

**Commencement Exercises 2015**  
**May 30, 2015**

Issam Chmaitilly  
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Honored members of the Board of Trustees, President Dorman, President-elect Khuri, Esteemed Deans, distinguished faculty, families, and fellow graduates, good evening. My name is Issam Chmaitilly and I represent one of the many voices of this graduating Class of 2015.

As I look across the green field, on this glorious day, I can see our parents' radiant smiles as their eyes fill with tears of pride and joy. Our parents have been there for us since day one, and were it not for their hard work and devotion, none of us would be sitting here today. So, on the behalf of the class of 2015, I would like to thank each and every one of you.

I still find it hard to believe that our days at the American University of Beirut have come to an end. A bit less than four years ago, I got out of a car, carried my bags and headed towards the dorm's reception desk. I signed in, got my keys and went up to my assigned room. As I opened the door of the room, I felt that my AUB journey had begun. Little did I know that the next four years would sum up to be a blissful experience which I will never forget.

AUB offers the highest level of education any student might attain in the region. It also provides its students with a space of self-expression as we have witnessed a significant amount of social and cultural activism on campus.

I still remember most of the several classes that I attended all across campus, and the couple of those that I skipped. I will miss the many overnights spent in Jafet library preparing for my final exams, the countless hours spent in Bechtel, and our relentless quarrels at main discussing many topics which ranged from philosophy to economy and politics. Some things that should not be left unmentioned are the various activities offered by AUB, in which I took part of, such as the election of student representatives, the AUB Rally Paper, AUB outdoors, and the CES camp to name a few.

AUB has allowed me to grow, not only on an intellectual level, but certainly on a social and cultural scale. It has made me realize that we, the youth, should honor ourselves and our work. We should never let anyone trace our decisions or dictate our life. We have succeeded in our educational journey. And now, our life-long journey of hard-work, perseverance and determination awaits us. We will not let failure define us or our future, but we shall always rise and strive for victory and triumph. With passion, courage of conviction and self-worth we take our next step into the world.

Tonight we assure what is stated in our Alma mater, "AUB in thee we glory", as we celebrate our graduation, proud of the success we've achieved and knowing that the best is yet to come. Class of 2015, it gives me great honor to stand here before you all, and finally say, we made it: congratulations

## أيها الحفل الكريم،

يشرفني ان أكون خطيباً بينكم في هذه المناسبة العظيمة، ممثلاً خريجي الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت لهذه السنة. يشرفني أن أكون خطيباً بينكم بحضور والدي العزيزين. أمي، أبي، أنتما فخري واعتزازي: عماد نجاحي.

ها نحن اليوم، وبعد طول إنتظار نتخرج من أعرق جامعة في الشرق الأوسط. وما كنا لنصبح ما نحن عليه في هذه الليلة لو لا اساتذتنا الكرام الذين نتوجه إليهم بأحر الشكر والإخلاص.

أما بعد، ومن هذا الصرح الأكاديمي العريق، نؤكد وعن سابق تجربة بأن هذه الجامعة بالإضافة إلى كونها بيت معرفة، هي مدرسة ريادة. فنرى بأن السنوات التي عشناها في هذا الحرم قد نحتت شخصياتنا لتصبح عمل فني من الدرجة الأولى، فنرى بأن الشباب لم يفشل بتأدية واجبه الحراكي على صعيد الوطن والجامعة.

في السنين التي مرت، لبي الطلاب عامةً، وطلاب الأميركية خاصةً نداء المجتمع. فنزلوا إلى الساحات وتظاهروا واثبتوا عن عزم وإصرار بالمضي قدماً بالبلد والجامعة نحو الأفضل. خلال العقد الماضي رفض طلاب الجامعة الأميركية الظلم، فاحتجوا و اضربوا عدة مرات و بعدة أساليب رفضاً لسياساتٍ، داخليةً كانت أم خارجية، راؤها على أنها غير محقة. و من هنا، ادعوكم إلى الإستمرار بالنهج الذي اتبعناه في جامعتنا. يتوجب علينا نحن، الشباب المثقف، خيرة مجتمعنا، أن نؤكد على اننا على مقدار المسؤولية وأن نمضي قدماً بإتجاه أحلامنا ورؤيتنا للبنان و الأمة العربية والعالم. فكما قال الرئيس الشهيد رفيق الحريري، "الشباب لا يجوز أن ييأس وممنوع عليه اليأس، لأن الشباب هو المستقبل وأنتم مستقبل لبنان."

عشتم وعاشت الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت