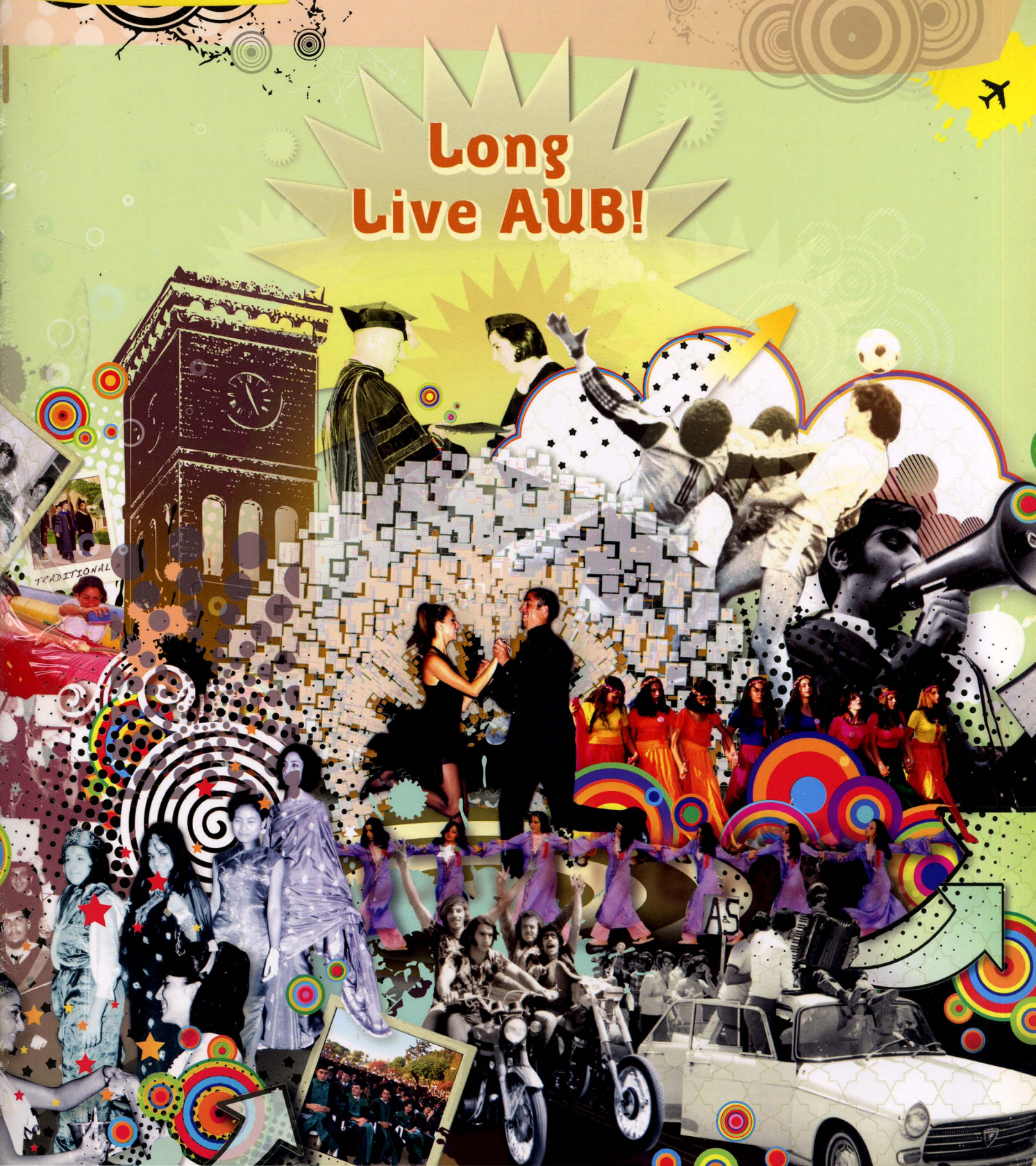


# Main Gate

American University of Beirut Quarterly Magazine

## Long Live AUB!







# MainGate

American University of Beirut Quarterly Magazine

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MainGate is published quarterly in Beirut by the American University of Beirut for distribution to alumni, former faculty, friends, and supporters worldwide.

