Larger than life

A future eco-entrepreneur puts worms to work
Aiducation.

Besher Al-Makhlouf grew up in Damascus. A gifted musician, he plays the clarinet and was a member of Syria’s national youth orchestra. He always knew he wanted to pursue a degree in a field that would enable him to have a positive impact on the region. Because he was chosen to receive an Asfari Scholarship, Besher was able to earn that degree at AUB. An economics major, Besher participated in several student clubs, and was a research assistant in the Civilization Sequence Program.

Although he plans to return to the region, Besher is hoping to pursue a doctoral degree in the United States after he graduates. “I’ve enjoyed every moment of my time at AUB and will miss everything about it,” he says. “At AUB, you meet people from different backgrounds, different ideologies, and different aspirations and so you see things from many points of view.”

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Spirited

AUB welcomed 1,845 new undergraduate students, 260 new graduate students, 105 medical students, and 12 new PhD enrollees in fall 2014. These numbers indicate AUB’s ability to draw excellent applicants even in troubled times, not only from Lebanon itself but from 51 other countries around the world. During a reception at West Hall, I talked with a number of international students from Denmark, Germany, and Malaysia as well as from nations closer to home, all of them energized to begin a new year at AUB.

INCOMING

Recently dedicated buildings are already being heavily used and are enhancing our campus. The Wassef and Souad Sawaf Building at AUBMC, for example, is the center for the University Health Services. I go there myself to see my family doctor. The PET-CT scan is functional and the cyclotron will be in operation this coming academic year.

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) is in great demand from departments across campus, who are making good use of the excellent conferencing and communications facilities housed in Zaha Hadid’s stunningly designed building.

Concrete pouring for the largest addition to the Medical Center in 50 years—the Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center at the corner of Abdul Aziz and Maamari Streets—has begun. This magnificent new facility should open in December 2016, as we conclude AUB’s 150th anniversary celebration.

Looking ahead, my focus will be on providing both institutional continuity and also a big push for the launching of the 150th celebration of AUB’s founding in 2016. My own messages to the wider community will focus on AUB as a beacon of learning and inclusivity, the humanistic grounding of our undergraduate liberal arts education, the importance of interdisciplinary research and creation of relevant new knowledge, and the abiding values that define the AUB experience.
From the editor
I have had the privilege of being on campus for the start of the academic year on many occasions. I am always striking by the fact that although it is in some ways repetitive, it is also always very special. Each entering class is different. This was true again in 2014.

The new school year kicked off with abundant energy as a student body of more than 8,000 (!) students arrived at AUB—some for the first time, others (returning seniors) for perhaps the last time. They “rendezvoused” with friends on the Main Gate steps, took deep breaths before heading up those daunting engineering stairs (more on those stairs on page 4), and explored new buildings on campus. Along with new students, AUB also welcomed many new professors, some 53 recruits from around the world, including Ethiopia, the United States, China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and of course Lebanon.

With so much to report on from campus, I’ll share some highlights from this issue of the magazine:

Mona Hatoum’s (DHL ’08) exhibit at the Alexander and Bonin Gallery in NYC  
–page 6

“When I set off for work I say that I am going to my second home.”  
–Hanaa Kobeisi (BS ’84, MPH ’86), page 9

“I have plenty of ideas concerning how to make the world better. . . I saw an opportunity to turn my ideas into reality.”  
–Tarek Sakakini (BEN ’14), page 10

“We have seen the transformation of health care. It is now directly implicated in military strategy.”  
–Omar Dewachi (MPH ’00), page 30

Ada H. Porter, Editor  
maingate@aub.edu.lb
Dear MainGate,

Facing the Bechtel Engineering Building is the familiar stairs linking it to the upper campus with a commemorative plaque in honor of the Class of 1961 who built them in the summer of 1959.

In June 2010, at the 50th graduation ceremony at the Hostler Building for the Class of 1960, Engineer M. Abdel-Baki was invited to address the audience. He recalled to the audience and particularly to his classmates the beautiful memories and the deep impressions that have marked each one of them while at the engineering school and in particular their relations with the late Dean C. Ken Weidner (a great man indeed and someone that the school and the engineering profession in the Arab countries and Africa owe a great deal).

He remembered with pride the Saturday quizzes, the football games, Tarboush Day . . . etc., but, to my surprise, he added that "... one of the accomplishments of the Class of 1960 . . . we made the stairs which leads from engineering to the upper campus . . ." as recorded on the video I took on that day attending my sister-in-law’s 50th graduation year from the Pharmacy School.

But there is a commemorative plaque on the stairs’ steep rocky wall stating that it was built by the Class of 1961.

With two classes now proudly claiming their sole and direct contribution in the construction of these famous stairs, I thought it was high time to tell the full story of how this project came to be and give also a long overdue credit to the Class of 1959, to the members of the E.S.C. (the Engineering Students Corporation at that time), and in particular to Dean Weidner.

Back in 1955, during my first year at the engineering school, the only access to the school from upper campus was either through the stairs leading down to the Chemistry Building, now the Department of Architecture and Design, (I noticed with nostalgia that the names of some campus buildings have been changed since then!) or the one leading to the tennis courts. The hill facing the Bechtel Building was very steep, slippery, and particularly dangerous in winter; only a few daredevils ventured down its slope, not without accidents now and then, but despite its potential risks, it remained attractive to some.

Providing stairs at that place was not considered then to be a priority by the “Buildings and Grounds” Department (now the “Physical Plant”). And so, the only safe access to the school remained through the existing stairs.

Later, when we took Concrete 1 and 2 with the late Professor K. Yeremian, I discussed with him the possibility of building stairs up the hill. With his encouragement, advice, and support, the project gradually took shape on paper but actual execution was still a long way to come.

At the 1958-59 ESC elections I was one of the 10 members on that committee and was appointed “Production Manager.” I was now ready to make the stairs project a reality.

Professor K. Yeremian and I met with Dean Weidner who gave us his full support with one condition: it had to be built entirely by engineering students! As graduation time was getting close and the preparations for the “final of the finals” was in full sway, I managed to get volunteers from the Class of 1962. We broke ground with them with the intent of resuming construction in the coming fall by volunteers from other classes as well.

For documentation purposes, I am including the above photos as scanned also from the 1959 Yearbook. The first is with Professor K. Yeremian checking the design drawing and the site conditions and the second with 1962 class students breaking ground at the site with jackhammers.

I wish to extend my deep appreciation to all those who contributed in their own way to the materialization and final completion of the stairs project which I dreamed of when I joined the engineering school and which came true four years later.

I would propose that AUB consider naming the stairs “Dean Weidner’s Stairs” after the first dean of the engineering school, in recognition of his encouragement and support that made it a reality and without whom the project would not have been built at that time.

Yours truly,

Homer L. SALEH,
B.M.E. 1959
Inspiration

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

Published & Produced

Exhibits:
Changing Climate: Video Art from Central Asia—AUB Byblos Bank Art Gallery.
Twelve Windows: Richly embroidered panels form a visual map of Palestine—Alexander and Bonin Gallery, New York. And more.

On Stage:
Anbara, based on the letters of Anbara Salam Khalidi and her Palestinian husband. Begins December 12 at the Babel Theater in Beirut.

Film:
Meshkal, Dania Bdeir’s (BGD ’10) award-winning film.

Written Word:
Contemporary ideas for redesigning a mosque in Tripoli; advice for medical students; a Palestinian memoir; an exploration of the links between African American political thought and the Middle East; discovering the evolution of modern navigation; a study of Armenian participation in Lebanese elections; a history of AUB with a focus on clinical medicine research; a guide to trees in Lebanon and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Developing Worlds, Microbial and Otherwise

AUB’s first dean of FHS, Eugene Gangarosa: a pioneering epidemiologist discovers new frontiers.

Face to Face

Hanaa Kobeisi (BS ’84, MPH ’86) combines a penchant for people and a talent for process to match students with financial aid.

By the Books

Pricing and Revenue Management, Victor Araman teaches students how to pinpoint the tipping point.

Globetrotters

FEA students and graduates embark on summer adventures.

Legends & Legacies

A journalist, publisher, and political activist, Faris Nimr (BA 1874) thrived by not allowing controversy to intimidate him.
Published & Produced

Exhibits

PALESTINIANS OF THE DIASPORA
Conceptualized and inspired by Lily Chryssis’s (MA ’07) master’s thesis, this exhibit includes photographic portraits and excerpts from interviews with 20 Palestinians reflecting on life and identity in the diaspora. It can be viewed at the Islamic Cultural Society in Boston, from mid-October through mid-November.

TWELVE WINDOWS
An installation of richly embroidered panels 90 cms square—forms the centerpiece of Mona Hatoum’s (DHL’08) exhibition at the Alexander and Bonin Gallery in New York, September 13-October 18. Each panel represents a Palestinian town or village; together they form a visual map of Palestine. Hatoum renders this map into a complex landscape crisscrossed by intersecting webs of wire forming barriers and aggressive diversions—a metaphor for life under occupation. The panels, which also speak of resilience and resistance, were conceived by embroidery expert Malak Al-Husseini Abdul-Rahim and embroidered by refugee women supported by the Lebanese NGO Inaash. Read more about Inaash on page 44.

JAFET LIBRARY AGENDA
This fall at Jafet Library, exhibits on Arabic comics, Islamic art, World War I, from the Samir Saleeby Book Collection, and much more. The 2015 calendar will also highlight the Ahmad Mustafa Abu-Hakima and Aida Suleiman Arif Book Collection, Arab and Islamic Science, Arab Cinema, the Nadim Bitar Book Collection Arab Science Fiction and Manoug Photo Collection.

Film
Keep your eyes open for Meshkal, Dania Bdeir’s (BGD ’10) award-winning film, which we hope will be coming to a theater near you.

Special People at the Movies, film festival to support the OpenMinds Fund and the AUBMC Special Kids Clinic, October 24-28, Cinema Empire Sofil.

On Stage
Based on the letters of Anbara Salam Khalidi and her Palestinian husband, and on her autobiography (see MainGate, spring 2014, page 12), Anbara captures the couple’s aspirations, concerns, beliefs, and dreams. Aliya Khalidi, who teaches history of Arabic theater at LAU, directs the play that stars Sahar Assaf, actress, director, and AUB lecturer. Anbara can be seen Thursdays through Sundays for four weeks, beginning on December 12 at the Babel Theater in Beirut.

More online
1. RENEWING ARCHITECTURAL TYPOLOGIES: HOUSE, MOSQUE, LIBRARY

Renewing Architectural Typologies: House, Mosque, Library (Yale School of Architecture, 2014) features student projects from three advanced studios that Makram El Kadi (BArch ’97) and Ziad Jamaleddine (BArch ’95) of L.E.FT Architects taught with Hernan Diaz Alonso and architects from the British firm AOC. The student projects explored multiple contemporary ideas for the design of a mosque in Tripoli, Lebanon.

2. MEDICAL RESEARCH ESSENTIALS

Rania Esteitie, MD (BS ’04) has written a useful guide for medical students and residents to share what she learned from her research experience and “the great mentors I had along the way.” Medical Research Essentials (McGraw-Hill Medical, 2013) includes tips from Esteitie on a wide range of topics including how to dissect journal articles, present a poster, and understand basic statistical concepts.

3. WALKING OUT INTO THE SUNSHINE – RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Ghazi Q. Hassoun (BS ’56), PhD, professor emeritus, North Dakota State University, has published his memoir, Walking Out Into The Sunshine—Recollections and Reflections: A Palestinian Personal Experience (Windy City Publishers, 2013). It includes two chapters dedicated to his time at AUB. There is also a website associated with the book.

4. GEOGRAPHIES OF LIBERATION: THE MAKING OF AN AFRO-ARAB POLITICAL IMAGINARY

Alex Lubin, PhD, former director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) at AUB, has written Geographies of Liberation: The Making of an Afro-Arab Political Imaginary (The University of North Carolina Press, 2014). A “fascinating, wide-ranging history,” this volume explores the links between African American political thought, and the people and nations of the Middle East from the 1850s until today.

5. QUO VADIS: EVOLUTION OF MODERN NAVIGATION: THE RISE OF QUANTUM TECHNIQUES

Former (1952-55) AUB physics instructor Fouad G. Major, PhD, has written Quo Vadis: Evolution of Modern Navigation: The Rise of Quantum Techniques (Springer, 2014), a volume intended for non-specialists with only college-level knowledge of physics or engineering. In addition to covering the essential principles underlying the design of satellite navigational systems, Major’s book begins with introductory chapters that place these systems in historical context with early developments in navigation.

6. ARMENIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE LEBANESE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS (1934-2009)


7. CLINICAL MEDICINE RESEARCH HISTORY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT, FACULTY OF MEDICINE 1920-1974

In Clinical Medicine Research History at the American University of Beirut, Faculty of Medicine 1920-1974 (WestBow Press, 2014), Mounir E. Nassar (BS ’55, MD ’59) documents the origin and development of clinical medicine research at AUB. His book begins, however, with an overview of the establishment of the Syrian Protestant College, which later became AUB. It also includes insights from the author’s personal journey into clinical research.

8. NATIVE TREES OF LEBANON AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

Elsa Sattout, PhD, and Hala Zahreddine (BS ’99, MS ’01), PhD, have written a comprehensive study of 68 tree species found in Lebanon and the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Native Trees of Lebanon and Neighboring Countries—A Guidebook for Professionals & Amateurs (NDU Press, 2014) includes detailed scientific information and wonderful color photographs of each species.
What makes Eugene Gangarosa tick?

This world-renowned epidemiologist’s stint as the first dean of AUB’s Faculty of Health Sciences is bracketed by work in Thailand and Pakistan, at Walter Reed, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Emory University.

Gangarosa laid the foundation for the treatment of oral-fluid rehydration therapy which greatly simplified the treatment of all diarrheal diseases including cholera, published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, established a foundation dedicated to controlling water-borne diseases, earned the CDC’s Medal of Excellence and, in January 2014, was granted Emory University’s Hatcher Award for Public Health.

For all this, thank Gangarosa’s mother and Paul de Kruif.

His mother, having lost four of five children to preventable diseases before emigrating from Sicily to America in 1914, shared her sadness with her son. He recalls, “even after so many years, tears welled up as she told me, ‘You lose a child, then another, then another.’”

De Kruif? Gangarosa was nine when he was sent to recuperate from rheumatic fever at a home for children. “The week’s highlight was the librarian’s visit. She brought Paul de Kruif’s Microbe Hunters. It was fascinating. I read it twice. It defined my heroes, like Walter Reed, who conquered yellow fever, and Paul Ehrlich with his ‘magic bullet’ [that would target a specific disease-causing organism].”

From there it was a relatively straight shot to undergraduate and medical studies at the University of Rochester, epidemiological studies at Walter Reed Army Research Institute, where he worked with scientists like those described in Paul de Krieff’s Microbe Hunters. Then to Bangkok and on to direct the Medical Research Center in Lahore, Pakistan, which became a medical school. This was when he began to hear about AUB.

“I’d been working on the cholera pandemic that had swept across South Asia and into the Middle East,” he explains, “and I had gotten to know AUB faculty members. I was very impressed with them.”

Not only, however, was he impressed by the faculty, but he and his wife fell in love with Beirut on a visit in 1964.

So when a position opened at AUB in 1978, he accepted the opportunity. The University wanted to upgrade the highly-respected School of Public Health, and Gangarosa seemed just the man for the job. The civil war appeared to be over, and the couple decided that AUB might be the perfect place for him to wrap up his career.

After insisting that the restructured institution be called the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), instead of Allied Health Services as some officials preferred—“This was an academic name that other schools looked down on; it implied a group of skilled professionals who helped medical professionals,” he explains—he and Rose moved to Beirut lock, stock, and baby grand piano in 1978.

They didn’t know that Lebanon was heating up again. They arrived, kept their heads down, and hoped for the best.

The war intensified while Gangarosa kept at it, turning the existing diploma program into a full-fledged two-year master’s program, bringing the nursing program into FHS, encouraging further work in parasitology, and increasing the number of students.

Then, in July 1981, his wife left for home. Finally, he joined them.

“We had planned to stay for the rest of our lives,” he recalls, “but we left an outstanding faculty at FHS. I credit them with the strength of the program. Aside from whatever I was able to do, the baby grand, to my knowledge, is still in Marquand House.”

-N.B.
It is hard to imagine AUB without Hanaa Kobeisi (BS ’84, MPH ’86) or Hanaa Kobeisi without AUB. She has been on campus more than half of her life. Enrolled as an undergraduate in 1981, she received her BS in chemistry exactly 30 years ago followed by an MPH two years later.

Since then she has held various posts: as an FHS instructor in health-care management and later FHS coordinator of student affairs before becoming associate director of financial aid.

Though she was “of two minds” about leaving FHS when she first applied for the job, Kobeisi quickly grew to love her new position for its “challenges and variety.” Nowadays, apart from dealing with local students and parents on a regular basis, she takes care of some 80+ visiting US students who are participating in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. “This is a dynamic program,” she explains. “It’s also very demanding particularly since it requires complying with lots of US federal regulations with continuous changes and modifications. You have to be strict and meticulous. Ultimately everything goes back to the US government, so it is very demanding.”

