

Honorary Doctorates Ceremony Acceptance Speech

George Helou

June 8, 2018

Dear Chairman Khoury, Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,
Dear President Khuri,
Dear Members of the Faculty,

Thank you for this honor. I am profoundly moved, as I recognize that this award represents a rare and exceptional gesture by the AUB community and its Trustees. I am flattered to be in the company of the greatly accomplished recipients of this honor today and in the past.

It is my great pleasure to accept this degree and participate in these Commencement festivities. This occasion is especially meaningful to me because I missed graduation exercises after completing my degrees at AUB in 1975. I also missed commencement upon completing my PhD at Cornell University. So after sitting through many commencements at Caltech among the faculty, this is my first time on the receiving end of this marvelous academic ritual.

Over the past twenty years, I have watched with admiration this wonderful institution achieve a remarkable recovery and then thrive well beyond recovery into a leading position among universities in this part of the world. More than ever, AUB today offers global value as an oasis of vigorous academic pursuits and of intellectual exchange between many cultures and traditions.

I have always been a proud AUB alum. After today's generous award of the Doctorate Honoris Causa, I will be a doubly proud AUB alum.

Thank you.