

You and your forebears are those that kept the faith, whose appreciation of AUB's educational role remained strong and whose determination that it must survive and thrive has never wavered.

Fadlo R. Khuri *AUB President*

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is a private, independent, co-educational, and non-sectarian institution of higher learning in Beirut, Lebanon. A teaching-centered research university, AUB bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. The university encourages freedom of thought and expression and seeks to graduate men and women committed to creative and critical thinking, lifelong learning, personal integrity, civic responsibility, and leadership.

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CELEBRATING LOYALTY



## Established in 1866

The American University of Beirut traces its roots back to 1862. That was the year that American missionaries in Lebanon and Syria, under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, asked AUB founder Dr. Daniel Bliss to withdraw from the evangelistic work of the mission to establish a college of higher learning that would include medical training. Bliss spent the next four years in the United States and England raising the money that was needed. He returned to Beirut in March 1866. It was also in 1866, on December 3rd to be exact, that the Syrian Protestant College, which was renamed the American University of Beirut in 1920, opened its doors for the first time.

In his farewell address in 1902, Bliss hailed the first donors who made it possible for he and others to establish the college: "All praise to the first trustees of the college and to the first donors for they walked by faith. There was nothing in sight to stimulate their benevolence. There was no assurance that their donations would be useful. They only knew that Syria and the East needed an education equal to the best, and therefore they gave and gave freely."

Many of those early donors were especially generous benefactors who gave not just freely, but also repeatedly. It was their consistent support and that of generations of men and women since then that have enabled AUB to grow to the singular institution it is today. The 1866 Society was established to recognize and celebrate these extraordinary patrons of AUB. Consistent donors contribute to AUB's stability and longevity. They embody the loyalty that AUB inspires and our importance in the region. They demonstrate with their consistent support that they believe in AUB's mission, and the values it promotes.

## The 1866 Society

AUB established the 1866 Society in 2014 to recognize the men and women who consistently support the university. It is named for the year that AUB was founded and honors donors who have made a gift to AUB of any amount in at least seven of the last 10 years.

AUB continues to rely on the consistent support of its worldwide community of alumni and friends. They provide invaluable support for AUB's mission to "provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond." The members of AUB's 1866 Society help fund scholarships for our students. They also support our efforts to recruit and retain top faculty, strengthen and expand cultural life on campus, improve and upgrade our classrooms and laboratories, and for our Medical Center.



## Membership levels

AUB recognizes the generosity of 1866 Society members by offering four levels of recognition. Members receive pins to recognize their level of commitment:



**Bronze**  
7–9 years of support



**Silver**  
10–14 years of support



**Gold**  
15–20 years of support



**Platinum**  
More than 21 years of support

We invite you to become a member of the 1866 Society.