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**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM**  
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**OPENING**

- DR. (PHILIP) KOURY...PRESIDENT (PETER) DORMAN...PROVOST  
(AHMAD) DALLAL...
  
- THANK YOU FOR TWO GREAT HONORS TODAY...
  
- FIRST, THE HONORARY DEGREE YOU HAVE BESTOWED UPON ME,  
WHICH I WILL ALWAYS TREASURE...
  
- AND SECONDLY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS  
WITH THESE BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC GRADUATE STUDENTS JUST  
AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD.

## **A-U-B**

- GRADUATES...FIRST, I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR CHOICE OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT.
  
- DUE TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION, POLITICS AND BUSINESS ARE BEING RE-DEFINED WORLD-WIDE.
  
- MANY OF THE OLD RULES NO LONGER APPLY.
  
- I BELIEVE A-U-B HAS EVERY CAPABILITY AND RESOURCE TO PREPARE YOU TO ADAPT TO THESE CHANGES...AND TO LEAD AND SUCCEED...IN TODAY'S WORLD.
  
- A-U-B IS ALSO UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO BE A GREAT BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AT THIS HISTORIC MOMENT.

- FOR THESE REASONS, YOUR CHOICE TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL AT A-U-B WAS A GREAT DECISION.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

- AS I LOOK AT YOU -- WITH YOUR YOUTHFUL ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT TO TAKE ON THE WORLD -- I AM REMINDED OF MYSELF AT YOUR AGE AT THIS GREAT INSTITUTION.
- I OWE SO MUCH TO OUR ALMA MATER FOR WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN BOTH SCIENCE AND BUSINESS...
- ...BUT I'M GLAD I CAME ALONG WHEN I DID...BECAUSE I'M NOT SO SURE I WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH YOU TODAY!
- YOU HAVE WORKED HARD AND DEDICATED YOURSELF TO LEARNING...BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL YOU'VE LEARNED IS HOW TO LEARN...

- ...BECAUSE FROM DAY ONE YOU WILL BE ADAPTING TO A FAST-PACED AND EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

## **COMPETITION**

- AS YOU STEP OUT INTO THIS RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND A RELATIVELY RECENT PHENOMENON THAT'S OCCURRED WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS...
- ...THE RAPID GROWTH OF HIGHLY EDUCATED TALENT FROM THE FAR EAST – INCLUDING CHINA AND INDIA, TWO COUNTRIES WITH A COMBINED POPULATION OF 2.5 BILLION PEOPLE.
- THESE COUNTRIES PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON EDUCATION...

- ...AND THEY ARE PRODUCING A LARGE AND GROWING NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE INTELLIGENT, EXTREMELY WELL-TRAINED, AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED.
  
- ...AND THESE STUDENTS HAVE RAPIDLY PROVEN AN ABILITY TO SUCCEED IN THE WESTERN WORLD, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.
  
- WHICHEVER CAREER YOU CHOOSE – WHETHER IT’S A PROFESSIONAL CAREER, CREATING A NEW ENTERPRISE, OR RUNNING THE FAMILY BUSINESS – YOU’LL BE COMPETING WITH THIS NEW POOL OF TALENT.
  
- WHILE THIS MAY SEEM BE DAUNTING, THIS ALSO CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU...AND FOR THE WORLD.

- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE BEST MINDS – REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY OR LOCATION – WILL BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.

### **PERSONAL HABITS**

- HOW CAN YOU PREPARE TO COMPETE IN A WORLD THAT IS BOTH MORE COMPETITIVE THAN EVER, AND AT THE SAME TIME FILLED WITH ENDLESS OPPORTUNITES?

### **HARD WORK**

- THERE IS CERTAINLY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK...PUTTING IN THE FOCUSED TIME TO LEARN AND SUCCEED.

### **LEARNING**

- CONTINUING TO LEARN IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT...

- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DEDICATE TIME EVERY DAY TO  
BECOMING MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT YOUR SPECIALTY...
- ...BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO SPEND TIME LEARNING ABOUT THE  
WORLD AT LARGE...AND AREAS OUTSIDE YOUR EXPERTISE...
- ...SO YOU CAN CONNECT THE DOTS OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO  
EVEN LARGER ISSUES AND POSSIBILITIES.

### **QUALITY PEOPLE**

- ANOTHER BIT OF ADVICE I'D LIKE TO PASS ALONG...
- IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH QUALITY  
PEOPLE – PEOPLE YOU ENJOY...PEOPLE YOU CAN LEARN FROM...AND  
PEOPLE YOU CAN HELP.

■ WE'VE ALL HAD MENTORS...PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN YOU...PEOPLE WHO'VE WANTED TO HELP YOU AND TEACH YOU...

■ NONE OF US WOULD BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY WITHOUT OUR MENTORS.

■ IT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE A MENTOR TO THOSE COMING ALONG BEHIND YOU...

■ THOSE RELATIONSHIPS – BOTH AS PROTÉGÉ AND MENTOR -- WILL BE AMONG THE MOST REWARDING YOU'LL EVER HAVE.

## **BALANCE**

■ NEXT, I'D LIKE TO MENTION THE IMPORTANCE OF A BALANCED LIFE.



- AS BUSY AS YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN AS A GRAD STUDENT – ONE THING I CAN GUARANTEE YOU: IT WILL ONLY GET BUSIER AND MORE CHALLENGING.
  
- AND AS LIFE GETS BUSIER AND MORE COMPLICATED, THE QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW YOU BALANCE YOUR MANY PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
  
- FINDING THAT BALANCE WILL COME DOWN LARGELY TO HOW YOU SCHEDULE YOUR TIME.
  
- OBVIOUSLY, YOUR CAREER WILL BE A HIGH PRIORITY.
  
- ...BUT SO MUST YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS...AND SPORTS AND HOBBIES.

- IT'S THESE HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS...AND PURSUITS AND INTERESTS...THAT MAKE US INTERESTED AND INTERESTING.
- THIS BALANCE WILL HELP YOU BE A FULL PARTICIPANT IN LIFE...AND ALSO ENJOY LIFE TO ITS FULLEST.

### **ONE STEP AT A TIME**

- I'D LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE LAST THOUGHT...
- YOU ARE ALL BRIGHT...AND YOU ARE IN A HURRY TO SUCCEED...
- ...I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS ONCE SITTING WHERE YOU ARE...
- ...I WAS AMBITIOUS, AND USED TO TRY TO TAKE TWO STEPS UP THE LADDER AT A TIME...

- ...BUT THAT HAS ITS HAZARDS...IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK OUT SO WELL.
  
- SO TAKE YOUR TIME...CONSIDER ALL THE RISKS BEFORE YOU MAKE MOVES...
  
- MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SEVERAL SMALLER, LESS RISKY STEPS WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN...
  
- ...THAN ONE MORE RISKY STEP THAT MAY BE TOO LARGE FOR YOU AT ONE TIME, AND MAY CAUSE YOU A MAJOR SETBACK.
  
- ...SO BE THOUGHTFUL, AND UNDERSTAND ALL THE RISKS AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE REWARDS BEFORE YOU MAKE A MOVE.
  
- AND WHEN YOU LEARN TO HARNESS THE POWER OF YOUR FEARS, IT CAN TAKE YOU PLACES BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

## **CLOSING**

- IN CLOSING, I'D LIKE TO AGAIN CONGRATULATE YOU ON WHAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED.
  
- IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE GRADUATING FROM A-U-B.
  
- WORK HARD...SPEND YOUR TIME WISELY...SURROUND YOURSELF WITH QUALITY PEOPLE...LEAD A BALANCED LIFE...AND BE THOUGHTFUL BEFORE MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS.
  
- I'M EXCITED FOR YOU.
  
- I WISH I WERE IN YOUR SHOES AND STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN!