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Were you part of this engineering students’ parade on the Bechtel Building stairs in the 1970s? Send an email to maingate@aub.edu.lb.
Inside the Gate

Social media business smarts at OSB; ESCU Karabism connects knowledge producers and knowledge seekers throughout the MENA region; dangers revealed for nurses; saltwater seeping into our faucets; meet Salma Yassine, first-year medical student and Lebanese national kickboxing champion.

Beyond Bliss Street

Pillar of Strength: Henry Harris Jessup (1832–1910). He arrived in Beirut with Daniel Bliss in 1856, described the plan to found the Syrian Protestant College to David Stuart Dodge in 1861, and won gold at the 1904 World’s Fair for his model of SPC.

Reflections

The Exact Science of Life: Emeritus Professor Harry Mavromatais (BS ’02), who taught physics at AUB for more than 20 years, found science at the root of true j’ai de vie.

Alumni Profile

Unlocking Arabic: A linguistic trailblazer, the work of Karin Ryding (MA ’06) takes its place next to the iconic green dictionary of Hans Wehr.

Alumni Happenings

Make your alma mater theirs! Registration open for the Summer Program for AUB Alumni Children (SPAAC); WAAAUB Alumni Art Expo; alumni love stories from the Valentine’s Dinner.

Class Notes

Ghassan M. Saab’s (BEN ’66) tribute to the FEA Class of 1966; no rules, no preconceptions, as Fadi Sarieddine (BAR ’94) transforms objects and materials in innovative furniture design; published & produced: Rola el-Hussein, PhD (BA ’91) publishes Pax Syriana: Elite Politics in Postwar Lebanon.

In Memoriam

Muftarij’s (BGD ’03) love of Lebanon shines through her critical, candid, and witty cartoons that shred Lebanese society.

Designing Your Destination

Wayfinding and environmental graphic design is a new and growing field, and alumni at one of Lebanon’s design houses are excelling at it.

Impressions of Tokyo

As the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture celebrates 20 years of graphic design, we highlight just a few of the graduates their professor calls “the new creators of society’s culture.”
Integrity, reflection, and outreach

You have announced a year of reflection at the University to clarify and affirm AUB’s core values. Why now?

The University has just released a whole state of institutional integrity policies that address more formally how we do business, in terms of professional standards and official agreements with outside companies. These are supplements to other policies that deal with ethical behavior, such as discrimination based on ethnic background, religion, and age, as well as sexual harassment, which is actually a cutting-edge issue in Lebanon. We also have a new Safe Reporting Policy to protect people who are aware of, or who discover, issues of fraud or unethical practice at the University. The policy ensures they can bring concerns to the notice of the right people who can deal with them confidently.

I felt it was very important to accompany the dissemination of policies about how we treat each other on campus with more general concepts about how we treat each other outside companies. These are supplemented by other policies that address more formally how we do business, in terms of professional standards and official agreements with outside companies. These are supplements to other policies that deal with ethical behavior, such as discrimination based on ethnic background, religion, and age, as well as sexual harassment, which is actually a cutting-edge issue in Lebanon. We also have a new Safe Reporting Policy to protect people who are aware of, or who discover, issues of fraud or unethical practice at the University. The policy ensures they can bring concerns to the notice of the right people who can deal with them confidently.

Is there a similar exercise in the Medical Center, and if so, how different?

A similar exercise was carried out several years ago at the Medical Center and it led to “six essential values” for hospital operations. In fact, it was Adnan Tahir who led that exercise at the Medical Center, and he is leading the effort now on campus. He has finished his conversations with faculty members and we will now be moving on to our non-academic staff and then students. Eventually the core values that have been brought forward in these sessions will be narrowed down to five or six common values that we can all acknowledge and embrace.

Is there a similar exercise happening at AUBMC?

A similar exercise was carried out several years ago at the Medical Center and it led to “six essential values” for hospital operations. In fact, it was Adnan Tahir who led that exercise at the Medical Center, and he is leading the effort now on campus. He has finished his conversations with faculty members and we will now be moving on to our non-academic staff and then students. Eventually the core values that have been brought forward in these sessions will be narrowed down to five or six common values that we can all acknowledge and embrace.

I think the important thing is to understand that the University itself is far more diverse than AUBMC because of its many constituent owners, and art collectors. The discussion centered on why AUB should be interested in the arts, the possibilities for creating a more vibrant arts center on campus, the role of AUB in the arts world in Lebanon, and what we should be thinking about and doing to promote the awareness of art generically—not just for the education of our students but also for the community. It’s an ongoing discussion we’re having and I think we can lead the way in exciting new directions.

President’s view

Looking at the May calendar, I see a full agenda of cultural events at Assembly Hall, many being done in partnership with local embassies or other cultural institutions. Do universities have an obligation to serve as cultural centers?

Part of AUB’s core mission is to promote cultural events on campus. Fortunately, the campus lends itself naturally to these events. We have a lovely performance space in Assembly Hall, and we also have venues for cultural conferences and scholarly symposia. This gives us the opportunity to build contacts with other academic institutions and embassies that are looking to host cultural events on campus, and also to welcome members of the Beirut community to visit the campus. So it is very much a part of AUB’s community-facing agenda, and is intimately tied into an enhanced and vibrant student experience. At this particular juncture, when fewer international students are traveling to Lebanon for obvious reasons, it’s wonderfully enriching for us to have these kinds of events.

Since we will be moving to a new academic calendar next year I’m hoping that the January break between semesters may offer opportunities for a variety of interesting events—both cultural and academic—in the middle of the academic year, rather than putting them all off until May, which tends to be the practice now.

I understand that you will be performing with the AUB choir in one of these upcoming events. What will you be singing?

Kathy and I will both sing in the tenor section with the AUB choir for a performance of J.S. Bach’s St. John Passion. Kathy’s an alto by nature, but she’s a low alto and tenors are always in short supply, so we’re rehearsing the same part. I also sang the Passion at Amherst College in the 1960s. It’s an amazingly powerful work—both musically and emotionally—and it’s being performed the same week as Orthodox Easter, so it’s very timely.

The performance is partially supported by a Melton Foundation grant to support arts and humanities on campus and it’s not just a musical performance; the project has involved other special events, including a series of lectures by the distinguished director Peter Sellars. It’s a privilege for AUB to welcome him on campus.

Has anything happened on campus related to the arts since the SALEEBY opening last year?

Of course, there is the Graphic Design Program’s 20th anniversary, which also received support from the same Melton Foundation grant. This shows how important the Melton Foundation has been to the push we’re making to reinvigorate the arts on campus.

Following the inaugural exhibition last year of the Saleeby collection, the AUB Art Gallery opened a new exhibition on art collectors and art patronage in contemporary Lebanon. This show was inspired by Dr. Samar Saleeby, who recently donated his private collection to AUB, and also profiled nine other major Lebanese collectors. We also had the Alumni Art Expo recently and it was quite fun for everyone. Attendance was high and the show included a whole range of media: visual arts, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry. It was great talking with the artists about what they were doing. I ran into more than one person who was sorry they didn’t contribute, in retrospect. So we hope to do it again, perhaps with a different configuration of artists.

Are you engaging with the art community outside AUB?

We had a dinner gathering at Marquand House in February where we invited� devotedes of the arts, gallery owners, and art collectors. The discussion centered on why AUB should be interested in the arts, the possibilities for creating a more vibrant arts center on campus, the role of AUB in the arts world in Lebanon, and what we should be thinking about and doing to promote the awareness of art generically—not just for the education of our students but also for the community. It’s an ongoing discussion we’re having and I think we can lead the way in exciting new directions.

---JM
It should come as no surprise that some graduates and students in the Graphic Design Program at FEA feel under a bit of pressure. After all, their professor, Leila Musfy, sees them as no less than the “new creators of society’s culture.” As she says in “Revelation” on page 25, these talented and slightly audacious individuals are redefining, reimagining, and reinterpreting the socio-economic and political characteristics of culture in Lebanon and the Middle East.

As the Graphic Design Program celebrates its 20th anniversary, we’re exploring throughout this issue the many paths graphic design alumni have taken. “Revelation” spotlights alumni working in a spectrum of fields (from product design inspired by Arabic typography to corporate branding to advertising projects relevant to cultural heritage). Zina Mufarrij (BGD ’03) has shared some of her witty, acerbic comics on page 39 in a review of her work written by Mishka Mojabber Mourani (MA ’81, TD ’83). Take a moment to watch Tamam Yamout (BGD ’04) in MainGate on-line give a great TedTalk about the challenge of navigating Beirut’s streets in the absence of a consistent signage system. It’s the kind of challenge—no doubt familiar to many of you—that results in exquisite directions like “meet me at the restaurant down the street from the former embassy, across from the Dunkin’ Donuts on the second floor.” His firm’s award-winning wayfinding projects landed it the job of designing the signage at the new AUB Medical Center. Read more about wayfinding and environmental graphic design in “Design Your Destination.” Lastly, thanks to Aya Al Kadi Jazairli (BAR ’08) for her beautiful photographs and thoughtful observations on the culture, language, and architecture of Tokyo. She’s one more example of the amazing paths our alumni have followed that have taken them around the world.

If you’re in Beirut be sure to pick up a copy of *Rusted Radishes*, Beirut’s new literary journal, spearheaded (and designed, no less) by AUB students, editors, and designers.

Enjoy the magazine, and—as always—send us your thoughts and suggestions.

Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

**Hidden Treasures**

AUB’s Jafet Archives is collecting items related to AUB history. Do you have anything in your closet or in a box in the garage that you would be willing to donate—old photographs, commemorative plates, personal diaries, etc.?

If so, please email us at maingate(at)aub.edu.lb.
We’d love to hear from you.

**Upcoming Magazine**

**Sahtein!**

Kebbe, hommos, manakish, malfouf, tabbouleh... Send us your favorite Lebanese recipes. We’re cooking up something fun!

**Help us save trees!**

If you prefer to read MainGate on-line, send us an email and we’ll discontinue your print mailing.

**Errata**

*Winter 2013, In Memoriam:* A photo of Joseph Auda was incorrectly identified as the late Assem Salam. Our sincere apologies.

*Time Flies:* Nadim Homsi was the original source of the photos of the Janissaries and recording of the Alma Mater. Many thanks for sharing these with the magazine and the AUB archives.

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Enjoy the magazine, and—as always—send us your thoughts and suggestions.

Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

At AUB, more than 3,000 students received financial aid in 2011–12. Can you help one more?

Rami Antoun says he has had a passion for chemistry ever since he was a secondary school student at Collège des Saints Cœurs in Ain Najm. Never satisfied with what was in the textbook, he explored chemistry books after class, did internet research, and did experiments in his own personal mini-lab. He also worked hard at his classes and excelled academically. His achievement brought him to the attention of the Alexis & Anne-Marie Habib Foundation that provides long-term financial support enabling bright, academically talented young men and women to maximize their educational potential. “I hold a very deep gratitude to the foundation for its help. Needless to say, it is their financial support that is enabling me to study at AUB.” A chemical engineering major, Rami plans to go on to graduate school and hopes to one day do chemical research that helps save the environment.

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving(at)aub.edu.lb.

**Supporting Students of Today and Tomorrow: Rami Antoun**

Can you help support an AUB student? See what’s possible!
Salma Yassine (BS ’12, first-year medical student) is the Lebanese national kickboxing champion. She writes, “My great devotion to the discipline of martial arts, especially kickboxing, had a significant role in shaping my personality along with teaching me about patience and perseverance. Practicing kickboxing enhanced my mind-body coordination, mental awareness, physical fitness, and endurance. With my coach I practiced hard for the 2012 Lebanese National Championship and I am proud to have earned my victory. Despite the demands of studying medicine, I will never stop practicing, and hopefully I will be able to represent my country in future world championships.”
Academic Ambassadors

“They are offering us the opportunity to attend AUB and also granting us everything we need so we can dedicate our time to studying,” enthusiastically explains Rayan Attieh, a first-year student from Tyre interested in a career in civil engineering. She is talking about the University Scholarship Program (USP) II, a five-year $6.7 million program supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that provides full undergraduate merit-based scholarships to Lebanese public high school students. AUB is one of three Lebanese universities hosting USAID/USP scholarship students. The 50 Ambassador Merit Scholars currently at AUB are enrolled in the Faculties of Arts and Sciences (34), Engineering and Architecture (11), Health Sciences (4), and the Okalan School of Business (1).

Hisham Wehbe is another first-year Ambassador Merit Scholar who wouldn’t have been able to attend AUB without a full scholarship. He is majoring in biology—the first step along a path he hopes will take him to medical school and a career as a pediatrician. “Kids are my passion,” he explains.

Like Rayan, Hisham, who was born in Aley, is especially appreciative of the extra support he and his classmates are getting at AUB. The highly competitive USP provides students with full tuition, including a year of English language instruction for those who need to improve their language skills before they embark on their undergraduate majors. It also provides funding for on-campus housing, medical insurance, books, a monthly stipend, and a laptop computer.

The European Union Tempus Program has awarded AUB’s Office of Grants and Contracts a 904,877.49 Euro grant to implement Innovation and Development of Academic-Industry Partnerships through Efficient Research Administration in Lebanon (IDEAL). Office of Grants and Contracts Director Fadia Homaidan says that AUB will be working with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the National Council for Scientific Research, and 12 other academic and industry partners in Lebanon and Europe to support academic research, promote innovation, and enhance industry partnerships to increase the number of research projects that succeed in commercialization and licensing. You will find more information about the project at www.ideal4lebanon.org and in future issues of MainGate.

Words of Thanks

Students packed into Marquand House to meet the donors who made their education possible. Above, Jad Eid (BEN ‘13) promised to “carry the torch” and do his part to help the next generation receive a “life-changing” AUB education. Donors including Melek El Nimer and her husband Rami chatted with students and expressed their own sense of pride in supporting bright and financially needy students at AUB. The event celebrated the closing of the three-year initiative that raised $25.5 million for financial aid.

Although the focus is on academic progress and needs on campus, “We want these scholars—and all AUB students—to experience a well-rounded AUB education. We want them to tap into subjects beyond their majors or chosen programs and develop analytical and critical thinking skills that will serve them well at AUB and help them to succeed after they graduate,” says FAS Associate Dean and USP Director Malek Tabtal. Hisham is taking Tabtal’s advice: “Every day, there is an event going on somewhere on campus and you can’t spend the whole day in the computer.”

Samar Harkouss-Rihan, PhD, the academic monitor of the program at AUB pays close attention to USP scholars’ academic progress and needs on campus. “Even though these students are academically gifted, we know that coming to AUB is a huge adjustment for some of them,” she explains. That was the case for Catherina Khairallah, who is from Batroun and is planning to major in petroleum studies. “I am living a new experience here at AUB. I am far from my family, have many responsibilities, and am getting used to lots of new things.” She is quick to add that, despite these challenges, she is enjoying being at AUB. To help ease their transition, USP team members organized an orientation program in September to introduce the scholarship students to AUB and give them a chance to get to know each other.

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In David Kurani’s short play 3al 3ein childhood memories of summer in the mountains, blended with recollections of more dramatic events during the Lebanese civil war, merge together into a Chekhovian “joke” (one act play).

Written in homage to the Russian maestro, the lighthearted piece was recently performed by AUB fine arts and art history (FAAH) students directed by Rabih Freiha. Some dozen students mixed and matched roles including that of the village notable, the tough-talking maid, a pretentious AUB maestro, and a macho hunter.

In contrast to the rural idyll, life in war torn Beirut intrudes across the cracking airwaves of a transistor radio, prompting sardonic dialogue between two village elders. One step removed from the “events,” as they were known, these villagers have more immediate concerns. The Syrian shepherd must be replaced, there is an AUB student desperate for work, and the notable’s son needs to improve his classical Arabic. So why not combine the two jobs and hire the student to teach Arabic?

Kurani’s skillful interweaving of light and dark humor—from mother-in-law jokes and constipation, to the destructive power of the USS battleship New Jersey—provided plenty of scope for the FAAH students to enjoy. Initially they had adopted 3al 3ein as a production workshop exercise, but as they came to know the play better, they opted to take it to the next level, translate it into Arabic, and perform it over two nights, to some acclaim, in West Hall. Clearly pleased that his pivotal piece had its debut at AUB where he has taught for many years, Kurani also stressed the symmetry of events given that the 3ein of his childhood, the inspiration behind the play, was 3ein Kour, the hometown of his grandfather Amin Kurani, who worked closely with Daniel Bliss to establish the Syrian Protestant College.

Business Hub

Students who first signed up for OSB’s course, “Social Media in Digital Business,” thinking it would be an easy way to spend a few hours on Facebook and Twitter during class, were in for a shock. True, students were required to spend time on Facebook and Twitter, along with other social media sites, but they also needed to put in many more hours and hard work than they ever imagined.

Word soon got around that course professors Nelson King and Leila Khauli expected a great deal more than blogs and tweets. The level of creativity and analysis required from the students, however, is matched by that of their professors, who are on the case from morning till night. Khauli admits to being fixated by her smart phone that she monitors from 8 am till midnight, tracking students’ progress. “Our purpose is motivation,” the pair explains. “We want to do more than educate, we want to brand our students on-line so that they can deliver and market themselves properly.”

To this end the students are required to follow a “Roadmap to Branding” with course deliverables that include My SM Presence—Self-Branding, three major components of on-line digital business analysis, and a social media strategy module—all wrapped up with a tough written exam at the end. On-line analysis components to date have included the banking sector, the fashion industry, and the food and beverage industry. The course has already attracted the interest of business leaders who have been known to follow classes live on-line to learn from the students’ analyses.

“We also want to instill proper and responsible use of social media in the business sense, to teach students to use it ethically and correctly,” King says. Khauli adds, “The students need to create a professional persona. Their digital footprint is there forever, and this is also their business portfolio. Employers will judge and even hire them by scrutinizing their on-line presence.”

This awareness of the need for judicious self-branding, along with skilful analysis, netted OSB intern Abr Chami her first job. Chami admits to being painfully shy in interviews, but her future boss immediately spotted her potential from her on-line presence. Her passion for her profession as a digital media analyst shone through, thus defusing the pressure to sell herself during the interview. Chami starts her new job soon. She is not the only one; her peers are chalking up similar successes. Khauli says many of them are already working part time as freelance analysts, some are managing NGOs.

“It is quite scary for us as teachers,” King explains. “We have to assume the students are multi-tasking all the time and we have to keep up with them. We need to match the data to how they think.” The pair must be doing something right. Many of their former students remain fixated by the course, not only following it for the fun of it but coming back to discuss it and to help create content.

Clearly this is an exciting and demanding course for professors and students alike and one that is changing the way business analysis is taught at OSB.

—M.A.
Knowledge is Power

What started out as an initiative by a group of professors has developed not only into a full-fledged regional center, it has also been selected to host KariaNet—Knowledge Access for Rural Inter-connected Areas Network.

FAFS’s Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) has been selected from among 10 regional centers to host KariaNet—which empowers its members through knowledge using ICT (information and communication technologies) and non-ICT tools and a dedication to open access principles.

Peasants, farmers, researchers, and government agencies all benefit as the network strives to “link up the knowledge providers and knowledge brokers with knowledge seekers.”

Two current KariaNet projects include facilitating sustainable water management in Egyptian agriculture and working with the National Association of Women’s Cooperatives of argan oil in Morocco.

It all began with a group of junior FAFS faculty in the 1990s who shared a social agenda for outreach and community work that they wanted to implement in the border town of Erasil in the Beq’a. With funding from the University and IDRC as a strategic partner, this community-based project grew from helping the rural poor—training agro-pastoral farmers and herders—to becoming a national center in 2001 with a powerful research and educational agenda. Today it’s a regional center that shares knowledge and innovations among rural and agricultural development projects within the MENA region.

The unit has developed a master’s program in rural community development (RDODE) to consolidate the acquired experience into a structured academic program. The development of this program gave ESDU an edge over other regional centers in being selected as host of KariaNet. The work in this master’s program dovetails perfectly with KariaNet’s mission. Down the road, professors and students in the rural community development program may work side by side on KariaNet and other community development projects.

Shady Hamadeh, chairman of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and director of ESDU, said, “This unit has proven that AUB can play a very important role in introducing new ideas and concepts to the region—it is living proof of that—despite our very little resources. In spite of the uncertainties in the country, we have been able to be a key regional player. This is the mission of AUB.”

KariaNet is a partnership between the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Development Research Center, operating in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Learn more about ESDU: www.aub.edu.lb/units/esdu/
FAS/index.aspx
KariaNet: www.karianet.org/

Here are just a few of the results:

• The majority of the 593 survey respondents were female (79 percent). Fifty-nine percent held a university degree.
• Almost two-thirds (62 percent) reported having been the target of verbal abuse—most commonly from patients’ family or friends (59 percent), but also from patients (25 percent), medical staff (25 percent), nursing staff (18 percent), and managers/supervisors (11 percent).
• Ten percent reported being subjected to physical violence; more than half had been subjected to physical violence (usually pushing, grabbing/punching, and kicking) within the last six months.
• Fifteen percent had been attacked by some type of tool; two percent had been attacked by a weapon.
• Fifty-six percent reported the violent incident to their supervisors.
• Twenty-one percent considered leaving their job as a result of the violent incident.
• An even higher percentage—close to one third (32 percent)—said they intended to quit their jobs within the next 12 months.

Alameddine says that although there are differences among countries, it is difficult to compare the experience of nurses in Lebanon with that of nurses in other countries because the design of studies and their methodologies vary.

As he ponders over the data, Alameddine is making some interesting discoveries. “Contrary to public rhetoric that considers verbal abuse a tolerated aspect of the work culture in Lebanon, our study reveals that exposure to physical abuse is a significant predictor of exposure to physical violence, professionals say, ‘but, as well as a higher intention to quit.’ It is this link that is particularly worrisome to policymakers and health-care managers in Lebanon who are struggling to deal with both a rising demand for nurses and a shrinking nursing workforce.

FHS

The Danger of Caring

Countless studies have documented the critically important role that nurses play in patient care. What is less talked about are the inherent dangers of the nursing profession.

Mohamad Alameddine, an assistant professor in FHS’s Department of Health Management and Policy, recently completed the first study that systematically investigates the exposure of Lebanese nurses to occupational burnout, and the factors associated with this exposure. To do this, Alameddine and co-investigator Claire Zablit, dean of the Saint Joseph University School of Nursing, administered a questionnaire to a random sample of 915 nurses registered with the Order of Nurses in Lebanon to gather data in four areas: demographic and professional background, exposure to and consequences of verbal abuse and physical violence, intention to leave the nursing profession, and level of burnout (measured using the Maslach Burnout Inventory).

As for the results, they are startling. Twenty-one percent considered leaving their job as a result of the violent incident. An even higher percentage—close to one third (32 percent)—said they intended to quit their jobs within the next 12 months.

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Alameddine says that most nurses who participated in the survey reported that there were no antiviolence policies and regulations in the health-care facilities where they worked. This is a situation that he hopes to change. He is working with colleagues to draft specific antiviolence policies and procedures that could be incorporated into the accreditation requirements of all hospitals in Lebanon. Alameddine also plans to coordinate with the Order of Nurses in Lebanon to organize a policy forum, workshops, and press releases to raise awareness about the issue.

“Change will not happen overnight,” he says, “but there is no excuse for inaction. We need to intervene without delay to protect nurses from occupational violence.”
Life before PhD: I grew up in Beirut, but also spent time in my parents’ village, Barti, in south Lebanon. I studied mechanical engineering at Lebanese University and pursued my master’s in energetics engineering at Ecole des Mines de Paris. Before enrolling in the PhD program, I worked as a research engineer at the Center of Energetics and Processes and at Renault Technocentre in France.

What matters most: My research is related to how we live every day. It is about providing thermal comfort and meeting people’s air quality needs using as little energy as possible, especially in office buildings. This is important because reducing energy consumption contributes indirectly to reducing the greenhouse effect.

