LIFE
CHANGERS
Insid3 the Gate

MainGate is published quarterly in Beirut by the American University of Beirut for distribution to alumni, former faculty, friends, and supporters worldwide.

Letters

Inside the Gate

IBCN, the International Breast Cancer and Nutrition project, finds dietary paths to prevention; Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship launches its inaugural conference; Carla Makhlof Obermeyer (BA ‘73, MA ’76, MS ’83) discusses the ethics of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention; L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Program honors Lina Al-Kanj (MEN ’07, PhD ’12); AUB’s Byblos Bank Art Gallery juggles contemporary art and history.

Reviews

Field Identification Guide to the Living Marine Resources of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean by Michel Bariche

Beyond Bliss Street

Legends and Legacies

A Call to Care: Mary Bliss Dale (1857-1930) This modest, but determined woman helped establish AUB’s nursing school in 1905 and introduced nursing education to the region.

Reflections

Lynchpin President John Waterbury looks back on ten momentous years at AUB and discusses some of his challenges, achievements, and enduring impressions.

Alumni Profile

Fully Focused Fourth Generation AUBite Karma Ekmekji (BS ’04) demonstrates how a young policy leader can hit her stride by compromising without compromising.

Alumni Happenings

Reunion 2013; WAAAUB’s Fifth Annual Convention; introducing CAB, WAAAUB’s alumni benefits card; meet and greets, glittering galas, and more…

Class Notes

Sabah Abi-Hanna (BAR ’59) on 50 years of building modern Kuwait and beyond; Varoujan Yayılayan, PhD (BS ’76, MS ’78) on the chemistry of food flavorings; Published & Produced: An eclectic mix of new books by Philip A. Salem (BS ’61, MD ’65), Ted Gorton (Junior Year Abroad 1967-68), Elizabeth Kassab (BBA ’79, MA ’83), Wassim Jabi (BAR ‘87), and Kathryn Kraft (MA ’04).

In Memoriam

A professor of mathematics for well over 3 decades, Edward S. Kennedy exemplified the renaissance men and women that AUB students recall as they reflect on the importance of their mentors. All fine teachers are perpetual students, and Kennedy is no exception. After earning his doctorate in math, he studied rare scientific Arabic manuscripts, Islamic history and culture, and of course, the French horn.
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Dedicated professors can change lives forever. Alumni tell us how.

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Will it be an economic boom or environmental fiasco? A look at the not-so-certain future of natural gas exploration in Lebanon.

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The launch of TEDx AUB brings along a lot of “ideas worth spreading”—from an app to detect malaria in blood cells to creative and collaborative computer hacking.
Navigating Regional Change

The theme of Commencement 2013 was “Beyond Main Gate.” This got us thinking about how AUB prepares students to thrive and to lead. What are the particular attitudes or skills AUB students take with them when they graduate?

One of the most useful skills they take away with them is an ability to conduct a productive dialogue among people who have different perspectives. This requires the development of language skills, both verbal and writing, as well as an understanding that one’s own point of view is not necessarily the correct one. To engage in healthy debate you need an appreciation for other viewpoints and the ability to assess critically different points of view. These skills are vitally important in the modern context.

Are these skills different from the ones that might have been important ten, even five years ago?

The skills have not changed, but the world our students graduate into certainly has changed, particularly in the Middle East. An individual’s capacity to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate across cultural and geopolitical boundaries is more important than ever because we see more societies in upheaval. These newer graduates are the ones who are going to be faced with helping economies and social systems get back on their feet and dealing with the major issues of the day. Essentially, the challenge is searching for the common good.

Do you think AUB has a role to play in the “Arab Awakening” or “Arab Spring” that is continuing to evolve in the region? If so, what is it?

We’re an educational institution and our primary role is education and research, so perhaps the only direct impact we’ll have is in producing research that can inform the development of public policy and civil society. Consider the research and advocacy that helped prompt Lebanon’s no smoking policy. The question is whether high caliber academic research, which is what we can provide, will actually be taken seriously and to what extent that will be worked into reinvigorating economies or redefining constitutions. AUB also challenges students to engage and to advocate for their communities. I think the real power of our graduates is that they are thought leaders, not just people capable of being the best employees or being entrepreneurs who will create new jobs. It is their attitudes toward the way people interact and find consensus that I see as the major potential impact for the “Arab Spring.”
President’s view

and they very quickly come to grasp the importance of American education systems in this part of the world. To what extent they will respond to our needs by continuing their support for scholarships is another question because there’s a lot of rhetoric in Washington about cutting the budget, especially in terms of sending money overseas.

AUB has graduated thousands of leaders who have contributed to the intellectual development of the region. Have you heard from any graduates who are particularly involved in current developments in the region?

One outstanding example is a Yemeni student, Farea Al-Muslimi, who came as part of the Tomorrow’s Leaders Scholarship Program of MEPI (the U.S.–Middle East Partnership Initiative). I remember meeting him and know that from the beginning he was interested in making an impact in his country. He was one of the first cohort of this program, which requires a semester studying in the United States, and then he came back to finish his degree in public policy at AUB. Just this spring, he delivered testimony on Capitol Hill in front of a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the crippling effect of drone strikes on the population, because it’s not just the targets but whole communities that are impacted. Farea’s compelling testimony is but one example of the reach and impact our graduates are capable of achieving, their capacity for leadership, and the scope of their influence.

—J.M.

Have recent regional events caused AUB to change its programs or priorities to ensure that it is able to continue to fulfill its mission to serve the people of the Middle East and beyond?

While we have not changed our programs, AUB faculty have been proactive about incorporating contemporary issues involving the “Arab Spring” into their curricula wherever possible, and there are several centers that focus on Middle East-centric issues and challenges. Now we have the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship to promote openness, transparency, and accountability as well as to develop an informed citizenry. The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) also continues its penetrating regional focus and has been looking at the evolution of the “Arab Spring” and how it is has developed in different countries. Refugee populations is another issue IFI has been looking at and that situation is growing worse by the month with the ongoing Syrian conflict. So we’re looking at issues, providing data and expertise, and contributing to important discussions—not only among academics but also in collaboration with NGOs and government officials.

Issues as fundamental as education, government policy, and unemployment are at the heart of changing movements associated with the “Arab Spring.” What can we do now to start addressing these challenges?

We are working at issues that are both fundamental and diverse, but not with a view to creating instant change in education, government policy, or unemployment. What we can do is to emphasize multidisciplinary research in areas that directly contribute to the regional economy and policies that affect the health and prosperity of people here. Take for example energy. The Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources is a multi-disciplinary unit for advanced research in these areas that also facilitates linkages between academics and the public and private sectors. Another area we are leading in is public health, which is a regional issue but also impacts the world. AUB’s new Scholars in HeAlth Research Program (SHARP) is an interdisciplinary initiative designed to prepare the human capital needed to conduct research on non-communicable diseases and is focused on those most relevant to Lebanon and the region.

Is the “Arab Spring” still on the radar of legislators in Washington, DC? When you are in the United States, do you notice any differences in terms of the attitudes of legislative influencers with regard to AUB’s role during this time of change in the Middle East?

Absolutely, Washington remains very much concerned with these issues. But the US government’s biggest challenge is how to respond to these very complex situations, such as the Syrian conflict, where international interests are deeply involved. As for AUB, most legislators understand that education is the best tool for moving forward in this region. I’ve had meetings with legislators who have never met with me before and do not know about AUB, and they very quickly come to grasp the importance of American education systems in this part of the world. To what extent they will respond to our needs by continuing their support for scholarships is another question because there’s a lot of rhetoric in Washington about cutting the budget, especially in terms of sending money overseas.

—J.M.
Many schools struggle to imbue a strong sense of “school spirit,” but at AUB, that spirit is an integral part of the experience from the very beginning. Perhaps it’s because of the expectations we have of AUB students—and that they have of themselves. It is not just that they are joining the ranks of extraordinary men and women who excel in every field worldwide, though this is no doubt true. Mohamed Homayed, the student speaker at the 2013 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, alluded to these expectations when he talked about what makes the AUB experience unique:

“My four years at AUB enriched my life with memorable friends, distinctive mentors, and an encouraging atmosphere… With its outstanding academic leadership and the power of its student activism, AUB has equipped us with the indispensable assets of tolerance, understanding, and self-motivation. It is these assets that should unite us to keep the walls of our beloved country from tumbling down.”

This impact of “memorable friends [and] distinctive mentors” came back to us in a flood this spring when we asked alumni to tell us about individuals who changed their lives. We’ve shared many of these wonderful stories in the pages that follow, but more will appear in future issues.

Part of the reason AUB’s professors have such an impact on their students is the relevancy of their work in current affairs and their on-the-ground field research in Lebanon. One very current topic in Lebanon is the future of natural gas exploration. When we set out to write an article about the future of natural gas exploration in the country, professors from many disciplines volunteered thoughtful perspectives on this very relevant topic.

After you read about the first TEDxAUB, don’t forget to go on-line to watch the many talks we turned up on a myriad of topics by dozens of faculty, students, and friends. We include many more links to TED talks by AUBites in the on-line magazine.

Speaking of reading on-line, we’ve been taking a good look at the addresses of the thousands of magazines we send worldwide. If you’re in the habit of catching up on your reading on your iPad, phone, or laptop, please let us know and we’ll stop your print subscription and make sure you receive the on-line magazine instead.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate
At AUB, almost 3,000 students received financial aid in 2012–13. Can you help one more?

I always knew I wanted to attend AUB because of its reputation. Also, it was the only university in the country that offered a bachelor’s degree in geology. I want to pursue a master’s degree in geology too. I think about returning to Tripoli to teach geology in a new way that will interest others – and also to contribute to Lebanese petroleum research.

Aside from knowledge, AUB has taught me leadership. Being a member of the Student Representative Committee has helped me understand how to communicate with others and negotiate to solve a problem. The diversity at AUB has introduced me to new cultures and new ways. AUB is where we get prepared to face life. I am highly indebted to the Bobst Foundation for appreciating my hard work and supporting me with a scholarship. Their presence in my academic life encouraged me to persevere and give all my energy to my studies.

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

Supporting Students of Today and Tomorrow: Souad Mohsen

Can you help support an AUB student? See what’s possible!
The Honorary Doctorate and Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies on June 14 and 15 took place under lavender skies on the Green Field.

1,987 students graduated from AUB this year, including 1,485 undergraduates, 415 graduates, and 87 MDs.
Ten Things to do before you graduate from AUB

1. Sip a last Nescafé from Abu Naji
2. Camp out in Jafet overnight
3. Dance on stage during Commencement
4. Befriend a professor
5. Buy an AUB car sticker
6. Take the chemistry stairs for the last time, not!
7. Get your alumni card
8. Thank Mr. Sobhi Renno in the Admissions Office
9. Feed a cat
10. Advise a freshman

Welcome to AUB

The University is pleased to welcome three new members of the Board of Trustees.

Michael F. Collins, MD, is chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts and senior vice president for the health sciences at the University of Massachusetts. A former president and chief executive officer of Caritas Christi Health Care System in Boston (1994-2004), Collins is very active in community affairs. He was chair of the United Way of Central Massachusetts Capital Campaign in 2010-11. Collins graduated cum laude from the College of the Holy Cross, where he served as a trustee from 1996 to 2002 and board chair from 2002 to 2008, and from the Tufts University School of Medicine (MD ‘81).

An AUB alumnus (BEN ‘77), Maroun Semaan is cofounder and president of Petrofac Limited, a FTSE 100 company with 30 offices worldwide. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the American University of Sharjah and a founding member of the board of trustees of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED). Prior to joining Petrofac in 1991, Semaan spent 14 years at Consolidated Contractors International where he was involved in managing oil and gas pipeline, process facilities, and civil works projects in Oman and Bahrain. In
and director of MENA Venture Investments, a seed capital fund that provides capital, access to networks, mentorships, and technical expertise to startups. A member of the Olayan School’s Advisory Board, Ghandour is especially interested in social entrepreneurship. He is founder and chairman of Ruwwad for Development, a regional private sector-led community empowerment initiative.

Honorary degree recipients 2013: Ray R. Irani (BA ’53), a distinguished international business leader, AUB alumnus, and trustee emeritus; the legendary Egyptian film actress Faten Hamama; Lebanese-American Charles Elachi, director of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology; and linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, and social critic Noam Chomsky of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Reviews


Associate Professor of Biology Michel Bariche has authored a field guide covering the major animal groups of the southern and eastern Mediterranean Sea, including crustaceans, molluscs, sea urchins, fishes, sea turtles, and marine mammals. Published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, this 610-page volume includes details on 372 species that were selected based on their economic interest, prevalence, and endangered or invasive status. One of a number of identification guides published by the FAO, this volume includes a brief introduction describing the Mediterranean Sea along with a pictorial index and a glossary of terms. This is the first FAO field guide translated into Arabic making it a useful resource for local fishermen.
World renowned director Peter Sellars visited AUB as part of the Visiting Scholar Program for a week this spring, bringing faculty and students face to face with a visionary in the realm of modern opera. On campus, Sellars screened his production of Doctor Atomic, set to music by John Adams, and St. Matthew Passion, directed by Sellars with music conducted by Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. His public lectures included a discussion entitled “The Drama of Bach’s Passion Settings” on the creation and direction of the play. Thomas Kim, assistant professor and chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts and Art History, invited Sellars to showcase his work at AUB. “He has always been about exploring the connections between art and society,” said Kim. “He feels an obligation to include social and moral commentary in his work. This is clearly in line with the AUB mission.” Peter Sellars is a professor at the Department of World Arts and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Limestone abounds in Egypt. Baked by the sun it turns a dusky brown, but break it open and you reveal something fine and white, an excellent medium for drawing. Shards of smooth white limestone, free for the taking, were natural sketch pads. Was this little drawing of a sturdy lion discarded as unworthy, or used to plan an ornamental feature of an Egyptian tomb or temple? The artist who painted it over 3,000 years ago can’t inform us. But we can tell the artist was very skilled, belonging to the profession of draftsmen who were also trained to write hieroglyphs. This lion was sketched twice, with a heavy, darker line over tracing the first paler line. Appearing above is the word “maiu,” meaning lion, but it’s misspelled, since the hieroglyphs for “i” and “sh” look very much alike. So, on this shard the word above the lion reads “mashu,” but we know we see a lion. The piece was chipped slightly after the painting was done, so the rear foot and part of the tail are missing now, but you can enjoy the expression of this emphatic creature when you visit the Archaeological Museum on campus.

—K.D.

Opened in 1902, the Archaeological Museum is the third oldest museum in the Near East.

Tel: +961 1 340549 museum(at)aub.edu.lb | Hours: 9 am to 5 pm
Asfari Conference

The Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at AUB, which was founded in November 2012 with a generous grant from the Asfari Foundation headed by AUB Trustee Ayman Asfari, held its inaugural conference on May 23-24. “New Spaces of Civil Society Activism in the Arab World” was organized in partnership with Legal Agenda, Beirut; the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University; and the Arab Studies Institute affiliated with the Middle East Studies Program at George Mason University. Current events in the Middle East and North Africa brought a sense of urgency to the proceedings as participants from leading academics to community activists examined the factors that limit civil society in the region, explored how countries with entrenched positions were dealing with new demands for social justice and equity, speculated on outcomes, and proposed solutions. Speaking at the opening session, AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal commented, “Both the Asfari Foundation and AUB recognize that the Arab world is undergoing momentous change. We hope that through research, education, training, and active partnership and engagement with academics, practitioners, and members of the general public, the Asfari Institute will contribute to advancing realistic solutions to the obstacles to effective civil society and citizenship in the Arab world during this era of historic transition.”

