

HSON GRADUATE and UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

June 18, 2020

Assembly Hall

Yousra El Zahabi

Student Speaker speech

Dear President Khuri, Esteemed Faculty and Fellow Graduating Students,

It is a great honor for me to speak on behalf of my fellow students on this special occasion

Do you remember the first time we gathered here? (in assembly hall). It was our sophomore year orientation. Little did we expect the surprises awaiting us in the years to come, especially this senior year: a revolution, an economic crisis, and a global pandemic that put the whole world on pause!

A lot of uncertainty accompanied us, along with extensive, and I stress the word 'extensive', discussions among ourselves and with faculty members to plan our return to clinicals and graduation on time. Thanks to our president, dean and faculty.

On the brighter side, these events led us to come closer together, especially those who lived in the dorms during the last month. Yes, we made sacrifices! Some of us were away from home, a new experience of living independently and it helped us grow

Reflecting back on the revolution, some of us struggled to balance between going to Martyr's square to fight for people's rights, and going to classes to complete the year.

But we made it through all these challenges, to be graduating now in the WHO year of the nurse and the midwife, 2020! When now, more than ever, nurses, are celebrated as essential and irreplaceable members of the healthcare team. And here comes the importance of highlighting our role! As nursing students, we have witnessed many challenges during our studies yet at the same time we saw how the recognition of nurses by world communities which evolved recently, describing Nurses are patient advocates, scientists, and change makers.

We came to AUB to become the best nurses, and here we are proud nursing graduates, ready to join the frontline heroes! AUB, Rafic Hariri School of nursing graduates heroes

And for that, I would like to thank you. You mentored us to be the proud graduates we are now. Thank you, President Fadlo Khoury, Dean Farhood, Faculty and staff for your extraordinary efforts to continue our studies and clinicals against all odds.

And a big thank you goes to those who support us during all steps in our lives, our parents and families. It is unfortunate that you are not physically here with us today, a moment you probably waited and worked so hard for. Still we are happy that you can see us live through social media! Our achievements are yours, and we are forever grateful for everything you do.

اهلنا وعيلنا, كنا منتمنا تكونوا معنا اليوم, بس الظروف ما بتسمح. بس علاقل انتم معنا على وسائل التواصل الإجتماعي. الشكر الكبير الكن, بتدعمونا بكل مراحل حياتنا. تعبتوا معنا هال ٣ سنين, و في

منكن، من شمال لبنان لجنوبو، او حتى برات لبنان، كانوا ولادكن بعاد عنكن معظم الايام. بس هلق، انتو أكيد فخورين بحالكن وفيون عكل شي عملوه، وحيعملوه

Dear 2020 Nursing graduates, graduating amidst all what is happening around us was a challenge; but we did it! Each one of us has unique skills and characteristics. Let's embrace them, and use them to advance patient care and the healthcare system in Lebanon. Now, we will probably go on different paths in life. But always remember nurses make a difference in the lives of people each and every day. So let us go and fulfill our mission and that you may all "have life and have it more abundantly"