinkable, and very suitable for swimming. Six of us went on this camping trip, sometime around the summer of 1972. They are from left to right standing: Walid Mufarrij (BS ’69, MD ’73), Sami Kyriakos (BEN ’71), myself, Elias Abras (BS ’70, MS ’74, MD ’76); seated left to right are Mohammed Attar (BS ’69, MD ’73) and Issam Sousou (BS ’69, MD ’73). With the exception of Sami who was an engineering student, the rest of us were all in med school. Walid is an anesthesiologist, Mohammed is a cardiologist in Houston, Issam is an orthopedist in Florida, and I am at the University of Iowa in the Department of Neurosurgery. Hopefully in the years to come, we will have a reunion at one of the MEMA meetings. I hope that no one is offended by the swim suits, but those were the ones in vogue in the 1960s and 1970s. This group convinces me that we, in Lebanon, have our own Indiana Jones [personalities]—several of them at that. Great friends and acquaintances were made at AUB. MainGate serves a great purpose in keeping these friendships alive.

Nabil Kerekawi (BS ’70, MS ’74) is general manager of Al-Manal Food Factory in Doha, Qatar. His permanent residence is in Kirkland, Canada.

Mohammad Kassim (BEN ’74) has lived in Abu Dhabi since graduating from AUB with his degree in civil engineering. He is a resident engineer at Parsons, an engineering, construction, technical, and management services firm. Kassim.mohammad48(at)gmail.com

Hana Fayyad (BS ’75, MD ’79) is a pediatrician practicing in the Maronite Building on Sidon-Riyad Solt Street. She also lectures at a branch of the Lebanese University’s School of Public Health.

Robert Rouda (BS ’80, MS ’83) was recently given the FAFS Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding contribution to agriculture. He is livestock industries director of the Department of Agriculture and Food in Western Australia.

Moise A. Khayrallah (BA ’81) received his PhD in psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1993. After years of success in the biopharmaceutical industry developing psychiatric, neurological, and cancer drugs, Moise decided to concentrate on a subject dear to his heart—his Lebanese heritage and the extraordinary Lebanese immigrant community in North Carolina. Collaborating with Dr. Akram Khater, a professor of history at North Carolina State University (NCSU), the Khayrallah Program for Lebanese American Studies at NCSU was launched in 2010. So far, the program has generated a PBS documentary, Cedars in the Pines, K-12 educational programs, hundreds of national lectures and publications on Lebanese culture, and an extensive exhibition also entitled Cedars in the Pines at the North Carolina Museum of History from February through August 2014. For more on the exhibit see Published & Produced in this issue. To learn more about the Khayrallah Program, visit nclebanese.org/home/

AUB Trustee Gabriel M. Rebeiz (BEN ’82) is the winner of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 2014 Microwave Prize. This award is given for the most significant contribution in the field of radio frequency/microwave filters during a calendar year. Gabriel’s award was for his work on integrated phased-array chips which are used in automotive collision avoidance sensors, satellite communications, and radar systems. The award is shared with two of Professor Rebeiz’s former graduate
students and coauthors. They won the same award in 2000 for their work on radio frequency microelectromechanical systems and tunable networks for cell phones and reconfigurable radios. The committee noted that no group has won this award twice in nearly 40 years.

Hagop Michael Tabakian (MD ’84) (student surname: Pano) completed a residency in anesthesiology at AUBMC, then moved to the United States for a residency in OB/GYN for over three years, before returning to anesthesiology. He then completed a fellowship in pain management at the University of Maryland. Hagop is board certified in anesthesiology, pain medicine, and addiction medicine. He was director of the Division of Pain Management at St. Louis University for about 10 years. In 2010 he moved to the University of Florida in Jacksonville to become director of the Division of Pain Management. He and his wife Sandy have been married for over 21 years. 

A hundred of us were in the MD Class of 1989. Most of us are living and working in the United States. As our 25-year anniversary approaches, we wanted to share news about some of our leisure activities with each other. I, for one, insistently try to keep in touch with everyone. Social media has definitely made my task easier. I travel a lot and catch up with old classmates whenever I get a chance. I greatly enjoy long walks, Pilates, and heated political debates! -Lina

Hanadi Munemneh Farrukh (BS ’85, MD ’89), an assistant professor of medicine in Utah, enjoys a lot of interests and leisure activities in addition to watching comedies while exercising. She says, “What brings me great pleasure and pumps my endorphins the most is gathering for a meal in the kitchen with my family, sharing stories as well as intense conversations regarding political and social issues with my college-age kids.”