Research: I’ve developed a new system that integrates a personalized ventilation nozzle mounted in the ceiling with variable delivery angle. This personalized ventilator delivers fresh air directly to the occupant’s breathing zone, thus providing him/her with higher quality inhaled air. The modified peripheral diffuser delivers reconditioned air at a certain angle and creates a comfortable area around the occupant. I first designed and modeled the system using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and then built an experimental station to validate the predicted numerical results.

10 am Tuesday, 10am Saturday: At 10 am Tuesday, I am in the lab trying to solve some of the sticking points that have come up in my research. On Saturday morning, I’m probably enjoying some time with family or out for a walk, depending on the weather.

Most admires: Generally, I admire every person who is genuine, honest, and dignified. A person who is intellectual and from whom you can always learn something. A person who doesn’t have the conventional shallow thinking but who is able to think deeply. For me philosophy and science are inseparable. Most great scientists in history were also philosophers.

Why this topic interests me: I like the fact that any outcomes from this research are not only important to the field of mechanical engineering, but also enhance people’s daily lives, contributing to general health indoors, and to the health of Mother Nature by reducing greenhouse emissions.

From the Libraries
Fadi Al Diry is an avid collector of photographs, documents, and, most especially, autographs—he has over 10,000 which, he says, makes him possibly the second greatest collector in the world. One day, while sorting through his prodigious cache of boxes, he came across a unique collection of some 400 photographs of sporting events at AUB. “I have no idea where they came from,” he explains, “It is a mystery but I did not want them to get lost or thrown away, so I decided to return them to where they belong.”

Named the Nadia Hanna Al Diry AUB Sports Photo Collection in honor of his wife, Fadi was delighted to hand the photos to the Jafet Library.

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Mainly black and white, they cover the 1960s through the 1990s, with a few from the 1940s and 1950s. Some are aesthetically beautiful, while others are historically important and include Pierre Gemayel refereeing a football game at AUB. Together they constitute a rich and varied visual record of decades of AUB athletic activities.

FEA
A Salt Problem

Although the effects of climate change are felt everywhere, coastal communities are especially vulnerable to increasing temperatures, changes in the patterns and amounts of precipitation, and rising sea levels. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is strong evidence that global sea levels, which changed very little between AD 0 and AD 1900 and rose only gradually in the twentieth century, are currently rising more rapidly. These rising sea levels are having a particularly adverse impact on freshwater coastal aquifers—many of which have been depleted in recent years because of increased water demand from steadily growing coastal populations.

When things are in balance, the movement of freshwater towards the sea prevents saltwater from flowing into coastal aquifers. In recent years, however, the flow of freshwater from depleted coastal aquifers has not been strong enough to keep saltwater from being drawn towards freshwater aquifers, resulting in saltwater intrusion, which can damage building pipes, house appliances, and industrial equipment. It is equally
Associated with health risks and can have an adverse effect on plantations and aquifers. El-Fadel is leading a multi-disciplinary team of AUB faculty and students in a research project funded through Canada’s International Development Research Centre that is examining saltwater intrusion in freshwater aquifers along the Eastern Mediterranean. Team members include FAFs Professor Rami Zurayk, who has assisted with developing the field survey that is being used to assess the impact of salinity on plantation and agricultural yields; Department of Agricultural Sciences Associate Professor Jad Chaaban, who is helping in the evaluation of the economic burden of saltwater intrusion; and other researchers, such as Ibrahim Alameddine, who is focusing her attention on the economic burden on different communities. Maria Saidy is one of two master’s students who are working with Alameddine and R-HS Department of Environmental Health Associate Professor May Massoud to study the environmental and water resources engineering student Rania Maroun, who helped to develop the household survey, explains that it will be used to gather information about the social, demographic, and economic condition of households. “We’re also interested in finding out where they get their water and how they use it—also if they are satisfied with the water they are getting now.” This information will also be used to inform the team’s recommendations to municipalities and local communities of measures that households—and farmers—might adapt to cope with the problem of increasing groundwater salinity.

A Helping Hand to Iraq

In the last five years, hundreds of health-care practitioners from institutions throughout Iraq have traveled to AUBMC for hands-on training. Iraq doctors, nurses, and medical personnel attend customized workshops in a wide range of areas including life support, infection control, neonatal and pediatric care, and electromyography, a technique for evaluating and recording the electrical activity produced by skeletal muscles. In addition, 91 Iraqi physicians have attended workshops at AUBMC as part of their preparation to take the critically important Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), which is one of the components of the Arab Board Examination (ABE) that doctors working in intensive care, oncology, dialysis, and pediatrics.

In addition to training, AUBMC is also providing medical care for a growing number of patients from Iraq—especially those in need of bone marrow transplantation (BMT). Although it is AUBMC’s very high success rates and its reputation for being able to handle even the most complicated cases that is the primary attraction, Managing Director of Administrative and Management Affairs at AUBMC’s External Medical Affairs Imad Saadek says the growing popularity of medical tourism at AUBMC also plays a role. "Doctors working in intensive care, oncology, dialysis, and pediatrics..."
As a certified pediatric hematology oncology nurse, Saad knows the most complex cases, including caring for families coping with terminal illness and, where appropriate, organizing home hospice treatment with organizations such as Haslam (see MainGate, winter 2013). How did she arrive at this point? As an HSON master’s student Saad was required to complete residency hours coupled with advanced practice nurse (APN) training. To get the best experience for her role as an APN, she headed to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (SJCRH) in Memphis, Tennessee, which is affiliated with the CCCL.

Her choice paid off in spades, and Saad still enjoys the professional network and connections she developed during her time in Memphis. While there, she joined professional associations, published her master’s thesis in an international journal, and attended national, regional, and international meetings and conferences as both a presenter and a participant.

“I still have contacts with SJCRH through their International Outreach Program,” she explains. “I was also able to enroll in the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses mentoring program, which pairs members in their quest to excel in professional/career and clinical development, leadership, research, role integration, and project management.”

“I have a lot to thank SJCRH for,” Saad concludes. So too, perhaps, do the young patients treated at the Children’s Cancer Institute where her knowledge and skills are applied every day.

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Eight PhD students have been awarded full scholarships, renewable up to three years, thanks to a partnership between AUB and the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS). “Seventy-five percent of those who pursue doctoral degrees abroad never come back to the country, while 75 percent of those who do their PhD here, stay in Lebanon, and end up contributing to strengthening scientific research here,” explained CNRS Secretary-General Mouin Hamze at a signing ceremony. “[This support] will allow AUB’s doctoral programs to grow further, permitting AUB to recruit more qualified students into its doctoral programs,” added AUB Graduate Council Chairperson Rabih Talhouk. “This will better position AUB amongst the leading graduate and research institutes in the region and beyond.”

Awardees
Clockwise from top left:
Hassan Yassine
cell and molecular biology
Ghina Mahmoud
physics
Ali Shandour
electrical and computer engineering
Ola El Zien
cell and molecular biology
Ilige Hage
mechanical engineering
Lise Safatly
electrical and computer engineering
Isabelle Fakhoury
cell and molecular biology
Christiane Zoghbi
environmental and water resources engineering
This fledgling issue of *Rusted Radishes: Beirut Literary and Art Journal* features exclusive works from a diverse collection of Lebanon-related writers and artists. Within these pages you will find established and emerging writers and artists whose colorful pieces form a striking collage of fluid symbols from the Lebanese psyche in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, drama, photography, painting, graphic design, and installation art.

Housed in The American University of Beirut’s English Department, *Rusted Radishes* is completely student-edited and designed, and presents not only the best of student writing and art at AUB, but also of a broad, even international, scope. It defines its base as a Beirut publication in hopes of nurturing an evolving creative community that is equally willing to teach, learn, praise, and critique. Please see inside for submissions guidelines and contact information if you would like to join in this mission.

AUB has published literary journals in the past (notably *The Banyan Tree*) but nothing quite like this. *Rusted Radishes: Beirut Literary and Art Journal* goes beyond publishing student work and opens its pages to the most “daring and talented” writers and artists in Beirut. This evocative and visually rich journal is 112 full-color pages celebrating established and emerging artists, students, faculty, friends, alumni, and those from further afield. Cofounded by English Department faculty Crystal Hoffman and Rima Rantisi, the genre editors and designers are all students from the Departments of English and Architecture and Design. This spring, the editors are sorting through hundreds of submissions to the nonfiction, poetry, fiction, drama, and design categories to prepare for the fall 2013 publication.

*Rusted Radishes* is available in Hamra at Cafe Younes (near Le Commodore Hotel), Dar, Antz, and Chico’s; and in Mar Michayel at PaperCup. Distribution may soon expand to bookstores in Pittsburgh and Chicago. Look for more announcements at http://rustedradishes.com/.

The following reprints highlight the work of Hala N. Alyan, AUB English major, and English Professor Michael J. Dennison. More to come in future issues of MainGate.

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**HONEYPOT**

by Hala N. Alyan

Before the Wall fell, women swarmed in by the hundreds. Cigaretted, sleekly-dressed, they seduced information out of men.

During the American Revolution, sleeves, admittedly, were longer, hair more demure. Eyes remained the same, unchanged by laughter. A warrior’s giveaway.

How breathless, to catch sight of oneself in dirty windows, lips convex over the glass. Pretending to drink rum. Hips like water beneath chiffon, the words they use are undauntably. Meanwhile, the men sit, arcane-suited, eating maps for dinner. The women they count like bombs, kite fuse floating apart. Pity only the drunk ones, waking to an empty room while the women tread towards newspaper stands. They may touch their lips, but the pantyhose is unwrinkled. It is all a trick of folding.

They arm-loop the confessions like purse straps. Delilah did it, too. Moans bubbling from her like prostration.

Every time: Thighs taut. Seeing her mother’s hands but thinking victory.

*Phrase for spy work involving sexual seduction*

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**PEN TATTOO KISS**

by Michael J. Dennison

In lace she enveloped me like a black river
(a melting violin cries contemplating magnolias)

she was a diamond I was a rooster
sometimes
I drink green cadillacs
and dream hard
inside Saturn’s Rings

a floating #2 pencil
sings of murder
in the Adirondacks

she kissed my pen tattoo
like a black river
I dream hard
If it hadn’t been for the discussions generated at AUB by School of Architecture Dean Raymond Ghosn back in the mid-1970s, maybe nobody at the University would have begun thinking about the connection between architecture and the arts. Then maybe the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture would not have required a design-aptitude test for admission in the mid-1980s, the results of which highlighted the importance of artistic skill for success in the program.

If it hadn’t been for these two steps, maybe the quiet revolution that AUB’s Graphic Design Program set in motion when it opened its doors in October 1992, never would have begun—and there’s a good chance that graphic design would still be seen as a purely practical, purely commercial matter in this part of the world, a footnote to advertising and marketing.

In reference to this revolution Leila Musfy, chairperson of what is now known as the Department of Architecture and Design, recently articulated what she called the ‘major responsibility’ designers and architects owe to society: ‘Designers and architects are the new creators of society’s culture… [T]hey may instigate the redefinition of the socio-economic and political characteristics of this culture...’
AUB Graphic Design Program graduates have touched many aspects of life and culture in the region. They have revolutionized the way we think about Arabic script, exhibited books on Islamic art, developed a graphic design program at the American University in Cairo, and made appearances on Comedy Central—to name just a few of the ways they’ve influenced the world of design.

Some of the graduates work as executives and designers in some of Lebanon’s—and the region’s—most prestigious advertising, branding, and design houses. Others have found work in Europe or the United States, or started their own firms, often bringing their names into the name just a few of the ways they’ve influenced the world of design.

Tamman Yamout (’04) recalls what it took to make it through the program in an essay she wrote for Revolution revolution/evolution: Two decades and four hundred designers later (AUB Press, 2013, lovingly edited by 1997 graduate Nour Kanafani) contains a rich mix of recollections about AUB’s Graphic Design Program. The 20 essays that make up the book were contributed by graduates, full-time professors, and visiting instructors.

