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Making Waves
MainGate Winter 2011
This is the first in a series of interviews with President Dorman. Email questions for the president to maingate@aub.edu.lb.

MainGate: There continues to be lots of construction at AUB. What do you say to those who are worried that this will destroy the classic character of campus?

PD: The classic character and the appearance of upper campus has changed very little since the 1960s. But new construction is inevitable, and I view the appearance of new buildings as an expression of our aspirations and the new directions in which we want to move. New facilities, as they are accepted and used by the community, eventually become classic additions to the campus and, like the Charles W. Hostler Student Center, quickly come to be regarded as signature monuments themselves.

A newly renovated cafeteria opened in Ada Dodge Hall last fall, but there are also plans for a new art gallery in the space once occupied by the Milk Bar. Why an art gallery?

PD: Where the Milk Bar used to be is now a collection of offices. The space will be transformed into its original open plan, featuring arches that hark back to the typical vaulted first floor of many old Lebanese buildings. Within this space we have a chance to wed traditional Lebanese architecture with an open gallery that can be used to display art in a variety of settings. The intention is to put the arts very much at the center of campus, in an easily accessible, ground floor location, with doors leading out to a terrace for public events and receptions.

Construction has begun on the Issam Fares Institute (at the site where the Gulbenkian Infirmary used to be) on the Green Oval. What are the environmental implications? How will the new building impact the Green Oval’s palm trees?

PD: The building has been designed to maintain as much of the surrounding greenery as possible. It’s a remarkable design by Zaha Hadid. There are a number of walkways that approach the building from different directions that go between the existing trees, so the building has been designed around the greenery. The great ficus trees that stand just west of the building site will be preserved, as will the palm trees along the Green Oval.

Lower campus: what are AUB’s plans for the site of the Durrafourd Buildings that are adjacent to the new OSB on the Corniche?

PD: We have a number of ideas for the
Durrafound lot, but we are leaning very heavily toward the creation of a building that would house our multidisciplinary graduate centers of excellence, such as the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences, the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, and newer centers such as the Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources. We are also considering a special center to promote the study of humanities and the arts. In the next several months we will have these plans further developed.

What’s the status of the new Irani/Oxy Engineering Complex and the renovations to the Dar Al-Handasah Architecture Building?

PD: Work on the Irani/Oxy Complex is projected to begin in early summer. Renovations to the Architecture Building will be started only after the Irani/Oxy Complex is finished, because it requires the decanting of those facilities one into the other.

Is the Irani/Oxy Engineering Complex designed to blend with its surroundings or is it an architectural statement?

PD: It is a marvelous architectural statement that will look rather different from the present engineering buildings. Access will be provided at two levels, with the lower entry connecting to the lower plaza outside the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business. The Irani/Oxy Complex will be open in the center, so that it maintains existing sightlines between upper and lower campus and does not block the view. In fact, the design for the Irani/Oxy Complex has already been nominated for an architectural award.

With all this ongoing work, how does the University ensure that “middle campus”—a rare green space for Beirut—is not compromised?

PD: The preservation of green space is a major tenet of the University’s Campus Master Plan, which was adopted in 2002. No new building is permitted in the middle campus, so new construction can only be planned where there is an existing structure or a parking lot. This way our precious green space can be maintained.

The AUBMC 2020 vision approved last year by the Board of Trustees will mean big changes to the Medical Center. What physical changes are underway?

PD: During the preparatory phase of construction we intend to remove the Faculty One residence building on Abdul Aziz Street, replacing it with a multipurpose structure that has multiple parking levels underground, an educational center, a conference hall on the ground floor, and academic offices on the upper levels. The Dale Home site and the open space around it will eventually become the location of a new medical facility, connected to the original hospital building by bridges over the street.

How will this affect the patient experience in the short term?

PD: The Medical Center will do everything possible to ensure that the patient experience is unaffected by the construction, but this presents real challenges for us, especially during the initial excavation process. The construction itself will not diminish the quality of care, although there are some facilities that may have to be relocated nearby. Other medical centers have achieved this feat successfully, and we plan to follow their model.

In your first interview with MainGate as AUB president, you mentioned that you remember jumping over the campus terraces as a child. Given all the changes that have taken place since then—the new buildings, the landscaping, etc., do you still recognize the campus of your childhood?

PD: It is remarkable how little the campus has changed since I remember it as a boy in the early 1960s. Apart from the lower campus where you have the Hostler Center, the Olayan School, and the renovated Green Field, much of the campus looks the same. I know many returning alumni share this experience.
For some, this has been a beautiful winter in Lebanon—relatively warm and dry. It’s a bittersweet treat, however, since without enough rain and snow, aquifers aren’t replenished and another dry summer looms ahead in 2011. The quality, quantity, and availability of water defines our quality of life and so perhaps it’s not surprising that in preparing this magazine we discovered professors and students from every faculty studying water issues. They are examining water contamination in the Mediterranean, in small villages, and in the taps in Hamra; they’re calling for a new focus on water quality; they’re discovering that maybe, just maybe, water isn’t distributed fairly. They’re also examining the role of climate change and proposing solutions.

But, this is only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak…

We always welcome comments, suggestions, and ideas for future issues.

Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

Fall 2010 Vol. IX No. 1
I enjoy reading MainGate; however I found it hard to follow “From the Faculties” in the fall 2010 issue because of the acronyms (FAFS, FAS, FM, etc). I once attended a meeting of the Experimental Hematology in Vancouver, Canada. The speaker, a pleasant scientist in his 40s, talked about a substance he described in the mast cell which had an anti-inflammatory action; the acronym for the substance was SHIP; the P stood for phosphate. The first slide presented was a picture of his handsome SHIP. He followed that by telling us that he tried to increase the activity of SHIP by replacing P with an amino acid. He tried several amino acids, but he failed and the amino acid which annoyed him most for not replacing P was tyrosine. After the session was over, I approached him and told him I was glad tyrosine did not work. He looked at me surprised and upset. He asked, “What did I mean?” I told him if tyrosine worked, you would have lost your handsome SHIP and replaced it with a dirty material in your hand. It took him a few seconds to explode laughing and saying “Why didn’t I think of this?”

In conclusion, Acronyms Seldom Satisfy (ASS). Yes, they are useful when used in very limited numbers avoiding repetition of a few words again and again, but it should be clear what the acronyms stand for.

Farid I. Haurani (MD ’53)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Spring 2010 Vol. XIII No. 3
When I read MainGate, I am transported back to the “good old days” when I was a student in the 1950s.

There are two pictures I want to comment on. On page 52, I’m the guy smoking the nargileh on the left, Benny Daher is in the middle, and the late Awny Jarrah is on the right. Every Friday after classes, the three of us held strategy sessions at the Milk Bar on how to handle our girlfriends. If one of us had a problem with his girlfriend, all of us would temporarily break up with our girlfriends. That is what you call solidarity! I am the only one who ended up marrying his girlfriend. The picture on the back cover was taken in 1957 of our class with Dr. Frank O. Smith, who was vice dean of the School of Agriculture.

My days as a student at AUB were truly the best days of my life. AUB offered a hybrid mix of western and Middle Eastern culture, bridging the two in ways that are unique to AUB and cannot be found anywhere else.

Abdallah Mohamad Isa (BS ’60)
Nashville, Tennessee
You’re virtually there!

www.aub.edu.lb
Viewfinder

Pride, greed, envy, wrath, gluttony, lust, or sloth? Students perform the seven deadly sins. More page 24.
1. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator: every drop goes to you, not down the drain.
2. Only run a full dishwasher or washing machine.
3. Put a brick in your cistern to cut down water usage.
4. Water the garden when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
5. Wash produce in a pan of water—then reuse it to water houseplants.
6. Defrost food in the refrigerator—not under running water for water efficiency and food safety.
7. Save up to 750 gallons a month with a water-efficient showerhead.
8. Keep lawn mower blades on the highest setting: this helps grass retain moisture and grow deeper roots.
9. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth: save 25 gallons a month.
10. Turn on water only when lathering and rinsing your hair: save up to 150 gallons a month.

The Dawn of the Third Age
There was no shortage of choice for those signing up for AUB’s University for Seniors fall program—just a shortage of places to satisfy the demand. “The response was overwhelming enthusiasm,” says Professor Cynthia Mynitti, who along with epidemiology Professor Abla Sibai, conceived the University for Seniors in response to “people’s aspirations to stay socially connected and intellectually engaged in their older age.”

Mynitti and Sibai have identified three core principles that distinguish this pioneering initiative from standard adult education programs: peer-learning, community-building, and intergenerational connections. Thus seniors will learn from one another—study group leaders and lecturers are all volunteers; the organization will be member-run with elected officers and committees, and seniors will be in touch with the younger generation through academic and extra-curricular activities with students.

Akram Najjar is already a seasoned volunteer. He played and discussed classical music for a packed house during the spring 2010 soft launch. Back by popular demand he explored “Six Great Classical Works” in the fall term. PhD student Maria Bashshur Abunnasr co-opted seniors to participate in her doctoral research project in history: *The Making of Ras Beirut: An Arab-American Landscape of Memory, 1870-1970.* Together, they will develop the oral history component of her research.

There were also tours of Damascus, lessons in Oriental rugs, and four “Healthy Aging” lectures revealing the secrets of long life, physical wellness, sound nutrition, and navigating on-line medical information.

Still in the experimental phase, the University for Seniors will be launched formally once funds are secured and a director is hired.
Let’s Talk About It
Kicking off a new series of debates, Ta3a Ne7ke, Ibsar asked the question: “Social Networking—Is Our Natural Language Threatened by New Technology?” Under the watchful eye of debate moderator Assistant Professor Jad Melki from the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), four AUB professors grappled to come up with answers to this provocative question.

Lina Choueiri, associate professor of English, assured the audience that Arabic—one of the top 10 languages in the world—was alive and well with the potential to evolve, through social networking and across dialects to achieve new levels of communication that might possibly displace classical and Modern Standard Arabic. Nidal Najjar, SBS behavioral psychologist, explored how social networking has changed patterns of behavior comparing the social conventions of her grandmother’s generation with that of today.

Mazen Al Ghoul, chair of the Chemistry Department, essentially told audience members to buckle their seatbelts and enjoy the ride, because “we ain’t seen nothing yet.” Convinced that things can only get better, Al Ghoul has not only improved his Arabic skills through social networking, he also met his wife on the internet. Tamar Kabakian, associate professor of health promotion and community health in the Faculty of Health Sciences, considered the potential mental and physical problems brought on by too much time spent on-line and cited experiments where students had been “unplugged” for 24 hours to see how this affected their lives. She concurred with other panelists that substantial research has not yet been done to assess the long-term effects of social networking.

Not surprisingly perhaps, AUB has recently launched its own upgraded social media outlets, a new website, and an invaluable e-calendar of events. There is even a dedicated MainGate tab on the AUB Facebook page.

Alumni and friends are invited to join and otherwise participate in the sites listed below.

AUB updates all these outlets regularly with recent news and events and posts pictures and videos each week. AUB’s social media encourages feedback through Facebook, questions and personal messages on Twitter, comments on pictures on Flickr, and suggestions by email at media@aub.edu.lb.

Marine Rescue
A team of scientists and researchers from Ibsar is playing a leading role in the MAREX project, a six million Euro international consortium for marine biodiversity. Professor and Ibsar Director Najat Saliba and Professor Marwan E. El-Sabban attended the project launch in Helsinki in October 2010 for this joint effort of 19 academic and research institutes from 13 countries. MAREX will collect, isolate, and classify marine organisms from the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean, Baltic, and Arabian Seas.

Website: www.aub.edu.lb
Facebook: www.facebook.com/aub.edu.lb
Twitter: twitter.com/AUB_Lebanon
YouTube: www.youtube.com/AUBatLebanon
E-calendar: www.aub.edu.lb/communications/Pages/e-calendar.aspx

Common Abbreviations found in MainGate (MG):
AUB: American University of Beirut
AUBMC: American University of Beirut Medical Center
CAMES: Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies
CAMS: Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences
CASAR: Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research
CCECS: Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service
FAFS: Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
FAS: Faculty of Arts and Sciences
FEA: Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
FHS: Faculty of Health Sciences
FM: Faculty of Medicine
HSON: Rafic Hariri School of Nursing
Ibsar: Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures
IF: Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
KSA: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
OSB: Suliman S. Olayan School of Business
PSPA: Department of Political Studies and Public Administration
REP: Regional External Programs
WAAAUB: Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB
Several members of Ibsar will be involved in extraction, bio-fractionation, and screening for important biological activities and industrial applications from marine organisms both from local sources and from partners across the globe. Extracts will be studied for several therapeutically and industrially significant biological activities, including anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and anticoagulant activities. “We will focus on specific functions related to cancer metastasis and inflammation,” El-Sabban explains. “At AUB we have state-of-the-art scientific equipment from very advanced imaging facilities to micro array and other molecular techniques. Over the years we have developed unique assays that test the ability of some substances to interfere with the most devastating aspect of cancer: metastasis.

“Furthermore we will attempt to ‘domesticate’ some species for harvesting. We have previous experience of this at Ibsar with terrestrial plants. We have used bio-guided fractionation to isolate a single molecule from one native plant that has promising anti-cancer activity and then cultivated this plant as a sustainable source for the raw material.”

MAREX hopes to gain a better understanding of environmentally conscious sourcing of biotechnology products from the oceans and increase public awareness of marine biodiversity and potential. “The exploration of biodiversity for therapeutic use and conservation is not mutually exclusive,” El-Sabban says. “Indeed, by highlighting the value of such resources, we may enhance our sensitivity to conserve nature.”

Samih Darwazah (BS ’54), founder of Hikma Pharmaceuticals, at the inauguration of the Samih Darwazah Center for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship at OSB:

“Research is anything new you discover and then use in your product or everyday practice. Research means innovation, means survival.”

— The Jordan Times
New Home

AUB’s Regional External Programs (REP) inaugurated its new home in Building 20 (formerly home of the OSB) on October 4, 2010. President Dorman praised REP’s track record in supplying consulting services throughout the Middle East, Europe, and the United States and cited REP’s extraordinarily varied assistance to “governments, international organizations, foundations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and industry.” Congratulations to REP Vice President Hassan Diab and founding Vice President Abdul Hamid Hallab, who gave REP its start in 1976.

- REP’s 125 consultants work in 20 countries and 23 locations.
- REP is involved in higher education projects in 23 institutions in 14 countries.
- In addition to consulting services, REP encompasses the Continuing Education Center, the Journalism Training Program, and its newsroom.
From the Faculties

FAS

Shaking Things Up

Next time you go swimming at the AUB Beach, give a thought to geology Professor Ata Elias. As the earth scientist who led the successful AUB excavation to discover the “missing link” in the Yammouneh Fault between Syria and Lebanon (see side bar), Elias is acutely aware of the dangers posed by earthquakes. He is also hot on the trail of tsunami evidence along Lebanon’s narrow, vulnerable coastline, where he has found plenty to look at along with pumice, the sea-borne detritus of past volcanic eruptions.

With a history of earthquakes stretching back beyond the infamous and devastating AD 551 earthquake and its associated tsunami, Lebanon remains vulnerable. The unearthing of the sediment rich site in the Marjahine area in Hermel will help scientists piece together a more precise history of recent earthquakes and allow them to better predict future patterns.

While a thorough grasp of this violent geological history is important, knowing what to do in the case of an earthquake or a tsunami is also vital. With this in mind Elias has prepared a presentation for the AUB administration on the AUB Beach and other related issues.

“Look at the shape of the beach,” he says. “You are stuck between the sea and a high wall with only a tunnel to get you away from the shore. The only good response to a tsunami is to get to higher ground. As soon as you feel tremors, you have two to three minutes to get away from the shoreline. I believe new measures should be taken to facilitate evacuation of the beach, such as wide staircase exits to get people from the beach to the street.”

Elias would also like to see more being done to inform students, faculty, and visitors about what to do in...
the event of an earthquake. Some of his top tips include not placing your desk under heavy machinery, like a/c units suspended from the ceiling; not putting heavy items on higher shelves that might fall during a tremor; and standing under the doorframe until it is safe to get out of the building and into the open.

“AUB once played a leading role in seismic research in Lebanon; one of the earliest monitoring stations was in the Lee Observatory Building,” Elias says. “I think it would be very interesting if we could bring back the seismic meter. If you look at a map of Beirut, AUB is one of the few places where you have solid rock and a relatively calm, traffic free environment, both important assets for Lebanon’s seismic research network.”

Artists or Vandals?
Artist, filmmaker, and graffiti expert Henry Chalfant recently invited AUBits to travel back in time to explore the New York City subway in the early 1970s when city transit authorities were pitched in daily battle against a dedicated tribe of paint spray writers. At the time, Chalfant was a pioneer working on his book, Subway Arts, which would become a classic. His film Style Wars remains a potent visual record of those edgy days when Ed Koch, New York’s fast-talking mayor, proposed hiring wolves to keep the “vandals” at bay.

“My book became a passport into worlds I would otherwise never have explored,” says Chalfant. One of those trips is surely the one he took through the streets of Beirut in the company of AUB architecture students and one of Lebanon’s foremost graffiti artists, Mohamed Kabbani, who with twin brother Omar form the rap crew Ashkevan. The journey started at AUB’s Medical Gate, flanked by graffiti-covered walls, and progressed to a number of sites in the city.

Even for a veteran like Chalfant, Lebanese graffiti provided some interesting new insights. “First, after spending almost 40 years looking at graffiti style that originated in New York and consisted almost entirely of the artist’s nickname, I’m happy to see new forms that go beyond the name and that exploit some of the many other possibilities of art as public expression,” he told MainGate. “In Beirut, artists are appropriating public space to express ideas which target the wider community. These artists don’t hesitate to paint images that criticize and exhort their fellow citizens to wake up—or to think twice before unleashing the wrecking ball that destroys architectural heritage. I loved some of the wonderfully funny stenciled images and others that symbolize freedom, or that praise the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoe at George Bush, or that exhort us to practice safe sex . . .”

Chalfant’s lecture and film screenings, which also included the poignant documentary Visit Palestine—Ten Days on the West Bank, were cosponsored by CASAR, the Department of Architecture and Design and the Department of Fine Arts and Art History, and were supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

IFI and UNRWA International Conference
Ten videos covering the two day conference entitled “From Relief and Works to Human Development: United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and Palestinian Refugees After 60 Years” are available on-line.
FEA

Running Water

At the close of the recent Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) held in Beirut, seven detailed regional recommendations were made including a call for new water management policies and consumption patterns, changes in agricultural practices and irrigation methods, more and more effective investment in water delivery systems, and support and encouragement for wastewater reclamation and usage.

Hamed Assaf, AUB assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, contributed to the AFED report and attended the conference. He believes that there is much that can be done to minimize shortages and conserve water. Assaf cautions that it is too early to confidently predict the effects of climate change. “We have our hypotheses on how things are going to evolve in the future; we have a range of possibilities and the range is upward, meaning things are going to get warmer and dryer, so we should be ready to address this. The other main stressors that make managing water resources challenging are large increases in demand fueled by expansion in agriculture, demographic growth, and improved living standards, in combination with water quality problems.”

Because the Arab world is not homogeneous, there is no one solution. In the Gulf with its extreme water scarcity, Assaf concurs with many others that desalination is the most realistic strategy. In countries like Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Sudan—where for centuries large agrarian populations have depended on river-fed irrigation—he believes that a serious overhaul of agricultural policy is needed. “It is no longer cost effective to spend 80 percent of water on agriculture,” he explains. “In Syria, a recent drought decimated whole areas where the population had no other skills except agriculture, and with crop failure they had no other form of income, so it was a disaster.” Jordan and Tunisia—places Assaf calls “middle countries” with serious water scarcity and modest financial resources—have shifted water from agricultural to domestic use and diverted treated wastewater to agriculture.

Lebanon, Assaf says, is the exception. Although it is an “upstream country,” its abundant water flows to the sea and to other countries. The problem in Lebanon is not scarcity but bad management. Even in the event of climate change, the country should still have sufficient water. The challenge, Assaf says, lies in the delivery.

“You can have a good water supply but unless you change the infrastructure, you will still be thirsty,” he explains. “I believe that the answer to water shortage problems in Lebanon is a mix of several measures including increasing water storage and transfer capacity, effective demand management through proper pricing, reducing losses in the network, enhancing accountability in the provision of water services, effective legislation and enforcement to control groundwater extraction, and protecting surface and groundwater resources from pollution.”

It is a tall order, but without an effective water policy, Lebanon and other countries in the region will not be able to cope. The AFED resolutions are an invaluable starting point. How much will have changed by the time of the 2011 annual conference?

Impossible Utopia

Is Beirut your utopia? For the purposes of the recent conference held at AUB by the 12th International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE) utopia was defined as embodying “both the theoretical paradox of an ideal place, eu-topia, and a nonplace, ou-topia, rendering it an impossibility.” Some might comment that this sounds like a definition of Beirut.

More than 160 scholars from diverse professions examined “The Utopia of Tradition” at the prestigious event, which architecture chair and IASTE local conference director Howayda Al-Harithy had long campaigned to host at AUB. The conference was cosponsored with
the University of California at Berkeley and supported by AUB’s Center for Behavioral Research, the Department of Architecture and Design, and the IFA.

The host city itself was a favorite theme. In “Consuming ‘Tradition’: Piety, Morality, and Leisure,” Associate Professor Mona Harb and Lara Deeb, associate professor of anthropology, Scripps College, considered the phenomenon of “pious leisure sites” in Beirut’s southern suburbs (al-Dahiyah). Here hundreds of “ambiance controlled” restaurants and cafés cater to those who “desire to live pious, moral lives and enjoy their free time.” Harb and Deeb’s research shows that many places evoke tradition (turath) in their architecture, décor, music, and general presentation, “thus exploiting notions of ‘Lebaneseness’ and authenticity to market their ‘utopic’ vision.”

Associate Professor Robert Saliba tackled “Utopian/Dystopian Strategies for Postwar Reconstruction: The Case of Beirut.” Starting with the developers’ slogan, “Beirut, an ancient city for the future,” Saliba assessed post-war reconstruction in the central downtown district and in al-Dahiyah. In the former he dissected the tension between the global visions of towering structures juxtaposed with the “imaginary” spaces in areas such as Saifi Village. In the latter he analyzed the results of an urban design studio conducted by AUB students on “Utopian/Dystopian Strategies for Dahiyah Reconstruction” in which they were asked to “either celebrate the war as a national victory or condemn Hezbollah for totalitarianism and the production of radicalized ‘clones.’”

On IASTE at AUB, Howayda Al-Harithy says, “Beirut is an appropriate site for the theme of the conference “utopia of tradition” with all the dynamic building and reconstruction that is taking place and the debates around large scale urban projects that are re-inscribing the city as they are designed and implemented.”

School Work

Until recently, no one could vouch for the quality of the water children were drinking in Lebanon’s 1,366 public schools. In 2009, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Lebanese Ministries of Public Health and Education, and upon the recommendation of the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Environmental Health Department, initiated a program to assess the environmental health profile of public schools in Lebanon.

Under the leadership of Professor May Jurdi, some 80 public health inspectors and 18 senior FHS students were trained to administer a 485-question survey concerning the physical and safety aspects of schools. Based on the results of the study and following the 2009 H1N1 scare, priority was given to upgrading the water supply and sanitary facilities. “In particular, we needed to find out whether the storage system and water tanks were suitable, whether there were water fountains and wash basins at different heights for different age groups, and whether these were hygienic,” Jurdi explains. “We wanted to ensure water was safe and available … so we did an exhaustive survey, identified needs, established priorities, and made recommendations.”

The focus in phase two, which is ongoing, is on implementation to upgrade the school environment to insure student health and safety.

Planning for a Healthy Start in Life

“I am amazed by the level of commitment and follow through on this project,” says
Aline Germani, coordinator of community and engagement services at the FHS Outreach and Practice Unit (OPU). She is referring to a joint United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA Iraq office) and Iraqi Ministry of Health initiative to implement adolescent and youth-friendly health services in Iraq that are part of a larger Iraqi national strategy for youth, involving UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, and the Iraqi Ministries of Education, Youth, Planning, and Health.

OPU’s role is to provide technical assistance in all aspects of the project. In phase I, which was completed in March 2010, OPU conducted a comprehensive literature survey and reviewed existing models in the region. The Iraqi MOH conducted focus groups with youth and adolescents to draw up priorities and structures. During a three-day workshop in Beirut, they finalized a six-point benefit package covering mental health, substance abuse, violence, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, and general health. Because of its financial and human resources constraints, the Ministry of Health decided to set aside and reconfigure space in existing primary health care centers to make them more youth-friendly. The pilot will involve 20 primary health care centers.

The focus of phase II was on developing written manuals with detailed chapters both for providers (GPs, nurses, social workers, peer educators, dieticians, etc.) on topics such as community mobilization, social marketing, positive youth development, mental health, violence, nutrition and also for management staff covering planning, human resources management, information systems, monitoring, and evaluation. The manuals were adopted by the primary health care center in Erbil after an OPU Training Trainers Session there in January 2011 that was attended by 15 master trainers.

As part of phase III, in early 2011 OPU will lead an effort to establish a monitoring and evaluation plan to continuously assess the performance of the established pilot program across Iraq.

**AFFS**

**Fair Distribution?**

Under the supervision of his supervisor, Assistant Professor Jad Chaaban, Roland Riachi is researching the provision of water in Lebanon to determine whether the practice known in the United States as earmarking or pork barreling exists in Lebanon. Pork-barrel politics refers to spending that is intended to benefit the constituents of a politician in return for his political support in the form of campaign contributions or votes.

Using a public economic model refined to measure the mechanism of pork barreling, economics doctoral student Riachi compiled a database covering 26 administrative regions (cazas) with information on capital invested in water projects between 1994 and 2010: network coverage performance, the impact of wells on water distribution projects, the socioeconomic features of the regions, and the “political distance” between the beneficiary region and persons in key positions.

The results of Riachi’s study show
that the allocation of water projects in Lebanon was not the result of a policy to improve equity or efficiency as poor regions were neglected while certain politicians’ jurisdictions benefited. Riachi suggests that this is particularly disturbing given the fact that foreign donors funded most of the water projects to promote development and redress regional imbalances.

**Anybody Hungry?**

As part of their community nutrition rotation, and in collaboration with Amel Association, the students of the Coordinated Program in Nutrition and Dietetics spent three weeks in Tyre surveying 826 households to assess their nutritional status and food security—whether or not they have sufficient food to meet their dietary needs.

Under the supervision of principal investigators Professors Hala Ghattas and Nadine Sahyoun, students asked questions of the individuals in each household who were responsible for food preparation. They also weighed and measured children under the age of five to determine if food insecurity affects childhood nutritional status and child growth in the region. The results of this survey will allow investigators to identify vulnerable groups within the community in order to help governmental and nongovernmental organizations to target the most vulnerable subgroups with interventions to improve food security and nutritional status.

**Natural Science**

An enthusiastic team of volunteers from AUB’s Ibsar and the CCECS were on hand for Days of Science (Ayam Al Ouloum), an annual three-day event the Lebanese Ministry of Culture organized in collaboration with the municipalities of Geneva and Beirut and the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon. Because the UN had declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, Ibsar decided to sponsor a Nature Lab to celebrate the diversity of life on earth and demonstrate the positive impact of biodiversity on human lives.

Ibsar’s director, Professor Najat Saliba, devised a series of experiments for Nature Lab volunteers to demonstrate, including a Hot Box, an eco-friendly heater with no CO2 emissions; Sage not Rage, an experiment to develop an ecologically friendly insecticide cream purely from organic sources; and an air purifier using a 100 percent green air purifying method.

Research assistant Marwa Adawi, who worked closely with Saliba, said, “We conducted interactive experiments that stress the importance of preserving biodiversity by proposing alternatives to certain actions and/or chemicals which affect nature adversely. Thanks to our enthusiastic, team-spirited volunteers, who worked really hard and gave the event their best, our live performances helped to attract audiences of various ages and educational backgrounds. We all experienced improvements in our teaching and communication skills.”

Volunteer student coordinator Hussein Nassar said, “Kids were entertained and at the same time informed about issues. The Hot Box and Sage not Rage had the greatest impact. All the volunteers felt a sense of responsibility and determination. It was really special and the experience taught me a lot.”

**Student News**

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**Student News**

In the 2010 Student Representative Council elections, 263 students ran for 109 slots. Elections started in 1949, but were interrupted from 1982 to 1994.
Deep Dedication

Dr. Nadim Afeiche recently dedicated the AUBMC Hoda and Nayla Afeiche Musculoskeletal Library in loving memory of his late wife and daughter. A senior clinical lecturer in orthopedic surgery who has worked at AUBMC since 1975, Afeiche (BS ’64, MD ’68), said he wanted to provide residents with the space and facilities they needed to perfect their knowledge and increase their learning. He explained that the library also represented his “appreciation of the leading role of AUBMC in Lebanon and the Middle East, my dedication to teaching, … my gratitude to my alma mater, … and my love for both my departed wife and my daughter.”

Research, Innovation, and Comprehensive Care

There is real excitement and enormous energy at AUBMC these days as VP and Medical Dean Mohamed Sayegh and his team move aggressively to implement a new vision for the Medical Center, which the Board of Trustees approved in 2010. We stopped by AUBMC to find out what has already happened—and what’s in the pipeline.

Since July 2009, AUBMC has moved quickly to develop a network of partner institutions by signing memoranda of understanding with Clemenceau Medical Center, Najjar, Mount Lebanon, Khoury, and Tripoli government hospitals. These partnerships are good news for patients, who now have greater access to AUB-trained physicians. This is only one of the ways that AUBMC is improving the services it provides to patients, which is one of its top priorities: it has established a “Patient Affairs” team at the Medical Center dedicated to patient satisfaction. Another priority is faculty recruitment. Over the past year, AUBMC has recruited 26 academic faculty members from leading institutions in Europe and the United States—places such as Harvard and Yale.

Although all parts of AUBMC are being transformed, the most visible changes

State of Exception and Resistance in the Arab World

State of Exception and Resistance in the Arab World is the result of a workshop AUB organized with the Arab Sociology Association and the Center for Arab Unity Studies in August 2008. It includes case studies from Palestine, Tunis, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. The edited volume is based on Giorgio Agamben’s work on the “state of exception,” which is a term first coined by German jurist and political theorist Carl Schmitt to describe what governments do when they exceed the rule of law during times of crisis. It proposes a new framework for understanding the reconfiguration of sociopolitical space in the Arab world in the last 15 years that focuses on the interplay among individuals representing states, civil societies, and protest movements.

Sari Hanafi is an associate professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
will be to its physical appearance, as the Medical Center will soon go from being a 400-bed hospital to a 600-bed medical complex that includes both an adult hospital and a pediatric hospital, which will be one of the first in the Middle East. The expanded AUBMC complex will also boast specialized centers of excellence in oncology, neuroscience, and cardiovascular medicine.

“All of these initiatives relate to each other. The vision is comprehensive. We’re developing partnerships and collaborations to increase patient access to care, to strengthen research, and improve medical education,” says Rana Alley (BA ’99), who recently joined AUB as director of public relations for AUBMC and the Faculty of Medicine.

