

AUB Founder Daniel Bliss

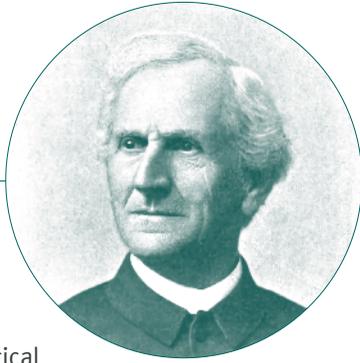
Daniel Bliss was born in 1823 in Georgia, Vermont. He graduated from Amherst College in 1852

and the Andover Theological Seminary in 1855. Shortly after he was ordained into the Congregational ministry, he was appointed to Syria by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Bliss and his wife, Abby Wood left Boston in December 1855. They arrived in Beirut in February 1856. They spent six years as missionaries in Abey, just north of Aley, and then at Suq al-Gharb.

In 1862, American missionaries in Lebanon and Syria, under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, asked Bliss to establish a college of higher learning that would include medical training. Bliss travelled to the United States in the summer of 1862 to raise the money that was needed to establish the college. He proved to be a skilled fundraiser securing \$100,000 by August 1864. Because of inflation, it was decided that the \$100,000 should be left to appreciate and Bliss should raise a sterling fund in England. After raising £4,000 in England, he returned to Beirut in March 1866. The Syrian Protestant College, which was renamed the American University of Beirut in 1920, opened its doors less than a year later: on December 3, 1866.

Bliss was the first president of the college and one of seven members of the original faculty. He retired in 1902 shortly before his 81st birthday. Bliss died in 1916. He and his wife, who died in 1915, are buried in the Anglo-American Cemetery in Beirut.

Looking back many years later on the early years of the college, Bliss wrote, "We were not anxious to appear great, but we were anxious to lay foundations on which greatness could be built." Under the leadership of AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri, who was appointed in 2015, and with the generous support of its worldwide community of alumni and friends, AUB is continuing to lay foundations on which greatness can be built.



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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The Daniel Bliss Society



Daniel Bliss Society

AUB established the Daniel Bliss Society (DBS) in 1986 to recognize the men and women who support the university with what founding DBS Chairman David S. Dodge described as “the same kind of vision, generosity, and commitment” that inspired AUB founder Daniel Bliss. Although he was a visionary who worked tirelessly on behalf of the institution that would become the American University of Beirut, Bliss would not have succeeded without the philanthropy of others. As he said himself, “Money does not make a college, but no college exists without money from somewhere.”

AUB continues to rely on the generosity of its worldwide community of alumni and friends. Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to AUB’s annual fund become members of the Daniel Bliss Society. 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.”

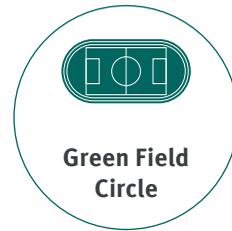
The members of AUB’s Daniel Bliss Society help fund scholarships for our students. They also support our efforts to recruit and retain top faculty, strengthen and expand cultural life on campus, improve and upgrade our classrooms and laboratories, and for our Medical Center.

AUB recognizes the generosity of Daniel Bliss Society members by offering six levels of membership with associated benefits, including a special category of membership for AUB alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years.

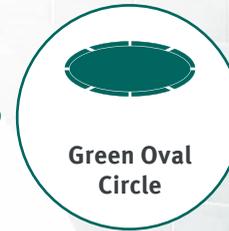
We invite you to join the AUB family and become a member of the Daniel Bliss Society.

Membership Circles

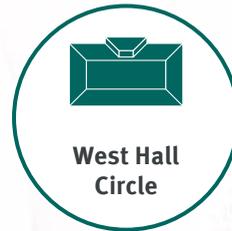
AUB is pleased to recognize the generosity of Daniel Bliss Society members by offering five levels of membership:



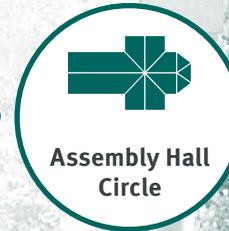
\$1,000 - \$4,999



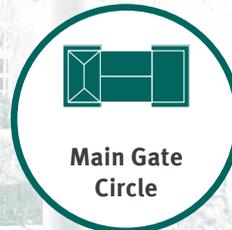
\$5,000 - \$9,999



\$10,000 - \$24,999



\$25,000-\$49,999



\$50,000+

Youth Leadership Membership

To encourage recent graduates to join the Daniel Bliss Society, AUB has established special categories of membership for AUB alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years. If you make a Youth Leadership gift, you will automatically qualify for membership in the Green Field Circle. The exact amount of the qualifying Youth Leadership gift varies depending on the year of graduation:

- within five years of graduation: \$150
- between six and 10 years of graduation: \$300

Recent graduates who contribute \$1,000 or more annually qualify for membership in the Green Field, Green Oval, West Hall, Assembly Hall, or Main Gate Circles as detailed above.