But that’s just the business side of the job. She loves interacting with the students. “It makes me feel I am really making a difference. They are alone in a foreign country and they need help.”

When she is not “mothering” her overseas charges, Kobeisi is a real mother to two daughters, one of whom has just graduated from AUB and the other, an 11th grader, who is expected to follow suit. In her spare time she studies foreign languages and is a dedicated member of the AUB Choir.

Although she would love an office with daylight and fresh air instead of the one in the basement of West Hall where she has been for far too long, it’s the only drawback in a job that she loves. “When I set off for work I say I am going to my second home. I cannot imagine being anywhere else—except this actual office,” she says with a laugh.

-M.A.
“This competition was a clear opportunity for someone like me who has ideas, and needs help to bring them to reality,” says Tarek Sakakini (BEN ’14). Organized and sponsored by the Darwazah Center for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business, the Darwazah Student Innovation Contest caught the attention of many aspiring entrepreneurs, including agribusiness major Walid Mukahhal. “I have plenty of ideas concerning how to make the world better, so when I saw the poster announcing the contest, I saw an opportunity to turn ideas into reality.”

“We received more than 100 applications from five AUB faculties,” explained Lama Hutet (BBA ’09), who is assistant to the director of the Darwazah Center and helped to organize the contest. It is not just the number of applications that was impressive, so too was the quality. “The outside judges were very impressed,” says Associate Professor and Darwazah Center director Bijan Azad, PhD.

Sixteen semi-finalists were selected and invited to enroll in a training workshop on Saturday, May 17 to learn how to prepare a business plan. Even the members of Team Limni, who are all MBA students, found the workshop useful. Explained team member Abbas Jaber, “the business plan skeleton that we were introduced to was not something we had seen before. We could definitely make use of it in the future.”

The finalists were announced on June 9 and given just four days to prepare their presentations before a panel of expert judges. The $15,000 first prize went to engineering students Karim Frenn (BEN ’14) and Guy Daher (BEN ’14) for their design of Planitous, a mobile app that helps you plan a customized itinerary based on your personal preferences. “It was an innovative and also a very viable proposal—just what the judges were looking for,” says Azad. Frenn and Daher say that they got their idea for Planitous last summer when they started planning a trip to San Francisco. “We found that it was a really difficult, long, and boring process, and thought that it should not be that way. So we decided to solve this problem.” Frenn and Daher say they plan to develop their idea and hope to launch an Android version at the end of September, and have an iOS version ready by the end of November.

The $5,000 second prize went to a team of MBA students (May Tehaili, Sabine Karout, and Diana Abou Daher) for an innovative doctor-patient communication service, an idea that they say was suggested to them by a well-known entrepreneur. “We then did some research, surveying patients and interviewing doctors, and realized that there was a real need for such a service—and that doctors and patients would use such a service if it were put in front of them.” Although they had no intention of becoming entrepreneurs when they entered the contest, they are meeting now—as a team, they stress—to decide whether or not they want to “indulge in the entrepreneurship world.”

“The contest complements the classroom-based learning of our students providing them with a much-needed applied know-how,” says Azad. He and Hutet learned a lot too. “The contest went great,” says Hutet, “but next year it will be even better.”
Chicago Style

For MasterCard Foundation (MCF) scholars Mohamad Bawab and Yasmine Lawzi attending the recent 13th International Conference of the Community Campus Partnership for Health in Chicago proved to be a life-changing experience. Together with their FHS advisers Maha Haidar Makki (BS ’97, MA ’00), MCF program officer, and Joumana Kalot (BS ’89, MPH ’95) from the FHS Outreach and Practice Unit, they were coauthors of a prize-winning conference poster: “A Community Engagement Project for Public Health Students from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut: An Opportunity for Building Bonds with Disadvantaged Communities and Assuming Leadership Roles.”

Picked as the Viewer’s Choice Poster Award and thus carrying off second prize, the two-part poster explored the MCF/FHS program and the MCF scholars’ experiences interacting with disadvantaged Lebanese children. It gave the duo a chance to explain how this valuable experience had impacted their own development and thinking (more on the MCF scholars in MainGate, winter 2012). “Winning second place for being the best presented project was wonderful, but the great interaction and feedback from people at the conference was the best prize that we got,” said Lawzi.

While the conference itself was a great learning experience, the two were also inspired by the work of AUB alumni in Chicago. Conference speaker Dr. Bechara Choucair (BS ’93, MD ’97) (see MainGate, spring 2010), commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health introduced the students to the conference and talked about the impact of AUB on his life. Spending time with him and with community health specialists from all over the world was an eye opener for the two. “This makes us think how this field is rich with different opportunities. We can choose the one that we believe in, excel in, to give our best,” Bawab explains.

Away from the conference, Bawab and Lawzi had a chance to meet other AUB alumni living and working in Chicago in different fields: medicine, architecture, hospital care, and management. They were especially motivated by Rula Haddad Kalifa (BS ’94, MPH ’96), president of the WAAAUB Chicago Chapter, an alumna whose career path they hope to emulate. “She studied environmental health at AUB and did a master’s in public health which is similar to our journey,” said Lawzi. “As environmental health students minoring in the public health sector this encouraged us to become more engaged and never lose faith in our capability to make a change and give back to our communities.”

-M.A.
USP students tutoring Palestinian students

“Before I started tutoring, I thought it would be boring. It is instead one of the best volunteering experiences I have ever had.” Biology major Hussein Mohsen is talking about his experience this past summer tutoring aspiring AUB students. Mohsen is one of 101 students attending AUB as part of the USAID-funded University Scholarship Program (USP). In addition to taking a full load of courses, USP students are also required to complete a summer internship that focuses on civic engagement.

Some of these students decided to take advantage of this requirement to participate in a terrific program that AUB’s University Preparatory Program (UPP) has organized with the Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP). “The goal of this program,” explained Dr. Samar Harkous, who directs the UPP, “is to provide tutoring for Palestinian students who are preparing to take the SAT exam. It’s a great opportunity for our USP students to help others. They are also gaining valuable teaching experience.”

USP student Dalia Malaeb says that she wishes she had been able to participate in such a program before taking the SAT exam. Although she did well enough to be accepted to AUB, where she is now majoring in biology, Malaeb says she would have done even better with a little tutoring.

For ULYP students like Bilal Hindi and Diala Diab, the summer tutoring sessions have been invaluable. “The SAT is the passport that you need to enter university,” says Diab. It’s a passport that she hopes will eventually take her to medical school. Hindi, who is also planning a career in medicine, says that the USP student tutors are “great teachers.” Some of them are becoming good friends too.
By the Numbers

Wild life

AUB faculty and students from the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management catalog the diversity of flora (start counting the 6,884 trees and shrubs) and fauna (not including felis catus) on AUB’s 61-acre campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of species in each category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insects</td>
<td>100-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees and shrubs</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbaceous plants</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small mammals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the Books

Course: DCSN 211 Undergraduate, DCSN 350 Graduate Pricing and Revenue Management

SYLLABUS

Victor Araman’s face lights up at the mention of his course Pricing and Revenue Management for two key reasons: “It is my research, it is closely related to my way of thinking; and it is a hot topic—how to price in a sophisticated way in a competitive world. Cost-based pricing is history. Today, in many industries pricing is an art and a competitive advantage based in part on people’s ‘willingness to pay.’”

Taking examples of price sensitive products such as airline tickets, hotel rooms, and mobile phones, Araman’s course examines information, models, and approaches to come up with the right price for the right channel at the right time. “But this is not just about ‘willingness to pay,’” Araman explains, “it is about finding the tipping point that makes a product attractive. It is product design through pricing.”

CLASS TIME

It is clearly Araman’s favorite course and, he says, the students love it too—that is if they stick with it. This is not a course for those not willing to put in the effort. Basically, it is pitched at MBA level so some undergraduates drop out in the first week, but those who stay with it say it is very rewarding. Based on case studies, it is also highly technical using sophisticated modeling and data analysis to examine pricing challenges in retail—airline tickets, car rental deals, and other fields, such as online advertising and even real estate—to see how to play with scarcity of capacity, product perishability, and to assess the elasticity of prices.

BIO

Victor Araman is an associate professor in the Business Information and Decision Systems track. He is also the director of the OSB MBA program. He graduated from École Centrale Paris with a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering and holds a master’s in financial engineering and a PhD in operations research, both from Stanford University. He has worked and been a consultant for companies in Silicon Valley. Before joining AUB, Araman was a professor at the Stern School of Business at New York University where he still teaches in the summer. He also spent a year as a visiting professor at INSEAD in Singapore and France.

- M.A
Incoming international students gather on the (relatively) cool terrace of West Hall during the Office of International Programs fall orientation. This year, 25 percent of the student body holds a passport from a country other than Lebanon, coming to Ras Beirut from 55 countries.

Learn more about international programs: oip@aub.edu.lb

01 Klaus Keller, from Germany, majors in international relations at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

02 Oud player Moatassim Kammouni has a BA in oriental music from the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory for Music, but keeps a day job as a mechanical engineer.

03 Rebecca Ritters, from the University of Melbourne, Australia, studies political science. She spent most of her life as an actor.

04 Leonore Lekkerkerker, from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands, is getting her MA in Middle Eastern studies at CAMES.

05 Nadia Younes transferred from the University of Maryland to pursue a BA in political science and an MA in Middle Eastern studies. She’s half Lebanese, half Puerto Rican, and can’t imagine leaving AUB.

06 Mads Thomsen, from Aarhus Universitet, Denmark, is a graduate student in Arab and Islamic studies.
Many AUB students enjoy exceptional internship opportunities around the world and right next door. Here’s a look at where some of them went recently, what they learned, and their post-graduation plans.

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

Name: Mohsen Al-Amine (major, chemical engineering)
This picture was taken in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, at the COMPACT (Napco Composite Packaging Technology Ltd.) office.
What I’m doing: working.
Why? I’ve been here since mid-June, and I’ve gotten to know pretty much all there is to know about flexible packaging. It’s been a great learning experience—one that has been mutually beneficial as well.

Name: Rawan Dgheim (major, chemical engineering)
This picture was taken in Oxford, England.
What I’m doing: I am interning at Cumberland Electrochemical, which is only 30 minutes away from Oxford University. It develops electrochlorination plants for the production of sodium hypochlorite.
Why? I am working with the process engineer to develop P&IDs (piping and instrumentation diagrams), and am also assisting with developing HAZOPs (hazard and operability studies) for various clients.

Name: Fatima El Sakka (major, construction engineering)
This picture was taken in Belgrade, Serbia – on the Danube River.
What I’m doing: taking a break from my summer internship with IAESTE-Serbia.
Why? I am one of 150 students from almost 50 countries that is participating in this program. I am gaining valuable experience related to my major in highway engineering.

Name: Tala Kammourieh (BArch ’14)
This picture was taken in Sawfar, Mount Lebanon, Lebanon.
What I’m doing: spending some time away from the city in the serenity and cool breeze of this town.
Why? because it’s my getaway place, and a place that is dear to me. I’m going to the US in August where I will be a student at the Graduate School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Name: Sara Mantach (major, electrical and computer engineering)
This picture was taken in Madison, Wisconsin.
What I’m doing: a nine-week research internship with Professor Zongfu Yu on a project entitled “Nanophotonic materials and structures.”
Why? As a third-year engineering student, I am required to do a summer internship. The FEA Career Center provides us with many offers from different companies and universities around the world. I applied and was accepted here as an honorary scholar.

Name: Adham Shkeir (BEN Civil Engineering ’14)
This picture was taken in New York – at the Statue of Liberty.
What I’m doing: I am in the USA for an exchange program with MEPI [the Middle East Partnership Initiative].
Why? I was selected to participate in this “six-week leadership experience.” The MEPI program includes courses at Roger Williams University plus visits to Washington, DC, Boston, New York, Rhode Island, and Seattle. At the end of the program, I will move back to Lebanon to start my career as an engineer.
Inspiration

Welcome to AUB

Six new trustees joined the AUB Board of Trustees in 2014.

Philippe Raymond Jabre
A former AUB student (1977-78), Jabre is founder and chief investment officer of Jabre Capital Partners SA; a member of the board of overseers of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business; and founder of the Association Philippe Jabre, a charitable organization benefiting the people of Lebanon. A long-time supporter of AUB, Jabre made his first gift to the University in 1997. He has since funded scholarships for hundreds of AUB students.

Mu’taz Sawwaf
An AUB graduate (BArch ’74), Sawwaf is an executive board member of the Saudi Binladin Group and managing director of its Architecture and Building Construction Division. He has executed projects in Saudi Arabia, in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa, including the expansion of Mecca and Medina Hajj facilities; King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST); the clock tower in Mecca; and the Jeddah and Dakkar airports. He also sits on the boards of International College, Construction Products Company, Mimar Invest, Roots Group Arabia, Growth Gate Partnership, and Saned Equity Partnership. An accomplished illustrator certified by the Bob Godfrey Studio in London, Sawwaf continues to publish his cartoons. With the Arab Gulf Fund for Development, Sawwaf set up the not-for-profit microfinance organization Al-Ibdaa in several countries. The Wassef and Souad Sawwaf Building, named in honor of Sawwaf’s parents, was inaugurated in January 2014.

Nabil Antoine Habayeb
A former AUB student (1977-79), Habayeb lives and works in Dubai where he is president and CEO of General Electric’s Middle East, North Africa & Turkey region. He travels to Lebanon regularly. In addition to being an AUB trustee, Habayeb is also a member of the board of trustees of Balamand University; member of the board of Mubadala Infrastructure Partners Limited; member of the board of directors of the US Saudi Arabian Business Council; and a member of the board of trustees of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.

Maher Mikati
An AUB graduate (BBA ’01), Mikati is executive director of Mi Group, where he manages investments in fashion, retail, travel, aviation, and real estate and is a member of the Mi Group Investment Committee. He previously served as executive director at Investcom Holding, where he oversaw all new business ventures in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. He is a board member of Growthgate Capital Corporation; Royal Jordanian; Hope Construction Material; Jetscape; and a director of the Mikati Foundation. He is a graduate of INSEAD (MBA ’06). Mikati and his family have been strong supporters of AUB for many years.

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Abdo George Kadifa
An AUB graduate (BEN electrical engineering ’81), Kadifa is executive vice president, strategic relationships, and a member of Hewlett Packard Company’s Executive Council. He was formerly operating partner, Silver Lake Partners; and vice president of global delivery at IBM Global Technology Services. He maintains close ties with Lebanon through his involvement with numerous activities including LebNet and the American Friends of the Lebanon Mountain Trail.

Fadlo R. Khuri
A former AUB student (1981-82) and active alumnus, Khuri is a professor and chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Emory University. He has been a member of the Atlanta International School board of trustees since 2009 and chairs its education committee. As a member of the board of trustees of the Naef K. Basile Foundation, he has been particularly involved with AUBMC’s Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute. One of the world’s leading experts in lung and other aerodigestive cancers, Khuri was awarded the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award in 2013 from the American Association for Cancer Research.

Honorary degrees

The 2014 honorary degree recipients were Lebanese sculptor and painter Saloua Raouda Choucair; entrepreneur Samih Darwazah, founder of Hikma Pharmaceuticals; and Yusuf Hannun, an award-winning molecular biologist and clinical doctor.
A member of the Class of 1874, Faris Nimr was born to a Greek Orthodox family in Hasbeya in southern Lebanon in 1856. His father and two of his uncles were killed during fighting between the Druze and Maronite communities when Nimr was just five years old forcing him, his younger brother and sister, and his mother to flee to Beirut. He spent one year at the British Syrian Mission School in Beirut before traveling with his mother to Jerusalem where he attended the English School of Zion for five years. When he returned to Lebanon, he enrolled at the Abeih Academy, which SPC founder Cornelius Van Dyck had established in 1846.

After graduating from SPC in 1874, Faris Nimr taught at the Prussian School for Girls and the Greek Orthodox School. In 1876, he and SPC alumnus Yaqub Sarruf (BA 1870) founded Al-Muqtataf, a path-breaking scientific magazine. Nimr and Sarruf became lifelong friends and worked together on many projects over the years. They were both hired to teach at SPC and were promised faculty positions, but the College abruptly changed its mind and rescinded its offers in 1885. Although no official explanation was given, it was widely believed at the time that the College was nervous about some of Sarruf and Nimr’s political activities, and unhappy with their support for Professor Edwin Lewis during the “Darwin Affair” of 1882. Relations between the College and Sarruf and Nimr warmed over the years, however, as evidenced by the fact that SPC awarded them its first honorary doctoral degrees in 1890.

Sarruf and Nimr moved to Cairo in 1884 where they continued to publish Al-Muqtataf and founded an evening newspaper, Al-Muqattam, in 1889. Faris Nimr was primarily responsible for Al-Muqattam, which became a leading newspaper in the Arab world. It provided a pro-British perspective, an alternative to that provided by the French-leaning Al-Ahram newspaper. Interestingly, while he opposed French colonialism in Syria, Faris Nimr was a strong supporter of British interests in Egypt. He also founded and published Sudan’s first political newspaper, the Sudan Times, in 1903.

