

Orientation for New Students September 20, 2004

Students and parents. I welcome you to AUB, to a new year, and to a family. Many of you know this university well already; all of you will know it well in the coming few years. All of you will find yourselves connected to the great AUB family of nearly 50,000 living graduates.

New students, I have hopes for you as I do for each new entering class. You are now young adults. Childhood and adolescence are now behind you. In these coming years, as never before, you will discover who you are, what you value most, and what you want to be.

The great Lebanese poet and artist, Khalil Gibran, wrote:

"If the teacher is indeed wise, he does not bid you enter the kingdom of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind."

This is a time for you to cross the threshold of your own mind. We will try to help you. We believe that education at AUB involves far more than learning in class, meeting certain standards of achievement, doing class assignments and taking exams. Indeed we believe it involves far more than awarding you a degree. It involves helping you in a voyage of self exploration and self discovery. We hope that this institution will show you our values of mutual respect, fairness in all dealings, a constant questioning of what we generally regard as true, and the right to criticize others in a responsible manner—and that includes me, the deans, and the university administration. Whether you are at the top of your class or somewhere else, when you leave here you will become citizens, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, and colleagues at some workplace. It takes a strong sense of self to be good in all those roles.

Therefore, we want you to go forth from AUB with a strong sense of your responsibility to society. We want you to share your skills, your time, and, if you become very successful, some of your resources with those less fortunate than yourself. Not all of you will receive that message or act upon it, but it is as important as anything you will learn in the classroom.

You have important responsibilities toward this university. You probably chose AUB because of its reputation. That reputation has

been built over 140 years by generations of AUBites. You must not do anything to tarnish that reputation. Indeed we are putting this university's reputation in your hands, because what you do as students and graduates will be important in setting the image of AUB in the 21st century. Are you ready for that?

I thought it might be interesting to look back a half century, to the classes of 1954 and 1955, to reflect on the achievements of a few graduates. These are the senior AUBites who are passing the torch to you.

Laila Faris Baroody (AUB' 54)

Education:

- 1954: AUB, BA, Economics

Career:

- 1977-1985: Director of Personnel and Co-Editor of English Publications, Institute for Palestinian Studies, Beirut.

Relationship with AUB:

- 1992- present: Chair, The President's Club.

You will learn a great deal during your years here about the President's Club. It has raised from its members significant sums of money to improve student life at AUB. It has air-conditioned dormitories, equipped computer labs, refurbished classrooms, provided lighting and surfacing for the tennis courts and basketball courts, and so many other projects. I hope many of you will join the President's Club when you graduate and carry on this great tradition.

Faizah Antippa (AUB'54)

Education:

- 1954: AUB, MA Education

She was a faculty member in the Department of Education at AUB for nearly thirty years rising to the rank of associate professor. She passed away in the early 1990's after serving the university and its students for all her adult life.

Khalil Mikkawi (AUB' 54)

Education:

- 1954: AUB, BA Public Administration.

Career:

Lebanon:

- 1957: Joined Foreign Ministry
- 1983–85: Member, Lebanese Security Arrangement Committee for South of Lebanon
- 2002: Co-Chair, International Support Group for Mine Clearance in Lebanon (representing Ministry of National Defence)
- 1964-67: First Secretary, Lebanese Embassy in Washington, DC
- 1990-94: Permanent Representative to UN, New York
- 1993–95: Vice-Chair, Executive Board, UNICEF

Europe:

- 1973–78: Ambassador to German Democratic Republic
- 1978–83: Ambassador to UK and Republic. of Ireland
- 1985–90: Ambassador, Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO

Relationship with AUB:

- Member, AUB Scholarship Fund Raising Committee
- Since January 2004: Chair AUB Scholarship Fund Raising Committee

Khalil Mekkawi and his colleagues are working voluntarily to help make sure that any student capable of carrying out AUB's course of study will not be turned away because of inadequate financial means.

Nour Salman (AUB' 54)

Education:

- Ph.D from St. Joseph University
- 1954: AUB, MA Arabic
- 1952: AUB, BA Arabic.

Career and Affiliations :

- Member, Board of Trustees, Lebanese University
- Chairman, Division of Arts, Lebanese University
- Vice President, International Academy for University Professors
- Member, National Committee, UNESCO
- 1995: Member, Preparatory National Committee for Women World Conference in Beijing and the follow-up commission
- President, Lebanese Child Care
- Member, Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music.
- Member, Higher Council for Children in Lebanon
- 1999: First woman to be appointed as Executive Member in the Board of Directors, National Social Security Fund

Nadim Dimechkie (AUB' 55)

Education:

- 1940: AUB, BA Economics
- 1955: AUB, MA Economics

Career:

- 1940-41: Teaching in a government school in Basra / Iraq
- ***Diplomatic Career:***
- 1977-1978: Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, London , UK
- 1966-1978: Ambassador to the Court of St. James, London, UK
- 1963-66: Director of Economic and Social Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beirut.
- 1958-1962: Ambassador to the United States, Washington DC.
- 1955- 1957: Minister Plenipotentiary to Switzerland and Czechoslovakia, Bern, Switzerland.
- 1952-55: Minister in charge of the Lebanese Embassy, Cairo

Relationship with AUB:

- Donor of substantial sums to the university
- 2004: Member, AUB Scholarship Fund Raising Committee
- 2000- 2003: Chairman, Scholarship Fund Raising Committee
- 1994-1999: Chairman, AUB College Hall Fund Raising Committee

Majid al Jishi (AUB' 55)

Education:

- 1955: AUB, BE Civil Engineering.