Alfred Maksoud (BS ’84, MS ’86, MD ’89), who is a pulmonologist in Houston, Texas, enjoys skiing trips to Vail, Colorado as well as local festivals, but most fulfilling are activities with the large Lebanese community in Houston. He writes, “Our leisure life is conditioned by where we are from originally. Many of us go to Lebanon once a year almost like a pilgrimage. We have large Lebanese gatherings at private homes, or in ballrooms, to mark all kinds of occasions or just because we miss a good dabke.”

Our avid class photographer Ahmad Zaatari (BS ’85, MD ’89), who is a plastic surgeon at Hammoud Hospital in Lebanon, has kept up with his interest in photography as a release from life and job stresses. He writes, “Along the way, film disappeared, and the small box morphed into a myriad of digital wonders. The exhilarating hobby remains a wonderful way to travel toward a safe and splendid world of color, beauty, and precious moments. For me, the challenge lies in balancing the wild excitement of juggling while jogging with the quiet reflection of a ‘still life.’”

Hassan Ghazal (BS ’85, MD ’89) is a hematologist/oncologist practicing in Kentucky. After graduating from George Washington University in 1995, he worked in the DC area for two years before moving to Hazard, Kentucky, where he is in private practice. Hassan has participated in over 100 clinical trials and was named the smartest oncologist in America three years in a row by MDLinx.com. In 2008, he married Soha Rehimy. They have two lovely children, Deena and Jude. The family still goes to Lebanon every year, which the children love! Kycancerclinic(at)hotmail.com hassanghazal1(at)hotmail.com
Armen Arslanian (BS ’88, MD ’92) is a family practitioner, geriatric specialist, sports medicine specialist, internist, and pulmonologist. He completed his internal medicine residency and his fellowship in metabolic and endocrine disorder at the Medical College of Georgia; and a fellowship in geriatrics at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to his private practice, Armen is a principal investigator for internal medicine and geriatrics at Beacon Clinical Research in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and an instructor at Harvard Medical School in Boston. He received the Patients Choice Award (2008-09 and 2011-13) and the Compassionate Doctor Recognition Award (2011-13). He is currently the president of the Armenian American Medical Association (AAMA). Armen and his wife live in Lexington, Massachusetts with their two daughters.

Huda Hashem (BS ’89) earned her degree as a medical lab technician. She works with her husband Dr. Talal Baydoun, who owns a medical laboratory in Tyre, Lebanon. They have two children.

Bassem Nasri (BS ’89) received a master’s degree in business administration in management and corporate strategy from City University London in 2000, and a doctorate in business administration in franchising and entrepreneurship from Grenoble Ecole de Management in 2013. He runs a franchise development and consultancy business.

Bechara Raad (BEN ’89) sends greetings from Dubai. After eight years in banking as a chief operating officer, he decided to start his own education company, RAAD Education. A primary focus of RAAD is to teach Chinese language and culture to youngsters and adults (www.ChineseArabia.com). Bechara has been inspired in this endeavor by his beautiful Singaporean Chinese wife, who is also an engineer. He started learning Chinese three years ago and fell in love with the language.

Rania Saheli (BA ’89, TD ’90) writes: AUB was to me a BA in social and behavioral sciences, a teaching diploma, graduate courses, working at several departments, the Lebanese Red Cross Club, and cofounding the Human Rights and Peace Club, among others. Later, I took occasional courses and worked with local, regional, and international organizations in addition to United Nations agencies and universities. Now, I am a consultant in human and community development. Living in Ras Beirut, I seldom let a week pass without spending some time at AUB, whether at the Charles Hostler Center or just wandering around the inspiring campus.

Walid Saleh (BA ’89) writes: My education at AUB was only possible because of a scholarship from the Hariri Foundation. The older I get the more grateful I am for the institutions and people who were instrumental in my life and career. AUB was, and remains, my alma mater and 25 years have not diminished my gratitude for its professors, libraries, and staff. After graduating from Yale (2001) I worked first at Middlebury College and since 2002 at the University of Toronto where I am a professor of Islamic studies and director of the Institute of Islamic Studies.

Haytham Adada (BS ’96), MD, MBA, FACP is a pulmonary and critical care physician at East Tennessee State University. He finished his internal medicine residency, then three years at Washington University in St. Louis where he completed his infectious diseases fellowship. He is a proud member of the AUB alumni community.

Jad Antoine Khoury (BS ’95, MD ’99) is the chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and medical director of infection prevention at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and a clinical professor of medicine at St. Louis University School of Medicine. Jad spent three years at Indiana University where he finished his internal medicine residency, then three years at Washington University in St. Louis where he completed his infectious diseases fellowship. He is a proud member of the AUB alumni community.
recognized by the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. Haytham has joined the Mountain States Medical Group as a medical director of the ICU and Critical Care Services at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, Virginia. He and his wife Rasmiyah, who is a family medicine physician, have three children, Yara, Ryan, and Mia.

Abdel Kader El Tal (BS ’97, MD ’01) is assistant professor in procedural dermatology at AUBMC. His work entails skin cancer surgeries and cosmetic procedures. Abdel is also program director for AUB’s Dermatology Residency Program.

Saad Sabbah (MEN ’97) has been appointed general manager of Exova’s facility in Saudi Arabia. The company provides global testing, calibration, and advisory services across key sectors from food and pharmaceuticals to aerospace, transportation, oil and gas, fire, engineering, and construction.

Mariam Kayle (BS ’99) RN, MSN, CCNS is the recipient of the Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation/American Nurses Foundation Research Grant Award in recognition of her contribution to the advancement of nursing science and the enhancement of patient care. Mariam has received a variety of honors and awards, including AUB’s Nightingale Award and the Aalamoune Profiling Award from the Order of Nurses in Lebanon. Certified as a clinical nurse specialist in acute and critical care nursing/pediatrics, Mariam also holds an MS in nursing in acute and critical pediatric care from Duke University.

Samer Mehaidly (BEN ’99) and Nisreen Hamadeh are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Adam. He was born on September 26, 2013 in Trad Hospital.

2000s

Roland Abi Nader (BEN ’02), a senior project manager at Aecom Technology in New York, has been recognized by Engineering News Record as one of the top 20 engineers under 40 in the New York Tristate area. The award recognizes professional achievement, community service, and overall contribution to industry improvement. Roland is president of WAAUB’s New York-Tristate area chapter, and a member of its board of directors.

Yazan Abdeen (BS ’04) was appointed lead fund manager at SEDCO Capital, a leading company offering investment solutions in accordance with the principles of shariah. Yazan holds an MBA from London Business School.

Jana Bou Reslan (BA ’04). After earning an MBA, Jana decided to pursue a doctorate in education at Saint Louis University in Missouri. She enjoys reading and writing poems, and is particularly interested in performing spoken-word poetry. Jana’s new project is iPoetry.info, which she presented at TEDxBeirut in 2012.

Manal Chatila (BS ’04, MS ’06) writes: “It was tough to leave AUB after graduation! I therefore decided to hang out a little longer and went for a master’s degree with biology Professor Hala Muhtasib (BS ’83, MS ’85). The “PhD abroad” experience was too tempting though, so I moved to Munich in 2007 to do a doctorate at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry. I also met my husband there so it was quite a fruitful experience! I am currently in transition from a pharmaceutical consulting company to a position as a business development manager for a start-up company.”

Mouhammad Salah Eddine Itani (BBA ’04) is head of the Accounting Department and marketing and sales manager consultant at Salah Eddine Itani Motorcycle Stores (YAMAHA), a family business. He is currently preparing to do a master’s degree.

Najib Sahyoun (MBA ’04) lives in Montreal, Canada, where he and his wife Christine Naaman are pursuing doctorates in accounting at Concordia University. Their son Joseph is six months old.

Lara Jabbour Semaan (BS ’04, TD ’04) With degrees in chemistry and secondary science education, Lara went on to earn a master’s in education and school counseling from Haigazian University. She married Jad Tamer in 2012. She writes that she and her husband were blessed with a baby boy at the end of 2013. Lara would love to be in touch with her old classmates.

Manal Chatila(at)hotmail.com

Lara Jabbour Semaan(at)hotmail.com

Ward Wehbeh Christofi (BEN ’08)

Jana Bou Reslan(at)gmail.com

Manalchatila(at)hotmail.com

NajibSahyoun(at)yahoo.com

Larasemaan(at)hotmail.com

Lara Jabbour Semaan(at)hotmail.com
by Roula Bachour (MS ’09)

I was a young woman eager to take over the world with her dreams—dreams that came true in the Bechtel Building and in various parts of the AUB campus. So many memories of this period of time flood back into my mind as I watch my younger brother prepare to start his own journey at AUB and at Bechtel.

I remember faces, voices, and most important, I remember experiences. As a recipient of the Helen and Emile Chartouni Scholarship, I worked in the work study program, in the Financial Aid Office, and as a teaching assistant in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering assisting Professors Hazem Chahine and Nassir Sabah. The experience I gained from this work was worth all the effort. I learned how to manage my time properly and how to respond wisely to unexpected circumstances; to be more responsible, more patient, and more professional; and to respect the workplace and the people I worked with.

Though each was unique in its own way, my work experience with Professor Chahine was invaluable as a life lesson. I saw him as a father figure, and as a caring man who supported me academically, professionally, and personally. He was the lecturer for two engineering courses I took during my last two years at AUB, and while helping him prepare notes for those two courses, I always felt respected and appreciated. Through intervals of stress, I emerged stronger, more confident, and better prepared to be a contributing member of society. The knowledge I gained from those courses was a great asset for me during my internship in The Transmission System Operator in Cyprus during summer 2007.

Looking back at those times, I smile. They were good times, and best of all, they were life changing.

Ward works as a chartered accountant at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. She and her husband Giorgos Christofi live in Cyprus. They have a daughter, Eva (age four) and an infant son, Athanosios.

Roula Bachour (MS ’09) received a PhD in irrigation engineering from Utah State University in August 2013.

M. Ziad Mabsout (BA ’09) earned a master’s degree in international political economy at the University of Warwick, UK. He is currently based in Lebanon as senior investment analyst at Fortium Consulting. Early in 2013, Ziad cofounded Ubility Net, a start-up that provides innovative end-to-end policy solutions for mobile operators.

He was selected by Executive Magazine as one of the Top 20 Entrepreneurs for 2013. Ziad is a 2013 alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program, the US Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. He was invited to be one of 50 delegates to the Global Shapers Community at the 2014 World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos.

Rana Moukarzel (BA ’09) is a doctoral candidate in industrial/organizational psychology at the Florida Institute of Technology. “I recently joined Publix Super Markets, Inc., a fast-growing employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States, as an HR systems development consultant.” Rana is also a consultant for the Institute for Cross Cultural Management at Florida Tech. She has presented at conferences and published numerous professional papers in her field. Her academic achievements have been recognized nationally through awards and scholarships.

Hisham Chreih (MA ’10) and his wife Mariam Snoubar were married in Shemlan, Lebanon on May 11, 2012. They are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Fahed, born on November 18, 2013 at AUBMC.

Ahmad Nouraldeen (BAR ’13) has been awarded a highly competitive scholarship to Germany’s Transsolar Academy, one of the world’s foremost institutions for climate engineering. Ahmad is currently working on daylight simulations for different facade skins for Jean Nouvel’s Louvre project in Abu Dhabi. He has also been invited to do graduate work at the Institute for Computational Design at the University of Stuttgart.
Q. When you weren’t busy working toward your major in sociology and anthropology, how did you spend your time at AUB?
A. I wrote for Outlook and another student newspaper. I also worked at Radio Liban as a presenter, in addition to doing a lot of other things, including playing in a rock band and managing another rock band with some other AUB students.

Q. What currently occupies your time?
A. I’m the director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, a position I have held since January 2014. Prior to that, I spent four years as cofounder of the Program on Arab Reform and Democracy at Stanford University, keeping a close eye on political, economic, and social developments in the region. So the chance to be doing this work in the region, and being back here after a decade and a half away, is a dream come true. These days, beyond issues of reform and democracy, I’m examining regional dynamics in the Middle East and how they’re impacting local politics in different countries, mainly countries undergoing transition or in conflict.

Q. You are a former professor, and now head up think tanks, do research, and write books, newspaper articles, and academic papers. How would you summarize what you do?
A. I am a scholar first and foremost. I see scholarship as playing a role in public life, whether through education or through writing in the media or in specialist publications. I’m very fortunate to have been able to do all these things simultaneously.

Q. What role did AUB play in setting you on this path?
A. AUB was the most inspiring educational experience I could have had. It was a forum for exploring intellectual creativity, a place with a can-do attitude where you learned about yourself as an individual and as a scholar-in-the-making. While at AUB I knew that I really wanted to write and research, and my professors allowed me to explore my strengths, to build on them, and take them to new levels. They taught me to appreciate the value of interdisciplinarity.

Q. Where would you like to be in 20 years—your ultimate goal?
A. My dream right now is a dream for the Middle East, to see real liberal democracy happen here. This is what drives my career, and I see my career as an extension of myself and my values. I believe in freedom and liberty for all human beings, and if in 20 years I’m in a position to have contributed positively to this goal, then I’ll be happy.

-N.W.
The Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan has exhibited nine of Rana’s paintings. Her work has also been shown in Cairo, Paris, London, Vienna, Beirut, Tokyo, and most recently at the Alla Rogers Gallery in Washington, DC.

To see more, visit: ranachalabi.com

Rana Chalabi (BA ’81) is a Sufi artist of Syrian and Lebanese origins. Some 30 years ago she decided to move to Cairo for a year. She is still there. “My Egyptian friends are like my family,” she says “there is human warmth that is missing in the west.” Her Sufism is the bedrock of her artistic expression. “It might seem strange to think of a Sufi artist stuck in Cairo’s traffic and staying in composure or at peace, but feeling Zen is a state of mind.” A visionary artist whose work spans many themes, mediums, and continents, Rana has had a lifelong fascination with the motifs of Islamic architecture. Her watercolors capture a fascinating interplay of movement, stillness, color, and light as they explore that architecture. The painting “Islamic Cairo,” like many of her watercolors, was done “live” in situ in the streets of Islamic Cairo and attempts to capture the interaction of architecture and the spirit of street life.

In paintings such as these, you can see the influence of Rana’s studies in architecture and architectural archaeology at AUB. After finishing her master’s degree in Islamic art and architecture at AUC in Egypt, she started concentrating on her core passion for art. While her academic background is evident in her paintings, Rana’s overall work embraces many other themes and motifs.
Salwa Jurdak Nawas (BA '47, MA '48) passed away on February 5 in Palo Alto, California. Born on December 6, 1927 in Beirut, she was the youngest of six children of the mathematician and astronomer Professor Mansur H. Jurdak (BA 1901, MA 1907) and Mrs. Leah Abs Jurdak. A gifted social scientist, she began her career as an instructor in history, political science, and economics at the Beirut College for Women in 1949. She was a strong advocate for women's education in the Arab world.

In 1954 Salwa married Yousef S. Nawas, and joined him in developing his company, the Nawas Tourist Company, into a global presence with 21 offices around the world. She and her husband moved permanently to the United States in 1976 where they lived together until he died in 2010. Nawas is survived by her three children, Sulayman, Samira, and Sami Nawas, her sister Salma Mansur Jurdak (BS '42), six grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, one of whom is Dr. Philip S. Khoury, chairman of the AUB Board of Trustees.

Mustafa Habib Ghandour (MD '52) was a well-known pediatrician in Lebanon and the Gulf region. He and Dr. Fayez N. Takieddine (BS '71, MD '75) cofounded the Consulting Clinics in Beirut (CC-B) and Riyadh (CC-R). These were privately owned, multi-specialty medical centers committed to providing superior medical care. In October 2002, CC-R merged with the Kingdom Hospital. In the 1960s and 1970s, Dr. Ghandour held several positions at AUBMC's Pediatrics Department, where he established pediatric nephrology. A very active alumnus who chaired the alumni chapter in Riyadh in the 1980s and early 1990s, he was also a generous donor. Ghandour is survived by his wife Zabia (BA '52), children Habib and Leila, and three sisters: Mrs. Nehmat Ghandour Saab (BA '54, MA '55), Dr. Leila Ghandour Kaddura (BA '57, MA '60, MA '77), and Ghada Ghandour Osseiran.

Sarkis Aram Arslanian (BS ’56) was one of the mentors that we featured in the summer 2013 issue of MainGate. At the time we didn’t know much about him. His family has since contacted us and provided some wonderful details about his life.

Arslanian passed away peacefully on February 20, 2013. Born in Beirut in 1934, he moved with his family to Jerusalem in 1938 where he attended St. Tarkmanchatz School. After graduating from AUB, where he excelled academically, Arslanian traveled to Kuwait where he became chief biochemist at the premier state hospital. He eventually resigned from the Medical Laboratory of Kuwait to devote himself to his wholesale business focused mainly on perfumes and cosmetics. Although he immigrated to the United States in 1981, he continued to manage his business in Kuwait. Arslanian’s many philanthropic efforts included founding the Armenia-based Happy Family Fund to provide support services for families in need, generous support of an orphanage in Gumri, Armenia, and charities and schools in Lebanon, Kuwait, and the United States. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years Artemis (née Balian), a brother, three children, Raffi, Elda, and Vicken, and eight grandchildren.

Raja Tannous (BS ’56, MS ’59) died on February 26 at the age of 80. A professor emeritus of FAFS, he taught in the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department for nearly half a century. He served faithfully and repeatedly as chairperson of that department, and also as associate dean of FAFS for 15 years. Tannous attended IC, and earned his doctorate in science, nutrition, and food science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He played pivotal roles in the establishment of national projects in the region working with such agencies as FAO, UNICEF, UNIDO, and the Lebanese Association of Food Scientists and Technologists, where he served as...
Raja Tannous, PhD (BA ’56) passed away on March 14, 2013 in Amman, Jordan. With his degree in economics he built a career at Arab Bank where he held senior executive positions in Beirut, London, and Amman. He is survived by his wife Lydia T. Haddad (BA ’56, MA ’64); sister Leila Shiber; daughter Lamya and son-in-law Dr. Fadlo Raja Khuri; son Izzat Raja Tannous and daughter-in-law Suha Nabil Kawar, and four grandchildren.

Bassam Wasfi Anabtawi (BA ’58) passed away on March 14, 2013 in Amman, Jordan. With his degree in economics he built a career at Arab Bank where he held senior executive positions in Beirut, London, and Amman. He is survived by his wife Najwa (MA ’60), son Omar, and daughter Serene (BBA ’85).

Hayat Salam-Liebich, PhD (BA ’63) passed away in Geneva on January 29. A noted architectural historian, she was best known for her book *The Architecture of the Mamluk City Tripoli*. Salam-Liebich earned her doctorate at Harvard University in 1975. The first donor to adopt a bench on campus, she was a valued member of AUB’s President’s Club for many years. Survivors include her husband Andre Liebich; daughters Nadya and Rayya; and brother Ambassador Nawaf Salam, a former AUB faculty member.

Sowwan Mohammad Sowwan, (BS ’64, MD ’68) Born in Safriyyeh, Palestine in 1941, Sowwan passed away peacefully in Amman, Jordan on November 9, 2013. An American board-certified physician, he completed his internal medicine residency at AUBMC and his gastroenterology fellowship at the New England Medical Center at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. Sowwan practiced in Saudi Arabia as an internal medicine consultant at Aramco Hospital, and was chief internist at Ash-Sharq Hospital in Khobar before retiring to Jordan. He will be remembered as a devoted, loving, and enlightened husband and father, and as a caring and good doctor. Sowwan is survived by his wife of 45 years, Azizah Mohtadi (BA ’64, MA ’71), children Fida, Rana, Suha (MA ’99), Hanan, and Hisham, and five grandchildren.

Mohammad Chatah (BA ’74) Born in 1951 in Tripoli, Lebanon, Chatah died on December 27, 2013. He received his undergraduate degree in economics and a doctorate at University of Texas, Austin, where he taught for many years. Although officially not affiliated with any political party in Lebanon, Chatah was associated with the Future Movement. He had a distinguished career as a government official, diplomat, public spokesman, and political blogger. He worked with the IMF and served as ambassador to the United States, vice-governor of Banque du Liban, Lebanese finance minister, senior adviser to former Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, and foreign policy adviser to former Prime Minister Saad Hariri. Chatah is survived by his wife Nina Mikati and children Omar (BA ’07) and Ronnie (MA ’12).

