Landscape architecture: a people-centric approach to outdoor space design

Student activism at AUB

Bahia Shehab (BFA '99) a street artist draws from the past to challenge the present

The Main Gate

American University of Beirut Magazine. Fall 2016, Vol XV, No. 1

The Third Fifty

1966-2016

1966

2016
Dania Zeineddine, architecture major and USAID University Scholarship Program (USP) scholar, thinks city buildings should fit together and serve a purpose. “I like contemporary architecture that goes with the time and the context,” she says. Function, more than aesthetics, she believes, should be the focus in architecture. Her philosophy resonates with how she came to the field. “I love math and geometry and thought architecture would be an extension of those disciplines.” Thanks to the USP program, she has the chance to realize her architectural vision. As member of the USP class of 2014, she was granted a five-year scholarship, which allowed her to enter the architecture program; she is the only USP scholar at AUB in that program. Dania, like all USP students, must fulfill a volunteering requirement. “I’m an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). I handle emergency situations during the night shift, take patients to the hospital.” She works two days a week during the school year and more often during the summer. She plans to earn her master’s in urban planning after graduation. “The program has been tremendously helpful. I have so much support and never feel alone.”
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Dear fellow alumni and friends of AUB,

Greetings and a very warm welcome to this third special edition of MainGate celebrating AUB’s sesquicentennial. Our anniversary specials have been distributed over three 50-year blocs: the founding of the college and the pioneering early years (1866-1916), the golden age which etched the cultural, political freedoms and academic excellence that have become our hallmark (1916-66), and now, with this edition, the age of resilience and resurgence (1966-2016). The Third Fifty cemented the University’s capacity for phoenix-like rebirth out of the flames of conflict. Yes, AUB missed out on a decade-and-a-half of progress because of the civil war. Yes, our competitors were able to open up the gap between us in terms of research and scholarship, especially in the sciences. Nor were Arab universities waiting respectfully for AUB to regain its regional ascendancy, especially among the GCC states with their sights set on academic superiority funded with petrodollars. Indeed, the civil war didn’t just hamper AUB’s development through the 1970s and 1980s—it could have closed us down. But we didn’t only survive. This period, perhaps like no other, highlighted the University’s role as an epicenter of humanity, of service and of courage. Faculty members, students and staff risked life and limb to educate, learn, and heal. Doctors, nurses and staff collaborated to take care of the sickest and most seriously wounded members of a devastating war that would cost the lives of one out of every 20 people living in Lebanon. The University showed itself an island of tolerance, of commitment, of shared liberal and secular values.

As the University took hesitant steps towards post-war recovery, it benefited from the widespread engagement of its alumni in the drive to rebuild College Hall, disgracefully bombed to rubble in 1991. As Lebanon recovered, so too did AUB, with faculty and student recruitment accelerating. From 1998 until 2008, John Waterbury, the 14th President, led a revitalization of the research mission of AUB, with many accomplishments, including the expansion of student enrollment and the successful recruitment of a wave of increasingly distinguished young and senior faculty. AUB climbed up the international rankings and was on its way once more to becoming a major knowledge center. That process reached a new pinnacle last year when the Board of Trustees agreed to restore academic tenure to the University, more than 30 years after it had been frozen during the war.

This year of anniversary events, which the whole AUB community has entered into with such enthusiasm, has been a superb example of the spirit of AUB. In the midst of the humanitarian storms shaking our region, there was no guarantee that celebrating AUB’s foundation 150 years ago would capture the imaginations of so many so strongly. Optimism for our future, as a servant of this region, as the creator of transformative knowledge and educational excellence, has been rekindled during a packed #AUB150 calendar. Thank you to everyone who has made it such a great success, and thank you even more for the work you will do to help us fortify our purpose, reinvigorate our mission, and recalibrate our vision for future accomplishment.

With respect and admiration,
Fadlo R. Khuri
Dear MainGate readers,

This feels like an important moment for AUB. As we emerge from a splendidly celebrated 150th anniversary year, hinging into a major fundraising campaign to ensure our relevance and purpose for decades to come, while we embark on bold new strategic plans for academic research, education and the campus, it also feels like an immensely exciting time to be here. I hope this edition of MainGate captures some of the dynamism that so many on campus are feeling. With everything going on at the moment, I am certain that we will be bringing you ever more exciting stories of positively disruptive changes in coming editions!

One development that has been a long time coming has been the appointment this year of the first woman as dean of our oldest and largest school, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. We meet her in Inspiration and hear her plans to boost liberal education at AUB. Inspiring female role models abound within these pages. One of the watchwords of our current strategic reappraisal is sustainability, which leans heavily towards equality—or to cite the UN sustainable development goals towards “eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities.” In that vein I would like to draw your attention to the pioneering work of our Title IX Office and efforts to raise awareness about discrimination and harassment in the classroom and workplace. See our article in Impact for the whole story.

It being the Last Fifty of our series, I’m eager to be able to share in our Anniversary section stories that most of you as alumni will have witnessed first-hand. For the war generation of faculty, staff and students, not everything will make comfortable reading; but the sheer grit you showed to keep AUB up and running is worth celebrating and we do so here.

Martin Asser, Executive Editor

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol XVII, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 3: Caption for map of AUB’s impact on the streets of Beirut (back outside cover) incorrectly lists the project leader’s name as Maria Mansour. Her name is Maria Abunnas; is from the mid-1980s, not the 1960s; Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol XIV, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 3: Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol XII, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 1: Caption for map of AUB’s impact on the streets of Beirut (back outside cover) incorrectly lists the project leader’s name as Maria Mansour. Her name is Maria Abunnas; is from the mid-1980s, not the 1960s; Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol XI, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 1: Photo #19 is from the mid-1960s, not the mid-1950s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol X, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol IX, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol VIII, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol VII, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol VI, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol V, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol IV, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol III, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol II, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

Errata: Spring/Summer 2016, Vol I, No. 3, Inbox, pg. 35: Lower left photo of agriculture students is from the mid-1960s, not the 1970s; Finding Warmth in a Cold Climate, pp. 44-45: Sara Atie’s surname is misspelled as Sara Atieh throughout the article. Her degree is incorrectly listed as BA ’12 instead of BBA ’12.

The pages of the MainGate are printed on uncoated paper, made with 100 percent bleached pulp E.C.F. manufactured from trees, whose producers comply with methods and policies to guarantee the sustainable management of forests. The product is acid free, with alkaline reserve, guaranteeing long life according to ISO 9706. It is printed using an offset process with attention to clean-air operations. The Package Air Handling Unit (PAHU) is operational at Dots’ production facility that includes a state-of-the-art water filtration system. All Dots waste paper is recycled.

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Our Cover Girl: Then and Now

We have identified the student featured on the cover of the 2016 Spring/Summer issue of MainGate! Lawahiz Sadaka Eckhart (BA ’56), recently honored by the WAAAUB North Carolina Chapter (see WAAAUB Around the Globe), appears to be as vibrant today as she was at her AUB graduation. Raised in El Munsif, Lawahiz attended AUB on a four-year teaching fellowship. She majored in mathematics and was part of one of the first freshman classes to include women. With her degree in mathematics and a teaching certificate, she taught physics and math at the American School for Girls. In 1959, Lawahiz emigrated to the United States and worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey. After receiving a master’s degree in math at Stevens Institute of Technology as part of that institution’s first class of female graduate students, she worked with stored program switching systems in New Jersey and Illinois. In 1967, she married Barry Eckhart, a Canadian, and moved to Ottawa where she worked at the Canadian Government’s Communications Research Center as a systems analyst. Lawahiz retired in 1972 to raise two sons, then returned to work with IBM in Raleigh, North Carolina.

University News

AUB recently welcomed a new board member to its Board of Trustees

A descendent of William Earl Dodge, Sr., the founding member of AUB’s original Board of Trustees, William Dodge Rueckert joins a long list of Dodge family members who have served as trustees of AUB throughout its 150-year history. He is the president of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, one of the University’s most significant and enduring benefactors. Rueckert also serves as president of Oyster Management Group, LLC, an investment partnership specializing in community banking in Southport, Connecticut, and he is active in a number of finance, real estate, and biotechnology enterprises. Board affiliations include co-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Teachers College, Columbia University, and chairman of the Executive Committee of International House, a diverse residential community founded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Cleveland H. Dodge to foster goodwill and leadership. Rueckert is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire (BA ’77).
Inspiration

Student life, the liberal arts, AUB personalities past and present

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New Leadership 8  Imad Baalbaki advances AUB into the next 150 years

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Skateboarding around town 11  The cement “surf’s up!” at AUB

Faculty\Staff news 12  Nadia Maria El Cheikh discusses the value of a liberal arts education
It’s no secret that the layouts of timeless Arab cities like Beirut, Baghdad, and Damascus have been shaped, to a great extent, by the tastes and requirements of their former colonial powers in the early 20th century. Today, Lebanese developers, with their propensity for skyscrapers and wide highways, build to American models, such that downtown Beirut today looks more like Houston, Texas than the ancient Mediterranean port city it once exemplified.

This trend extends to the countryside. “In the south of Lebanon, in the villages, they want to establish parks, though people live in nature already,” says Jala Makhzoumi, professor of landscape architecture at AUB. “The park is not being created to improve people’s lives but to make the village seem modern.” A practicing landscape architect, Makhzoumi has worked on Erbil’s Green Belt and the Damascus Master Plan 2030, meant to develop the city’s gardens and other public spaces.

Makhzoumi fears the fate of the new parks will be that of many Beiruti skyscrapers, which sit empty and unused, mocking the passerby who might dare to dream of more judicious planning decisions. As a remedy, she proposes landscape architecture, an oft-misunderstood discipline.

Rami Zurayk, professor and chair at the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management, defines landscape architecture at its best as “the art and science of designing and managing outdoor environments to achieve ecological, environmental, social, cultural, and aesthetic goals, while protecting nature and heritage and creating healthy and meaningful places.”

Landscape: Improving Lives and Opening Spaces
It’s not just about making the old-fashioned contemporary, but considering the ramifications of design from different angles. “A culturally sensitive landscape architect would look at the way people are using a landscape, for example Beirut’s Corniche,” Makhzoumi says. “They are strolling with their kids, fishing, swimming, smoking argileh, lounging about. A landscape architect would design to these uses, rather than concern themselves with fancy paving or minimalist design that prioritizes the aesthetics.”

In emphasizing local wisdom over foreign imitation in all things developmental, landscape architecture figures into a broader movement, which has several champions among AUB faculty, including Islamic Architecture Professor Salma Damluji (see: MainGate, Winter 2016).

The first person to formally call himself a landscape architect was Frederick Law Olmsted, creator (with his mentor and partner Calvert Vaux) of New York’s Central Park, though the term had been used more loosely in England a century earlier.

As the practice became formalized, Makhzoumi explains, little battles over professional titles ensued, and they tell us something about the complexity of the field. In the UK, the Royal Institute of British Landscape Architects changed its name to the Landscape Institute after some argued that geographers, horticulturalists, and scientists all contribute to landscape development. In France, architects insisted on the term landscape engineer to distinguish themselves. At AUB, which follows American naming conventions, the title of landscape architect is used.

To promote the practice of landscape architecture in Lebanon, Makhzoumi helped establish the Lebanese Landscape Association (LELA) in May 2015, which has been recognized as the National Chapter of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). She co-organized LELA’s first annual conference in June at AUB.

“The idea of the conference was to show that the scope of landscape architecture is broad,” she says. “It’s far more than beautification. It’s nature conservation, human rights, post-war displacement, and environmental and ecological sustainability.”

So how are landscape architects attending to Beirut these days? One example is a project called Liaison Douce. “This is a very interesting project supported by Ile-de-France, in conjunction with the Beirut Municipality,” Makhzoumi says. “It aims to create a soft mobility route [for walkers and bikers] that extends from Martyrs’ Square through Damascus Road to Badaro and the Horsh pine forest. The idea is to prioritize pedestrian movement between these areas.”

Zurayk says that landscape architecture is on the rise in Lebanon in response to demand. “Fifty years ago came the interior decorator, who’s now a staple of construction process. Today it’s the landscape architect, who’s doing outdoors what interior decorators do indoors.”

Meanwhile, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture Maria Gabriella Trovato has considered how the discipline might be applied to the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon. “There’s little research on landscape planning in refugee camps, which could support and host displaced communities by maximizing security, minimizing disease, and promoting the relationships between people and their hosts.”

The key, whether looking at refugee issues or urban planning ones, is to maintain a holistic, people-centric approach to outdoor design. “In our eagerness to modernize and westernize, we have lost sight of local traditions,” Makhzoumi says. “We have incredible traditions for managing land, natural resources, and climate-efficient landscaping in the Middle East. We hope to survey and document and revive these traditions. The challenge, really, is to create a body of local knowledge.”
Advancing AUB

Imad Baalbaki, PhD, a teacher at heart with a mind to ensure AUB’s place in the 21st century

In early 2017, AUB will launch a massive capital campaign to ensure that the University and Medical Center can continue to trailblaze into the next 150 years. At the helm of this Herculean effort is the University’s new vice president for Advancement, Dr. Imad Baalbaki (BBA ‘85, MBA ‘87), whose strong ties to AUB were forged as a student in business administration. After completing a doctoral program in marketing at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1993, Baalbaki returned to Lebanon and paid the campus a visit. He intended only to see his old professors but found himself quickly pressed into professorial service. “I’ve always had a passion for teaching,” he says. “Even in high school at International College I found that by helping other students, I enriched my own learning experience.” Like some of his compatriots, Baalbaki had to let go the reins of a family business in order to answer the call of his alma mater.

Baalbaki and AUB quickly proved a good fit. He served as assistant professor at the School of Business and Management from 1993-2001 and as its director from 1997-2000, while helping to establish the Olayan School of Business as one of its founding faculty members. Perhaps best known in academic circles as the co-author of the Arab world editions of two leading textbooks on marketing, Baalbaki seemed destined for a successful career in academia. President John Waterbury had other ideas. He wanted to put Baalbaki’s marketing expertise to use at AUB’s Office of Development in 2001 as the University prepared to launch a major fundraising campaign. The president clinched the deal when he told Baalbaki that he would still be able to teach.

Baalbaki moved from director of the School of Business to director of Development and External Affairs, Beirut, then transitioned through assistant to associate vice president of Development, where his leadership in the Campaign for Excellence from 2002-07 was seen as a significant reason for its record-breaking success. In announcing Baalbaki’s appointment to vice president of Advancement last July, President Fadlo Khuri commented, “As AUB approaches the launch of a new capital campaign over the next few months, it is the ideal moment for Dr. Baalbaki, who enjoys my complete trust, to step up and spearhead fundraising, alumni, and advancement efforts, with the full confidence of everyone he has worked with—our trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and supporters.”

Looking ahead to the demands of a much larger capital campaign, Baalbaki radiates confidence and conviction. His excitement about recent gifts reflects the depth of his commitment to AUB as he describes the potential impact of funds from generous donors for the University and the communities it serves. Specific campaign goals will be formally announced in early 2017, as a comprehensive Academic Strategic Plan and a Campus Master Plan are concluded. “Campaign goals will build on AUB’s role in the region and enhance every aspect of the institution from life-changing educational opportunities to life-saving healthcare,” Baalbaki says.

As he looks to ensure that AUB will leave its mark on a new century, Baalbaki continues to find inspiration in the classroom. “For me, the touchstone is teaching,” he says. “I still teach. In order to accomplish the macro objectives of our great University, I have to stay viscerally connected to the micro relationship of teacher and student. That’s what it’s all about, right?”
Art

MASHROU’ PROLETKULT
Exhibition and All-Artist-Congress
AUB Byblos Bank Art Gallery
September 6, 2016 – January 14, 2017

Mashrou’ Proletkult is an art exhibit and a one-day congress that took place on September 17. Artists were invited to display their work at AUB. The All-Artist-Congress offered every artist present or represented at the event the opportunity to deliver a speech on a relevant topic of his or her choosing. Mashrou’ Proletkult is not a curated exhibition, but the fruit of collective work carried out by the Mashrou’ Proletkult Working Committee. There is no curator, no jury, and no prize; all decisions were made collectively by the Mashrou’ Proletkult Working Committee. The name “Proletkult” is inspired by the revolutionary cultural politics established in the Soviet Russia after the October revolution of 1917, with the goal of encouraging mass participation in the making of a new progressive art and culture.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

The 2016 winners of the President’s Service Excellence Award are Nibal Safah, Rabab Abi Shakra, Jiryis Fares, and Asma Shihab.