Conference Highlights:

Rashid Khalidi discusses how strategic alliances with the west and self-serving petromonarchies sustain the authoritarian status quo in the region.

Ala’a Shehabi, a Bahrain-based political activist, economics lecturer, and writer explores how the regime in Bahrain is working to steer clear of the political and religious ramifications of the conflict by manipulating the human rights discourse.

Roundtable Roundup:

Provost Dallal and keynote speakers Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies in the Department of History at Columbia University; Asef Bayat, the Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies and professor of sociology and Middle Eastern studies at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Khaled Fahmy, professor and chair of history at the American University in Cairo, examine the illusive framework for core analysis of current events, the unpredictable nature of the uprisings, the socio-economic consequences of an intractable system of servitude for MENA workers, and the challenges of transitional justice.

Read conference proceedings: www.aub.edu.lb/provost/Asfari/
View conference videos: www.jadaliyya.com (search for “Asfari”)
MainGate: Although you have done research and published extensively on a number of public health issues, your current focus is on the ethical implications of different policies that countries have pursued to increase HIV testing and care. What are the concerns that have prompted this research?

Before antiretroviral therapy (ART) became more widely available, a positive HIV test meant a terminal illness and the potential for stigmatization, particularly as HIV transmission was associated with behaviors that are reprehensible in many societies. So testing levels were very low and many people did not know they had HIV. With ART, HIV testing became the gateway to treatment and was scaled up, but there were continuing ethical concerns related to the need to protect individuals’ human rights, to ensure informed consent, and linkages to care.

The MATCH, a Multi-country African Testing and Counseling for HIV study, was designed to investigate HIV testing in four sub-Saharan African countries: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda. We wanted to see how these ethical concerns played out “on the ground,” through the lens of client and provider experiences.

What are the types of concerns that people are worried about?

In the early days of the epidemic, testing was initiated by the client—what we call “voluntary counseling and testing” (VCT)—which meant difficult decisions and burdens on individuals. Then it became clear that many people who went to medical facilities were not offered testing, so there was a push by the WHO (World Health Organization) and CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to increase provider-initiated testing (PITC). And here activists started to worry that perhaps physicians and nurses would push too hard, and then consent and confidentiality would be jeopardized. Hence the importance of gathering information about what was happening in the field, of finding out if these concerns were justified.

What did your study find?

In general, we did not find major problems related to consent and confidentiality in those facilities that offer PITC compared to VCT. Our results emphasized the need for improvement, especially related to care, to link people to needed services.

Has there been any type of MATCH study focused on the Middle East?

The situation of HIV in the Middle East is quite different in that levels are considerably lower than in Africa and the epidemic tends to be concentrated in risk groups of individuals who use intravenous drugs or men who have sex with men, rather than being generalized in the population. Much testing in MENA is mandatory and the stigma is very high. So while there are possibilities for a comparative study of ethical practices around HIV, the social and policy settings would require a different approach, a focus on the questions of gender and stigma, and how best to target individuals at risk.

Prior to joining AUB as visiting professor and director of the Center for Research on Population and Health, Carla Makhlouf Obermeyer spent nine years as a scientist at the Department of HIV/AIDS, Strategic Information and Research Unit at the World Health Organization in Geneva (2002-11). Between 1989 and 2000, she was a faculty member in the Department of Population and International Health at Harvard. The author of more than 100 articles and four books, she is a graduate of AUB (BA ’73, MA ’76, MS ’83) and of Harvard University (DSc ’88).
AUB Trustee Emeritus Alexander Geha (BS ’55, MD ’59) celebrated the establishment of the Alexander S. Geha, MD, Lectureship in Cardiothoracic Surgery with friends, family, and colleagues at the forty-sixth Middle East Medical Assembly. The inaugural lecture was given by Dr. Stuart W. Jamieson, endowed chair, distinguished professor of surgery, and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UC San Diego. Geha is a cardiothoracic surgery professor at UC San Diego and professor and chief emeritus of cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

SAVE THE DATE!
The Graduate Council is planning to hold its second open house at the end of November—early December 2013.

Learn about AUB's master's and PhD program offerings, student fellowships, and get up to speed on the admissions process at this second annual open house. Meet AUB faculty members, staff, and current graduate students, take a campus tour, and pick up information from the Admissions Office, the Graduate Council, and the University Preparatory Program (offering English proficiency and intensive summer English courses).

AUB offers approximately 70 graduate programs spanning the humanities and social sciences; natural and computational sciences; health, nursing and medical sciences; agricultural and food sciences; business and economics; and engineering and architecture.

DID YOU KNOW?
AUB granted approximately $3.6 million in graduate assistantships and $554,000 in PhD fellowships in 2011–12.

APPLY ON-LINE!
Applications for spring 2014 and fall 2014 can be submitted on-line at https://graduateadmissions.aub.edu.lb/ until November 1, 2013 and February 7, 2014 respectively.

Dar Al-Wafaa Simulation Center
The new Dar Al-Wafaa Simulation Center at AUBMC is a state-of-the-art education facility which will provide medical and nursing students and residents with access to the latest simulation equipment. Students will learn how to operate effectively in a wide range of real-life situations including surgery, emergency medicine, intensive care medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and anesthesia. The center will be located on the third floor of the new Academic and Clinical Center. The University extends special thanks to the Al-Jundi family, including Nafez Al-Jundi, his wife Laila Al-Jundi, and his daughter Nora Al-Jundi (BBA ’01, MBA ’04) for its generous and important donation to name the center.

HSON
Breathing New Life into Patient Care
Two decisions changed Aline Akiki’s life. The first was to opt into HSON’s master’s program. The second was to focus on pulmonary disease during her internship at the University of Michigan, and more particularly during her training in a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) rehabilitation clinic.

Akiki first developed an interest in pulmonary disease during clinical work as an AUBMC nurse. Highly motivated and not content to sit back and wait for instructions, she looked for ways to forge her own path in nursing. Two crucial days in Michigan spent at the COPD clinic together with her choice of a master’s thesis topic proved to be pivotal. Today as Akiki looks back on the experience, she remembers the prophetic words of her HSON adviser who told her that her thesis choice would shape her career. “Most students just write the thesis to qualify,” Akiki says. “I was not like that, but at the time I never realized what a difference my thesis choice would make.”

When AUBMC’s Dr. Hassan Chami heard about Akiki’s background, her thesis topic, and her enthusiasm for patient care he was curious to talk to her. It turned out to be a meeting
Nametag: Mageda Sharafeddine, PhD Electrical and Computer Engineering, June 2013.

Life before PhD: I grew up in Tyre and attended Al-Jaaafariyah High School. As a child my hobbies were acting, collecting stamps, and playing on the beach right across from home. I always ranked first in school and enjoyed undertaking challenges. Ever since my high school years I knew I wanted to be an engineer. I graduated from AUB in 1993 with a BEN in CCE, got married, and travelled to the United States to pursue graduate studies with my husband. In 1995 I graduated with a master’s from Ohio State University and soon after joined my husband, who is also an engineer and AUB alumnus, at IBM in New York. I spent around 14 years with IBM working in the Electronic Design Automation organization. This was a very busy period of my life. I had my three children while I was at IBM: Batoul, now 16; Sima, 13; and Mohammad, 7. I was promoted while with IBM and held team leadership positions in the High Level Synthesis group.

What matters most: I look for ways to make the processing power of computers more efficient. For mobile systems users, more efficient processing power means not having to charge the batteries as often.

Research: I use performance and circuit simulation tools to estimate the performance and power of my proposed systems. I have introduced three new processing units or cores. I have filed for a US patent, jointly with my adviser, on one of the processing units: Virtual Register Renaming for Out-of-Order Algorithms.

10 am Tuesday, 10am Saturday: At these times, I am probably working on fixing a bug in the performance model for one of my cores or reading a research paper.

Most admires: Personally, I most admire my grandfather Sayed Abdul-Hussain Sharafuddin, an Islamic scholar of high rank and exceptional caliber, a social and political reformer, and a major force promoting unity, independence, and progress for Lebanon and the Arab and Islamic worlds. Professionally, I admire my adviser Professor Haitham Akkary, who can make complex ideas look appealing and achievable.

Why this topic interests me: I find great joy in fixing a program bug that I have been working on for months and moving on to meet the bigger goals of my research. This topic simply matches my talents and skills.
of minds. Today, under Chami’s oversight and in cooperation with physiotherapist Michel Rayyes, Akiki is the coordinator of AUBMC’s Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, the first of its kind in the Middle East.

COPD affects approximately 10 percent of the population worldwide (9 percent in Lebanon) and is the third leading cause of death globally. In addition to not being able to breathe properly, COPD patients are prone to infection and require regular medical attention and frequent hospitalization. Akiki’s job is to equip COPD patients with the skills they need to self-monitor their health so they can detect lung infections early. In this way, they are able to avoid frequent readmission to the hospital, reduce the time they spend in hospital, and enjoy an improved quality of life.

Patients who attend Akiki’s rehab program twice a week for 10 weeks are monitored and practice physiotherapy and breathing exercises to increase the distance they are able to walk, decrease their shortness of breath, and curtail hospitalization. "COPD patients can become very restricted in their movements because it is difficult for them to get out and about due to their breathing difficulties," Akiki explains. “It is important that they become mobile again; otherwise they become very depressed stuck at home.”

A positive attitude is a key factor in helping patients get better and Akiki has plenty of that. She loves the fact that such programs provide nurses with a leading role and have such a transformative impact on patients’ lives.

—M.A.

FHS/FAS/AUBMC

International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) Project

While AUBMC doctors see a troubling increase in early stage breast cancer, an international team sets its sights on preventing cancer in the first place. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women—not just in high income countries, which has been the case for many years, but in low and middle income countries as well. In fact, the majority of breast cancer cases now occur in the developing world.1

“Between 2004 and 2008, there were twice as many treated cases of breast cancer in Lebanon as there were of lung cancer—the second most commonly treated type of cancer. The data also shows that breast cancer is more common in Lebanon than in many other countries in the region,” says biology Professor Rabih Talhouk (BS ’81, MS ’83). AUBMC researchers are exploring the reasons for the recent increase in breast cancer in Lebanon—and for the higher incidence rate of breast cancer in Lebanon compared to, for example, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. As a member of an international multidisciplinary team that includes colleagues at AUB and around the world, Talhouk is also trying to figure out what—if anything—can be done to prevent breast cancer from developing in the first place.

“There are several ways in which the international breast cancer and nutrition (IBCN) project, which was conceived at Purdue University, is different,” says Talhouk. “It is multidisciplinary, it is global, and—most of all—it is focused on prevention.” He goes on to explain that breast cancer research has traditionally been more concerned with how best to treat breast cancer. It is because of this emphasis on prevention that researchers are investigating different dietary patterns around the world and documenting their relationship to genomic imprints acquired during the lifetime of individuals in populations at risk, and to the incidents of breast cancer. It could be, for example, that one reason why

the number of breast cancer cases is increasing in some countries—and not in others—is because of a change in dietary habits in those countries.

“That there are differences in the incidence of breast cancer around the world is not news,” explains Talhouk. Figuring out the reasons for these differences, however, can be complicated. Take Lebanon for example. Professor Nagi El Saghir, director of the Breast Center of Excellence at the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at AUBMC, reports that there has been an increase in the number of early stage breast cancer incidents at AUBMC in recent years. The reason for this increase may be that more women in Lebanon have regular breast exams and screening mammographies. There could, however, be other factors such as genetic predisposition. In his research, El Saghir is looking for BRCA gene mutations that might cause the higher percentage of young women with breast cancer in Lebanon. He and other clinicians are contributing to the IBCN project by detailing the particular characteristics of breast cancer in Lebanese and Arab populations. “We know there are various ethnic differences and that they may be in part related to nutrition and regional variations as well as recent changes due to the globalization of dietary habits.”

Talhouk says there were no studies in the region linking dietary patterns to the risk of breast cancer until very recently. FAFS Assistant Professor Lara Nasreddine, who is a member of the IBCN nutrition group, is among those who are currently investigating changes in dietary patterns in Lebanon and their association with breast cancer. This topic is also on the agenda of the Fourth International Breast Cancer Prevention Symposium which will take place at AUB in October 2013. “We hope at this conference to discuss the implications of dietary changes and habits on the etiology of breast cancer, as well as prevention, by addressing modifiable risk factors,” explains El Saghir. Some of the other “modifiable risk factors” that researchers and global public health advocates will be discussing at the October symposium are stress and exercise.

Talhouk is cochairing the symposium with Professor Sophie Lelièvre, associate professor of basic medical sciences and leader of the Breast Cancer Discovery Group at the Purdue Center for Cancer Research; Professor Connie Weaver, distinguished professor and head of Purdue’s Department of Foods and Nutrition and director of the Botanicals Center for Age-Related Diseases; and Martine Bellanger, PhD, French School of Public Health (EHESP), France. “The opportunity to host this symposium is wonderful for AUB and for Lebanon,” says Talhouk. El Saghir agrees. “It will be a great exposure to people in our region about the state of the art in science of nutrition and cancer, particularly breast cancer. It will also help our faculty and students at AUB and in the region to participate and take the lead in cutting-edge scientific research.”

In addition to representatives from IBCN partner teams in Canada, France, Ghana, Japan, Lebanon, Uruguay, and the United States, participants from Qatar and other countries in the region will also attend the October symposium. While the global reach of this project is critical to its success, it also poses some formidable challenges. “We’re working in very different circumstances with varying resources and constraints, and yet we need to gather data in a consistent way, so there is lots of coordination, lots of back and forth,” says Talhouk. AUB doctoral student Dana Bazzoun (see MainGate, fall 2012, pages 22-23) is one of the researchers who is doing much back and forth splitting her time between AUB and Purdue, where she is working with Professor Lelièvre. Talhouk says the goal is to have even greater cooperation in the years ahead including hosting researchers from other partner countries at AUB. Although the project was launched three years ago, it is still in its infancy. “There is still a lot of work to be done, but we’re very encouraged already—and very excited about this project,” says Talhouk.
What students want to know...

Where does Lebanon stand in terms of reconciliation? How do we reinforce citizenship and the mechanisms of peace? If Lebanon is a failed state with no central authority, how do you participate as a citizen in this vacuum? How do you confront the past without getting sucked into it?

Questions from students came thick and fast during panel discussions hosted this spring by the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration (PSPA) and the EU delegation to Lebanon. Entitled “Political Participation” and “Peace and Reconciliation,” the panels were structured to give students the opportunity to engage directly with politicians, diplomats, and civil society activists.

In his opening remarks PSPA Assistant Professor Thomas Haase explained that the event reflected the core aspirations of PSPA to explore topics confronting local communities and ways to resolve problems. AUB President Peter Dorman reminded the audience that each individual has the capability to influence the state; while head of the EU delegation to Lebanon, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, invited students and all those present to think about what they could do to promote human rights, in addition to what governments, MPs, and diplomats could and should do.

Initiating the discussions, moderator Nadim Houry, deputy director of Human Rights Watch, Middle East and North Africa Division, emphasized the importance of audience participation. The panelists: EU Ambassadors Jan Top Christensen (Denmark) and Homer Mavromatis (Cyprus); Lebanese MP and human rights lawyer Ghassan Moukheiber; civil society activists Lynn Maalouf from ACT for the Disappeared; Adnan Melki from the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE); and PSPA lecturer Ohannes Geukjian each spoke briefly before the floor was thrown open for student questions.

Ambassador Christensen’s suggestion that the voting age be dropped from 21 to 18 resonated with many students. One student said, “I feel I speak for the youth when I say I do not feel represented in this system. Even though I just turned 21 and this will be my first chance to vote, I don’t think I will because I don’t feel represented by any of the candidates. We have the tools and knowledge; we understand what is needed but there is no method for implementation.”

Another student asked, “What is the point of participation when our country is held hostage to foreign powers?” A third student took the opposite point of view, saying, “Why aren’t we active? We were active in 2005-06 and we have been active advocates for civil society. We need to raise awareness to encourage citizens to vote and change the system. I would ask how do we reinforce citizenship and the mechanisms of peace? We changed the voting system at AUB, trying to go for more democratic practices to better mirror student factions. Why can’t we do more?”

For the record, Adnan Melki told participants that a recent LADE study of elections among societies and organizations throughout Lebanon revealed that student elections were the most democratic.

—M.A.
Byblos Bank Art Gallery

AUB inaugurated the Byblos Bank Art Gallery on May 20 with an innovative exhibit exploring the relationship between art and labor over history. Semaan Bassil, vice chairman and general manager of the Byblos Bank Group, described the gallery as an "experimental space [that] plants seeds that encourage Lebanese artists and the application of art in its different forms. Our belief is that human creativity and innovation is a much neglected economic resource. It creates jobs; brings direct and indirect revenues; and preserves the uniqueness of our cultural expression for future generations."

The establishment of the Byblos Bank Art Gallery supports efforts at AUB to train students in all aspects of the visual arts, whether as practicing artists, art historians, or museum curators. With the opening of the new gallery, AUB is also, according to Rico Franses, director of AUB art collections and galleries and associate professor of fine arts and art history, entering "the fray of contemporary art... As the local and regional art scenes buzz with energy and innovation, we hope to provide an academic perspective on the most recent developments and to contribute to the many lively debates concerning contemporary art."
The campus, the Corniche, and “the Dynamo,” aka Rosie Nasser, all featured prominently at the opening of the recent “On AUB” exhibition of photographs by AUB students, staff, and faculty. The show, that has breathed new life into photography at AUB, was the culmination of a course on the theory and practice of photography, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Over 140 people applied for 40 available places. At the exhibition opening, FM Professor Marwan El Sabban, also a passionate photographer, paid tribute to Rosie (associate director of AUB’s Office of Grants and Contracts) for driving the Mellon proposal through and hounding participants for their submissions for the exhibition. Attendance and enthusiasm have been strong throughout. El Sabban said he hoped this commitment to photography on campus would endure, along with the Facebook page the group has created.

—M.A.

**Student News**

Lina Al-Kanj (MEN ’07, PhD ’12) has been selected as one of eight exceptional female Arab scientists by the L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Pan Arab regional program. The fellowship program highlights the crucial role women play in science and honors outstanding female doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who are involved in exceptional projects in different areas of science and technology. Al-Kanj was recognized for her work on traffic offloading in LTE (long-term evolution)/wifi networks. Fellows receive grants of $20,000 and are empowered through this initiative to advance their research in the fields of their choice. Since the creation of the program in 1998, more than 1,300 women in over 100 countries have been recognized for their groundbreaking achievements and innovative research.

—B.R.
MAINGATE ASKED ALUMNI THIS SPRING WHAT THEY TOOK WITH THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY BEYOND THE MAIN GATE. AN OUT-POURING OF RESPONSES REVEALED THAT PROFESSORS HAVE FAR MORE THAN A TRANSITORY IMPACT ON STUDENTS’ LIVES. IT’S NOT JUST CLASSROOM LESSONS, BUT THE LIFE LESSONS FROM PROFESSORS WHO EXEMPLIFY DIGNITY, KINDNESS, AND CARE THAT REMAIN WITH ALUMNI FOR YEARS TO COME.
I remember Professor Cowan as a young professor, a colleague, and a boss. He mentored me as a student in the Faculty of Agriculture. We were colleagues in the lab and did research together in nutrition. As chairman, he made sure I had the resources to prosper as a young assistant professor. What I remember most lovingly about Jim, though, is his enthusiasm and moral and financial support for my family and me before we moved back to the United States so I could pursue a career in medicine at Vanderbilt. I had lunch with Jim many years later in the early 1980s in Washington, DC after he had left AUB and had the chance to thank him for his influence on my life, but he was too humble to admit it. I guess he had done too many good deeds to remember all of them. Thank you again, Jim.

Salim S. Akrabawi (BS ’61, MS ’63)

Professor W.W. Worzella was my teacher and later my boss. He had an impact on my life at AUB and throughout my career at international organizations such as CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) and the World Bank where I continued to carry the banner of hard work and integrity.

Hikmat Nasr (BS ’61, MS ’65)
Professor Macksoud treated his students not like students but like professionals. He knew that imparting self-respect and self-confidence to team members was one of the key factors of success as a leader. I learned from him to be competent and results-oriented, to take my work seriously while not taking myself too seriously, and to keep an open mind, while always being mindful of ethics.

Nadim Khouri (BS ‘79, MS ‘82)

Professor Macksoud expected excellence from his students. His sharp intelligence, eloquence, and thorough knowledge of the materials he taught were inspiring and challenging to me. My success during the past 55 years is partly due to the impression he made on me.

Musa Freiji (BS ’57)

Professor Macksoud’s dynamic nature, quick wit, and respect for hard work were impressive. Every time you left his class you felt that you had learned something, not necessarily about irrigation, but about how to deal with problems and life in general.

Sabbah Al Haj (BS ’57, MS ’61)

Professor Macksoud wrote [for] my friend Ahmad Qatanain and [me] desperately needed letters of recommendation using his old manual typewriter. This made a big difference to us. Professor Cowan showed us how to be strict but also kind and helpful and fair in dealing with others. He was a man of his word. Professor Talhouk inspired us to overcome obstacles to pursue our research which, he said, we should treat as a hobby.

Ahmad M. Faqih (BS ’62, MS ’64)
Professor Zeine Zeine was an inspiration, a delightful host, and a learned guide. Many years ago, I was chatting with the owners of a rug shop in Hong Kong, and when I learned they were from Palestine I asked if they knew Professor Zeine. They were very excited by this and went into the back of their shop and found a school class photo [see above] from Haifa and pointed out Professor Zeine as a young classmate of theirs.

Charles Southall  (BA ’54)

Professor Zeine Zeine introduced me to the Ottoman Empire, which is still my passion. Professor Shahla, who was my teacher of education, which was my major, taught me a rule that I still quote to my grandchildren and children: teach the child how to teach himself. Professor Makhlouf, my freshman psychology teacher, taught me that intelligence is the ability to adapt. I have shared these lessons with my children and their children. They have all excelled in their studies, in work, and in their outlook on life. In this way, the influence of AUB is overwhelming. I was blessed to have other mentors as well, who left an indelible mark on my life. I look back at AUB as a home and a great place of enlightenment. AUB definitely shapes your personality.

Taroub Shubailat  (BA ’58)

Psychology Professor Terry Prothro had a huge impact on my life. He was a wonderful mentor and encouraged me to achieve by example and by acknowledging my efforts. His office was always open to students, and he shared his research with us, encouraging us to participate in gathering data, whenever feasible.

Macy Akel Wyatt, PhD  (BA ’56)
I knew Hanna Batatu as a colleague when I began teaching at AUB. Whenever I asked for his help with sources, he would go over his huge collection of newspaper clippings, handling each clipping carefully as if he were handling a baby. What was amazing was his ability to locate any clipping he wanted in a few seconds. I knew him later as assistant dean of FAS when he moved from Shamlan to Bliss Street and would come to me complaining, not about the shelling, but about a dog that barked outside his apartment at night making it difficult for him to work. I took one seminar with Walid Khalidi. He impressed me greatly with his thoroughness and deep discussions. Our paths then crossed on a few projects when he fascinated me with his meticulous going over details and prolific ability to analyze data. C. K. Zurayk was my mentor and idol. I took one course with him, worked under him when he was acting president, and continued meeting with him whenever I could. After his retirement I used to enjoy sitting with him on a campus bench and discussing Arab and world affairs. He never tired of talking about the need for a new moral order. I shall never forget the day when he walked into my office in College Hall when I was editor of the AUB Faculty Bulletin. In his shaking hand he had a short article about his election as president of the World Association of University Professors. He told me that he was not sure if it was fit to be included in the Bulletin but if it was: “Please make whatever changes that you may see fit.” That same week I got in the mail an article by another senior faculty member with this statement: “Do not change a word in this article before consulting with me.”

Nabil Dajani (BA ’57, MA ’60)

Constantine Zurayk: courses, history's practice or “Interpretation” (286), and theory or “Philosophy” (287), were required of every major. We all knew he demanded a lot of work and was a tough grader. It took courage to register for these courses in 1962. The reading lists were voluminous, spanning from prehistory to the present. We were faced with historical and “philosophical” sources far beyond our imaginations. Professor Zurayk opened horizons my narrow focus on archaeology had ignored. He suggested I work on Ranke—just a name to me then—because I could read the original. We all worked hard and although the grades fell below my expectations, admiration for this teacher’s handling of history and historians inspired me far beyond the classroom. Zurayk calmly exposed young men and women to the wide seas of human history, made them dive for pearls, and share the finds.

Helga Seeden (BA ’63, MA ’67)
Professors Constantine Zurayk, Walid Khalidi, and Hanna Batutu all had a great impact on my life. Professor Zurayk took special care of us Sudanese students. Walid Khalidi was a young man returning from UCLA and took us in his arms as he had known my older brother at UCLA. I would like also to mention Registrar Fulaihan, Mr. Medani from the Finance Office, also Professors Hanania, Khalil Hawi, Murhig, and many others. I originally joined AUB to study sciences. But then I met Professor Malik Badri at the Education Department and I was so taken by the way he taught that I changed my major to education and became a science teacher in the Sudan. Professor Badri had a great influence on me. I really wanted to emulate the way he taught. I ended up being a professor of education and psychology like my teacher Professor Malik Badri.

Abdal-Moniem Abdelkarim Badri (BA ’65)

Ever since I graduated from AUB, I have been grateful to the late Professor Kennedy. I grew up with a “thorn in my foot” (actually in my brain!) and was unable to grasp mathematics. When I had to repeat business math in the second semester of my freshman year, Professor Kennedy invited me to meet him once a week throughout the semester. At our first meeting he let me know that he was offering me the opportunity to “fall in love with mathematics.” This wonderful man taught me to fall in love with numbers, with how numbers told stories, how they revealed mysteries, and so on. The result was that for the first time in my life, I not only passed a math exam, but I got a B+. My life and career were greatly helped by this man who gave of himself selflessly, took time to help a student who needed help, and gave this student the greatest gift.

Rev. Kalyan Das (BBA ’72)
Perhaps the most inspirational professor I’ve ever had was Professor Charles Malik. I had to beg him to let me take his course on moral philosophy since I was a pre-med major and had not taken any of the prerequisites. He warned me that I would have difficulty completing the requirements and that I would be his first pre-med student. Actually it was Professor Kamal Salibi who told me that my AUB experience would be incomplete unless I met and experienced Professor Malik. The course just about killed me, but meeting this man was a life changing event. I still have the three-volume Hartman textbooks on ethics on my shelf and the paper I wrote on Aristotle’s Doctrine of Friendship in my files. There is no question: Professor Malik is one of the top influences in my life.

James Starling (former student 1963-64)
Professors Zurayk and Khalidi, in addition to many other great professors like Charles Malik, Gabriel Jabbur (Arabic), Mahmoud Zayed (history), Ihsan Abbas (Arabic), A. Lutfiyya (sociology-taught 1962-64), Christopher Marlow (history), Nicolas Ziadeh (history), and many others inspired me greatly in many ways. Those great men taught me how to be modest and shun arrogance and to be myself regardless of my position. I also learned the value of knowledge, how to set a goal for myself, and pursue it. I learned how to be friendly with, and extend any possible assistance to, those around me. I also learned the basics of how to conduct a civilized dialogue. Finally, I learned not to compromise and to stick to my principles. They inspired me to be successful.

Kamal Zaher (BA '67)

GEORGE KHAIRALLAH

MA, PhD Columbia University. Taught English, European languages and literature: 1966-93.

Professor Khairallah taught me English in one breath and how to be a self-confident professional in another. I can still remember how he puffed his pipe and covered us with clouds of dry humor, wisdom, and knowledge. God rest his soul. I am almost certain he’s now lecturing the angels on why Chaucer is better than Shakespeare! “Do what you write and write what you do.”

Samer K. Taher (BA ’90)

NAIM ATIYEH


Professor Atiyeh’s interest went beyond filling our heads with knowledge; he wanted also to help us become good human beings. When I contemplated dropping out because I could not juggle work and studies, he did not let me give up. He is still my role model and continues to steer me in the right direction. When I am puzzled about an issue at work, I ask myself: “What would Professor Atiyeh do?” and I act accordingly. Most of what I know about life, I have learned from Professor Atiyeh.

Ketty Sarouphim (MA ’91)
I only understood that Professor Harik was a mentor to me later in my life. Having a teacher see in you the potential that you do not yet see yourself, and engage with you on that level by discussing and debating, accepting and challenging your views while expecting you to do the same, pushes you to be creative and in touch with your own potential. Professor Harik embodies the AUB values of freedom of thought and expression, tolerance, respect for diversity and dialog, creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity, civic responsibility, and leadership. I live and work by these values which she unveiled for me during those beautiful years on campus. For some teachers we are just students, for others, we are a mosaic of potentials yet to be realized.

Nada Tamin (BA '90)

I do not think there is a person who has had a more lasting impact on his students than Professor Costas Issidorides. He is still guiding me through my work and life. I tell my students that if you find anything in me to commend, the credit goes to Costas Issidorides. He set a high standard for his students and collaborators. His effect does not end with his students but tunnels through to reach the next generation. In my case, for example, I never dreamed that I would set foot on the grounds of Harvard University, but Costas made it possible for me to earn a PhD in chemistry from Harvard. Costas not only taught people. He changed people. God bless his soul.

Musa Nazer (BS '58, MS '60)

Watching Professor Nada Saoud lecture was an inspiring experience. From her I learned that there is no good time to follow your dreams, that you should never make excuses, and that everything is possible. I’ll always have her as my role model.

Imane Saleh (MS '05)

Professor Samar Mukallid taught us knowledge, theories, and personal and life skills. She was my adviser and my role model.

Nadine Ghalayini (BA '10)
Professors Kamel Abu-Ghali, Daniel Asmar, and Lina Daouk influenced my academic and personal life in many ways. I took five courses and my Final Year Project with Professor Abu-Ghali. As our team’s adviser, he continually offered help, support, and motivation that kept us going. I took four courses from Professor Asmar, who offered me life changing advice, motivated me to graduate with distinction, and always had faith in me. Professor Daouk is one of those people you never forget. She inspired so many students enrolled in the management course. She helped me with my job applications and interview preparation. She reached out to her students in an innovative and fun way that I have never seen before.

Sandra Tamer (BEN ’12)
BILAL HAMAD

(BEN ’76) MS University of Texas, Austin. Has taught civil and environmental engineering since 1982.

Professor Hamad taught me that in order to grow, I had to perform to the maximum. He inspired me to think big in order to become bigger—and also to treat all people as important people. When you advance, lift others with you, because success built on the ruins of others never lasts.

Fadi Majzoub (BEN ’97)

RAYMOND GHOSN

(BA ’41) MS, M-Arch Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Taught architecture and civil and structural engineering: 1952-76. Dean of FEA 1965-76.

Professor Raymond Ghosn’s professional attitude, standards of morality, and humility are very difficult to emulate. He treated us as colleagues rather than students from day one. His wisdom as chair of the Engineering Students Corporation was exemplary. Invariably and at the end of each meeting, which used to linger until late into the night, he would invite all of us to Marouche in Bab Idriss to enjoy a dish of foul (fava beans). The legacy of Raymond Ghosn is a landmark in AUB history to which he sacrificed his life. He left an impression on all of us. I shall always remember him as a gifted, humble, professor—and a gentleman.

George Tomey (BEN ’62)

Professor Ghosn instilled in us that engineering is the most important profession in the world and that engineers have what it takes to lead in all fields—this inspired us to widen and strengthen our knowledge beyond what the engineering curriculum offered.

Marwan Zureiqat (BEN ’69)

Professor Ghosn’s ability to encourage students and support them to achieve their goals was limitless.

Garbis Tabourian (BA ’52, BSCE ’53)
My memories of Dean Weidner and his influence on me are very precious. I still remember him on the Green Field with his Fez (tarbouche) shouting encouragement to both teams. I remember his reputation for enriching the engineering laboratories by travelling everywhere to get donations of the equipment we needed. I remember how he taught us discipline and to respect others. But, most of all, I remember Dean Weidner as the person who planted patriotism in our young hearts by singing our famous patriotic songs in Arabic: Nahnu Ash-Shabab and Mawtini.

Fuad Sayyid (BEN ’62)

I failed miserably in my first year at AUB. After dressing me down, Dean Weidner told me, “Bill, you will be given a second chance and you will be monitored closely.” The monitoring continued for a year and included advice on leadership, teamwork, and future aims in life. I graduated in 1960 as president of the Engineering Student Society.

William Haddad (BEN ’60)

Dean Weidner’s Rules to Live By:
1. If you make a decision, you have a 50 percent chance of being right and a 50 percent chance of being wrong. If you don’t make a decision, you have a 100 percent chance of being wrong.
2. If you rely on the honor system and give exams without teacher supervision, you make students feel ashamed to cheat.
3. Engineers should be leaders, not followers.
4. Don’t bend under pressure. Fight back.
5. Use the military mold to make engineers, not the diplomatic mold.
6. If you know you are right, don’t worry if you have enemies.

Mohamad A. Khaled (BEN ’58)

“When you want a job to get done, give it to a busy person.” This statement, repeated by Dean Weidner in his typical American accent in the 1950s, still resonates in my ears.

Sabah Abi Hanna (BAR ’59)

Dean Weidner believed in exercising and allocated two credit hours to physical education. If a student failed to do 10 push-ups or to jog twice around the Green Field, he flunked the semester.

Ziad Haddad (BEN ’65)
AFTIM ACRA

JACK IBRAHIM
BS Washington State University; MPH University of California, Berkeley; PhD, High Institute of Public Health. Taught environmental health sciences: 1957-83.

Professor Aftim Acra was a great teacher and a very good friend. He was a very knowledgeable academician (we used to refer to him as a walking encyclopedia), an excellent teacher, a meticulous researcher, and a challenging mentor. Along with Professor Jack Ibrahim, he strongly motivated me to pursue my graduate studies as he sensed the potential I had more than I did. Any success I may have achieved in academia, as a teacher, researcher, or as an administrator, is largely attributed to both of them.

Elias K. Saliba, PhD (BS ’66, MS ’68)

KASSEM KASSAK
(MPH AUB), PhD University of Minnesota. Has taught public health policy since 1994.

Professor Kassem Kassak greeted me on my first day at FHS and has influenced my career ever since. I'm a manager of a major medical program at the Ministry of Health, and his words still shape the decisions I make regarding best medical practice.

Awatef Alshammeri (MPH ’07)

Elias K. Saliba, PhD (BS ’66, MS ’68)

Awatef Alshammeri (MPH ‘07)
JOHN L. WILSON


Dr. John L. Wilson was an extremely conscientious, meticulous, hard-working surgeon and head of department. He combined these qualities with the traits of humility, down-to-earthiness, and respect for his colleagues and students. I remember a private patient of Dr. Wilson who was admitted to AUH for closed mitral commissurotomy. Shortly before her admission, Dr. Ibrahim Dagher, who had just finished his training in the United States, joined the staff. He was already famous. The patient told me that she wanted Dr. Dagher to perform her operation instead of Dr. Wilson. When I told Dr. Wilson, he received the news so calmly saying, “Of course the patient has the right to choose her surgeon. Let’s settle this now.” I will never forget the way he conversed with the patient calmly and affectionately. He praised Dr. Dagher and told her she could change surgeons with no reservations. Dr. Wilson symbolized for me all I wanted to be in a physician.

Sami Kabbani (BS ’58, MD ’62)

As a third-year medical student, I was trying to impress Dr. Wilson with my differential diagnosis of a brain tumor in a refugee mother who had recently been urgently admitted at AUH after delivering her baby at the shack where she lived. Dr. Wilson asked me, “How is the baby?” I had no idea. He said, “Do you think she is worried about her baby’s condition?” The presentation was cancelled. When social services went to the shack, they found that there was nobody taking care of the baby!

Pawlos Quanaa (BA ’53, MD ’57)
If it were not for my beloved AUB I would not be where I am today. My parents were very poor and never ever thought I could be accepted to AUB's nursing school. But I tried with the help of two mentors: Sarkis Arslanian and Mikhail Terzian. I became a nurse and moved to California. I was a head nurse for 13 years, married an MIT graduate, and went back to school. I worked at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Pediatrics Department for 40 years. When I retired, I received several awards. Wherever I go I am proud to represent AUB with my skills, with the quality of service I provide, and with the knowledge I learned there.

Arlene Keshishian Hancock (DIPLM '59)

Dr. Adnan Mroueh was my mentor in work and in life. His personality and wisdom were so inspiring to me. He taught me to be patient and have perseverance, while maintaining an air of calmness and tranquility. Thank you Dr. Mroueh.

Rima Ahmad (BS '00, MPH '02)

If it were not for my beloved AUB I would not be where I am today. My parents were very poor and never ever thought I could be accepted to AUB's nursing school. But I tried with the help of two mentors: Sarkis Arslanian and Mikhail Terzian. I became a nurse and moved to California. I was a head nurse for 13 years, married an MIT graduate, and went back to school. I worked at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Pediatrics Department for 40 years. When I retired, I received several awards. Wherever I go I am proud to represent AUB with my skills, with the quality of service I provide, and with the knowledge I learned there.

Arlene Keshishian Hancock (DIPLM '59)
If all goes according to plan …

The only problem is that in the world of energy extraction nothing goes according to plan.

Nevertheless, if all goes according to plan, by 2017 or 2019 or 2020, Lebanon will begin pumping natural gas from the fields that lie within its territorial waters, its exclusive economic zone—maybe even oil, depending on what lies there, how deep it is, and all the rest.

When it does—if it does—Lebanon will join the ranks of other new regional natural gas producers. Israel recently began pumping gas from just off the coast of Gaza. And Cyprus, which hopes to begin pumping gas soon … if all goes according to plan.

Additionally, both countries, if another set of plans bears fruit, hope to collaborate on a venture that Cypriot Minister of Energy Yiorgos Lakkotripios told politicians and businesspersons in Jerusalem in May 2013, would make the two countries “a major player in the world energy market.”

Meanwhile, Lebanese caretaker Energy and Water Minister Gebran Bassil recently told Agence France Presse that the amounts available to Lebanon “are very large and very promising as initial estimates.” Spectrum ASA, a Norwegian company that does seismic studies of gas and oil reserves, estimated that 33 trillion cubic feet of natural gas lay beneath a small parcel of Lebanese seabed at an Oil and Gas Summit in Beirut in December 2012.

The Lebanese government has been busy. In November 2012, it created a petroleum authority. Since then, tenders have been issued for exploration and drilling, with 46 international companies—including Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Total, and Shell—expressing interest. Licenses for ten offshore plots are to be issued by February 2014. Bids for construction of offshore LNG (liquid natural gas) import terminals and for the construction of a coastal pipeline to move gas to Lebanon’s power plants will be reviewed by September 2013. Several power stations still need to be converted to burn natural gas, which will require further tenders, bids, and contracts.

Interest in natural gas, both for export and to reduce Lebanon’s own power-production costs, goes back to the 1970s, when studies indicated that significant offshore gas reserves were likely. The 1975-90 Lebanese civil war prevented the government from pursuing this interest. Recent success in extracting gas from the seabed off Gaza, however, reawakened interest, especially since Lebanon disputes Israel’s claims to 850 square kilometers of seabed. Both Lebanese and Israeli leaders have threatened to use force to defend their offshore rights. Lebanon has brought the dispute to the attention of the UN Secretary General.

Many experts suggest that Lebanon should move cautiously.

Carole Nakhle, an economist with the UK-based Surrey Energy Economics Centre told the Daily Star in April, “When it comes to the oil and gas sector I usually advise people to keep their expectations low.” Speaking at the December 2012 conference for businessmen, former British Energy Minister Lord Howell, citing the rise of natural gas production in countries like Australia and the United States, along with the spread of hydraulic fracturing technology that frees gas from shale, told the audience, “Within five years, the world will be filled with new sources of gas … It’s not going to be a world in which you can charge anything you want for gas.”

That is, if all goes according to plan.
NAJI ABI AAD: NOT WORTH THE BOther

When it comes to oil and gas exploration, Naji Abi Aad knows what he’s talking about.

And what he has to say isn’t very positive: “The news for Lebanon is not very good. Marketing gas will be a problem. It would be better for Lebanon to find petroleum.”

This senior fellow at AUB’s Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources has been working in the oil and gas business for a long time. Currently senior adviser to the CEO of Qatar Petroleum and COO of Beirut-based oil company Petrolab, he has worked as senior adviser for the Middle East for Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie and for several Qatar-based oil-and-gas organizations. He has authored more than 80 reports and studies on Middle East energy.

So when Abi Aad describes some of the obstacles confronting Lebanon as it considers producing offshore natural gas he’s worth listening to.

The first point he made at a public presentation in AUB’s Bechtel Engineering Building, on “The Growing Global Market of LNG: Issues and Challenges” in mid-April is that the international market for natural gas (which is liquified for more efficient transportation before being returned to its gaseous state for energy production) is changing.

And, more importantly, that these changes will probably have a direct—and negative—impact on Lebanon as it moves toward stepping into the international LNG market.

Just as Lebanon has put out tenders for exploration and production—anticipating that production will begin within the next four to seven years—the United States, relying on a controversial process called hydraulic fracturing, is planning to become an exporter rather than an importer of natural gas. Australia will probably become the biggest gas producer within the decade, while Argentina, Brazil, and Chile have increased their output by 40 percent in the past year alone. Even the way LNG is sold has changed, with long-term contracts being replaced by more volatile spot-market purchases. In addition, an anticipated oversupply will soon push prices downward.

Abi Aad says, “Lebanon is the only place where you announce a discovery without drilling a well. All these figures that you hear are nonsense. In this industry, until you drill, you’re always talking nonsense.” Although, for example, Bahrain is only 10 kilometers from Saudi Arabia, it has to import its petroleum—you just never know, he insists.

Other questions remain. Where will the LNG terminal be located: will northern politicians or southern ones win this one?

Moreover, the depths at which the gas is found—if it’s found—and the pressure and extent of the field will affect the cost of production.

Even if world prices don’t make it worthwhile for large-scale production, couldn’t Lebanon produce just enough gas for domestic use?

“Too expensive. It’s too small a market, not worth the bother,” he says.

ATA ELIAS: ELDORADO OR DISASTER

Ata Elias, AUB assistant professor of geology, has no doubt that something will come of the current brouhaha about natural gas (and maybe oil) that lies just off the coast of Lebanon.

“I am sure that we will reach a day when someone is drilling offshore,” he says. “The day will come when we will have platforms on our horizon. But then what? Eldorado? A social and economic boon? Or another disaster?”

Elias isn’t surprised by the excitement generated about natural gas. Noting that interest in offshore energy goes back to positive seismic readings in the 1970s, he explains that recent successful extraction of natural gas off Gaza reignited Lebanese politicians’ attention.

Elias notes, however, that only one of every seven wells actually yields gas or oil. France, he says, was optimistic about the possibility of extracting natural gas off the coast of French Guiana in northeast South America based on seismic findings. However, after drilling three wells, no gas has been found.

He notes an immediate impact of the interest in offshore drilling: “There is now an industry organizing workshops and conferences about oil and gas in
Lebanon. So we’re listening to people talk about how engineers should design buildings to be connected to gas pipelines, but we still don’t have plans for protecting those buildings from earthquakes.

“Because of all the digits that come with the dollars, everyone is willing to dream.”

He explains he gives the same message every time he’s interviewed about the subject: “There are lots of pitfalls. Don’t be too optimistic or too pessimistic. We haven’t found the gas yet, so we’re really building castles in the air.

“These resources have been accumulating for millions of years,” he concludes, “and they’ll be used up in just a few years. Maybe we should just leave it in the ground for a while and wait for better days and better know-how.”

KARIM MAKDISI: BUSINESS AS USUAL

AUB Associate Professor of Political Studies Karim Makdisi believes that the exploitation of offshore natural gas could actually hurt Lebanon.

He’s pretty sure the country will deal with this natural resource with the same lack of concern for the public good that it has brought to its water policies.

Or, better put, absence of water policies.

“There seems to be a willful ignorance, a refusal to understand the problem of water,” he says. “We have a national water strategy, but nothing has changed. There’s no real debate, other than discussing a series of dams, which means lots of concrete and lots of money that will be spread out according to the different client systems.

“We’re getting to the point where the total water supply isn’t enough; we’ve reached our limit. And we’re still relying on snow melt.”

Such problems began, Makdisi says, after the Lebanese civil war when “brash and overt corruption” became the norm. This corruption was combined, he goes on, with a penchant for privatization and neo-liberal trickle-down economic theories, the abandonment of agriculture and industry, and the massive infusion of investments from Persian Gulf states. During this period, Makdisi says, the government lost all sight of its role as protector of the public good.

Even worse, Makdisi attributes current public
cynicism to this period, when enough money trickled down to the middle classes to “destroy the social fabric, turning everybody into mass consumers.

“In Lebanon, you don’t get services because you’re a citizen. You can’t go to a public official and say, ‘You work for me,’” he says.

Without major political changes, Makdisi says revenue from natural gas “would actually be negative. It won’t be channeled into infrastructure development, health, education, etc.

“They’ll just skim the money, channel it into their personal and sectarian pockets. It will be similar to the 1990s, when a lot of wealth came, but it went to the super-wealthy, while the middle class got a little, and the poor got nothing.”

Lebanon is a country, Makdisi explains, where “the public interest is of no interest to the government. And this project looks like it will be business as usual. They were required by law to issue an environmental impact statement, but nothing’s been made public.”

DANYEL REICHE: FOR THE FUTURE GOOD

For AUB Assistant Professor for Comparative Politics Danyel Reiche, discussions about exploration and production of offshore natural gas miss the point.

“In this country, it is mainly being discussed as a geological issue. Once we have oil and gas, everything will be good,” he explains.

The problem, however, is that this may not happen. A frequent contributor to international energy journals, Reiche has been studying the impact of energy production on producing countries for some time.

Will, he asks, Lebanon follow the route taken by Nigeria—a major oil producer since 1957—or of Norway, which began tapping offshore oil in the early 1970s?

“Oil and gas production have not always led to wealth,” he explains. “Everyone in Lebanon thinks we would take the Norwegian path,” like the UAE, which has the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund.

What does this path entail? His 2010 article, “Sovereign Wealth Funds as a New Instrument of Climate Protection Policy? A Case Study of Norway as a Pioneer of Ethical Guidelines for Investment Policy” describes the 1990 establishment of a national sovereign wealth fund which set money aside for pensions, while Norway itself relied primarily on dams and alternative energy sources for current power production. Investments from the fund have been directed to what he calls “ethical” businesses, such as alternative energy and organic agriculture.

Reiche says the fund was established so that the “abundance of national resources should allow not only one or two generations to prosper in the present, but also provide for future generations. When oil and gas are no longer available, the fund should have enough reserves that future generations are able to maintain the current high standard of living.”

In Nigeria, however, Reiche notes that “the money has gone into the hands of a corrupt elite,” while the environmental impact on the Niger Delta, where much of the oil is produced, has been disastrous. A 2007 UN report explained that the oil-producing region in
southeast Nigeria “that was once the food basket of the Niger Delta, is now fully dependent on imported food.”

“I would hope Lebanon would follow the Norwegian path,” Rieche says, “but to do this, politicians need to learn that the new wealth will not be just for their own wealth or for their sect.

“The whole debate is about how to exploit oil and gas. There’s a lot of euphoria, but there has to be a sense of public good.”

IMAD SAOUD: BIG RIG POTENTIAL
Imad Saoud had very positive first-hand experience with offshore drilling as a graduate student at Auburn University.

“I did my PhD with funding from oil,” this AUB Department of Biology associate professor of aquaculture and fisheries explains. “The big rigs in the Gulf of Mexico were beneficial. They provided habitat for fish. The states charged a small tax for the extraction. Ultimately, drilling was good for the region.”

So as he watches Lebanon’s march toward offshore drilling for natural gas, he hopes it will follow the model he knows.

“Lebanon could put a tax on the rigs to create an environmental fund for marine conservation,” he suggests. “Is this wishful thinking? Maybe, but I tell my students that they should be writing letters to the politicians to make something like this happen.”

He cites Chad as a country that that created a system that uses oil revenues to fund infrastructure projects like increasing electricity-generating capacity, as well as, according to the IMF, working “to control government spending and to make sure that the oil windfall is effectively spent on its stated poverty-reduction priorities.”

What about environmental damage? Saoud says you can’t prevent such problems, but “with safeguards, you can shut things down quickly [when/if there is an oil spill] and minimize the impact.”

Saoud explains that eastern Mediterranean marine life is less extensive and diverse than that of the Gulf of Mexico, so fisheries were more severely affected by BP’s 2006 Deepwater Horizon oil spill than they would be by a comparable disaster off Lebanon. Comparing the coast of Lebanon to the Alaskan coast that was hit by the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, Saoud says Lebanon’s warmer waters would allow bacteria to break down any spilled oil more quickly than in colder waters.

What does he predict?
“Drilling off Lebanon’s coast will happen. Maybe it’ll be 50 years from now, but there are hydrocarbons out there and the world wants them.

“Are they desperate for ours now? LNG prices are so low that it’d be ridiculous, but eventually they’ll want them.

“I just hope that when they do it, they’ll do it like BP in the Gulf [of Mexico] and the Norwegians in the North Sea. I’m afraid, though, that the Lebanese government’s still just too willing to bend and stretch at this point than to do it right.”

—N.B.

“WILL LEBANON FOLLOW THE ROUTE TAKEN BY NIGERIA—A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER SINCE 1957—OR OF NORWAY, WHICH BEGAN TAPPING OFFSHORE OIL IN THE EARLY 1970S?”
TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to “ideas worth spreading.” It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: technology, entertainment, design.

TED’s format – short, carefully prepared talks, demonstrations, and performances – are devised to give leading thinkers and doers the opportunity to present their ideas in the form of short video presentations. By 2011, TED talks had been viewed by more than one billion people establishing TED as a major platform for sharing ideas.

The TEDx program provides communities, organizations, and individuals with the opportunity to create a TED-like experience at the local level. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently on a community-by-community basis.

AUBites participated in the two previous TEDx events in Beirut in 2011 and 2012. In May 2013, TEDxAUB was launched at AUB and featured talks by 13 faculty, students, and alumni on a range of subjects including pain management, spoken poetry, app design, and how to establish an NGO.

As a major hub of ideas, AUB is an obvious setting for a TEDx program. Some 250 students volunteered to help organize the event that attracted applications from more than 80 people who were eager to share their ideas. TEDxAUB student organizers, together with a board of advisers drawn from faculty and staff and a student speakers’ committee of 20 volunteers reviewed all the applications. Those selected were auditioned; the finalists worked hard with their “coaches” to prepare for the big day.

As Weam El-Awar, who headed the TEDx organizing team put it, “The beauty of organizing TEDxAUB is it brings forth ideas and people that you never knew existed and connects them in a great experience that neither they, nor the audience, will ever be able to forget.”

—M.A.

Learn more: www.tedxaub.com
The Power of Self-Belief

The message I really want to get across is that even if people say it cannot be done, even if they tell you that you will never pull it off, or to forget it because you are just a student, even when you face the stiffest competition, you have to believe you have the skills. Have the confidence to complete what you set out to do. Don’t listen to those who say it cannot be done.

Recently I was competing against top international computer science students at the New York University Abu Dhabi International Hackathon. There were people from Carnegie Mellon, Yale, Princeton, and the rest of the world, and yet my team won first place. When I wanted to develop a socially responsible final-year project I came up with an app to detect malaria in blood cells. It can pick up the presence of malaria in minutes and saves money and time spent in hospital. Now we are preparing to file a patent.

So although I am still a student, I have learned not to be inhibited when facing businessmen and clients. When I cofounded my own company in mid-2010 our first “office” was in Jafet [Nami Jafet Memorial Library]. Now we have 12 clients and Wamda has chosen me as one of the top entrepreneurs in the MENA region. You have to believe in yourself.

Omar Omran
Master’s student, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Crowd Funding—Mystery

Some people might find it strange that I want to talk about the potential of crowd funding when my first crowd-funded project, mybar, the one million dollar bar, ultimately failed to deliver the projected results. Did the concept of crowd funding fail or was it the bar?

At a time when people have lost faith in the global banking system and traditional forms of investment, investors are looking for new ways to invest. Similarly, securing finance for small-scale ventures has become increasingly difficult as banks refrain from providing loans. Crowd funding provides a platform for startups and small businesses to secure financing while giving investors opportunities to invest in projects with higher returns.
In 2009 I was one of the first people in the region to adopt the concept of crowd funding. As mybar proved, people were ready to commit. The venue became an instant success to the point that by the end of the first year I was able to repay all investors 50 percent of their initial investment. A year later we failed to break even, and after three years, regretfully, I had to close mybar.

So what happened? Factors that led to the decline in sales were mostly a consequence of the geopolitical situation. In 2010 we had 100,000 tourists a month; in 2011 the figure was down to 20,000, and now it is even worse. Nobody loves this country more than me, and nobody is more convinced that crowd funding is the future; however, a stable country is imperative if startups and businesses are to thrive.

Haytham Nasr (BBA ’03)
Entrepreneur

No Gain from Pain
I am passionate about this issue. I don't understand why we Lebanese have to suffer pain. It is as if we live in a big prison with torture every day. I did my residency at AUBMC and before I went to the US I thought that the way we treat pain in Lebanon was normal. Then I spent about 10 years in the US with the last three years at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, dealing with the most painful and distressing cases, some of the worst operations you can imagine, and yet the children were smiling. They were given medications so they did not have to suffer pain.

Here in Lebanon the concept of pain management doesn't really exist. Why? Because there is a phobia against prescribing morphine, along with a law which prevents it. Each initial prescription requires the signatures of two MDs, one of whom must be an oncologist or a pain specialist—of which there are about 20 in the country. If you are in terrible pain and not suffering from cancer it is almost impossible to get help. Let's compare the levels of morphine per capita: in the US it is 693 mg; in France it is 220 mg, and in Lebanon it is 5 mg. This is not acceptable. It touches the lives of each and every one of us, and we need to demand change.

Roland Kaddoum, MD
Director, Pediatric Anesthesia
Director, Operating Room
Chair, Pain Management Committee
All We Need is Humor
Sareen Akarjalian (BS ’04)
The talk: Using comics to critique society and brighten people’s day, and making the case that you can do what you love even if it means doing it on the side. Day job: Computer Programmer; Night job: Cartoonist.

All We Need is Hope
Amal Al Dahouk (BBA ’03)
The talk: A plan to pull the biggest magical stunt right here in Lebanon! We will be able to transform a herd into an intelligent wise crowd! A refreshing change from the biggest dish of tabbouleh, don’t you think?

All We Need is Inspiration
Loryne Atoui (BGD ’06)
The talk: Taking a different approach to talking about breast cancer, and a step towards breaking the social taboo associated with it. The personal inspiration behind the project turned NGO and other stories discovered along the way.

All We Need is Willpower
Burhan Baradi (BA ’57)
The talk: Using willpower to overcome physical handicaps. An octogenarian’s determination to defy pain and disability and to learn to walk again.

All We Need is Harmony
Beirut Vocal Point
The talk/song: AUB’s own a cappella group demonstrates the effectiveness of harmony, whether performing as a flash mob in Jafet Library or for underprivileged children in Beirut.

All We Need is Commitment
Andrew Bossone (graduate student, CAMES)
The talk: Getting back in touch with nature, our instincts, and the natural world as the first step towards retrieving our humanity and creating a sustainable model for the future.

All We Need is a Voice
Jana Bou Reslan (BA ’04)
The talk: Promoting spoken poetry as a tool for self-expression; helping youth voice their issues creatively and nonviolently off the streets.

All We Need is Insight
Arne Deitrich, Professor, Department of Psychology
The talk: A journey into the amazing world of the brain. In a tour of the bizarre world of brain cells and human behavior, AUB professor and neuroscientist surfs streams of consciousness and explores the hallucination zone.

All We Need is Poetry
Hashem Osseiran (current student)
The talk: Examines the power of the spoken word in contemporary society, the role of slogans and spoken poetry in the Arab uprisings, and how they have entered the mainstream media in the Arab region. Art as a form of expression empowering youth.

All We Need is Imagination
Imad Saoud, Associate Professor, Department of Biology
The talk: Using salty water (sea and ocean) to produce food, mainly protein, to feed the growing number of people on the planet. Putting science to work to combat food shortages.

Watch the following TED Talks by AUBites on-line at www.ted.com
A Call to Care

Mary Bliss Dale

The oldest daughter of Daniel and Abby Bliss and the great-grandmother of current AUB President Peter Dorman, Mary Bliss Dale “had the administrative ability of her father and could speak and write Arabic, French, Turkish and German.”

Born in Syria on January 7, 1857, Mary Bliss grew up in Beirut where she attended the German Deaconesses’ School. She also studied at Maplewood Seminary in Massachusetts, graduating as valedictorian of her class. After graduation she returned to Syria where she taught briefly at the Deaconesses’ School before she married Gerald Fitzgerald Dale, who was a missionary in Zahleh. They lived in Zahleh for only seven years before Dale died very suddenly of a malignant insect bite in 1886. Tragically, one of their young daughters who was sick at the time, died six days later. Three of Mary and Gerald’s four children died in childhood.

Although they lived together in Zahleh for only a short period of time, they left a powerful legacy and were remembered particularly for their tireless efforts during the 1875 cholera epidemic. “During a cholera epidemic in al Beka’, they hastened in person to the help of the afflicted, and used every means in their power to aid the people in their fight against that dreadful scourge.”

After her husband’s death, Mary lived for a brief period in the United States before returning to Syria in 1898. She worked for the American School for Girls in Beirut and at the Girls School in Sidon in addition to doing missionary work in Beirut, Rishmayya, Zahleh, the Beqa’a, and Baalbek.

In 1905, she accepted the position of superintendent of the hospital, which she held until 1923. It was during this period that the College built a Maternity and Women’s Hospital (1908), Eye and Ear Hospital (1909), and Children’s and Orthopedic Hospital (1910). One of the challenges Mary Bliss Dale faced was recruiting nurses to staff the hospital. It was in part to address this need that she and Jane Elizabeth Van Zandt established the nursing school in 1905. Even after she resigned her position in 1923, she continued to remain active visiting patients and conducting prayers at the hospital and at the school of nursing.

During much of the time she was superintendent of the hospital, her younger brother Howard was president of the College (1902-20). He spoke often of her “wise counsel and calm good judgment,” saying on one occasion: “She manages her department better than I do mine. I go over to learn of [sic] her.”

Mary died in Beirut at the age of 73 on March 8, 1930. She is buried in the Mission Cemetery in Furn el-Shebek.

The Mary Bliss Dale Home for Nurses was established in 1926. Directly across from the hospital, it will be demolished to make room for new Medical Center buildings.

1 Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr., That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut 1866-1941, page 111.
2 Faculty Minute in Appreciation of Mrs. Gerald F. Dale, Faculty Minutes, no. 7, 1927-1939, June 6, 1930.
As the first president to lead the University from Beirut since 1984, President Waterbury was faced with enormous tasks of war recovery on all levels—from the physical infrastructure to curriculum building and faculty morale.

