

Honorary Doctorates Ceremony and Commencement Exercises Welcome Address
Fadlo R. Khuri
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HONORARY DOCTORATE AND GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY – JUNE 8, 2018

STUDENT SPEAKER INTRO

Our graduate student speaker for this year is Grace Al Hakim.

Grace has been an exemplary registered nurse at AUBMC's Emergency Department since 2011; she is also a clinical educator, nurse mentor, and nurse preceptor—all while completing her master of science in nursing, with a focus on adult care. Before that, she received her BS in nursing at AUB and did her clinical residency at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland.

Grace is the recipient of the Physician's Award for best Emergency Department registered nurse and the Alexandra Jureidini Award for academic achievement, professional integrity, and contribution to professional and university life. She is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and was on the dean's honor list throughout her undergraduate years.

HONORARY DEGREES

I now have the great pleasure to confer the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters—AUB's highest honor—on five exceptional individuals.

They have been selected in recognition of their outstanding contributions—as artists, healers, scholars, scientists, and leaders.

The American poet Muriel Strode once wrote: "I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail."

These five personalities we honor today have each chosen to blaze their own trail and in so doing they inspire us to be bold in our aspirations and resolute in our actions.

Through their leadership, innovation, and creativity these distinguished individuals contribute daily to realizing a more humane, inclusive, and educated global society.

As we welcome them to the AUB family of honorary degree recipients, we hold them up as paragons of engaged citizenship who exemplify our belief in the power of knowledge, insight, and discovery to advance the public good.

I would like to invite France's preeminent star of stage and screen, the indefinable artist, Isabelle Yasmina Adjani to the rostrum.

Isabelle Yasmina Adjani: Artist extraordinaire, inspiration for millions.

You have engrafted into our minds the permanent memories of both historic figures and small ones. From *Possession* to *La Reine Margot*, from *The Story of Adèle H.* to *Camille Claudel*, from *L'été Meurtrier* to *La Journée de la Jupe*, and beyond, you have brought your mesmerizing magic, your unmatched intensity to our lives through your absolute commitment to the art, the reality of what suffering means for purpose.

As the most acclaimed French actress of all time, the only performer in history to have won five César awards, the recipient of multiple film awards and Oscar nominations, you have championed the art of acting as a profession of faith in mankind.

No one can doubt the transformative caliber of your living witness. No one who has ever seen you perform, on the stage or on the screen, who has been transported to you to another time, or to no time, can ever doubt the sincerity and enduring power of your singular artistry.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **ISABELLE ADJANI**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

May I ask Bahrain and the Arab Gulf's pre-eminent medical and educational legislator, Dr. Ali Fakhro, to please step forward.

Ali Fakhro: AUB two-time alumnus, physician, writer, political scholar, governmental leader, inspirational speaker, extraordinary proponent of equality and fairness, and visionary in bringing innovative thinking to the education system. You were and you continue to be our partner; we too insist that all children and youth deserve access to quality education. The future of the region can afford no less.

You have championed inclusivity, the value of education, the universality of health. You have been a remarkable proponent of transparency, good government, Arab unity, and democracy in these Arab lands. You have honorably represented your country as ambassador and your region as a dedicated advisor to the world's most prominent organizations. You have championed Arab nationalism as an inclusive, merciful, and enduring cultural, economic, and educational bond between 400 million people.

The Arab world and your alma mater owe you a great debt for your championship of national independence, of inclusiveness, of human rights, and of cultural vibrancy.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY

CONFER UPON YOU, **ALI FAKHRO**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

May I ask Howard Koh—the world renowned public health expert and policy leader, and the longest consecutively serving Assistant Secretary for Health in the 242-year history of the United States of America—to please step forward.

Howard Koh: Physician of extraordinary accomplishment, diversity and ability, leader, mentor, innovator, champion of human dignity, initiator and executor of health equity, and advocate for the power of engagement and of prevention in improving health for individual and society alike.

Since your graduation as a young man from Yale University—from college and medical school—you have embodied all that it means to be a servant leader of the people, with a natural humility that has attempted but not succeeded in shielding your natural brilliance, and has only augmented your devotion to the service of those less fortunate.