AUB’s rank in the QS World University Rankings for the year 2016/2017 leapt from 268 to 228. The 40-step move was the biggest jump of any university among the top 250 institutions.

Dean Nadia El Cheikh, Dean Nahla Hwalla, and Interim Associate Provost Hala Muhtasib have been honored as women leaders in Lebanese universities and research pioneers at a ceremony held by the Lebanese Parliament.

AUB signed a memorandum of understanding with the Council and Foundation for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, an international forum of scientific exchange between Nobel Laureates, leading scientists, undergraduates, PhD students, and post-doc researchers of different generations, cultures, and disciplines. With this partnership, young scientists from Lebanon will get the unique opportunity to participate through AUB in the Lindau Meetings.
Before Cynthia Myntti (MA ’74) left AUB in the summer of 2016, her office was located on Bliss Street, appropriately where the campus meets the neighborhood. A decade earlier, Cynthia had first begun work as the founding director of AUB’s Neighborhood Initiative (NI), which mobilizes faculty, staff, and students for the good of Ras Beirut ... such as the University for Seniors. It has since become a model for universities in the region, like the American University in Cairo (AUC), which started a neighborhood initiative of its own.

A “provincial girl from the American Midwest,” as she describes herself, Cynthia developed a lifelong interest in the Arab region and its neighborhoods in her undergraduate years thanks to a friendship with a fellow student from Palestine. “After graduating, I knew I had to be in the Middle East.”

“In the early ’70s, AUB was a thrilling place,” she says. “It was truly international. Memorable professors such as Walid Khalidi inspired me. And then of course there was all the student activism. I came to AUB because I wanted to learn Arabic and do field research—not only library research—for my thesis.” Her thesis examines the roles of women in five Beiruti families. Cynthia sat with rich and poor, in grand French-inspired salons and crowded one-room apartments, gaining an intimate understanding of city life.

After earning her master’s in anthropology in 1974, Cynthia embarked on a PhD at the London School of Economics. Her fieldwork took her to a village near Taiz in the Yemeni highlands: “They were proud and immensely hospitable people and thought it totally natural for a young American to come and learn how to cook, grow crops, raise children, and treat illnesses, the latter being the focus of my research.”

After years working for the Ford Foundation in Cairo and Jakarta and teaching in the US and UK, Cynthia returned to Beirut in 1998 to work with AUB’s first woman academic dean, Huda Zurayk of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). “As a visiting faculty member, I taught social sciences in public health and helped with fundraising for research,” she says. “We successfully raised our first large grant from the Wellcome Trust in those days, and now, as they say, the rest is (FHS) history.”

The war had changed Beirut and AUB: “The aromas of Arabic coffee had vanished from the streets. It had a different pace. The famous cafés trottoirs had been replaced by international chains. And AUB had become less connected to Ras Beirut. Indeed, restitching those connections to Ras Beirut became the Neighborhood Initiative’s fundamental challenge.” To raise concerns about gentrification and urban decay, NI hosted conferences and sponsored research examining construction regulations, congestion levels, and noise. NI also conducted a well-being survey of Ras Beirut’s residents, getting at living conditions, demographic trends, threats, and wellsprings of health.

Cynthia’s departure came just as one NI project, first begun in 2010 with AUB’s Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service and the Beirut Municipality, was about to take off. “Beirut is now a very unfriendly city for pedestrians,” she says. “Through a highly participatory process, we redesigned Jeanne d’Arc Street to be a model pedestrian-friendly street for Beirut. The design includes a widened sidewalk, flat crossings, protections from obstructions, improved lighting, shade from trees, benches. Construction should start soon, and when it’s all done, I hope we’ll have a grand street party to celebrate.”

Now based in London, Cynthia reflects on her last ten years at AUB. “One of my great satisfactions was facilitating the work of superb, dedicated faculty, and making connections among people concerned about the same issues,” she says. “In this next phase, I will definitely stay involved with the issues I care about. And I have too many friends to vanish completely!”
Freedom on four small wheels

Skateboarding is to some what breathing is to others. What began in 1950s California as an alternative to surfing when waves were hard to come by quickly grew to become a rich and celebrated subculture in the west.

In Lebanon, however, skateboarding has largely remained an underground lifestyle for a small number of dedicated skaters.

Virtually nonexistent in the country prior to the turn of this century, skateboarding experienced a sudden boom during the early 2000s and inspired a number of local aficionados, a jump which can be attributed to the increasing availability of equipment in local shops as well as the growing popularity of the sport on an international level.

Just as it absorbs all other trends, the diverse student body at AUB has, in the skateboarder’s lingo, carved its way into the country’s skateboarding community, consisting of a few thousand other local skaters.

“Skateboarding is a way to just free your mind and body.” Other AUB skaters who share Saad’s outlook also find comfort in the sound of wheels rolling across asphalt and the soft pop of a board lifting into the air.

“Even when you’re not trying to kickflip down a flight of eight stairs and hoping you won’t snap an arm or a leg,” Habib said, “just cruising around and enjoying the ride and scenery is very satisfying.”

-Daudy Issa and Firas Haidar, Editor-in-Chief and Editor-at-Large, Outlook AUB
AUB’s founders favored a liberal arts curriculum and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) is the University’s oldest faculty. FAS hosted the first class of students inside a rented home in 1866. There, founder Daniel Bliss taught philosophy and ethics, alongside a handful of instructors in English, Latin, Arabic, French, mathematics, and astronomy. Teaching faculty aimed to mold the whole person, making college education more holistic than economic.

Today the reverse is true, which FAS’s incoming dean, history professor Nadia El Cheikh, believes might explain the relatively low enrollment in some majors. El Cheikh comes to her new role as scholar of the Abbasid Caliphate and Byzantium, with a focus on women and gender during those periods. She earned her leadership stripes this past year as associate interim provost and took the reins at FAS this fall. FAS remains a core faculty at the institution.

Incoming freshman must take required English, humanities, math, and natural science courses regardless of major. We need to recapture, El Cheikh says, “the value of what a liberal education provides and can provide in the new creative economy.” She sees a link between employers’ demands and the critical thinking skills honed in liberal arts programs. “This is the age of content creation,” she says. “Communication skills, creativity, writing skills—these are all important to business nowadays.”

Matching students with careers, however, may be more challenging in the liberal arts than in more technical fields. To that end, El Cheikh wants to improve FAS’s career advisory service: “We need to better assist students with career exploration and planning and prepare [them] to make a difference in their communities by increasing their participation in civic engagement.”

El Cheikh calls attention to a complementary need to educate students and parents on the value of liberal arts degrees. She tells the story of a student whose father threatened to rescind tuition funds if his son chose to major in the humanities. “The student ended up majoring in a professional school,” she says.

El Cheikh points to AUB’s Civilization Sequence Program as exemplifying the power of the liberal arts. “It’s a great books course that starts with Gilgamesh and Oedipus Rex and ends with the contemporary novel,” she says. “It used to be a requirement, a unifying student experience across faculties. Many alumni will tell you that these were their most interesting and valuable courses at AUB.”

El Cheikh also intends to focus energy on advancing research at FAS. She says she’s confident that President Khuri’s ongoing initiative to reinstate tenure will help to attract stellar faculty. She is attentive to funding challenges that have afflicted the basic sciences and humanities, especially acute, since researchers lack access to major US funding institutions.

Strengthening connections between FAS and other faculties, including those outside AUB, is also a major goal, she says. “I have already initiated discussions on that matter with European and US universities.”

Strengthening the Core
By the Numbers

There are 70 active student clubs.
Based on enrollment figures from AY 2015/16, the Top 25 student clubs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUB RED Cross Club</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE Club (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering)</td>
<td>261</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Club</td>
<td>246</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF Club</td>
<td>217</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Affairs Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secular Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astronomy Club</td>
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<td>Insight Club</td>
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<td>TEDx Club</td>
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<td>Dabkeh Club</td>
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<td>Cooking Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hip Hop Club</td>
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<td>USP Club (University Scholarship Program)</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.O.P.E. Club (Help Others Progress in Exercise)</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural of the South</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUB Robotics Club</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming Club</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camping and Hiking Club</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the Books

Course: Intro to Engineering

SYLLABUS

The course is designed such that each module familiarizes first-year students with different engineering and architectural disciplines—architecture, civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering—as well as professional ethics and design, with a final module showcasing multidisciplinary projects and interaction between disciplines. The aim is to encourage innovative thinking and a multidisciplinary perspective. Lectures cover problem solving, design thinking, invention and innovation processes, environmental and civic responsibility, and aesthetics and performance metrics. Projects are a key component of the course and are multidisciplinary in nature.

Students attend lectures and use interactive learning devices to answer questions posed by instructors. They attend laboratory sessions that introduce them to graphical computer programming languages, sensors and actuators, digital microprocessors, embedded systems, and robotics. In the last component of the course, students work in teams to complete two design projects. Students design sumo robots for competition. The robots are constructed out of LEGO pieces, sensors, and an embedded controller. Students also design and build a small-scale bridge model spanning a river. Designs are judged by load-to-weight ratio, originality, aesthetics, and finishing.

CLASS TIME

Students attend lectures and use interactive learning devices to answer questions posed by instructors. They attend laboratory sessions that introduce them to graphical computer programming languages, sensors and actuators, digital microprocessors, embedded systems, and robotics. In the last component of the course, students work in teams to complete two design projects. Students design sumo robots for competition. The robots are constructed out of LEGO pieces, sensors, and an embedded controller. Students also design and build a small-scale bridge model spanning a river. Designs are judged by load-to-weight ratio, originality, aesthetics, and finishing.

BIO

Naseem Daher is assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and the Mechanical Engineering Department. He focuses on control systems and robotics. Naseem received bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Lawrence Technological University in Michigan and a PhD from Purdue University. His research interests include: modeling and control of dynamic systems, advanced control theory and applications, virtual sensing and sensor fusion, mechatronics and robotics, automotive active safety systems, alternative automotive powertrains, and efficient fluid power actuation technologies. He is the recipient of several awards and scholarships and author of numerous journal articles.
Tag Tour

AUBMC’s surgical skills lab teaches surgical skills outside of a stressful operating room environment; they use laparoscopic box trainers and virtual reality simulators to practice cutting, suturing, and handling tissues.

1. Chief resident in urology at the Department of Surgery
2. The LapSim, a virtual reality surgery simulator
3. The three machines in the background are trainer boxes used to teach the technical and psychomotor skills and dexterity needed for basic laparoscopic surgery
4. Residents use this box in pattern cutting
5. Residents use this box to train in extracorporeal and intracorporeal suturing
Discoveries
Research, the arts, and current events

R+D
16
Renalda El-Samra (BE ’92, ME ’94, expected PhD ’16) predicts climate change in Lebanon

Seen/Scene
17
Unearthing Lebanon’s heritage; 50 years of archaeology at AUB

Pursuits
18
Cancer’s commonalities among Mediterranean countries. Learning how young people think about sex

IFI Infographic
20
Syrian babies face an unnavigable road to refugee status

Under Discussion
21
The Anthony Shadid Archive at Jafet Library

aub spaces
22
A sunny forecast for sustainable energy; solar panels come to campus
Research focus:
My research focus is on climate change. I’ve run a regional climate change model for Lebanon and the eastern Mediterranean basin. To do this, I take data from the High Resolution Atmospheric Model (HiRAM), a model for global climate change which is run from Princeton University’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, and input it into the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) Model, which is a regional numerical weather prediction system developed principally by the National Center for Atmospheric Research and a number of other institutions in the United States.

The global model looks at the world at a scale of 50-100km, meaning that variations in climate are only described between areas of that size. Nor does it differentiate between coastlines and mountains or types of land use. It’s good for the big picture of earth, therefore, but not for looking at what will happen to individual locales.

I wrote a script for the Linux computer operating system to convert HiRAM data to WRF data. The regional model extracts from the basic conditions generated by the global model to generate more nuanced predictions. HiRAM, for example, cannot see clouds, but the WRF can. I can input humidity, wind, and temperature data (along with other kinds of data) into the WRF from HiRAM and simulate the local climate. I test WRF’s predictions by checking to see whether variables—like temperature, precipitation, and wind—correlate according to observed weather patterns for the region.

The climate is extremely chaotic and mathematically difficult to represent. But we have equations that show correlations and represent patterns, with which we can make certain predictions. Equations in the WRF, such as the equations for clouds, must be properly calibrated to predict regional atmospheric evolution in Lebanon.

Biggest discovery to date:
I’ve generated detailed climatic predictions for Lebanon from now until 2050, with data shown at a scale of 3km instead of 50-100km. According to the model, between now and then, temperatures will rise by 20%, precipitation will fall by 30%, and the yield of the corn crop [without any intervention] will fall by 40%.

Implications for research:
Climate change has many implications for crop yields, for example. If you’re planting in May, the May in the future will be different than May now. Farmers will plant earlier to avoid higher temperature, but the precipitation will be less, so they will need to irrigate more. We need to start planning for increasing water demand in agriculture.

How I got here:
I graduated in 1992 from AUB with a bachelor’s in civil engineering and earned a master’s in environmental and water resources engineering in 1994. I worked for some consultancies in Lebanon, Dubai, and Qatar. Then, six years ago, I decided to go for a PhD. I had this dream of a doctorate since I was a master’s student, but, you know, you graduate and you want to work.

What I’ll remember most about AUB:
AUB has a special place in my heart. I feel at home on campus and I am very grateful to have had the chance to work on this topic and broaden my horizons. I have had opportunities to present in Spain, Switzerland, Ireland, and the United States.

Best moment of my day:
I’m an early riser. The best moment of my day is when I open my eyes in the morning and thank God that I get to seize the day. Also driving, when there’s no traffic.
Earthen-colored ceramic jugs of irregular shape; Byzantine mosaic floors; arrowheads of blue and grey stone; finely-patterned, three-footed vases with large mouths; busts of forward-looking Phoenicians in headdress; busts of worried-looking, bearded Greeks; crosses of iron with swooping curves and hollow centers; crude balance beams of metal, wood, and rope; necklaces of looping white stone and seashell—the founding, acid-free documents of the Syrian Protestant College (SPC).

These and other artifacts, dating from the 3rd millennium BC to 1866, sat behind the glass at AUB’s Archaeological Museum this past summer for an exhibition titled “Excavating the Past. Fifty Years of Archaeology at AUB.”

Archaeologist and Museum Director Leila Badre has led many excavations over the past half century, including the incidental one that uncovered the Syrian College Hall’s founding documents, sifted from the rubble of College Hall following the 1991 bombing. She sees the Museum as having “played an important role in the archaeological research of the region.” It has also played a role in uncovering Lebanon’s ancient history.

The idea of Phoenician historical identity is strong in Lebanon and this exhibit makes clear that the country’s capital once belonged to that fabled past. As the exhibit showed, north of Martyrs’ Square, the Ancient Tell of Beirut site yielded evidence of Phoenician Beirut. From fortifying walls, gateways, and glacis (sloping fortifications) of chunky stone underneath the Square, Badre found evidence of the city’s continuous occupation dating back to the Phoenician era (1500 BC – 539 BC).

Badre discovered the remains of four distinct civilizations—Early Hellenistic, Hellenistic, Byzantine, and Late Byzantine—beneath the Annahar newspaper building, also in Martyrs’ Square. And beneath the Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral emerged mosaic floors patterned in the style of the early Byzantine church.

Outside the capital, below the city of Tyre, Badre found a rectangular-shaped Phoenician Temple sporting a monolithic slab for an altar. A continuous frieze of Egyptian gorges wraps horizontally across the temple’s façade, mirroring the temples of Eshmoun and Amrit. A kiln flanking the altar collects the bones of sacrificial animals, 17 buckets in total, putting a morbid accent on the first complete Phoenician temple unearthed in Lebanon.