Looking back, President Waterbury said recently, "My strong belief then and now is that AUB, perhaps more than any other university in the Arab world, has the institutional culture and habits to serve as a model for the region in high quality academic research coupled with fine undergraduate and graduate teaching."
MainGate: When did you first visit AUB and what were your first impressions?
My first visit to AUB was in the summer of 1960 when I was still a college student. I came from a very hot and dusty Egypt in August. The campus was quiet but lovely. I made a number of visits in the early 1970s, prior to the Lebanese civil war, when I was living in Egypt.

When you returned as president, what were your impressions then?
My first visit as president-designate was in October 1997, although at the invitation of Samir Khalaf [currently professor of sociology] I had given a lecture at AUB about a year earlier. During my 1997 visit, some explosives, probably sticks of dynamite, blew up in the Faculty III parking lot, bringing Prime Minister Rafic Hariri to campus, piloting his own armored Mercedes. I was very touched by his gesture of solidarity.

I also had a lively meeting with the faculty in Assembly Hall. It was wide-ranging and sometimes combative. It got my adrenaline up and I knew I was going to enjoy my assignment.

As the first president to live on campus in nearly 15 years, what were your priorities, and what particular difficulties did you encounter?
I knew I had to understand all the moving parts of the very complicated AUB machine. The medical faculty and hospital I knew would be a particular challenge as I had no prior experience in that area. I also suspected that faculty morale would be an issue—a combination of the lingering effects of the civil war and the fact that since 1984 the president had tried to lead from New York rather than Beirut.

In my early months I had great support and advice from then Vice President Makhlof Haddadin and from former Deputy President Samir Makdisi. I was also gratified that shortly after I was named president-designate Huda Zurayk accepted the deanship of the Faculty of Health Sciences, becoming, I believe, the first female dean in AUB’s history.

I came with one very strong presumption—that the lynchpin of a great university is its faculty, that a good faculty attracts good students, and good students and good colleagues attract even better faculty. So from the start my focus was on the faculty, trying to improve conditions for teaching and research and trying to recruit new faculty who could help move the institution forward. With that in mind I thought it of paramount importance to reinstate our academic promotion procedures suspended during some of the worst days of the civil war. This was a difficult decision because it changed significantly what had become part of faculty habits. The decision triggered a multi-year process of reviewing and harmonizing all of AUB’s promotion criteria and procedures.

As president, did you teach any courses?
Over my ten years I taught only two courses. One was on the dynamics of collective action and cooperation, a subject that has been at the heart of my research for decades. I taught it in the Senate Room at Marquand House. As I recall Jad Chaaban [currently assistant professor, agricultural sciences] was one of my students.

Later I taught a course in Nicely Hall, America through Foreign Eyes, part of the newly-founded CASAR. We explored how non-Americans have portrayed the country in writing, music, and film.

What do you think your students would most remember about your classes/teaching?
I try to be interactive and I try to engage students in practical experiments. This was easier to do in the collective action class than in America through Foreign Eyes.

Are you still in touch with any of your former students?
I have had more frequent contact with former student officers of the USFC [University Student Faculty Committee] than with students from my two courses.

I have also had ongoing contact with some student club officers, such as Trustee Abdulsalam Haykal and former editors of Outlook.

You arrived at AUB after the war, but violent acts persisted during your presidency. Can you tell us about your experiences as president during the events of September 11, 2001, the 2006 war with Israel, and the street battles in Beirut during the spring of 2008?
Obviously these were very different experiences. I was actually in the United States on 9/11. I took the train from Princeton, New Jersey to New York and the AUB office, then at 51st and Third Avenue. My full reminiscences of that day were summarized in my remarks at the Opening Ceremony in 2001. Three surreal vignettes stick in my mind. The AUB office was fairly high up,
maybe 15 floors, above Third Avenue. Hours after the attack, Manhattan was eerily silent save for the occasional siren of emergency vehicles. All public transportation shut down. People escaping Ground Zero had no choice but to walk out of Manhattan, using the bridges. At one point I looked down on Third Avenue from my office and saw thousands of pedestrians shuffling along in total silence, covered in the fine dust produced by the collapsing World Trade Center towers. I could hear their shuffling feet through my window.

The next day I took the same train to New York. At the Princeton station cars in the parking lot had tickets on their windscreens for parking overnight, almost surely the cars of people killed in the collapsing towers who had failed to come home the day before.

In New York I walked past the fire station on 52nd Street. On September 11 the firemen had been standing in front of the station drinking coffee, not knowing what would happen in the next hour. The following day they were hanging the photographs of something like six of their buddies who had died.

I was also in the United States when the war broke out in Lebanon in July 2006. My chronicle of the following weeks was published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. It was hugely frustrating to be trapped in the United States when that vicious war took place. Thank goodness that AUB was in the capable hands of [then Provost] Peter Heath and the senior leadership along with thousands of others who came to work every day despite the dangers that literally lurked everywhere. I was able to get back into Lebanon by taxi from Amman about two weeks before the cease-fire. When my driver and I crossed the northern border into Lebanon, a Lebanese official looked at my passport and asked, “Are you the president of AUB?” When I said “Yes,” he said, “Welcome back, Mr. President.”

My first evening back, a hot sultry August evening, I walked up to the Green Oval where scores of families were enjoying the first cool breezes of the evening. They represented all parts of Lebanese society, every sect, every style of dress. But they all seemed to be at ease with one another. It captured for me what I had always known AUB is all about, and I never felt prouder of the institution.

The spring of 2008 was truly frightening because it bore the seeds of civil war—us against us. The Doha negotiations saved the country from what could have been an ugly internal fight. Hezbollah quickly took control of our neighborhood. [Chief of Protection] Saadallah Shalak and I got in his old Toyota and without security escort of any kind explored around Ras Beirut and Mazraa. As we came back onto campus through the Medical Gate, a large group of Hezbollah soldiers were cooling off under the banyan tree. Uniforms aside they looked like a lot of our students. They disappeared a day later and were replaced by Qawmiyun uniforms in the neighborhood. The outcome of the near civil war was the kind of hopelessly deadlocked government we have seen ever since, but that beats the alternative.

Do you have anything you would like to say to members of the AUB community?

Higher education should be competitive in all respects, but the competition should be friendly. We are all serving a larger cause of transferring and creating knowledge for future generations. So I want to see AUB be the best, but I hope for and welcome scores of other institutions that may rival AUB. I urge my colleagues at AUB to continue to strive for excellence, thereby setting an example that others may emulate and, indeed, duplicate.

What impact has AUB had on your life?

The ten years I spent at AUB were the most enriching and rewarding of my life. My wife Sarah and I became deeply attached to the institution and to Lebanon. I still look back in amazement that I had the good fortune to lead AUB.

—J.M.C.
Karma Ekmekji’s stellar CV includes appointments as head of international affairs for former Prime Minister Saad Hariri, political officer for the special coordinator of the UN Secretary General in Lebanon (UNSCOL), and specialist in elections with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). An alumna of AUB (BS ’04) and Columbia University, as well as of the French Foreign Ministry’s “Personnalité d’avenir” and the US State Department’s International Visitor Program, she was recently named one of the top 99 foreign policy leaders under the age of 33 by Foreign Policy magazine. It is quite a record for one so young. MainGate met with Ekmekji in her office in downtown Beirut to learn more about the impressive rise of a fourth generation AUBite.

Karma Ekmekji attributes her meteoric trajectory to a combination of luck and a determination to squeeze the maximum out of each situation. In other words, she credits her success to her ability to seize an opportunity and make the most of whatever life presents. She has also been blessed, she says, by a series of extraordinary mentors who have guided her along her precocious career path.

At AUB, Ekmekji studied environmental health with a minor in public administration, linking two passions that subsequently dominated her life. After securing a Fulbright scholarship in 2004 she was lucky to be assigned to Columbia University in New York City, her first choice, where she gained an MPA. The Fulbright was the key to the Fulbright Rick Hooper Fellowship on the Middle East desk, in the Department of Political Affairs at the UN Secretariat in 2005, a time when Lebanon was center stage and Ekmekji found herself on a fast track to political achievement.

Back in Beirut for a stint with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Ekmekji found that her UN knowledge facilitated liaising with parliamentarians, officials, and political parties across the spectrum. An opening at UNSCOL Lebanon placed her back under the tutelage of her former UN boss Michael Williams. It seemed like all the pieces of the career puzzle had fallen into place until she was approached by the office of Prime Minister Saad Hariri to establish his International Affairs Unit. It was, she says, a “dream job.” While her work with the UN was hugely fulfilling, here was a chance to do something really important for Lebanon; but what if the government were to fall? It was one thing to work for a prime minister and another to be in opposition.

Ultimately, characteristically, Ekmekji seized the moment. The dream job has lived up to expectations and even in opposition, she relishes the chance to strive to create “the Lebanon where I want my unborn children to grow up.” And go to AUB.

A fourth generation AUB alumna, Ekmekji hopes her newborn son will represent the fifth. Her great grandfather graduated in 1901, her grandfather in 1935, and her parents—“college sweethearts”—in 1971. “AUB is like my home,” Ekmekji says. “I have photos at the age of six months on the Oval. It was my “park” for most of my life before I was a student, and even later I used to run there every day.”

How does she view her recent Foreign Policy magazine nomination as one of the top 99 foreign policy leaders under the age of 33 in the category of “influential leaders”? “I feel honored and I appreciate that young diplomats are being recognized because diplomacy is usually seen as an older man’s job. It feels like the world realizes the need for young energy and a spirit for change in the diplomatic field. While we don’t have the same experience we do bring a new perspective and knowledge base. The way we access information, for example, is so much faster, allowing us to stay on top of situations in a way that the older generation cannot. I know what is happening worldwide in an instant and am able to alert older colleagues accordingly. The downside, of course, is that you never switch off.”

Despite the fact that Ekmekji works virtually 24/7 she has no time personally for social media: “I don’t have a Facebook page or Twitter. I really don’t need 5,000 friends on Facebook: I would rather have six good friends that I spend time with, than thousands of acquaintances. If
someone needs to find me, I am sure they will and if they don’t, so be it.”

This does not mean that she does not recognize the impact of social media on political organization, especially in the context of the Arab uprisings. “We have a dedicated unit here that we value. Frankly speaking, we can say it helped break the fear ceiling in the Arab world. Say you are in a village in Egypt and you realize how others live, something clicks, so I give a lot of weight to social media. If something like this was going to happen over 10 years in the past, now it is over two, so you cannot discount the value of social media.”

Asked how she defines the momentous changes taking place in the Arab world today: Arab Spring or Arab Awakening, Karma does not hesitate.

“I don’t like the term ‘spring.’ There was an ‘awakening’ due to many converging elements. To wake up you need an alarm clock, and in this case that clock started ringing loudly. The trigger was mainly socioeconomic, and thanks to youth awareness, which ties into social media, because they have knowledge at their fingertips. But I would like to say something with regard to these revolutions, which I believe are genuine. In every event in history you have those taking advantage for their own benefit, and at the same time we have to keep in mind that social change takes time, usually generations. Now
that we have the ‘refresh button’ thanks to technology, everyone thinks things should evolve rapidly. Change will come, but it must take its course, and if it doesn’t this revolution will not sustain itself.

“If you take an individual, keep him in the dark and prevent him from learning to fend for himself for 40 years, when he does break out he doesn’t have the skills and tools to take care of himself. He will make mistakes; people will take advantage of him. This is what the regimes in the region did to their people. Now that they have broken out, they are being manipulated by competing influences. We are witnessing a natural evolution and we have to see how things settle.”

Though Ekmekji is currently at the vanguard of international relations, she has never abandoned her passion for the environment and in particular water management. Aside from her “day job” she is part of the Blue Peace Initiative, a consortium of the Swiss and Swedish governments and the Strategic Foresight Group in Mumbai which lobbies for integrated water management. Ekmekji is a member of the Lebanon team mediating water issues among Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

With the environment in mind, how does she view the potential impact of Lebanon’s prospective oil and gas reserves? “I have to say I think it is a mixed blessing. It is good that we might have these resources, but I really worry from an environmental perspective. We are not known for looking after the environment. Are we going to be like Norway with a fund for the future or will the proceeds end up in the pockets of those in power? And of course it could be a reason for war, unless we solve this issue with our neighbors. We have a long way to go and we are not well equipped to handle it.”

As she prepares for the birth of her son, another milestone event in her life, how does she see her future playing out? “I feel like I am in my element. I am blessed. I have the perfect husband, Hani Hammoud (BBA ’96, MMB ’00), and an extraordinary mentor, Mohamad Chatah (BA ’74). We have a cause, a vision represented by my workplace, for the Lebanon I believe in. I don’t want my child to grow up in war as we did. So you can pick up and leave or stay and fight for what you believe in to make a difference.”

—M.A.
After 86 years, AUB students are still flying over hurdles. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2013!

WAAAUB EVENTS

WAAAUB Alumni Picnic Day | On May 19, WAAAUB hosted its inaugural alumni picnic day on the Green Oval.

PROFESSIONAL CHAPTERS

Engineering and Architecture | The chapter’s Executive Committee hosted a presentation on March 15 by Naqeeb Elie Bsaibes. The president of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut was introduced by Chapter President Samir Traboulsi (BEN ’73, MEN ’75, MBA ’80).

Wissam Yaccoub (MEN ’94, MBA ’01), Nesrine Akkari (BEN ’89), FEA Associate Dean Fadl Moukalled, Samir Traboulsi, Hadi Fathallah (BEN ’09), Naqeeb Elie Bsaibes, Rima Sorour Al Housseiny (BAR ’83), Mohamad Harajli (BEN ’79), and Rabih Hasan (BS ’94, BEN ’98).

The chapter gala dinner honoring Gabriel Al Murr (BEN ’63) was held at al Bustan - Beit Mery on June 8.

Recently Elected WAAAUB Agricultural and Food Sciences Chapter

Said El Kaissi (BS ’83, MS ’85), President
Salwa Sabbagh (BSLEM ’11), Vice President
Pierre Njeim (BS ’84), Treasurer
Ruba Dagher (BSLEM ’12), Secretary
Salim Idriss (BS ’82), Member at Large

CHAPTER EVENTS

EUROPE

Germany | On April 27-28, the chapter hosted a weekend of walking, canal and bus tours, great dining, and a visit to a brewery in Dusseldorf.

United Kingdom | On June 2, the chapter held a brunch at Layalina in London.
ASIA
Maldives | The chapter hosted a get-together in Malé on April 17. Mohamad Hameed (BA ’74), the first Maldivian alumnus, and 14 other Maldivian alumni gathered to reminisce about their AUB days.

MIDDLE EAST
Abu Dhabi | On May 23, the chapter held its gala dinner and dance. More than 750 alumni and friends attended.

Beqa’a | On April 20, a workshop by Karim Mousfarrrij (BA ’73) on job searching skills was hosted by the chapter at the Masebki Hotel.

Dubai and Northern Emirates | The chapter hosted a gala dinner on April 25.

Kuwait | A panel discussion on financial investments in Kuwait took place at the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel on April 3.

Left to right: Faisal Al Mutawa (BA ’70), Bassam Ramadan (BS ’80, MS ’82), Faisal Al-Hamad, and Bassam N. Al-Othman (MBA ’01)

Oman | On May 16, the chapter’s gala dinner took place at the Al Bustan Palace, Ritz Carlton. Over 450 guests attended. President Dorman and Chapter President Fathi Alaaiddin (BEN ’73, MEN ’75) gave welcoming speeches.

NORTH AMERICA
Michigan | The chapter joined the University of Toledo Medical Center on May 6 for a dinner banquet honoring Ibrahim Salti, PhD (BS ’59, MD ’63). The event was planned in collaboration with Sonia Najjar, PhD to support the UT/AUB Middle East Diabetes Research Center (MEDRC). Faculty from the University of Toledo and AUBites from Michigan and Northern Ohio, including Lebanese Consulate of Detroit Bilal Kabalan (BA ’91) attended the dinner. Chapter president Manal Assi (BS ’91, MD ’95)
thanked Dr. Salti for his contributions to medicine and for being an inspiration for physicians worldwide.

New England | The chapter held an “April Fool’s Brunch” at Al Wadi Restaurant in Boston on April 7.

North Carolina | On April 6, the chapter participated in the Triangle Lebanese Association Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina. AUBites young and old came out to celebrate the Lebanese community in North Carolina.

Recently Elected
WAAAUB Atlanta Chapter
Mikhael El-Chami, MD (BS ‘96, MD ’00), President
Ziad Kazzi, MD (BS ’95, MD ’99), Vice President
Mustafa Saadi, PhD (BEN ‘96, MEM ’98), Treasurer
Julia Massaad, MD (BS ’98), Secretary
Member at Large: Michel Corban, MD (BS ’07, MD ’11), Joyce Maalouf (BS ’00, MS ’07), Rania A. Tohme, MD (BS ’00, MD ’04)

Philadelphia | The chapter hosted its spring social at Evviva restaurant in Narberth, Pennsylvania. Many young alumni pursuing graduate studies and training at various Philadelphia universities and hospitals were among the more than 50 guests.

Ottawa | On April 7 the chapter held a poetry night which featured a book signing for Said El-Hage’s second book Zouwadet Sahar.
Chapter Secretary Jihad Abdelnour (BS ’77, MS ’80), Chapter President Elias Absi (BS ’75), Said El-Hage, Afaf El-Hage, Carol Sfeir Absi, and Chapter Treasurer Elias Abou Hamad (BBA ’77).

**Southern California** | On April 14, the chapter held a “meet and greet” in Calabasas, California for the new chapter leadership and alumni.

**Toronto** | The chapter hosted a gala dinner and roundtable with President Dorman on May 4 at the One King West Hotel in Toronto.

**Greater Washington DC** | On March 17, the chapter hosted a movie screening of “Tomorrow We Will See” (“Bukra Minshouf”) by Japanese-Lebanese director Soraya Umewaka at the French Embassy. Members of the chapter’s Leadership Committee (left to right): Nada Abi-Samra (MA ’06), Firas Maksad (BA ’02), Gustave Cordahi (BEN ’07), Hady Khoury (BS ’94, MS ’99), and Lynne Muasher (BA ’82).
At the 50th anniversary of her graduation, keynote speaker Mariam Said (BA '63) spoke of AUB’s centuries-old “challenge to the young to think for themselves, to engage their imagination, to take intellectual risks, to dream, and to be creative.” Said is vice-president of the Barenboim-Said Foundation USA and promoter of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (WEDO), which was co-founded by her late husband, Edward W. Said. She spoke of how her commitment to socially significant creative and philanthropic projects was fostered by AUB’s fundamental values of tolerance and diversity.

WAAUUB celebrated Reunion Weekend and held its 5th Annual Convention June 21-23. Alumni from around the world gathered to relive their time at AUB and get to know the University once again. Receptions, a gala dinner, children’s games, and a homecoming brunch are some of the activities that brought everyone together.
Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Left to right: Mu'taz Sawwaf (BAR '74), CEO of Construction Projects Holding Company, for his contributions to the engineering industry; Bilal Hamad (BEN '76), mayor of Beirut for his achievements in the fields of education and social development, and John Makhoul (BEN '64), chief scientist at BBN Technologies, for his outstanding work in the fields of technology and innovation.

The Distinguished Chapter Award was presented to the AUB Qatar Chapter, an anchor for AUB alumni in the MENA region for many years.

Elie Khouri (BBA '83, MBA '88) (third from right) was the keynote speaker at the ceremony celebrating his 25th reunion. He is currently CEO of Omnicom Media Group, MENA and has been cited by industry sources as one of the most influential business and media leaders in the Arab world. In his speech, he referred to himself as "a by-product of the Lebanese civil war" and called AUB the "door-opener" for his success in the media field.

50th Reunion Honoring Ceremony, Class of 1963
Sabah Abi-Hanna (BAR ’59) As a freshly-minted AUB graduate Sabah Abi-Hanna’s move to a soon-to-be-independent Kuwait to open an architectural firm was risky. As it turned out, the country and the firm had a lot to offer each other. Kuwait was primed for large-scale development and Abi-Hanna wanted opportunity and historic design challenges. Fifty years later, the partnership between architect and country has withstood the disruption of war, demonstrated the strength to rebuild, and enjoyed the privileges of prosperity. In the process, Abi-Hanna’s firm grew into a design firm known as SSH Design, attracting extraordinary talent, and highly principled visionaries in the field including Salem al-Marzouk, Charles Bosel, Ali al-Abdullah, George Abi-Hanna (BAR ’80), Sadoon al-Essa, and Omran Hayat. SSH’s projects stand as a testament to why the company has earned an international reputation as one of the premier architectural firms in the Middle East.

MainGate: The legendary Assem Salam was your first architecture professor, and Professor (and later Dean) Raymond Ghosn was a mentor. How influential were they in your career? Assem Salam was my first contact with architecture. He set the central mast around which my future professional umbrella was erected, and passed to me the basics of architecture in a simple language, long before AutoCAD or 3D...
imaging became available to architectural students.

Those who knew Raymond Ghosn will remember his calculated manners. The norm was to behave “by the book” in front of him. He always projected an air of clarity and discipline. He guided me to select Kuwait for my future, a path that still dominates my moves as well as the moves of hundreds of professionals who came my way with their families.

Your company has designed major government projects, corporate offices and residential towers, industrial complexes and conference centers, houses of worship, banks, modern shopping malls, luxury resorts, palaces and villas, airport terminals, expressways, marinas, a world-class waterfront, and even new towns. What is your proudest achievement?

My proudest achievement is not a concrete, steel, stone, and/or glass structure, but a human structure, the SSH community, that built itself around me and now proudly stands alone with a vision to be the architectural and engineering consultant, strategic partner, and employer of choice in the MENA region.

You’ve been described as a function-first architect who is known for technical innovations and the use of sustainable, local materials. Have any new building materials caught your eye lately?

Sand-lime bricks were and still are my choice of a simple material that encompasses the basic characteristics and components from nature. This material is considered as a carry forward of the mud bricks with which our ancestors in the Gulf region built courtyard houses for centuries.

You seem to have always had an innate sense of where things are headed and how to get there.

Looking back on a long, successful career, can you offer any advice to AUB’s architecture graduates?

Sticking-by-the-book is your career insurance policy, ethics and all. Have fun experiencing trials and errors. Use the work of other architects as a guide, but do not hesitate to put your own ideas forward. In a short time you will find that you are guiding others. Good luck.
Beyond Bliss Street
class notes

1960s
William Aziz Nahhas
(BS '60, MD '64)
Nahhas completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at AUBMC in 1967, and his gynecologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York in 1971. He spent the next four years as a gynecologic oncologist at AUBMC before returning to the United States. Nahhas was associate professor of gynecologic oncology at Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center from 1971 to 1983. He was then appointed professor at Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio where he established the program of gynecologic oncology and the Gynecologic Oncology Center. Nahhas was medical director of this program until January 31, 2012. He continues to teach and see patients and still lives in Dayton. He has eight grandchildren.

1970s
Parvez (Peji) Khan
(BA '71)
works for the US Department of State; most recently at the US Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. He previously worked in Amman, Baghdad, and the Florida Regional Center in Fort Lauderdale where he supported embassies in South America and the Caribbean. He and Linda, his wife of more than 40 years, have two grown sons, Amer and Ziad. Find Khan on Facebook at Peji Khan. [kenyakhans(at)yahoo.com]

1980s
May Al Mudhaf
(BA '80)
has been appointed regional manager of The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) in Kuwait. She formerly worked for the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Gulf Bank, and Burjanka Bank. Al Mudhaf has completed several banking courses, including programs at Harvard Business School, Harvard School of Government, New York School of Finance, and the Institute of Banking Studies, Kuwait.

Husam Bashir
(BA '83)
writes that he was delighted recently to make contact with his roommate from 25 years ago through AUB’s On-line Community. After graduation Bashir worked for Citibank Khartoum for two years before moving on to leadership positions at various companies in Sudan including the US Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria.

Tammam Nakkash
(BEN '64)
writes: I was admitted to the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB in September 1960. To be admitted to FEA at that time was very competitive. Ken Weidner was the dean. As first-year students we heard horror stories about him and how he ran FEA as a tight ship. We all had mixed emotions about him, dominated by a feeling of awe. Dean Weidner held weekly assemblies. One of the sentences that he kept repeating to first-year students was something like: "Having been admitted to FEA is not a guarantee that you will graduate as an engineer." He started assembly by calling on students to chant his favorite Arabic song Nahnu Ash-Shabab (We Young Men). It is sung to the tune of military marching music. It must have pleased Dean Weidner because of his military background. Our class, the Class of 1964, included a diverse combination of nationalities. In addition to Lebanese, there were also a few Syrians, Palestinians, and other Arab nationalities. And there were a large number of students from other countries who came to AUB under an American scholarship program for distinguished students from Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Greece, and Cyprus. In one of those assemblies, Dean Weidner was going through one of his never ending short speeches that were filled with warnings and threats, all conveying the same message: shape up or ship out. I believe his objective was to convey the message that you are a very privileged group of young men (at that time FEA still did not admit females) to be admitted to FEA, so you better prove that you deserve this status. Dean Weidner had such an imposing personality that students never ventured to argue with him. While Dean Weidner was in the middle of his threatening pep talk, one of our classmates from Iran suddenly raised his finger interrupting Dean Weidner and demanded to ask a question. When he was given permission to talk, our colleague angrily asked Dean Weidner: "Why do you keep us always under so much stress?" All of us were quietly awaiting the reaction to this provocative question. Dean Weidner walked slowly to the corner of the Engineering Lecture Hall, where a baby grand piano stood. He uncovered the piano keys and hit a few of them and then turned to us and said: "Would you expect this piano to give any music if its cords were not under tension?" His reply has stayed with me ever since. I regularly quote this line from Dean Weidner. The stress has long gone but the music is still with us.
Khartoum Gum Arabic Processing Company (KGAPC), Sudanese Investment & Projects Company, Ltd. (SIPCO), and the holding company for the diverse investments of the Sudanese French Bank. Currently he is CEO of Al Takamol Cement Company, a joint venture of ASEC Cement Group (Citadel Group) and Sudan Social Security Investment Authority. Bashir is the father of three sons and two daughters. [hbashir(at)asecement.com]

1990s

Ghada El-Zein (BA ’92, TD ’94) is a health coordinator and projects officer for Imam Sadr Foundation in Tyre. She received an Executive International MBA in health management from Paris Dauphine University in 2006. In 2009, she finished her university diploma in quality and accreditation of healthcare centers at Saint Joseph University, Beirut. In 2011, El-Zein earned an e-master’s degree in medical physics from Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan. He then worked at several hospitals in Michigan and as a consultant training medical physicists on prostate seed implant procedures. Duhaini served as secretary general of the Great Lakes, Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. In 2006, he helped found the Lebanese Association of Medical Physics. He is also an active member of the Middle East Federation of Organizations of Medical Physics. He is the founding member and president of the International Organization of Medical Physics, where he serves on several committees. [duhaini(at)yahoo.com]

Ibrahim Duhaini (BS ’95, TD ’96) is director of radiation safety at the Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar. From 2004-12 he served as chief medical physicist and radiation safety officer at Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH) in Beirut. In 2000, he earned a master’s degree in medical physics from Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan. He then worked at several hospitals in Michigan and as a consultant training medical physicists on prostate seed implant procedures. Duhanai served as secretary general of the Great Lakes, Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. In 2006, he helped found the Lebanese Association of Medical Physics. He is also an active member of the International Organization of Medical Physics, where he serves on several committees. [duhaini(at)yahoo.com]

Fadi Majzoub (BEN ’97) received his MBA from the University of Wales in 2011. He is currently a C-Level executive at Profiles RH LLC.

MainGate: Does the common perception that microwave cooking zaps flavor and aroma from food have any scientific basis?

In the short time scale of microwave cooking there is simply not enough time for the completion of all the reactions required for the formation of aroma chemicals. Due to the nature of heat transfer inside the microwave oven, the surface of the food remains relatively cold which prevents dehydration from occurring to any appreciable extent, and therefore browning of food, which depends on the extent of surface dehydration, doesn’t occur. The microwave environment isn’t conducive to the thermal generation of aromas and colors. In short, rather than being “zapped” away, aromas are not formed.

Have any of your findings trickled down to our kitchens in terms of optimizing food flavor or nutrients?

In our labs we’ve developed special formulations of various aroma precursors that can quickly turn food brown and generate specific aromas such as bread aromas in the oven or microwave. The mixture can be coated on the surface of par-baked breads that are frozen. It turns the bread brown and quickly generates freshly baked aromas.

What about on a grander level—is food chemistry a growing field that will help to solve world hunger issues?

Different disciplines play different roles in eliminating world hunger or improving global food security issues. Food chemistry certainly can be involved in transforming bland tasting and cheap sources of renewable biomass such as insect proteins or waste biomass from various industries into perhaps more desirable tasting and nutritionally richer products which are widely accessible.
in Dubai, UAE. Majzoub will soon leave Dubai and return to Lebanon with his wife Hania and their two sons to join his partner at one of the largest consultancy firms in north Lebanon and to start a new development business. [fadimajzoub(at)gmail.com]

2000s

Nohad Adra (BS ’04) reports, “I am currently an internal controls auditor at Desjardins Credit Union in Montreal, Canada. I have to say that a teacher who influenced me during my undergrad years at AUB was Professor Paul Meers. He was one of the most passionate teachers with a remarkable work ethic. By joining the AUB choir under his leadership, not only did I discover a new cultural tradition, but I also got the chance to meet like-minded people with whom I am still in touch to this day.”

Khodr EL Harakeh (BEN ’05) is plant manager at WR Grace & Co. In 2011 he earned an MBA in strategy at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK. He lives in Dubai with his wife Marwa Halawi (BEN ’11). In March 2013, the couple welcomed a baby boy, Rashed. [elharakeh(at)gmail.com]

Bassam Atallah (BS ’06) is a pharmacy resident at Valley Health/Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. After graduating from AUB, Atallah earned his MS in biology from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and doctorate of pharmacy from Shenandoah University in Virginia. He is moving to Michigan this summer to start a two-year critical care/nephrology fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Gilbert Rahhal (BS ’08) is a lab engineer at Schlumberger Oilfield Services in Abu Dhabi. He made a career move to the oil industry in order to return home one day to help in the development of the oil and gas industry in Lebanon. [grahhal(at)slb.com]

Fadi El Rami (MS ’10) After earning his master’s in microbiology and immunology in August 2012, El Rami joined the PhD biomedical sciences program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Interested in contacting your classmates for their news for class notes? Email maingate(at)aub.edu.lb

LOOKING FOR CLASS REPS!