Some were present at the beginning, when the program was created in 1992. Others found their ways to the campus more recently. Some are well-established. Others are still trying to figure out exactly how to bring what graduate Hala Hemayssi (BGGD ’06) referred to as all those “critiques, the tough love, the fear of disappointing, the tension of ideas being born into the world of work.

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It wasn’t just the students who learned from AUB’s Graphic Design Program. Associate Professor Walid Sadek explains that teaching is as much a matter of letting go as of doing people things: “During these last few years at the department, I increasingly practice teaching as an art of clearing a classroom for conversation.”

Looking back, Musfy has no regrets: “I felt at our homes were just for showers.”

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As a result of all these things falling into place, 399 visionary, dedicated, creative graduates have stepped forward to design books and jewelry and tattoos and chairs and documentaries and advertisements, among their many undertakings.

Areej Mahmoud (’04) is a complicated man. He’s the creative director of the Beirut branch of the high-powered, award-winning international advertising agency Leo Burnett (www.leoburnett.com) who loves simple things like cooking and painting. And although his work, he says, “demands patience and a calm state of mind,” he goes on to describe his life working with creative, full-of-life colleagues as a fast-paced one, in which he thrives on coffee and hardly ever leaves work before dark. Looking back on his time as a student in AUB’s Graphic Design Program, Mahmoud recalls being taught “based on some ideological conspiracy theories … to resent advertising.” But it was in an advertising course that he learned that he “could play with ideas, construct and deconstruct images and text, and watch meaning change.”

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Like many AUB Graphic Design Program graduates, Maya Saikali ('03) went on to cofound a company, Kite Creative (kitecreative.com), a branding agency based in Beirut that has 10 employees. As creative director, she oversees much of the company’s work, which develops “comprehensive identity systems that creatively address culture, audience, context, media, and applications.”

Working with companies as diverse as Fidem, a real estate company based in Mozambique, Secteur 75, a pub-restaurant in Beirut’s Mar Mikael, and Bank Liban Misr, Saikali is involved in every step of the process: “I develop, manage, and oversee the strategy and design processes,” working with her team to develop research to identify the unique positioning, promise, values, and personality of the subject.”

Like some Graphic Design Program graduates, she is also a part-time design lecturer at AUB, which, she says, “strengthened my belief about the benefits of classroom methods in the professional realm.” She uses classroom techniques such as sketching, mood boards, pin-up sessions, peer reviews, and the like to promote professional growth among her employees at Kite.

Over the years, she has come to fully appreciate what AUB provided her. After graduating, she felt herself lacking in areas like digital media and product design. As her career unfolded, however, she realized “that was driven by my eagerness to have my hands on it all in order to choose a career path. It took a few experiences and some time to be able to reflect on my interest and expand upon what I had learned through graduate studies or professional inquiries. It was then that I realized that what I had learned from my undergraduate studies was more than I could have wished for.”

Regarding her classmates’ circumstances, Saikali remarks on the diversity of their interests and activities, working in fields as wide-ranging as marketing, fashion, product design, social work, and…”The variety is endless!” she concludes.

For herself? “A few years ago I had no clue where I would be today. What’s next? “Perhaps expanding on my actual practice?”

The title of the home page of www.hadybaydoun.com, “Skin Deep,” tells you you are in for something unusual. The subhead, “Needles, Brushes/Pixels and Paint,” confirms your suspicions. Hady Baydoun (‘96) is about as eclectic as you can get. What does he do? “I operate my own studio where I paint, sculpt, and tattoo. I tattoo beautiful bodies, cover up scars, write statements, and paint images, turn ideas into images. I work with needles and ink, Photoshop and Illustrator… power tools and sandpaper, brushes, airbrushes, and spray guns.”

You’ll find examples of graphics he’s designed for restaurants, food packaging, and CD covers, to name a few. Click on a YouTube video of him spray painting a sensual Perrier beach resort billboard. Read his 2008 poem, “Let’s Go!” to understand what drives him:

Let’s live a little faster
burn our days, burn them brighter
let’s rush into our morning work,
and do it all over again, you and me…
Mirna Hamady and Elie Abou Jamra ('09) had an inkling that they might work well together when they collaborated on several projects as undergraduates in the Graphic Design Program. But it was only during their senior year, as they began to conceive ways to bring Arabic script into the home for their final projects that they realized they shared two things: a love of product design and a love of Arabic typography.

It took a few years for design company Kashida (www.kashidaesign.com) to come into being, though. The idea, Hamady says, had to simmer before they created Kashida, with its goal of serving as a "bridge between Arabic typography and modern lifestyle... [that] has nestled into a market niche that shares an appreciation for the beauty and allure of Arabic letterforms."

Bookends, mirrors, desks, and tables—you name it, and the odds are that Kashida has found a way to incorporate an Arabic Fa or Ta Marbuta or Ain into the design in a way that is as clever as it is aesthetically pleasing.
Nour Kanafani ('97) is a fortunate man. “There’s a saying I really like,” he explains. “It goes: ‘Find something you like doing, then get someone to pay you to do it.’” Serving as chairman of the board and CEO at Communication Design SAL (http://cd-sal.com) in Beirut and lead principal of Design Consortium International Limited in the British Virgin Islands (which he founded), he seems to have succeeded. Whichever role he’s fulfilling—whether he’s overseeing the business side of things, or nurturing new designers, or engaging in design work himself—he keeps in mind a rule he learned in the AUB Graphic Design Program: “The best way to break a rule is to thoroughly understand it.”

He breaks the AUB experience down into two steps. It began by altering and enhancing the students’ visual literacy as they studied structure, balance, depth, and color. Once they had grasped these basics—once they knew the rules—it was up to them to learn to break them creatively.

Asked what he and his fellow alumni talk about when they get together, he responds, “How, after 20 years, we still do what Professor Nour Kanafani | 1997

You might have caught the September TED Talk Bahia Shehab (’99) gave about the graffiti she painted at Tahrir Square. Or maybe you saw some of the work her Cairo advertising agency, Mi7, has produced. You might also have met up with her in Leiden, Holland, where she’s finishing up her PhD. If you understand the affection she feels for her studies in AUB’s Graphic Design Program, you won’t be surprised to find her teaching design courses as an associate professor at the American University in Cairo (AUC). But you may be surprised to learn that Shehab created AUC’s Graphic Design Program. As she puts it in an essay commemorating the 20th anniversary of AUB’s program, “This is my contribution to an idea that was started 20 years ago by a group of dreamers in Beirut. They planted the seed and they are reaping the fruits.”

Shehab’s energy and vision are nothing new. Asked what she remembers most vividly about her days as an AUB student, she says it was the effort she put into her final project during the last two months before she graduated: “I was working an average of 16 continuous hours a day to design and produce five hand-made books.”

On the one hand, Shehab is fiercely academic, writing her master’s thesis on “Floriated Kufic on the Monuments of Fatimid Cairo,” which received the Nadia Niazi Thesis Award from AUC in 2009. On the other hand, she’s an equally fierce activist. Her TED Talk describes how she took the title of her book detailing the visual history of Lam-Alif, No, A Thousand Times No, to the streets of Cairo, where she painted “No to the blinding heroes,” “No to burning books,” “No to killing,” and the like on walls near Tahrir Square.

At Mi7, she says, she works on “projects relevant to cultural heritage or on projects that need special design skills relevant to the Arab world.” This commitment, it would seem, applies to everything Shehab does, wherever she does it.
Obeida Sidani (’97) learned many things from AUB’s Graphic Design Program. The most important one, though, is almost Zen-like.

He explains, “I learned I should love my work—whatever piece I am working on—but not fall in love with it… When you are in love with your work, you don’t give space for criticism and you take criticism personally. Your job as a graphic designer is to translate other people’s emotions and concepts into tangible things.”

His conclusion sounds like Gibran Khalil Gibran’s advice to parents about letting their children live their own lives: “Your ideas do not belong to you, so you need to give space … to get to your ultimate goal, which is communication.”

Sidani is cofounder (with Jean Moraros) and design principal of Les Folies Design Haus in Dubai, “a multi-disciplinary, integrated ‘design haus’ and ‘haven’ for design enthusiasts looking to push the boundaries of form and function.”

Between leaving AUB 16 years ago and creating Les Folies two years ago, much has happened. He served as creative director for Zen TV, the first Arab youth channel in the Middle East, as well as acting creative director for Future TV. He taught design at AUB for six years. Working with Dubai Media Incorporated he launched six television stations. He also launched two independently in Lebanon.

AUB’s Graphic Design Program laid important foundations for Sidani’s work, including an intense sense of professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a deep interest in analysis and a relentless commitment “to outdo myself.”

What recommendations does he have for others interested in pursuing graphic design?

“Graphic design is not so much a profession as it is a lifestyle,” he says. “It consumes you, so you have to be ready to change totally. Your vision will be altered, your behavior will change, your patterns and habits, even your conversations, will be skewed in one way or another toward design. You will eat, breathe, and dream design.”

Margherita Abi-Hanna (’02), the January 2013 issue of The Genteel on-line magazine tells us, is among the “Young, vibrant artisans who have learned the tricks of the trade abroad, and are back in town, defending the Made in Lebanon tag.”

Her undergraduate training at AUB’s Graphic Design Program provided a firm and broad foundation for her master’s in accessories design from Milan’s Domus Academy. Asked what she learned from AUB that she uses daily, she responds, “from computer skills, to design skills in creating my own identity, website, catalogs, packaging, etc.”

“What does she wish AUB’s Graphic Design Program had taught her? “How to deal with difficult clients.”

In Memoriam jewelry

Margherita Abi-Hanna calls herself CEO, manager, marketer, accountant, secretary, creative director, and designer of Margherita (www.bymargherita.com), the jewelry and leather brand she created. The Genteel explains: “Abi-Hanna does not make all her accessories and handbags herself, although she might as well. She handpicks local artisans and craftsmen in Beirut to do the job… In order to maintain the integrity of her designs, Abi-Hanna is on top of manufacturing.”

Her work has been written up in magazines like Elle Oriental and Shift: Greetings from Beirut, and featured in a variety of expositions, while winning recognition from International Talent Support, a platform to support young creative talent.

Studying at Domus in 2009, Abi-Hanna began to understand exactly how thorough her AUB training had been.

In an essay for the book commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Graphic Design Program, she describes the rigor her professors required. “Upon entering the professional realm, I began to realize that the client was a much harsher timekeeper than the professor,” she writes, adding, “This is where you start thanking AUB for keeping such a tight grip on your time.”

But the Graphic Design Program’s impact involved more than simply helping her organize her datebook. She says she entered Domus nervous about her ability to measure up, especially concerned that she wouldn’t be able to develop concepts in this new field that these new instructors would appreciate.

“As it turned out, I was the most conceptual student in the class. I’ve made AUB proud!”
Designing Your Destination

Wayfinding and environmental graphic design is a new and growing field, and one of Lebanon’s design houses is excelling at it.

Wayfinding has a simple goal: to help people get from Point A to Point B. Anyone who’s been at an airport has used signs to get to a particular departure gate or stick figures of men and women to find the restrooms. These are just a couple of simple examples of wayfinding.

“If the aim is navigation, the output might not be signage,” says Tammam Yamout, the founder and project manager of PenguinCube. “It might be working with the lighting designer to choose a certain set of colors or increasing the lighting on a road because people don’t want to take a dim road or working with the landscape designer to use a vegetation that blooms in a certain color that will make a road into a central avenue.”

Speaking of destinations, Yamout’s PenguinCube has been a popular one for AUB graphic design graduates. Yamout (BDG ’04) is one of eight who are working at PenguinCube now; five others have worked there in the past. Wayfinding has become an integral part of their work.

Yamout has been a strong advocate of using design to help people find their way. He gave a talk at TEDx Beirut in 2011 on how people manage to get around in Lebanon despite the lack of signage and street names. His project also won a SEGD (Society for Environmental Graphic Design) Honor Award in 2011 for concrete tablets that show the path of hiking trails to historic sites in Syria. The following year Mia Azar (BDG ’08), an art designer at PenguinCube, won an honor award for a bookshelf at Ashkal Alwan, the Lebanese Association of Plastic Arts, that highlights the contributions of donors.

Wayfinding is part of a larger field of environmental graphic design, which is often called spatial design in Europe. The field emphasizes the best elements of design to communicate with people in a particular space or environment. Architecture firms have taken an interest in the field to promote what they call a branded environment, where people are so engrossed in a space that they can’t help but receive whatever is being communicated to them from specific information like a map to a feeling like being immersed in water.

“Wayfinding as an exercise is telling you that you have to talk with everyone,” says Josette Khalil (BDG ’04), creative director at PenguinCube. “Spatial design, environmental graphics, in the end it’s a gray area with a lot of disciplines that work together. If you go to Wikipedia every six months you’ll find a new definition for it.”
Environmental graphic design has also caught the attention of architecture firms because it serves as a critical link among departments. On a given building project, for example, environmental graphic designers have to coordinate with architects to determine the layout to know where to put the signs, with the interior designers to make sure that the signage fits the overall decor, and with the engineers to make sure that people with special needs also have access to signage, such as the blind being able to reach braille signs.

PenguinCube's experience in the field recently helped it land an important project at AUB: the signage for the new Medical Center. The firm devised the entire plan for the signs, which isn't only about making a nice sign that helps people find a doctor, but creating a strategy that considers all the different needs of different people who use the center and getting them to their destinations as quickly as possible.

“The biggest problem is that everyone goes to the main entrance,” Yamout says. “So to diffuse traffic we're calling the main entrance, 'Entrance 2.' And the real main entrance is the ER, so there is no Entrance 1 because the ER is the ER. … Entrance 2 will no longer be called the Main Entrance.”

After winning an SEGD twice, the PenguinCube team is hoping to win another one. This year it's a project for the Qatar government's National Food Security Program. The team built an exhibition installation that explains how the country is investing in energy, agriculture, water, and the food industry to be more secure in the future.

“They believe that the only way they can have food on supermarket shelves and be secure about that is to have sustainable energy production, because if you have sustainable energy production then you have fuel to make water,” Khalil says.

“In addition to informing the general population and industry professionals about food security, the project also had to be entertaining. The installation has videos, games, and an "immersive experience" about water that makes you feel like you're taking a shower. You are looking at a screen of a shower and there's a sound overhead where you feel water is trickling all around you,” Yamout says. “You only hear the sound if you're standing underneath it. If you're standing a meter away you don't hear anything.”

--- A.B.

BRING AUB INTO YOUR OFFICE!

AUBSTORE

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In spite of the heavy December rain, the trendy Tawlet restaurant in Beirut was bursting at the seams. A long queue of fans of all ages stood patiently while the pretty, pert Zina Mufarrij signed copies of her first book, based on the immensely popular cartoons from the blog Zina Comics.

The title, ihht hal balad… Chou B7ebbo! (translates roughly to **** this country… how I love it) says it all. Mufarrij has a love-hate relationship with Lebanon, and a unique way of expressing it. Her cartoons portray Lebanese society critically and with candor, but also with wit and a certain degree of tolerance. Like one of her characters, BZZZ, the business fly, her eyes are keen and perceptive, and she is uncompromising in her judgment.

The book opens with a complex and panoramic view of Beirut. The image is akin to a tapestry, depicting every aspect of life in this busy and chaotic Mediterranean city. We tend to think of cartoons as modern cultural artifacts. I found out recently that tapestries—an art that is a thousand years old—all began with a design called a cartoon. In fact, the Bayeux Tapestry has been referred to as the first known comic strip.

The architect Le Corbusier is said to have called tapestries “nomadic murals.” This term is particularly relevant to ihht hal balad… Chou B7ebbo! Like many other young Lebanese, Zina Mufarrij chose to move to Canada. Also like her peers, her heart is firmly rooted in the madness of Lebanon. So the cartoon character Zina, a modern day nomad of sorts, carries Beirut in her compendium of recurring characters such as Madame, the vapid and surgically voluptuous blonde virago, Mam, the patient mother, the transmitter of Lebanese culture who supplies Zina with advice, teaches her how to cook Lebanese dishes, and guides her in the social mores of polite society; and of the hardworking, unobtrusive Coussouma, the Buster Keaton-like Asian domestic worker who never lets on what she is thinking—but all involves her and revolves around her: her employers are helpless without her yet she barely exists in their world.

Mufarrij's drawings are rendered with skill and brio—and her pen registers everything—the ubiquitous taxis and motor cycles slaloming through the narrow streets, the construction cranes that hover over the city, the electric cables that festoon every street, the stalls displaying fruit and vegetables, even the bright green garbage trucks that wend their way at all hours of the day and night to keep the city clean. The double standard and contradictions of Lebanon are all noted. She has no qualms about showing the racism of some, the sublime inefficiency of public services, or the hypocrisy and snobbism of Lebanese society. True to the Lebanese experience, the cartoons intertwine three languages, Arabic, English, and French. Mufarrij constantly reminds us that life in Lebanon can be a caricature, but she does not openly condemn nor does she indulge.

In fact, Mufarrij sheds light on the foibles of the Lebanese as well as their resilience. The little ironies that make up each cartoon strip also transmit the double standard and contradictions of Lebanon are all noted. She has no qualms about showing the racism of some, the sublime inefficiency of public services, or the hypocrisy and snobbism of Lebanese society. True to the Lebanese experience, the cartoons intertwine three languages, Arabic, English, and French. Mufarrij constantly reminds us that life in Lebanon can be a caricature, but she does not openly condemn nor does she indulge. In fact, Mufarrij sheds light on the foibles of the Lebanese as well as their resilience. The little ironies that make up each cartoon strip also transmit the double standard and contradictions of Lebanon are all noted. She has no qualms about showing the racism of some, the sublime inefficiency of public services, or the hypocrisy and snobbism of Lebanese society. True to the Lebanese experience, the cartoons intertwine three languages, Arabic, English, and French. Mufarrij constantly reminds us that life in Lebanon can be a caricature, but she does not openly condemn nor does she indulge.

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Aya Jazaieri (BAR ’08) moved to Tokyo in October 2011 to study architecture at the University of Tokyo, just six months after an earthquake devastated Japan. Winding her way through blinding city lights and futuristic office buildings, she discovered that the capital of the east has the heart of a village, and a respect for tradition that manifests itself in daily life. Aya shared these photos, at once extraordinary and mundane, with MainGate.

Tomoko Furukawa (BAR ’13) followed the opposite journey, moving from Japan to Beirut where she currently works as a designer in AUB’s Office of Communications. She shares her own take on tradition and modern day Japanese life.

Photography by Amjad Twalo

Page 42: Modern life in Japan envelops old rituals. Careful preparation goes into the ceremonies, clothing, and hairstyle for each sumo tournament. There are six grand tournaments. Before each event, two of the gyoji (referees), acting as Shinto priests, enact a ritual to consecrate the newly constructed dohyo (ring). Fights might last for no more than a few seconds.

To me, the semi-dark inside of the temple reflects the atmosphere of the neighborhood. Kids play but honest. The area still holds traditional markets and people are very much down to earth.

I remember being bored at my grandmother’s place when I was small while the adults were watching sumo matches on TV. It started in the afternoon and the best matches came at the very end, right before 6:00 PM. It was a kind of family ritual that we all watched the tournament while sitting around the table, constantly drinking green tea, and eating sweets.

I think everybody in Japan has this kind of memory as sumo is embedded in our lives. Kids play it for fun, adults watch it for fun.

MainGate Spring 2013
The palanquin is usually carried by many people. He is cheering the bearers on and guiding them with his whistle. His role here suggests that he is a popular and trusted figure in his community.

Modern jazz performance in a Japanese matsuri (festival).

Teenage Japanese girls with modernized jinbei (Japanese summer outfits) during the summer matsuri in Yoyogi Park.
Beyond Bliss Street

Henry Harris Jessup

Widely recognized as a “pillar of the Syrian Mission” for more than 50 years, Henry Harris Jessup played an important role in establishing the Syrian Protestant College.

Born in 1832 in Montrose, Pennsylvania, Jessup graduated from Yale in 1851 and the Union Theological Seminary in 1855. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister that same year. He arrived in Beirut in February 1856 on the same boat that brought Daniel and Abby Bliss to Syria for the first time. The small group of missionaries came to know each other well during the long journey from Boston, and were, according to Daniel Bliss, quite a “musical company and passed many pleasant hours in singing.”

After arriving in Beirut, Jessup traveled to Tripoli, where he spent four years (1856-60) before returning to Beirut to be the acting pastor of the Syrian Church of Beirut and superintendent of its school. He would go on to hold both positions for 30 years in addition to being founding secretary of the Asfuriyeh Hospital for the Insane and editor of the Arabic journal, El-Neshrah.

As he describes in his exhaustive two-volume autobiography, Fifty-Three Years in Syria, Jessup wrote to David Stuart Dodge (see MainGate, winter 2011, page 43) on October 17, 1861 to describe the missionaries’ plan to establish a Protestant college in Beirut. Jessup and Dodge worked closely together to support the College and both spoke during the opening ceremony on December 3, 1866. Jessup was a member of the Board of Managers established by the NY-based Board of Directors to help run the College during its early years. (The Board of Managers disbanded in July 1902.)

Jessup routinely aligned himself with some of the more conservative members of the SPC faculty and administration on many issues including the Darwin crisis of 1882 that erupted on campus after Professor Edwin Lewis’s commencement address in 1882. (See MainGate, fall 2009, pages 44-45.)

Jessup received a gold medal at the World’s Fair in St. Louis in 1904 for his model of the SPC campus and its buildings. He was a prolific author who wrote numerous works on Syria including The Women of the Arabs (1873), Syrian Home Life (1874), The Mohammedan Missionary Problem (1879), and The Greek Church and Protestant Missions (1891). Jessup married three times and had eight children. His first wife, Caroline Bush, died in Alexandria, Egypt in 1860 only three years after they were married; they had three children (Anna, William, and Harry). Jessup and his second wife, Harriet Elizabeth Dodge, niece of William E. Dodge, who laid the cornerstone of College Hall in 1871, were married in 1868 and had five children: Stuart, Mary, Amy, Ethel, and Frederick. Two years after her death in 1882, Jessup married Theodosia Davenport Lockwood. He died in Beirut on April 28, 1910.

Although there is a Jesup Hall on campus today, which is often mistakenly referred to as Jessup Hall, it is named for Morris K. Jessup, chairman of the Board of Trustees (1884-1908) and not for Henry Harris Jessup.
Beyond Bliss Street reflections

MainGate: When did you first arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?

Mavromatis: I was 17 when I arrived in Beirut in September 1958 to begin my university studies at AUB. I was deeply impressed, especially during my freshman year when the University was all quite novel to me, by the huge diversity of cultural backgrounds, native tongues, skin complexities, and student dress. The students from all these different ethnic backgrounds (resulting from the many scholarships then offered by the U.S. Agency for International Development), mixing, matching wits, competing for grades, and often becoming lifelong friends provided one of the most cherished experiences I had while studying at AUB.

On the academic side, the AUB faculty at that time included a large number of “distinguished” local luminaries and noteworthy western professors.

When you returned as a professor in 1967, what were your impressions?

Returning to AUB in September 1967 as an assistant professor of physics was in some ways a repeat of my earlier years as an undergraduate, a déjà vu experience. In other ways, however, it involved a completely different undertaking. A vigorous international presence remained on the ground. My wife and I enjoyed many on- and off-campus activities.

Did you remain at AUB during the war years (1975-90), and if so, do you have any particular memories from those years?

Yes, I taught at AUB from my return in 1967 through my departure in the summer of 1996. In addition to kidnapings and killings at makeshift roadblocks, sniping from high rise buildings, and unpredictable car bombings, we suffered shortages of fuel, food, water, and, particularly difficult for academics, the unreliability of telephones and the isolation (prior to the advent of the internet and email), an isolation further compounded by the closure of Beirut International Airport during much of this period. We always gave letters to traveling friends to post from abroad.

The incessant shelling of varying targets from unknown points of origin obviously disrupted everyone’s lives. Once, when I was crossing into Ashrafieh, a shell landed on the opposite side of the street. My car and I escaped the blast because the traffic light had just turned red.

People, especially at AUB, tried their best to carry on as if the situation was completely normal. During this period I advised three PhD and several master’s students and served as chairman of the Physics Department, as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee, and also as a university senator.

You have taught again recently at AUB. When did you return and what were the circumstances of your returning to teach at AUB?

I returned to AUB in 2006, 20 years after my 1986 departure, in order to resume and complete an academic cycle that had begun close to half a century before. When I resigned from Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd University, where I had worked for 19 years (“Nothing is more permanent than the temporary”), an offer of a better contract did not persuade me to change my mind. I returned to Beirut because I wished to recapture part of the past I had spent in a country whose most important resource is its human element.

What changes did you notice when you returned?

Both Lebanon and the University were different in many ways. The student body was considerably larger. The 4,500 student population of 1986 had grown to over 7,000, consequently, the campus was more congested. In 2006 most students were less fashion conscious, more casually dressed, and more informal in their behavior towards each other and their professors. Students were more worried about finding a job.

Do you have anything you would like to say to your former students?

I have to say thank you, especially to my master’s and PhD thesis students and many of the premedical students I taught who were really absorbed by intellectual preoccupations and considered the opportunity to engage in their reward in itself. Their seriousness encouraged me to do as good a job as I could.

What impact has AUB had on your life?

AUB influenced me decisively during my formative years, exposing me to the best the American educational system can offer. I served this remarkable institution with enthusiasm and joy as an academic. AUB’s degree enabled me to go to the world’s foremost scientific institutions, meet and interact with the planet’s best scientific minds, among them physicists responsible for the atomic age. Moreover, AUB was the first place where I was introduced to the dazzling variety of cultures and religious traditions that span our globe—a superificially divisive diversity, despite which there is much more that unites us, namely our common humanity. AUB is a place where I still feel at home, or to quote the Alma Mater, it is “where [I] love to be.”

—J.M.C.

Emeritus Professor Harry Mavromatis (BS ’62), who taught physics at AUB for more than 20 years, speaks enthusiastically of his first years at the University: “A certain optimism permeated everything, a palpable joy to be alive, young, and healthy, in the temperate setting both climatic and cultural that Beirut afforded, an elusive joie de vivre, whose indelible

The Exact Science of Life

MainGate Spring 2013 | www.aub.edu.lb/maingate

The Exact Science of Life

In Short

- 1962: BS, Physics, High Distinction, AUB
- 1964: AUB SEN (Electrical Engineering)
- 1964: 1966: MA, PhD Physics, Princeton University
- 1966–67: Post-doctoral fellowship, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- 1967–68: Assistant, Tenured Associate, and Full Professor of Physics, AUB
- 1996–97: Visiting Professor, University of Tübingen and Jülich Kernforschungsanlage, Germany
- 1987–2006: Professor of Physics, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia
- 2006–07, 2008–10: Visiting Professor of Physics, AUB
- Since 2011: Emeritus Professor, AUB
- Publications: Over 100 scholarly papers; four books on physics, including Exercises in Quantum Mechanics (1990); Lost Eden, a book of memoirs (2012)

Beyond Bliss Street reflections
Serious students of the Arabic language might recognize one another by virtue of carrying two essential texts: Hans Wehr’s concisely and accurately compiled dictionary of modern written Arabic and, as of 2005, Karin Ryding’s richly informative reference grammar.

Although Ryding (MA ’66) retired from Georgetown University in 2008, she would publish two significant new works in the next few years, an introduction to Arabic linguistics and a book on teaching and learning Arabic as a foreign language.

They are milestones in a well-traveled career but not capstones. Ryding next plans to create a series of dictionary workbooks “because there isn’t anything like that,” still a common refrain in a field that has “many gaps,” a standing invitation to would-be pioneers and trailblazers.

Undaunted by esoterica, Ryding also wants to delve deeper into medi eval times, such as early alchemical texts replete with symbolism and allegory that promise more of the kind of challenge she found powerfully alluring as a Francophile university student eager to leave campus and explore the spoken word.

“I didn’t want to be like anybody else,” Ryding recalls. “I wanted the biggest challenge possible. That’s why I went to Beirut my junior year. That’s why I specialized in Arabic. In a sense I felt like French was too easy after a point. I was stupid. French is not easy, but it was more accessible, and I wanted to do something edgy—although I wouldn’t have used that word at the time—and just totally out of everybody around me, basically, and so what you wind up with is FusHa and very, very colloquial.” She says, “You don’t have anything in between—which is what you need.” Years later she would develop course books in formal spoken Arabic, a sort of high vernacular intended to bridge the gap.

In the meantime, the University of Buenos Aires invited Ryding gradually by way of the people surrounding her: “It was not just Beirut itself, it was the fact that there were so many others doing the same thing. People were doing medical work and all kinds of other things.”

Ryding decided to return to Argentina for the summer, not to improper societies and the theater, but to her family. “One of about a dozen Americans, I worked in the dormitory, Ryding noted, “but it was very deep.”

Another European, this one long dead, laid down a path for Ryding: Antoine Laumet de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac. In 1670, Ryding’s father, a businessman, played a role in commemorating the 300th birthday of this erstwhile French explorer, Detroit’s founder of sorts, and the namesake for the renowned luxury vehicle. Around the same time, an expanding network of freeways turned Detroit (known at the turn of the century as the “Paris of the West”) into a metropolitan hub, and its port made it a magnet for international consulates.

Complementary celebrations in France enabled Ryding’s father to take the family abroad, and, the following summer, she returned alone at the invitation of an official’s wife.

“I was mute for the first three weeks,” she says. “There was no English. In France at that time, especially in the more rural areas, nobody spoke English. Nobody.”

Even before her high school French ripened into something more functional, the images on the television of integration back home made an impression: “It did dawn on me that this is how other people see us,” she says. “That’s when I really became interested in foreign affairs and living abroad and State Department and Foreign Service and that sort of thing.”

She entered Middlebury as a French major but quickly figured out that “there were an awful lot of French majors and, in those days, if a woman graduated with a French major, she became an airline stewardess or a high school French teacher, and I said, I don’t want to do that, I don’t want to do either one.” Instead she majored in geography and took classes in French, Italian, German, and Russian. Years would pass before she realized where her true interests lay, not in what people said but in how they said it. One of Ryding’s Middlebury professors, J. Rowland Illick, had established the Geography Department at AUB and, on returning to Vermont after three years in Beirut, he encouraged her to spend a year abroad there.

Despite the objections of some family members worried about the “white slave trade,” Ryding made her way to New York and boarded a freighter, the Steel Scientist, along with 11 missionaries and “two guys with motorcycles” planning to ride from Alexandria to Cape Town.

About three weeks later—after bouts of sea sickness, after Lisbon, Naples, and Alexandria, and once the freighter had docked just outside the Beirut port—Ryding awoke at about 6 am, disturbed by a knock and a voice: “The commandant is waiting!” The Lebanese consul of Detroit, whose acquaintance she had arranged for a Lebanese Army officer (that is, his cousin), met Ryding, and he did so personally just as soon as the speedboat and military escort made up the last short leg in her journey. “He had coffee laid out on the terrace...” and we sort of chatted a little bit and then they took me in, like, a motorcade to AUB.”

One of about a dozen Americans, Ryding soon realized that the students around her were speaking a different style of language than she had learned in class. “I just imitated what I heard around me, basically, and so what you wind up with is FusHa and very, very colloquial,” she says. “You don’t have anything in between—which is what you need.” Years later she would develop course books in formal spoken Arabic, a sort of high vernacular intended to bridge the gap.

In the meantime, the University of Buenos Aires again invited Ryding gradually by way of the people surrounding her: “It was not just Beirut itself, it was the fact that it was so cosmopolitan,” she says. From Nuha, a woman who worked in the dormitory, Ryding picked up one of the trickier sounds in the Arabic alphabet. From young
Beyond Bliss Street

men who wanted to impress her, she learned about Palestine and politics. While performing with the Dramatic Society in plays like Charley’s Aunt and The Madwoman of Chaillot, she made real friends, Lebanese and other Arabs, Greeks, and Italians. “I really felt like I could belong there, in some ways more than I belonged at Middlebury, because Middlebury was still very isolated in the country and I wasn’t like a siker or a skater or anything like that, so I felt I was really more at home at AUB.”

No wonder she returned in 1964 to do her master’s in area studies, even as it meant further bewildering her parents by refusing a fellowship at Harvard. “I meant [AUB] had Naith Faris and Nicola Ziadé,” she says. “And they had Zain Zain—these are all huge names—Yusuf Ibish, founder of Chaillot Centre for Arabic Studies, the British school for diplomats (and spies) in Cheltenham. “We had these long sheets of paper, like foolscap—really raw paper, not refined,” she recalls. “And they were mimeographed, but we had sheets and sheets … about how to do repairs and how to talk to your friends, your neighbor, your maid, your boss, all of it, every situation you could think of in Lebanese Arabic, and I kept those materials for years, but my house burned down in 1991 and they went.”

Ryding couldn’t have realized when she left Beirut in 1966 that all that would change and that it would restrain her—to this day—from returning. At first, she didn’t go back because she lacked money and time, working as an editor for the delegation to the Arab League’s magazine in New York, then as a management intern at the Department of Commerce, and finally as a graduate student at Georgetown, writing her dissertation at night and teaching Arabic classes at Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies during the day and the Middle East Institute in the evenings.

Even as she traveled back to the region as a language training supervisor at the Foreign Service Institute between 1980 and 1986, before she returned to teach at Georgetown, the civil war (and the constraints of government employment) prevented her from coming any closer than Cairo, Amman, Sana’a, Rabat, Tunis, and Algiers.

In 1993, a terrifying flight over the Rocky Mountains shattered the sense of peace and adventure that air travel had previously held and grounded Ryding for years.

In 2006 though, she went to Oman for a conference that gathered together the holders of chairs endowed by Oman’s Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said. Ryding had held the first such chair at Georgetown from 1995 until her retirement in 2008. As for Beirut, she says, “I’d love to go back now.” And, as her life so far has shown, not yet certainly doesn’t mean never.

—S.M.
alumni happenings: chapter events

NORTH AMERICA
Baltimore | On February 22, the chapter held a happy hour at the Lebanese Taverna in Baltimore.  
Left to right: Salma Kosdi (BS ’85), Rima Namek (BA ’86), and Michael Kandel, friend.

Dallas-North Texas | On January 27, the chapter held a brunch at Cedar’s Mediterranean Grill in Dallas, Texas.

Montreal | On February 1, the chapter held a bowling and 5 à 7 event at the AMC Pepsi Forum in Montreal.  
Left to right: Wissam Shaar (BEN ’02), Nagham Sayour (BA ’06, MA ’09), Zeina Chbaklo (BA ’02, MPH ’14), Imad Tabet (BBA ’03), Aline Khayat (MS ’08).

North Carolina | On February 23, chapter alumni and families gathered to view “Main Street” at a movie night.

EUROPE
United Kingdom | Gala Dinner on March 16.

MIDDLE EAST
Abu Dhabi | On February 8, AUB alumni participated in the third Tri Yas Triathlon as individuals and members of a relay team.

Beqa’a | The chapter held its annual Christmas dinner on December 15, 2012 at Samak restaurant in Ksara. Proceeds from the event benefited the AUB students’ scholarship fund.  
Left to right: Ali Refai (BEN ’95), Ghada Karaww (BBA ’04, MPH ’06), Ammar Ghazale (BS ’97, MD ’01), Faisal Kak (BS ’83, MS ’85, MD ’90)

Kuwait | The chapter held a reception at the Sheraton Hotel on December 16, 2012 to welcome OSB Dean Wilfried Vanhonacker to Kuwait.

WAAAUB Engineering and Architecture | The chapter held a reception on February 6 to welcome the Class of 2013 to the FEA alumni network.

