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AUB 150th Oral History Collection, 2015-2016

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: OH: 378

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Record Creator: Office of advancement; Dr. Maria Bashshur Abunnasr.

Collection Title: AUB 150th Oral History Collection, 2015-2016.

Collection Dates: 2015-2016

Physical Description: 20 interviews

Language(s): English

Administrative Information

Source: Dr. Maria Bashshur Abunnasr.

Access Restrictions: The collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

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Scope and Content

The AUB's 150th Anniversary Oral History Collection is a compilation of 20 oral history interviews conducted by Dr. Maria Abunnasr with members of the AUB community to safe keep AUB's institutional memory: the interviews were commissioned for AUB's 150th anniversary, and were funded by AUB. The interviews cover several decades of AUB's history from 1950s to 2016. The collection gives an overview of the life of the interviewees as students at AUB, their activities and movements; the interviews then move on to their roles as administrators or faculty at the university, and explore the hardships that they faced during the Lebanese civil war, as well as in the aftermath of the war. Select excerpts from the oral history interviews were featured in the film, "On the Edge of Time - The Story of AUB.", also commissioned by the University to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Questions asked during the oral history interviews seek to commemorate and highlight AUB's extraordinary impact over the past 150 years on student life, education, and society in the region. Questions focus on the following: Where the interviewees grew up; where they went to school before AUB; memories of their time at AUB, overall impressions of AUB, ways they dealt with the civil war and the complex situation in the country and region; and the impact of AUB on Lebanon and the region.

Arrangement

The Collection is arranged in four series, depending on the roles and functions of the interviewees:

Series I: Alumni (3 interviews)

Series II: Presidents (2 interviews)

Series III: Trustees (7 interviews)

Series IV: Faculty / Deans /Administrators (8 interviews)

Background

The AUB Sesquicentennial Oral History Project, led by Dr. Maria Bashshur Abunnasr, was commissioned for the celebration of the University's 150th anniversary. The project interviews key members of the AUB community, alumni, presidents, trustees, faculty, and administrators affiliated with AUB, focusing on their experiences and memories during the Lebanese civil war and in its aftermath.

Subject Headings

American University of Beirut -- History -- Interviews.

American University of Beirut -- Alumni and alumnae -- 2016 -- Interviews.

American University of Beirut -- Faculty -- 2016 -- Interviews.

American University of Beirut -- Anniversaries, etc.

Universities and colleges -- Lebanon -- History.

Oral history -- Middle East.

Education, Higher -- Middle East.

Interviews.

Container List

Series I: Alumni

Emily Abi-Rached Nasrallah (BA 1958)

Hamra, May 5, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/05/05(02) (76 min.)

Born as Emily Abi Rached, in Kaukaba, South Lebanon, in 1931, Emily Nasrallah is a Lebanese writer and women's rights activist. She studied at the Beirut University College (now the Lebanese American University) and then at the American University of Beirut, where she received her BA degree in education and literature, in 1958. Her first novel, *Touyour Ayloul: Birds of September*, published in 1962, earned wide acclaim, and won three Arabic literary prizes. She became a prolific writer, publishing many novels, children's stories and short story collections touching on themes such as family, village life, war, migration, diaspora, and women's rights.

Mohamad Mattar (BA 1974)

Beirut, May 5, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/05/05(01) (76 min.)

Mohammad Mattar was born in Beirut. He graduated with a BA in philosophy from AUB in 1974. He also holds an MA in Islamic Law and Middle Eastern Studies, from the University of London (1977) and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), from the Lebanese University, Faculty of Laws and Political Sciences, 1979. He is a member of the Beirut Bar Association since 1980, chairman of the

Lebanese Transparency Association, the Lebanese Branch of Transparency International, Legal counsel and co-founder of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Lebanon, Chairman of the American University of Beirut (AUB) Task Force commissioned by the Board of Trustees of the AUB that restructured the Alumni body worldwide, Counselor and co-founder of MENA Future Foundation, Co-founder of the Lebanese Economic Forum (L.E.F.), and Founder and member of the Board of Trustees (1985) of the Lebanese Studies Foundation (L.S.F.). Mohammad F. Mattar is a founding partner of the Firm and was a partner at Mattar and Mattar Law Firm from 1983 until 2002. He also served as a lecturer in the Concept of Law and the Legal Lexicon at the Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon, and as a researcher at the Third World Institute, London, United Kingdom. Mattar's principal focus is arbitration and international criminal law. He published many articles on corruption, accountability and responsibility in Penal Law, law practice and human rights, Lebanon's electoral Law, law, and freedom in the Arab world as well as the theory of jurisprudence.

Reem Acra (BA 1982)

New York, August 11, 2015.

DVD:AUB:2015/08/11(01) (33 min.)

Reem Acra, born in Beirut, is the founder and CEO of Reem Acra, Inc. New York. Ms. Acra earned a BA in Business Administration from the American University in Beirut in 1982. Acra studied design in both Paris and New York at the Esmod Ecole de Mode of Design and the Fashion Institute of Technology, respectively, where she received several prestigious awards. She is one of the premier fashion designers for bridal gowns and eveningwear. Her collections are featured in more than 100 of the most exclusive fashion global retailers, including Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, and Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC, as well as her flagship Acra Boutique in Manhattan, NYC.

Series II: Presidents

John Waterbury (AUB President 1998-2008)

Assembly Hall, AUB, January 28, 2016.

DVD:AUB:2016/01/28 (96 min.)

Born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Waterbury attended Princeton University, where he earned a BA in 1961. Waterbury studied Arabic at the American University of Cairo (1961–62) and got his PhD in political science (1968) at Columbia University. In 1998, Waterbury became the 14th president of the American University of Beirut, a post he held until 2008. He was the first American president to reside in Beirut following the civil war. During his tenure at AUB, Waterbury sought to restore the university to its long-standing reputation as a distinguished institution of higher learning, meeting the highest international standards. Dr. Waterbury has published widely on the politics of the Middle East, the political economy of public enterprise, and on the development of

international river basins. His latest book, “The Nile Basin: National Determinants of Collective Action,” was published by Yale University Press in 2002.

Peter F. Dorman (AUB President 2008-2016)

Visitor's Bureau, AUB, January 21, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/01/21 (79 min.)

Peter F. Dorman was named President of the American University of Beirut (AUB) on March 21, 2008. A respected scholar with deep and strong personal roots to Lebanon and the Middle East, and the great-great-grandson of the University's founder, the Reverend Daniel Bliss, Dorman is the son of Presbyterian missionaries who lived in Lebanon for more than fifty years. Dorman spent his childhood in Beirut, where he attended the American Community School with his four siblings. He earned his BA cum laude in anthropology from Amherst College in 1970 and his PhD with honors from the University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, in 1985. President Dorman has received numerous academic awards and research grants and is the author and editor of several major books and many articles on the study of ancient Egypt.

Series III: Trustees

Ali I. Ghandour (Board of Trustees 1980-2008)

Beirut, October 30, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/10/30 (49 min.)

Born in Beirut on May 1931, Ali Ghandour (former AUB Student 1950) has been an AUB trustee since 1979 and a Trustee Emeritus since 2008. He earned a BS in aeronautics engineering from NYU (1954). Ghandour is a board member of Jet Airways, India. Mr. Ghandour helped establish seven different airlines. He is a former CEO of Royal Jordanian Airlines and a former board member of the Queen Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, and the Royal Society of Fine Arts. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award, 2014 from the Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB).

Ann Z. Kerr-Adams (Board of Trustees 1985-2010)

Faculty Lounge, AUB, January 26, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/01/26 (79 min.)

Born in Santa Monica California, in 1935, Ann Kerr is a former AUB student (1954-55) and a graduate of Occidental College, L.A. California, (BA 1956) and of the American University in Cairo (MA, 1981). A Trustee Emerita since 2010, and a Trustee between 1984-2009, Kerr-Adams is the coordinator for the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of two books, as well as several articles: “Come with me from Lebanon” and “Painting the Middle East”. Kerr-Adams is the widow of the late AUB President Malcolm Kerr. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy,

a founding member and past chair of the Leadership Council of the Churches for Middle East Peace, and a former trustee of the American University in Kuwait.

Farouk K. Jabre (Board of trustees 2003-2014)

Beirut, Lebanon, October 22, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/10/22 (98 min.)

AUB trustee between 2003 and 2014, Mr. Jabre is an AUB graduate (BA 1958). Currently, Jabre is the chairman of the board of Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiyah, the director of Holcim Lebanon SAL, and the treasurer of the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon. He has also served as a fellow at the Harvard University's Center for International Affairs; as a member of the Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association; as the honorary consul general of Oman in Lebanon; as a member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank Limited; as a managing director of the Spinning and Weaving Industrial Company; and as the general manager of Hussein Aoueini & Company. He established the Farouk K. Jabre Center for Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy at AUB in 2012.

Myrna Bustani (Board of Trustees 1980-2014)

College Hall, 3rd floor, AUB, September 21, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/09/21 (26 min.)

Born in Beirut in 1937, Ms. Bustani is the daughter of Emile and Laura Bustani. Ms. Bustani is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts, Lyon University, BA in psychology, 1958. An AUB trustee since 1979, Bustani is president of the Al-Bustan International Music Festival and the owner of the Al-Bustan Hotel. She is a partner of the Construction and Trading Company (CAT) Group. Bustani was the first woman to serve in the Lebanese Parliament (1963-64) succeeding her father, Emile Bustani. Bustani is a former AUB trustee. She is a member of the Founding Board of Governors of the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford.

Philip S. Khoury (Board of Trustees 1997-Present)

Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Hamra, May 27, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/05/27(01) (69 min.)

Philip S. Khoury is Associate Provost and Ford International Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Professor Khoury was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and educated at the Sidwell Friends School. Khoury attended the American University of Beirut (former AUB student 1969 -1970), Trinity College (AB 1971), and Harvard University (PhD 1980). He joined the MIT Faculty in 1981. In 1985, he established the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar at MIT, a public forum for the examination of contemporary Middle Eastern affairs. He served as Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences between 1991 and 2006 at MIT, and was appointed Kenan Sahin Dean in 2002 and Associate Provost in 2006. Professor Khoury is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is a past President of

the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 1997-1999. Khoury is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut and of the World Peace Foundation, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Trinity College, Trustee of the National Humanities Center, and an Overseer of Koç University in Istanbul. He has received the American University of Beirut Distinguished Alumni Award and the Trinity College Alumni Medal for Excellence.

Randa El-Sayed Haffar (Board of Trustees 2011-Present)

The Debs Center, New York, August 10, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/08/10 (38 min.)

Randa El-Sayed Haffar is an AUB trustee since 2011. El Sayed-Haffar is an AUB (BA 1990) and an NYU graduate (MPA, 1995). She is a director of the Citi Private Bank. She previously worked for the Private Bank of Chase Manhattan Bank, Coutts Bank, and the Bank of New York. She has been a director of the Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Foundation since 2008 and has been involved in the Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB (WAAAUB) as a member-at-large and a member of its Strategic Planning Task Force. El-Sayed Haffar is past vice president of the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the AUB Alumni Association of North America.

Thomas Q. Morris (Board of Trustees 1986-2009)

The Debs Center, New York, August 11, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/08/11(02) (60 min.)

Thomas Q. Morris has been an AUB trustee since 1985, a trustee board chair between 2005 and 2009, and a chair emeritus, in 2009. Morris is a graduate of Notre Dame University (BS 1954) and Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (MD 1958). He helped lead the accreditation of AUB by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the reintroduction of PhD programs, and the Campaign for Excellence. Dr. Morris is the Alumni Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Formerly, he was Chairman of the New York Academy of Medicine and of the Institute on Medicine as a Profession and a board member of the Gladys Brooks Foundation and the Clark Foundation. Dr. Morris is Chair Emeritus of the Bassett Healthcare Network in Cooperstown. He has held numerous positions at Columbia University over the past 50 years, including the positions of Vice President for Health Sciences, Vice Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine and Interim Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Morris was also the president/CEO of the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He received a Doctorate of Humane Letters from AUB in 2009.

Series IV: Faculty / Deans /Administrators

Gladys Mouro (BS 1976; Assistant Hospital Director and Director of Nursing 1995-2011)

College Hall, 3rd floor, AUB, October 2, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/10/02 (71 min.)

Gladys Mouro was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island to an American father and a Lebanese mother. She received her BS in Nursing from AUB in June 1976. Former Director of Nursing Services, Gladys Mouro led AUBMC's nursing services for over 30 years and during the height of the civil war. In 1994, the Lebanese Government awarded her the Silver Order of Health. She currently serves as Deputy-CEO of the LAU Medical Center-Rizk Hospital. She is the author of *An American nurse amidst chaos*. The AUB Board of Trustees named a full merit scholarship in her honor for her 32-year commitment to the AUB community. Aside from that, Gladys Mouro has even earned an honorary doctorate degree from Muhlenberg College in 2005.