Raed Azzam (BS ’02, MD ’06) and Shahrazad Saab (BS ’02, MD ’06) met at AUB early in their freshman year while standing outside the door of their Chemistry 101 class. They were friends and classmates throughout their academic careers at AUB. Saab writes, “On December 29, 2012 we returned to campus as bride and groom on a surreal and indescribably beautiful morning to commemorate the beginning of our lifelong friendship on the campus where it first began.”
RECENTLY HONORED

Nasri S. Kawar (BS ‘56, MS ’59), PhD ’63 Pennsylvania State University, and AUB professor emeritus was recently honored by the Graduate School at Penn State on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of receiving his doctoral degree. The ceremony also celebrated 150 years of graduate education at Penn State. Five other alumni who received their doctorates in 1963 were also honored. The names of all 50-year graduates were inscribed on a plaque placed on the Wall of Honor in the Graduate School main lobby.

Ibrahim S. Salti (BS ’59, MD ’63), fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCP), and fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP), received the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) International Clinician Award at the AACE 22nd Annual Scientific and Clinical Congress in Phoenix, Arizona on May 2. Salti has made significant contributions to endocrinology in Lebanon and the Middle East, including establishing the first clinical endocrinology fellowship program in the region. He is also an active participant in the Pan Arab Congress for Endocrinology and Diabetes, which promotes endocrinology in the region. After graduating from AUB with distinction, Salti did post-graduate training in internal medicine and specialty training in endocrinology at the University of Toronto where he earned a PhD in medical sciences. He returned to AUB in 1970 and is currently professor of medicine and head of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Upon receiving the award, Salti said, “I am greatly honored and gratified to receive the International Clinician Award from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. I look at it as recognition of being part of a great American institution, the American University of Beirut, which embodies the excellent standards and quality of American academic medicine.”

Samir Abdulhadi (BEN ’64)

In December 2012, Abdulhadi received the Award for Distinguished Achievements in recognition of 40 successful years as a partner at Khatib & Alami CEC. The award was presented by Khatib & Alami’s board chair Zuheir Alami who was a professor of civil engineering at AUB from 1962 to 1976. Upon graduation, Abdulhadi worked in Tripoli, Libya for eight years; first, at the Arab Development & Engineering Company, and then at the Ministry of Housing. In 1972, he joined Khatib & Alami as area manager for the Arabian Gulf based in Dubai. Retiring this year as vice chairman of the board and chairman of the executive committee of Khatib & Alami, Abdulhadi can look back on four decades of robust company growth. He attributes the company’s success to “vision, honesty, transparency, and teamwork.”

Khaled Daouk (BA ’66)

HE Khaled Daouk was recently elected vice president of the Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in Dublin, Ireland. Formerly known as the Joint Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce, Daouk is a founding member of the organization which was established in Dublin in 1987 to promote trade, industrial development, business relations, and cultural enrichment between Arab nations and Ireland. He has been an honorary consul general in Ireland since 1995. Last May Daouk represented the AICC at a conference in Khartoum, Sudan sponsored by Sudanese President Omar H.A. Al Bashir on investment in the Arab food industry. The AICC is a member of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for the Arab countries.

Daouk is president of Dorval (formerly Spinneys
Lebanon SAL), a food and consumer goods company; chairman of Slendertone Middle East, a personal fitness system; and a real estate investor. He is the chairman of D&A SAL, a FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) import and distribution company in the MENA region; president of the Association of Reform and Progress, a socio political movement in Beirut; and a founding member and secretary general of the Islamic Culture Center in Ras Beirut. Daouk was granted the Lebanese Cedars Medal in the rank of officer.

Internationally acclaimed author and media critic Jack G. Shaheen, PhD (former student 1974-75) was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding achievement in the United States while preserving the “history, traditions, and values” of his ancestry group. Shaheen holds degrees from the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Missouri. An expert on media stereotypes, he has written, lectured, and advised extensively on the subject and makes regular appear-

PUBLISHED & PRODUCED


Philip A. Salem (BS ‘61, MD ‘65) A doctor, writer, humanitarian, and intellectual, Salem is a world-renowned oncologist and professor of cancer medicine and research at the Salem Oncology Centre, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas. Cancer, Love and the Politics of Hope: The Life and Vision of Philip A. Salem MD, is a selection of his speeches, interviews, and editorials on a wide range of subjects including health care, medicine, cancer, and politics. [salem(at)pasalem.com]

Renaissance Emir: a Druze Warlord at the Court of the Medici [Quartet Books, 2013]

Ted Gorton (Junior Year Abroad 1967-68) has published his fourth book, Renaissance Emir: a Druze Warlord at the Court of the Medici (London: Quartet Books, 2013). This biography of the famous Emir Fakhr ad-Din Ma’n (d. 1635) draws on Gorton’s new translations of the original archival sources in Arabic, Italian, and French. He and his wife Andree Feghali Gorton (BA ’69) published Lebanon: Through Writers’ Eyes (London: Eland Books, 2009), an anthology of writing by Lebanese and visitors to Lebanon through the ages. Gorton also published two volumes of Arabic poetry in translation: Andalus and Voices of Arabia, also published by Eland in 2007 and 2009 respectively.

Contemporary Arab Thought (Al Fikr al ‘Arabi al Mu’aser) [Centre for Arab Unity Studies, 2012]

Elizabeth Kassab (BBA ’79, MA ’83) received the coveted Sheikh Zayed Book Award in the category of “Contribution to the Development of Nations” for her book, Contemporary Arab Thought (Al Fikr al ‘Arabi al Mu’aser) published by the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut. In this book, Kassab analyzes the relationship between cultural and political critique in the work of major Arab thinkers and connects Arab debates on cultural malaise, identity, and authenticity to the postcolonial issues of Latin America and Africa, revealing the shared struggles of different regions. Kassab is a fellow at the Kaete Hamburger Advanced Study Center for Law and Culture, University of Bonn, Germany.
ance on national television and radio programs. Among his many awards are the University of Pennsylvania’s Janet Lee Stevens Award and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD (former student 1981-82), is one of the world’s leading experts on lung and other aerodigestive cancers. In April he was awarded the coveted Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award from the American Association for Cancer Research in recognition of outstanding contributions and accomplishments as an investigator in lung and aerodigestive medical oncology. The award, which recognizes Khuri’s work for the prevention and treatment of lung and head and neck cancers, was presented to Khuri at the annual conference of the American Association for Cancer Research in Washington, DC. Khuri holds the Roberto C. Goizueta Chair in translational research at Emory University’s School of Medicine and is deputy director of Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute. He is also the editor-in-chief of the American Cancer Society’s Cancer.

**Parametric Design for Architecture** [Laurence King Publishing, 2013]
Wassim Jabi (BAR ’87) earned a PhD from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and is currently a senior lecturer (the US equivalent is a tenured associate professor) at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, UK. Jabi’s research interests are in the areas of collaborative and parametric design, digital fabrication, and robotic construction in architecture. The book provides a guide to generating geometric and topological solutions for various situations, including explicit step-by-step tutorials that enable the reader to understand both general concepts and specific computational algorithms. The concepts presented are illustrated using the scripting languages of Autodesk 3ds Max (MAXScript), a Java-based scripting environment (processing), and a brand new language specifically tailored for parametric and generative design (Autodesk DesignScript). [jabiw(at)cardiff.ac.uk]

Kathryn Kraft (MA ’04) has published a novel based on the master’s degree research she conducted at AUB on identity issues among Syrian women. Published under the pen name Kati Woronka, *Dreams in the Medina* is a coming-of-age story which explores the passions, aspirations, and tragedies of a group of young Syrian women who, although they appear to have nothing in common, develop deep bonds as they achieve higher levels of self-expression and study while living together at the University of Damascus.
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Rawleigh Warner Jr., passed away on June 26 in Hobe Sound, Florida at the age of 92. He served on AUB’s International Advisory Council since its inception in 1992, and was a strong supporter of AUB and its work. As chairman and chief executive of Mobil from 1969 to 1986 and president from 1965 to 1969, Warner transformed Mobil from a money loser to America’s second largest company by the early 1980s. He deftly steered Mobil through the Arab oil embargo of 1973, and later helped the company build its stake in the Saudi Arabian oil market. Warner revolutionized corporate image-management through company sponsorship of “Masterpiece Theatre” on public television and paid opinion pieces in US print media. Warner was a pioneer—“breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling,” a “hero of journalism,” an “accountability” journalist, the “scourge of presidents”—described frequently as feisty and blunt. Relentless in her dogged questioning of presidents, Thomas saw too many journalists (“the compliant media”) as hesitant to criticize, afraid of being labeled unpatriotic.

When renowned journalist Helen Thomas was granted an honorary degree from AUB in 2003, she was the first woman to receive such an honor from the University since it began granting honorary degrees in 1890.

Throughout her journalistic career Thomas was a fierce supporter of the journalist’s right, even duty, to pursue the truth at all costs. She was a pioneer—“breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling,” a “hero of journalism,” an “accountability” journalist, the “scourge of presidents”—described frequently as feisty and blunt. Relentless in her dogged questioning of presidents, Thomas saw too many journalists (“the compliant media”) as hesitant to criticize, afraid of being labeled unpatriotic.

Helen Thomas was born in the United States in 1920 to Lebanese immigrants from Tripoli. Growing up in Detroit, she caught the journalism bug while working on her high school newspaper. Upon graduation from Wayne State University she became a copy girl in Washington, DC, moving on to the United Press International, covering federal agencies and the White House.

Thomas, who was president of the Women’s National Press Club from 1959 to 1960, won many firsts throughout her career. She was the first woman office holder of the National Press Club, the first woman to be a member and also the president of the White House Correspondents’ Association, and the first female member of the prestigious Gridiron Club.

Helen Thomas died on July 20; she was 92 years old.

ALUMNI

Jack G. Makari (BA ’37, MD ’41) passed away on May 4 at the age of 95 in Suffield, Connecticut. He was born in Enfeh, Lebanon and began his studies at AUB at the age of 15. After earning his medical degree, he stayed on as a medical resident and a junior faculty member in the Department of Bacteriology. In 1945, Makari was awarded the coveted British Council Scholar’s Fellowship for study in London. He attended the London School of Tropical Medicine and received a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians. Makari began his career as a senior physician with the Trans-Arabian Pipeline and representative of Lebanon at the WHO. In 1952, he received an MS in microbiology from Harvard University’s School of Public Health. Makari was director of immunology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and director of research at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield, New Jersey before establishing Makari Research Laboratories in Englewood, New Jersey, which he directed from 1965 until his retirement.

Known for his pioneering work in immunology and cancer, Makari was the author of over 55 scientific articles, the holder of four patents, and the recipient of numerous scientific honors. He was the first to describe cancer-specific antigens (in 1955) and created an innovative diagnostic test for cancer (the Makari Intradermal Test or MIT). A member of numerous organizations, Makari was a warm-hearted, wise optimist who never wavered from his commitment to eradicate disease. He is survived by his wife of over 58 years Odette Tamer Makari, three children—all MDs: Grace Makari-Judson, Doris Makari-Anders, and George Makari—and nine grandchildren.

Nasereddin Nashashibi (BA ’43) A renowned Palestinian journalist and
historian, Nashashibi passed away in his home in Jerusalem on May 17 at the age of 94. He held many prominent positions including secretary of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab League in 1945, director of the Jordanian broadcasting authority, and ambassador-at-large for the Arab League in 1966. Nashashibi was appointed by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser editor-in-chief of Al-Jumhuriyya newspaper.

Mtanios Koussa (BS ‘52)
Born in Rahbe, Akkar in northern Lebanon on June 27, 1927, Koussa passed away last April following a brave battle with cancer. He attended Aleppo College before transferring to AUB where he earned his BS in biology. After graduating from AUB, Koussa earned certifications from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists at the School of Medical Technology and at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Washington. He returned to Lebanon in 1958, and began an academic career at AUB that spanned four decades, ending in 1997. An authority in the field of parasitology in the Middle East, Koussa was a devoted teacher and family man. He was also a dedicated patriot, staying in Lebanon throughout the Lebanese civil war. The author of the foremost parasitology book in Arabic, Koussa also lectured at the Lebanese University. He is survived by his wife Hind Toufic Tabshouri, his two sons Samir Koussa (BS ’84, MS ’86, MD ’89) and Ramzi Koussa, and a grandson, Anthony.

Elias C. Lubbat (BA ’55, MD ’59) was born in 1931 in Jerusalem and passed away in Northfield, Illinois on May 8. Lubbat moved to the United States in 1967 and completed his residency in internal medicine and gastroenterology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He practiced medicine in Chicago and became the medical director at AT&T. After retiring in 2004, Lubbat enjoyed spending time with his family and pursuing his hobbies of horseracing, hunting, fishing, and garden-

Remy-George Rebeiz (BA ‘13) An AUB student whose degree in economics was awarded posthumously (with Distinction), Rebeiz passed away in March from a massive coronary. He leaves behind a grieving community of family, friends, teammates, teachers, and fellow students. Below are just a few of many tributes:

"Remy was our youngest child. He was the focal point of the family. As soon as he could walk, he started kicking the ball. He wanted to become a professional football player. Remy initiated the establishment of “Football Club Beirut” to compete at the Gothia Cup in Sweden.

He was strong and healthy, a great loving and caring child with an acute sense of humor. Remy was our pride and joy. We have been greatly moved by the impact he had on his friends, teachers, the Athletics Department, and on the many students who shared courses with him, not to mention the great impact he had on us, his parents, his two sisters, and his girlfriend, Dina Gedeon."

—Remy’s father John Rebeiz, on behalf of the family
Philip Mishalani (BA ’73) passed away on January 2 from a heart attack. He was born in Beirut in 1951 and earned his AUB degree in economics with distinction. Mishalani completed a master’s in economic development at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex University in the UK. He worked with various Arab and international economic organizations including the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the United Nations. With his late professor Sir Dudley Sears, he published two books on international economics. Known as a free spirited, loving, larger-than-life personality, Mishalani was highly acclaimed for his intelligent and intuitive disposition. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

Our Legacy

Establishing the Shehadeh Abboud Award in Nursing was our mother’s idea to honor the nurses who accompanied our family during our ordeal when our father was ill. At the same time, we established the Shehadeh Abboud Award in English to celebrate our father’s academic life—both as an English major himself and also as a teacher. No matter how busy he was with his administrative duties at AUB, he always found time to sneak into classes to do what he enjoyed most: teaching! AUB was our father’s second home. He always said that AUB gave him a lot and that he should generously give back. That is what he always did. It is what our family wanted to do too.

——Lara Abboud Hage, Paula Abboud Habre, and Robert Abboud

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(at)aub.edu.lb to learn more.

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Actors and actresses take on new roles for a student play at the Syrian Protestant College. Photo c. 1915.