As part of the effort to improve medical education and research, the Faculty of Medicine hosted its first Clinical Research Symposium and the second seminar of the Human Research Protection Program in March 2010, bringing doctors from across the region to AUB. The Medical Center’s Executive Health and Travel Center is also attracting people from the region who are willing to pay a little extra for the convenience of being able to take care of a number of medical procedures in a single facility and in a short period of time.

Although its reputation is growing in all these areas, according to Sayegh, “it’s the cutting edge research we do—and the way in which we do it—that is the reason for our dramatic impact in the region. A lot of the innovation that is introduced in the region comes from here one way or another, either because it is actually happening here or because even though it is being done elsewhere, it is being done by our alumni.”

**Enduring Legacy**

AUBMC recently announced the Gladys Mouro Scholarship to honor veteran AUB nurse and retiring assistant nurse, right, was honored for 32 years of nursing service at AUBMC.


In *Islamic Law and Civil Code*, Debs analyzes the classical Islamic law of property based on the Shari‘ah, traces its historic development in Egypt, and describes its integration into the modern civil code. A lawyer by training, Debs elucidates the remarkably sophisticated, coherent, rational, and effective features of Islamic jurisprudence. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, describes the book as “indispensable” and “of lasting value”; Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, Columbia University, stated that the work merits a broad readership “from legal experts to scholars of classical Islam and the modern Middle East.” Forewords are provided by Frank Vogel, founding director of Harvard University’s Islamic Legal Studies Program, and Ridwan Al-Sayyid, director of the Arab Development Institute and former director of the Higher Institute for Islamic Studies in Beirut. The book is distributed through AUC Press and Columbia University Press.

*Richard A. Debs is chairman emeritus of AUB’s Board of Trustees and chairman of the University’s International Advisory Council.*
hospital director for patient care services Gladys Mouro for her 32 years of dedicated nursing service. The full merit scholarship will be awarded each year to the top nursing student at the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSON). After earning her undergraduate nursing degree from AUB, Mouro (BS ’76) stayed on to rise through the ranks at AUBMC. She steered nursing services through the rigorous requirements of the American Nurses Credentialing Center leading to the award of the prestigious Magnet designation—an accomplishment for which she received the 2010 Lebanese Ministry of Health Award.

OSB

Gold Star Decade

Speaking on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB), AUB Trustee Hutham Olayan spoke about the relationship between the Olayan family and AUB. She said that though her father Suliman had received his education from the “school of life,” he valued higher education and had been a longtime supporter of AUB. “An investment in AUB is a long-term investment in the intellectual capital of the region,” she added.

Among the host of distinguished guests, Lebanese Prime Minister and AUB Trustee Saadeddine Rafic Hariri recalled the day his late father spoke at the OSB inaugural ceremony. He said the 10th anniversary affirms AUB’s role in education, knowledge, dialogue, and freedom of thought in the region. OSB Dean George Najjar stressed OSB’s aspiration to achieve
world-class standard as the premier business school in the Middle East.

The evening included a discussion on the future of business education with panelists from Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities, the London School of Economics, and INSEAD, moderated by John Fernandes, president of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the leading accreditation agency for degree programs in business and accounting.

Safeguarding Our Taps

Samer Maamari (BE ’85, ME ’86), vice president for facilities at AUB, spoke with MainGate about water at the University and ongoing efforts to reduce consumption even as the campus grows.

MainGate: What does it mean to “manage water” at AUB?
Samer Maamari: It’s two things: supply and demand. AUB has two city water subscriptions, one for the campus with a nominal capacity of 1,000 m³/day and a second one with the same capacity for the Medical Center. The campus daily consumption is around 1,200 m³, while the Medical Center consumption is close to 750 m³. Both subscriptions complement each other since there is a connection between the campus and Medical Center.

During this [2010] summer season, the water authorities could not provide enough water for the whole city of Beirut, including AUB. Water was rationed. The government collects water from a number of strategic wells in the suburbs, away from Beirut, which they pump to Beirut. This year, however, they couldn’t deliver water even from these wells. This year was very bad for us.

Where is water stored at AUB?
We have two major water tanks, one under the tennis courts, which can handle 10,000 m³ and a second one on the Medical Center roof which can handle 2,000 m³. And we have a pumping station that pumps water from the main storage tanks to Kerr Hall, which supplies the upper campus. But to do that, we need some pressure.

What is the brackish water network and how is it used?
Brackish water is [highly salinated] water pumped out of a local well. In the 1960s, we used to dig a well to collect water, and it used to be a bit mixed with sea water. During the civil war in Lebanon, it was a luxury to have water in your taps, so every building or group of buildings used to dig a well. At that time, the city sewage network was not properly designed nor implemented, so the trapped [well] water became contaminated by sewage and sea water. We have a better sewage network now and the government has banned all old wells that were not permitted and is not allowing any more wells to be dug. These days we only use brackish water extracted from campus wells (mixed with domestic supply) for irrigation.

What kind of water treatment is currently in use at AUB?
When we receive water, we always add chlorine to kill any germs or bacteria. In addition, we provide ultraviolet treatment for the main buildings. The water is actually drinkable, but it’s heavy.

Is it safe to drink the tap water?
AUB is not any different than the city of Beirut. Let me put it this way.

What issues would you like students to be aware of with regard to water at AUB?
We need their support to reduce consumption. If they see a leak of any kind they should report it to Physical Plant at extension 2015. I think we can always do better in terms of being more aware and reducing consumption, starting from myself.
conducted field observations on local socio-economic conditions and the provision of environmental services in the Tebbaneh neighborhood of Tripoli. I am also collecting data from the most frequented hospitals and dispensaries to determine the incidence and prevalence of waterborne diseases. I will then analyze all of this data using two statistical software packages (GIS and SPSS) to find the most optimal approach to solve existing environment problems.

10 am Tuesday, 10am Saturday:
• At 10 am Tuesday, I am probably at AUB, studying and working on my research. At 10 am Saturday, I am most likely at home with my three-month- and four-year-old daughters.

Most admires:
• I have benefited enormously from Professor Mutasem El-Fadel’s vast knowledge and experience. He has shaped my career and helped me acquire the analytical and technical skills I require to tackle complex environmental problems.

Why this topic interests me:
• Nearly three billion people globally lack safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities that lead to increased premature mortality, particularly among infants and children. The urban poor are particularly affected by these conditions and incur additional expenditures on medicines and medical treatment for a wide range of water borne diseases like diarrhea, gastro-enteritis, or cholera—diseases that cause children to miss school and adults to miss work.
Clockwise from top: December 23, 2010: Concert pianist Tatiana Primak Khoury, artist-in-residence at the University of Balamand, plays in Assembly Hall; December 29, 2010: The Ateek Ensemble presents chamber music with an oriental flavor, reintroducing the element of "classical Tarab" within a Sufi context; December 13 and 14, 2010: The AUB Christmas concert highlighted works by Monteverdi, Victoria, and Shireen Abu-Khader.

Check the AUB calendar at www.aub.edu.lb for upcoming events.
Seven Deadly Sins
Along with seven Fine Arts and Art History (FAAH) students, FAAH visiting professor Cornelia Krafft presented performance and installation art in December at the official launch of the Lebanese Pavilion for the 54th International Art Exhibition, the Venice Biennale.

They performed extracts from 777, which Krafft conceptualized and choreographed and first staged with 40 students in the iconic Dome in the Beirut City Center in May 2010. Formerly a 60s cinema at the epicenter of the Lebanese civil war, the Dome’s unique shape and troubled history gave the performance the extra dimension Krafft was looking for when she first selected it as a venue.

During this riveting 49 minute, non-verbal piece based on the seven deadly sins: pride, greed, envy, wrath, gluttony, lust, and sloth, each sin was transformed into a seven minute visual dream that questioned both its religious context and the viewer’s own “sins.” It was a tour de force performance executed on a shoestring budget that ultimately made it all the more inventive and resourceful.

Krafft will represent Lebanon at the June 2011 Venice Biennale along with other artists.
When Lebanese talk about the country’s treasures, they’re usually referring to abundant Roman ruins, staggeringly beautiful mountains and verdant valleys, private beaches, and ski resorts.

As opportunities for rural and eco-tourism expand though, locals and visitors alike are discovering opportunities to do more than sunbathe by the Mediterranean coast or dine rustic-style on the banks of the Assi, Awwali, and Nahr Ibrahim rivers. After last summer, we don’t blame you if you’re already thinking about how to escape the coming heat. There are plenty of ways to do so without leaving the country:

An increasing number of tour operators are offering river rafting on the Assi River, such as Responsible Mobilities (mobile: 03-218048). Your guide will collect you and your friends at Virgin Megastore in downtown Beirut, and after a comfortable three-hour ride (with an optional stop for breakfast in Chtaura), you need only strap on your helmet and life vest before gliding away between banks dotted with oak, maple, and apricot trees.

Look out for the wild turtles taking shelter beneath thick bamboo, as well as goats, cows, chickens, and the occasional horse, not to mention curious families relaxing at riverside eateries. Don’t be surprised if somebody calls out: “Khudny ma3akun!” (Take me with you!) Afterwards enjoy a traditional lunch (read: feast) at a village in the Beq’a, then ride back to the city with your guide.

If you’re looking to enjoy calmer waters, then you can opt for a canoe or kayak ride with SkiLeb.com on Nahr al-Kalb (the Dog River), only 15 kilometers from Beirut.

Get out on the river and you’re bound to get wet, but if you’re seeking a more immersive experience, then why not snorkel or scuba dive? Explore the 600 meter deep underwater valley between Beirut and the Bay of Jounieh, swim among Phoenician ruins in Jbeil (Byblos), or head over to Khaled to explore the long abandoned hold of the Souffleur, a World War II-era British submarine. For diving lessons, contact the National Institute for Scuba Diving (www.nisd-online.com).

If you already have submersion gear, then bring it along to the Palm Islands Park and Nature Reserve, also known as Rabbit Island, off the coast of Tripoli. Come to see the protected green turtles, rare birds, and the rabbits introduced during the French Mandate. You may also catch a glimpse of flying fish and dolphins.

Every year between May and September, turtles lay their eggs on the beaches beside Orange House (www.orangehouseproject.com), a Tyre-based conservation organization and bed and breakfast dedicated to turtle protection. Visitors stay in one of three available rooms and have the option of preparing their own meals in the house kitchen and/or helping out with conservation activities.

If you’re looking for more man-made options, there are always the water parks at Le Royal’s Water Gate (www.leroyalbeirut.com/watergate) in Dbayeh and Waves Aqua Park (www.wavespark.net) in Mar Roukoz.

—S.M.
Raghida Haddad (BS ’75), executive editor of Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia magazine, was awarded the Earth Journalism Award at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in December 2009 for a series of articles she wrote on climate change. Haddad, the first Arab journalist to travel far into the Arctic Circle, sent us these snapshots of the journey she took in July 2008.

Last night I slept in a swing—at least that’s what it felt like aboard the Canadian research vessel Amundsen as it tossed in the rough Arctic Ocean. Though our boat was an icebreaker, there was very little ice to break. Most of the Arctic ice has melted, leaving only the “permanent” polar ice cap and the ice masses that adhere to Greenland, Alaska, and the Northern Territories. Even they are shrinking at an alarming rate.

When I arrived yesterday by helicopter from Banks Island off Canada’s northwestern coast after a long eight-flight journey from sunny Lebanon, I asked the young Inuit Eskimo who greeted us at the air strip how he and the small native population managed to eke out a living in the barren island community of Sachs Harbor. “My people live on fishing and hunting caribou, and on musk ox and the snow geese that land here by the hundreds of thousands,” he said. The villagers also have an annual quota to hunt 28 polar bears that they sell for their hides, “but we have not filled our quota in the past years. Fewer bears are showing up.”

The Inuit, who have lived here for thousands of years, rely on ice floes in the straits to cross to other islands for hunting. With unprecedented high temperatures in the Arctic, ice is melting earlier in the spring and surface water is freezing later in the fall. This is one of the concerns of the 50 scientists I was about to
meet who are studying climate change in an area where it appears to be taking its heaviest toll.

With 24 hours of daylight, it is never too late in the day to do something. One “night” I went on deck to observe the midnight sun and found four researchers on a motorboat inspecting buoys that mark the location of equipment immersed in the ocean. Three other scientists were carrying water samples from the Rosette, a huge apparatus with 24 computer-controlled cylinders that collect water at various depths, some reaching as far down as 900 meters.

Cristina Romera from Spain was collecting water samples for the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar in Barcelona to study the presence of chlorophyll, bacteria, viruses, and other Arctic microorganisms. Heike Link, a German researcher, was in one of the ship’s 12 labs with trays of starfish, clams, worms, and other creatures, documenting their diversity and abundance and the role they play in the ecosystem. I also met Hayley Hung, a chemical engineer from Environment Canada, who leads an international study to measure persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury in the air in the pan-Pacific region. POPs have been found at dangerously high levels in some Arctic marine mammals consumed locally.

The Arctic has lost more than a third of its ice since satellite measurements began about 30 years ago.
A record meltdown in summer 2007 fully opened the Northwest Passage to navigation. If melting continues at this rate, some scientists project that the Arctic summer could be ice-free as early as 2013. “Over two million square kilometers of polar ice pack disappeared between 2003 and 2008,” said Gary Stern, chief scientist on the Amundsen. Described as earth’s air conditioner, the Arctic helps cool the planet with its white, sun-reflecting sea ice. With the Arctic warming about twice as fast as the rest of the globe in recent decades, the increased melting will reduce this cooling process, disrupting marine ecosystems and devastating wildlife. The warming is particularly disastrous for polar bears that use ice floes as a means of transportation to hunt seals. As ice melts, bears get stuck on isolated ice floes and drown trying to swim towards land or another floe.

Scientists widely believe now that ice melting is due to global warming caused by carbon emissions, mainly from burning fuels for industry, transportation, and electricity. However, there are those who insist otherwise. “Yes, the Arctic is warming now, but it will be cooling again within three years,” said my friend Andrej Rubchenya, a Russian oceanographer and assistant professor at St. Petersburg State University. “There are eras of warming and eras of cooling. Carbon emissions could be a slight factor in the process of global warming, but unless a thousand nuclear bombs are detonated, I can’t imagine any human force able to encounter the mighty powers of nature.” He concluded, “Climate change is just a political issue.”

In August 2007, two Russian legislators in a small submarine planted a Russian flag on the seabed of the North Pole to assert that country’s claim to 1.2 million square kilometers, about half the floor of the Arctic Ocean. In response, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced plans to build two military bases in the Canadian Arctic. With ice melting fast, the issue now is who will own the possibly huge mineral deposits buried under the Arctic floor. Some estimate that the Arctic could hold about 25 percent of the world’s...
undiscovered oil and natural gas. As Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark, and Norway assert their rights here, there is increased risk of conflict or a new kind of cold war.

Should the ice continue to thaw, the Northwest Passage could become a commercial navigation channel. Although Canada claims sovereignty over this passage, other maritime countries insist that the Northwest Passage should be open to international traffic, just like other strategic waterways. Former US Coast Guard Lt. Commander Scott Borgerson warned that “unless Washington leads the way toward a multilateral diplomatic resolution, the Arctic could become a flashpoint of competing interests.”

When I returned from my trip, my six-year-old niece asked me: “Did you see Santa Claus?” I saw many amazing sights, but not Santa. Yet, if he does live in the North Pole, I hope he can water ski!

—Raghida Haddad (BS ’75): raghida@mectat.com.lb
If you’re boiling the water, for sure you’re killing the germs and removing chemicals that volatilize, like volatile solvents, trihalomethanes, and chlorine, but this doesn’t mean that you’re removing other contaminants like metals, pesticides or visible sediment and dirt, that will stay even after boiling. Treated water can be used for cooking but again it’s wiser to test the water quality at least once per year for better judgment.

What about in cooking? Can I use tap water to boil an egg or make pasta?

Lucy Semerjian: Well, it depends from what tap. Water reaching our household taps through the government pipes may come out clean from the major water treatment plants, but sometimes it is recontaminated while passing through pipes or residents’ storage tanks. It’s wise to clean the tanks periodically—every six months or whenever you see suspended material in the water—and to keep a bit of extra chlorine in them to prevent recontamination or regrowth of any germs or bacteria. Of course, the taps just fed by private wells are not recommended for drinking purposes. They need proper testing; they might be suitable, but for sure they need quality analysis.

Typically, you have either government water pumped up from somewhere in the basement through water distribution pipes to the roof of the building, or many buildings have drilled their own wells and they use that water for showering and cleaning and other “domestic” purposes, not for drinking.

Illegal means they don’t have any license to be drilled. The problems start when there are many wells and everybody is pumping from these wells, using a lot of water, and causing the water volume to decrease, so any pollutant coming into them will be of very high concentration. Another problem, especially for coastal areas and during the end of the summer, is seawater intrusion due to over-pumping, which means sea water will mix with your groundwater, and this will increase the salinity and hardness of the water, making it unpleasant to consumers and damaging to distribution pipes and water heating elements.

How can I tell where the water in my building comes from?

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Lucy Semerjian Can Help

Lucy Semerjian (AUB BS ’94, MS ’00; University of Bradford, UK, PhD ’05), a research associate and coordinator of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture’s Environmental Engineering Research Center, tells us what we always wanted to know about water in Lebanon but didn’t know whom to ask.

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When demand is higher than supply or there is water shortage, some buildings buy water in tankers. The source of water may also vary seasonally for the same location; for example, in winter a building might be using the public or the well source and in the summer when there is a shortage, the building might shift to using other sources of water such as the purchase of water in tankers.
I’ve done a recent study on this: We have many bottled water brands, and according to the 2008 Beverage Marketing Corporation, Lebanon was categorized as the eighth leading country for per capita consumption of bottled water within the global bottled water market. The regular brand names licensed by the Ministry of Health—they follow up on the quality of water and are fine, but there are many other brands that are not licensed, not monitored, and sometimes come from questionable sources that may not be safe to drink. Even if they are packaged, labeled, and sealed, still the water might be contaminated.

As far as the major brand names are concerned, they come in several packages—from 500 cc up to 19 liter containers—and the disposable containers are less risky because one tends to drink and dispose of them. The larger containers are reused and they need special cleaning. Also, consumers might be contaminating the water by not cleaning their coolers. So there are measures that have to be taken to make sure that one is drinking safe, packaged water.

And there is the vended water, where people buy water in filled but not sealed containers or fill their own refill containers. This vended water is usually stored in big tanks that might not be regularly cleaned, and the source of the water might not be that safe.

How do you know that you should get your water tested?

Indeed, the water that we have is classified as hard (total hardness >300 mg/L as CaCO₃), and that means it is rich in minerals like calcium and magnesium, because of our geology, which is limestone. Limestone has many minerals, and they end up in the water because of ion dissolution or exchange between the water and the surroundings. Healthwise it’s not a problem to drink hard water, though this issue has recently become more controversial. Of course, we’re talking within limits, not extremely hard water. When it comes to showering in hard water, you’ll need more soap to make it foam, and you’ll feel that your hair is drier, but it’s not really harmful up to a certain level, probably up to 350-400 mg/L as CaCO₃. People who are used to soft water may be more sensitive to hard water. Now the problem of hard water is more with the piping systems, because when you have high concentrations of calcium, these will form scales and they could ruin the pipes and water heating elements.

What does it mean when it’s frequently said that Lebanese water is “hard”?

In urban settings, there’s a higher chance of contamination because of the industries, the seawater intrusion problem, overpopulation, and active transportation; the demand is much higher than in the villages or rural settings, plus more sources of water pollution exist. Also, because construction work could accidentally break wastewater pipes. Rural settings tend to be cleaner, but contamination could come from agricultural activities. We’re talking about pesticides, nitrates, chemicals used in farming. Rural areas also tend to use groundwater, and it is easier to protect such water than city water, where many uncontrolled activities occur.

Why is the water in the cities considered to be less clean than the water in the mountains and countryside?
MainGate sat down with Nadim Farajalla to talk about how climate change will affect water resources in Lebanon. In addition to being an associate professor of hydrology and water resources, Farajalla was a research faculty director at the Issam Fares Institute’s Research and Policy Forum on Climate Change and the Environment in the Arab World.

You recently said that climate change was an opportunity for Lebanon. What did you mean by that?

Nadim Farajalla: Everyone involved in the water sector in Lebanon has known for some time that there are serious problems related to water management in the country—problems related to irregular water supply, waste, depletion of water sources, pollution, intrusion into rivers and flood plains, flooding, etc. Despite widespread recognition that these serious problems exist, however, very few people have offered constructive suggestions. I think that the whole issue of climate change introduces a sense of urgency that could transform the debate about water in Lebanon in a very positive way, which is why I see it as an opportunity.

How is climate change impacting Lebanon’s water resources?

Many of the impacts in Lebanon are the same ones that are being felt throughout the world. Climate change is leading to significant changes in precipitation...
(both rainfall and snowfall) patterns—in the amount of precipitation, in its predictability, and also in its intensity. This is having an impact on the agricultural sector, disrupting planting and cropping patterns thereby decreasing the productivity of Lebanon’s agricultural land.

In addition, because of the decrease in snow cover, there is less surface and ground water, which also has an impact on the agricultural sector, of course, but also has serious health implications because there is less dilution of pollutants in our water supply.

What is Lebanon doing to deal with the effects of climate change?

Although there have been some individual efforts at the ministerial level—the Ministry of Energy and Water has a ten-year plan, for example—there is currently no comprehensive national plan to address anticipated climate changes.

What type of response has there been to your proposal?

What I hear most often is that nothing can be done because of the political situation, because of petty politics, etc. The current minister of energy and water (Gebran Bassil), however, has proven that this is not the case. Even though he is a high profile member of an opposition party, he has been able to push forward with actions and plans with support from political opponents. This shows that if there is a champion for a cause, politics is not an obstacle.

Is there anything people can do on an individual level that will help to alleviate the pressure on Lebanon’s water resources?

People can—and should—teach their children to be water-conscious and to save water by turning the tap off when brushing their teeth, by taking showers instead of filling bathtubs, etc. (By the way, it’s not just children who need to learn to be water-conscious. Adults, for example, should learn to turn the tap off when shaving and when they are lathering up in the shower.) Individuals can also install in their homes and workplaces some of the many water saving devices that are now available such as dual flush toilets, automated and/or timed water faucets, low-head showers, etc. These devices can lead to a decrease of 15 to 20 percent in the amount of water used in the home. There are also things we can do related to recycling grey water and black water, which will affect water demand.

Although the role of politicians and public officials is important in addressing this issue, “charity begins at home.”
As part of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Community Engagement and Services Initiative in the town of Zawtar El Charkieh (ZeC) in southern Lebanon, the Department of Environmental Health, led by Professor May Jurdi, has analyzed the local water supply to ensure it is safe for domestic consumption.

The brief was to assess water quality from source to end user at the household level and identify short-term management actions and long-term strategies to improve water quality. In addition, Jurdi and her colleagues gathered data to inform decision makers and researchers as they considered different approaches they might adopt in rural areas of other developing countries to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water.

ZeC in the Nabatiyeh province of southern Lebanon has around 600 households comprising some 4,000 residents. In addition to concerns about the quality of their drinking water, local residents also worried about the potential toxic effects of the July 2006 war.

ZeC water comes from a variety of sources:
- Al-Beer network pumped from a well inside the village to a sole storage tank from which it is distributed by gravity to community households.
- Nabeh Al-Tassi network supplied from a spring outside the village from which it is pumped and distributed directly to the households. In both cases, the networks operate only intermittently and the water is stored in tanks.
- There is also a complementary non-piped water supply system from a private well outside the village that is delivered to households by cisterns.

In addition, many people buy bottled water or water supplied by water shops. Water contamination, primarily bacteriological, was verified by the presence of total and fecal coliform bacteria; this was probably due to sewage discharge through cesspools in the absence of a sewage network, which led to a contamination of the source. The situation is compounded because the water distribution process is not disinfected.

In the short-term, simple but effective measures including regular water quality tests, flushing and cleaning the storage system, and strict water treatment procedures can be taken to ensure proper water disinfection and an acceptable free chlorine level in the distribution network.

FHS has shared the study’s findings with the municipality and the south Lebanon water authorities to insure the implementation and monitoring of the proposed interventions. The faculty will continue testing water quality (including new unregulated water supply outlets that appear regularly in response to increasing water demands) as well as teaching water treatment procedures to keep the supply networks clean and to disinfect the water.

A second component of the ZeC water project, which was introduced in summer 2009, was an assessment of recreational river water in a popular swimming/camping spot on the Litani River. The team conducted tests in 2009 and again in summer 2010 for comparison and verification and identified specific locations as being particularly susceptible to pollution. “We have given our recommendations and are confident that they will be taken on board, “says Jurdi. “We will follow up again next summer.”

—M.A.
In one incarnation, Carol Sukhn supervises toxicology analyses in AUB’s Environmental Core Laboratory, testing food, water, soil, petroleum products, human sperm, and much more. She is also a marine biology doctoral candidate exploring the murky waters off the coast of Sidon at the site of Lebanon’s infamous garbage mountain.

For her dissertation entitled “Ecotoxicological Studies on the Sea Urchin *Paracentrotus lividus* off the Lebanese Coast,” Sukhn is using sea urchins as a bioindicator of pollution to analyze whether proximity to a major source of pollution affects the number and size of a living organism.

Sukhn has spent seven years collecting samples in water so dirty that it was not safe for her to dive. She has had to rely instead on invaluable help from Lebanese Army divers whose availability was sometimes compromised by the national emergencies Lebanon faced between 2006 and 2008.

During those seven years, Sukhn has seen the sea urchin population shrink and almost disappear through a combination of pollution and over-fishing. Although the urchins reproduce between May and September when fishing is officially prohibited, no one is enforcing the law.

“We have a dead sea off Sidon,” Sukhn says. “It is not a sea, it is a desert. The marine biodiversity has been destroyed. Every so often garbage inevitably falls into the water. It has covered the substrate and now only a few organisms grow, nothing thrives. The sea urchins that remain are accumulating toxicants. As they are at the center of the marine food chain and are vital to it, their demise is a disaster.”

Sukhn is analyzing the toxic bioaccumulation in all parts of the sea urchin, looking for significant differences that can be correlated with distance from a polluted site. To further understand the toxic differences in the urchin’s body parts, she is using an in vitro cocktail of toxicants (including polyaromatic hydrocarbons, pesticides, heavy metals, and bacteria) to determine the rate and concentration of bioaccumulation, which she plans then to extrapolate and apply to the broader field.

She has also tested *Paracentrotus lividus* for its ability to cleanse itself of the toxins either naturally or through chelation (a chemical therapy that helps the body bind and excrete toxic metal) to assess fully its role as a bio-monitor for pollution. Given that heavily polluted sea urchins are poisonous to both human and marine life, their toxic condition is of great significance.

Sukhn is currently on leave in Australia writing up her thesis.

M.A.
Something amazing is happening off the Lebanese coast.

Ask any marine biologist and he’ll tell you that amazing things are always happening in the oceans that cover 71 percent of the earth’s surface. Still the Mediterranean Sea does have some unique bragging rights. It may make up only 0.7 percent of those ocean waters, but it is home to at least six percent of their biodiversity.

For Michel Bariche, associate professor of marine biology at AUB, there are prolific reasons to care about protecting the Mediterranean and its marine life from a range of relentless threats—even if you didn’t happen to grow up wandering the Lebanese coastline and wondering about the water that lapped at its shores. One in particular he calls a “lifetime project.”

Since the building of the Suez Canal in 1869, hundreds of new species have been making a one-way trek through the passage opened from the Red Sea into the Mediterranean. What is amazing is what they have to do to stay.

“Just to give you an idea: One fish—it spawns over eight months in the Red Sea,” Bariche says. “Off the coast of Lebanon, it was shown to spawn in only two months.” In order to survive, the fish had to reproduce
practices along the shore line, the near absence of limits on tourist and recreational marine activities, the expulsion of untreated waste water into the sea and, perhaps most catastrophically, the imminent collapse of the local fishing industry.

“If you ask someone from the government, they’ll tell you that we have very good rules and they are not enforced. I don’t agree,” Bariche says. “I think that our rules are not enforced—that is true. But we don’t have very good rules.” Many Lebanese laws haven’t been updated since they were instituted during the French Mandate.

For the last few years, Bariche has teamed up with the international environmental NGO Greenpeace, writing two recent scientific reports supporting a recommendation to create a network of 18 marine reserves along the Lebanese coastline, in addition to the two that already exist: the Palm Island Natural Park (also known as Rabbit Island) off the coast near Tripoli and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve.

The collaboration is a natural one, in part because Greenpeace’s local oceans campaigner, Garabed Kazanjian

1. Small fishes: a clear sign of overfishing
   (Ouzai, fish market)
2. Dead dog washed up on shore
   (Saida, beside garbage dump)
3. Chemical and thermal pollution
   (Zouk, electric power plant)
4. Bovine guts on sandy beach
   (Daura, north of Karantina slaughterhouse)
5. Abu Charbel repairing his nets
   (Daoura, fishermen’s port)
Bariche purposely selected areas far from or with limited human activity, including the airport and port of Beirut (both of which have a military presence), the Tyre peninsula, the Damour estuary, and the Raouche cliffs and caves along the coast. (To read the full report and list of proposed reserves, go to http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/lebanon/ar/press/reports/network-of-marine-reserves-en.pdf).

The proposal fits into a larger campaign by Greenpeace to establish “a global network of marine reserves covering 40 percent of the world’s oceans,” according to the organization’s official website.

The Lebanese network also needs to be treated as one entity, Bariche emphasizes. “If one location is not feasible, we should look for another similar location; otherwise something will be lacking.” At the same time, Bariche says most of the reserves must allow some human activity—contrary to Greenpeace’s original plan—in order to be feasible in a small country like Lebanon.

It is also essential that fishermen not be treated as enemies, he says. “The fishermen are the best people to protect their own land…and you cannot do anything that is against the will of a fisherman.” It is will, however, that local fishermen increasingly lack.

“All over the world, the fisherman wants to keep the tradition; he wants his son to be a fisherman—except here,” Bariche says. “They want their kids to do medicine or to travel.” Meanwhile, mounting fatalism has made overfishing chronic. “It’s like all the people at AUB decided that AUB would not function anymore, and let’s rob it,” he says.

The marine reserves, Bariche wants to convey, are not a net to ensnare fishermen, but a lifeline the industry sorely needs; along with other measures, they can make fishing sustainable again.

In the Mediterranean region, and especially

1. Dead sea gull: hunting or bioaccumulation? (Batrun)
2. Sea bottom after blast fishing (Northern Lebanon)
3. Small mesh beach seine towing: a destructive fishing method (Khaldeh)
4. Endangered sea turtles easily caught in longlines (Enfe)
Both say students have to weigh their own interests against the potential dampening influence of an unsupportive environment. Right now, no large research institutes exist in Lebanon, and there is little funding for studies and a dearth of data from previous decades. “When I did my sampling after the [2006] oil spill, it would have been very beneficial to be able to compare my samples with those taken before the oil spill,” Kazanjian says. The only samples he could find were taken by an American in the ‘60s.

The opportunity to contribute is clear, Sayar says, but so are the drawbacks. “It’s a bit more appealing, because there is a lot of work to be done,” she says of the field. “But also people should appreciate it more.”

—S.M.
Harboring History

How the Phoenicians tamed the sea and created an empire

The Phoenicians of ancient Lebanon created the world’s first maritime mercantile empire. Sailing in ships of cedar, they traded throughout the Mediterranean and out into the Atlantic Ocean. Their ships were innovative, influencing ship design for centuries. They were also influential in another way—they were the first to create harbors on the sea.

Harbors are the nexus, or connecting point between land and water. They provide protection from the elements and give merchants access to the goods of the land. At first, harbors were simply places that afforded natural shelter to ships, such as behind an island or next to a peninsula. These suited small watercraft for millennia, but as ships and fleets grew larger in response to greater trading opportunities, harbors needed to adapt. At the same time, changes in the environment, such as rising sea levels, threatened to make natural harbors along the Lebanese coast unusable. By the Iron Age, about 3,000 years ago, the Phoenicians had made the ingenious leap forward by modifying the coastal seascape to accommodate their ships and protect their seaside cities.

Three great harbor cities dominated Lebanon’s ancient sea coast: Byblos, Sidon, and Tyre. Byblos, or Gebail, is perhaps the oldest seafaring city in Lebanon. With remains dating back to the Stone Age, 7,000 years ago, Byblos was the key city in ancient Lebanon linking the resources of the hinterland to the desires and needs of the Egyptians. Sailing in wooden ships, crews and merchants from Egypt came to Byblos to trade for logs of cedar for use in temples, palaces, and to build even more ships. The importance of Byblos in these ancient times is attested not only by ancient texts, but by the temple at Byblos filled with anchors given to the gods in return for safe, and profitable, sea journeys. At about 1200 BC, many of the eastern Mediterranean cities and cultures were destroyed by invaders from the north known as the Sea Peoples. Byblos from this point on was supplanted in importance by the two southern giants Sidon and Tyre.

Sidon was a center of ancient glass making, exporting glass throughout the Mediterranean world. Together with the production of purple dye from the murex sea snail, the city thrived on international commerce. Little remains today of ancient Sidon—much is lost under modern construction—though the ancient harbor remains alive with fishing boats and other watercraft. The harbor at Sidon is, however, more than just a place for boats to call home: it is a testament to Phoenician inventiveness. Modifications to the coastal seascape enabled the Sidonians to keep their harbors functioning for centuries. Such engineering feats included a system of sluice gates carved out of the natural rock to cleanse the harbor of silt carried on the northward flowing current. Perhaps more importantly, protective walls and quays were carved out of the solid rock. The Phoenicians developed this technique to deal with the gradual immersion of natural protective barriers.
that had served well enough in earlier periods but were now less effective. One way they created these walls and quays was to cut solid blocks on the landward side of rocky outcrop and then stack these blocks on top of the remaining outcrop, thereby creating walls with sheltered quays behind them. Another technique was to cut stone from both sides of an outcrop leaving a solid rock wall standing between harbor and sea.

The rock-cut protective walls in Sidon no longer exist; they were demolished to build a modern breakwater and for the construction of the new harborside road—but the technique can still be seen today to the north of Sidon on Ziri Island. Here a man-made flat platform of cut rock on the protected, landward side of the island was created as a mooring place for ships and is still used as a landing place for boats. Another Lebanese site better illustrates what has been lost at Sidon: at the ancient city of Batroun, massive solid rock walls, several meters high, still stand facing the sea protecting the settlement behind it as well as the entrances to the city’s harbors.

Like Sidon, the harbor city of Tyre has existed since at least the fourth millennium BC. Spanning both an island and a mainland settlement, Tyre was well positioned to be a center of Mediterranean trade and power until it was conquered by Alexander the Great in 323 BC. In deep antiquity the island of Tyre was larger, but over time the sea level rose and the land subsided, thus shrinking it. Over the course of the second millennium BC, Phoenician engineering skills were put to the test once again as it became necessary to secure the island and its harbors from the ravages of the sea. Although much of the ancient harbor and city now lie under modern construction, it is still possible to see some impressive examples of the ancient harbor technology underwater both at the entrance to the northern harbor, where a stone-built jetty of uncertain date was constructed, and at the “Egyptian Harbor” on the city’s southern edge where wall tops outline the now submerged area.

The innovations first seen at Sidon and Tyre were prototypes for what eventually evolved into harbor construction where none had existed before. During the first few centuries of the first millennium BC, Phoenician engineering skills were transferred to colonies in Sicily and most notably to Carthage in Tunisia where a new feat—a superb double harbor—served both commercial and military purposes. The harbor at Carthage enabled the Phoenicians to dominate the western Mediterranean for centuries until the Romans began their expansion out of Italy in the third century BC.

Although the harbors of Lebanon have yielded much information about the capabilities and activities of the Phoenicians, further explorations will undoubtedly reveal even greater insights into the ancient harbors of Lebanon and perhaps to far flung Phoenician ports of call yet to be discovered.

—Ralph K. Pedersen, PhD, teaches nautical archaeology at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Whittlesey Chair Visiting Assistant Professor at AUB.
Daniel Bliss’s “Prof”

Although his father was one of six people to sign the Syrian Protestant College’s Certificate of Incorporation on April 14, 1863 and also laid the cornerstone of College Hall in 1871, it was David Stuart Dodge (1836-1921) who “truly represented in his person the entire history of the institution.” In addition to being a member of the Board of Trustees for 40 years, serving at various times as its secretary, treasurer, and president, Dodge was appointed the College’s first faculty member in 1864 and achieved the positions of chair of English and Latin (1869-73) and later professor of modern languages (1880-81).

Born in New York City, Dodge was a graduate of Yale College (1857) and the Union Theological Seminary (1860) and was also an ordained Presbyterian minister. Dodge first heard about the plans to establish a college in Beirut when Daniel Bliss addressed a meeting of the American Board of Foreign Missions in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1862 shortly after Dodge and his wife returned from a visit to Palestine and Syria. Both he and his father, William E. Dodge, who cofounded the Phelps Dodge Corporation (a very successful mining firm) with his father-in-law in 1832, were sufficiently impressed with what they heard that day to offer not just financial support, but logistical assistance as well. Although he never moved permanently to Beirut, Dodge worked closely with Bliss, not only to find a site for the new College, but also to “solve all engineering and construction problems, supervise the laying of every stone and iron beam, pay the workmen, and, in fact, be always present and give attention to every detail.”

Even though he was not a permanent member of the faculty, Dodge was deeply involved in the academic life of the College as well: “It was his custom to see personally every man appointed to a teaching position, to explain to him the nature of the work, the aims and spirit of the College, to make sure that the applicant for a position had the right conception and the right motive.” Not surprisingly perhaps, Daniel Bliss often referred to Dodge as “The Prof.”

A year after Dodge died in 1921, his great-nephew Bayard became president of AUB—a position he would hold until 1948. Bayard’s father, Cleveland H. Dodge, founded the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation that continues to support AUB. Bayard’s son, also named David Stuart Dodge, became a lifetime champion of AUB, serving as trustee (1961-2009), administrator, acting president (1981-82), and president (1996-97) before he died in January 2009. One of the many gifts Dodge made to the College was for the construction of Ada Dodge Memorial Hall in memory of his daughter, who died in 1883 at the age of 21. In addition to Ada Dodge Memorial Hall, AUB is also home to Mary Dodge Hall, named for Bayard’s wife, Mary Bliss Dodge, the grand-daughter of AUB founder Daniel Bliss.

1 Stephen B. L. Penrose, Jr. That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut 1866-1941, p. 207.
2 The Founding Fathers of the American University of Beirut: Biographies, compiled by Ghada Ysauté Khoury, p. 77.
3 Ibid., p. 78.
4 Daniel Bliss, Letters from a New Campus, p. 261.
Band in Between

Mashrou’ Leila makes the music they need to hear

It’s a warm Thursday night in mid-October and most of the seven members of Mashrou’ Leila are lugging heavy equipment down to a rented basement studio in Geitawi. As soon as they’ve plugged in and checked the sound, they start to play.
Their next performance at the 2010 Doha Tribeca Film Festival is just a week away and they’re wasting no time picking up where they left off at the Byblos International Festival, their first and most recent big time gig.

These days, band members are in between a lot more than two high-profile bookings.

Mashrou’ Leila’s songs—consistently folksy, feisty, tender, frank, and transporting—lately show a synth-rock influence. They sing exclusively in Lebanese Arabic, often about topics not discussed openly in Lebanese society.

Their music forms an intimate record of the rapid changes in their lives and world, increasingly a significant draw for young Arabs tired of the bland pop ballads dominating the airwaves. Mashrou’ Leila has not been able to tap fully into this audience because the band’s first self-titled album cannot yet be legally purchased online.

Mashrou’ Leila emerged just three years ago from AUB’s Department of Architecture and Design—a place they haven’t completely left. Violinist Haig Papazian and keyboardist Omaya Malaeb—both received their bachelor’s degrees in architecture in 2008—turned down opportunities to work abroad in order to see where the band might go. “And now we’re waiting for others to graduate and see if they’re willing to make the same sacrifice,” Malaeb says. You don’t need to tell someone in their early 20s that a lot can happen in a year or two. Indeed, it already has.

What would become the group, Mashrou’ Leila, began in early 2008 with a simple suggestion by Papazian, Malaeb, and guitarist Andre Chedid (BAR ’09): If we can’t find time to rehearse regularly in other bands, why don’t we try bringing together musicians in the department?

They posted a handwritten notice, and more than a dozen people attended the first meeting, including an instructor with a melodica and an accordion player. Over a period of weeks though, individuals peeled away, revealing a core group with vocalist

Leif: Benefit concert at AUB
The story of Mashrou’ Leila, as the members tell it, is grounded in a series of fortuitous events, the mounting enthusiasm of their broadening fan base, and a well-timed radio contest that culminated in the release of an unexpectedly popular album in December 2009.

“Right after our first concert at AUB, we said, Okay this is serious,” Chedid recalls. “But our definition of serious back then wasn’t what it is now.” Other band members confirm that and say that their seriousness has multiplied with each opportunity to grow, not to mention the influence of Badr, whose engineering background initially elicited some skepticism.

“Before I joined they were practicing once every two or three weeks and only doing stuff if they had a concert coming up,” Badr says. “If it weren’t for him pushing us like that, [our progress] would have been much slower,” Malaeb volunteers.

Badr continues to perform the same function, but in a different role since he left Beirut to pursue a master’s degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During summers and vacations he returns to Lebanon and rehearses with the band as he once did. The group has turned down concert organizers who declined to pay for his airline ticket during the school year.

At this point anyway, they see little distinction between their commitment to the band and their commitment to one another. What is Mashrou’ Leila after all if not the sum of their collective talents and strikingly divergent influences?

“Since we started, we kind of have this folky kind of side to us,” Chedid says. “If, say, I want to write music for myself, that’s not the music that I would write, you know, not that style, but we kind of told each other to think in that style while we’re writing... because we could come up with anything. It can sound good, but we still...
have to maintain a [distinctive] sound.”

Although Sinno usually writes the lyrics, the band as a whole composes the music. Doing so effectively meant learning to listen in a different way, Abou Fakhr says. “If you’re a guitarist … somehow something happens; it’s not conscious, but you end up focusing a lot on the guitar part of the song and then, after you play with the band for a really long time, the umbrella of sounds becomes much more important. At some point, you really start to listen to the song all together, as one block of music, while also differentiat-

ing between what every element is doing and when.”

This attentiveness is visible on each player’s face during rehearsal. When they’re not playing, they’re watching and listening, and no one thinks twice about talking during a quiet section to make suggestions for improvement. Their songs are constantly evolving, retaining, in Abou Fakhr’s words, only a “semblance” of their original forms.

Papazian sees a particular strategy at work in both architecture and musical composition. “It’s a constant attempt at creating something and working on something and you never reach an end product,” he says. “You just have to present it at some point.”

Perfection then is not possible, but integrity is still worth striving for: “We’re trying to create music that every one of us is happy with, and that every one of us feels says something about ourselves.”

Malaeb invokes one song, “Shem el Yasmine” (“Smell the Jasmine”) to illustrate her take on the band’s appeal. “I mean [Hamed’s] basically saying, I wanted to wash your floors and feed your kids. The simplest sentences convey a sense of intimacy that really only couples can understand. And… because he talks from experience, the lyrics come out honest and sensitive that way, and because the music doesn’t try to be sweet, the music’s also honest.”

It’s no surprise that the seven remain uncertain about what they want out of life, but the band, at least, offers a horizon on which to fix their gazes. They want to play more shows outside Lebanon. They want to craft a second album that builds on and surpasses the first.

They want to find someone else to take on and master the management responsibilities they now share. “In Lebanon, you don’t really have the concept of a ‘band,’” Gerges says. “You don’t have managers and firms working with bands. They only work with individuals and pop stars.”

If they can attract one of the larger production companies, of course, they won’t need to worry about management, but to do that they’ll have to prove they can be profitable, Badr says. Until now, they’ve invested all their profits into the music: a new sound system, better equipment, and a rehearsal space.

It’s tough splitting their time between music and their other vocations, but they do it because they have to, because they can’t yet imagine doing anything else, and because it’s a way of planning for the future without having to think too much about it. “When you’re seven people, it’s harder to decide we’re all going to do this for the rest of our lives,” Chedid says. “So I’d like to do this for as long as it lasts.”

“I’m just taking it one day at a time, because if I want to choose, I can’t,” Malaeb says. “And whatever I choose, I’m gonna miss the other one so much.”

—S.M.
MainGate: When did you first arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?

Joseph Cicippio: I started as acting comptroller in early summer of 1984. I was impressed with AUB, and I was so content to be here. It was a whole new life I was stepping into. I didn’t expect to see such a beautiful campus, such interesting faculty members, the modern hospital. Everything. The happiest days of my working life were those days at AUB.

How did you come to take the job as comptroller at AUB in the midst of the Lebanese civil war?

I’d had some experience of the area working for [a] Saudi [company] in London from 1975 to 1983. When I was working for Saudi Arabia in London, the president of AUB at the time, Harold Hoelscher, came by my office one day and asked if I’d be interested in working for the University. A few years later I’d had enough of Saudi Arabia, and I went back to the United States and started looking around. Bill Rice asked me to come to the New York Office, and the next week the job was mine.

What was it like when you arrived in Lebanon in early 1984?

Those months were the happiest times of my life. For the first three or four months, I was free to move around the country—Baalbek, Byblos, Tripoli—before we were advised to remain on campus. And then I met Elham at the Alumni Club on a blind date. Three months later we were married [August 1985]. I enjoyed every minute of life in Lebanon.

You were working at AUB and married for only a little over a year when you were kidnapped. What did you do at AUB?

As acting comptroller I worked both on campus and at the hospital, so every day was split between the two.

During those years when you were first working at AUB a number of Americans [AUB Professor Frank Regier, Benjamin Weir, and William Buckley in 1984; AUH Director David Jacobson, Jeremy Levin, Terry Anderson, and AUB Dean Thomas Sutherland in 1985; AUB librarian Peter Kilburn and Professor Leigh Douglas in 1985].
Beyond Bliss Street

reflections

1986] and other foreigners were kidnapped. Did you not feel any anxiety for yourself?

That didn’t bother me at all, because I was at the University. I had been warned to stay on campus to avoid being picked up. So for about eight months I did not leave the campus. Elham did everything to be done outside the University. I left campus only to go to the Board [of Trustees] meetings in Cyprus.

Elham was worried and begged me to leave. So I told her, “You go to the US and you wait for me because I’m not leaving.” I didn’t want to be the last American to leave the University, so they would say, “Oh, all the Americans left us.” I didn’t want that on my shoulders, so I had no intention of going home. I felt safe on campus.

The kidnappers had never come on the campus.

But they’d taken David Dodge on campus in 1982.

I never knew that. I believed I was safe. Twice I even helped evacuate Americans. And twice my wife wanted me to go with them.

How did you cross from the Medical Gate to the hospital?

I always went down into the tunnel underneath the street because David Jacobson, the director of the hospital, was kidnapped in 1985 walking across the street from the hospital to the Medical Gate.

But the gunmen did come on campus for you on September 12, 1986. Tell us what happened.

I went out to work as usual. Just the day before I was kidnapped we had raised the tuition fees, and the kids were furious. I was told not to come to the office because the students were after me. And when I was attacked on campus, I thought it was the students coming for me.

Your agonizing days as a hostage—five years, three months, and ten days in captivity—are chronicled in your book, Chains to Roses, published in 1993. It is difficult to imagine what it would be like to lose more than five years of one’s life in such a way.

Well, I’ll tell you what my son said: “Dad, the way you drive, those kidnappers kept you alive for another five years.”

I was one of the hostages who wasn’t given any outside information. For five years I was Rip Van Winkle. I didn’t know about anything at all—what was happening in the outside world. I had no newspapers or TV, but I had a few books which I read over and over again: Jane Eyre, Robin Hood, and the Koran.

Do you ever think of anything you would like to say to the guards who held you captive?

I have no animosity towards them at all. They all needed money, and they were doing what they had to do to eat and provide for their families. They had lost family members to Israeli bombings. I do not have any bitterness. I left there, that was the end of it—the first day of my new life. We just happened
to be Americans in the wrong place at the wrong time.

**When did you first return to AUB after your imprisonment?**

It was about nine months after my release—around August 1992. Two weeks after I was released, I offered to come back to work. I wanted to come back, but the New York Office said I should take a year off. I thought I would be returning to my old job, but the University was worried about possible danger for a former hostage in Lebanon.

**When you finally did return to Lebanon, what changes did you notice at the University?**

When I first came to AUB in 1984 the beautiful old buildings were what struck the visitor. But when I returned in 1992 it was an entirely different, modern place, with many new buildings. And now there’s the Hostler Center and the new laboratory building near the new women’s dorm, and now plans for a whole new hospital complex scheduled to be completed in the year 2020.

After I came back, I was just happy to be here, and since that first time, I’ve always been coming back—two or three, maybe four times a year.

**You talked about the physical changes. What about the atmosphere, the academic and social changes?**

I think there is more separation between the faculty and students now. In the old days it was one big family. Now you have more than twice the number of students; it’s a big campus now.

**Are you still in touch with people you worked with in the Comptroller’s Office?**

Oh, yes. And whenever I go in there I get a big hello from those who worked with me—people like Mufid Dagher, Tony Irani, Antoine Khoury, Majida Khoury, Howard Ray [now retired], Assad Rayess, and others.

**What impact did AUB have on your life?**

My experience at AUB just superseded everything I’d done before. You know, being in contact with the students, watching them day after day, seeing them coming out of exams, the kids with their books—was special. Most of the time I was among the medical students, and I was always fascinated by them. The day wasn’t long enough.

If I had a kid now I’d want him to come to AUB, just for the atmosphere and for the campus. Plus I still think it’s the best education, especially in the medical school. In Washington we have AUB-trained Lebanese doctors around town, and they are the most successful, the most sought after doctors in the city.

Now, whenever I return to Lebanon, the first thing I want to do is visit AUB. I’d met my wife here. I was married in Beirut and we had our wedding reception at AUB, in Marquand House, by special dispensation from the Board of Trustees, because I was unable to leave campus.

**Surely a great impact AUB had on your life was your being taken hostage from campus. Did you ever hold a grudge against AUB for your kidnapping?**

Oh, no. Not at all. They did everything as to whether I was going to stay or not. The Americans were asked once, twice, three times to leave, but I said no.

**Your affection for Lebanon and AUB has expressed itself in major philanthropy. Can you tell us about that?**

In 1992-93 over the Christmas holidays, my wife and I brought 32 Lebanese orphans to the United States for two weeks. We stopped first at the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia to check on the health of the 11 to 14 year-olds, and then took them to New York, Washington, Disneyland, and the Tournament of Roses on New Year’s Day.

My wife and I raised most of the money for the trip, but the hospital, other organizations, and private citizens in the United States and Lebanon all helped. We gave those children, who’d known nothing but bombs all their lives, a chance to taste a world where there were no bombs.

**And then just last year in April you announced a research fund for the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) at AUB.**

Yes, we have many projects for AUB and for Lebanon. This fund, the Elham and Joseph Cicippio Endowed Research Fund to support student research, was designed to help FAFS students travel to regional and international conferences to present their research in person.

AUB and Lebanon remain in our hearts. I’ve loved this place from the minute I got here. I’m going to retire here. Elham and I have a home here now.

—J.M.C.
Can you help us date this photo of the Ada Dodge Milk Bar? In 2010, a newly renovated cafeteria (inset) opened in the same building. While many AUBites fondly remember the Milk Bar’s Arabic coffee, today’s students also indulge in pizza, Chinese food, Lebanese specialities, and Caribbean coffee.
WAAAUB in Wolverine Territory

North American alumni were joined by President Peter Dorman when they met in Ann Arbor, Michigan November 12-14, 2010 for the third WAAAUB North American Regional Gathering hosted by the Michigan Chapter. After a warm welcome from Chapter President Abir Assi (BS ’96), WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi (BA ’54) offered a quick update on WAAAUB’s standing committees and introduced various WAAAUB committee representatives: Vice President Genane Maalouf (California and BA ’91) for the Chapters Committee, Program Committee Chair Ghada Rihani (Washington DC and BS ’84), Nominations Committee Chair and Board Member Maha Zabaneh (Toronto and BA ’84), and Council Member Hiba Al-Ali (Montreal and BS ’83).

WAAAUB board member and noted television personality Ricardo Karam (BS ’91) led a discussion with Mira Kaddoura (BA ’00), Randa Slim (BS ’81, MS ’84), and Fawwaz Ulaby (BS ’64) during the afternoon panel, “AUB Made Me.” (You can view biographies of all the participants at www.waaaub.org/program.html).

Of course no AUB alumni weekend would be complete without a lavish dinner with dancing and a keynote address. This was no exception, and featured President of the Arab American Institute James Zogby, who shared some fascinating insights from his latest book, Arab Voices: What They are Saying to Us and Why it Matters. After a wrap-up business session on Sunday and one more meal together, everyone headed off for a tour of the Arab American National Museum in nearby Dearborn. To find out more about the business meetings and watch a slideshow from the weekend go to http://www.flickr.com/photos/aulumni/sets/72157625411613122/.

You can view a tape of the “AUB Made Me” panel at: www.waaaub.org.

WAAAUB Legacy Ceremony

More than 300 first-year students and their parents—all alumni—flocked into Bathish Auditorium on September 24, 2010 for the Legacy Ceremony. “The fact that so many of our alumni are grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, and sons and daughters enriches … the educational experience of [all] students on campus,” noted WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi in his words of welcome. (cont. page 53)
Admissions Director Salim Kanaan was also on hand to share some interesting statistics including the fact that 22 percent of this year’s entering class has direct alumni connections. Alumni parent and former faculty member Rita Merhej Muffarrij (MA ’81) encouraged current students to allow the AUB legacy to “uplift and inspire them.” Hussam Bakkar, who will be pursuing a business degree at AUB and enjoys the diversity he has found on campus, was accompanied by his parents, Mohamad Bakkar (BA ’80) and Sawasna Madi Bakkar (BS ’85). “We chose AUB for our son because we both studied here, and we know the culture and standard of education you can receive at AUB,” said Bakkar. “It’s an open-minded university with a great reputation in the Middle East.”

More than 80 WAAAUB members celebrated suhoor on August 27, 2010 at Al Dirwandi Café in Beirut. President Khalil Makkawi, Treasurer Karam Doumet (BBA ’78, MBA ’80), and AUB Trustee-elect Fawzi Melhem (BS ’01, MS ’02) were among those who enjoyed the good company, delicious food, and warm ambience.

More than 600 AUB alumni and friends gathered at Al Hayat Afrah Ballroom in Oman on October 7, 2010 to welcome President Peter Dorman at yet another exceptional gala dinner. Chapter President Fathi Alaiddin (BE ’73, ME ’75) reminded everyone that the chapter’s mission was to create opportunities for younger generations to pursue an excellent education and to create a dynamic and supportive network in Oman as well. During his remarks, President Dorman briefed alumni on major developments at AUB including some of the new ways AUB students and parents will be able to connect with the administration and faculty to the benefit of both AUB and its community.

At a packed lecture organized by the Ottawa Chapter on October 12, 2010 Hassan El-Taher (BA ’65) took a rapt audience back in time some 2,300 years to discover the history of the ancient library founded by the Greek Ptolemies in Alexandria. During remarks that ranged from the library’s influence on learning in the Mediterranean to

WAAAUB: Chapter Elections
Palestine Chapter
Marwan Durzi (BA ’97) President
Simon Kuttab (BS ’68) Vice President
Gizelle Toubassi (former student) Treasurer

Mira Abu Shusheh (former student) Secretary
Sawsan Dweik Huleileh (MA ’86) Member
Olivia Qandah (BA ’73) Member
Violet Fasheh (BA ’68, MA ’75) Member
Nadya Muzaffar (former student) Member

WAAAUB Engineering and Architecture Chapter
Samir Rafic Traboulsi (BE ’73, ME ’75, MBA ’80) President
Salma Dannah Ouieda (BE ’92) Vice President
Firas Nazih Bou Diab (ME ’05) Treasurer
Hiba Talal Bitar (BE ’99, ME ’05) Secretary
Nadim Nasri Abou Rizk (BAR ’81) Member

Butrus (Pierre) Thomas Khuri-Yakub (BE ’70) Member
Nesrine Nazih Akkari (BE ’89) Member

Beqa’a Chapter
Nicola Saba (BE ’89) President
Ghada Karawi (BBA ’04, MS ’06) Vice President
Tala Mahfouz (BBA ’04) Treasurer
Abir Teliani (BS ’07) Secretary
Hisham Kharroub (BS ’09) Member
Mohammad Rahal (BS ’91) Member
Mohamed Salloum (BS ’04, MS ’08) Member
Samar Salloum (BS ’84) Member
Manal Harawi (former student) Member
You can contact the newly elected committee members at bekaachapter@waaaub.org.
the significance of some of the symbols that feature most prominently in its recent reconstruction, El-Taher impressed everyone with his intimate and penetrating knowledge of the library.

President Emeritus and Mrs. John Waterbury hosted a happy hour for the Philadelphia Chapter at their home in Princeton, New Jersey on September 18, 2010. About 30 alumni, trustees, and friends from the Princeton area including Trustee Emeritus James Wei and four members of the chapter’s Executive Committee were on hand for the informal gathering.

At the chapter’s annual banquet at Lucien’s Manor in Berlin on October 9, 2010 more than 70 alumni and friends from the tri-state area enjoyed an event-filled evening that included a silent auction organized by Chapter VP Asma Ghannam (BS ’82) and Committee Member Samir Akruk (BS ’65, MS ’67). During the following business meeting, Chapter President Nasri Kawar (BS ’56, MS ’59) briefed attendees on WAAUUB and chapter activities. Featured guest speaker Professor Edgar Choueiri, director of Princeton University’s Electric Propulsion and Plasma Dynamics Lab and president of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences, challenged everyone to imagine how Lebanon and AUB might spark a scientific renaissance in the region—in a speech that was both captivating and inspiring. To find out about upcoming activities, visit the Philadelphia Chapter’s website: http://www.aubphiladelphiadevalley.org/index.html.

On a beautiful early August Saturday evening, over 100 AUBites and friends from the New England Chapter converged on the home of Dr. Ghaleb (MD ’84) and Rima Kaddurah-Daouk (PhD ’83) near Boston to meet and greet AUB President Peter Dorman. After hearing welcoming remarks and chapter news from Lamya Shihabuddine (BS ’87, MS ’89), guests enjoyed a musical interlude by Randa Khuri (BS ’67) on the flute and Meredith Ghattas at the piano. President Dorman spoke briefly about the University before presenting Dr. Nizar Nuwayhid (BE ’91) with the AUB achievement medal in recognition of his service to AUB as an ENT surgeon, alumni leader of the New England Chapter, and generous supporter.

The celebration continued late into the evening with a performance of traditional Arabic music by Dr. Mohamed Saab (BS ’65, MD ’65) on the oud and Jamal Sinno on the qanun.

More than 100 alumni and their families and friends gathered near Frog’s Pond in Boston Common on September 25, 2010 for the New England Chapter’s picnic on a beautiful fall day. Old and new friends alike shared delicious manakeesh while trading stories and soaking up the glorious sunshine.
The Bahrain Alumni Society hosted its annual Ghabga Dinner at Al Bait El Lebanonieh on August 26, 2010 for alumni and their guests. Society President May Al Otaibi (BA ’72) welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continued support. It was a memorable evening with delicious traditional Lebanese food, a live band playing classical Lebanese songs, and a raffle draw that featured stunning prizes including airline tickets, jewelry, electronics, coupons for high-end retail stores, and much more. The newly elected board is already hard at work organizing “a night at the opera” and the always popular tanwee’a gathering.

On September 4, 2010 AUB alumni in the Beqa’a met at the Al Qadri Hotel in Zahle to elect the WAAAUB Beqa’a Chapter committee before sharing an iftar meal. WAAAUB Council Chair Samir Abu Samra (BE ’68) and former president of the Beqa’a Chapter Dr. Faysal El Kak (BS ’83, MS ’85, MD ’90) were on hand to congratulate the newly elected committee members.

Around 180 AUB alumni and friends attended Ramadan Night at the View Point Terrace in Amman on August 20, 2010 organized by the Jordan Chapter with the LAU Alumni Club. In addition to live entertainment, the alumni enjoyed bingo, cards, board games, and a tasty suhoor.

The WAAAUB UK Chapter organized a very special brunch at the award-winning Noura Central in London on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

The WAAAUB Riyadh Chapter hosted the Autumn Gala Dinner at the Arizona Golf Resort in Riyadh on November 4, 2010. Almost 300 alumni and many friends including Abdulaziz Issa, the Lebanese Embassy Consul in Riyadh, enjoyed the very special surroundings provided by a beautiful setting, interesting sound and light effects, tempting food, and music by Lebanese pop star Walid Tawfic and his band.

About 600 alumni and friends attended a gala dinner hosted by the WAAAUB Qatar Chapter November 4, 2010 at La Cigale Hotel. President Peter Dorman and Trustee Omar Alfardan attended the event featuring entertainment by Lebanese singer Josiane El Zir. Over 600 AUB graduates working in a wide range of fields including construction, business, trade, and the oil and gas industry reside in Qatar. The principle object of the event was to raise money for the student scholarship fund at AUB; the highlight of the evening was the presentation of a check for 1 million Qatari riyals (QAR) to President Dorman for the fund.
At AUB, 2,980 students received financial aid in 2009–10. Can you help one more?

Jamil Samsatly, a biology graduate and currently a master’s student in plant protection, says his undergraduate experience at AUB was an important step on the path to self discovery. The journey he started here is taking him to Montana State University in the fall, where he will work on characterizing bacteria on water precipitation as part of his doctoral thesis. From a modest family in Aleppo, Jamil earned his BS at AUB on a full scholarship. AUB has a lot to offer, he says. As a scholarship recipient, he felt a heightened sense of responsibility that pushed him to make the most of his experience at AUB. When he graduated, one of his AUB professors introduced Jamil to the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), where he worked with some of the leading experts in the field. Both at ICARDA and at AUB, Jamil participated in several important research projects that led him to discover his true interests. Jamil sees his future in organizations like ICARDA, AUB, and the Food and Agriculture Organization—places where he can realize his passion in life: using plant sciences to maximize benefit for human beings.

Hear more: www.aub.edu/development/scholarship_initiative

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving@aub.edu.lb.
Fayez Suidan
(BA ’51, MC ’55) joined AUBMC in 1962 after completing a four-year residency in general surgery at AUBMC and a three-year residency in OB-GYN at the University of Chicago Lying-in Hospital. He enjoys working with medical students in the Outpatient Department, surfing the Internet, communicating with friends, listening to classical music, and playing with his eight grandchildren. Suidan sent this photo with Dr. Randa Jalloul, who graduated from AUB in June 2010. [drfsuida(at)idm.net.lb]

George Jiha
(BS ’56, MS ’71) is a pioneer in cereal and fodder production in the desert regions of Saudi Arabia. Prior to retiring in 2005, he was agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Administrative Development for 12 municipality unions in Lebanon. He was also national director of the European Union project on Agricultural Planning and Policy Preparation and Master Plan (APPP-MP). Jiha was recently elected president of the Koura Development Council (KDC) for a two-year term. He and his wife Mai Saba have four children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. [kdc1991(at)hotmail.com]

Wehbe Shuayb
(BS ’56, MD ’60) practiced general and thoracic and vascular surgery at Emory University Hospital in West Virginia (1960-66), was an associate in surgery at AUBMC (1967-72) and president of Al Janoub Hospital (1970-2010). He also served as president of the American College of Surgeons’ Lebanon Chapter (1998-2000) and has been a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons since 2003. He and his wife Magda El Zein have two daughters (Wafa and Samar) and several grandchildren. [wmshuayb(at)hotmail.com]

Samir Abu-Absi
(BA ’63), earned his PhD in linguistics in 1972 from Indiana University. He was a visiting assistant professor of English at AUB from 1972 to 1973. Currently professor emeritus of English and linguistics at the University of Toledo in Ohio, Abu-Absi is the editor of Arab Americans in Toledo: Cultural Assimilation and Community Involvement (University of Toledo Press, 2010). Poet and essayist Naomi Shihab Nye writes: “Many of us have long believed a ‘world of education’ or a ‘world of exchange’ could be much more useful than a ‘world at war’ and here’s a strong vote in that direction—Abu-Absi promotes meaningful dialog and inspires discovery in community.” [samir.abu-absi(at)utoledo.edu] [http://www.utoledopress.com/]

Wael Saadi
(BE ’60) writes: “After working for 32 years at Khatib & Alami as partner and general manager, I retired in April 2004 and opened a small consulting office in Ras Beirut. My eldest son Khaldoun married in 2000 and has two lovely daughters; my daughter Maysoun married Khaled Dimassi in September 2009; and my second son, Wissam, got married last June. My wife Sawsan and I are now alone at home in Beirut as we started 43 years ago. [wzsaadi(at)gmail.com]

Talal Toufic Farah
(BA ’62, MA ’70) is a retired academic who still works as a writer and consultant. Farah has served as president of the WAAAUB UK Chapter, a WAAAUB board member, and a member of the WAAAUB Chapters Committee. [talal_farah(at)yahoo.com]

Hagop Akiskal
(BS ’65, MD ’69) is director of the International Mood Center
and distinguished professor of psychiatry and international health at the University of California, San Diego. Also editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Affective Disorders*, he writes, "MainGate is a great magazine to keep in touch with AUB and AUBites throughout the world."

**Hadja Hallak Ramadan**  
(BA ’65) has taught Arabic at the Lebanese American University for the last 10 years. Ramadan earned her master’s with distinction in Arabic studies from the American University in Cairo and her doctorate, also with distinction, in Arabic literature and language from the University of Helwan in Cairo. Ramadan taught Arabic in Kuwait for many years where her husband was head of the press section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has two sons: Tarek, a cardiologist and Ahmed, a professor. [hadia.ramadan(at)lau.edu.lb]

**Sharon Anderholm Wiener**  
(former student, 1968-69) attended AUB as a junior year abroad student with the Great Lakes Colleges Association. She received her BA in 1970 from Ohio Wesleyan University and her MA and PhD in international relations from Duke University. Since 1978, Wiener has been a foreign service officer in Bogotá, Paris, Moscow, Cairo, Istanbul, and Washington, DC. [HCWiener(at)aol.com]

**1970s**

**Artin Aivazian**  
(BS ’70, MA ’77) retired in September 2009 after 38 years as a mathematics teacher at the Melkonian Educational Institute and the American Academy (Limassol) and eight years as principal of the Nareg Armenian School in Cyprus. [araivazian(at)yahoo.co.uk]

**George Karawani**  
(BE ’70, ME ’72) is vice president of wholesale and renewable energy at Olco Petroleum Group, Inc. He actively promotes the use of biodiesel blends, mainly in the public transport sector in Quebec where he lives. [karawani(at)videotron.ca]

**Bassam Bekdhash**  
(BS ’71, MD ’76) is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS) and an intercollegiate fellow. He is a color-ectal/laparoscopic general surgeon, clinical director of the Department of Surgery, and associate medical director of elective services at Hinchinbrooke Hospital in Cambridgeshire, England. Bekdhash is married to Dr. Firyal Yamut (BS ’75, MD ’80), who is an anesthetist. They have three sons: Basil, Maher, and Hani. [bassam_bekdhash(at)hotmail.com]

**Saouma BouJaoude**  
(BS ’71) is professor of science education and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at AUB. He is also the director of the Science and Math Education Center at AUB. [boujaoud(at)aub.edu.lb]

**Loutfi K. Echhade**  
(BBA ’73) has been appointed to the Finance Subcommittee and the Audit Committee of Ernst & Young’s EMEIA region (Europe, Middle East, India, and Africa) where he is also senior principal of assurance and advisory business services. Echhade was recently certified in financial forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. [Loutfi.Echhade(at)sa.ey.com]

**Yacoub El Yousef**  
(BBA ’75) is office managing partner for Deloitte & Touche (ME) in Ramallah, Palestine [yelyousef(at)deloitte.com]

**Basem Hani Qablawi**  
(BBA ’75, EMBA ’05) is living in Qatar and working for ExxonMobil as company interface manager. He has three children: Leen, a lawyer in the UK; Hani, a third-year engineering student, and Nadeen, a third-year economics student, both at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. [bhq1975(at)yahoo.com]

**Rita Mufarrij Merhej**  
(BA ’77, MA ’81) is a psychologist with a specialization in clinical psychology from the Sorbonne University (Paris). She is the director of the Friends of the Disabled Association for Children and Youth with Intellectual Disabilities, a former AUB faculty member, and a consultant in rehabilitation. She and her husband Kamal have three children. [rita_merhej5(at)hotmail.com]

**Basheer Aref Makarem**  
(BS ’79, MD ’83, MPH ’86) is currently working as a con-
sultant family physician with the Ministry of Health and as an assistant professor at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain. Makarem is married to Salwa Tabet and they have two children. [bamakarem(at)yahoo.com]

1980s
Sabia Kanafani
(BA ’80) is an executive manager in the Rector’s Office at the Arab Open University, Kuwait. Her daughter is currently at AUB; her son graduated in dentistry from Queen’s University. [sabiakanafani(at)hotmail.com]

Mohamed Abdelmonem Samman
(BS ’80, MS ’81) is vice president of credit at Envision Financial in Vancouver, Canada. He has been working in the Canadian banking industry since moving with his family to Vancouver from Kuwait in 1998. In 2003, he earned a BBA. He is a member of the board of directors of the British Columbia Chapter of the Risk Management Association (RMA). Samman and his wife Etizaz Natafji (BS ’79, MS ’81), who manages her own recruiting agency, have two children. [azsamman(at)shaw.ca]

Nagib Batlouni
(BA ’81) is senior manager at Credit Libanais SAL in Beirut and the head of the Central Operations Department. He is also treasurer of Saint Elias Church in Rabieh. He is married to Mona Suidan (BBA ’81); their children Salim and Karim are both AUB students. [nbatlouni(at)cl.com.lb]

Grace Ghanoum Khleif
(BA ’81) is now a life coach working in Lebanon. She has her own business, “Blossom into Life.” Khleif is married to Hazem Khleif and they have three boys. [gracekhleif(at)gmail.com]

Mohamad H. Yamani
(MD ’81) is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association. He is the director of the Heart Failure Clinic at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Yamani is married to Bonnie Maynard; they have two children, Maddie and Tarek. He writes: “AUB has filled my life with special memories of affection and friendship.” [Yamani.Mohamad(at)mayo.edu]

Abdulrazak Abyad
(BS ’82, MD ’86, MPH ’88, Family Medicine ’90) is a fellow of the American Geriatric Society, director of the Abyad Medical Center, editor-in-chief of three prestigious journals in the Middle East including World Family Medicine, chairman of the Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing, and chairman of the Middle East Association of Ageing and Alzheimer’s Disease. He is married to Rima Khatib and they have three children. [aabyad(at)cyberia.net.lb]

Naila Lakkis Antonios
(BS ’82, MS ’85) works in budget and finance for the United Nations in New York. [na918(at)aol.com]

Haydar Frangoul
(BS ’84, MS ’86, MD ’90) is an associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. He did his pediatric residency at Duke University and a pediatric hematology oncology fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle,

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class notes

MainGate: What are some of KSA's major challenges in terms of water resources and water management?

NK: KSA has very limited natural water reserves that are not sufficiently replenished by rainfall to balance the rapidly growing demand of what is perhaps the largest growing economy in the Middle East. The kingdom relies on desalination to close the gap in its water resources. However, water desalination consumes a lot of power generated by burning fossil fuel derivatives. So, KSA is faced with the dilemma of burning oil for its power and desalination plants and depriving its economy of an essential income source or facing severe shortages in both power and water. It is estimated that KSA currently uses up to 20 percent of its daily oil production to power its desalination plants, with some estimates reaching 40 percent by 2025 if no alternative energy sources are found. Another area of concern is that as much as 40 percent of desalinated water pumped into the network is lost to leakage. Finally, in a country that replenishes less than 10 percent of its consumed natural water reserves by rain, water consumption per capita is among the highest in the world at above 300 liters per day.

What steps are being taken to address the high cost and pollution issues associated with desalination plants?

NK: The drive to decrease the carbon footprint of new plants is leading us to experiment with renewable sources. Solar-powered desalination is a hot topic but still a long way from commercialization especially for large capacities. Regarding the brine that goes back to the sea, there are serious efforts to study and mitigate the effects of added salinities to the salty bodies of water in the Middle East, but there are no published comprehensive studies that have led to concrete recommendations to date.

What are the benefits of foreign investment in water development? How was your company, Suido Kiko Middle East, established, and what does it do in terms of water management?

NK: Foreign investment is sought after not only for financial reasons, but because it brings much needed expertise on the operation and maintenance side. Foreign investment leads to the infusion of new and advanced technologies, new efficiencies to guarantee good return on investment, introduction of new and advanced management styles, and the freeing of public funds to invest in other capacities.

Suido Kiko introduced Membrane Bio Reactor (MBR) technology to KSA's municipal sector, which is a primary tool to bring both municipal and industrial waste water up to re-use level. Hence, it provided KSA with new sources of water that otherwise would have been wasted. There are plenty of beneficial applications for re-use water from waste water that can reduce the demand on existing desalination plants.

What should be done about diminishing aquifers?

NK: We need to implement the following agenda:
- Create awareness about water consumption.
- Reduce the use of aquifer water in irrigation where it does not make commercial sense.
- Grow arid-friendly crops that require less water.
- Replenish exhausted aquifers with re-use water (water that derives from treated waste water).
- Adopt more efficient irrigation methods. (On average, irrigation consumes 70 percent of all aquifer water.)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has one of the highest per capita water consumption rates in the world; its desalination plants are burning through oil at an alarming rate to keep up with the demand. Nizar Kammourie (BE '86) talks about the future of water in the KSA.
Washington. Frangoul is married to Allison and they have two boys. [haydar.frangou[at]vanderbilt.edu]

_Mira Franjieh Harrouk_  
(BS ’85) is married with three children. She lives in Sahel Alma, Jounieh. [miraharrouk[at]hotmail.com]

_Mohamad Ladki_  
(BBA ’85) writes: “I work at Emirates Lebanon Bank SAL (formerly BNPI) in Beirut. Last year, I was honored to be chosen to represent the Class of 1985 at Class Reunion 2010.”

_Souhail Samad_  
(BA ’85, MA ’88) lives in Ontario, Canada. He is married to _Lina Cocony_ (BA ’87) and they have three children. Samad is the district manager for Staples Northern Ontario region. [souhail.samad[at]staples.ca]

_Massara Kabbani_  
(BBA ’86) is the head of the Bank of Beirut office in Abu Dhabi. She is married to Wehbe Said and they have two children, one of whom entered AUB in fall 2010. [massarakabbani[at]hotmail.com]

_Nizar Kammourie_  
(BE ’86) is general manager of the Saudi-based water desalination utility SAWACO-Water Desalination; CEO of the Japanese-Saudi engineering company Suido Kiko Middle East; and managing director of the chemicals services company Chemsbro. Kammourie is married to Lina Iliyan; they have three daughters. [nizarkam[at]sawaco.com]

_Nayla Nassif_  
(BE ’86) resides in California and works in performance engineering. She supports the local AUB community and other community service organizations.

_Rada Dagher_  
(BS ’88, MPH ’00) is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Services, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park. Dagher, who was previously an assistant professor at the University of Florida, received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 2007. Her dissertation was nominated for the University of Minnesota Dissertation Award. [radadagher[at]yahoo.com]

_Suheir Sleiman_  
(BS ’88, MS ’90) is a high school biology teacher at the American Community School in Beirut. She is also an examiner and a biology workshop leader for the international baccalaureate diploma program. Sleiman is married to _Elie Yared_ (MS ’92) and they have two sons. [ssleiman[at]acs.edu.lb]

**1990s**

_Ali H. Badawi_  
(BA ’90) is a group managing director for Unifoam Group International, a company that produces a wide variety of foam products and furniture. He is based in Lebanon and travels frequently to Europe and Africa. [jafcoa[at]inco.com.lb]

_Nesrine El-Bizri_  
(BS ’90, MS ’92) earned her PhD in cell biology from the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada, and began her post-doctoral training at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She then moved to California to continue her post-doctoral studies on pulmonary hypertension at Stanford University. At the end of 2007, El-Bizri joined the pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, Inc. as a research scientist. She currently lives in Palo Alto, California with her husband and daughter. [nesrineel_bizri[at]hotmail.com]

_Mariam Webhi_  
(BS ’90) lives and works as a clinical dietitian in private practice in Saida and as a consultant for nutrition and

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Bana Kalash Kobrosly (BS ’95) has been country manager of Boecker Public Health in Beirut, Lebanon for the past three years. She is a certified trainer from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, UK, and holds an advanced diploma in food hygiene and safety from the Royal Society of Public Health, UK. Kobrosly is married and has two children. She is a board member of the Rotary Club of Saida.