Over the course of decades, you have inspired millions as a teacher, physician, legislator, and actualizer of programs and projects of great national and international consequence.

Now, as a professor at Harvard University, you continue to lead through openness into all new forms of health advocacy, both within the United States and beyond.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **HOWARD KOH**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

May I ask the most distinguished woman Arab banker of the last quarter century and the president of the London School of Economics, Dame Nemat Shafik, to step forward.

Nemat Shafik: First-ever deputy governor of the Bank of England, nicknamed the “sheriff of the markets” and long considered the most powerful woman in London (including Theresa May!).

You are now the first woman director of the London School of Economics and the future with you at its helm is boundless for this great seat of learning.

Award-winning economist, erudite scholar, author, and internationally respected and even revered international leader in improving the lots of developing nations, you have shattered the glass ceiling, and pioneered the way forward for generations of businesswomen and leaders everywhere.

You have received many awards as a global citizen-leader, with a combination of humility and a richly earned reputation for fairness and courage in some of the most difficult fields, such as emerging markets, international development, and the financing of fragile states.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **NEMAT SHAFIK**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

Last, but far from least, may I please ask George Helou—president of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences, astrophysicist *extraordinaire*, and today’s commencement speaker—to please step forward.

George Helou: Son of AUB and of Lebanon, pioneer of knowledge about galaxies and star formation, discoverer of far-off worlds, and author of our insight into an evolving universe through your trailblazing work at Caltech and IPAC, through NASA, and beyond.

You return to the place where your academic voyage started, having advanced a culture of scientific learning both in your home nation and your adopted country. You, a star of stars, have literally transported mankind through black holes and to the very stars themselves.

Since your graduation from AUB in 1975 you, yourself, have undertaken an extraordinary journey. You have taken your wisdom and your knowledge through the iron forge of the most rigorous scientific principles, through the crucible that asks the most difficult of questions, the most challenging of quandaries, and you have taken the people of this planet with you.

Who better than you to address the faculty, students, and graduates of your first alma mater, on the eve of AUB’s long sought-after restoration of tenure?

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **GEORGE HELOU**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

May I please ask Dr. Helou to address the graduating class of 2018.

UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY – JUNE 9, 2018

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS – TALA AL SALEH and JOSEPH MATAR

And now it is my distinct pleasure to introduce the two student speakers for this commencement.

The first is Tala Al Saleh, a candidate for the degree of bachelor of science in physics with high distinction.

Tala has excelled during her undergraduate years, reaching the dean's honor list since her first semester at AUB and achieving the fifth-highest GPA in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences this past fall. She credits her time in the Physics Department for teaching her how to work independently and solve real-life problems. A pre-med student, Tala also worked with Dr. Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan as part of the Medical Research Volunteering Program, where she obtained certification on medical ethics and confidentiality.

Our second student speaker is Joseph Matar, a candidate for the degree of bachelor of engineering with high distinction, majoring in mechanical engineering, with a minor in economics.

Joseph is the epitome of a scholar-athlete and an engaged student citizen. In high school, he was captain of the basketball team and graduated as valedictorian of his class. Joseph continued on this path at AUB, playing on the varsity basketball team, all while maintaining an exceptional GPA and landing on the dean's honors list every semester. Joseph came to us as a recipient of the Malcolm Kerr Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded based on "academic excellence, promise of success, and high motivation," attributes which have been evident throughout Joseph's tenure at AUB, as a leader in several student clubs and as an elected representative on the USFC.

INTRODUCTION OF HOWARD KOH – UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY ADDRESS

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker and one of the recipients of this year's honorary doctoral degrees, Howard Koh.

Dr. Koh is a world-renowned public health expert and policy leader, a physician with board certifications in four medical fields, and an inspirational speaker who lectures widely on leadership and health.

He is also a committed public servant who was the longest consecutively serving US assistant secretary of health in the history of the American republic and commissioner of health for the state of Massachusetts.

Throughout his multifaceted career—as an educator, medical doctor, and government leader—he has remained passionate about raising the health standards of all people and preparing the next generation to lead with compassion.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Howard Koh.