

For Immediate Release



AUB mourns Angela Jurdak Khoury

Beirut, Lebanon- 30/05/2011 - The American University of Beirut (AUB) wishes to express its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Angela Jurdak Khoury, Lebanon's first woman diplomat and distinguished AUB alumna, on the sad occasion of her passing away on May 29, at the Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington DC, after a short illness.

Dr. Khoury, 95, and a Washington DC resident for 66 years was the daughter of Mansur Hanna Jurdak (BA 1901, MA 1907), a noted mathematician and astronomer at AUB. She was born in Shoueir, Lebanon on September 24, 1915 and began her career as an instructor of sociology and administrator at AUB in 1938. During World War II, she was also assistant director of the Allied Powers Radio Poll of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.

In 1945, the newly independent government of Lebanon appointed Dr. Khoury as secretary general to the Delegation of Lebanon to the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco and also assigned her to the newly established Legation of Lebanon in Washington, DC. At different times in the late 1940s and early 1950s she served as consul of Lebanon in New York and as Lebanon's representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which elected her as its rapporteur in 1951. She was to represent Lebanon in the US for 21 years.

In 1959, she was awarded Lebanon's Order of the Cedar by her government for service to the nation. After her resignation from the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1966, she joined George Mason University in Virginia as a professor of government until her retirement in 1982. Dr. Khoury was a prominent figure among Arab diplomats and in the local Arab-American community. She also served as a member of the Vestry of the All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase.

Dr. Khoury received a BA in 1937 and an MA in 1938 in sociology from AUB and a PhD in 1968 in international relations from the American University in Washington. She also studied at the Geneva School of International Studies in Switzerland. Her husband of 36 years, Shukry E. Khoury, an attorney, died in 1985. She leaves two sons: Philip S. Khoury, chairman of the AUB Board of Trustees and professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, MA, and George S. Khoury, a businessman in Darien, CT; two sisters, Salma M. Jurdak (B.S. 1942) of Washington, DC and Salwa Nawas (B.A. 1947, M.A. 1948) of Atherton, CA; and two grandchildren.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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