At AUB’s AREC center in the Beq’a, below the agricultural soil, Badre and fellow archaeologist D.C. Baramki uncovered jars sheltering the bodies of dead infants and the remains of several adults inside tombs from the Middle Bronze Age (1800 - 1650 BC). Temples from the Iron Age (9th - 8th century BC) contained incense burners, jugs, and beads.

Together, these civilizational ruins—Stone Age, Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Mamluk, Ottoman—form a cosmopolitan composite of epochs echoing Lebanon’s own cultural diversity. Badre lobbied the Ministry of Culture to preserve the sites of these civilizations; the mosaic floors beneath Annahar are now displayed in the lobby of the newspaper’s offices and the site of Phoenician Beirut was approved for preservation in 1996.
The Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean Group (POEM) has just received a $200,000 grant from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in New York. POEM, established in 2013, is a cooperative of healthcare professionals from the East Mediterranean region working on pediatric oncology issues. These countries face a common set of challenges specific to their geographies and levels of development in terms of accessibility of care, cost, types of infection rate and response, and specific genetic features of the local populations and their cancers. The grant will fund training for pediatric hematology and oncology fellows, nurses, and support staff from POEM member countries at AUBMC. It will support the establishment of a cancer database for the POEM region that will store demographic and tumor-related data drawn from the 77 pediatric cancer centers in 22 countries registered with POEM. It will also support workshops and working groups that look at diagnosis, treatment, and psychosocial challenges for specific childhood cancers such as leukemia, brain tumors, and lymphoma.

A Foundation of Sexual Health

The Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Project (YSRHP), funded by the Ford Foundation, aims to promote the sexual health and wellbeing of youth in Lebanon and the Arab region within a public health framework. The first phase of the project (2010-2012) successfully engaged local and regional stakeholders in several training, research, advocacy, and educational activities. In 2010, the first online sexuality survey assessed sexual practices, perceptions, and attitudes among a sample of university students in Lebanon. The findings were published in several peer-reviewed journal articles. Phase I also helped train a large number of school health counselors on sexuality and sexual health.

Phase II (2013-2015) oversaw the establishment of the Network of Arab Scholars on Sexuality and Sexual Health (NASSS), a regional network of scholars from different countries in the Arab Region working on sexuality and sexual health. Phase III (2016-2019) centers on expanding NASSS to investigate time trends and explore the interplay of youth sexuality and wellbeing.
**Quiz**

**Match ’em up!**
“What is the most thought-provoking book/film/article/podcast you’ve come across in the past six-months?”

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<td>4. VP Advancement Imad Baalbaki</td>
<td>D <em>Marcella</em> (British crime noir Netflix television series) produced, written, and directed by Hans Rosenfeldt</td>
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<td>5. VP for Regional External Programs Hassan Diab</td>
<td>E <em>Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation</em> (book) by Steven Johnson, and <em>Cutting for Stone</em> (book) by Abraham Verghese</td>
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<td>6. COO Ramin Sedehi</td>
<td>F <em>Nightcrawler</em> (film) by writer-director Dan Gilroy</td>
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<td>7. CFO Drew Wickens</td>
<td>G <em>Oh, the Places You’ll Go</em> (book) by Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel)</td>
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<td>8. CIO Yousif Asfour</td>
<td>H <em>Spotlight</em> (film) directed by Tom McCarthy, and <em>Renaissance Emir: A Druze Warlord at the Court of the Medici</em> (book) by Ted Gorton</td>
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<td>9. Captain Saadallah Shalak</td>
<td>I <em>Life of Pi</em> (film) directed by Ang Lee, based on the Yann Martel book</td>
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<td>10. Outlook Editor Laudy Issa</td>
<td>J <em>Contact</em> (film) directed by Robert Zemeckis, based on the Carl Sagan book; and <em>Empire of the Sun</em> (film) directed by Steven Spielberg, based on the J. G. Ballard book</td>
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**Key:**
- 1. President Khuri
- 2. EVP Sayegh
- 3. Interim Provost Harajli
- 4. VP Baalbaki
- 5. VP Diab
- 6. Coo Sedehi
- 7. CFo Wickens
- 8. CIo Asfour
- 9. Captain Shalak
- 10. Outlook Editor Issa

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**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.**

The Office of Strategic Health Initiatives signed a memorandum of understanding with the Municipal Council of Beirut to cooperate in establishing the “Beirut: Healthy City 2022” vision.

AUB’s Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) won first place in the 2016 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship in recognition of its leadership in developing a culture of service within the AUB community through outreach and volunteerism, community development projects, service-learning initiatives, and university scholarship programs. CCECS is actively addressing the refugee crisis in Lebanon through student-based projects.

A master jury has selected the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs from 348 nominated projects as one of this year’s winners of the prestigious 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

Over ten productive years, Drs. Saouma Boujaoude and Rima Karami and their colleagues in the Department of Education have transformed educational practices and strengthened governance structures with more than 40 schools across the Arab world through the Tamam program. The latest schools to join this growing family are in Palestine and Sudan, in addition to existing partners in Egypt, Jordan, KSA, Lebanon, Oman and Qatar.

Fourth-year architecture students Yasmine Arkadan and Yasmine Atoui split this year’s $15,000 Fawzi Azar award for outstanding achievement in the field of architectural design. This year’s theme was “a community for seniors” with a proposed site in the Abadieh municipality in Mount Lebanon.

In late October, the Office of Student Affairs and AUB Sports held a three-day international tournament, with AUB’s sibling institutions, the American Universities of Cairo and Dubai, and the American College of Greece, and seven Lebanese universities, in ten different sports, involving hundreds of athletes engaged in highly competitive, but sporting contests.

Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer (BS ’71), director of the Hariri School of Nursing, has been honored by not one, but two, international professional organizations this year for her work in nursing research and palliative care (the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame and Honorary Membership of the Council of the International Association for the Study of Pain). AUB trustee Dr. Huda Zoghbi (BS ’76) has scooped not only the first Nemmers Prize in Medical Science to be awarded, but also a Shaw Prize for Medicine—known as the Nobel of the East—for her groundbreaking research on the developmental disorder Rett syndrome. Dr. Rose-Mary Boustany (BS ’75, MD ’79) discovered a new method that uses Galactosylceramide to treat CLN3, a deadly neurodegenerative disease affecting children.
The Road To Statelessness

Birth Registration of Refugees from Syria

Step 1
Place of Delivery
98% obtained birth notification

Challenges
• Proof of marriage
• Hospital fees
• Possible ID confiscation
• Delivery without doctor/midwife

Step 2
Mukhtar*
68% obtained birth certificate

Challenges
• Valid residency permit
• Inconsistencies in required documents and fees
• Refugees lack clear information

1. Birth notification
2. Identity document
3. A fee up to LBP 30,000

Step 3
Nofous**
20% completed registration

Challenges
• Step required within one year of birth
• Refugees lack clear information
• Lack of valid residency permit

1. Birth certificate
2. Identity document
3. Fees up to LBP 6,000

Step 4
2% registered at the foreigners’ register

Consequence of the Challenges:

When people lack the legal recognition that citizenship confers and are termed stateless, they lose access to fundamental state protections, such as policing, public education, and emergency medicine. War, discrimination, conflict, and administrative obstacles are chiefly to blame. For children born in Lebanon to Syrian refugees, the administrative obstacles are particularly onerous. As this infographic shows, mounting administrative impediments mean that only two percent of Syrian parents will see their children officially recognized as Syrian refugees by the Lebanese government. In other words, 98% of children born to Syrian refugees remain stateless.

#AUB4Refugees

Recommendations:
• Ministry of Health to develop clear administrative procedures among providers and hospitals regarding documents required to issue a birth notification.
• Ministry of Interior to facilitate the process of birth registration among Nofous. Residency visa should not be required.
• Humanitarian actors should continue to provide accurate and specific information on birth registration and provide legal assistance.

* Mukhtar: local leader
** Nofous: local government registry office

Documents needed

Information and graphic from the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
When *New York Times* correspondent Anthony Shadid died tragically during a visit to northern Syria in February 2012, journalism lost one of its brightest stars. A new project at the University seeks to keep a light shining on his foreign correspondence.

Shadid spent most of his 20-year-long career reporting on the Middle East, while based in Cairo, Beirut, and Baghdad. Widely respected, he received a half a dozen major writing awards, including two Pulitzer Prizes and a Polk Award.

In the United States this autumn, Khouri is interviewing dozens of Shadid’s colleagues and analyzing hundreds of his articles, as well as his three books. A research assistant will simultaneously inventory Shadid’s collected papers at AUB.

The analysis will lay the groundwork for future initiatives and prepare Khouri to write curricula for and teach a semester-long course this spring: “Narrative News Reporting and Writing, and the Legacy of Anthony Shadid.” Khouri says students can gain new appreciation for the narrative reporting genre by taking a closer look at the places Shadid went, the people he interviewed, the information he filtered from readings—all the choices that contributed to his judgments about what to cover in the field. AUB will then offer a six-week summer workshop on campus and coordinate two- or three-week satellite courses at several universities in the Middle East and the United States.

The project also aims to develop ways for AUB Libraries to open their archival collections to the international community. AUB Media Studies Program Director May Farah says this project, via additional seminars and workshops, will promote greater learning and teaching links between AUB and journalism/communications departments around the world.

Ms. Kaoukab Chebaro, head of the archives and special collections section of AUB Libraries says, “We hope the work we do on this collection will encourage other noted writers and journalists in the Middle East to also deposit their personal libraries at AUB, so that we can develop greater expertise and insights into the best journalistic and other writings about our region.”
AUB Spaces

March With Us Towards a Solar Future

On top of the Bechtel Building, in lower campus, next to Greenfield, you’ll find AUB’s first 288 solar panels, each a collection of photovoltaic silicon cells sheathed in protective glass. The roof of the adjacent CCC-Scientific Research Building (SRB) has an additional 186 panels. Thanks to roughly 300 sunny days that Lebanon gets each year, these panels, combined, will generate around one percent of AUB’s annual energy needs; they are expected to save the University around $42,000 and to lower its carbon footprint by 140 tons annually.

In line with the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), AUB ultimately aims to generate 13% of its power from renewable sources, the same target Lebanon has set itself for 2020.

Cedro, a joint venture between the UNDP and the Central Bank of Lebanon, covered 50% of the panel installation’s $98,000 cost. The rest of these initial funds came from alumni and friends. And a mix of AUB staff, students, and outside experts collaborated on the installation. The on-grid panel system requires less maintenance than a battery-powered, off-grid one, and is hooked into AUB’s servers, which display daily production levels on a closed network.

We’d like to let our readers know that they can contribute to AUB’s march towards a more sustainable future by donating for the acquisition of more solar panels.

“If we can get 3,000 commitments of $500, we will hit our 13% renewables target. At 13% renewables, we would see energy cost savings of between $400,000 and $500,000 per year, equivalent to a $12 million endowment,” says Mohammed Khaled JouJou, assistant to the dean for laboratories and facilities at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

Be a Bronze Donor
For a 500 USD donation, name a photovoltaic panel (along with its mounting cabling and inverters).

Be a Silver Donor
Become a silver done by sponsoring a larger number of panels, which will then receive, as per your choice, the name of your family, your graduating class, or your company.

Be a Gold Donor
Become a gold donor when you sponsor a full roof. Each roof installation has its own budget and different sizes are available to suit different budgets.

Your support will be recognized by:
1. A nameplate on the side of the solar panel
2. A naming on the digital map displayed in the entrance of the building supporting your panel
3. Acknowledgement on AUB’s special website showing the system’s daily performance

Help AUB lead Lebanon towards a more sustainable future.

To make a donation, contact Associate Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Salma Dannawi Oueida: salma.oueida@aub.edu.lb
Wellness
AUBMC 2020, health, and medicine

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The AUB Blood Bank

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AUBMC’s Cleft and Craniofacial Program and the War Injuries Program perform more than surgery

Check up 26
Marilyn Karam (BS ’05, MD ’09), a doctor who knows how to stimulate the body’s immune system

Filling a Healthcare Gap 28
Mental illness in Lebanon’s adolescent population

Sahtein 30
Layali Loubnan, a creamy dessert from the alumni cookbook Abundance
Stop by AUBMC to donate between 7:30 am to 10:30 pm every day of the week!

Every year, the number of patients passing through AUBMC’s doors rises. Since last year, emergency room visits have grown by nine percent, surgeries by three percent, and outpatient clinical visits by seven percent. This translates into a greater need for blood and a place to store it. Hence, AUBMC’s blood bank.

A mix of beds, scales, tubes, and vials, the blood bank sits on the third floor of AUBMC’s main building. Blood banks hold more than vats or vials of blood. They store blood products, each with its own medical purpose. These include whole blood for trauma and surgery; red cells for any kind of blood loss, anemia, or blood disorders; platelets for cancer and organ transplants; blood plasma for burn victims; and cryoprecipitated anti-hemophilic factor (AHF), a plasma derivative, for hemophilia and Von Willebrand disease.

Each blood product has a different shelf life, ranging from 21 days for whole blood to a year for plasma and cryoprecipitated AHF. “The need for blood and blood components is constant,” says Dr. Elizabeth Baz, the blood bank’s director. “Annually, we have approximately 10,000 whole blood donations and 2,000 platelet donations, but securing donors is a daily struggle. A trauma patient requiring massive transfusion and/or urgent O-negative red blood cell transfusions is nearly a weekly occurrence and can consume the inventory.”

In line with AUBMC’s 2020 vision, several innovations have transformed the blood bank. “We recently introduced automation,” Dr. Baz says. “This is a platform that performs the pre-transfusion tests, including blood grouping and antibody screening. Research shows that automated pre-transfusion testing results in fewer errors, and we have zero tolerance for error.”

Lebanon lacks a centralized blood bank, and AUBMC’s is the country’s largest and most active. Critical infrastructure by default, it becomes the go-to destination for major trauma in times of desperate need. Baz sits on the Ministry of Public Health’s Blood Transfusion Committee and helps set standards for blood transfusions around the country.

The blood bank runs weekly blood and platelet drives as well as awareness campaigns. “We ask patients to help by requesting that their friends and family members donate,” Baz says. Anyone who would like to donate blood or platelets can do so on a walk-in basis from 7:30 am to 10:30 pm every day of the week, with hours extended in cases of emergency.

Lebanon’s Lifeblood

Wellness
This past summer, AUBMC welcomed a team of experienced nurses, logistics experts, workplace specialists, analysts, and coaches from healthcare architecture firm NBBJ to assist in the development of the Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center (ACC). The ACC building is a 14-story state-of-the-art facility under construction at the intersection of Maamari and Abdul Aziz Streets. It’s the first facility in Lebanon and the region to put patient care, education, and research under one roof and it figures into the 2020 vision. The building is expected to be complete in 2017.

In the first half of the video, we meet Yumna, a blue-eyed, cleft-lipped baby, who presented a challenge to her mother, Sarah Mansour, a Syrian refugee. “I rejected her,” Mansour says. “I was at once frightened by and concerned for her.” Yumna underwent successful reconstructive surgery, one of more than 150 pro-bono cleft lip surgeries performed annually at AUBMC. Mansour recalls her joy on seeing the cleft lip repaired: “When she woke up and was breastfed I became so happy.”

Next we meet Alaa, also Syrian, who lost much of her lower jaw in an explosion. “I couldn’t dare look at my face in the mirror,” she says. “I don’t know how to express all the sadness and sorrow I felt in my heart. I was the most beautiful girl among my friends. I was envied for my beauty.” Alaa is one of around 50 cases treated monthly in the war injuries program. “Now I can look at myself in the mirror again. I couldn’t do that before. Now I can go out and face people. They don’t pity me the same way anymore.”

It was the poignancy and raw honesty of these accounts that captivated audiences at the conference. ASHA has supported and continues to support AUBMC and its work in treating patients like Yumna and Alaa, who, thanks to a remarkable medical staff, were able to get their lives back. The video can be viewed on the AUBMC YouTube channel.
Check Up:

Q. **What is immunotherapy?**
A. Immunotherapy is a way to build up a temporary desensitization or tolerance. It’s the best cure for hay fever and used for lots of other indications as well. It’s kind of like reprogramming your immune system so that it doesn’t act the way it does around things that cause allergies, like a customized medication for each patient.

Most patients with nasal allergies will go through skin testing so they can figure out what they’re allergic to. If their skin testing is positive, let’s say they’re allergic to cats and dogs, first we tell them to avoid their triggers. Then we recommend treatment, nasal steroids and antihistamines, then immunotherapy for patients who don’t want or don’t respond to medications.

Q. **So how does it work?**
A. Let’s say, for example, you’re allergic to cats and dogs and choose immunotherapy. First, we’ll put the proteins you’re allergic to in a vial, then we’ll start injecting you with successively greater concentrations of those proteins. We ask patients to wait around the office for 30 minutes after each injection. The idea is to condition their immune responses to these allergens; allergic reactions are simply overactive immune responses.

Q. **What has your research focused on?**
A. Each patient has their own extract. Patient vials, which contain protein concentrations, are labelled with an expiration date, concentration level, and patient’s date of birth—it’s all very specific to the patient.

Yet there’s no real standardized way of labelling these vials, and this is a problem because patients move and students move. Each university hospital, for example, has its own student health services unit where students take their vials and some of them are transfers that come from a center with a different labeling scheme. So nurses must contact the initial prescribing physician, and that can be a big hassle.

Q. **What has your research focused on?**
A. Each patient has their own extract. Patient vials, which contain protein concentrations, are labelled with an expiration date, concentration level, and patient’s date of birth—it’s all very specific to the patient.

We team members at Michigan surveyed allergists through the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy, and Clinical Immunology’s database. We wanted to figure out why they’re not following the guidelines. They said they were following their own labelling conventions, but it was very age dependent. Older physicians followed the conventions much less, with a decrease of four percent for each year in practice.

Q. **Tell us about your experience being back at AUBMC and some of your goals.**
A. I’m happy to be back because I feel I’m giving back to my community especially because my specialty is needed. I want to raise awareness about allergies and immunodeficiencies and to establish this specialization at AUB. I’m the center’s only allergist and there are only three other board-certified allergists in the whole country. I started here last September and have since had to establish a clinic from nothing. I didn’t have an up-and-running clinic until November. It took two months. Starting a new practice and being the only allergist at AUBMC has been difficult but not too bad. I’ve had to create everything from scratch.

We now provide most of the services an allergy clinic should provide, such as skin testing, oral challenges, and desensitization. It’s challenging, though, because I have to get skin testing materials. These testing products all come from the States. [The clinic’s] doing great and there’s a lot of demand. These patients have existed for a long time but until now other specialties had taken care of their treatment. I’m really happy with what we accomplished so far. Two months is a short time to build a clinic. We’re aiming at establishing an allergy center at AUB; this will mean more allergists, essentially a one-stop shop, to get all testing and scans in one place.

Q. **What kinds of allergy problems have you come across in Lebanon?**
A. We see, in Lebanon, a lot of patients with hives, like rashes, which we treat with antihistamines and other medications or, as a last resort, monthly injections of a monoclonal antibody.

In Lebanon, there’s not a lot of food allergies, whereas I saw a lot in the United States during training. Our culture doesn’t take the same precautions with allergies. Parents are more liberal with what they feed...
their infants. This might explain lower food allergy rates. According to another hypothesis, not mine, having infections is good for your immune system. In other words, it’s good to be clean but not too clean.

Q. How much does immunotherapy cost?
A. Immunotherapy costs around $100 per month in Lebanon, more in the States. Unfortunately, most Lebanese insurance plans don’t cover allergy treatments. Testing costs between $200 and $300 at AUBMC; in the States, it’s around $1,100, but insurance covers it.

Q. What about immunodeficiencies? What are they and how do you treat them?
A. Patients with immunodeficiencies can’t fight off infections well and may have recurring infections. We try to figure out what’s not working as far as the immune system is concerned. We would supplement antibodies to do that for them. There are a lot of different types of immunodeficiencies.

There’s a small part of the Lebanese society where consanguinity [e.g. marrying a cousin] is still culturally accepted; this raises the risks of immunodeficiency. There are a lot primary immunodeficiencies, ones people are born with. There’s a lot of common variable immunodeficiency, which starts in a person’s thirties or forties and results in recurrent sinus and lung infections. It’s a condition where you don’t have enough antibodies to fight off infections. If untreated, it can lower life expectancy.
Challenging Mental Illness

Assessing the scale of mental illness in Lebanon and drawing the public’s attention to it remain significant challenges. Fortunately, a team of researchers at AUB has made inroads into a lack of in-country data, quantifying psychiatric disorders among a particularly vulnerable demographic, adolescents.

According to “Psychiatric disorders among adolescents from Lebanon: prevalence, correlates, and treatment gap,” published this May in Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology, 26% of adolescents in Beirut suffer from some form of mental illness. Anxiety and ADHD were most prevalent at 13% and 10% respectively.

The study is the first to scientifically estimate the number of Lebanese adolescents experiencing mental illness. “When I moved back to Lebanon from the US in 2009, I was interested in researching depression in Lebanese adolescents, but there was this major gap in the literature, no prevalence studies,” explains AUB psychiatry professor and lead author Fadi T. Maalouf.

To fill that gap, Maalouf partnered with Public Health Professor Lilian Ghandour and several researchers at AUB to launch a large-scale population
survey of 11-to 17-year-old Arabic-speaking adolescents living in Beirut. They discovered, among other things, the challenge of conducting such surveys in Beirut. First they had to segment the city into manageable chunks representative of its distinct socioeconomic groups, for which the team hired a private research firm. Then they deployed some 22 surveyors across the city to interview adolescents and their parents or legal guardians using Arabic versions of the DAWBA (Development and Well-Being Assessment), which consists of an assortment of questions aimed at diagnosing adolescents, according to the DSM-IV and the ICD-10.

A total of 22 surveyors approached about 9,000 households. Of those 3,500 households were deemed ineligible and another 4,500 were listed as being of unknown eligibility, usually because no one was home or the resident declined to discuss their living situation. “Sometimes a concierge wouldn’t let us in,” Maalouf says. “There were lots of security challenges to establishing the eligibility.” This left 1,004 households, but only 510 participated fully, completing all necessary interviews.

In terms of anxiety, Beirut falls between the Gulf and Gaza. Comparative levels of anxiety reported for Oman and the UAE were 5.6% and 1.6% respectively and 21% in Gaza, which suggests the influence of socio-political stability on mental health: while Gaza has experienced continued strife and hardship, the UAE has been stable for the past few decades.

There was also evidence of environmental factors shaping manifestations of anxiety. Anxious Lebanese adolescents spoke, for instance, of kidnapping fears.

Among the roughly one-in-four adolescents diagnosed with at least one psychiatric disorder, 31% had two distinct diagnoses and 15% had three or more; seven percent had mood disorders and five percent had a disruptive behavior disorder. Boys showed a slightly higher incidence of psychiatric disorders than girls, yet girls showed higher rates of emotional, mood, and anxiety disorders.

School and family life emerged as additional factors. Adolescents with psychiatric disorders were three times more likely to be from families in which biological parents were divorced, separated, or deceased rather than married. Having a family history of mental illness, having repeated a school grade, and having bullied or been a bullying victim were all correlated with increased mental illness risk.

Perhaps the study’s most crucial finding was the size of the treatment gap. Among adolescents experiencing mental illness in Beirut, only six percent are currently receiving treatment, compared with between 40 and 50% in the United States and Western Europe. The stigma surrounding mental illness and the dearth of practitioners—Lebanon has 75 practicing psychiatrists—deter Lebanese from seeking treatment and also lead to an uptick in physical ailments. “Because it’s more acceptable to have a physical illness, our kids with anxiety disorders tend to have somatic symptoms,” Maalouf says. “Stomach aches are common.”

There are also financial challenges. Insurance doesn’t cover psychological or psychiatric treatment, and it’s expensive, averaging between $50 and $150 a visit.

To improve awareness and treatment, a team that consists of AUBMC’s Abu-Haidar Neuroscience Institute and concerned parents have a launched the FOCUS Fund to train primary care physicians in identifying mental illness, and teachers and parents supporting suffering children. The Fund aims to make mental health care more accessible and to help families become more resourceful. “The group has been very active,” Maalouf says, “in raising awareness among parents, teachers and professionals and in raising funds to cover the treatment of the underserved.”

“Among adolescents experiencing mental illness in Beirut, only six percent are currently receiving treatment, compared with between 40 and 50% in the United States and Western Europe.”
Sahtein

Layali Loubnan
Nader Taha (BS ’05), Kamel Taha (BEN ’09), and Hani Taha (BEN ’14)
Beirut

INGREDIENTS:
- 180 g (1 cup) fine semolina
- 1 L (4 cups) fresh milk
- ½ tsp ground mastic
- 2 tbsp rose water
- 3 tbsp orange blossom water
- 40 g (1.4 oz) unsalted butter, divided
- 100 g (1 cup) ground stone bread (ka’ak)

GARNISH (OPTIONAL):
- 40 g (1/6 cup) orange blossom jam
- 90 g (1/2 cup) freshly ground pistachios
- Sugar syrup (water)

PREPARATION:
Preheat oven to 180° C (350° F)
In a large bowl, whisk semolina, milk, and ground mastic until the semolina is almost dissolved in the mixture. In a large saucepan, bring the mixture to a gentle boil on high heat while stirring constantly. Lower the heat and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until the mixture thickens. Keep stirring throughout; otherwise, it will lump or burn. Turn off the heat and stir in rosewater and orange blossom water. Using half the butter, grease a glass baking dish about 15 cm X 30 cm (≈6” X 12”) if rectangular, 25 cm (≈10”) if circular. Spread half the ground ka’ak evenly on the bottom. Gently pour the pudding over the ground ka’ak in the baking pan and smooth the surface with a spatula. Evenly spread the remaining ground ka’ak on top. Cut the leftover butter into small chunks and distribute evenly over the ground ka’ak. Bake for 30 minutes. If the top surface is not golden-brown and crispy, switch oven to broil and broil on upper rack for 5 minutes.

May be served hot or chilled, typically garnished with freshly ground pistachios, orange blossom jam, and sugar syrup to taste.

HEALTHY TIPS:
For a lighter dessert, use low-fat (1% fat) milk instead of whole milk; use half the butter for both the bottom and topping; and to serve, use a tsp of honey instead of a tbsp of syrup.

Using whole milk: Serving Size: 1; Calories (kcal) 443; Fat (g): 20; Saturated Fat (g): 8; Protein (g): 14; Carbohydrates (g): 54; Fiber (g): 3; Sodium (mg): 229

Using 1% fat milk: Serving Size: 1; Calories (kcal) 414; Fat (g): 16; Saturated Fat (g): 5; Protein (g): 15; Carbohydrates (g): 55; Fiber (g): 3; Sodium (mg): 236

GOOD FOR YOU? An expert weighs in...

Marie Claire Chamieh, Marie Clare Chamieh, PhD, LD – Lecturer and Practicum Coordinator, FAFS

Although it is calorie dense, Layali Lubnan dessert provides a fair amount of quality protein and good fats such as linoleic and oleic fatty acids. Linoleic fatty acids are essential and play a major role in growth, reproduction and skin integrity. Oleic fatty acids reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke and some cancers. With milk as its main ingredient, Layali Loubnan is a good source of Vitamin D, calcium and phosphorus; elements that work together to sustain the strength of bone and teeth. It is also rich in Vitamin B12 (riboflavin), which is known to aid the body in releasing energy. To get the benefits of the essential fats, the pistachio garnish is recommended, however with a small twist: substitute the sugar syrup with honey and profit from its antibacterial, antioxidant and memory-enhancing effect. You may also go all the way for the lighter version of Layali Lubnan with less calories, saturated fats and cholesterol.

“This dish looks royal, yet it’s an easy, delicious dessert to prepare at home. Its flavor is elevated by the toasty crumbled ka’ak, delicate rose water, and fragrant orange blossom water from Lebanon’s coastal citrus trees. We reminisce about how great it smelled when our grandma used to distill her own orange blossom water every spring.”

Nader Taha (BS ’05), Kamel Taha (BEN ’09), and Hani Taha (BEN ’14)

A recipe from the WAAAAUB Cookbook, ABUNDANCE: Mediterranean Cuisine: Recipes by Alumni and Friends of the American University of Beirut. Proceeds from net sales support AUB Student Scholarships.

Available at:
USA/Canada: Amazon.com
Lebanon: Malik’s Bookstores
Rest of world: Malik’s online

For more information, visit: alumna.aub.edu.lb/WAAAAUB Cookbook

Send your recipe submissions to maingate@aub.edu.lb
AUB’s 150th Anniversary
(1966-2016)

Timeline 1966-2016
AUB resilience and resurgence

Scenes of AUB
Campus life during the last 50 years (1966-2016)

Legacy Families
A historic 150th anniversary legacy ceremony

AUB Values
Turmoil and transformation

Student Activism
Dean of Students Talal Nizameddin reflects on AUB’s rich history of student protests
Scenes of AUB

Campus life during the third fifty years (1966-2016)
1. FEA wins the Big Game, 2016
2. Nurses, 1960s
3. The mighty Banyon
4. A concert in Assembly Hall
5. Getting to class at the Olayan School of Business
6. Student elections
7. Student volunteers spruce up the streets
8. Quiet Please!
9. AUB doctors—the best!
10. FEA dance, 1974
11. FEA (orange) cat
12. Main Gate and College Hall, 2011
13. The Milk Bar, 1960s
15. Bellbottoms in 1974
16. Bench thinking
17. The Green Oval and Ada Dodge Hall, 1999
18. Coeds studying, 1979
19. A marching band for Commencement, 2014
20. Women’s track, 2010
21. Recent FEA grads
1966 - 2016
The Third 50 Years

- AUB’s Office of Regional External Programs (REP) is established
- The tragic killings of FEA Dean Raymond Ghosn and Student Dean Robert Najemy occur on campus
- AUB students establish Speaker’s Corner for open-air public speaking, debate, and discussion on campus
- Major student protests take place over 10-percent tuition hike and political and social issues as Lebanon drifts toward civil war

1966
- The tragic killings of FEA Dean Raymond Ghosn and Student Dean Robert Najemy occur on campus

1969
- AUB students establish Speaker’s Corner for open-air public speaking, debate, and discussion on campus

1970
- AUB Medical Center (former American University Hospital or AUH) is inaugurated

1971-74
- AUB establishes the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES)

1972
- AUB’s Office of Regional External Programs (REP) is established

1975
- AUB Medical Center (former American University Hospital or AUH) is inaugurated

1976
- AUB introduces a PhD in biochemistry and awards its first PhD in Arabic history; formerly only medical doctorates had been awarded
- Faculty of Engineering renamed Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
- Though football (soccer) had long been a tradition at AUB, the “Big Game” as an annual football game is held for the first time

1977
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2013
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2015
- AUB’s Office of Regional External Programs (REP) is established

2016
- AUB Medical Center (former American University Hospital or AUH) is inaugurated

The Big Game, 1973
• AUB closes the School of Pharmacy
• AUB establishes the first family medicine program in the Arab world

1997
• AUB closes the School of Pharmacy
• AUB establishes the first family medicine program in the Arab world

1991
• College Hall is bombed on November 8, 1991

1999
• College Hall is reopened, having been reconstructed in the style of the original building
• AUB establishes the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS)

1998
• John Waterbury, 14th president (1997-2008), becomes the first AUB president to reside in Beirut following the 14-year US State Department ban on travel to Lebanon
• AUB appoints first female academic dean, Huda Zurayk, Dean of FHS

1997
• AUB closes after a series of kidnappings occur within the AUB community

1991
• College Hall is bombed on November 8, 1991

1999
• College Hall is reopened, having been reconstructed in the style of the original building
• AUB establishes the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS)

1984
• Malcolm Kerr, 9th AUB president (1982-84), is assassinated outside his office in College Hall on January 18

1988-89
• AUBMC treats 23,000 war casualties during a 13-month period

1980
• AUB starts the Off-Campus Program

1981
• The AUB Outdoors festival is established as a sanctuary from the rages of war
• The President’s Club is established as an independent fundraising entity to help improve the lives of students

1982
• Malcolm Kerr, 9th AUB president (1982-84), is assassinated outside his office in College Hall on January 18

1986
• AUB appoints first female academic dean, Huda Zurayk, Dean of FHS

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• AUBMC treats 23,000 war casualties during a 13-month period

1984
• Malcolm Kerr, 9th AUB president (1982-84), is assassinated outside his office in College Hall on January 18
AUB secures accreditation from the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The School of Nursing, established in 1905, is named the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing.

The Charles Hostler Student Center is inaugurated.

AUB dedicates Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, an adult cancer care and research facility.

AUB becomes a smoke-free campus.

The newly renovated AUB Archaeological Museum opens.

AUB establishes the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS).

The School of Nursing, established in 1905, is named the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing.

The Suliman S. Olayan School of Business gets a new building.

The Charles Hostler Student Center is inaugurated.

AUB dedicates Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, an adult cancer care and research facility.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>The Board of Trustees approves AUBMC 2020, led by EVP Mohamed H. Sayegh (MD '84)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AUBMC inaugurates the new home of the Issam Fares Institute, designed by former student Zaha Hadid</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Dar Group donates resources for a new campus master plan, including a design of the new AUBMC and a comprehensive Academic Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Ray R. Irani Oxy Engineering Complex is inaugurated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>AUB announces the largest gift in its history, a donation of $32 million for AUBMC 2020 from Jamal Daniel and The Levant Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Students protest tuition hikes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Fadlo R. Khuri, 16th president, becomes the first Lebanese-American president of AUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Board of Trustees votes to reinstate tenure after a 30-year hiatus</td>
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**Khalil Saleebay, L'Angélique, 1921, Oil on Canvas**

**About Khalil Saleebay**

Khalil Saleebay (1870-1928) was a prominent Lebanese artist known for his impressionistic works. His paintings often reflect the cultural and social landscapes of Lebanon during his lifetime. **L’Angélique**, painted in 1921, is one of his most celebrated pieces, capturing the beauty of a woman in a traditional dress. Saleebay’s artistry is celebrated for its vibrant colors and emotional depth, making him a significant figure in the Middle Eastern art scene of the early 20th century.
A historic 150th Anniversary Legacy Ceremony was held on September 14 in Assembly Hall. Seventeen families with alumni from three or more generations were recognized. The families represented included: Alameddine, Challah, Fahoum-El Hassan, Ghantous, Ghantous-Kawar, Hamiyeh, Hannun, Jebejian, Kayyali, Kronfol, Kurani, Rubeiz, Shadid, Soussou, Takieddine, Nassour-Ghaleb, and Ekmekjian-Arsenian. To open the ceremony, President Khuri spoke about the core AUB value of service: “In my view service is the surrender of entitlement in order to do good for those in greater need. . . . Your educational experience here will not only have made you difference-makers in the realms of medicine, engineering, business, the media, or myriad other professions, but will have taught you to become ethical, humane, environmentally responsible, global citizens.”
AUB Couples
From AUB’s third 50 years

Velma Ekmecki (BA ’73) and Samir Hermez (BEN ’74)
"First picture was taken at the annual AUB Engineering Ball in 1971, the other in 2014. We met in Jafet Library while I had my Math 201 book open in front of me. A good reason for an engineer to approach a first-year statistics student—don’t you think so? :)" Velma

Mary Maral Mouradian (BS ’78, MD ’82) and Suhayl Dhib-Jalbun (BS ’76, MD ’80)
“We met in medical school, during clinical rotations in 1980, and were married two years later. AUB clearly shaped our lives and careers, for which we are grateful. We both work at Rutgers University at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Mary is William Dow Lovett professor of neurology and director, Center for Neurodegenerative and Neuroimmunologic Diseases. I am professor and chairman, Department of Neurology, and president, Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS).” Suhayl

Rania Mehwi (BEN ’99) and Karim Alayli (BEN ’99)
“We met in a computer and communications engineering class. I came from Tripoli and was living in the New Women’s Residence, and Karim is from Beirut. We got engaged right after graduation in 1999 and got married in 2001. We live in Dubai.” Rania

Rania and Bilal

Ruba Awad (BA ’88)
“On campus we met in 1987, and on campus we planned our future. A love story, and a happy and proud family with four AUB boys: Omar, Ahmad, Karim, and Nadim.” Ruba and Bilal

Abdul Elkadri (BS ’00, MD ’04) and Jana Faour (BBA ’01)
“We met when we were part of club activities at AUB. Abdul was head of the ushering committee, and I was on the AUB folk dance festival committee. We worked together on the festival in 2000 and have been together ever since.” Jana

Mary and Suhayl

Ameen Jaber (BEN ’12, MEN ’14) and Al-Zahra’a Majed (BS ’15)
“Despite our differences and opposite personalities, we chose to love each other and be together. When Ameen was in his senior year in Engineering, I was in my sophomore year in Medical Laboratory Sciences (2010). We met through some common friends. Our friendship was fluctuating until we got together in May 2012. One year later, we got engaged. AUB will always stay our special place and home where we shared lots of love and memories. For that, we are grateful.” Al-Zahra’a

Ameen and Al-Zahra’a
Resilience and Transformation

In an era that might reasonably have been defined by civil war hardships, atrocities, and regional instability, the AUB community moved forward with unflinching optimism, determined to stay strong and grow. In the face of kidnappings and killings; the assassinations of deans Raymond Ghosn and Robert Najemy in 1976 and AUB President Malcolm Kerr in 1984; and the bombing of the school’s iconic College Hall in 1991, AUB persevered in its duty of service until it could thrive once again. The response to these terrible events revealed just how deep the University’s roots go and testified to the essential integrity of its mission as a sanctuary of learning and healing.

The Assassination of Malcolm H. Kerr: January 18, 1984

“The University was Malcolm’s life. And he gave this particular university in Beirut a new life. Not willing to be a caretaker, he would rebuild, and renew, and refresh . . . From professor to president, he would have the campus a peaceful, open place, not a garrison. He would have new teachers, not bodyguards. He would have it a place of learning and not of burning.”

Board of Trustees Chairman Najeeb E. Halaby
Memorial Service, January 29, 1984
Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, New Jersey

“It would be difficult to name any other American who was better liked in the Middle East or who better understood the forces that are tearing it apart. Malcolm Kerr was a scholar on the intellectual history of the Islamic world, an informed observer of its political struggles, and a popular teacher and administrator. At the same time, he was a potent, vulnerable symbol of the American presence in Lebanon and of the prospect for a peaceful end to the tumultuous violence there.”

The Hartford Courant
January 20, 1984
The Bombing of College Hall, November 8, 1991

“The violation of our campus on November 8th succeeded in slowing down, to a degree, our encouraging process of recovery, but its impact was countered by a remarkable outpouring of support for the University from all over the world. Tragedy was turned into a resurgent resolve to preserve AUB and the freedoms it symbolizes... College Hall will be rebuilt! AUB will go on!”

Statement by President Frederic Herter

The Inauguration of the New College Hall
June 22, 1999

“We salute this evening all those great and small, who contributed to the reconstruction... [College Hall] is a beacon to all Beirut.”

President John Waterbury
Tuition increases and political causes create the rich tapestry of AUB’s student protests. In the 1950s and ’60s, the struggle between Nasserite pan-Arabism and Lebanese nationalists served as a kind of proxy conflict for the ideological differences between Soviet socialism and US capitalism. In the 1970s, demonstrations centered on Palestinian causes and the encroaching influence of the PLO.

The mantra of “No voice louder than the [Palestinian] struggle will be tolerated” (La sawt fawk al mar’aha) posed a genuine threat to AUB’s values of intellectual diversity, tolerance, and freedom of expression.

In the 1980s, things heated up as the Lebanese civil war led to the division and near collapse of the Lebanese state. Militias ruled the streets; ideological conflict was replaced with mindless thug violence; and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon led to Beirut becoming the first occupied Arab capital beyond Palestine. Inevitably, AUB students became embroiled in these cataclysmic events, even as some fled to the safety of more stable lives abroad.

While it’s true that these were painful times, it’s also true that they were days of thunder and glory with many heroic deeds. There were defiant bursts of creativity, intellectual discourse and, equally important, a determination to enjoy life—to live it to the fullest. And somehow, through all this, AUB continued to offer the best education that it could under the circumstances, and it provided the highest quality medical care in the region for the casualties of war.

AUB students live in a very different world today. At first glance student life may appear as more of an abstract post-modern mosaic without any real shape or form than as a tapestry with discernable threads. However, a deeper look reveals something else: young minds that are street-wise and globally aware with a maturity gained from the bitter experience of breakdown. AUB students have a unique outlook on life, an acute awareness of individual agency and group dynamics.

In a moving account by Mohammad Mattar, a prominent student activist during the height of the turmoil in the Middle East in the 1970s, he lists lessons learned from past experience. One of those lessons is “that we need not heroes... We need people who] toil silently for a lifetime to improve their lives and that of their families and immediate communities. Those are the real heroes.” There is no better way to describe AUB students, whose coming of age is marked by forceful and responsible action for the greater good. “Participate, engage, make better” has always been the unspoken credo of AUB students. For over a century they have organized committees, clubs, petitions, and demonstrations. AUB students move the world forward, having been endowed with two remarkably precious commodities—a voice and the courage of their convictions.
Impact
Regional impact, advocacy, and policy initiatives

Better records
AUBMC rolls out Epic, an advanced electronic health records system used at the world’s top hospitals

Supporting Education in the Region
AUB’s Office of Regional and External Programs develops the region’s universities and institutions

AUB Forward
A legacy of lasting impact

Title IX
Promoting a culture of gender equality, inclusiveness, and personal safety at AUB and beyond

Global Advisers
Trustee Emeritus, Amb. Frank Wisner leads AUB’s reconstituted International Advisory Council
In keeping pace with top-tier academic medical centers, AUBMC will deploy, over the next two years, an electronic health records system designed by Epic, the leading American provider. Electronic health records (EHR), as the name indicates, are a digitized, centralized version of the patient notes that doctors and nurses have historically taken by hand.

The move to EHR is part of a larger overhaul of the Medical Center’s IT infrastructure. Epic is also working with AUBMC to build an integrated health information system (HIS) that includes financial and scheduling features.

This shift has been years in the making. Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, professor and chair at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and associate dean for Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Nadim Cortas, former vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Medical Center, began exploring EHR solutions in 2000, when digital health records were still a new concept in the United States. The procurement team initially chose a promising and affordable American-Egyptian EHR vendor, but it went bankrupt, so AUBMC’s IT team went on to develop a custom platform in-house.

Now, in light of the AUBMC 2020 vision and the need to keep pace with mushrooming accreditation requirements, AUBMC has joined academic medical centers that include UCLA Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, and Johns Hopkins Medical Center in seeking to upgrade services via Epic. “We thought we needed to catch up,” says Dr. Ghassan Hamadeh, professor and chair at AUBMC’s Department of Family Medicine. “There’ve been many changes to HIS. Health data is now pushed through wireless systems and is available on cell phones.” Hamadeh helped lead the search for an HIS solutions provider, an effort that included gathering input from more than 200 AUBMC physicians, nurses, and staff.

“It’s like banking,” he says. “Ten years ago everyone had to see a teller. Now everyone uses online banking. EHR has become the standard.”

The benefits of this new standard are many. Data streams, including information on patient medications, will flow through a central hub and be accessible to staff across laboratories and departments.

The biggest convenience for patients is Epic’s MyChart: a free app accessible via smartphone or computer. It allows patients to schedule appointments, refill prescriptions, check lab results, and send messages and photos directly to their care providers.

As Zaatari points out, EHR will also solve patient privacy concerns and ensure compliance with US law HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). “I think this is a welcome and long overdue change,” Zaatari says. “It’s important to have a unified system, and it’s cumbersome to keep moving charts and medical records between a growing number of buildings.”
Higher education in the Middle East is booming. Dozens of universities have opened across the region in recent years aimed at addressing a youth bulge and a correspondingly huge demand for higher education. That story has been told. Less well known is the role played by AUB’s Office of Regional External Programs (REP) in offsetting a rush for growth and maintaining high administrative and academic standards. AUB’s consulting and entrepreneurial arm, REP tackles a variety of health, education, and economic-related projects.

Supporting Education in the Region

Hassan Diab, Vice President for Regional External Programs, says the office has supported the operations of universities in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman, as well as institutions in Lebanon. It helps that REP can muster a total personnel force of 21 staff and management, 25 instructors, roughly 200 consultants, 2,200 student volunteers, and 1,300 professional development trainees.

In Omdurman, Sudan, REP personnel are working with Ahfad University for Women, now celebrating its 50th anniversary as the only private, not-for-profit higher education institution in Sudan, host to 7,000 female students. “We've had major impact in improving quality at Ahfad,” Diab says. “We've evaluated academic programs and introduced new ones. We also restructured administrative and academic support units such as Physical Plant, Admissions and Registrar's offices; trained staff in many areas; and developed business processes namely in human resources and finance. We have helped them market themselves in Africa and beyond. We're now helping them introduce all sorts of activities and student competitions at the university.”

At Qatar University in Doha, REP consultants contributed to a curricular overhaul at the College of Art and Sciences and the College of Education: they designed curricula; helped integrate arts and science courses; created short, modular courses to be co-taught with AUB faculty; rearranged and wrote policies for the Student Activities Office; and assisted in developing human resources and recruiting functions across the university.

“They wanted to create a professional development program for secondary school teachers,” says Professor of Science Education Saouma Boujaoude. “We instructed them in student-centered teaching methodology for science; the inquiry method where the student inquires and the teacher facilitates.” Boujaoude also helped establish the College of Education at Dhofar University in the far south-west of Oman.

REP has supported women’s education in Saudi Arabia, training faculty members, and establishing Student Affairs functions at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, the largest women’s university in the world. “We have been behind the establishment of a national Saudi initiative requiring public school teachers to hold a teaching diploma,” says Director of Institutional Consulting Sami Gheriafi. “So we helped PNU develop the concept and put together the necessary regulatory forms for the Ministry of Education’s approval of these programs.”

Yet REP faces challenges in pursuing its work, some of them security-related, as in the case of Libya and Iraq. Universities in both countries have requested aid, but REP officials have been unable to address those requests due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless, REP has implemented around 1,000 projects in 30 countries in the region and beyond over the past four decades.

Competition is intense with a concerted push by big-name American and European universities to expand in the region and capture swathes of an education market valued at around $128 billion and expected to nearly double in size by 2020. NYU, Carnegie-Mellon, and others have opened campuses in the Gulf. Whereas, Gheriafi says of AUB, “We are from the region and for the region.”

Ultimately, Diab feels the region is well served by institutions like REP, which are familiar with the languages and cultures and are sensitive to the region’s needs in ways newcomers perhaps aren’t. And then there’s the cost. American and European universities charge large fees for consultations that only certain wealthy states can afford. “AUB has a much more financially sustainable model,” Diab says.
In 2015, AUB received an extraordinary commitment that will benefit countless students for years to come. Marilyn Jenkins-Madina, PhD, the widow of distinguished alumnus Maan Z. Madina, promised to bequeath funds to AUB to endow a full-year scholarship for undergraduate study and a full-year fellowship for graduate study. The endowments will be named for Professor Madina as a perpetual, life-affirming tribute to a truly remarkable man.

A native of Damascus, Maan Madina was a student at International College from 1939-44, and at AUB from 1944-47. His experience as a young student introduced him to a rich academic community and a world of intellectual freedom that transformed his life. In 1949, Madina earned a master’s degree in political science at the University of Chicago and immediately began his work on a doctorate in that field. While pursuing the latter degree, he served at AUB as an instructor and research assistant in public administration from 1954-55 and as co-chairman of the College Orientation Program, a freshman adviser, and an instructor in general education from 1955-56. Upon earning a doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago in 1957, he was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. Subsequently serving in that department both as associate professor and professor, his distinguished academic career at Columbia lasted for four decades, from 1958-97. He became professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1998. Although he lived most of his life abroad, Madina cherished memories of his time at AUB. When he passed away on January 28, 2013, Dr. Jenkins-Madina sought to memorialize him in perpetuity by creating endowments in his name.

Maan Madina’s memorial service was held on September 30, 2013, at St. Paul’s Chapel of Columbia University. Luminaries from the worlds of academia and the arts spoke of his remarkable intellect, charm, and wide-ranging interests. All agreed that his greatest gift might well have been an exceptional ability to discern works of art from a number of different cultures, including his own. The Madina Collection of Islamic Art has formed part of The Los Angeles County Museum of Art since 2002, and additional important objects from Islamic and other cultures were donated over many years, beginning in 1982, to other major American museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Madina shared his love of beautiful objects with his beloved and devoted wife, Dr. Marilyn Jenkins-Madina, curator emerita of Islamic Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

“Aub Forward—
A Legacy of Lasting Impact

Maan Z. Madina (1926-2013)
Following are excerpts from some of the eulogies from the 2013 memorial service:

"… I am speaking on behalf of many colleagues at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on whom Maan made a profound and unforgettable impression… I wanted to include the voices of some of those who knew Maan best. I was struck by how effusive these friends were in their descriptions of him. One said, ‘He was one of the most elegant and charming human beings I ever met in my life.’ Another: ‘Maan was a gentleman—emphasis on gentle.’ They used words like courtly, charismatic, wonderful conversationalist, kindly, interested in each person… Maan was well known for his graciousness, his gift for enjoying life, his superb taste. And then, of course, there was his formidable intellect and extraordinary eye, all reflected in his daily life… Beginning in 1982, departments throughout the Metropolitan benefited from Maan’s eclecticism and discernment."

Emily K. Rafferty
President, The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

"Authentic old oak furniture has great character. No wonder Maan was drawn to it. I remember shortly after Maan died calling Lyn to tell her how deeply sorry I was for her loss and how much I liked and admired Maan. She spoke to me as Maan would have, quietly and calmly, focused on my sadness, not hers. During that conversation she told me what one of Maan’s friends had said to her of his passing: ‘a giant oak has fallen.’ Not much more needs to be said about a man of such character, wisdom, and sensitivity for the art and the people who filled his life…”

Peter M. Kenny
Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

Maan’s qualities—the patience and kindness, the quiet understanding, his interest in a great range of subjects, and his willingness to be interested in still more—always made it a pleasure to be with him. He was a wonderful friend. His supportive and devoted relationship with Lyn added to the immense pleasure I had spending time with them. It enriched every experience we shared, whether in exotic locales like Ouarzazate on the edge of the Sahara, a village on the banks of the Euphrates, the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, a forgotten castle in the Czech Republic, or on the banks of the Delaware in Lambertville…"

John G. Fritzinger, Jr.
Family Friend

"I asked Hussein to describe his brother, and I will end with his words: ‘Maan was our Agha. God gave him everything. He gave him beauty, a special personality, knowledge, and independence. He lived his life his way, amidst the things he loved—his antiques and beauty. He was and always will be our Agha.’"

Nadine G. Shubailat
Grandniece

*Positions held at the time of the memorial service.
Gender equality is integral to AUB’s history. The University admitted women to study liberal arts, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy in the 1920s, before Princeton, Yale, and Columbia. In 1938, Angela Jurdak Khoury became the first female instructor, and since then, women have advanced to ever-higher levels in the faculties and administration.

At AUB, the initial push toward gender equity was from the outside, with cues taken from prominent families who wanted their sons and daughters to receive an AUB education.

Today, equity and diversity are living values reinforced by a progressive internal policy and external legal framework. Most importantly, AUB is committed to compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a US law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools and universities that receive federal funding. The law covers all forms of sex-based discrimination, including employment decisions and sexual harassment, and protects all genders, including transgender individuals and others.

Beyond Title IX, AUB’s non-discrimination policy provides protections for students, faculty, and staff against discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation, disabilities, and other characteristics.

According to AUB’s first Title IX Coordinator Trudi Hodges, appointed in 2014, the University has been working on these issues since around 2000 when policies were first developed. A 2003 court ruling extended the jurisdiction of Title IX to programs and activities of federally funded schools and universities that take place outside the territorial United States. Over the past 15 years, successive task forces have reviewed and updated AUB’s policies and procedures to promote gender equality on campus and address discrimination in all its forms, including sexual harassment and sexual assault.

President Fadlo R. Khuri has taken decisive steps to provide resources and new programming related to Title IX. In the fall of 2015, the University mandated that all managers and supervisors receive discrimination and harassment awareness training. More than 300 AUB employees have received this training in person, and efforts are now being extended to provide similar training in Arabic for non-managerial staff. Complementary online education initiated and supported by the Office of the President will be introduced for students, faculty, and staff in the coming months. Orientation sessions on harassment and discrimination for new students, faculty, and staff have been ongoing since 2007.

Chaired by Dr. Brigitte Khoury, associate professor and clinical psychologist at the department of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine, the Equity & Title IX Policy Working Group will share recommendations, with the president by the end of 2016 that aim to further improve AUB’s engagement efforts. A third-party online reporting platform, provided by EthicsPoint and utilized by major universities in the US, will be launched in the coming weeks as an additional reporting channel for discrimination and harassment incidents. Campaigns to raise awareness are underway in close collaboration with the student-supported Knowledge is Power (KIP) Program on gender and sexuality, directed by OSB Associate Dean Charlotte Karam. President Khuri is also promoting the implementation of a network of trained deputy Title IX officers in faculties and key units to encourage greater reporting and
In collaboration with Dr. Brigitte Khoury, the Title IX office is planning a climate survey to assess students’ experiences of sexual misconduct on campus and their perceptions of the University’s response. Campus climate surveys are increasingly the norm at universities in the US; the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights includes a climate survey as a standard requirement for universities resolving Title IX complaints.

“This will be the first such survey in the Middle East,” Hodges said. “My sense is that when we finally do get a comprehensive set of results for students, as well as for faculty and staff in a subsequent survey, it may be sobering.” Findings will be used to advance campus conversations surrounding sexual and gender-based misconduct; to inform training, prevention, and outreach activities; and to enhance AUB’s overall institutional response to sex-based discrimination.

Both Hodges and Dr. Khoury have considerable insight into incidents of harassment on campus as both have served extensively on presidential panels formed to evaluate complaints. Hodges noted that AUB’s panel process is heavily dependent on faculty and staff service as volunteers, work that is essential yet relatively “hidden.”

At AUB, sexual harassment reports appear to be low relative to the size and context of the University, possibly due to student and employee lack of awareness of rights and resources. Underreporting is known to be a major challenge for all universities, and AUB is no exception. In focus groups with Hodges, students expressed surprise that a framework for addressing harassment exists. Many said they were reluctant to come forward for various reasons, including fear of retaliation, confidentiality concerns, and uncertainty regarding the process for responding to complaints.

“Gradually, as we expand outreach activities, in particular to students; as we extend our training to online courses; and as we embed awareness campaigns within the broader communications strategy, we anticipate that more students and employees will feel comfortable to report,” Hodges said.

Dr. Brigitte Khoury points to Lebanon’s culture of patriarchy as an obstacle. “We are introducing something completely new,” she said. “The fact that women are given the opportunity to step forward and complain against very powerful men about their harassing behaviors is very empowering to the women. The men would try to discredit it and reduce its importance by saying, ‘Who is this little 19-year-old that’s coming to complain about me?’ The fact that we can give a voice to these women is a breakthrough in our society.”

According to a recent World Bank report on the status of women, 14 of 19 countries in the MENA region now have some form of legislation to address sexual harassment; Lebanon is not one of them.1 “You have one article in the labor code (applicable to non-academic staff) that forbids discrimination between men and women in employment, but there is no enforceable legal framework for civil rights; religion-based personal status laws are discriminatory against women; and there is no specific law that addresses sexual harassment,” Hodges said.

Inspired by AUB’s experience and policies, Lebanese MP Ghassan Moukheiber worked with members of AUB faculty to draft legislation to address sexual harassment in the Lebanese labor law, an initiative stalled by the extended parliamentary impasse. Legislation would reinforce the legitimacy of AUB’s position, affirm the seriousness of discriminatory conduct, and offer recourse to external mechanisms in Lebanon for resolving complaints. For AUB, the absence of legislation poses a practical constraint as sanctions must be consistent with a fairly employee-centric labor code.

“We are really just beginning to build the Title IX program,” Hodges says, “which is an opportunity to be responsive and sensitive to our community in its design.”

Launched by former board chair Dr. Richard Debs in 1992, AUB’s International Advisory Council (IAC) brings together “a prominent group of people who can advise the University on the conduct of its affairs,” in the words of IAC Chair Amb. Frank Wisner, who helped recruit IAC’s members. The group includes leaders in education, finance, business, diplomacy, public service, media, and philanthropy. “The philosophy of the appointments,” says Wisner, “was to make sure we were diverse in terms of regional representation and gender diversity, to give the president a good mix of outside opinion.” When it meets annually in the fall, the council aims to offer expert guidance to the University and help AUB excel in its commitment to the traditions of tolerance, academic creativity, and intellectual freedom.

Here is a list of current members:

- Philip S. Khoury, PhD, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, President, AUB
- Frank Wisner, Chair, IAC
- Reem Acra
- Scott Anderson
- Mohammad AlGergawi
- Abdlatif Al-Hamad
- William J. Burns, PhD
- Ryan Crocker
- Jacques de Saussure
- Richard A. Debs, PhD
- Farouk El-Baz, PhD
- Charles Elachi, PhD
- Vartan Gregorian, PhD
- Badr Jafar
- M. Farooq Kathwari
- Zalmay Khalilzad, PhD
- Yo-Yo Ma
- Thomas Q. Morris, MD
- Ronaldo Mouchawar
- Vali Nasr, PhD
- Emily Rafferty
- George R. Salem
- Raymond Sawaya, MD
- Peter Sellars
- Donna E. Shalala, PhD
StandingOUTstanding

Rouba Mhaissen, PhD (BA ’09) takes a stand on the Syrian Refugee crisis
Bahia Shehab (BFA ’99) is an artist, designer, and art historian with a Janus-like bent, looking to the Arabic language’s rich past for the means to protest modern day social conditions. For breathing new life into Arabic calligraphy so it can evolve to meet new demands and for being a “transnational female role model for younger generations,” Shehab will be awarded a Prince Claus prize at a ceremony in December.

The origins of her current artistic persona—“street artist”—can be traced to 2010, when she created the installation “A Thousand Times NO” for an exhibit at Munich’s Haus der Kunst museum that commemorated 100 years of Islamic art in Europe. She seized the occasion to rebuke what she saw as a host of global afflictions, including “the Iraq war, Palestine, global warming.” She culled a thousand varieties of the coiled Arabic script for “no” (“”) from mosques, monuments, tombs, and manuscripts from Spain to Afghanistan, Iran, China and the Chinese border, then ordered them chronologically.

The resulting historical repository revealed a connection between depth of artistry and economic development: more developed civilizations produced more elaborate artwork. “The aesthetic high point was between the 11th and 14th centuries and a bit in the 15th, then it declined,” Shehab says. “The shapes of the letters became more basic.”

In 2011, the Arab Spring swept through Cairo. Like most Egyptians, Shehab felt both appalled and elated: “I was at home watching TV and crying, feeling terrible for people being shot. On the night Mubarak stepped down, I took my daughters to Tahrir Square with their grandmother. People were kissing, dancing, singing. It was amazing. Like nothing I’ve ever seen before.”

But nine months into the revolution, after the mood had darkened, she saw a body being dragged through the streets and stacked on top of another corpse. She decided to take a stand. The many examples of “” she’d collected took on new meaning when she sprayed renditions of them onto Cairo’s walls: “No to military rule, no to emergency law, no to stripping the people, no to blinding heroes, no to burning books, no to violence, no to stealing the revolution, no to a new pharaoh.”

When doing graffiti in Cairo became too dangerous—authorities began whitewashing walls and arresting artists—she took her message elsewhere, to Istanbul, Vancouver, New York, New Orleans, and other cities, where local artists welcomed her with ready-made walls and structures she could tag with “nos” and, more recently, with the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish. “It was really interesting to see the work of 1970s New York street artists next to mine,” she says.
“Fonts, she says, carry an emotional message. Latin script designers, with over 10,000 digital fonts, have more tools than Arab ones.”

Before she adopted street art, Shehab says, she worked as a designer in Dubai. She was one of AUB’s first graphic design students in the 1990s, when the program was in its infancy, and she studied under Architecture and Design Chair Leila Musfy and renowned calligrapher Samir Sayegh, both of whom recall an unusual talent and passion in their pupil.

She first came to Cairo in 2003, completing her master’s at the American University of Cairo (AUC) and focusing on Fatimid epigraphy on Cairene monuments, which eventually led her to “A Thousand Times NO.” She was also invited to create a graphic design major at AUC, for which she developed 25 courses, including many previously unseen in the region, such as “A History of Advertising in the Arab World.”

Through her immersion in design and typography, Shehab has come to notice certain conditions endemic to the Arab world that challenge the emergence of varied typographical innovations occurring more readily elsewhere. Fonts, she says, carry an emotional message. Latin script designers, with over 10,000 digital fonts, have more tools than Arab ones; there are around 500 Arabic digital fonts.

She faults Arab governments to some degree, insofar as they fail to educate young people in calligraphy and to encourage innovation. Until the 1960s, calligraphy was mandatory in many Arab high schools. Other countries, like China and Japan, have carried forward a deliberate effort to promote calligraphy among youth.

Shehab believes that the antiquated fonts used in textbooks retard the learning process to a degree. To that end, several of her students’ projects involve redesigning Arabic educational textbook fonts for legibility and corporate identities for governmental institutions.

As for her current long-term project, Shehab is creating a historical encyclopedia of Arabic calligraphy. The push to reconnect with and reappraise Arabic’s visual heritage must be seen, she says, in light of globalization. “We must ask ourselves . . . what is our culture? What are we bringing to the global table?”

“She believes the antiquated fonts used in textbooks retard the learning process to a degree.”
Rouba Mhaissen, PhD (BA ’09) is an economist, activist, and development practitioner, focused on the MENA region, forced migration, and the Syrian refugee crisis. She is the founder and director of Sawa for Development and Aid (Lebanon), which seeks to partner with Syrian refugees to raise their living standards, and of the Sawa Foundation (UK), supporting and integrating refugees in Europe.

Q. What in your AUB education inspired or helped prepare you for your current work?
A. From an academic perspective, AUB played a formative role in laying out the infrastructure to my future studies and research. However, as an ecosystem, it also inspired my path and introduced me to those who share similar aspirations and dreams. The networks and relationships I developed were instrumental as a support system and a community that I carry with me wherever I go.

Q. If you could point to one thing that galvanized your activism, what would that be?
A. It is a combination of my love for people and my renunciation of injustice. Ever since I was young, I always prayed that God would use me as a tool for good in this life, a prism through which light enters and propagates. But it is only when the first 40 Syrian families moved into Lebanon in 2011 that I knew it was my calling to do something, and so I founded Sawa (which translates as “together” in English). Sometimes, I feel like my contribution is too small. And I am sure it is. But then I remember the ocean is formed of many tiny drops of water. Every small effort counts.

Q. What are some of the lessons you’ve learned about integration, as you’ve worked with refugee populations?
A. The most important lesson I learned through my work is that we are all much more similar than we think. Whether you are a professor, billionaire, migrant worker, or war refugee—at the core, we all want the same things. We all want to lead a dignified life with those we love. We all care about family. Motherhood is the same. Friendship bonds are the same. Fears are the same. We must remember this every time we tend towards “othering” and every time we hear a hate-inciting speech.

Q. Your NGO Sawa has over 30 partners. Do you ever feel that administrative and fundraising responsibilities are keeping you from what you love most—helping people on the ground?
A. The Sawa family has grown beyond my imagination! I am blessed with an outstanding team, and a big network of supporters and friends who are all ambassadors of Sawa and share these daunting responsibilities. And when the work gets overwhelming, all it takes is a visit to the field, a conversation with the families we are humbled to serve, to regain hope and passion and to remember that our work is all about the people. And that we are ready to do anything to support them.
The 2016 North American Regional Summit (NARS) took place October 7 - 9 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Summit was a great success, with alumni attending from across North America. Events included forums on entrepreneurship and healthcare, recognition of alumni celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 50+ anniversary, a gala reception, dinner and dancing, stellar entertainment, and bus and boat tours.

1. Kudos to the NARS16 Planning team which consisted of officers of the WAAAUB Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Alumni Chapter: Samir Akrut, MD, PhD (BS ’65, MS ’67), president; Asma Ghanam (BS Nursing ’82), vice-president; Ghada Bistanji (BS ’91, MS ’99), secretary; Hanan Shoujaa-Saab (BS ’82, MPH ’84), treasurer; Nasri S. Kawar, PhD (BS ’56, MS ’59), former president; Mona Al-Mukaddam (BS ’01, MD ’05), member-at-large; Aref Aref, PhD (BS ’61, MS ’63), member-at-large; Maarouf Hotelt (BS ’96, MD ’00), member-at-large; Suzan Juraydini (BS ’84), member-at-large; Joseph Saba (BS ’11), member-at-large; and Jacques Abboud, PhD (ME ’09), member-at-large. The team and an army of volunteers worked tirelessly to make this alumni summit and 150th celebration truly memorable.

2. L to R: Samir Abou Samra, Abdel Hadi Mhaissen accepting for his daughter Rouba Mhaissen, HE Talal Abou Ghazaleh, and Ghassan Abou-Alfa

2016 North American Regional Summit

In recognition of AUB’s 150th anniversary, Reunion 2016 (July 8 - 10) welcomed alumni from across all graduation years to a weekend filled with celebrations, including an honoring ceremony, an alumni party on the Oval, an arts fair, and a memorable evening at the Music Hall.

For details and photos, visit: www.aub.edu.lb/news/2016/Pages/alumni-reunion.aspx

This year, in addition to the 25th- and 50th-reunion-year honorees, a special new category recognized 50+ senior alumni with commemorative medals. Remarks and reminiscences delivered by Yasser Shaib (BS ’91, MD ’95), Ghassan Saab (BEN ’66), and Talal Abou Ghazaleh, PhD (BBA ’60) set the mood for this historic occasion. 2016 WAAAUB Distinguished Alumni awards went to Ghassan Abou Alfa (BS ’88, MD ’92), Talal Abou Ghazaleh, PhD (BBA ’60), and Rouba Mhaissen, PhD (BA ’09). Chapter President Samir Abou Samra (BEN ’68) accepted this year’s Outstanding Chapter award for The Mount Lebanon Chapter.

Historic All-Class Reunion Held on Campus
WAAAUB Around the Globe

For event details and photos, visit the alumni website: alumni.aub.edu.lb

150th Festivities, North America

United States

Baltimore

GALA
Country Club of Maryland
Towson, MD
1 October

Los Angeles

GALA
The Pacific Club
Newport Beach, CA
17 September

Event organizers (L to R): Bana Hilal (BA ’72) and Dilara El-Assad (BS ’78, MS ’80) with President Khuri (center)

Houston

GALA
Hilton Houston Post Oak
Houston, TX
16 September

Northeast Ohio

GALA
150th celebration,
Masquerade Ball
The Cleveland Racquet Club
Pepperpike, OH
29 October

North Carolina

150th Honoring Reception
Page-Walker Arts & History Center – Cary, NC
10 September

Honorees: Andre Kayrallah accepting for Moise Kayrallah (BA ’81), Mrs. Mona Mikati accepting for Mohammed A. Mikati (BS ’76, MD ’80), Nadia Najla Malouf (BS ’59, MD ’63), Bisharah Libbus (BS ’67, MS ’71), Amal Abu-Shakra (BS ’79), Aref Asad Abdut-Baki (BS ’56), Lawahiz Sadaka Eckhart (BA ’56), Soumaya Khuri (BS ’60), and Raja Khalifah (BS ’62), with Raghid Bitar (BS ’98, MD ’02), Chapter President

Also honored: Samia Khalaf Sullivan (former student)

Alumni speaker: Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, PhD (BS ’91, MA ’95)
Chapter Get-togethers

**United States**

**Michigan**

LAYLA AND MAJNUN

Reception and Performance benefiting Chapter Fund for Needy Patients at AUBMC
Ann Arbor, MI
15 October

**Washington, DC**

CULTURAL EVENT COMMEMORATING POET JAWDAT R. HAYDAR
Residence Potomac, MD
16 October

**New York**

New York chapter members welcomed President Khuri to a reception hosted by local Consul General and alumnus Majdi Ramadan (BA '93) at his residence
New York, NY
20 September

**New York**

COMEDY SHOW WITH NEMR
Gramercy Theatre
New York, NY
3 November

**Middle East**

South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon Chapters

ANNUAL TRIP TO SOUTHERN LEBANON COAST
25 September

**Professional Chapters**

Business Chapter

ANNUAL GALA
Seven Sisters, Biel Beirut
27 September

www.flickr.com/photos/aubalumni/
Class Notes

1940s

Zuhayr Annab (PHCH ‘48) 
“I graduated from International College in 1942 and moved to AUB and graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1948. I am so proud of our alma mater, ‘AUB in thee we glory, make us true and brave.’ I am 94 years old, but I still vividly remember the AUB campus. I always tell my children and grandchildren that the years I spent there were the best years of my life.”

[anisobeidmd@crouse.org]

1950s

Raja Tewfik Nasr (BBA ’50), who earned an MA and an EdD at the University of Michigan, has just been granted emeritus status as professor of education at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia where he taught graduate courses in education and linguistics for 26 years. The recipient of the Medal of Education (first class) from the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, HE Mr. Salim Al Hoss, the Medal of Education (first class) from His Majesty, the late King Hussein of Jordan, and the Gold Medal of Congress from the International Biographical Association of Cambridge, England, Raja has published 45 articles and 60 books in the fields of education and English and Arabic linguistics. He intends to remain active by teaching part-time, offering volunteer services in his community, and giving talks as a public speaker in the United States. At one time, Raja was director of the Center for English Language Research and Teaching at AUB and professor of education and linguistics at Beirut University College (now LAU). He has trained teachers of English and Arabic in 21 countries on four continents and served 16 governments on three continents educationally.

[raja.nasr@marymount.edu]

Dale Branum (Junior Year Abroad student, 1955-56) writes: “It was a pivotal year of my life! I especially enjoyed my classes with Dr. Charles Malik: two semesters on Plato’s Republic, two semesters of ancient Near East history with Professor Dimitri Baramki, and a wonderful course for an English major focused on C.H.O. Scaife’s Shakespeare’s Classical Allusions. Weekends I usually spent visiting ancient sites near Beirut. At Christmas I went to Cairo and took the night train to Luxor with my JYA friends and some Mideast classmates. I managed to spend an extra week in Cairo visiting the Sphinx and early tombs, and I took a horse and donkey trip to Saqqara. I was blessed with wonderful new friends from all over the Middle East. The boys were like big brothers to me, teaching me to haggle in the souks, and enlightening me and my colleagues about the tragedy of Palestine. I only wish I could come to campus to celebrate AUB’s 150th anniversary.”

Michel Basrawi (BS ’57) A graduate of the School of Agriculture, Michel spent a very successful career with the German chemical company BASF before his retirement in 1994. He introduced chemical fertilizers in Iraq (1958-68), was a director of a local company, and MENA regional marketing manager of crop protection products stationed in Beirut (1969-75). Moving from the technical and commercial aspects of crop production to marketing, his
success in West Africa led to his relocation to Germany to handle Far East countries. He says that AUB provided a good basis for his career and taught him to work hard and continue learning. He hopes to visit Beirut and the School of Agriculture someday soon. [MBasrawi@t-online.de]

Wassim Abou Hamzeh (BBA ’57) closed his travel agency Top Travel and is now a travel adviser with Beirut Express. [wassim35@beirutexpress.com]

Fuad M. Kronfol (BS ’57, MA ’70) is retired and has been living with his wife Nadia in Montreal, Canada, since 1995. Professionally, he was a management and personnel consultant for WHO, UNAIDS, IAEA, and UNICEF. He maintains contact with UNICEF through the Retiree Reunion process, having hosted a reunion in 2008. Fuad’s main hobby is philately through membership in a number of stamp clubs. He also enjoys travelling and tennis and keeps abreast of alumni affairs through WAAAUB, as well as International College and Brummana High School.

Pervaiz Vandal (BEN ’64) Pervaiz Vandal and Associates, Pakistan, was recently awarded the prestigious Robert Matthew Award of the Commonwealth Architects Association (CAA) in recognition of innovative contributions to the development of architecture.

As part of AUB’s 150th Anniversary celebrations, our FEA Class of ’66 attended the Reunion honoring ceremony at Assembly Hall, where 50th anniversary graduates received commemorative medals from President Khuri.

Additionally, the class celebrated two events/reunions:

- Ghassan and Manal Saab hosted a dinner held in Beirut at the Vendôme Hotel. The dinner was attended by over 40 graduates with their spouses from all over the world, in addition to some faculty members.

- Fadlo and Justine Touma hosted a trip and lunch in Kab Elias, Beq’a at their Domaine de Chouchane. The event was attended by the same group of FEA class of ’66 alumni in addition to Dr. Makram Suidan, faculty members, the president of the FEA chapter, the president of WAAAUB and the director of Development Office. It was marked by a hiking trip through the grape vineyards, plus the traditional Tarboush Parade.

The FEA Class of ’66 has established a new endowed scholarship. It is now funded at $100,000 and will continue to be supported by members of the FEA Class of 1966.

Antoine Haddad (BS ’67, MS ’69, MS ’76) earned his graduate degrees in rural sociology and agricultural economics. He is now retired and living in Beirut. His entire career was with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, mainly in the areas of social development and social policies including rural community development.

Bassel F. El-Rayes (BS ’72, MD ’96) is associate director of clinical research at Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute in Atlanta, Georgia, a professor and vice chair for clinical research in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Emory University School of Medicine, the chief clinical research scientist responsible for coordinating and providing high-level direction to the clinical cancer research programs and clinical cancer trials across the Emory campuses, and director of Winship’s GI Program. He was recently selected to hold the newly endowed John Kauffman Family Professorship for Pancreatic Cancer Research. His clinical research focuses on drug development and multidisciplinary approaches to patients with early stage or advanced GI cancer. Board certified in hematology and medical oncology. Bassel completed his internal medicine residency training at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, before joining Emory’s hematology oncology fellowship program at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.
“After graduating from AUB, I continued my search for knowledge and earned a PhD in environmental science and engineering....”

Faten Nazzal  
(BEN ’82, MEN ’87)

Yusuf Hannun (BS ’77, MD ’81, DHL ’14) is now the director of the Stony Brook Cancer Center, Long Island, New York. He also leads a research laboratory focused on studying the roles of bioactive lipids, especially in cancer. He and his wife Lina Obeid (MD ’83) have triplets: Reem, Marya, and Awni, all pursuing PhD studies in the United States. The recipient of an honorary doctorate from AUB in 2014, Yusuf remembers fondly the ‘tumultuous’ years at AUB, and the many deep friendships that evolved over nine years. [yhannun@yahoo.com]

Saydeh Nassar (BA ’77, MS ’82) writes, “With my bachelor’s degree in political science and public administration (PSPA) and a master’s in hospital administration, I worked as an administrator at AUBMC for 12 years and later moved on to assume executive positions in other healthcare centers in Beirut and Amman, Jordan. I met my husband, Camille Nassar (BS ’72, MS ’74, PhD ’76) when I was a student at AUB. We lived with our family on the AUB campus at Faculty 1 for 17 years. I am currently the chief executive officer at Oasis de Vie, a 157-bed continuum of care facility in Beirut. AUB gave me all of this happens. Thank you AUB for the freedom, and growth. AUB is where all means for intellectual exchange, one-way transfer of knowledge but the University education is not merely a to our education and development. Exceptional professors who contributed to many more centennial years to come.” [saydehn@gmail.com]

Kamal Saad (BS ’77, MS ’79) With a BS in agriculture and an MS in soils and irrigation, Kamal established SAM Engineering & Trade Company, one of the top private companies in Amman, Jordan. The company specializes in sales and services of electromechanical equipment, and has more than 50 employees. Kamal has three children—all AUB graduates: Randa (BS ’08, MD ’12), David (BBA ’12) and Rami (BA ’11). [kamal.saad@samengineering.com]

Faten Nazzal (BEN ’82, MEN ’87) writes, “After graduating from AUB, I continued my search for knowledge and earned a PhD in environmental science and engineering from Rice University, Houston, Texas. Currently I am a principal at Dar Al-Handasah (Shair and Partners), based in Beirut. I manage water and wastewater treatment projects as well as major infrastructure
often say that I am because of AUB.”

“I’m so proud of being an AUB graduate and often say that I am what I am now because of AUB.”

Rula Yazigy, PhD
(BA ’85, MA ’87)

Educated at AUB

Lina Shihabuddin (BS ’85, MD ’89) writes, “I was reflecting on family days in Lebanon and at AUB. I think of our family as an example of where an AUB education can get one. Here is a photo of us with my mother at my house in New Jersey.”

Bassem I. Razzouk (BS ’83, MD ’87) is currently medical director of Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital, St Vincent Health, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He and his wife Jacqueline Farah have four children: Lamya (16), Ralph (14), and twin girls Carla and Nour (11).

Hanan Itani Ramadan (BS ’84, MPH ’87) writes, “After graduating with a master’s degree in healthcare administration, I worked for two years in one of the private hospitals in Beirut before moving to AUB in 1989 as an assistant director for Purchasing. In 2002, I was promoted to the position of director of Purchasing, and currently I am the director of Procurement and Contracts Administration at AUB. I am married to Majed Ramadan and have two children who are both AUB graduates.” (hi01@aub.edu.lb)

Jamilah Borjac (BS ’85, MS ’87) graduated with a master’s degree in biochemistry and then worked for three years at Beirut Arab University (BAU) teaching organic and analytical chemistry labs in the Pharmacy Department before earning a doctorate in biochemistry from Tulane University in the United States in 1997. Returning to Lebanon, she worked at Lebanese American University (LAU) for seven years on a part-time basis; at BAU, in AUB’s FAFS, where she taught basic biochemistry to nutrition and agriculture students; and then at Lebanese International University (LIU) for seven years as full-time faculty where she worked on developing the biochemistry curriculum. Finally, in 2012 she moved to BAU where she is full-time faculty in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. [j.borjac@bau.edu.lb]

Nevart (Najarian) Tahmazian (BS ’85, MA ’88) The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education awarded Nevart the 2015 Marylands Professor of the Year award. She teaches chemistry at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. Also, in 2015 she received the Local Section Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award from the American Chemical Society.

Rula Yazigy, PhD (BA ’85, MA ’87)

With degrees in English and education (TEFL), Rula went on to earn a doctorate in applied linguistics from the University of Leicester, England, in 1991. She is now an assistant professor at Lebanese University. She has held several positions throughout her career in academia, including: head of department, academic adviser, research supervisor, and coordinator of master’s degree programs. She writes, “I’m proud of being an AUB graduate and often say that I am what I am now because of AUB!”

Osman Adra (BEN ’87) is a professional mechanical engineer working in Tripoli since 1992. Since 2003, he has also been a part-time lecturer at Balamand University where he teaches building services courses to architecture and interior design students. Osman owns Intercool, a leading MEP/HVAC contracting company in North Lebanon. Gearing his business towards energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE&RE), Osman established Intercool Energy Services Company with branches in Lebanon and UAE. He became the first Certified Energy Manager in Lebanon by the Association of Energy Engineers. As an active member of the Lebanon Green Building Council, he recently organized Green Week 2016 a highly successful event which attracted more than 200 engineers and engineering students. Osman is married and has five children; two are graduates (one in engineering and one in internal architecture), one son who is an undergraduate, and two school-age daughters. On the day of his 50th birthday last December, Osman became a grandfather to a cute little boy. [intercool.scs@gmail.com]

Abbas Bou Diab (BBA ’87) works in Qatar at BLOM Bank, Qatar LLC. The bank was licensed by the Qatar Financial Centre Authority in 2008 and is regulated by the Qatar Financial Regulatory Authority. Abbas is an executive manager and head of the Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Department.
1990s

**Fouad Abd-El-Khalick** (BS ’91, MA ’95) was named dean of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education, one of Carolina’s oldest professional schools. Abd-El-Khalick serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* and serves on the executive board of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching.

**Mohammad I Baydoun** (BS ’94, MS ’97) works at Solidere in Beirut as a department manager caring for the operation and maintenance of Beirut Central District Landscape. [mbaydoun@solidere.com.lb]

**Fadia Sidani** (BS ’94) works at Beirut Arab University in IT Management as head of systems. She is married and has three children. [fadia@bau.edu.lb]

**Janah Abou Khzam** (BEN ’97) A civil engineering graduate, Janah is now a major in the Judicial Police force. [janah_abk@hotmail.com]

**Wissam Halabi** (BS ’95, MS ’97) writes, “I’ve been working with a leading animal health company for the past 13 years, currently managing Middle East and North Africa markets and proud to be supporting my companies’ cause around Food Security. I’m based in Abu Dhabi, have been married to my wife, Roula, for 14 years and have two children, Sharelle and Alessandro.” [halabi_wissam@elanco.com]

**Susan Daniel Fayad** (BA ’97, TD ’98) is the career coach for J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. She has also published two children’s books, *My Grandfather’s Masbaha* and *Stomp the Ground: Build a Home*. Susan lives with her husband and two children in Richmond, Virginia. [susan_fayad@yahoo.com]

2000s

**Alia Alameddine** (BS ’04), MS ’07) earned degrees in agriculture and soil science. She and her husband Omar El Jaroudi (BEN ’02, MBA ’08) have a daughter and a son. They currently live in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where Alia works as an assistant academic director at King Khaled International Schools. [alia.alameddine@gmail.com]

**Ari Kassardjian** (BS ’05, MS ’07) writes, “After finishing my PhD in molecular biophysics from Florida State University in 2012, I pursued an MD at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Last March, I was accepted into a residency position in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.”

**Asma Arabi, MD** (MS ’07) is currently an associate professor of medicine at AUB (Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism) and the assistant director of the Calcium Metabolism and Osteoporosis Program at AUBMC. [aa22@aub.edu.lb]

**Mira El Masri El-Oud** (MS ’07) after graduating, Mira worked at the Industrial Research Institute (IRI) in Lebanon for five years as an assistant Unit Head and then Unit Head of the wet chemistry lab. She married, moved to Canada, and was accepted into the Chemists’ Order of Quebec (headquartered in Montreal). Mira has a young daughter named Lynn.

**WAAAUB is your alumni association!**

Election 2017 kicks off on February 1. Keep an eye out for emails and announcements to nominate your fellow alumni to the leadership of WAAAUB!
Do you get updates from AUB about campus events?

Have you heard the latest news from President Khuri?

Do you know if there are AUB events going on near you?

If not, when was the last time you gave AUB your contact information? Send us your latest email, mailing address and phone numbers!

You can also change your own detailed information by going to the AUB alumni website: alumni.aub.edu.lb
(Pssst....Did you know you can also look up your long-lost classmates there?)

Don’t get left behind! Update your contact info today at: alumni@aub.edu.lb
1. Byzantium in Early Islamic Syria

Byzantium in Early Islamic Syria by Nadia El-Cheikh and Shaun O’Sullivan (eds.) (AUB Press, 2011) This publication chronicles the proceedings of a 2007 conference organized by the Center for Arab and Middle East Studies (CAMES) at the American University of Beirut and the Center for Antiochene Studies at the University of Balamand. It is divided into two parts comprising two respective chronological eras, reflecting the intention of the conference to pursue a dual and comparative focus with the hope of throwing fresh light on both eras—the early Islamic period, from the Islamic conquests of Syria until the fall of the Umayyad dynasty (632–750) and the period of Byzantine reconquest of Syria (969–1084).

2. Naturalization Policies, Education and Citizenship: Multicultural and Multi-Nation Societies in International Perspective

Naturalization Policies, Education and Citizenship: Multicultural and Multi-Nation Societies in International Perspective by Dina Kiwan (ed.) (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) This book examines constructions of “national” citizenship in the context of perceived internal division, including devolution, multiculturalism, ethno-religious conflict, post-conflict and refugees, discussing a wide range of countries such as Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the UK, Ukraine, Canada, and Palestinians in Lebanon.

3. Local Governments and Public Goods: Assessing Decentralization in the Arab World

Local Governments and Public Goods: Assessing Decentralization in the Arab World by Mona Harb and Sami Atallah (eds.) (Ras Beirut: The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, 2015). This book documents and assesses past and current decentralization policies and initiatives in five Arab states. While the tools and processes by which decentralization is carried out vary, the stated goals of these efforts are to create a more democratic system of governance and more effective urban management. Countries across the Arab world have been engaged in a range of decentralization efforts. Country-specific case studies are authored by Ali Bouabid and Aziz Iraki for Morocco, Sami Yassine Turki and Eric Verdeil for Tunisia, Myriam Ababsa for Jordan, Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj for Yemen, and Mona Harb and Sami Atallah for Lebanon.

4. Jawdat R. Haydar: The Voice from Baalbek

Jawdat R. Haydar: The Voice from Baalbek by John Munro (Antoine, 2016) provides an accessible introduction to Haydar’s poetry with an account of the making of both the poet and the man. Munro (AUB professor 1966-90 and author of A Mutual Concern: The Story of the American University of Beirut) leads us through a comprehensive reading of the historical events and major literary trends that influenced the work of Jawdat Haydar (1905-2006). Analyzing Haydar’s poetry in the context of the Mahjar poets, Munro provides an original exploration of issues of cultural identity, adoption of the English language, and the complexity of the exile’s experience.
In Memoriam

Alumni

Farhat Jacob Ziadeh (BA ’37) was born in Ramallah, Palestine, and passed away on June 8 at the age of 99 in Seattle, Washington. He earned an LLB from the University of London in 1940 and was admitted to Lincoln’s Inn, London, becoming a Barrister-at-Law in 1946. Ziadeh served as a magistrate for the Government of Palestine before embarking on a distinguished career as a professor and scholar in the field of Islamic law. He was a professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at Princeton University for 18 years. In 1966, Ziadeh was asked to establish and head the Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department as well as the Middle East Center at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Serving in leadership positions on numerous academic associations and boards, Ziadeh’s many honors include the Center for Arabic Study Abroad lifetime achievement award; the Middle East Studies Association Mentoring Award; and election as an honorary MESA fellow; a Festschrift, *Islamic Law and Jurisprudence: Studies in Honor of Farhat J. Ziadeh*; and The Farhat J. Ziadeh Distinguished Lecture in Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Washington. A renowned scholar, Ziadeh published many highly esteemed books and articles, and he was an inspiring professor for legions of students spanning decades. He is survived by his beloved wife Suad Ziadeh; daughters Shireen Abed, Susan Ziadeh (MA ’78), Rhonda Salem, Deena Ayyub, and Reema Ziadeh; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Jacob T. Thaddeus (BA ’45, MD ’50) was born in 1923 and passed away on July 21 in Beirut, Lebanon. After graduating with distinction from medical school, he joined the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Co. and worked in its health facilities as medical director in Beirut and Saudi Arabia. In 1972 he joined the School of Public Health as a lecturer and as director of Ambulatory Services at the American Univeristy Hospital. In 1976, when the AUB Services Corporation (forerunner of Regional External Programs) was established, Thaddeus went with an AUB team to Bahrain to implement a management assistance project at the Bahrain Ministry of Health and, later, he became involved in health consultancy projects in a number of Gulf States. He was a member of the Lebanese Order of Physicians, the Board of the Lebanese Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases, twice chairman of the MEMA Organizing Committee, and a member of the Medical Committee of the Lebanese Family Planning Association. While in medical school, Thaddeus was among the founders of the Medical Students’ Society, and he originated the very popular MSS Variety Shows. As a member of the Student Council in the early 1950s, he was appointed chairman of the Publication Committee of the student paper *Outlook*. After graduation Thaddeus was closely involved with the AUB Alumni Association in several capacities, most notably as chairman of the Publication Committee of Al-Kulliyah, the alumni periodical. He was married to the late Wadad Samaha, and is survived by a daughter Sereen Brown (BA ’79), a son David (BEN ’81), and three grandchildren. [This IM tribute was written by Najwa Shaheen Haffar (BA ’51), a close family friend.]
Mubadda Tawfic Suidan (BEN ’57, MEN ’66) was born in Haifa, Palestine, in 1934 and passed away on July 12, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia. He completed doctoral studies in civil engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A talented structural engineer and designer, he established his own engineering firm in Beirut and the UAE which produced a wide array of private and public sector works, notably the Zayed Sports City Stadium and the Zirku Island Development project, both in Abu Dhabi. He moved his family to Atlanta, Georgia in 1982, but continued to work on projects in the Middle East. A kind, pragmatic, and witty man, he was known for his passion for animals, quality education, and Palestinian causes. Suidan is survived by his wife Aida (née El-Khazen) (BS ’58, MD ’62); siblings Maleeha (BA ’70) and Makram (BEN ’71; Dean AUB FEA, 2011-16); and three children Toufic, Ziad, and Tala.

Munir AbuHaidar (BA ’49) was born in Hammana, Lebanon and died at his home in Millbrook, New York on October 4. A pioneer in air freight aviation, AbuHaidar was also on the leading edge of business practices providing employees with health insurance and education benefits, and placing an emphasis on the training and employment of women. In 1975, his company, Trans Mediterranean Airways (TMA), was one of the largest air freight airlines in the world with routes to the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the United States. The second largest employer in Lebanon with over 5,000 employees, TMA could not sustain the extreme hardships of Lebanon’s civil war, and AbuHaidar sold the airline. He moved his family to Millbrook, New York and focused on philanthropy. The eponymous AbuHaidar Neuroscience Center which opened at AUBMC in 2007, is the result of his great generosity, vision, and dedication to making lives better. The center was the first comprehensive neurological treatment center in the Arab world. The strong bonds between the AbuHaidar family and AUB include Munir’s father Ibrahim (MD 1904), and his brothers George (BA ’42, MA ’47), Fuad (BBA ’42), and Najib (MD ’48). He is survived by Susan AbuHaidar, his loving wife of 52 years, and his five children, Ramzi, Nadim, Lamia, Sumaya and Walid, and eight grandchildren.

Anis Baraka was born in Fayoum, Egypt, in 1930 and passed away on June 30. Educated at Cairo University, where he earned a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1953, and at the University of Liverpool where he was a research fellow, Baraka completed a residency in anesthesiology at the National Heart Hospital, London. He began his association with AUB in 1965 and quickly advanced from instructor to professor (emeritus as of 2008) to chairperson of the Department of Anesthesiology, a post he held for nearly 30 years. Baraka served in leadership positions at the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists and the Arab Board of Anesthesia and Intensive Care. In recognition of his achievements, particularly his contributions during the Lebanese Civil War, Dr. Baraka received several honors, including an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of Anesthetists. Upon learning of his death, President Khuri commented, “He was a genuine leader in the medical field, not only in Lebanon but in the Arab world and beyond, a gentle man always willing to help others and able to manage the most complicated of cases with grace, with humility, and with great skill... The great Dr. Baraka will be mourned by all who knew him at AUB.” He is survived by his wife Aziza, his daughter Huda, and sons Hesham, Tarek, and Khaled.

Fahd El Hamawi (MS ’71) of Amman, Jordan, was born in 1937 and died suddenly from a stroke on May 29. At AUB he was a respected, popular, and active student, who belonged to several student clubs. El Hamawi served with the UN International Labor Organization in Sudan, Dar-Al-Handasah in Aden, Yemen, and as a member of the AUB Technical Team at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is survived by two brothers Munther and Hisham and the extended El Hamawi family.

Friends

Anis Baraka

A pioneer in anesthesiology in Lebanon and the region, Anis Baraka was born in Fayoum, Egypt, in 1930 and passed away on June 30. Educated at Cairo University, where he earned a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1953, and at the University of Liverpool where he was a research fellow, Baraka completed a residency in anesthesiology at the National Heart Hospital, London. He began his association with AUB in 1965 and quickly advanced from instructor to professor (emeritus as of 2008) to chairperson of the Department of Anesthesiology, a post he held for nearly 30 years. Baraka served in leadership positions at the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists and the Arab Board of Anesthesia and Intensive Care. In recognition of his achievements, particularly his contributions during the Lebanese Civil War, Dr. Baraka received several honors, including an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of Anesthetists. Upon learning of his death, President Khuri commented, “He was a genuine leader in the medical field, not only in Lebanon but in the Arab world and beyond, a gentle man always willing to help others and able to manage the most complicated of cases with grace, with humility, and with great skill... The great Dr. Baraka will be mourned by all who knew him at AUB.” He is survived by his wife Aziza, his daughter Huda, and sons Hesham, Tarek, and Khaled.
Friends

**Ritchie D. Thomas** passed away at the age of 85 on May 24. He was director of AUB’s Jafet Library from 1967-76. He received a bachelor’s degree from Whitman College in Washington State and a master’s degree in library science from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Thomas also served as a librarian with the *New York Times*, Washington, DC, Bureau; as city librarian at Woodland Public Library, Woodland, California; as college librarian at Sacramento City College, Sacramento, California; and as a university librarian at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. The author and editor of several scholarly books and articles, he was an amateur deltiologist (postcard collector) and collected unusual and old objects. Thomas is preceded in death by wife Grace, and survived by daughters Kathryn, Martha and Laura; a son Andrew; and eight grandchildren.

**Ahmed H. Zewail**, an Egyptian-American who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999 for his pioneering work in femtochemistry, died on August 2. He was the first Arab Nobel laureate in any of the sciences. Born in Damanhur, Egypt, on February 26, 1946, Zewail completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Alexandria University, and a doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. He then taught at The California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California for four decades. In 2000, Zewail embarked on a lifelong dream to establish an independent, cutting-edge research institution in the Middle East in order to help restore the region to its historical place as a center of learning. The Zewail City of Science and Technology in Cairo, Egypt, opened its doors to students in 2013. Dr. Zewail was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of academies in other countries, including Britain, Russia, France, and China. He was an author or co-author of 600 scientific papers. A recipient of the Order of the Grand Collar of the Nile, Zewail received a Doctor of Humane Letters from AUB in 2005. He served on US President Obama’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology from 2009-13, and as the US science envoy to the Middle East. Zewail is survived by his wife, Dema Faham, and four children: Maha, Amani, Nabeel, and Hani.

**Thomas M. Sutherland** was born in Falkirk, Scotland, in 1931 and passed away in Fort Collins, Colorado on July 22. With degrees in agriculture from Glasgow University (BS ’53), Reading University (post-graduate diploma ’54), and Iowa State University (MS ’56, PhD ’58), Sutherland embarked on a highly successful career as a professor of animal science at Colorado State University (CSU). In 1983, he accepted an invitation to serve as Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at AUB. In 1985 he was taken hostage and held captive for more than six years. Following his release in November 1991, Sutherland was hailed as a hero for his courage and magnanimity. He returned to CSU as a professor emeritus, and in 2014, he and his wife Jean Ann (née Murray) were awarded the CSU Founders Day Medal in recognition of their service to the University, the community, the arts, and higher education worldwide. The couple co-authored the memoir, *At Your Own Risk: An American Chronicle of Crisis and Captivity in the Middle East*. Dr. Sutherland’s other awards include the Distinguished Teacher Award from the American Society of Animal Science and CSU’s Harris T. Guard Distinguished Service Award for Teaching. In addition to his wife Joan, Sutherland is survived by three daughters, Kit, Joan, and Ann; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Notices for In Memoriam may be sent to maingate@aub.edu.lb**
**We Remember**

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Sulayman Mufarrij</td>
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Installation: “genus: nation gender status”

The pavilion understands time through its own physical fragments, embodying time’s continuous framework within its historical context. The gesture has neither a beginning nor an end. It has neither a front nor a back. It is as continuous as time.

A white canvas warps between the existing features of the site and creates organic pockets where people can gather and view the exhibition. This temporary structure depicts a very neutral and minimal aesthetic, in contrast to the old architecture of the campus, giving a contemporary feel for AUB’s 150th anniversary.

More Online
www.ghaithjad.com/index/#/_aub-pavillion/
More photos, Mahmoud Merjan

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD7oquGhiNc
Short video, Christian Moussa
Collect all three 150th editions for a full map of Beirut featuring streets named after figures from AUB's history.