Faris Nimr married Helen Eynaud, the daughter of a former British consul to Alexandria, shortly after he arrived in Cairo. They had a son, Albert, and four daughters including Amy, who became an artist; and Katie, who married historian George Antonious. The family lived in the Cairo suburb of Maadi for almost 60 years where they were visited by many distinguished guests from the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. An excellent orator and respected journalist, Nimr was widely admired and sought out for his opinions on the leading issues of the day.

Although Cairo became his home, Nimr returned to Beirut on several occasions. In 1929, he participated in an alumni luncheon in West Hall where he was lauded for his generous donations to the Alumni Fund. He was also Commencement speaker in 1942. Active well into his nineties, Faris Nimr died in 1951 at the age of 95.
Discoveries

Research, the arts, and current events

On the Road in Iran
Four AUB faculty members go off the beaten path to find pre-Islamic architecture.

Collective
Handwritten student magazines (1899-1933) are featured in an exhibit and book curated by the President’s Club.

Pursuits
Fighting counterfeit prescription drugs; strengthening family businesses; the Russian Empire and the Middle East.

Under Discussion
Domestic abuse and women’s rights; legislation to address gender-based violence.

R+D
Tylor Brand, a 2014 PhD student in Arab and Middle Eastern history, knew he had a major find when he unearthed Acting President Edward Nickoley’s personal diary, but he didn’t know it would change the course of his research.

AUB Spaces
At the Tissue Culture Facility Core Lab, Dr. Nadine Darwiche (BS ’84, MS ’87) and an interdisciplinary team work on developing anti-cancer drugs from plants with medicinal properties.
Discovering Iran

When assistant professor of art history May Farhat sent an email around inviting faculty to join her on a trip to Iran in the spring, she received many positive responses. Time constraints and other logistics eliminated many of those who were eager to go but eventually Farhat’s group, including Dr. Rola Hammam (MD ’02); Assistant Professor Darius Martin (Department of Economics), and Professor Richard Saumarez Smith (Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies) set off on their journey of discovery. This is their story.

Why we went

May Farhat: The idea of organizing a trip to Iran came to me late one night. I am an art historian who specializes in the art and architecture of the Islamic world, and I wrote my dissertation on the shrine of the eighth Shi’I Imam Ali al-Rida in Mashhad, a major pilgrimage city in northeastern Iran. As a graduate student, I had fallen under the spell of Iranian culture, its stunning architecture and gardens, its exquisite cuisine, and Iranians’ courtesy and hospitality. Over the years, many of my friends and colleagues had asked me to organize a trip to Iran. With the election of Hassan Rouhani, a moderate political leader, a political détente was in the air, and I felt that the time was right for a visit.

Rola Hammam: I always was intrigued by Persian history as well as modern Iranian culture; my interest in Isfahan architecture came from a book I read as a child describing its wonders including the acoustics of the music hall and the beautiful mosques.

Darius Martin: My mother is from Iran. I heard stories about it growing up, I wanted to finally see it for myself.

Richard Smith: I’d long wanted to visit Iran since my doctoral research was on northwest India which has close cultural and linguistic links to Iran. The chance of going with an expert in Iranian architecture was not to be missed.

What we discovered

RH: The trip exceeded my expectations. The people were the friendliest and the most curious I have met. I was invited for dinner at the home of a doctor sitting beside me on a domestic flight. It seems getting such invitations is not uncommon. In bazaars and gardens locals would approach us to practice their English or to speak their minds on topics such as Iranian-western relationships or simply to make sure we knew that they welcome us in their country.

DM: My expectations were in black and white and now the reality is in color. I was surprised by how normal and organized the country is. I had expected some hassle because of my US passport. Instead I had a frictionless entry and was never restricted in any way.

RS: My expectations that Iran is a country with a very rich history, and astonishingly beautiful art and architecture, were amply fulfilled. I began to appreciate it as a lynchpin in the civilizations of the world, especially Indo-European civilization.

Our strongest memories

MF: Iran’s most enduring and captivating aspect is its predominantly arid landscape, which is so different from our Mediterranean world. Set against an arid starkness, Iranians’ love for nature, and for large, expansive, enclosed gardens, planned around watercourses and pools, is most beguiling. This love for green nature in bloom—a paradisiacal setting par excellence—is beautifully captured in tile patterns, carpet designs, and most alluring of all, Persian poetry.

RH: The tomb of Hafez in Shiraz with people reciting potent Hafez poetry from different corners of the monument. The ambience, music, and poetry were truly enchanting. The very strong picnic culture in all the different cities; the talented young men singing traditional and modern songs through the night under the Isfahan Bridge cheered on by the people; quite marvelous.

DM: I’ve never seen anything like the bazaars in Iran.

RS: My abiding memory is of a diverse, sophisticated culture which I want to know better.

As told to M.A.
“The Creator, if he exists, has a special preference for beetles.” So said British Geneticist J. B. S. Haldane. With over 370,000 species already described, and millions yet to be identified, beetles are the most abundant of terrestrial organisms. The Natural History Museum at AUB has a fabulous beetle collection. Away from the public view; in stacks and stacks of meticulously organized cases in a cold, quiet room, the beetles offer a wonderful learning opportunity to the expert or layman. The beetles at the museum come in a bewildering assortment of size and color, some too small to be mounted on pins, and others as big as birds, in colors across the spectrum. An essential piece of this compendium of beetles was the work of Edmond Peyron (1827-1908), a French entomologist whose 13,000 specimens include around 6000 from the Levant. The Syrian Protestant College purchased his collection in 1912 providing an important platform for the university beetle collection which includes many type specimens. Time and financing permitting, the delicate beetles in the Peyron Collection are being painstakingly curated, which involves transferring them from brass to stainless steel pins, and onto more appropriate surfaces, while retaining their century old hand written labels.

-K.D.
Once upon a time... before the days of Facebook, Instagram, email, and even typewriters, AUB students were inspired to write magazines. This was when writing magazines meant handwriting them, not once but twice over—a copy for the library and a copy for circulation. This far-sighted enterprise not only showed initiative and commitment, it also means that AUB’s Jafet Library Archives houses a wonderfully preserved treasure trove of these meticulously produced publications, providing unique insight into the hearts and minds of AUB students between 1899 and 1933.

Mona Chemali Khalaf, chair of the President’s Club, carefully reviewed some 46 magazines for this project, 38 of which were handwritten. Some were in English, some in Arabic, three purely in French, and several in a mixture of two or three languages. As well as a wealth of opinion, debate, poetry, and prose, they contain hand-drawn illustrations—some by pioneering artists like Omar Unsi, others by enthusiastic amateurs—and captivating adverts that indicate that the average AUB student back then looked a great deal more dapper than any sighted on campus today!

Working with Jafet archivists, Khalaf culled a fascinating cross section of pages from this prolific 34 years of production to mount an exhibition and publish a catalog entitled, “A More Abundant Life—as Illustrated in AUB Student Handwritten Magazines 1899-1933.”

This “abundance of life” immediately becomes apparent with topics as diverse as coeducation, physical exercise, theater, and concert reviews; odes to love—both romantic and as a “Love Letter to Applied Mathematics”; cartoons; sports commentaries, and, of course, wide-ranging political debate.

Eventually typewritten pages appeared but even they were customized with hand drawn illustrations, photographs, and emblems. In the era of cut/paste/photoshop, and print it is worth taking a moment to marvel at the painstaking effort that went into encapsulating AUB student life back in the “old days.”

-M.A.
Flip through the pages of the catalog of handwritten student magazines at "MainGate" online and on the President’s Club’s website.
Drug counterfeiting is a serious problem worldwide, particularly in parts of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa where it is estimated that more than 30 percent of all drugs are mislabeled and/or include the wrong or inactive ingredients. The WHO-funded Center for Systematic Reviews in Health Policy and Systems Research (SPARK) at AUB, one of only four such centers in the world, has made drug counterfeiting one of its priority topics. A joint collaboration between the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, SPARK works closely with policymakers and stakeholders to ensure that what we learn from systematic literature reviews is used to inform decisionmaking. We are leading the multi-disciplinary SPARK team that includes Lama Bou Karroum (MPH '11) and Racha Fadlallah (MPH '13). Our primary review question: What has been the effectiveness of the interventions that have been implemented so far to combat or prevent drug counterfeiting?

How Top Management Ties with Board Members Affect Pay-Performance Sensitivity and IPO Performance

Recent corporate governance reforms have emphasized the importance of an independent board of directors. An Initial Public Offering (IPO), when a firm sells its shares to the public for the first time, is a critical stage in a corporation’s life cycle. IPOs face more difficulties than mature firms in attracting independent directors who do not have ties with members of the firm, so they are likely to hire family members and friends. While family and social ties may encourage collaboration driven by shared affiliations, they may also generate excessive managerial power and mismanagement of human resources. Professor Marc Goergen from Cardiff University and I have conducted the first study on the effects of pay-performance sensitivity (PPS), using stock-options, on the performance of IPOs of firms where social and family ties among top managers and board members exist. We find that social ties can create value and improve IPO performance, whereas family ties have the opposite effect. More importantly, the use of PPS in an IPO firm increases the positive effect of social ties and reduces the negative effect of family ties. Our results confirm the importance of executive compensation schemes in aligning the interests of executives with those of shareholders.

The Russian Empire and the Arab Middle East

I am exploring how Russia experienced and explored the Middle East in the imperial era that ended with the 1917 Revolution. I am especially interested in learning more about the relatively neglected social and cultural contacts that produced political results over a long-term period of engagement. Today the Russian Federation is home to more than 20 million Muslims and conducts an active policy of engagement with the contemporary Middle East. An appreciation of Russia’s earlier interactions with the region is essential to understanding the nature of this relationship. Many Russians believe that their society enjoys a special relationship with the “East” – one that is more familiar and sympathetic that its relationship with the traditionally defined “West.” By examining Russian attitudes toward Middle Eastern societies, I hope to uncover the sources of current challenges and antagonisms, a topic that seems especially vital in the context of the Arab Spring and Russia’s involvement in it.
Quiz

Bookworms

Match AUB deans with their favorite book – and find out why they like it.

Salim Chahine, Suliman S. Olayan School of Business
Nahla Houalla, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Patrick McGreevy, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Iman Nuwayhid, Faculty of Health Sciences
Mohamed H. Sayegh, Faculty of Medicine
Makram Suidan, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

A  Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea
C  James Joyce, Ulysses
D  Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot
E  Milan Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being
F  Natsuo Kirino, Out

Key: Salim Chahine E; Nahla Houalla F; Patrick McGreevy C; Iman Nuwayhid D; Mohamed H. Sayegh B; Makram Suidan A

A  It is a powerful book that puts man in perspective with nature.
B  Because it has a selection of interesting and beautiful poems by one of the world’s most incredible poets...
C  Because after a character spews the most vicious words of racial hatred, Joyce imaginatively transforms him by this closing description: “On his wise shoulders through the checkerwork of leaves the sun flung spangles, dancing coins.”
D  Because there is a lot to do while waiting...
E  It is a beautiful portrayal of how the political environment can shape personal life. I read it long ago. Although it’s serious, it grabs you.
F  In a brutal and shocking style, Kirino describes poverty and fragmented family relationships in Japan. This novel shows the dark side of a complex society that is ultra-modern, traditional, rational, dysfunctional, peaceful, and violent at the same time.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

Professors, students, and friends gathered in Bathish Auditorium on May 28 to pay tribute to AUB professor of sociology and director of the Center for Behavioral Research Samir Khalaf (BA ’55, MA ’57).

AUB offered its first MOOC, Citizenship in the Arab World, last summer. It was taught by Professor Dina Kiwan and was offered with Edraak, an initiative of the Queen Rania Foundation for Education and Development.

A survey led by Professor Hala Ghattas from the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences published in the British Journal of Nutrition showed that over 40 percent of Iraqi refugee children under the age of 5 have anemia, an iron deficiency that could have major long-term health consequences.

Jafet Library has launched a "Book Exchange" program in the Reference Desk Area to make it easier for readers to swap used books of all genres and languages. Learn more on Facebook or email jftref@aub.edu.lb.

AUB is offering a professional diploma for green technologies in Lebanon and Egypt. The ProGreen diploma, which is being funded by the European Union Tempus Programme, is AUB’s first online diploma program.

Nesreen Ghaddar, associate provost and professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers in engineering sciences in recognition of her contributions to the field of green engineering.
Domestic violence in Lebanon, as everywhere else in the world, is a serious social problem. Between 2010 and 2013, 25 women were murdered by family members in Lebanon. In addition, the organization KAFA (enough) receives 2,600 reports of domestic violence each year. Far from being individual aberrations, domestic violence is a symptom of the much broader political issue of global patriarchy. We live in a world in which the rights of women are of secondary importance. Women are instrumentalized in pornography, the media, and public discourse, producing an impression of objecthood that is ripe for abuse. Patriarchy is pervasive; from the annoyances of everyday sexism to the dangers of being abused within one's home.

For Lebanon, 2014 was historically significant: on April 1, condemnation of domestic violence was written into law with the aim of creating space for legal challenges to abuse that had previously been deemed a private matter. Sadly, the legislation falls short of the recommendations made by women's groups, and completely ignores the major issue of marital rape. Yet even if the legislation is improved, it is important to remember that, as the experience of many other countries attest, prosecutions are limited by other factors. First, victim-blaming is common: women are often made to feel responsible for the abuse they suffer. Second, women's life options are severely restricted by societal norms and structural barriers, meaning that many are trapped by economic dependence.

The year ahead will be critical in pushing for vital amendments to the legislation. Let us also remember that the fight begins in our communities, in doing a better job of caring for one another in non-judgmental ways, in deconstructing sexist norms and struggling for economic justice, and in remembering that the only person who can definitively end the cycle of violence is the person who decides not to hit.

-A.S.
Biggest discovery to date: Edward Nickoley’s [acting president, 1920-23, and former FAS dean, 1924-37] private diary, hidden in the AUB archives. It’s as close to a gold mine as there is for those seeking a personal outlook on the famine of World War I.

Where is this going? I hope to provide a more realistic, human face to the famine, which will help us understand not only life during the crisis in Lebanon and coastal Syria at that time, but also how individuals and societies are affected by and respond to catastrophe. Often it is easy to forget that from 1915 to 1918, people woke up in the morning and went about their daily lives as the world slowly and often excruciatingly changed around them. Even those who died in the famine often survived for years in varying degrees of comfort and distress. My goal has been to recover this lost aspect of the famine period to show the diversity of experience during the crisis. People were not passive. They struggled, endured, and suffered, but they also adapted, threw parties, watched films, played sports, and helped each other to physically and emotionally survive.

How I got here: My initial focus was on identity history, but after some frank and quite accurate evaluations of my research proposals by Professor Samir Seikaly, I was forced to reevaluate my career path. Because my interests had shifted to the history of disease and disaster, the late Professor Emeritus Kamal Salibi (BA ’49) suggested that I explore the famine period since at the time it had been relatively overlooked despite its immense impact.

What I’ll remember most about AUB: My home, the History Department.

Best moment of the day: I always get a thrill when I find copies of books signed and donated to the Jafet Library by Philip Hitti (BA 1908), Muhammad Kurd ’Ali, and other historical celebrities.
Dr. Nadine Darwiche (BS ’84, MS ’87) is leading a multidisciplinary team that includes AUB colleagues with expertise in cancer research, chemistry, and chemical engineering. Working with Drs. Najat Saliba and Tarek Ghaddar (chemistry) and Dr. Walid Saad (chemical engineering), Darwiche is studying several plants that are well known in Lebanon to have medicinal properties to identify which of them might be most successfully used to develop anticancer drugs for the market. This research is being funded by Hikma Pharmaceuticals.

Darwiche works primarily in the Tissue Culture Facility Core Lab in the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Building where she is assisted by Zeynab Jaber, a biochemistry graduate student, and research assistant Melody Saikali (BS ’08, MS ’11). In this core lab, she grows, treats, and prepares samples from cancer cells to investigate the mode of cancer cell death from two promising medicinal plant species that are known to have anticancer properties: *Akhilia zat al-alf waraqah* (yarrow) and *Shawk al-dardar* (loggerheads or knapweed). These two plant species have been shown to be particularly effective against colon cancer and skin cancer, and may be promising against leukemia and breast cancer as well. Darwiche says that it can take years—even decades—and as much as a billion dollars to produce an anticancer drug. “You have to be very patient,” she says, “but it is of course enormously rewarding research as well.”

Darwiche has been studying medicinal plants in Lebanon for a long time. In addition to being a professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics and coordinator of AUB’s new PhD program in Biomedical Sciences, Darwiche is also a founding member of AUB’s Nature Conservation Center. One of its longstanding projects is to identify and develop local plants and products that can be marketed to ensure sustainable agro-industrial growth that benefits local communities.
Wellness

AUBMC 2020, health, and medicine

The Unseen Ravages of War

Health care’s obscure boundaries in times of war. “Mainly we need to understand that we are all implicated in what’s going on in the region, western politicians, local politicians, academics. We are all partly responsible and partly victims.”

The Neonate Fund

Critical care for fragile newborns.

Check-Up: Fighting Infections

Dr. Souha Kanj Sharara of the Infection Control and Prevention Program (ICPP) explains the basics and offers tips for staying healthy.

AUBMC News

New Balance Center at AUBMC; agreement with the Iraqi Ministry of Health; fashion designer Reem Acra (BBA ’82) designs new uniforms for AUBMC.

Sahtein

Fresh Tomato Fettuccini: pasta perfection from Marlene Matar (BS ’63), with the MUFA breakdown from Marie Claire Chamieh (BS ’86, MS ’93).
To this AUB assistant professor of medical anthropology and public health and his research colleagues, however, the hell that happens on the battlefield is only the beginning of the dystopian devastation that warfare has wrought since the end of the Cold War.

Everybody knows about the psychological problems, such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, those agonies suffered by people who have fought and witnessed wars. Most know about the security problems such as the landmines still being dug up in southern Lebanon and others unexpectedly unearthed by spring flooding in the Balkans. Then there are political problems, such as the plight of Syrian children born in Lebanon whose parents can’t register them in Syria, a situation that will cause untold difficulties for these stateless children and their families.

But there is a whole new set of problems, manifested most recently in the attack on a hospital in South Kordofan, Sudan, in May: security and military issues become mixed with political and psychological ones. “We have seen the transformation of health care,” Dewachi says. “It is now directly implicated in military strategy. The war on terror has blurred all kinds of relationships.”

Dewachi and AUB co-authors Zeina Maasri (Architecture and Design, BA ’96), Fouad Fouad (Health Sciences), and Ghassan Abu Sitta (AUB Medical Center)—with collaborators from Johns Hopkins University, Birzeit University, and the University of Montreal—was recognized in the accompanying Lancet editorial, which noted that “the effects of the conflicts in Iraq and Syria … both have resulted in the militarisation of health care.”

Gone, the authors find, are the days when ambulances were allowed safe passage, when doctors were expected to treat everyone, no matter what side they were on, when hospitals were safe havens. “Hospitals,” the editorial explains, “have become part of the battlefield,” echoing the article’s assertion that “the targeting and misappropriation of health-care facilities have become part of the tactics of warfare.”

Omar Dewachi (MPH ’00) agrees: War is, indeed, hell.

“The Unseen Ravages of War” Dewachi, who added a PhD in social anthropology from Harvard in 2008 to his medical degree from the University of Baghdad and master’s in public health from AUB, describes himself as an ethnographer whose interest in this field was whetted by personal experience.
“I started med school in Iraq right after the Gulf War in 1991,” he explains, “and I lived through the post-war experience as a medical educator and a doctor. I watched the collapse of the health-care system.”

He describes the impact of UN sanctions on the highly respected Iraqi health-care system. Lacking medicine and equipment, doctors had little to offer their patients. People lost faith in the system. Dewachi, like many doctors, left the country, going first to AUB, then to Harvard.

“I arrived in the US in August 2001. Then came 9/11. The preparation for war turned my attention back to Iraq. The war and invasion defined that moment for me.”

The kind of collapse Dewachi had experienced, the authors find, is a consequence of what some scholars refer to as the “increased militarization of the planet” caused by the war on terror, which has “produced a sense of permanent and pervasive war,” especially in the Middle East. Characterized by urban warfare, ethnic, and religious hostilities, the involvement of regional powers and militant transnational groups, the last few years have seen multiple examples of the breakdown of state authority and, with it, the breakdown of national health-care systems.

Some ramifications of this collapse are obvious. “Medicine has become both a target and an instrument of war,” the article explains, citing the example of the Syrian doctor in Idlib who was arrested and detained for 10 days while security forces tried to ascertain whether he had treated participants in an anti-regime demonstration.

Other consequences are broader. The authors “introduce the concept of therapeutic geographies—defined as the geographic reorganization of health care within and across borders under conditions of war.” Health care is no longer national: it is international. It is no longer a system, but a patchwork of idiosyncratic arrangements.

Thus, a journalist travels back and forth from Iraq to Lebanon for cancer treatments; an Iraqi accountant has rented a small apartment in Beirut because he has to spend so much time there getting treatment for Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Iraq has entered into contracts with several Lebanese hospitals, while the Jordanian Ministry of Health has requested international aid to support the care it provides to Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

A consequence of what some scholars refer to as the “increased militarization of the planet” caused by the war on terror, which has “produced a sense of permanent and pervasive war.”

Some can find treatment—often expensive, sometimes requiring that the extended families help pay the bills—while back home things get worse.

“There’s a mistrust of doctors, after what has happened, both by the people and by the government,” Dewachi explains. “The US use of polio campaigns to locate Bin Laden intensified this. . . . The nature of war has been redefined by the war on terror. It produces an enemy that is almost non-human and has to be eliminated.”

One result of this perfect storm of health-care problems is, co-author Fouad Fouad told National Public Radio reporters in November 2013, the first evidence of polio in Syria in 14 years. Cases found in Deir Ezzor prompted UNICEF to launch a local campaign, which, in turn, prompted health officials in Lebanon to send out 5,000 workers to deliver the vaccine.
Although there hasn't been a case in Lebanon for 12 years, Fouad says that it's crucial to attack the problem immediately: "It's not just about 'fast enough.' They should be 'wide enough.'"

Fouad goes on to explain that health officials suspect that the virus was brought to Syria by foreign fighters from Pakistan. "We're seeing strange diseases that we thought were finished," he says. "It means now it's a collapsed system. So, no one wants to say it's a failed state, but at least in some part, it is."

Old diseases reappear. New ones appear. Dewachi explains in “The Toxicity of Everyday Survival in Iraq” (www.jadaliyya.com), that the United States' use of depleted uranium artillery shells in Iraq has caused increased rates of cancer and congenital birth defects. “Iraq's toxicity and the resultant social scars run as deep as the molecular and genetic makeup of society and will afflict generations to come.”

What should be done?
The first thing, the authors of the Lancet article conclude, is to become clear on what's happening and the ramifications of these changes. There's a need to “introduce new transnational methods of inquiry so we can begin to understand, before we are able to provide answers to health problems related to populations enduring protracted and long-term conflicts.”

Then?
“This is the failure of global systems,” Dewachi says. “Mainly we need to understand that we are all implicated in what's going on in the region, Western politicians, local politicians, academics. We are all partly responsible and partly victims.”

-N.B.
A volunteer-led fund brings critical care to fragile newborns.

It wasn’t so long ago that there was no Neonate Fund. “It was always something,” remembers Dr. Khalid Yunis (MD ’79), “that I wanted to set up, ever since I returned to AUB in 1996.” It took the effort of Dr. Yunis, professor of pediatrics and head, Division of Neonatology, and the energy, commitment, and extraordinary generosity of five women (Hala Dahdah Abou Jaber, Mona Al Khatib Alami, Maya Fakih Ghandour, Marwa Rizk Jaber, and Rada Lozi Sawwaf) to make it happen. These women are all mothers of newborns who required immediate medical attention at birth, and who wanted to help other families in similar situations get the medical care their babies needed. “It is because of them that we are able to provide families with the best and most appropriate care for their babies,” says Dr. Yunis.

Becoming a mother gave Pascale Nakad (BS ’99) a very special appreciation for the powerful role that the Neonate Fund plays in the lives of so many grateful families. “Imagine that at what should be a completely joyous moment—the birth of your child, you find out that your child needs special help. This is so scary—and then you find out that this help will cost more money than you can imagine.” As coordinator of the Neonate Fund, Nakad knows only too well what this experience is like. She meets families whose babies are being cared for at AUBMC’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to help them sort through what they can afford to pay, and how much help the Neonate Fund can provide.

Parents don’t expect their babies to spend time at the NICU and so it is not something they prepare for, either emotionally or financially. While a normal delivery at AUBMC might cost about $2,000-$3,000 (total cost for the mother and baby), just one night at the NICU can run as high as $1,500 to $2,000. Although some babies only need to spend a couple of nights at the NICU, others stay for up to six months or even longer. Almost 35-40 percent of the 15-20 babies who are admitted to the NICU each month require financial assistance. In just two and a half years, the Neonate Fund has provided over $1.5 million and supported 166 families.

"There was one family that had quadruplets born premature. One of them was in critical condition and had to stay longer with lots of medical intervention, which of course meant more expenses. . . . The parents could barely afford to pay for the ride to the hospital and back home. The Neonate Fund covered a big part of the bill, leaving a small amount to pay. It’s wonderful to see a family with very limited income get the best care and pay a minimal amount for it."

NICU nurse manager Tania Daaboul says that the families who receive support are enormously grateful for the financial assistance they receive from the Neonate Fund. “They also express their appreciation to us,” she says, “that there are people who are willing to support them, even though they don’t know them personally. . . . The role of the Neonate Fund is vital; hand in hand with this team, we are working together to save as many lives as we can.”
Q. What attracted you to this specialty?
A. I chose infectious diseases because it is not limited to one organ system; you see so many pathologies in different organs. I love the holistic approach to the patient, rather than managing dysfunctional organs. Also, this is an ever-evolving field with new viruses, bacteria, and resistance mechanisms. It is challenging and is not limited to any age group. Some of the best internist professors who taught me at Duke were infectious diseases specialists. They served as true role models and inspired me to pursue this career path.

Q. What are the main conditions you deal with?
A. As an infectious diseases specialist, the majority of infections one deals with in the hospital are pneumonias, urinary, wound, and blood stream infections. What is good about the AUBMC fellowship program is that fellows are exposed to a large variety of diseases, from endocarditis (infection of the heart valves) to meningitis. In the hospital, we also treat severe infectious diarrhea, and infections acquired from medical devices.

Patients come to the clinics with different types of infections. Brucella or Malta Fever is endemic in Lebanon. It is a bacterial infection from unpasteurized milk products or raw meat. Patients suffer from fever, headache, joint pain, and sometimes spinal infection. We also treat sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, and upper respiratory tract infections including influenza. These conditions are usually treatable. Unlike other specialties where patients have to live with certain diseases, we can often treat and cure infection in a short time. It is rewarding.

Q. Can you explain the difference between a virus and a bacterial infection? People tend to confuse the two and take antibiotics for both.
A. They are two different microorganisms. The majority of viral infections are self-limited and get better without any treatment. Hepatitis B and C, HIV, flu, and the herpes groups are some of the very few viruses that can be treated with drugs. In over 90 percent of viral infections, though, there is no treatment. We rely on the immune system to control the infection.

On the other hand, the majority of bacterial infections will only get better with medicine. So skin, lung, urine, and other bacterial infections must be treated with antibiotics.

People somehow equate fever with the need for antibiotics. They don’t understand that antibiotics do not work unless you have a bacterial infection. It has nothing to do with whether or not you have a fever. It’s a major problem in Lebanon because antibiotics are available over the counter and people buy them and take them because their friend or a neighbor advises them to, so they self administer antibiotics, which can be useless for viral infections. It is because of this abuse that we have such a high and growing resistance to antibiotics.

I strongly advise people not to buy or take antibiotics unless prescribed by a doctor. The majority of respiratory viral infections, diarrhea, and even bacterial gastroenteritis, can get better without antibiotics.

Another key point to mention is that the old belief for taking a full course of antibiotics is changing. If, for example, someone starts a course for a suspected bacterial infection and the symptoms evolve to suggest a virus, doctors should advise patients not to complete the course of antibiotics. There is no evidence to say that the packet or the bottle must be completed once started. If you finish the course unnecessarily you might be exposing bacteria in the gastrointestinal system that you don’t need to kill. Patients should continue to take antibiotics for bacterial infections as prescribed though, and to consult with their doctors before doing something different.
Q. What about the growing problem of drug resistance?
A. Drug resistance is becoming a big health issue. All kinds of bacteria are becoming drug resistant. We need a multidisciplinary approach to curtail the problem and, most importantly, antimicrobial stewardship, which means you need good control over how antibiotics are being utilized, including in animal feed. We are increasingly exposed to antibiotics even when we are not taking them. The Ministries of Agriculture and Health, the Syndicate of Pharmacists, and the Order of Physicians need to be involved. We are working towards antimicrobial stewardship to control antibiotic use inside hospitals but this needs to be applied nationally and in outpatient settings. Since 2005, significant work in this area has been done at AUBMC. We have instituted several types of stewardship efforts including restricting the use of broad spectrum antibiotics and creating an electronic antimicrobial restriction form, establishing guidelines for management of common infectious diseases, educational efforts, as well as implementing strict infection control practices to prevent the spread of resistant bacteria.

A major problem in Lebanon is that there is not enough control of the generic drugs that are sold. In some cases these drugs are not as effective as the original products so bacteria are slowed down but not killed, again allowing them to develop resistance.

In general it is better for children to be exposed to common viruses during childhood in order to develop their immunity. With too much prevention there is a danger they could contract childhood illnesses like chickenpox not as children, but later in life, when it could be a killer.

Q. What are your top tips for staying healthy and avoiding infectious diseases?
A. Do what your mom taught you to do!
• Wash your hands.
• Avoid close contact with people who are sneezing and coughing.
• Use the crook of your arm, not your hands, if you cough or sneeze. This avoids spreading the virus through handshakes.
• Keep a bottle of alcohol-based hand cleanser with you.
• Wash your hands before eating or rubbing your eyes.
• Wash fruits and vegetables well before eating them and don’t consume food from unreliable sources—especially raw meat, eggs, and unpasteurized milk products.
• Keep up-to-date on your vaccination schedule. Children need their measles, polio, tetanus, and pertussis shots, but so do adults. This is especially important for adults who are working with young children.
• Older people should take the flu vaccine. It is changed every year according to the circulating virus.

-M.A.
AUBMC News

New Balance Center at AUBMC

“We are targeting all aspects of dizziness and imbalance, whether related to ear, neurologic, muscular or orthopedic issues,” explained Dr. Marc Bassim, assistant professor of otolaryngology at AUBMC. Dr. Bassim is talking about AUBMC’s new multidisciplinary Balance Center, which caters to patients with dizziness, a complex complaint that can result from disorders of various organ systems and medical conditions. It affects between 20 and 30 percent of people worldwide and increases significantly with age.

With specialties including otology, audiology, and physical therapy for rehabilitation, AUBMC’s Balance Center is the first comprehensive multidisciplinary balance center in Lebanon and one of very few in the Middle East. It provides a range of services including computerized dynamic posturography testing, which is one of the most effective ways to assess the different systems involved in maintaining balance, as well as the patient’s adaptive mechanisms. The Balance Center also offers detailed testing of the inner ear balance system with rotary chair testing, video-nystagmography (for testing inner ear and central motor functions), head-impulse testing, and vestibular evoked myogenic potentials.

Partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Health

AUBMC and the Ministry of Health in Iraq signed a far-reaching agreement in April. It addresses some of the immediate health-care concerns in Iraq, and is helping to lay the groundwork that will speed up the day when Iraqi medical and paramedical staff will be able to provide desperately needed care for their patients in Iraq.

Unfortunately, many Iraqis who require medical attention today are required to leave the country to get it. Since 2008, more than 38,000 patients have traveled to AUBMC seeking medical care for a wide variety of conditions including adult and pediatric cardiology, bone marrow transplant, ophthalmology, ENT, neurology, PET Scan, and radiotherapy. Iraqi physicians who travel with these patients are being trained at AUBMC so that they can provide appropriate follow-up care when they and the patients return to Iraq. “We welcome the opportunity to work with colleagues in Iraq to provide exceptional care for Iraqi patients until the health-care infrastructure in Iraq is ready to accommodate them,” said Associate Dean for External Medical Affairs Dr. Fadi Bitar (MD ’86).

AUB is helping to rebuild that health-care infrastructure and is assisting with capacity building in Iraq as well. In addition to training the Iraqi physicians who travel with their patients to AUBMC, Medical Center doctors and staff are also training health-care providers in Iraq, screening patients to be sent to AUBMC, following up with patients after treatment, and providing management consultancy services. A team from AUBMC traveled to Baghdad in January and March to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a bone marrow transplantation unit in Baghdad Medical City.

The two parties have also agreed to work together to set up a new medical school in Baghdad. “These types of agreements highlight AUBMC’s commitment to establish regional partnerships, build bridges, and share knowledge with associates and partners in the region. This is a critical component of the AUBMC 2020 vision,” explained Dr. Bitar.
AUBMC became the first Medical Center in Lebanon and the fourth in the world to receive ACGME-I Accreditation.

MEMA 2014 took place on April 24-26. The focus of this year’s meeting, which was sponsored jointly with MD Anderson Cancer Center Global Academic Programs (MDACC GAP) and in collaboration with King Hussein Cancer Center of Amman, Jordan, was hematological malignancies.

FAFS Dean Nahla Hwalla has been awarded the 2014 Susan Bulkeley Butler Leadership Excellence Award by the International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) group at Purdue University.

AUBMC’s Department of Family Medicine held its first open house on June 11. Watch the AUBMC website for news about another open house this fall.

The National Cedar Medal, rank of Officer, was awarded to VP Mohamed Sayegh (MD ’84) and Dr. Nagi El Saghir.

Dr. Brigitte Khoury, associate professor and clinical psychologist at AUBMC, represented AUB at meetings organized by the WHO in April 2014 to lay the groundwork for the development of the Mental and Behavioral Disorders Chapter of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). Delegates from more than 15 countries participated in these important meetings in Amman, Jordan.

Say Goodbye to Scrubs

World-renowned fashion designer Reem Acra (BBA ’82), known for her elegant and glamorous bridal and couture gowns and ready-to-wear collections, has designed new uniforms for AUBMC. The staff from the Medical Center’s Patient Affairs Unit, Patient Access and Finance, Private Clinics as well as receptionists and clerks will wear Acra’s fashions. Her designs add smart sophistication and sleek, tailored elegance to all of the associates at AUBMC.

“AUBMC is, and always will be, near and dear to my heart,” said Acra, whose bond with the institution dates back to her birth at the hospital attended by obstetrician Dr. Fayez Sweidan. She grew up on campus while both parents worked at AUBMC. Additionally, her brother, Sari Acra, studied at the Faculty of Medicine and graduated with the class of 1989. “It was my pleasure to design these uniforms and the experience only reinforces my connection with the center,” added Acra.

“It is wonderful to see AUBMC’s growth and expansion over the years, and it was truly my wish to design a wardrobe for the staff that would honor, celebrate, and acknowledge the work they do every day,” she said.

By creating a special collection of uniforms for AUBMC’s dedicated staff, Reem Acra has elevated the medical center’s image, helping to brand and convey AUBMC’s continued excellence and professionalism.
In Focus

This 1950s era “iron lung,” photographed at the then American University Hospital, was a high tech ventilator for patients with respiratory failure. The patient’s body was placed inside the machine, while their head remained outside. The machine assisted breathing by creating a vacuum around the chest, making it easier for the chest and lungs to expand—pulling air from the mouth into the lungs. It was widely used during the polio epidemic of the 1950s, though the cumbersome machine made caring for the patient difficult. Today’s modern ventilators help patients breathe more effectively than the “iron lung” by pumping air into their lungs through a tube placed in the throat, freeing the patient’s body, and enabling significantly enhanced care.

Sahteen
Fresh Tomato Fettuccini

Here is an easy-to-prepare and healthy pasta recipe using fresh tomatoes, basil, and parmesan cheese. Thanks to Marlene Matar (BS ’63) for opening her kitchen to us. Find instructional videos and more recipes—from mafroukeh baida to Irish soda bread—at www.marlenematar.com.

INGREDIENTS:
• 2000 g red ripe tomatoes, cut into big chunks
• 4 tbsps olive oil
• 1 big onion (100 g), finely chopped
• 5 fat garlic cloves (20 g), crushed
• ½ to 1 small chili, seeds removed, finely chopped
• 3/4 cup basil leaves
• 500 g fettuccini
• ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
• Salt and freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION:
• Place tomatoes in a food processor* and pulse until fine. Pour into a food mill placed over a large bowl or pot to extract skin and seeds.
• In a medium size pot, fry onions in 2 tbsps olive oil until they start to color. Then add crushed garlic and chili and fry for a few more seconds.
• In a medium size pot, fry onions in 2 tbsps olive oil until they start to color. Then add crushed garlic and chili and fry for a few more seconds.
• Pour tomato sauce over onion-garlic mixture and cook covered, until onions are tender. Season.
• Boil fettuccini according to package directions and drain. Add the rest of the olive oil.
• Chop basil and add with fettuccini to pot with tomato sauce. Place pot over medium heat and mix long enough to heat it through. Remove from heat, cover, and let rest five minutes before serving.
• Serve hot with grated parmesan cheese on the side.

GOOD FOR YOU?
Marie Claire Chamieh (BS ’86, MS ’93)
Lecturer, Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, says:
• This meal is a good source of vitamins A, K and C (coming from the basil and tomatoes)
• It is a good source of manganese and selenium (mainly from the onions, garlic and basil)
• It also contains amounts of essential fats (MUFAs from olive oil)
• It is a good source of energy (mainly carbohydrates)

However:
• Some vegetables could be added (such as zucchini or broccoli) to increase vitamin and mineral content
• If you aren’t vegetarian, a good source of protein may be added, such as chicken, turkey or shrimp
• To increase fiber content, use whole wheat fettuccini

*If you do not have a food processor, place tomato chunks in a pot and simmer 5-10 minutes until soft then churn in the food mill.

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

Dr. Hassan Chami
Director of
Respiratory Care Unit
Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Medicine

Wellness
## Impact

**Regional impact, advocacy, and policy initiatives**

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First Prize to the Wrigglers

Early morning coffee chez Paul on Bliss Street and the subject under discussion is . . . worms! Hardly an everyday topic, it’s nevertheless the one that netted FAFS graduate student Sara Moledor the first ever $20,000 Samir & Claude Abillama Eco-Entrepreneurship Award. Recently inaugurated at AUB under the auspices of the Nature Conservation Center, this annual award invites proposals for marketable and sustainable novel technologies that benefit local communities while safeguarding the environment.
“Red Wrigglers are the best,” Moledor declares. “You can buy them online.” The unlikely image of trusty Liban Poste arriving at one’s door with a tub of Red Wrigglers is quickly dispelled as Moledor explains that Lebanon has its own Red Wrigglers along with up to 30 other worm species, all with the potential to turn her vermicomposting experiments into a thriving ecobusiness.

Vermicomposting puts the Red Wrigglers and friends to work munching through vegetable waste to excrete 100 percent natural compost, which helps plants thrive without the need for chemical fertilizer. It is cheap, effective, and simple to set up. You can create a mini vermicomposting operation on your balcony, under your coffee table, or you can expand it into a village enterprise Moledor explains. She has tried it in the AUB lab, around the FAFS green houses, and as a small-scale village test case. The hard working worms can rest their case but is vermicomposting sustainable as a business venture? That is the challenge now facing Moledor. How to turn this proven eco-friendly operation into a money-spinner?

The kit materials are cheap and easily available. Moledor opted for recyclables: the ubiquitous blue plastic fruit crates and the compacted felt wrapping material popular with local packing agents. Now she must consider: how to grow the worm population to keep up with potential demand (they are slow reproducers); how to calculate fertilizer yields across large-scale worm populations; and how to price the value of the compost in a commercial market.

The Abillama Award jury selected four finalists and while Moledor’s worms stole the show, the three runners-up have much to celebrate. An innovative dust-trapping window screen made from statically charged, recyclable plastic will be developed through sponsorship from Jammal Trust Bank; Zira3apedia, a pioneering website linking farmers directly to buyers has caught on with the Beirut Chamber of Commerce; and a socially responsible scheme to bury pharmaceutical waste within locally recycled hard board has piqued the interest of several potential sponsors. If the first year is anything to go by, competition for the Abillama Award will be fierce next year.

-M.A.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.**

- The Ministry of Tourism signed a memorandum of understanding with AUB’s Nature Conservation Center on December 5 to cooperate in the field of ecotourism through the exchange of information and expertise.
- Phase Two of the National Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Campaign was launched at AUBMC on June 6.
- Takaful 2014, the Fourth Annual Conference on Arab Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, took place at AUB and at the University of Balamand on June 4-6.
- The Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program held its 6th regional conference in Kuwait. The focus of this meeting was to explore ways in which ethical research can be promoted in developing countries, to determine research priorities, and to provide essential elements for developing a sound ethical framework for health care research.
Through this office,” explains Hassan Diab, PhD, VP for Regional External Programs (REP), and Interim AUB Chief Operating Officer, “AUB is expanding opportunities throughout the region. We are introducing new academic programs and helping to set up educational institutions.” Actually, REP is doing even more than that. Since it was established in 1975 as the AUB Services Corporation (AUBSCO), REP has been and continues to be involved in an extraordinary range of projects. Here are just a few examples. It is working with the Lebanese Ministry of Education to improve educational standards in Lebanese public schools; with the World Health Organization to build capacity in advanced health managerial skills development; with the United Nations Population Fund’s Youth & Reproductive Health Programs as part of its Country Programme Action Plan in Iraq; and with the Ahfad University for Women (AUW) in the Sudan to offer enhanced educational opportunities for women.

“We turned to AUB,” says Professor Amna E. Badri, “to benefit from its long and proven expertise in academic excellence.” As vice president of academic affairs at AUW, Badri has been intimately involved in AUW’s relationship with REP dating back to 2007. She speaks eloquently about the many “fruits of this cooperation” including the introduction of new programs, restructuring existing courses, training faculty members, establishing a student information system (SIS), and streamlining the academic and administrative functions. Registrar Moueen Salameh, PhD, who coordinates REP’s far-reaching project with AUW, sums it up this way: “REP is helping AUW to align with international academic standards.”

Maya Nabhani Zeidan (MS ’97), FAFS program review and accreditation officer, is one of the people at AUB who is helping AUW do this. She says that the material that she taught in the workshops she organized at AUW “was the latest in nutrition and dietetics curriculum planning, goal development, and assessment as per guidelines from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the US-based accrediting agency for nutrition programs.” As one of the members of the team at FAFS led by Dean Nahla Hwalla (MS ’74, PhD ’77), that was involved with FAFS’s successful effort to secure its trailblazing ACEND accreditation, Zeidan is very familiar with these guidelines.

“We’re particularly proud of our relationship with AUW,” says Diab. “It was established almost 50 years ago [in 1966] and plays an important role in the Sudan promoting women’s development and empowerment. In this way it is similar to another REP project that we are concluding this summer—with PNU [the Princess Nourah Bint Abdul Rahman University] in Saudi Arabia.” The first university for women in Riyadh, PNU was established subsequent to a royal directive and so its progress is being watched very closely in KSA. REP provided support for PNU’s College of Education and Center for Teaching and Learning, and restructured the deanship of female student affairs.
REP is also expanding educational opportunities for underserved populations because of its geographic reach. One of its current projects is with Fahad Bin Sultan University (FBSU) in Tabuk, which is in a remote part of Saudi Arabia. “This project,” says Diab, “is giving people who live in an isolated area a chance to enroll in strong academic programs and in this way to advance themselves professionally.”

Fahad Bin Sultan University, which signed a five-year agreement with REP in June 2014, is one of REP’s many repeat clients. The relationship dates back to 2007 when FBSU first contracted with REP to develop entirely new curricula for its colleges of business, engineering, and computing. “With REP support,” says AUB Professor Ahmad Nasri who has been seconded to FBSU as its president, “FBSU has become the leading private university in the Tabuk Province.”

In just four years, FBSU has achieved a four-fold increase in student enrolment and has hosted a number of important national and regional gatherings including the Interactive Robotics Assistance for the Physically Challenged 2012 conference, with the University of Versailles in France and the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Nasri says that it has been a challenging assignment but also a very rewarding one. “We are proud that our students achieved very impressive results in the first, second, and third annual student scientific conferences, thus raising the reputation of FBSU in the entire country.”

One of the priorities of REP’s current contract with FBSU is to build the capacity of the registrar’s office, the library, finance, and purchasing. “This is the type of comprehensive service we often provide for our clients. We don’t just rely on the expertise of AUB faculty members,” says Sami Gheriafi (EMBA ’13), director of institutional consulting at REP. “Many AUB staff people are also involved in REP projects.”

With REP support, Fahad Bin Sultan University has become the leading private university in the Tabuk Province.

Gheriafi says that clients are attracted to AUB because of its academic reputation, and also its long history of outreach to the region. “We have been advancing AUB’s academic mission through consulting, technical assistance, and training for almost 40 years. AUB has a track record. There have been instances when clients have come to us after talking with other consulting firms that are interested only in securing a one-off contract. That’s not the case with AUB. We’re here for the long term. It is very gratifying that we have so many repeat clients.”

Diab notes that REP has conducted hundreds of projects in more than 20 countries in the region, but hastens to add that there are still many opportunities for REP, and for AUB. Zeidan agrees. “I think AUB should collaborate with other institutions and organizations, locally and regionally. This involvement enhances AUB’s role as a productive partner sharing knowledge and expertise for the betterment of communities while enabling learning beyond campus walls.”
“It is so wonderful,” says Lena Yashruti Idriss (former student ’84), “that AUB is finally doing something like this for the community. AUB was for a long time very distant. It has so much to offer—its experience, its expertise, its reputation.” Idriss is executive director of Inaash, the Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps, which was founded in the late 1960s to provide financial support for Palestinian refugees living in camps in Lebanon. Inaash’s office is in Hamra, within walking distance of AUB. It is one of the 24 NGOs that work primarily with Palestinian and Syrian refugees in rural areas that sent representatives to a three-day training workshop at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business in April 2014.

Organized as part of the “NGOs Serving Communities in Need” project, the April workshop was funded by Projacs International. “The response to the first workshop that we held in February was excellent. Even before it ended, we had phone calls from people asking when was the next one, and could they participate,” says Acting Dean of the Olayan School Salim Chahine, PhD.

“Our goal was to develop a program that would be relevant to NGOs—that would help them become more effective, to build capacity. NGOs play such an important role in our community—especially now. I believe the Olayan School has a role to play in supporting them. This is something we should do,” explained Chahine.

Another workshop participant, Lama Mikati (BS ’07, MS ’14) who is director of Nasma: Learning and Resource Center, an NGO that offers children from low income families access to a library, multimedia facilities, and a computer lab, agreed. “What really motivated me to attend the workshop was that it was the first one directed to building the capacity of NGOs from a business perspective. During my three years at Nasma I have attended many NGO conferences and workshops that tackled various issues, but none were based on a business framework. That is what made this project special and particularly useful.”

To make this project “special,” Chahine and project manager Lina Tannir (BBA ’91, MBA ’00), who also teaches finance at the Olayan School, worked closely with colleagues from AUB and from the NGO community. “We consulted with NGOs, like Al-Majmoua, the leading microfinance NGO in Lebanon, that we knew to be professional and experienced and asked them to assist us to develop the program,” explained Tannir. They also called on the expertise of some of their colleagues at the Olayan School, and in AUB’s Offices of Development, and Grants and Contracts.

Working with the NGO sector is a new type of project for the Olayan School. I think we have demonstrated that there are enormous opportunities for us to contribute. We want to do more.

In the opening session on NGO management, Al-Majmoua operations manager Abed Moqaddem stressed the importance of managers having planning, monitoring, leadership, and organizational skills, the types of skills that Al-Majmoua has needed to overcome the challenges it has faced since it was established in 1997. Executive director Youssef Fawaz (BEN ’81), PhD, talked about some of those challenges—the July 2006 war, security tensions in Tripoli, and the influx of Syrian refugees. “Many of the participants were interested in hearing about how we had managed, what lessons we had learned,” explained Fawaz.

Two of the most popular sessions during the three-day workshop were the ones on fundraising and applying for grants. “That [applying for grants] is
always a challenge for us in the NGO community,” explained Idriss. Joudy El-Asmar, communication officer at the Arab Foundation for Sustainable Development Ruwwad, agreed. “It’s a challenge for us at AUB too,” said Rosie Nasser, associate director of the Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC). “It’s also something we have a lot of experience doing.” Nasser, who has been working at OGC since it was established in 2001, enjoyed the chance to share some of what she has learned. “I received many positive comments afterwards from people saying how much they appreciated the advice, especially the session on ‘tools for finding research support and grant writing.’ It was great to be involved in this project,” she says.

Associate Vice President for Development Imad Baalbaki (BBA ’85, MBA ’87), PhD, who also teaches at the Olayan School, shared his expertise in a session on the importance of having a fundraising strategy. “It’s very tempting especially for small NGOs to feel that they must apply for any grant or knock on any prospect donor door, to take advantage of every opportunity to get funding. It is better though,” counseled Baalbaki, “to have a strategy, to think through what you want to do and why—and why you think people might be interested to give to you.”

On the third and final day, participants were introduced to budgeting and planning, covering topics such as financial reporting, including what is required by various government entities. “This is the nitty gritty,” said Tannir. “Some people think this stuff is boring, but it’s important—and important to get right.”

What’s next? “We want to offer more workshops, and reach more NGOs,” says Chahine. He and Tannir are also developing case studies, including one with Inaash as part of a larger effort to collect data and share information with the NGO community. Several of the participants had some recommendations for Chahine and Tannir.

“I think some type of follow-up consultancy or mentoring program that matched each NGO with one of the professionals would be very beneficial to ensure that what we learned is being implemented correctly and is meeting a specific need of the NGO,” said Lama Mikati.

Lena Idriss is especially interested in learning more about new fundraising tools. “We hear about things like crowdfunding, but very few of us have the resources or know how to pursue these ideas. It would be great if AUB could help with this.” Inaash, which was awarded first prize at the end of the workshop for a proposal promoting women’s embroidery, wants to expand. “We offer the finest Palestinian embroideries in the world,” says Idriss, “and are working with local designers to develop new products. We need to find buyers for these products. We need help with this.”

Joudy El-Asmar hopes that future workshops will provide more opportunities for participants to exchange experiences, learn about other’s success stories, and about the lessons they learned from their failures.” Another topic that is a high priority for her and her colleagues is advocacy and lobbying. Ruwwad, which received an award during the workshop for a theatrical project to bring together people from different sides of the conflict in Tripoli, works with some of the most marginalized communities. “We want to help them become active citizens, to become aware of their rights, and be able to advocate for them. We’re hungry,” says El-Asmar, “to learn the ‘how-to-do’ so we can achieve this mission.”