Ibrahim Salti (MD 1963; Assistant Professor/Professor of Internal Medicine 1970-2016)

Saab Medical Library, AUB, October 28, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/10/28 (56 min.)

Ibrahim Salti is Head of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the American University of Beirut. Dr. Salti graduated from the American University of Beirut, Medical School with distinction in 1963. In 1970, he obtained a PhD in Medical Sciences from the Institute of Medical Sciences at the University of Toronto. During his tenure as Deputy President of AUB from 1987-93, he helped guide the university through the various turbulences of the civil war. He established the first clinical endocrinology fellowship program in the region at the American University of Beirut. In addition, Dr. Salti introduced the first radioimmunoassay hormone assays laboratory in the region. In 1999, he established the Pan-Arab Congress for Endocrinology & Diabetes, which meets annually and is a vehicle for cooperation and continuing education. Dr. Salti has authored over 100 publications, has been an invited speaker in more than 400 CME events in Lebanon and the region. He is a member of several professional societies around the world.

Kamal Badr (MD 1980; Professor/ Chairperson of Internal Medicine/Physiology 2001-2016; Associate Dean for Medical Education 2012-Present)

Hamra, April 28, 2014.

DVD: AUB:2016/04/28(01) (82 min.)

Kamal Badr was born in Beirut in 1954. He received his MD degree (with distinction) from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1980. He chaired the Department of Physiology at AUB (2003-2005) and the department of Internal Medicine from July 2000 until December 2006 when he was named Founding Dean of the new medical school at the Lebanese American University. Dr. Badr's research on glomerulonephritis and the regulation of inflammation has resulted in over 130 high quality original publications in leading international journals, several discovery patents, and more than 30 chapters in Nephrology textbooks and several editions of Harrison's Principles

of Internal Medicine. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and the Lebanese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Badr has trained and mentored scores of students, post-graduate trainees, and junior faculty members.

Elie Salem (BA 1950; Associate Professor/ Professor of Political Studies and Public Administration 1962-1990; Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences 1975-1985)
Balamand University, Koura, May 27, 2016.
DVD: AUB:2016/05/27(02) (78 min.)

Elie Salem earned a BA in Political Science from AUB in 1950, and an MA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Cincinnati in 1951. He completed his PhD in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, in 1953. Salem was chair of AUB's Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, (1972-1974) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (1974-1982). Salem was also Lebanon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1982 -1988. He was elected as President of Balamand University in 1993. Salem is the author of numerous articles and books on the history of Lebanon.

Huda Zurayk (BA 1965; Professor 1969-2016; Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences 1998-2008)
Beirut, November 10, 2015.
DVD: AUB:2015/11/10 (94 min.)

Professor and Former Dean, Huda Zurayk was the first woman academic dean at AUB, Faculty of Health Sciences, and is an internationally recognized scholar on reproductive health and health in the Arab World. Born in Beirut, Zurayk graduated from AUB with a BA in statistics in 1965. Then, after completing an MA at Harvard University in 1966, Zurayk returned to Beirut and was eventually recruited to teach statistics at AUB's School of Public Health. She received her PhD in biostatistics and population dynamics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, 1974, and the next year resumed her role at AUB. Zurayk has been influential in helping to build institutions, partnerships, and networks that allow collective efforts in the fragmented Arab world and ensure quality and sustainability for building capacity and knowledge.

Makhluf J. Haddadin (BS 1957; MS 1959; Vice President for Academic Affairs 1987-2000; Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences 1994-1999; Assistant Professor/ Professor of Chemistry 1965-Present)
College Hall, 5th floor, AUB, October 23, 2015.
DVD: AUB:2015/10/23 (108 min.)