Randa Antoun (BA ’82, MA ’85) passed away on February 4 at the age of 54 after a long battle with lung cancer. A member of the PSPA Department since 1989, she earned her PhD at the University of York, UK. She was respected and loved for her extraordinary commitment to teaching, mentoring, and civic engagement. President Dorman and Provost Dallal lauded Antoun as “a devoted contributor to our rich campus life. In addition to teaching and advising master’s theses, she was the coordinator of the MEPI Tomorrow’s Leaders Program. . . She is remembered as much for her warmth and generosity as for her courageous spirit and determination to serve AUB, even during her illness.” An advocate for democratic principles, Antoun served as vice president of the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE) and consulted for the Lebanese government and the UN. She is survived by two brothers, Samir and Samer, and a sister, Ghada (BA ’80). Her friends and family have established an endowed scholarship and an endowed award in her memory.
Catherine C. Bashshur passed away on October 28, 2013 after a long struggle with cancer. From 1984 to 2003, she was the revered head of ACS in Beirut, one of the oldest and most distinguished American secondary schools outside the United States. Born in 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Catherine Carlin earned an undergraduate degree from the State College of Pennsylvania, and a master’s degree in education from the University of Florida. While doing a summer teaching program in Chicago, she met and married Munir Bashshur (BA ’56, MA ’58), a prominent Lebanese academician who was getting his doctorate at the University of Chicago. Munir is a professor of education at AUB. A true visionary and pioneer in the field of education in Lebanon, Catherine introduced the Lebanese Baccalaureate to ACS and also the International Baccalaureate to Lebanon by making ACS the first school in the country to adopt it. For more than 10 years, she served on the board of trustees of the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools, finishing her time there as board president. Bashshur is survived by her husband, two children, Dr. Michael R. Bashshur and Dr. Maria Bashshur Abunnasr, and two grandsons who are students at ACS.

We decided to honor our father, Fuad Said Haddad, by celebrating the goals he so passionately worked to achieve. For over 25 years, he helped students maximize their potential. Education was both his passion and profession. AUB is an institution that shaped many people's lives including that of our father. He spent his life at AUB as a student, professor, scholar, and administrator. He wanted to help AUB continue with its mission and to ensure its services in the region. AUB was not just a place where he worked, it was his life. We established the Fuad Said Haddad Award because we think it is what he would have wanted us to do.

Maha, Said (BS ’94, BBA ’96), Rula (BS ’94, MPH ’96), and Ghassan (BS ’93, MD ’00) Haddad

We Remember

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Hikmat Taher Masri</td>
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<td>Salomon Albert</td>
<td>BA ’36, MD ’40</td>
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<td>Selim S. Lawi</td>
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<td>Ahmad Abdul Jabbar</td>
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<td>Makram W. Atiyyah</td>
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<td>Abdullah R. Ghazzawi</td>
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<td>Adib S. Khuri</td>
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<td>Najib H. Chehade</td>
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<td>Yusuf K. Khuri</td>
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<td>Florine Nader Karame</td>
<td>Friend</td>
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<td>Husam S. Boubess</td>
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<td>Henri Chalhoub</td>
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<td>Rabiba Nimr</td>
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<td>Adib Samaha</td>
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<td>Mounir Samaha</td>
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AUB founder George Edward Post (1838-1909) designed and supervised the construction of the building that bears his name. It was paid for by longtime member and chairman of the Board of Trustees Morris Jesup. He insisted that the building be named for Dr. Post who he credited with saving his life. Construction began in 1902 and was completed in 1911. Post Hall included space for the College’s natural history and archaeological collections, class rooms, and laboratories. It is now home to AUB’s Archaeological Museum, and Geology Department and museum.
Do you have photos like this one of Henry de Jouvenel, a French journalist and politician, that you would be willing to share?
Help preserve AUB’s rich history and let the university archives know.
Email: maingate(at)aub.edu.lb.
(Photo Jan. 25, 1926)