Chahine and Tannir have already talked about the need for a mechanism that would encourage NGOs to work together to support each other. “Working with the NGO sector is a new type of project for the Olayan School. I think we have demonstrated that there are enormous opportunities for us to contribute. We want to do more. We will do more,” says Acting Dean Chahine.
Everybody loves chickens.

We love to roast them and broil them; to scramble and boil and poach their eggs.

In Lebanon alone, every year 600,000 breeding hens produce 3,000,000 laying hens and—get this!—60,000,000 meat birds.

That’s a lot of chickens. More important, from an environmental standpoint, it’s a lot of chicks: a lot of chicks mean a lot of electricity.

This is why, Assistant Professor of Food Processing and Packaging Mohamad Abiad (BEN ’98) explains, he and several colleagues applied for a grant to ramp up the poultry facilities at AUB’s Agricultural Research and Education Center (AREC) in the Beqa’a. “I’ve been interested in moving toward sustainable food production for a long time,” he says. “We have to find ways to make it more affordable for producers.”

The project, “Energy Efficient Poultry Production: A Showcase of Various Renewable Energy Applications at AREC-AUB,” is designed to dramatically reduce the cost of raising chickens.

Over the long run chickens aren’t expensive to raise. It’s only during those first few weeks that the featherless chicks need a steadily warm environment.

**How do you keep them warm?**

At the moment, it’s done with heat lamps and other processes that need a lot of electricity. In Lebanon, of course, electricity’s expensive and unreliable.

But this grant from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will enable Abiad and his colleagues to reduce the energy required for raising chicks by two-thirds.

**How?**

Solar panels? Sure. And maybe inexpensive, sustainable construction materials? Yup. How about adding an “earth heat tube exchanger” to facilitate heating and cooling and ventilation? Good idea; that’s included, too. And maybe an “anaerobic digester . . . using manure generated by AREC livestock” to produce methane which can be burned instead of propane when the solar panels can’t generate enough electricity to heat the chicks.

This conglomeration of approaches arose when several AUB professors met to talk about collaborating. When Abiad, environmental engineer Darine Salam (MA ’06), and mechanical engineer Kamel Aboughali (BS ’83) looked into ways to combine their expertise to reduce the cost of raising chicks, they realized that important research had been done in this field and decided to enlist help from other professors. Joined by Associate Provost Nesreen Ghaddar (energy) and civil engineer Ghassan Chehab (BEN ’96, MEN ’98) they developed and submitted a proposal which was approved in December 2013.

“This is the first time a system like this has been developed,” Abiad says, “with the three complementary systems. It mostly relies on solar, but the others serve as back-up. The research shows that in theory it will work, but we have to try it out.”

The point is not merely to see if it’ll work. It is to also develop a training center for local farmers and regional researchers. The grant proposal explains the center will provide “hands-on training for local schools, technical institutes, university students, and representatives from local businesses [that] serve the energy industry.”

Articles about the project have appeared in several specialized journals. One recently published in the *International Journal of Energy Research* puts the project into a broader perspective, noting the regional food insecurity situation is worsening because of “steadily increasing energy costs.”

The article explains that the system will pay for itself in one year.

“In research you learn as you go,” Abiad explains. “This will be like a big lab. Once it’s up and running, we’ll study it and tweak it here and there.”

A big lab that, if all goes according to plan, will allow farmers to stay in business, feeding their families while they provide Lebanese kitchens with affordable chickens.

-N.B.
AUB Everywhere

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

Alumni Profile

Sheikha Hissah Al Sabah (BA '74) is a feminist and social welfare visionary whose work has helped change the lives of Arab and African women.

WAAAUB Events and Announcements

Newly elected leadership in Qatar, a spirited class ring ceremony, a new summer camp for the children of alumni, reunion, and the sixth annual WAAAUB convention.

WAAAUB Around the Globe

Chapters around the world host iftars, picnics, meet-and-greets, gala dinners, and cultural events.

StandingOUTstanding

Jawad Sbeity's (BS '96) Beirut by Bike combines getting fit and giving back, and makes sure that both are fun.

The Reveal

Nadine Chahine (BGD '00) on the visual aesthetics and accessibility of text; a typographer’s success increases her visibility.

Class Notes

Class Correspondents: Taki Mahdessian (BBA '64) provides a first-hand account of the 50th reunion; Patrick Hitchon (BS '70, MD '74) describes the AUB/Iowa connection; Lina Shihabuddin (BS '85, MD '89) reflects on life 25 years after AUB; and a greeting from Linda Adra (BA '91)
Women’s Work

At the tender age of five, Sheikha Hissah Al Sabah (BA ’74) was sent to boarding school in Britain. It was an educational experiment cut short by the onset of the Suez Crisis but it was a formative experience. Five years later, when she arrived in Beirut from Kuwait to attend the Lebanese Evangelical School for Girls (LESG), she was already a veteran in terms of standing on her own two feet.

You really had to struggle to get an 85 from Elie Salem but they were good days and my AUB training helped me a lot when I applied to graduate school in the United States.

The second daughter of Sheikh Saad Abdallah Al Sabah and the granddaughter of AUB alumnus Sheikh Fahed Salem Al Sabah, Hissah Al Sabah says she is lucky to have had parents and grandparents who valued education. Sheikh Fahed Salem Al Sabah (her maternal grandfather) had given permission for the building of an English school in Kuwait on condition that his daughters and his granddaughters could attend. Thus it came to pass that after five years at that school Al Sabah arrived in Beirut fluent in English and rather poor in Arabic. Remedial Arabic lessons did the trick.

Hissah Al Sabah formed lasting bonds with her fellow pupils at LESG and like many, she is proud of its history. “It’s older than AUB, it had its centenary in 1960,” she explains. From there she went on to Beirut College for Women (BCW, now Lebanese American University) and then to AUB where she recalls favorite professors like Adnan Iskander and Elie Salem. “I learned a lot from AUB. Coming from BCW you had to work hard and these professors were not easy. You really had to struggle to get an 85 from Elie Salem but they were good days and my AUB training helped me a lot when I applied to graduate school in the United States.”

Al Sabah’s CV includes a master’s in hospital administration from George Washington University; jobs as head of personnel at the International Marine and Petroleum Company, and head of medical services, research, and development at the Military Hospital, as well as deputy chairperson, Kuwait Drug Prevention Committee; honorary chairperson, Arab Federation of NGO Societies for Drug Prevention and chairperson, Drug Prevention Committee, Kuwait Volunteers Women’s Society for Community Service. In conversation she frequently cites her parents as crucial influences in her personal development. As the father of five girls and one boy, Sheikh Saad always encouraged his daughters to do well in everything they did.

An entrepreneur by nature, she opened the first fashion boutiques for Kuwaiti women in 1974 as a way of getting to know the Kuwaiti female population. Despite his liberal tendencies, Sheikh Saad saw this as a step too far for a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family. Aided and abetted by her mother, Hissah won him over.

Ever the pioneer, she also started the first Kuwaiti NGO dealing with drug prevention in response to the plight of Kuwaitis who had been tortured with drugs during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. As the wider problem of drug abuse became apparent, her groundbreaking work was adopted as national policy.

As for many Kuwaitis, the invasion was a life-changing event for Al Sabah, instigating a massive switch in priorities. Nowadays women’s empowerment and maintaining her network of school friends are the main points of focus. “In 2010 my school friends and I celebrated our 50th anniversary together, I call them my ‘Golden Girls’ and we make a point of getting together five or six times a year.”

Those get-togethers take place when she is not attending conferences, congresses or leading Arab women’s delegations to different parts of the world in her capacity as president of the Council of Arab Businesswomen (CABW), a position she has held since the council’s founding in 1999. “It was my father who encouraged me to become president,” Al Sabah explains. “Or rather he told me that I should...
Previously North African women were not united with the Gulf and the rest of the Middle East, now they work together in clusters to achieve practical business partnerships. We have joined many international women’s groups and have a significant presence at all their meetings.” Hissah Al Sabah is also president of a new organization called the Union of Arab African Business Women that promotes investment between Gulf and African women. “You can start a business in Africa for as little as $1,000,” she explains. “Gulf women have the money and African women need money to grow small and medium enterprises.” It is little wonder that Hissah Al Sabah has been included in Arabian Business’ list of the World’s 100 Most Powerful Arab Women year on year since 2011.

Al Sabah makes a clear distinction between life before and life after assuming the presidency of CABW. Mention her previous work experience and she quickly dismisses it as “that’s before I retired.” The term ‘retirement’ is relative. Alongside her work as president of CABW, she is chairperson of ASAS, a regional real estate holding company. She is vice president of the Committee for Kuwaiti Women’s Affairs and as such dedicates a lot of time to nurturing cottage industries into viable businesses.

As she was looking forward to taking the summer off in what she calls the “Three-Bs” – Beirut, Bikfaya, and Batroun – Al Sabah was simultaneously focusing on the challenges ahead. The CABW calendar was already filling up. It will have a major presence in an upcoming women’s conference in Malaysia, she will be speaking at the Deauville Women’s Forum, and there are myriad meetings and seminars. “Occasionally I suggest that I should step down as president,” she says, “but every time I mention this it gets rejected. I must say as I look back over the last 14 years it makes me feel very content to see where the Arab woman is today, to see her working hard and trying her best to succeed in so many different fields; and to see women supporting each other.”

-M.A.
WAAAUB Events and Announcements

WAAAUB Recently Elected Leadership

QATAR

Hayssam Hikmat Hamdan
(BS ’82, MS ’84)
President

Fadia Wajih Fakih
(BA ’95)
Vice President

Catherine Samir Nasrallah
(MPH ’12)
Treasurer

Nadia Mohammad Fanous
(BS ’09, MPH ’11)
Secretary

Member at Large:
Abdul Rahman Chamseddine (MA ’09)
Rima Abdulrazzak Charbaji
(BBA ’04, MBA ’08)
Mohamad Wajdi El Ghotme (BEN ’11)
Maya Ziad El Hajjar (BBA ’09)
Khalil Kamel Temsah (BS ’08)

Class Ring Ceremony

Green Field, 5/23/14
Interested in purchasing a class ring?
Contact alumni@aub.edu.lb

Summer Camp for Alumni Children

July and August
A new summer camp for alumni children and others ages 5-11. Made possible through a collaboration between WAAAUB and local day-care center Dent de Lai (ddL), the camp offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and educational activities.
WAAAHUB wants to hear from alumni in Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and Vancouver!

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

Interested alumni, please write to the committee at: chapterscommittee@waaahub.org

On the map: Find recent alumni activities from around the globe. Visit the WAAAHUB website at www.aub.edu.lb/alumni to find a chapter near you and to learn about upcoming events.
Legacy Ceremony, West Hall, September 1, included 100 alumni parents and their children.

4 Houston
MEET AND GREET
Mary’z Lebanese Cuisine
Houston, TX 5/20/14

5 Midwest
TALK
with President Dorman
Westminster Campus
Evanston, IL 6/8/14

6 New England
PICNIC
Boston Commons
Boston, MA 6/1/14

7 Greater Washington, DC Area
PICNIC
with LAU, Burke Lake Park
Fairfax Station, VA 6/22/14

8 Montreal
IFTAR
Rumi Restaurant
Montreal, Quebec 7/25/14

9 Ottawa
PICNIC
Vincent Massey Park
Ottawa, Ontario 6/8/14
IFTAR
KS Restaurant on the Keys
Ottawa, Ontario 7/18/14

LEADERS ROUNDTABLE
Telus House
Toronto, Ontario 5/28/14

Geneva
GALA DINNER
Grand Hotel Kempinski
Geneva, 6/7/14

Toronto
LEADERS ROUNDTABLE
Telus House
Toronto, Ontario 5/28/14

United Kingdom
WORLD CUP
Spain v. Netherlands
Calligan’s Bar, Holiday Inn
London, 6/13/14

Greece
PLAY
by Betty Taoutel, Passport N# 10452
DAIS Cultural Center
Athens, 5/10/14

Jordan
HONORING CEREMONY
Dr. Samih Darwazah
AUB Alumni Club of Jordan
Amman, 6/17/14

ANNUAL RAMADAN NIGHT
with LAU Alumni Club
King Hussein Club
Amman, 7/11/14

Kuwait
RAMADAN GHABGA
Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel
Kuwait City, 7/19/14

Engineering and Architecture Chapter
CELEBRATION OF FEA CLASS OF 2014
WAAAUB Clubhouse
Campus, 5/19/14

Computer Science Chapter
11TH ANNUAL REUNION
Green Oval
Campus, 5/26/14
AUB Everywhere

WAAAUB Board and Council members at Homecoming Brunch
Left to right: Mohamad Wehbi (BS ’91, MD ’96), Lamia Hussainy (BA ’94, DPL ’93), Esmat El-Masri (BA ’94, Maha Al Amir (BA ’94)
Seated from left to right: Wadad Hussainy (BA ‘88, MA ‘94), Nawar Hage (former student)

WAAAUB Engineering and Architecture Chapter President Dr. Samir Tawfoli (BEN ’73, MEN ’75, MBA ’80)
hands the chapter’s 2014 award to FEA Dean Makram Sibian (BEN ’71) for safekeeping.

Keynote speaker Sheikha Al Sabah (BA ’74)
celebrated with friends at the Class
of 1974 Commencement.

Chapter representatives from around the globe gathered for WAAAUB’s
annual business meeting to discuss the association’s past achievements
and future objectives. Alumni were delighted with the new WAAAUB
Clubhouse in Mary Dodge Hall to be inaugurated in late 2014.

Haydar Abu Jabar (BEN ‘59) and Waad Kibly (BS ‘64)
They’re all winners at the alumni football (soccer) tournament!

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented
to Trustee Emeritus Ali Ghandour (BA ’50)

Reunion brunch at the new WAAAUB Clubhouse in Mary Dodge Hall.

Gala dinner, Four Seasons Hotel

Farid Al Azem (BA ’74) with his “new” book.

Daljani (BA ’57, MA ’60) and Berj Haijan (BS ’89)
REUNION
6/20-22/14
What a weekend!
Q. When did you first become interested in biking?
A. It was the Beirut traffic of course, and that turned into a final-year project at AUB. Then my colleagues and I took the project to Solidere, when they were still rebuilding the downtown. We asked them to put in bike lanes, and they actually gave us some land on the condition that we start a cycling club. Now we have a big 3.7 km track by the sea.

Q. How big is Beirut by Bike?
A. We've had more than 100,000 rentals, so I think that the club is making a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. We have a fleet of 2,000 top-quality bikes.

Q. Who rides?
A. We have customers of all ages, from 3 years old to 84 years young. It’s a great family activity, and we’ve been around long enough that now I’ve taught little kids to ride who are still biking as teenagers. We’ve had couples meet here who have gotten married.

Q. As a philanthropist, what are some of the most satisfying things you’ve been able to do?
A. Beirut by Bike organizes programs in both environmental awareness and corporate social responsibility. We’ve been supplying bikes to the “Follow the Women” organization since 2004. It’s an annual bike ride for female cyclists that promotes peace and justice in the Middle East. In 2014, we supported 26 local initiatives with “Bike for Charity” fundraisers. Recently, in 2012, the company initiated “Bike for All,” a free training service for new bike riders. We partner with schools, too—we go to them, and they come to us.

Q. What are some of the obstacles that you have encountered?
A. We are hoping to gain government support so that we can reduce our fees and expand our philanthropic mission. Rental locations are expensive, and it would be great to get a break on that, so that we can give people a break.

Q. Why would a bike club rent Segways?
A. We want to encourage people to try new things like skateboarding, Segways, and roller blading as well, by giving them some space to practice. We have 20 Segways. It’s a great way to see Beirut’s historic sites.

Q. Do you think that Beirut by Bike can be about more than just play?
A. Children need a safe place to play. Parents won’t let them outside if they’re afraid. Kids should get to play games, not play with weapons. Maybe it’s a small thing, but I’d like to have an outlet in the north, in the south, in the Beqa’a. It’s a way for people to get out of the house, meet each other, and communicate. Under current circumstances, the need for play is serious business. Our goal is to create space for both fun and philanthropy.

-B.R.
Nadine Chahine (BDG '00) is an award-winning typeface designer who works as the Arabic specialist at Monotype, one of the world’s largest and most highly regarded typeface foundries. She has an MA in typeface design from the University of Reading, UK, where she explored creating a harmonious relationship between Arabic and Latin scripts; and a doctorate from Leiden University, Netherlands, where her research focus was on legibility of the Arabic script. Chahine is the recipient of two Awards for Excellence in Type Design from the Type Directors Club, New York in 2008 and 2011, her work was featured in the 5th edition of Megg’s History of Graphic Design, and in 2012 she was selected by Fast Company as one of the 100 Most Creative People in Business. Her typefaces include: the best-selling Frutiger Arabic, Neue Helvetica Arabic, Univers Next Arabic, Palatino Arabic and Palatino Sans Arabic, and Koufiya. With the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s AgeLab, Dr. Chahine has conducted research in the field of legible typography that focuses on how typeface style affects driver distraction.

Chahine’s passion for fonts started when she was a student at AUB. “I was always frustrated by the dearth of quality Arabic fonts. It felt as if this was a reflection of a much larger issue—of everything that was not what it should be in our part of the world. That was a state of affairs that was intolerable, and so I set about trying to make my world look a little better, one letter at a time.”

-B.R.
REMINISCENCE

Hanifeh G. Naib (BA ’40, MD ’44)

Patrick Bohan writes of his late mother:
[My mother] was among the first 14
girl AUB MD graduates. She was
from Aleppo. She and my father,
Francis Bohan, met during World War II
when my father, an American Navy
enlisted man, was stationed in Beirut
as a naval intelligence officer. They
married (eloped) in December 1944
in Jerusalem, and then took a ship to
Boston, Massachusetts. My mother
practiced medicine from our home
in the late 1940s into the 1950s. She
completed a master’s degree in public
health from Yale University and became
a school physician in New Haven,
Connecticut (CT), so she could be more
available to her two children. She then
became the public health officer in
Meriden, CT and in 1976 accepted a
position as the health officer for
DeKalb County, Georgia near Atlanta
(population, 500,000). My mother
was working in this capacity at the time
of her death in 1988 from complications
following a car accident. My father died
ten months later from a broken heart.
Mother spoke to us about having to
learn English before being allowed to
matriculate at AUB medical school.
They were married nearly 44 years
ago. . . . On May 9, 2014 my eldest
daughter, Erica Bohan, graduated from
the University of Minnesota Medical
School. We gave her the doctor’s bag
my mother received upon her
graduation from AUB.

Raymond Habiby, PhD (BA ’41) is living
in Dallas, Texas after years of serving
as professor of political science at
Oklahoma State University (OSU). He
received his PhD from the University
of Minnesota in 1965 and started
teaching at OSU that same year. He
would like to hear from his former
classmates. habiby@aol.com

Sadek Omar (BA ’47, MA ’52) was
awarded the Shield of Honor at the
2013 International College (IC)
commencement ceremony for his
years of service as an exemplary
educator. Sadek started his career as
a chemistry professor at AUB (1950-56)
before moving on to IC to head its
chemistry department. He later served
as IC principal and vice president.
The commencement ceremony was
held under the auspices of Minister of
Communications Walid al-Dauk. Sadek
was accompanied by his wife Siham,
his daughter Nouha Ghandour
(BA ’71), and Nouha’s husband Farouk
Ghandour.

Heratch O. Doumanian (BA ’53, MD ’57)
After graduating from medical school,
Heratch emigrated to the United States.
He served for two years in the US Army
Reserves as a captain in the Medical

The 50th reunion of the Class of 1964 took place June 20-22 in Beirut on our beautiful campus. Forty-one of us braved time and distance to celebrate this milestone with friends and family. A particularly moving moment for me was marching to Assembly Hall to the music of Chariots of Fire—our scarves and name tags with our graduation photos waving in the wind. The years melted away as I re-experienced the excitement of commencement.

Our class spokesperson Abdul-Hamid Bibi (BBA ’64) was eloquent and funny and spoke of a bygone time—the beginning of the hippie generation and more carefree times in the 1960s. John Makhoul (BEN ’64) made us proud with his achievements and contributions to FEA.

Overall, it was an opportunity for us to reconnect and rekindle friendships with classmates, some of whom we hadn’t seen for 50 years. I am very glad I went, and hope you will join me for our 75th!

Taki '64 Class Correspondent

Taki (Devian) Mahdessian (BBA ’64)

1960s

Abdul Ghaffar Musa (BS ’62, MD ’66) retired in May 2013 after practicing gynecological oncology for 37 years in upstate New York. He then relocated to Great Falls, Virginia outside of Washington, DC where he enjoys working on his new house with his wife Sultana. His daughter Jumana is 20 minutes away, his son Hassan works in cardiovascular research at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and his youngest child Tina just finished her second year of medical school.

Ebrahim Al Abed (BA ’65, MA ’75), director general of the National Media Council, UAE, and director general of the Emirates News Agency (WAM) was recently honored with the Arab Media Personality of the Year award at the Arab Media Forum at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai.

Robert Talley (MA ’68) writes: I was born into an army family. My first job after high school at a military academy was as a reporter. After winning two “best story” awards, I decided to enroll at Oklahoma University’s School of Journalism. Upon graduation I received a regular army commission, and decided on a military career where I ended up specializing in Arab world intelligence. To qualify for my work, I went through an intensive program which included two years at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, two years at AUB for a master’s degree, and extensive travel throughout the MENA region. I lived in the Middle East for six and a half years, but focused on the issues of the region for about 20 years. Along the way, I made many Arab friends, gained an appreciation for Arab culture and language, and developed a strong empathy for the aspirations of the average citizen.

[Robert’s son Quinn Talley sent us the photo to the left and commented, “Several years ago, many kind people at AUB were able to locate and produce an electronic copy of my father’s thesis from 1968, Dubai: past, present, and future. I had the thesis printed and bound, and presented it to him for his 81st birthday, in 2010.”]
1970s

Yadav Pokhrel (BEN '71) is married and has three children, now grown. He has written four books: three in English and one in Nepali. He continues to embrace life’s challenges.
yadavpokhrel1944@gmail.com

Saadeh George (BS '72, MD '76) Since retiring from full-time National Health Service work where his last position was as a consultant psychiatrist, Saadeh has been doing visual art work, preparing for several collective exhibitions, as well as for a solo show in October entitled Gardens of Uruk in Beirut. This art work explores ancient Sumerian mythology such as “The Epic of Gilgamesh” and the “Enuma Elish.”

saadehgeorgegeorge@gmail.com

Talal Abou Mrad (BS '72, MS '75) is an academic who recently participated in the colloquium, La Nouvelle Geopolitique de L’Energie at Faculté de droit de l’université Paris Descartes, in Paris, France.
taboumrad@gmail.com

Gladys Mouro (BS ’76) is currently working as an international nursing consultant. In November 2011, she was elected board director of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) for a four-year term. STTI is an international nursing honor society that includes over 400,000 members around the world. Gladys was a consultant for the King Faisal Specialist and Research Hospital in Riyadh helping them to achieve the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet designation, the highest level of excellence for nursing. In 2009, Gladys spearheaded AUBMC’s Magnet designation when it became the first institution in the Middle East and second outside the United States to achieve this credential.

The AUB-Iowa Connection
It was late June, 1974, and I remember walking on the Corniche towards the AUB Beach. We called it a beach, although it never did have, nor will it ever have, a beach. Anyway, I had just left the American Embassy in Ain Mreisseh with my J-1 visa to come to the United States for a residency. I had mixed feelings about leaving, as I am sure we all did. Lebanon, Beirut, and AUB had provided us with the closest thing to paradise. Reluctantly and out of necessity, it was now time to move on in pursuit of a neurosurgical residency in the United States. Leaving AUB after eight years, I thought I deserved a severance package.

As we flew towards the western horizon with [Mount] Sanin and the Lebanese coast behind us, I had tears in my eyes not knowing when we would be back. Off we flew across the ocean, my friend Ziad Kronfol (BS ’70, MD ’74) headed for Iowa City to do a psychiatry residency, and I went to Detroit for general surgery at Wayne State University. After a year, the pursuit of neurosurgery was underway and my choices were University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa, University of Illinois, or staying on at Wayne State.

I decided to visit Ziad in Iowa in October 1974, and bumped into my neuroanatomy professor and assistant director of the Faculty of Medicine at AUB, Adel Afifi (BA ’51, MD ’57) who was taking a sabbatical year from AUB. After experiencing the hospitality of AUB alumni, and with a little persuasion from Adel, I was sold. It would be University of Iowa. I started here in July of 1975, married my wife Nancy in 1978, and joined the faculty in 1980.

Needless to say, AUB alumni are everywhere. The affiliation between AUB and Iowa dates back to the 1950s, when AUB Faculty of Medicine Dean Norman Nelson (AUB faculty 1952-53) took the post of dean at the College of Medicine in Iowa. This was followed by Dr. Hans Zellweger (AUB faculty 1952-59), who was chair of pediatrics at AUB before coming to Iowa. These two arranged for large numbers of trainees from AUB to go to Iowa in various departments, including ophthalmology, neurology, radiology, psychiatry, pediatrics, and internal medicine, to mention a few. Two other notable people in the nascent AUB/Iowa universe were the late Mansour Armaly (BA ’47, MD ’52), who after completing an ophthalmology residency at AUB was on the faculty at Iowa for 13 years and eventually moved to George Washington University and became president of the Pan-American Glaucoma Society, and AUB professor Ronald Bergman (AUB faculty 1975-83) who had moved to Iowa after writing the first edition of Functional Neuroanatomy with Afifi while at AUB.

The reason for the survival and growth of the AUB-Iowa connection is twofold. It’s because of AUB’s high academic standards, and the ongoing commitment of Iowa leadership to offer opportunities to the talented medical students and residents they can count on from AUB. Our alumni continue to live up to the University’s motto, “That they may have life and have it more abundantly.” Not only do AUB graduates excel, but they reach out to other alumni, and advance the principles of AUB’s founding fathers. With this time-tested felicitous exchange, graduates from Lebanon and the Middle East will always be welcomed to Iowa, their home away from home.
1980s

Rana Chalabi (BA ’81) continues to exhibit her work worldwide. Recent exhibits include an exhibit in Brattleboro, Vermont, the SYRA ARTS gallery in Washington, DC, and an exhibit of her musicians series in Japan, which was graced with a performance by one of Japan’s premier oud players. Rana’s standing exhibit at the NUN Center in Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt has resulted in requests for commissioned work. She is looking forward to continuing to expand her artistic horizons and her creative endeavors in Lebanon and Jordan in the coming year. [see MainGate, spring 2014, “The Reveal”] rchalabi@aucegypt.edu

Rana A. Hajjeh (BS ’84, MD ’88) has won the prestigious Service to America Federal Employee of the Year Award recognizing a United States federal employee for significant contribution to the nation. The Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (also known as Sammies) are presented annually by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service to pay tribute to America’s dedicated federal workforce, highlighting those who have made significant contributions to the country. Honorees are chosen based on their commitment and innovation, as well as the impact of their work addressing the needs of the nation (http://servicetomaingate.org/SAM/index.shtml). As “federal employee of the year,” Rana will be honored at a fall gala in Washington, DC in a ceremony that has been labeled “the Washington Oscars.” Rana is director of the Division of Bacterial Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. She has led massive global campaigns to deliver vaccines to some of the world’s poorest countries. With fierce determination and deep compassion, Rana brings decades of clinical and research experience to helping children in developing countries avoid deadly and preventable diseases such as bacterial meningitis and pneumonia [see MainGate, fall 2011, pages 62-63]. World health experts estimate that her efforts will have helped to save some 7 million children by the year 2020.

Not one to rest on her laurels, the perpetually optimistic and adventurous Rana looks towards the future for fresh challenges. “I’m looking beyond vaccines toward child health in general and child development. I feel I am ready to tackle more complex issues, like a larger focus on quality of life beyond just survival,” she said. “I think it will come down to the same strategies we used with vaccines—staying evidence-based, having the policies needed to implement scientific interventions, making sure you will have impact, and then monitoring and evaluating the impact.”

Hrayr Jebejian (MS ’84) was awarded a doctorate of ministry (DMin) from the New York Theological Seminary in New York on May 14. Dr. Jebejian earned his degree in Bible engagement. He completed the degree in three years while serving the Bible Society in the Gulf fulltime. After successfully completing the nine-course program, he wrote a dissertation entitled, “Engaging the Scripture Message of Hope among Telugu Migrant Workers in the United Arab Emirates.” In addition to his master’s degree in agricultural economics, Hrayr holds a BBA in business administration from Haigazian University. He has worked extensively in Bible Society organizations throughout Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. He is a regular contributor to the Armenian press. His book, The Armenian’s Path of Struggle for Existence, which is an anthology of articles written over 30 years, was published in 2010. Hrayr is married to Dr. Arda Boynerian Jebejian (MA ’99). They have two children.

Taysir Awadallah (MA ’86) After receiving his master’s degree in education, Taysir spent 34 years working with United Nations programs as an education specialist. He also worked with NGOs as an educational consultant.

Nursing ’86 Class Correspondent

Mary Khazen Karish (BS ’86)

After leaving office life behind, I became a master gardener and a public speaker and trainer on organic and sustainable horticultural practices. If you are a nursing student from the Class of 1986, please contact me so that I can write a Class Correspondent report.

Share your news with the Class of 1986. Email: marykarish46@yahoo.com or malin@aub.edu.lb
Malek Ladki (BEN ’87) was named executive chairman of Mobetize Corp., a company that integrates mobile financial services into traditional telecom service offerings. He earned a doctorate in telecommunications from the University of Liverpool.

Nadine Alameh (BEN ’94) has been named chief executive officer of Snowflake Software, Inc., a company offering software products that facilitate data exchange and interoperability within the data provider, defence, and aviation markets. Nadine holds two MS degrees and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the field of information systems engineering.

Mona Yassine (BS ’94) returned to Kuwait after graduating from AUB. She currently holds the position of general manager/partner at Innovation Systems, focusing on custom solutions for the banking sector, the oil industry, and the government. Mona previously worked on banking solutions with Unisys in Kuwait. Later, she moved to Dubai as a sales manager covering the Gulf region for the Global Information Technology Company (GET). In 2012, Mona earned her EMBA from American University. myassine@innosyskt.com

Wissam Chehabeddine (BS ’96) and his wife Maysaa Kassar Chehabeddine have been blessed with a baby boy, Mohammad Hadi.

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Lina Shihabuddin (BS ’85, MD ’89)
Twenty-five years ago we graduated as the MD Class of ’89. Several of us left Lebanon and AUB but Lebanon and AUB never left us. We stayed in touch through memories and pictures, and we will always remember the great time we had together acquiring the education which allowed us to achieve and reach the successes we are all enjoying.

Ahmad Zaatar (BS ’85, MD ’89) writes:
After 25 years we became 50. The young aspiring students became physicians, teachers, and parents. The bakery at the corner of the blue building remains, but the students discussing their exams are gone. The tension before the exams evaporated long ago, and is now transformed into uncertainty for those who stayed, and nostalgia for those who left. We remain together because we have lived in times of danger, despair, and agony, and we have shared stories of success and advice on how to help our patients. After 25 years some of our professors have left, and others are still giving AUB values to future physicians and leaders. But, we have grown older while still looking happily back at those 25-year-old students at the corner bakery...

Linda Adra (BA ’91)
Please welcome Linda Adra as the Class Correspondent for the Class of 1991. She will be contacting classmates throughout the year and writing a brief column on their news and views for Class Notes. Her own class note follows:

One thing AUB has instilled in me is the passion for sharing knowledge. There is nothing more fulfilling to me than learning something new, except sharing what I have learned. This has taken me into the world of education, and after 17 years of teaching at the university level and four years of studying towards my EdD at the University of Sheffield, UK, I am finally completing my last dissertation chapters. I currently reside in Jeddah with my husband Khaled Yamak (BBA ’90) and my two younger sons Omar and Jad. Next fall, my eldest Bilal (pictured with me above) will start his third undergraduate year at Bishop’s University in Canada. It makes me proud to say that this summer he is taking two courses as a visiting student at my own AUB! I look forward to hearing from my former classmates!
Linda
Abdel K. Darwich (BEN ’96) is an associate and principal mechanical engineer at Guttmann & Blaevoet in Sacramento, California. He is a leading innovator in the field of mechanical systems with more than 16 years of experience designing HVAC systems for health care, commercial, industrial, and educational buildings. Darwich earned an MS in mechanical engineering with an emphasis on heat transfer from Boston University.

“Darwich’s consistent efforts for sustainability helped him become the second individual in the Middle East to become a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional.”

He was recently selected as one of the “40 under 40” engineers in the United States by Consulting-Specifying Engineer magazine. In 2013 he was given an international level American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Technology Award for innovative and sustainable design. One of Darwich’s more notable designs is the Jess Jackson Sustainable Building at the University of California, Davis, which is a net-zero energy building that is completely passive, using no active cooling mechanical equipment in an atmosphere where temperatures can reach as high as 105°F. Darwich’s consistent efforts for sustainability helped him become the second individual in the Middle East to become a Leadership in Energy &

Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional. An avid cheese maker and nature enthusiast, Darwich advocates for healthy living in and out of work as he enjoys early morning bike rides to the local farmers markets. He spends the weekends with his wife and two children. adarwich@gb-eng.com

After graduating, Susan Daniel Fayad (BA ’97, TD ’98) went on to teach and work with NGOs. Before leaving Lebanon in 2006, she worked as a senior educational adviser for AMIDEAST/Lebanon. After starting a family and relocating to Richmond, Virginia in 2006, she continued to work in college advising. Most recently, she has been teaching student development at John Tyler Community College. She has also published an award-winning children’s book, My Grandfather’s Masbaha, which can be found at www.amazon.com and at other internet book sites. http://susandanielfayad.com.

Ramzi Jurdi (BA ’01) was named international partner at Chadbourne & Parke, LLP. He joined Chadbourne’s Dubai office in 2008 and has focused his practice on international dispute resolution and compliance matters. Ramzi currently serves as the elected president of the American Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates, a chapter of the US Chamber of Commerce, and is a frequent speaker and commentator on US/UAE economic relations, as well as US economic sanctions. He received a bachelor’s in political science with honors, and earned a JD with honors at George Washington University Law School.

Mohamad Zaher Dabboussi (BS ’04) With his degree in computer science, Mohamad recently started www.awfarshi.com, a website that provides the public with easy access to all ongoing offers and discounts in the Lebanese market. This marketing platform is free for both advertisers and consumers. zahdab@gmail.com

Linda Eid (BS ’06) writes: After I graduated with my degree in chemistry, I worked as a research assistant and product developer for two years at IBSAR, AUB’s Center for Nature Conservation. I then moved to Abu Dhabi, where I taught science and chemistry at an international school before moving on to Vienna, Austria to pursue my master’s degree in international relations. In 2011, I graduated as valedictorian from Webster University Vienna, with two honor’s awards for academic excellence among Webster students worldwide. While matriculating, I benefited from a wide range of work experiences, including publishing in The Vienna Review, and working at OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries). Since 2010 I have worked as a technical cooperation coordinator with the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the International Atomic Energy Agency. One of the first staff members to be recruited by HE Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi’s team in Vienna (UAE’s special representative for international nuclear cooperation), I work closely with him and UAE stakeholders on the development of nuclear infrastructure and human resources in the UAE, for both the Emirates nuclear power program and for non-power applications. Almost eight years after graduating from AUB,
If you are a member of the Class of 1990, or the Class of 1965, consider becoming a Class Correspondent.

Find out more by emailing: maingate@aub.edu.lb

“A work... on the development of nuclear infrastructure and human resources in the UAE”

Linda Eid
BS ’06

I remain grateful to the University for its exceptional vision and its strong cohort of professors who gave me a solid knowledge base and a firm methodology for succeeding in LIFE beyond academia. Sincere salutations to everyone at AUB, from Vienna!

Farah Khalifeh (MS ’11) received a master’s degree in experimental pathology, immunology, and microbiology. After graduation, she moved back to Jordan, where she accepted a position as a research and development officer at Stem Cells of Arabia in Amman. She is on a team that sets up new research projects and collaborations with researchers and scientists from the world’s most innovative research and academic institutions, focusing on the revolutionary stem cell field, which will soon have the potential to dramatically increase life expectancy and improve quality of life issues for millions of people. She is proud to be able to work on creating, experimenting, and patenting new ideas that benefit the scientific community and meet the developing needs of the health-care market. Farah writes, “I am grateful to AUB for a lifetime of experience, education, and great memories.” fmk14@mail.aub.edu

“After serving as associate communications coordinator at the AUB Faculty of Health Sciences, Rabih El Khodr (BA ’06) is now based in Dubai setting up his training and consulting venture, Standup Communication. He specializes in public speaking training; helping individuals, corporate employees, and aspiring entrepreneurs bring out the best communicator in them. rabih@standupcomm.me

“A am grateful to AUB for a lifetime of experience, education, and great memories.”

Farah Khalifeh
MS ’11

Help us celebrate AUB’s 25th and 50th Reunion years!

If you are a member of the Class of 1990, or the Class of 1965, consider becoming a Class Correspondent.

Find out more by emailing: maingate@aub.edu.lb
In Memoriam

Mary Deeb Barrow (BA ’33) Born in Jerusalem, Palestine in 1913, Ms. Barrow passed away on May 2 in London, England. She was one of the first female graduates of AUB. Her parents were socially progressive pillars of the Greek Orthodox community, intent on educating their daughter like her brothers. Ms. Barrow met her husband, Reginald (Reggie), while working with the BBC (British Broadcasting Service) in Jerusalem. She was a scrupulous, determined woman who conducted her life with humility and strength. A teacher who eventually established a well-known kindergarten school in Wimbledon, she is still remembered by former students and their parents. Ms. Barrow’s loving bond with her extended family was a strong foundation for her long, fruitful life. She will be missed by her surviving nieces: Rima Deeb Joury, Naila Deeb, Mona Deeb Lyons in Amman, and Hala Deeb Jabbour in the United States.

Shukri Suleiman Salameh (former student, 1939-40) was born in Jerusalem, Palestine on June 25, 1915, and passed away in May at the age of 98. He served as chief clerk/government attorney in the government of Palestine between 1932 and 1941, while pursuing a diploma in law at the Jerusalem Law School. To supplement his legal training, he studied political science for one year at AUB where he found lasting inspiration from his favorite teachers, Assad Rustum (history) and Charles Malik (philosophy). Mr. Salameh was an accomplished man who lived a remarkable life, experiencing hardships with resilience, grace, and dignity while rapidly advancing to the position of deputy to the assistant secretary-general of personnel services at the United Nations. He is survived by two daughters, Margaret Salameh King (BA ’70) and Randa Salameh Samara (BA ’68, MA ’70).

Samuel B. Bashour (BA ’40, MD ’45), FACS was born in Safita, Syria in 1920 and passed away in Dallas, Texas on June 14. After completing his general surgery residency at Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas, he served as a major in the US Army Medical Corps for two years at Sandia Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico as the base surgeon. He later settled in Irving, Texas where he practiced surgery for over 30 years. He was an elder at St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church, past president of the Irving Rotary Club, and a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a founding member and first president of the Irving Surgical Society, a member of the Dallas County Medical Society, a 50 Year Club member of the Texas Medical Association, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a clinical instructor of surgery at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, and the third president of the staff of Irving Community Hospital. Integrity, honor, courage, and commitment were the foundations of his character. Dr. Bashour is preceded in death by his seven brothers and sisters, and will be dearly missed by his three children, Charles Allen Bashour, MD and his wife Janie; Sara Louise Klinke and her husband Preston; Mary Ann Randolph, JD, and her husband Mark; and eleven grandchildren.

Zareh Leon Kevorkian (BEN ’45) Born in Jerusalem, Palestine on February 22, 1923, Mr. Kevorkian passed away in Olympia, Washington on April 19, 2013 at the age of 90. He enjoyed a long career as a dam and bridge engineering specialist in Iraq, Lebanon, and the United States. In 1958, he helped design some of the first sewage treatment projects in the Middle East while working for the engineering company of Shahan Soghikian (BEN ’48). From 1960-69, he worked on a variety of large projects in Iraq. In 1970, Mr. Kevorkian immigrated to the United States to join his younger brother Jerry, a professor at the University of Washington. He enjoyed over 30 years of service with the
Washington Department of Transportation and retired at the age of 76. He then became a founding member of the Armenian Church of Seattle. Mr. Kevorkian passed away in the loving company of two daughters, Cynthia and Aline Kevorkian. Also present were his physicians who were his old friend Shahan Soghikian’s daughter Cynthia, and her husband Christopher Wolfe (BA ’74). Deeply loved and appreciated by his friends, family, coworkers, and the Armenian community, Mr. Kevorkian will be remembered for his positive outlook, sense of humor, sound judgment, prodigious memory, and huge heart.

Robert Bahij Saba (BA ’52, BS ’53) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania died on July 23 at the age of 82. He was born in Jerusalem, attended St. George’s School, and received a master’s degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned many honors and awards. Mr. Saba served in managerial and executive positions with the American Concrete Pipe Association, US Steel Chemicals, USS Engineers and Consultants, Pullman Swindell, and US Constructors. For many years he operated his own consulting firm in technology transfer and business development, and later, he became a business development specialist with the Mid-Atlantic Technology Applications Center, one of NASA’s then six Regional Technology Transfer Centers. In 2000, Mr. Saba was awarded the Federal Laboratory Consortium Outstanding Service Award for technology transfer. Later, he became the coordinator of the Fire Fighting Task Force in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was hired as a consultant to FirstLink, a Department of Defense National Center of Excellence for first responder technology transition. Mr. Saba is survived by his beloved wife Mona Asfour Saba (BA ’53); his brother Salih, his children Naila Busacca, Michael, and Philip; and five grandchildren.

Wael Dajani (BEN ’55) passed away in August 2013 in Abu Dhabi at the age of 79. His class was the first to graduate as mechanical engineers from the Faculty of Engineering, headed at the time by Dean Weidner. Mr. Dajani distinguished himself as a power station engineer at Kuwait’s Ministry of Electricity and Water, and then as a petroleum operations engineer at the Abu Dhabi oil company ADNOC. With an amiable temperament, and a keen sense of humor, Mr. Dajani was liked by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife May, two brothers, Mazen (BBA ’58, MA ’69) and Amer (BEN ’63), and three children Bashar, Ammar, and Nawar. He is predeceased by a sister, Nour (MS ’76), who was a professor at FAFS.

Layla Bayatti Sabie, PhD (BA ’57) passed away on June 14 at the age of 79 at her home in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Sabie was a retired professor at Morehead State University. She received a master’s degree and a doctorate from George Peabody Teachers’ College of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Sabie lived in Morehead with her late husband Dr. Mohammed K. Sabie. She is survived by her three children: Sheda Sabie King, Kal Sabie, Mona Sabie Womack, and eight grandchildren.

Leila Deeb (BA ’60) Born in Cairo, Egypt in 1939 to a Palestinian father and an Egyptian mother, Ms. Deeb’s family left Jerusalem, Palestine in 1948. She majored in English literature at AUB and taught for a few years at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees. She then went to work for the Jordanian Ministry of Information, and the Ministry of Social Welfare. Later she became a journalist for the Jerusalem Star, Jordan Times and Al Dustour. She was also a correspondent for BBC, Knight Ridder, Reuters, Radio Canada, and Radio New Zealand. A staunch supporter of women’s rights, Ms. Deeb worked for UNIFEM, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and for the Palestinian Department of Refugee Affairs in Amman. After retirement, she spent much of her time in Jericho renovating the family house there. She passed away from kidney failure on June 21, and was laid to rest near her cherished homeland of Jerusalem.
Hassan Ibrahim Al Husseini (BA ’69, MA ’69) died suddenly of a massive coronary on May 2 at his home in Al Khobar. He was 68 years old. A journalist who dedicated his life to promoting progressive social, cultural, and legal causes, Mr. Al Husseini earned a master’s degree in journalism from Ohio State University and worked in Lebanon, Iran, Libya, and the United States before settling in Saudi Arabia where he worked in television broadcasting and in corporate planning at Aramco.

Beta Martinian Nahapetian (BA ’66) was born in Tehran, Iran on September 19, 1944 and passed away on November 4, 2013. She won a full scholarship to AUB where she earned her degree in child psychology. On a whim she took an aptitude test in the new field of computer science, and was soon hired by IBM in Iran as its first female computer analyst. She continued to be a feminist pioneer driving her own sports car and living in her own studio apartment in Iran in the 1960s. Sought after as a systems analyst, she worked in Geneva, Paris, and the United States where she eventually settled in the Washington, DC area with her husband, whom she met at AUB, Ara Nahapetian, Sc.D. (BS ’65, MS ’67). Ms. Nahapetian also worked at Iran Electronics Industries, DuPont, Remington, and for the FBI. In addition, she established her own consultancy. An extraordinarily gifted and spirited woman, she was a life master bridge player, world traveler, and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Ms. Nahapetian is survived by her husband, their two children Eta and Kate, and four grandchildren.

Nami Maroon Jabbour (BBA ’60) was born in Beirut on December 7, 1933, and passed away on July 22, 2013. He and his twin brother, Jubran, grew up playing in the streets and alleys of Ras Beirut. Mr. Jabbour went to Aleppo College in Syria for two years, and then finished his degree in business at AUB. He enjoyed the outdoors, and was passionate about swimming, especially at the AUB Beach. He applied his business and managerial skills to various fields including the real estate, finance, and restaurant industries. Mr. Jabbour cherished close relationships with friends from childhood and university days throughout his life. During Lebanon’s civil war, he protectively moved his family to London, England and then to Virginia, United States. The last eight years of his life were strained by his need for dialysis due to an inherited diabetic condition that he developed in his early thirties. Nevertheless, he still enjoyed family life. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Hala Deeb, and by four children: Rana Jabbour Dimechkie, Mayya Jabbour Saab, Marwan Jabbour, Adnan Jabbour, and four grandchildren.

Hind Sarkis (BA ’00) The AUB community is saddened by the loss of one of its esteemed former colleagues on June 30. Born in Kaftoun, Koura, North Lebanon in 1946, Ms. Sarkis worked at AUB for over 40 years, beginning in 1967 as a clinical assistant at AUBMC, and retiring in 2010 as an executive officer in the Office of Development. She rarely missed a day of work, even during the hardships and challenges of the civil war years. Her meticulous attention to detail, her dedication and loyalty to AUB, and her expansive warmth and generosity are fondly remembered by all who knew her. She is predeceased by her brother Hanna Elias Sarkis (BS ’75, MS ’77), and survived by her sister Oumeima Sarkis Mandali, and by many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Hassan Ibrahim Al Husseini (BA ’67, MA ’69)
**Friends**

**Frank A. Regier**, a former AUB faculty member, died in Albany, California, on April 5 after a long illness. He was 86. Professor Regier was born in Montgomery, West Virginia; an early interest in radio and antennas eventually led him to pursue graduate studies in engineering at UC Berkeley and Yale. He joined the AUB electrical engineering department in 1957 and remained there until 1984. In February 1984, he was kidnapped in Beirut during the Lebanese civil war and held as a hostage. He was rescued two months later, at which time he returned to the United States. He worked as an engineer for NASA in Cleveland, Ohio, where he participated in the design of the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite (ACTS), which was launched into orbit in 1993. He is survived by his wife Mary Hanania Regier, formerly professor of statistics at AUB; his sister Virginia Paczesniak; his sons Terry and Chris; and four grandchildren.

**Ignatius Zakka** was born in 1933 and passed away on March 21. He was the 122nd reigning Syriac Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and, as such, supreme head of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church. Also known by his traditional episcopal name, Severios, he was enthroned as patriarch on September 14, 1980 in St. George’s Patriarchal Cathedral in Damascus. He succeeded Ignatius Ya’qub III. As is traditional for the head of the church, Severios adopted the name Ignatius.

His Holiness Patriarch Iwas was known for his involvement in ecumenical dialogue. He was a president of the World Council of Churches and an observer at the Second Vatican Council. At the time of his election as patriarch, Iwas was archbishop of Baghdad and Basra. As patriarch, he established a monastic seminary, met with Pope John Paul II during his trip to Syria in 2001, and installed numerous metropolitans, including Baselios Thomas I as Catholicos of India. He celebrated his Silver Jubilee in 2005. In 2010, His Holiness established an endowed scholarship for Syrian Orthodox students at AUB.

**Our Legacy**

My late father, Anis A. Bibi, grew up in Jaffa, Palestine. He spent two years at AUB before completing his BA and MA in economics at Cambridge University in the early 1930s. In 1948 the family left Palestine leaving most everything behind. My father stressed repeatedly that it was his education that enabled him to succeed. He approached life with humility, compassion, and respect for others, especially those less fortunate. I established the Anis Bibi Scholarship 22 years ago to thank him for guiding me towards giving and promoting education.

Muwaffak Anis Bibi (BBA ’77)

**We Remember**

- Angel Melikian
- Joseph Khalil Ghozn
- Ara Isribbon
- Kamal Fouad Daouk
- Khalil Botrous Haddad
- Ibrahim Abdel Hamid Abu Ayyash
- Nursing DIPLM ’45
- BA ’47
- BS ’53
- BS ’56, MS ’58
- BA ’56
- BEN ’59

- Suad S. Rayyis
- Touma T. Arida
- Jacques Sawaya
- Adil Issa Masri
- Hassan Ibrahim Hussayni
- BS ’60, MA ’69
- BA ’61
- BA ’61
- BA ’65, MA ’69
- BA ’67, MA ’69

- Talal Ali Shamel
- Yusuf Raja Dumani
- Jad Said Hassan
- Ismail Mohamed Ismail
- Mustafa Jassim Boodai
- Mitchell Kurker
- BBA ’70
- BA ’75
- BA ’78
- BA ’90
- Friend
- Friend
Built in 1960, Nicely Hall was designed by Samir Khairallah and American architect Ernest J. Kump, Jr. who was developing a master plan for AUB at the time. Khairallah, who established Samir Khairallah & Partners (SKP) in 1960, had met Kump, Jr. while studying in the United States. He earned a degree in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley in 1959. One of the first attempts on campus to incorporate local architectural traditions in a modern building, Nicely Hall was strongly criticized by some for “architectural fakeness.”

Dedicated on April 26, 1965, Nicely Hall is named for trustee James M. Nicely who was VP and treasurer of the Ford Foundation and a generous supporter of AUB for many years. James Nicely was also the son of John W. Nicely, who joined SPC as a professor of English in 1896. Built as a classroom building for the humanities and social sciences, Nicely Hall also contains faculty offices.
Do you have photos like this one of coeds on the steps of Assembly Hall, that you would be willing to share? Help preserve AUB’s rich history and let the university archives know. Email: asc@aub.edu.lb