Prof. Makhlouf Haddadin was born in the village of Ma'in, Jordan in 1935. He finished his high school education in Hussein College, an Amman governmental school, and received his B.S. in Chemistry from AUB in 1957 and his M.S. in 1959, later he received his PhD in 1962 from the University of Colorado Boulder. Haddadin joined AUB as a research associate in 1964; he was gradually promoted to become a Professor in 1975. Professor Haddadin served AUB in various

administrative positions, including acting President (latest appointment: Jul 1-Sep 31, 2015), vice president for academic affairs and acting Dean of Health Sciences. Professor Makhoul Haddadin well known for his achievements in heterocyclic chemistry that resulted in the publication of more than 100 scholarly papers in prestigious international journals. A landmark event in Professor Haddadin's career was his co-discovery of the Beirut Reaction – a reaction that impacted the field of pharmaceutical chemistry and yielded 40 patents in numerous countries.

Samir Makdisi (BA 1953; MA 1955; Deputy President of AUB 1993-98; Assistant Professor/Professor 1961-2009)

Bliss Street, Beirut, October 9, 2015.

DVD: AUB:2015/10/09 (78 min.)

Born in Beirut 1932, Professor Samir Makdisi earned his BA (1953) and MA (1955) in Economics from AUB, and his PhD in Economics from Columbia University (1959). Makdisi is Professor Emeritus of Economics and served as Chairman of the Department of Economics at AUB. He served as Deputy President of AUB from 1993-98. He was founding director of AUB's Institute of Financial Economics (1984-2007). Makdisi was on the staff of the International Monetary Fund (Exchange and Trade Relations Department) between 1962-1972. Professor Makdisi was appointed Minister of Economy and Trade in 1992. Since 1987, Professor Makdisi has been General-Secretary of the Cairo-based Arab Society for Economic Research. He served as Policy Coordinator at the Lebanese Government's Bureau of Economic Policy Coordination 1979-1983. Professor Makdisi has also been a member of various economic committees established by regional and international organizations. He is the author of several books and numerous articles published in professional and academic journals, addressing various issues in economics, and development in the Arab world.

Samir Thabet (Assistant Professor/Professor of Chemistry 1953-1987; Provost 1970-1974; Vice President of the University 1979-1986)

Kornet Chehwan, April 28, 2016.

DVD: AUB:2016/04/28(02) (94 min.).

Born in Cairo, Egypt 1923, Samir Thabet is the son of Khalil Thabet, an early AUB alumnus, 1892. In 1952, Dr. Thabet joined the AUB Faculty as professor of chemistry, and then became the chair of the Chemistry Department (1969-1984). Thabet also served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, as University Provost and Vice President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Acting President., Professor Thabet published throughout his academic career a large number of articles in internationally refereed journals. Thabet served as president of the Beirut Rotary Club (1981) and as cultural advisor to the president of the republic (1987).

Related Material

Books

- Abu Nasr, M. (2018). *AUB and Ras Beirut in 150 Years of Photographs*. Beirut: American University of Beirut Press. [CA 378.5692:A166a:c.1](#)
- El-Cheikh, N. M., Choueiri, L., & Urfah'li, B. (2016). *One hundred and fifty*. Beirut: AUB press. [CA:AUB 378.5692:O584c:c.1](#)
- Kronfol, N. (2017). *History Makers in the Health Sciences, from the American University of Beirut*. Anis Commercial Printing Press. Sal [CA:F 610.95692:H673k](#)
- Mouro, G. (1999). *An American nurse amidst chaos*. [Beirut]: American University of Beirut. [WZ:100:M931a:1999](#)
- Porter, A. (2016) *Lead, innovate, serve: a visual history of the American University of Beirut's first one hundred and fifty years* Beirut: American University of Beirut Press. [CA:F 378.5692:L434p:c.1](#)
- Salem. E. (2008). *My American bride*. London: *Quartet Books* [CA 956.92043:S163m:c.1](#)

Audiovisuals

- Monro, J., Mawlawi, R., Ricardou, J., & American University of Beirut. (1984). *American University of Beirut: A story of survival*. Paris: Muriel Films. Lebanon, Beirut : American University of Beirut, Office of Information, [ASC:DVD:1149-CA](#)
- Oyri, T. (2016). *On the Edge of Time: The Story of AUB*.

Articles

- [Documentary film released to tell the story of AUB.](#)

Posters

- *On the Edge of Time: The Story of AUB*. SC [Ps:AUB:2017/04/03\(01\)](#)

Digital Resources

- [AUB 150](#)
- [AUB Stories](#)
- [AUB History: A Short Guide](#)

AUB – The Neighborhood Initiative

- [AUB and Ras Beirut in 150 Years of Photographs](#)