Wassim Fares (BS ’96, MD ’00) is a fellow in pulmonary and critical care at the University of North Carolina. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Mariana Maris (BS ’95) works with the American Society for Management (ASFM). Her job with ASFM focuses on hospital accreditation, an area of particular interest to her. [wehbimariam64(at)hotmail.com]

Muhammad Shibli (BS ’91, MD ’95) is medical director of the Sleep Disorders Institute and assistant director of the Intensive Care Unit at Providence Hospital in Washington, DC. [mshibli(at)aol.com]

Antoine Samaha (BS ’92) was recently appointed regional commercial leader for Dow Oil and Gas for the Middle East in Dubai. Samaha was previously sales director for Paradigm in the India, Middle East, North Africa region. He holds a master’s degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Hanadi Adib Youssef (MPH ’95) is the floor supervisor of the middle and high school divisions of the Al-Bayader School in Beirut. She writes, “Thank you AUB for all the opportunities you made easier, the excellent learning experience, and the cherished memories you left us with…” [hyoussef111(at)hotmail.com]

Elie Bou-Zeid (BE ’97, ME ’00) earned his PhD at Johns Hopkins University and is an assistant professor at Princeton University. He writes that he is happy to be close to New York where he can find great mana’eesh. [eliez(at)yahoo.com]

Mustapha H. Madi (BAR ’98, MUD ’05) is senior urban designer and project manager at Dar Al-Handasah Shair and Partners in Beirut. He joined Dar in 2005 after spending six years as a senior urban designer and architect with Solidere. Madi and his wife Maya O. Aleywan (BA ’00, MMB ’04) have been blessed with two daughters: Lana and Nour. [mustapha.madi(at)hotmail.com] or [mustapha.madi(at)dargroup.com]

Zaher K. Otrock (BS ’98, MD ’03) is a resident at AUBMC specializing in laboratory medicine. He has published more than 80 articles in prestigious international peer-reviewed journals. With
Dr. Khaled Musallam, Otrock founded “Manuscript Experts,” providing editing, writing, and publishing services for medical manuscripts. [www.manuscriptexperts.com] [zaherotrock(at)hotmail.com]

**2000s**

**Tania Al Aghar**

(MA ’00) moved after remarrying in 2006, to Abu Dhabi, where her son Adam, stepbrother to her older daughter Tala, was born. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in teaching and learning at the University of Leicester. Al Aghar has worked extensively as an instructor and as a director in educational testing and administration at several higher education institutions in Lebanon. In the UAE she worked as a training coordinator for Al Khafji Joint Operations (KJO). [t_alaghar(at)yahoo.com]

**Hiba Ellassaad**

(BS ’00) completed her graduate studies in France where she is currently an international project manager at a pharmaceutical company. For the past seven years, she has traveled around Europe and North America presenting and managing clinical studies at various international research centers. Ellassaad writes, “AUB was a unique and a wonderful experience, a strong foundation for my international professional career.” She married Lieutenant Nicolas Gardez last year and is living in Paris. [hebanese(at)hotmail.com]

**Nadine Hayek**

(MS ’00) is institutional sales manager for HMBR Manufacturing & Distribution in Beirut. [nadinehayek00(at)hotmail.com]

**Nader Kehdy**

(BAR ’00) is a director at Aramas Offshore SAL in Lebanon. [nader.kehdy(at)gmail.com]

**Joe Khoury**

(MS ’00) has been living in Dubai since 2003 where he is a country manager for CBC International. He is married and has two children. [joe5503333(at)hotmail.com]

**Alicia A. Mansour**

(BS ’00, BS ’02, MS ’04), after graduating from AUB, went to the University of Cincinnati, where she was a graduate assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In 2007, she joined the research center of Veolia Environnement in France. [alicia.mansour(at)veolia.com]

**Ghiath Refai**

(BBA ’00) is a vice president in Morgan Stanley’s investment banking business in Saudi Arabia. [grefai(at)hotmail.com]

**Philippe Charles Saad**

(BAR ’00) earned a master’s degree in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2005. He lives in Boston and works at DiMella Shaffer as project designer/manager/LEED AP for higher educational clients. Saad is also a freelance photographer and researcher on early colonial influences on the Islamic world. [psaad(at)alum.mit.edu]

**Fidaa Shaheen**

(MPH ’00) is working towards her PhD in holistic nutrition at Clayton College of Natural Health in Birmingham, Alabama. [fidaa00(at)yahoo.com]

**Gaby E. Gabriel**

(BS ’01, MD ’05) is a resident in diagnostic radiology at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. He is married to Rawan A. Shoucair (BBA ’01). They live in Lexington, Kentucky. [gabyy01(at)gmail.com]

**Wissam Jean Halabi**

(BS ’01, MD ’05) is a general surgery resident at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He lives in Phoenix. [wass39(at)hotmail.com]

**Issa Abu-Dayyeh**

(BS ’02), after finishing his undergraduate work and completing one year of his master’s degree at AUB, enrolled at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where he completed his master’s and earned his PhD in microbiology and immunology in 2009. He is currently a post-doctoral researcher in tumor immunology at the Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine, Oxford University. [issab02(at)aub.edu.lb]
of Molecular Medicine at Oxford University in the UK. [uniqueissa(at)hotmail.com]

**Bruno Atieh**  
(BA '05) is project manager at the American University Center for Global Peace in Washington, DC. He received his master’s degree in development management from an American university.

**Ahmad Atwi**  
(BS '05) spent three years as a software developer for a Saudi company based in Beirut before joining Murex (Beirut) as a software engineer. Atwi has three siblings: his brother is a third-year mechanical engineering student at AUB; his youngest sister is a sophomore studying computer science. Atwi writes: "I am still single :)" [ahmadatwi23(at)gmail.com] [www.ahmadatwi.com]

**Mario Awad**

(BS '05, MS '09) is chief technical officer at TT International Group, a unique and innovative translation company based in Lebanon, and the founder of SoftKube, a startup company offering the kind of high quality software and web solutions he hopes will one day put Lebanon on the information technology grid. [mario.awad(at)softkube.com]

**Roy Boulos**  
(BBA '05) After graduation, Boulos went to Grenoble, France to pursue his master's in international business at the Grenoble School of Business. He interned at Calyon, a corporate and investment bank in Paris, and spent a year writing his thesis while working at the bank’s trade finance department. He is now at Ernst & Young, where he is a senior auditor and a senior consultant in the banking sector financial services office. [roy.boulos(at)fr.ey.com]

**Maral D. Boyadjian**

(MA '05) is an educational and clinical psychologist in Lebanon working on a doctorate from St. Louis University in Missouri. Boyadjian lectures in psychology at AUB and at Notre Dame University, runs her own clinic, and offers meditation and spirituality training. She is the author of *The Armenian Diaspora: Ethnicity and Psychological Wellbeing*. [mboyadjian(at)hotmail.com]

**Dania El-Berjawi Chaar**

(BS '05) is a clinical dietician, owner of EASY Diet Clinic, and a food inspector in the Consumer Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Trade. She previously worked for more than three years at the Clemenceau Medical Center as head clinical dietician. El-Berjawi is married and has two young boys. [queen3558(at)yahoo.com]

**Khodr El Harakeh**

(BE '05) works as the equipment support manager for Future Pipe Group in Dubai and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. [elharakeh(at)gmail.com]

**Ghada Slim**

(BS '05) With her degree in environmental health, Slim quickly found work as a health, safety, and environment (HSE) consultant at Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Middle East, a Norwegian-based life, property, and environmental risk management company. She lives in Dubai, UAE with her husband Mohammed Jomaa, who is a credit and risk manager at Obegi Chemicals. [Ghada.Slim(at)dnv.com]

**Ari Kassardjian**

(BS '05, MS '07) is pursuing his doctoral studies in molecular biophysics at Florida State University. [arikass(at)hotmail.com]

**Sara Ibrahim Khaddaj**

(BE '05, ME '07) is an instructor at AUB’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department where she is also a laboratory engineer. She writes, “Being at AUB is a real pleasure; studying as well as working in this special place makes me feel so attached to this great institution, my second home. I found it very satisfying to serve on the organizing committee for Class Reunion 2010 last summer. It was exciting to meet old friends.” [sarakhaddaj(at)hotmail.com, sk56(at)aub.edu.lb]

**Karim Masrouha**

(BS '05, MD '09) is a research assistant at the
Nour Raad
(BS '05) After earning her BS in physics, Raad was awarded an MD from the University of Balamand (Lebanon) in 2009. Her keen interest in the study of cardiac arrhythmia associated with sudden cardiac death, won her a scholarship from the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for the PhD program at the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB). She is currently a doctoral student in a collaborative program between IMPRS for Dynamics and Self-Organization and the Department of Translational and Molecular Cardiology at the Georg-August University Medical Center in Göttingen, Germany. [nour.raad(at)med.uni-goettingen.de]

Fatima Karaki
(BS '06) received her medical degree from the University of Michigan in May 2010. She is currently doing her internal medicine residency at Washington University in St. Louis. [fkaraki(at)dom.wustl.edu]

Amelia Altz-Stamm
(MA '10) After finishing her master’s in Middle Eastern studies at AUB’s Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) in June 2010, Altz-Stamm moved to Damascus where she is studying Arabic and pursuing an interest in water policy that was the focus of her master’s thesis: “Prospects for Sustainable Water Management in Lebanon: The Horse Will Reach the Water, But Will It Drink?” In her thesis, Altz-Stamm noted that although Lebanon is fairly water-rich compared to its regional neighbors, the “absence of a centralized and impartial state working for the public good has been the overriding obstacle to development in the water sector. Growth will only be forthcoming when the Lebanese state is able to achieve a political consensus to support institutional reforms that provide clear objectives and roles for all involved offices and agencies, as well as a body of adequately skilled personnel to tackle the many tasks at hand.”

Ahmad J. Naous
(former student 2006-07) joined CCC in Saudi Arabia in 2005 as a project administrator before moving to Qatar where he now lives with his family, including his son Mohamad Jamil. He would like to be in contact with his friends from AUB. [ahmadnaous422(at)hotmail.com]

Looking for old friends and classmates!

Suleiman E. Qawasmeh
(ME '05) is the business development manager at Blue Diamond Trading, an import, export, and marketing company. He and his wife Nada Sayegh have a young daughter. Qawasmeh plans to earn a doctorate in strategic management. [suleiman(at)diamond-jo.com]

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R E C E N T L Y  H O N O R E D

Zaven Messerlian

(BA ’59, MA ’64), principal of the Armenian Evangelical College of Beirut, historian, and author, was awarded the Medal of Education by Lebanese President Michel Sleiman. Messerlian received the medal from Minister of State Jean Oghassapian during a banquet held by the Armenian Evangelical College at the Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel in May. Messerlian, who has worked at the college for the last 50 years, has been the college principal for the past 43 years. He has published five books.

Eileen Hadidian

(BA ’72) Founder and artistic director of the non-profit organization Healing Muses, Hadidian was named Albany Woman of the Year for 2010 for her significant contributions assisting critically and chronically ill people in the San Francisco Bay area. Hadidian, who used soothing music played on wooden flutes and Celtic harps as part of her healing process when she had cancer, began to play at medical facilities for other cancer patients. The professional musicians of Healing Muses draw on a diverse range of music from classical, folk, and various world traditions to create a peaceful sound environment conducive to the well-being of patients and staff. [ehmuse(at)comcast.net]

AUB Trustee Rima Khalaf-Hunaidi (BA ’76) has been appointed by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as undersecretary general and executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). As assistant secretary general and director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) between 2000 and 2006, Khalaf launched pioneering projects to promote good governance, human rights, and human development in Arab states for which she received several international honors including the Prince Claus Award and the King Hussein Leadership Prize. Prior to joining the UNDP, Khalaf held many senior policy-making positions in Jordan, including minister for industry and trade (1993-95), minister for planning (1995-98), and deputy prime minister (1999-2000). She has participated in a number of international commissions including the High-Level Commission for the Modernization of the World Bank Group Governance (2008-09).

Rabi H. Mohtar

(BS ’83, MS ’85) won the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) 2010 Kishida International Award in recognition of his leadership and contributions as a teacher and researcher, and for the global impact of his work. As professor of environmental and natural resources engineering and director of the Global Engineering Program at Purdue University, Mohtar has been instrumental in developing global partnerships between several US institutions and countries such as Palestine, India, Tunisia, Jordan, Brazil, and France.

In 2009 Mohtar was invited to join the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Water that was established to address the systemic issues facing the world’s water supply through broad-scale collaborative efforts. Mohtar is a founding member of the Qatar Research Initiative and a member of the Qatari Arab Expatriate Scientific Joint Committee.

Elie El Noune

(BE ’10) has received a 2010 AES educational grant from the Audio Engineering Society (AES) Educational Foundation. El Noune, who earned an undergraduate engineering degree in electronics and computers, will pursue a master’s in music, science, and technology at Stanford University.
Henry H. Mouradian

(former student) passed away in Ticonderoga, New York in July 2010 at the age of 105. Born in Aintab, Turkey, Mouradian attended the German Elementary School and then AUB until 1920 when the family emigrated to the United States. After graduating from New York University College of Dentistry in 1929, Mouradian set up his practice in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, where he remained until 1973. He then moved to Ticonderoga until his retirement in 1985.

An avid traveler who spoke six languages, Mouradian visited 37 countries on five continents; he and his wife went on medical missions to the Dominican Republic in 1970 and Taiwan in 1975 with the Christian Medical Society. He is survived by his wife of 55 years (former student) passed away in Ticonderoga, New York in July 2010 at the age of 105. Born in Aintab, Turkey, Mouradian attended the German Elementary School and then AUB until 1920 when the family emigrated to the United States. After graduating from New York University College of Dentistry in 1929, Mouradian set up his practice in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, where he remained until 1973. He then moved to Ticonderoga until his retirement in 1985.

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A Son’s Remembrance

Fouad G. Major, AUB physics instructor 1952-55, remembers his father, George Nohra Majais, a former AUB student.

My father, George Nohra Majais, was born in Shweir, Lebanon in 1885. With sponsorship from the Sursuq family, he began a promising academic career in 1902, entering directly from school as a sophomore at the Syrian Protestant College. At the end of the year, his benefactors decided he should transfer to an agricultural college in Egypt. Unfortunately his academic career was prematurely cut short by Egyptian student riots at the British-run college. He returned to Shweir to be with his mother for the duration of World War I, which were years of utter deprivation under a harsh Turkish blockade.

Majais married Hanneh Chalhoub in 1920 and taught at a government school in Kfarhabou. In 1925 the family emigrated to New Zealand to join a sister, Helen, but returned to Lebanon because Hanneh was ill and also because of Majais’s strong attachment to Lebanon and his love of Arabic poetry. Around 1931, Majais moved the family to Amyoun where he taught. He also read and wrote Arabic poetry, becoming a local celebrity as a “Shaa’ir”—a poet.

Eventually Majais returned to New Zealand.

It is a testament to family solidarity and Majais’s inner strength that he was able to endure the manual jobs he had to take in a paint factory, a laundry, and finally in a book-binding shop. But he remained with his family in New Zealand, where his sons and daughters established their families throughout the 1940s and 1950s. In 1954 Majais suffered a massive stroke while living in Shweir; he died at the AUB Hospital (now AUBMC) in April 1954.

We Remember

Samir J. Abdul-Malik
BS ’56
Farouk W. Agha
Former student
Wadi H. Akkawi
BBA ’53
Raja Suhayl Al-Saadi
Former student
Anwar I. Aswad
BBA ’70
Yousef A. Barakat
BS ’35
Ghassan F. Baydun
BBC ’49
Antranig H. Boghossian
BA ’46
Ammar Abdul Salam Bouhairi
BE ’92
Roland A. Bustani
BA ’50
Daniel Nicholas Egan
Former student
Mounir El-Khatib
Former faculty member
Dr. Ahmad A. Fakhri
BS ’71, MD ’75
Nabil N. Ghazal
BE ’70
Fuad F. Haddad
BA ’50
Rashid Elias Haddad
BA ’49
Nadyah Hamadeh
BBA ’59
Muhammad Ahmad Hijazi
BA ’47, MD ’51
Ibrahim M. Kharma
BA ’48, MA ’53
Adib W. Kutteh
BS ’55
Joseph H. Matta
BE ’56
Said M. Mughabghab
BS ’56, MS ’59
Mamdouh I. Mughrabi
BS ’45
Adam N. Safi
BBA ’09
Ibrahim Abdur-Rahim Yamut
BBA ’47
Albert Na’man Zaynun
BA ’53
Lonely Planet lists a visit to the AUB beach as #16 of 111 things to do in Beirut and #130 of 1,021 sights in the Middle East.
Receiving multiple copies of MainGate? Save paper and let us know—we’ll send one copy to your home or business.
Contact the editor: maingate@aub.edu.lb