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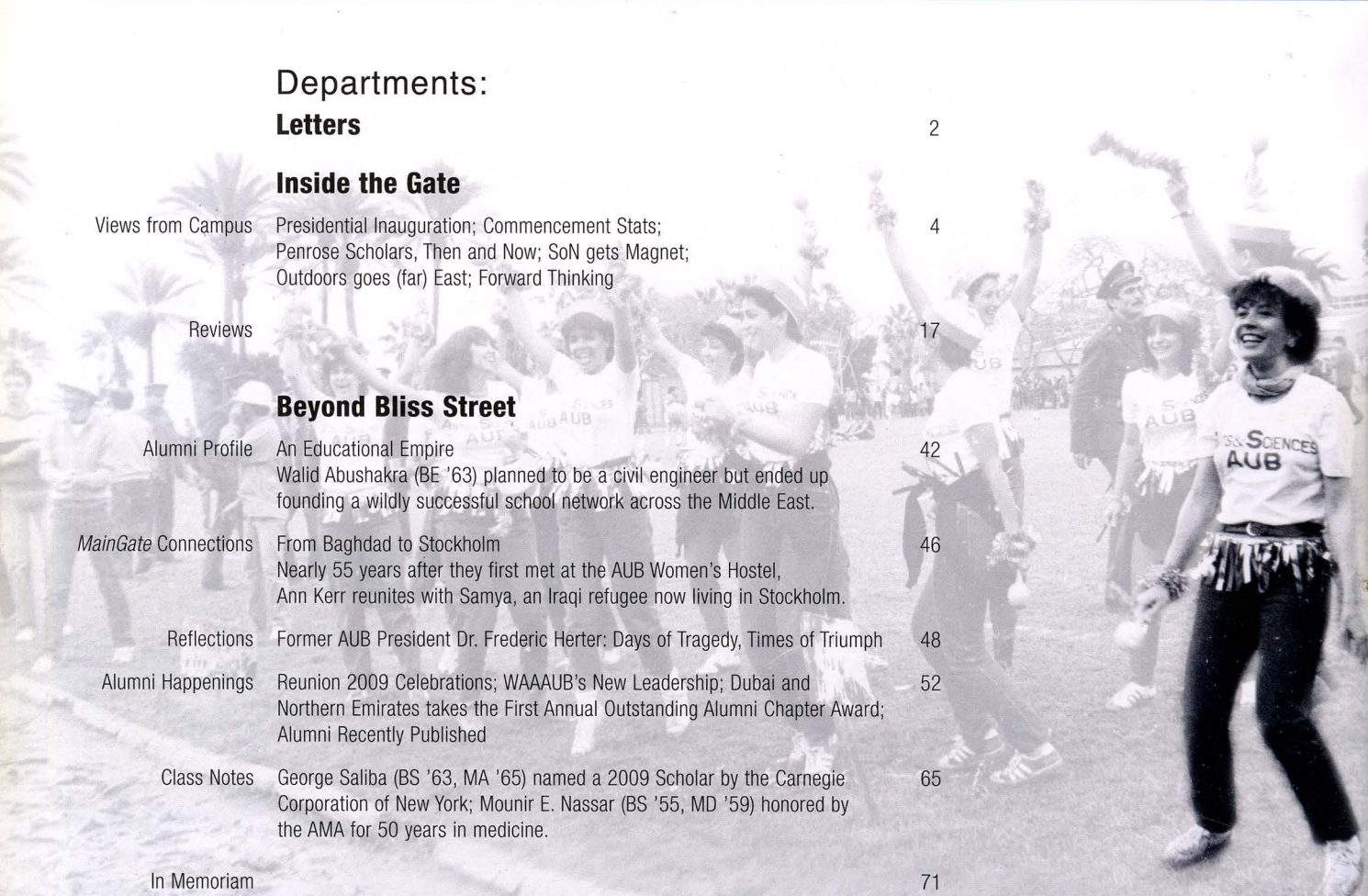
Collage by the Office of Communications

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Big Game, 1982

### Printing

53 dots (Dar El Kotob)





# Living Traditions

MainGate Summer 2009

## Features:

### Blissed Out > 24

Students weigh in on their favorite traditions in 2009.

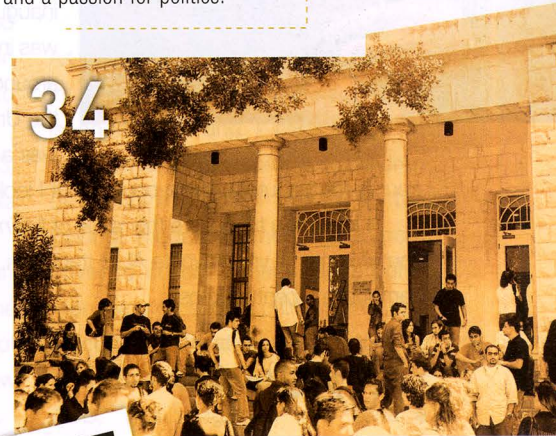


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### A Tradition of Transition > 26

President Dorman's 2009 inauguration had concerts, symposia, and ceremony, but sadly, no fireworks. Bayard Dodge's 1923 inauguration featured rockets, fire balloons, and a "Cosmopolitan Night" where Egyptian students recreated the "tomb of King Toot-and-Come-in."



### Scrapbook Memories > 36

From Miss AUB to Commencement to the Folk Dance Festival, our favorite AUB traditions from the archives. Photo essay.







Dear Alumni and Friends,

Even those among us who embrace change and champion innovation are powerfully drawn to traditions. There is clearly something reassuring in gathering at the same place every year with people we know, enjoying a favorite meal that has been prepared “the way Sitti used to,” and listening to the stories we have heard many times before. This may be why we observe the traditions that have been passed down to us—and why we introduce new ones as well.

This is certainly what is taking place at AUB. In addition to events such as Founders Day, Christmas concerts in Assembly Hall, Folk Dance Festivals on the Green Field, Outdoors, the “Big Game,” Commencement, and honorary degree ceremonies, many of us also observe some new traditions such as Fingerprints, the student fundraising program that has raised \$800,000 for financial aid since 2002. Another relatively new tradition, which has been warmly embraced by our alumni, is the annual Class Reunion that takes place every year around the time of Commencement. In July 2009, we welcomed alumni from the graduating classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004—and their families—to campus.

In May 2009, AUB celebrated another tradition on campus: a presidential inauguration—something it had not done since December 1982, when Malcolm Kerr was inaugurated as AUB’s ninth president. Many distinguished guests from Lebanon and around the world, including regional leaders and prominent figures in higher education in the United States and the Middle East, participated in this truly memorable occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on AUB’s achievements and to set a

course for the future. It is a course that I look forward to traveling with all of you for many years to come.

I invite you to explore this issue of *MainGate*, where you will find some stories and images that I think will remind many of you of some of your favorite AUB traditions. I hope they will also make you feel a part of the traditions that we celebrated on campus in recent months.

President Peter F. Dorman

We ushered in the summer of 2009 with an inauguration followed by a commencement, both powerful traditions at AUB. This got us thinking about how customs—both formal and informal—define the AUB culture. For this issue, we have highlighted from the long list of AUB traditions three with special significance: presidential inaugurations, student protest/governance and community service. All trace their proud heritage to the founding of the University and have evolved to occupy new roles in the life of AUB today. We also asked students to tell us what AUB tradition means to them. You’ll find evidence of other AUB traditions throughout the issue, from the

▼  
**tra-di-tion** \tr\_ -\_di-sh\_n\

Etymology: Middle English tradicioun, from Middle French & Latin; Middle French tradicion, from Latin tradition-, traditio action of handing over, tradition. See TREASON.