Recently Elected
New England
Raja Sayegh (BS ’81, MD ’85), President  
Jeffrey Karan (BA ’10), Vice President  
Salim Charabi (BBA ’92), Treasurer  
Michel Fayed (BS ’80, MD ’84), Secretary

Ottawa
Elas "Marwan" Aboi (BS ’73), President  
Nada Hamad (BA ’98), Vice President  
Elas Aboi-Hamad (BBA ’77), Treasurer  
Jihad Aldeknour (BS ’77, MS ’82), Secretary  
Assim Abar (BA ’76), Member at Large

Dubai
Raja Trad (BA ’78), Honorary President  
Nasim Farouk (BA ’10), President  
Amer Bishri (BBA ’72), Vice President  
Yasser El Hajj (BBA ’89), Vice President  
Hassan Bazzi (BA ’88), Treasurer  
Nadia Hamad (BA ’88), Secretary  
Member at Large: Fida Asfour (BA ’02), Ahmad Bashour (BBA ’00), Amer Chbaro (BEN ’10), Sally Elhashem (BA ’82), Rabih Harb (BA ’80)

More WAAAUB chapter election results at www.aub.edu.lb/alumni/chapters/Pages/elections.aspx

AUB Alumni Benefits!

AUB alumni are entitled to a wide range of benefits, services, and discounts. Take advantage of:

- Lifelong learning opportunities through AUB’s Continuing Education Center
- Job search assistance through AUB’s Career Services
- Access to a state-of-the-art sports facility through discounted membership fees at the Charles W. Hostler Student Center (CHSC)
- Use of campus libraries through discounted library membership (ID/ driver’s license)
- Lifelong email service through AUBlive(at)edu

To learn more about these and other benefits: www.aub.edu.lb/alumni/benefits-services/Pages/benefits.aspx

Email: alumni(at)aub.edu.lb  
Tel: (Beirut) +961-1-738009; (New York) +1-212-583-7674

More event photos at WAAAUB’s AUB alumni photostream at www.flickr.com/photos/aubalumni

www.aub.edu.lb/alumni | MainGate Spring 2013
alumni happenings: WAAAUB events

WAAAUB Quiz Night | WAAAUB’s third quiz night on February 28 celebrated “love” with challenging and fun questions on classical love songs, movies, great literature, and famous couples in world history.

WAAAUB Alumni Art Expo | AUB and WAAAUB organized the first Alumni Art Expo February 15 through 17 to celebrate the work of alumni from around the world. More than 100 works including paintings, photographs, sculptures, ceramics, and jewelry filled the Mahmoud Malhas Common Room in West Hall. Prominent artists such as Stelio Skamanga (BAR ’60), Huquette Caland (BA ’68), Lena Kelekian (BS ’81), Fine Arts Senior Lecturer David Kurani (BA ’66), and Camille Zakharia (BEN ’85) exhibited alongside emerging talents such as installation artist Reem Akl (BA ’03) and ceramist Nour Ali (BBA ’09). Collector Ramzi Saidi (BA ’59), ceramist Amal Issam Muraywed (BA ’75), and artist Nadim Karam (BAR ’82) capped off the exhibition with a series of art lectures.

This inaugural exhibit reflects AUB’s dedication to promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of the arts in Lebanon and the region. The WAAAUB Programs Committee and its members are planning to work with local chapters to replicate such exhibits in other locations. Read about the artists and view their work in MainGate on-line or the WAAAUB website.

WAAAUB Valentine’s Dinner | On February 9, West Hall was transformed for 50 alumni couples who met their true loves at AUB. The WAAAUB Valentine’s Dinner featured intimate table settings, a suqooj meal, live music, and dancing. President and Mrs. Dorman opened the evening with a lively duet of “Lida Rose, Dream of Now” from The Music Man.

alumni happenings: WAAAUB events

Overheard…

“I met an attractive girl coming out of the Registrar’s Office who looked like she needed help and there it started. But that girl did not need my help and she kept running away. And I kept following her for two years… and for another 42 years until today.”
—Victor Soussou (BBA ’64) and Joumana Daouk Soussou (former student)

“Hisham proposed to me in 1995, right behind the Archaeology Department. “I love you, and I want to marry you. Can you wait five years for me?” He used to visit me every single night at Van Dyck…”
—Dima Kobrossi Katrib (BS ’96) and Hisham Katrib (BEN ’98)

“Everyone at SPAC became like my family by day one, I made such great friends here and I love what this program has to offer.”
—Katia Tamer, 2012 participant from the United States

AUB Office of Regional External Programs Continuing Education Center

Summer Program for AUB Alumni Children (SPAC) A chance to make your alma mater theirs! Children of AUB alumni worldwide are invited to spend time on the AUB campus and experience the University and Lebanon as never before. The Summer Program is an educational and cultural program for high school and college students between 16 and 21 years of age.

Register by June 8, 2013 | Program dates: July 8 – August 2
Learn more: www.aub.edu.lb/reg/cec/spac

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Michel Tawil (BB '61) A competitive track and field athlete, Tawil set records in Lebanon for the 400 meter hurdles in the late 1950s and early 1960s and represented Lebanon in the third Pan Arab Games in Casablanca, Morocco in 1961. After graduating from AUB’s Brief Business Program he was offered a job as hospital office supervisor at Aramco’s sister company, having graduated from AUB’s Brief Business Program. He joined MainGate in 2011, he had recruited six highly reputable endocrinologists to work with him. The group provides educational services for BUMC residents. Chakmakjian is married to the former Viviane Darian, a native of Sweden who grew up in southern California. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Chakmakjian enjoys reading, spending time in his office, attending medical conferences at the hospital, traveling with Viviane, and staying at his ranch in east Texas. He also enjoys reading MainGate and visiting with his former classmate Ibrahim Salti (BB ’59, MD ’63) at endocrine society meetings. An interview entitled “Zaven H. Chakmakjian: MD, A conversation with the editor of Baylor Proceedings” can be found at [www.ndu.nlu.nh.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1789535](http://www.ndu.nlu.nh.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1789535).

In 1970, Khalil Klink (BBN ’70) is currently a construction manager at DAI Lebanon, a USAID contractor. He previously served as a member of the Council for Development and Reconstruction as part of the Projects Management Department staff. Klink and his wife, Minnie Zeenni, have a master’s in journalism, graduation. Founded in 1952 in Lebanon, CCC’s current management office is in Athens, Greece. Zahir has been involved in the execution of several projects in the Gulf and Middle East. He spent the last 20 years in Egypt where he is now overseeing the area of general management of the company. He was the first and most recently, Libya.

Zaven Hagop Chakmakjian (BB ’59, MD ’63) After completing his residency in internal medicine at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) in Dallas and a fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Chakmakjian became division head in endocrinology/metabolism at the newly established endocrine section at BUMC. He was then appointed director of BUMC’s endocrine laboratories in pathology where he served for over 15 years. During his tenure, Chakmakjian was actively involved in clinical research, teaching, consultation, and the development of radio-immunoassays to measure hormones in biologic fluids. He also served as clinical professor in medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. In the late 1980s, Chakmakjian established his own outpatient endocrine practice. When he retired in October 2011, he had recruited six highly reputable endocrinologists to work with him. The group provides educational services for BUMC residents. Chakmakjian is married to the former Viviane Darian, a native of Sweden who grew up in southern California. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Chakmakjian enjoys reading, spending time in his office, attending medical conferences at the hospital, traveling with Viviane, and staying at his ranch in east Texas. He also enjoys reading MainGate and visiting with his former classmate Ibrahim Salti (BB ’59, MD ’63) at endocrine society meetings. An interview entitled “Zaven H. Chakmakjian: MD, A conversation with the editor of Baylor Proceedings” can be found at [www.ndu.nlu.nh.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1789535](http://www.ndu.nlu.nh.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1789535).

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from scratch; there are no rules, no preconceptions.” Milan in 2010. With every piece of furniture, the process starts which were part of the Salone Del Mobile, Zona Tortona in 2008 Traffic Design competition, and with Mow Chair, both of Biennale, and continued with Dubai Syndrome, winner of the He writes, “In a way that was the origin of my fascination with bling vehicular traffic and instead obstructs it as a road block. a parking spot; and a tire defies its original purpose of ena-

ues could instantaneously be re-envisioned and repurposed: a sports stadium becomes a refugee village with the stands

f in global humanitarian action and International Development programs at the Center for Global Education. Mohamed Rahal, PhD (BS ’91) earned his doctorate in pharmacy, chemical and natural products at Bradford University, United Kingdom in 1997. He was an assistant professor at the Lebanese American University School of Pharmacy from 1998 to 2002. He then moved to the Lebanese International University, where he served as associate professor and dean of the School of Pharmacy. Rahal is a member of the executive committee of the Scientific Society of Colleges in Pharmacies in the Arab world. He and his wife Fatime Hedouk live in Jidita, Biqa’a with their three boys. [mkr@aljut.edu.lb] [mohamed.rahal@jku.edu.lb]

May Meskawi (B.A. ’93) is an architec-
tural consultant who has lived in Accra, Ghana since shortly after graduating from AUB. Working in real estate development in Accra, Meskawi is managing partner at Investplus Ltd. and a partner in Elite Estates, Ltd. Her work portfolio covers architectural design, site supervision, and project management. She is also interested in social welfare, particularly in education, and is involved in charitable projects. Meskawi and her husband, Salim Kaimoni, have three daughters: Ayaa, Jana, and Judy. Mazen Soueidain (BAR ’96) has been appointed Middle East operations manager at Leo A. Daly, an international architecture, planning, engineering, interior design, and program management firm. Soueidain previously worked as principal design manager at Grunely Construction Company and as a project architect for various architecture firms in Boston and Washington, DC. He holds a master in architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Soueidain is a registered architect in Maryland and the District of Columbia and is National Council of Architectural Registration Board and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified.

Noha Mazraani (MA ‘96) works in Istanbul, Turkey as the curriculum director at Erika Schools. Prior to that, she was a curriculum and staff development consultant at Horizon, a private school. She spent three years in Cairo at Hayah International University in Beirut in 2008. Other professional achievements include developing the Lebanese new science curriculum, writing three science textbooks for grades 1-3 with the National Center for Educational Research and Development in Beirut, and conducting numerous workshops nationally and internationally on teaching and assessment methodologies. [nhmazraani@gmail.com]

2000s Zeina Majdalani (BEN ’99, MEM ’03, MBA ’09) in addition to her three AUB degrees, Majdalani earned an international diploma in public administration with an emphasis in public finance and economics from École nationale d’administration en France. Since 2003 she has worked for the Development and Economic Office of the prime minister in Lebanon. She has enjoyed extensive travel to many different countries throughout the years. Majdalani writes, “I owe much of what I am right now to AUB. It is not just the excellence in teaching and the rigorous academics, but also the long lasting friendships I made and the valuable alumni network. Thank

Mohamed All Hodell (BS ’91) and Riham Sanjadar (BS ’96, MPH ’06) have AUB couples on page 57. Academy as head of its Science Department. Mazraani spent 13 years (1990-2003) as a teacher and team leader at the American Community School (ACS) in Beirut. She left ACS to complete her doctorate at Saint Joseph

Rola Z. Chbibko (BA ’96, MS ’00) moved to Montreal, Canada with her husband Rami Zein and daughter Rhea in 2011. She completed her university studies at AUB, earning a BA in political studies and a MS in population studies. In 2006, she also received a master’s degree in management of development from the University of Turin in Italy. Chbibko has worked in social development in both Abu Dhabi and Lebanon. Currently she is working as an administrator in the Genome Innovation Center at McGill University where she is also pursuing a graduate certificate in leadership and human resources management.

Zeina Z. Chbibko (BA ’02, MPH ’04) moved to Montreal, Canada in September 2010. She is currently president of the WAAAUB Montreal Chapter. After her graduate studies, she completed a Marketing Management Certificate in 2005 and a Human Resource Management Diploma in 2010, both at the Continuing Education Center at AUB. Chbibko did her practicum at the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon, which is affiliated with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and worked at the AUB Medical Center and at Clarenco Medical Center, which is affiliated with Johns Hopkins International.

Fadi Sarieddine (BAR ’94) is a Lebanese architect based in Dubai. In addition to architecture he has a passion for furniture design. Growing up during Lebanon’s civil war years, Sarieddine was impressed by how everything from objects to major venues could instantaneously be re-envisioned and repurposed: a sports stadium becomes a refugee village with the stands used as cattle stalls; a chair becomes a traffic cone to reserve a parking spot; and a tire defies its original purpose of enabling vehicular traffic and instead obstructs it as a road block. He writes, “In a way that was the origin of my fascination with bling vehicular traffic and instead obstructs it as a road block. a parking spot; and a tire defies its original purpose of ena-

More AUB couples on page 57.
Withissam Shaar (BEN ’02)
is an entrepreneur at heart. After earning his bachelor’s in electrical engineering and four years of employment, he teamed up with a group of partners to start an engineering firm in the field of utilities and infrastructure in Dubai (www.DCProEng.com). Now, after completing his MBA at McGill University, Shaar has joined two new partners in launching a management consulting firm (www.S2MConsulting.com) in Montreal. He and his wife, Nagham Sayour (BS ’05, MA ’09) are currently members of the executive committee of WAAUB’s Montreal Chapter.

Tarek Dajani (BEN ’04)
is the creator of Geek Express, a new concept store in Beirut, which is designed to inspire people to interact in a DIY (Do It Yourself) environment. A creative space for children and grown-ups alike, Geek Express invites customers to play and experiment with products that range from the latest electronic gadgets to books and advanced media devices. The store incorporates five concepts, a retail space, workshop and meeting rooms, a museum and vintage items area, a coffee shop, and a fabrication area that has two Makerbots 3D printers where people can select and print 3D and limited edition objects. The Geek Express team includes Basssem Dghaidy (former student) and Lina Moubarak, an LAU alumna. (geekexpress.com) (facebook.com/geekexpressLB)

Mustapha Tannir (BEN ’04)
worked as a field engineer in the Gulf before completing his MBA at McGill University in 2009. He is currently an electrical engineer providing engineering procurement and construction management solutions to major oil and gas projects in the Hydraulics Division of WorleyParsons in Calgary, Canada. Tamir is a registered “Professional Engineer” in the province of Alberta, a mentor to new college graduates, and a part-time instructor with the Calgary Board of Education. (mtannir(at)yahoo.com).

Tania Arwachan (BGD ’05)
is a managing partner of scope Ateliers which she cofounded with Nadim Zabit. Arwachan was formerly senior graphic designer and project manager at Mind the gap, whereas Zabit is a managing partner. scope Ateliers recently developed Youreasyprints, a user friendly web platform that provides web-to-print branded templates and print management services for businesses.

Frederic Kassardjian (BEN ’05)
Last December Kassardjian earned an specialized master’s degree in systems and guided rail transport from the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in France. The degree is designed to meet the growing needs for expert knowledge in the field of railway transportation. He has worked for Parsons Brinckerhoff since 2007. Recently Kassardjian relocated to Doha to work on the strategic program management of the Qatar Rail Development Program.

Rabih El Khodr (BA ’06) is now associate communications coordinator at FHS. More than six years after graduating from AUB, El Khodr has returned to his alma mater, having earned an MA in development studies from the University of Leeds in 2009 and completed successful professional mandates in marketing, advertising, and digital media in both the private sector and the UN system. El Khodr also provides communication training services in public speaking, written communication, and strategic branding through his freelance venture STANDUP! (standupcommunications.org)

Hicham Yamout (BEN ’06)
President of You Are Superstar, is a computer and communication engineer- ing graduate who has worked extensively for NCR Corporation, the world’s leading provider of self-service banking technology. Based in Abu Dhabi where he covers the Middle East and Africa, Yamout won the Consulting Excellence Award in 2008 for MEA. In 2011, Yamout moved to Qatar to take a lead sales position covering the financial and IT sectors. In 2012 he was awarded the Solution Sales Superstar Award for MEA. Throughout his career, he has developed many important business initiatives, including growing the self-service market in Qatar, improving consumer services for the ATM, branch, mobile banking, internet banking, and call center. He has also helped to extend governmental and educational services to self service projects, such as registration, payments, ID renewal, etc.

Last July Yamout welcomed the birth of his daughter Yasmine. (Hicham(at)gmail.com)

Ahmad Hussein (MEN ’07) writes, “After earning my master’s degree, I j o i n e d Ericsson Lebanon as a network consultant. In 2010, I repositioned to be a solution manager for the North Middle East region. I am proud to be a graduate of AUB, where I spent three inspiring years. The memories that I

A distinguished psychiatrist and educator, Dr. Herant Katchadourian (BA ‘54, MD ‘58) has produced a memoir that readers will have difficulty putting down because of its profound psychological and cultural insights into the human condition. The Way It Turned Out tells the story of a talented and passionate Armenian born in what was then northwestern Syria and medically trained at AUB, where he would later teach, after gaining advanced medical training in the United States. Eventually he would enjoy a four-decade career as a renowned teacher and senior administrator at Stanford University, followed by a stint in the world of philanthropy. Few can claim to have lived such an interesting life between East and West and to have brought such vital understanding to both.

—Philip Khoury, Chair, AUB Board of Trustees

Ford International Professor of History and Associate Provost, MIT

Back to the Past, A Daughter of the Nile [Available at Amazon.com]

Muriel Angelil (BS ‘55) recently published an autobiography which describes her childhood in Alexandria, Egypt. It includes scenes of riding in the desert to a Bedouin’s tent, visiting the Khan el Khalili market in Cairo, playing alongside the Giza pyramids, diving for sea urchins in the Mediterranean Sea, sailing in the moonlight in Alexandria’s harbor, and much more. Angelil’s story is one of following your dreams and finding your own voice, which she did through education, independence from familial authority, and immigration to the United States. [mm36angelil(at)gmail.com]

The Armenian’s Path of Struggle for Existence [Available through the author at hrayr(at)mtnmail.com.cy]

HrKay Jebejian (MS ‘94) has published an anthology of his articles that appeared from 1979 to 2012 in Armenian newspapers and magazines in Lebanon and the diaspora. The book, written in Armenian, takes a close look at the challenges and aspirations of Armenian communities in Beirut, the Gulf, Egypt, South Africa, Hong Kong, China, India, Cyprus, Egypt, and the United States. It also addresses the challenges of the preservation of Armenian culture, identity, and faith in a globalized world. Jebejian is the general secretary of the Bible Society in the Arabian Gulf. He is the third generation of AUB graduates that includes his grandfather Avedis Jebejian (MD 1902) and his father Vahe Jebejian (PhD ‘64). Jebejian is married to Arda Bonianian Jebejian (MA ‘98). They have two children, Vahe and Alk. The family currently lives in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Pax Syriana: Elite Politics in Postwar Lebanon [Syracuse University Press, 2012]

Through extensive field work and firsthand interviews, Rola el-Husseini, PhD (BA ’91) examines Lebanon’s post-civil war political scene. Her research interests include Lebanese and Syrian politics, political Islam, Iran, and Shiism. Currently a research assistant professor at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, el-Husseini has held positions at Texas A&M University and at Yale University. Her work has appeared in Contemporary Study of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, the Middle East Journal, Orient, and Third World Quarterly in addition to several edited volumes. Former US ambassador to Lebanon and Syria Ryan Crocker called Pax Syriana “a comprehensive, well researched, and balanced guide to Lebanon’s chaotic politics.”
Thurraya Malhas (BA ’47, MA ’51) was born in Amman, Jordan and passed away on February 24. A renowned professor and poet, she taught Arabic literature at the University of Beirut, served on the Board of Education in Jordan, and was a member of the American College of Physicians. She served as a minister of health from 1979-84 and 1988-92. A true pioneer, her clinic in Jordan in 1957, is still standing tall. Malhas was widely known as the godfather of medicine in Jordan. She is survived by her husband, Marion Tash, three sons, and seven grandchildren.

Abdul Rahim Qasem Malhas (BA ’59, MD ’63) was born in 1937 and passed away on September 29, 2012. He served as a consultant to the Ministry of Health in Jordan and was also a member of parliament.

Malhas worked extensively in private and public hospitals, as well as in hospitals affiliated with the Jordanian Armed Forces. He was chief surgeon of Malhas Hospital, the first national private hospital in Amman, which was owned by his surgeon father Qasem Malhas (former AUB student, and 1929 graduate of Damascus University), who established the family hospital in Amman in 1944. Malhas is survived by his wife Rosa Madi (BA ’70) and his two daughters, Ghadeer (BA ’00), MBA ’12 and Hanane. Abdul Rahim Malhas was a cousin of Zuheir and Thurraya Malhas, see previous texts.)
Construction of the Ray R. Irani Oxy Engineering Complex (IOEC) continues apace, a cutting-edge research complex on lower campus that will redefine the University’s Engineering District. The IOEC is the first project in Lebanon registered for LEED-NC Certification, and is expected to earn the Silver rating upon completion. Read more from the architects in MainGate on-line.

Battle with cancer at her home in Albany, California on December 14, 2012. A well-known professional recorder and baroque flute player in the San Francisco Bay area, Hadidian appeared in concerts and taught workshops throughout the western United States. She received an MA and a doctorate in early music from Stanford University. In addition to serving on the music faculty at Mills College, Hadidian directed the Hausmusik concert series in Albany, California for 20 years before founding Healing Muses, a nonprofit organization that brings soothing music to medical centers. She recorded five CDs on the Healing Muses label. Her work was featured in a number of publications including The American Recorder, Early Music America, and Yoga Journal. Hadidian’s involvement with music for healing grew out of her own experience with breast cancer. After using music for her own healing and pain management, she began to play for other cancer patients, exploring ways in which music can be used to soothe critically and chronically ill people. In 2010, she was named “Albany Woman of the Year” for having made a significant difference in her community. In addition to her musical projects, she served as a breast cancer peer support volunteer, helping cancer patients navigate the medical system and become informed and pro-active in their care. Hadidian loved to read, go for walks, explore world music, watch foreign movies, travel, and get together with friends for good meals and philosophical discussions about life’s journey. She is survived by her husband, Peter Tichenor, and daughter, Melia Tichenor. (Hadidian was featured in MainGate winter 2011, Recently Honored).

Abdel-Elah Said Malhas (BAR ’75) was born in 1949 in Beirut and passed away in January 2012. An architect, painter, and inventor, Malhas was the recipient of several international awards, including the World Intellectual Property Organization Gold Medal, Switzerland; the King Hussein Officer Gold Medal of Achievement, Jordan; the King of Belgium Officer Gold Medal, Belgium; the Invention and New Product Exposition Award, United States; and the Prix de l’Organisation Mondial de la Presse Periodique, Belgium. He is survived by two children, Farah and Zen. Abdel-Elah is Zuheir and Thurayya’s nephew and a second cousin of Abdul Rahim Qasem Malhas.

Ahmad Khalil Aoudi (BEN ’96) was born in Tyre in 1973 and passed away on January 4. He worked for Hill International Engineering Management Company. After graduating with his degree in civil engineering, Aoudi moved to the Gulf to advance his career. He worked in Qatar before moving to Abu Dhabi, UAE. He is survived by his wife Hiba, and two young children: Khalil and Ayla-Maria.

When my husband passed away, my children and I wanted to do something in his name to keep his memory alive. He was such a great man. We, of course, thought about education because it is the key to achieving progress and development. After discussing several options, we decided on the Anis Mouasher Scholarship Fund at AUB. Why a scholarship fund at AUB? Because Anis loved it so much. He never stopped talking about AUB and what a great institution it was—and it is. I hope that what little we do will help students who are in need to become leaders in their particular fields.

—Louly Mouasher (BA ’61)

Many alumni and friends choose to remember loved ones, or honor their association with AUB by making a legacy gift. Giving makes a difference. Contact giving@aub.edu.lb to learn more.

http://give.aub.edu