Career:

Current:

- Minister of State and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bahrain
- Chairman, BFG International

Past:

- 1968-70: Director of Public Works, Abu Dhabi
- 1970-73: Director of Planning, Ministry of Development & Engineering Services, Bahrain
- 1973-75: Undersecretary, Ministry of Development & Engineering Services, Bahrain
- 1975-1994: Minister of Works, Power and Water
- 1974-1978: Chairman of the Board, Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard, Bahrain
- 1995: Minister of Electricity and Water

Affiliations:

- Member, Board of Trustees, Bahrain University
- Member, Bahrain Supreme Council for Petroleum

Relationship with AUB:

- Donor
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Charles W. Hostler (AUB'55)

Education:

- 1956: Georgetown University, PhD.
- 1955: AUB, MA Arab and Middle East Studies

Career:

- 1993: President, Hostler Investment Company, established in 1969
- 1989 – 1993: Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of USA to the State of Bahrain
- 1963 – 1969 : Director of International Operations (Middle East & North Africa), McDonnell Douglas Corporation
- 1958-1961: US Military Attaché, US Embassy, Lebanon

Relationship with AUB:

- 1993 - Present: Member of the International Advisory Council (AUB)
- Donor: \$1,754,000 to the Charles Hostler Student Center- Pledged \$11.7 million gift for the Charles Hostler Memorial Student Center

You will be the first students to benefit from the extraordinary generosity of Charles Hostler. Those pounding hammers that you hear on the lower campus are excavating the foundations of the Hostler Student Center which will provide AUB with state-of-the-art student recreational facilities—with indoor swimming, basketball, squash, health fitness, meeting rooms, and a 300 seat theatre.

Mary Najarian (AUB '55)

Education:

- 1955: RN, AUB

Alumnus Mary Najarian has spent much of the last twenty years working day and night to improve medical care in Armenia. Mary Najarian's humanitarian activities in Armenia began in 1984, while the country was still under the heavy yoke of the former Soviet Union and entry was close to impossible for foreigners. Just one year after that visit, she and her husband, Vartkes Najarian (MD '57) founded Medical Outreach for Armenians, which since then has raised, donated, and transported over 46 million dollars worth of medical and surgical supplies to Armenia and Karabagh. . . My nursing education at AUB

was a huge help in my relief efforts. As a nurse, I worked side by side with my husband. I would check supplies while in the field and find out what is needed,' she said, reflecting on her education. 'The training at AUB was and is still superior to anything I have seen, especially in surgical nursing.' *(Excerpt from a recent article in MainGate)*

Barbara Turlington

Education:

1955: BA, AUB

Professional History/Affiliations:

- Since 1984: Director, Office of International Education, American Council on Education
- Executive assistant to the president, Association of American Universities, Washington, D.C.
- 1976-78: Dean of Hampshire College
- 1969-76: Assistant, then Associate Dean,
- Since 1986: Member, Board of Directors (ACE representative), Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, Washington

Herant Aram Katchadourian

Education:

- 1954: BA, AUB
- 1958: MD, AUB

Professional History/Affiliations:

1958: Intern, American University of Beirut Hospital, He then joined the Stanford University faculty in 1966; was professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences in 1976 and professor of education (by courtesy) in 1986. He served as dean of undergraduate studies and vice- provost for undergraduate education, and was the university's first ombudsman, when that post was created in 1970. In 1972, Dr. Katchadourian introduced at Stanford the "Human Sexuality" course, which, over the years, attracted more than 15,000 students. Now retired from Stanford.

Other Affiliations:

- Trustee, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, established by the co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, this foundation is one of the largest in the world (eighth largest in the US with \$5 billion in assets).
- Trustee, American University of Beirut, elected 2001
- Contributor to AUB since 1957

- Former Trustee - Haigazian College

All these graduates of a half century ago got the message. All of them have succeeded in their professional lives, but, as important they all gave back to society and to AUB. When the torch was passed to them, they were ready to take it. In a few years, it will be your turn.

I don't think the faculty and administration of AUB are naive. We know the great pressures you will feel as students to succeed in the narrow sense, to get good grades, a high average, and maybe go on to graduate school. We know the competition is tough and the temptations to gain an unfair advantage over other students are great. But no matter how understanding we may be in a general sense, we will not tolerate cheating and plagiarism. I am sure most of you know what cheating is, but you may not be sure what plagiarism is. It is stealing the written or creative work of someone else without acknowledgement. You will hear a lot about this in coming weeks. There will always be cheating and plagiarism, just as there is always theft of other kinds, but we will make life very unhappy for anyone we catch engaging in it.

And, it is not worth it even if you are not caught. Ask yourself again why you are at AUB. Most probably, as I said earlier, it has to do with the university's reputation. Our degrees and those who bear them are respected and sought after in the market place. What will happen to that reputation and to the credibility of those degrees if, in the market place, it is perceived that AUB students get their degrees through cheating, that they really do not have good skills in medicine, or civil engineering, or history or computer science? Last year we suspended a number of students in the School of Business for cheating. They had purchased at very high prices stolen copies of an exam. Dear students, you cannot buy an AUB education, you have to earn it. Would you like to undergo surgery at the hands of a physician who cheated on an anatomy exam?

So, the torch is burning, and it will soon be your turn to carry it. Your future and the reputation of the university are locked together. You need us and we need you. That is the way it should be. Good luck to you all.