

**Honorary Doctorates Ceremony Acceptance Speech**  
**Reeta Roy**  
**May 31, 2019**

What an incredible honor it is to join the ranks of degree holders from the American University of Beirut. It is only sweeter coming from President Fadlo Khuri, a leader with vision and a friend.

This university sits at a global crossroads, between the Levant and Mediterranean, between Africa, Europe, and Southwest Asia, between the glory of the ancient world and our hopes for a future of greater wisdom and greater peace. That's a legacy to honor, and one I know AUB will live up to.

I am thrilled to be recognized today. But you at AUB are the ones in whom we are placing our hopes. I believe there is no more consequential question for the twenty first century than how to enable young people to create meaningful and dignified work, which will transform our world. I hope you will be partners in that endeavor – lifting up not only yourselves, but your entire communities.

Class of 2019, I will cherish this connection with you for a lifetime. What I will cherish even more are all the wonders, the great and the good, that an AUB education helps you bring into the world.