- 1: an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (as a religious practice or a social custom) ...
- 3: cultural continuity in social attitudes, customs, and institutions



Honorary Degree ceremony and past and present Penrose Scholars to a newer tradition, reunion.

As we readied this issue for the printer, we finished our last *MainGate* as co-editors. After 16 years at AUB, Ibrahim is retiring in October 2009. We've worked together every day for five years, despite the distance of over 5,500 miles between our two offices. We'll miss him at *MainGate*, but we know that friendship is another strong tradition at AUB.

Ada H. Porter and Ibrahim Khoury  
Coeditors, *MainGate*  
maingate@aub.edu.lb

### Winter 2009, Vol. VII, No. 2

I was so pleased that you devoted a good part of the *MainGate* winter issue to the Palestinian communities in Lebanon. I was honored and proud to learn of the significant initiatives, programs, and campaigns undertaken by AUB to alleviate the pain and suffering of the Palestinian communities living in distressed economic conditions in poorly maintained camps. This issue brings to life the long and persisting hardships and overwhelming problems faced by Palestinians as they go through life deprived of many basic rights and privileges enjoyed by others living a normal life. In spite of all these difficulties, many Palestinian students in Lebanon have achieved great success and realized their dreams due in part to the high level of education, cultural orientation, and experience they gained at AUB. I am

one of those students who proudly carries the AUB flag everywhere I go in my life. My three children are AUB students: Basil graduated two years ago; Dena will be graduating next fall; and Leila is finishing her freshman year. My family and I are indebted to AUB for its outstanding role in shaping our lives and allowing us to realize our dreams.

Loutfi K. Echhade (BBA '73)  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

A few years ago we had a humanitarian fund raiser for AUH during the 2006 conflict. People who were not alumni attended the event, and now they receive the magazine regularly. I often hear from them, and what they tell me makes me proud of our alumni magazine. Thank you for making my job of reaching out to people regarding AUB so much easier!

Bana Hilal (BA '72)

Daniel Bliss Society Leadership Committee  
Laguna Niguel, California

### Spring 2009, Vol. VII, No. 3

The article "Health Beyond Hospitals" in the spring issue of *MainGate* was so inspiring—how far-sighted this Bedouin Health project is, studying first the community with its social

structure, then coming up with the medical assistance program to assist the women in maternity. I'll be sure to email this article to my friends.

Maya Nader  
Seattle, Washington

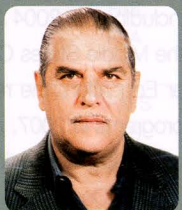
As someone who has a great interest in Lebanon and AUB (my mother is an alumna and I participated in the summer program for children of alumni in 2000) I picked up the [spring] magazine and read it from cover to cover. I would like to commend you on such a professional and articulate publication which provides in-depth coverage of all aspects of AUB. This magazine truly puts a human face on the University and details the influence AUB has both on Lebanon and around the world. *MainGate* plays a significant role in connecting AUB to the rest of the world and keeping alumni in touch with their alma mater.

The summer program was my first visit to Lebanon, and I absolutely fell in love with the country my parents were born and raised in, thanks in large part to AUB. Congratulations on a wonderful issue!

Taleen Babayan  
Saddle River, New Jersey

### Errata

Spring 2009,  
Vol. VII, No. 3, In  
Memoriam  
Kamal Rifat Haffar  
(BA '51) is survived  
by his first (and only)  
wife Najwa Shaheen  
Haffar (BA '51).





## University News

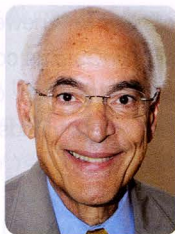
### Honorary Degrees 2009

AUB awarded its first honorary degrees in 1890 to six graduates of the University, then known as the Syrian Protestant College. Forty-seven degrees have been conferred since AUB's founding. In 2009, AUB honored the following individuals for their outstanding contributions in the fields of science, public service, literature, and the arts.

#### Abdlatif Al-Hamad



has worked for decades to promote social and economic development in Arab countries. Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic Development for more than 20 years and a member of the World Bank's International Finance Advisory Group, Al-Hamad is a former Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Planning.



#### Farouk al-Baz

Research professor and director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University since 1986, he was recently appointed to the Committee on Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century. A pioneer in satellite imagery with the Apollo Space Program (1967-72), Egyptian-born al-Baz also chaired the Astronaut Training Group. He later used satellite imagery to investigate arid areas in the Middle East, China, and India and applied remote sensing technology to develop underground water resources in Egypt.

#### Majida El-Roumi



was named ambassador for the Euro-Arab Environment Council in 2009 and has served as an ambassador for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The popular singer started her career as the winner of Tele Liban's *Studio El Fan* talent

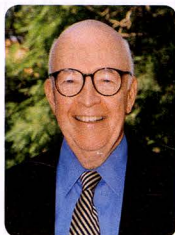
show when she was just 16 years old. Her 12 best selling solo albums have garnered her awards and acclaim throughout the region.

#### Elias Zerhouni



World renowned radiologist Elias Zerhouni is a senior adviser at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. As director of the US National Institute of Health (2002-08) he oversaw the passage of the 2006 NIH Reform Act. Zerhouni first studied medicine at the University of Algiers. He conducted much of his original research as a professor of radiology and bioengineering, executive vice dean of the School of Medicine, and chair of the Department of Radiology and Radiological Science at Johns Hopkins.

#### Thomas Q. Morris



Chair of the AUB Board of Trustees since 2004 and trustee since 1985, Morris has been a mentor and colleague to many at the University and AUBMC for more than 25 years. Dr. Morris's distinguished medical career at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, NY spanned nearly 50 years. He has led, encouraged, and supported many university initiatives including the 2004 AUB accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the reintroduction of PhD programs in 2007, and the appointment of the fifteenth president of the University, Peter F. Dorman, in 2008.



Degree recipients with H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Fouad Sinioura, center, and President Dorman.

[More On-line](#)



# Then and Now

Since 1955, the Penrose Award has been given to the outstanding graduate of each faculty on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and contribution to University life.

1955	As'ad A. Rahhal	FAS
	Hratch S. Papazian	FEA
	Nicolas J. Atallah	FAFS
1956	Mohammed H. Saffouri	FAS
	Nadim Ph. Boulous	FEA
	John C. Racy	FM
1957	Marcel M. Awad	FAFS
	Fawwaz Ch. Najja	FAS
	Vartkess M. Balian	FEA
1958	Adil Q. Afifi	FM
	Salim V. Tyan	FAFS
	Ramzi Jabbur	FAS
1959	Carol S. Khuri	FEA
	Ali Shubayka	FM
	Ziad Shehadeh	FAFS
1960	Jivan Tabibian	FAS
	Fouad A. Rihani	FEA
	Raja N. Khouri	FM
1961	Mikhail Nasrallah	FAFS
	Antoine Shubay'a	FAS
	Haralambos Harris	FEA
1962	Aznive Avakian	SoN
	Sami Sad	FAFS
	Layla Khalil Takiyyud-Din	FAS
1963	Sana Abdus-Samad	FEA
	Salah Salman	FM
	Sami Solh	FAFS
1964	Rima Najib Alamuddin	FAS
	Ziyad Jamil Ghandur	FEA
	Adnan M. Dakkuri	FM
1965	Mojtaba M. Esfahani	FAFS
	Khalil Michel Bitar	FAS
	George A. Loshkhajian	FEA
1966	Ibrahim Saba Salti	FM
	Paige Lea Taylor	FAFS
	Adil Antippa	FAS
1967	John Makhoul	FEA
	Faysal Najjar	FM
	Ahmadzadeh A. Vassef	FAFS
1968	Mohammed Malallah	FAS
	Yusuf Salam	FEA
	Khanum Jada	FM
1969	Morteza Janghorbani	FAFS
	Huda Akil	FAS
	Amr Armanazi	FEA
1970	Fuad Frayha	FM



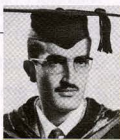
**Vartkess M. Balian (FEA '57) went on to enjoy**

**a successful career as an architect, developer, builder, patron of the arts, and philanthropist. He died on August 3, 2008 at the age of 76 from cancer.**



**A published author of *Spring to Summer***

**and several short stories, Rima Najib Alamuddin (FAS '62) was murdered in 1963—at the age of 22—outside her parents' home in Chemlan by a man she had refused to marry.**



**Ibrahim Saba Salti (FM '63) is**

**a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the AUB Medical Center. He earned a PhD from the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto in 1970 and was deputy president of AUB from April 1987 to January 1993.**

1967	Hani Asfur	FAFS
	Katy Azuri	FAS
	Hani Bizri	FEA
1968	Ibrahim Musa Uwaydah	FM
	Mamduh M.I. Al Sifri	FAFS
	Necla Yongacoglu	FAS
1969	Rajai F. Khuri	FEA
	Shukri F. Khuri	FM
	Mahmoud M.B. Solh	FAFS
1970	Maria R. Kanazeh	FAS
	Viken Kh. Yeramian	FEA
	Nabil M. Kronfol	FM
1971	Sana Fouad Najjar	FAFS
	Karl Khalil Abdur-Rahman Barbir	FAS
	Nabil Fawzi Azar	FEA
1972	Adel Nasib Shehab	FM
	Roger Nikhkh	FAS
	Nizar Elyas Azar	FAFS
1973	Else Victoria Hamayan	FAS
	Solomon Melhem Haroun	FEA
	Freda Abraham Nime	FM
1974	Ziyad Daoud Jabir	FAFS
	Ramzi Mounir Baalbaki	FAS
	Abdallah Joseph Khabbaz	FEA
1975	Nuhad Sulayman Bu-Rad	SoN
	Ramzi Khashadurian	FAFS
	Ghazy Zaatar	FM
1976	Imad Haffar	FAFS
	Nada M. Khuri	FAS
	Yahya Badran	FEA
1977	Hagob Kantarajan	FM
	Muhammed Firikh	SoN
	Wafa Mounir Khoury	FAFS
1978	Danka A. Dawalibi	FAS
	Sani Richard Anis Nassif	FEA
	Arshag Mooradian	FM
1979	Sossy Garabed Bardakjian	SoN
	Mireille Michel Khairallah	FAFS
	Dana Kamal Haffar	FAS
1980	Haitham Nadim Haddad	FEA
	Ellen Aida Ibrahim Audeh	FHS
	Philip Kattan	FAFS
1981	Ziad M. Husayni	FAS
	Imad Hannun	FEA
	Miguel Abboud	FM
1982	Maral Gurunian	SoN
	Ziad Rafic Haidar	FAS
	Maher Ahmad Mukaddam	FEA
1983	Antoine Albert Zubuni	FM
	Samar Jamal Farhah	FHS
	Lina Wadi Peter Katul	FAFS
1984	Basil Raja Farid Fuleihan	FAS
	Omar Mohamad Knio	FEA
	Anwar Adnan Soubra	FHS
1985	Alice Panos Sarkissian	SoN



**Shukri F. Khuri (FM '68), who died**

**in 2008, was a highly regarded surgeon and medical professional who worked tirelessly to improve surgical care at VA medical centers throughout the United States and to promote Palestinian-Israeli peace and understanding.**



**Nizar Elias Azar (FAFS '72) currently**

**lives in Beirut where he works for Dar Al-Handasah (Shair & Partners). He is the head of design at the Resources and Environment Department working on multidisciplinary infrastructure/water related projects.**



**Mireille Michel Khairallah (FAS '81)**

**worked at CIMMYT, Mexico for ten years where she was involved primarily in projects to map important agronomic traits and measure genetic diversity at the molecular level in wheat and maize. She currently lives in Querétaro, Mexico.**



1985	Raghida Adib Bu-Khalid	FAFS
	Maher Afif Baz	FAS
	Nabeel Richard Mishalani	FEA
	Habeeb Moh'd Hussein Ghaddar	FHS
1986	Maha Emile Sawaya	SoN
	Fadi Michel Majdalani	FEA
1987	Ruba Ahmad Ismail	FHS
	Rudeina Maarouf Amine	FAFS
	Rana Michel Nasser	FAS
	Sany Ramzi Zeine	FEA
1988	Zahra Adel Jishi	FHS
	Salman Sharif Abbas	FAFS
	Myriam Nicolas Zayat	FAS
	Talal Tarik Balaa	FEA
	George Fuad Duna	FM
1989	May Mohamad Abou Ajram	FHS
	Anna Maria Antoine Bellos	SoN
	Abdul Rahma Abdulfattah Ayas	FAFS
	Samir Fawzi Saba	FEA
1990	Roger Joseph Laham	FM
	Radwan Muhiedine Sabe Ayon	FHS
	Ghada Wahib Ghazal	FAS
1991	Yaser Fadeel Abun Nasr	FEA
	Madlane Maurice Dabaghi	FHS
	Adel Amin Kharrat	SoN
	Salim Mohsen Mourtada	FAFS
1992	Nada Mohsen Mourtada	FAS
	Mirna Fouad Ktaili	FM
	May Kamal Al-Kadi	FHS
1993	Samar Ahmad Al-Muristani	FAFS
	Abdallah George Rebeiz	FAS
	Boutros Sami Abboud	FEA
	Bassem Yusuf Safadi	FM
	Mandana Fawzi Al-Hajj	FHS
1994	Taline Jirayr Marcarian	SoN
	Jourmana Abdel Moneim Hoteit	FAFS
	Najib Lutfy Diab	FAS
	Rana Mohammed Samir El-Chemaitelly	FEA
	Samir Fawzi Saba	FM
	Lina Fouad Ktaili	FHS
1995	Pauline Elias Bou Saleh	SoN
	Mayya Salaheddine Dabbagh	FAS
	Walid Edward Tabanji	FEA
	Ramzi Kamel Mouferrej	FM
1996	Rayan Kamel Al Jurdi	FHS
	Nanor Bouladian	SoN
	Puzant Benon Dakessian	FAFS
	Talal Mamdouh Fandi	FAS
	Maysa Nassir Sabah	FEA
	Hassan Khalil Reda	FM
	Salma Wafiq Jaouny	FHS
Silva Armenak Dakessian	SoN	



**Miguel Abboud (FM '82)**

**returned to AUB in 2002 to become the medical director of the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon, which is affiliated with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He is also a professor of pediatrics at AUBMC.**



**Basil Raja Farid Fuleihan (FAS '84)**

**had a distinguished career at the International Monetary Fund, was a lecturer at AUB, and Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade. He died on April 18, 2005 from injuries he sustained during the explosion that killed former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on February 14, 2005.**



**Nada Mourtada-Sabbah (FAS '91)**

**is assistant to the chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs and an associate professor of political science and international studies at the American University of Sharjah.**

1996	Soha Gerges Moussa	FAFS
	Wissam Ahmad Juaber	FAS
	Hadi Mohamad Komaty	FEA
	Abdallah George Rebeiz	FM
1997	Kassem Hamdi El Saddik	FHS
	Houry Vasken Puzantian	SoN
	Karim Fouad El-Jisir	FAFS
	Najib Musa Nimah	FAS
	Ashraf Osmat Osman	FAS
	Elie Assaad Awad	FEA
	Amale Antoun Lteif	FM
1998	Lina Haigaz Kalfayan	FHS
	Wael Adnan Jaroudi	FAS
	Jihad Youssef Abbas	FEA
	Ibrahim Robert Hanna	FM
	Amal Fouad Abu Rafeh	FHS
1999	Nathalie Joseph Kandalaft	SoN
	Hala Ghassan Zahreddine	FAFS
	Samer Samir Frangie	FAS
	Hani Youssef Diya	FEA
	Abeer Abdul Ameer Moann	FM
	Jouhayna Elie Bajjani	SoN
2000	Hiba Adel El-Assaad	FAFS
	Bana Maan Bashour	FAS
	Bassel Mohammed Hisham Dabboussy	FEA
	Wissam Ahmad Jaber	FM
2001	Shiraz Hassan Basma	FHS
	Mohammad Hadi Youssef Khafaja	SoN
	Fawzi Ghassan Melhem	FAFS
2002	Alia Mohammed Mounif Al-Zoghbi	FAS
	Wael Shadi Hanna	FAS
	Kamal A.T. Sanjakdar	FEA
	Marc Kaissar Bassim	FM
	Nelly George Beshalany	SoN
	Michael Philip Malek	OSB
2003	Dalia Nasri Tannous Dit El Khoury	FAFS
	Zeina Moustapha Hashem Bey	FAS
	Ayman Farouk Itani	FEA
	Wael Adnan Al Jaroudi	FM
	Michelle Elias Bachir	FHS
	Nayiri Boghos Zetlian	SoN
	Mazen Ramsay Najjar	OSB
2004	Zeina Mounif Maalouf	FAFS
	Lea Roger Hakim	FAS
	Ayman Mohammad Amin Kichly	FEA
	Marwan Mouhamed Refaat	FM
	Fadi Elias Makari	FHS
2005	Rafika Khaled Zaatari	SoN
	Ziad Wajdi Masri	OSB
	Hiba Abboud	FAFS
	Loubna Al-Amine	FAS
	Tammam Yamout	FEA
	Nada Al-Husseini	FM
	Karma Ekmekji	FHS
	Angela Massouh	SoN
	Hadi Tabbal	OSB



**Kamal A.T. Sanjakdar (FEA '01),**

**who received an MBA from INSEAD in December 2008, is currently living in Abu Dhabi where he works for the energy team of Mubadala, an investment company owned by the Abu Dhabi government.**



**Mazen Ramsay Najjar (OSB '02)**

**travels throughout the MENA region as a senior associate for Booz & Company working on economic development, macroeconomic strategies, and financial services. He is also a part-time lecturer in finance at OSB.**



**Ayman Mohammad Amin Kichly (FEA '03)**

**lives in Germany where he works for ILF Consulting Engineers, an oil and gas consulting company, as an electrical power engineer. He was elected to the WAAAUB Alumni Council as an at-large representative for Europe in 2007.**



2005	Jane Bal	FAFS
	Sarah Richani	FAS
	Fehmi Mohamad Mokhtar Sakkal	FEA
	Lama Chahine	FM
	Karim Kaissi	FHS
Tania Salem	SoN	
Nicolas Khoury	OSB	
2006	Soha Rabih Frem	FAFS
	Joumana Ramzi Nasr	FAS
	Rani Hani Daher	FEA
	Samar Naji Malaeb	FM
	Rima Antoine Habre	FHS
	Abdel Latif Mohammad Moghrabi Marini	SoN
	Karim Abdul-Karim Karami	OSB

2007	Jean Michel Jean Marie Chemaly	FAFS
	Michele Michel Kasdano	FAS
	Saleh Mohammad Rachid	FAS
	Gustave Alain Cordahi	FEA
	Maisa Nabil Feghali	FM
Khalil Hicham Abu Bakr Kreidieh	FHS	
Ali Ismail Ismail Naffaa	SoN	
Maya Mohamad Itani	OSB	
2008	Claudia George Matta	FAFS
	Khairat Shafik Al Habbal	FAS
	Hani Elias Joseph Tomeh	FEA
	Melhim Hafez Bou Alwan	FM
	Farah Ali Otaki	FHS
	Dina Mawaheb Mahmassani	SoN
	Melissa Maroun Moubarak	OSB



**Karma Ekmekji (FHS '04)** is an environmental analyst and marketing coordinator. She earned an MA from Columbia University in 2004 and is currently a member of the UN delegation to Lebanon.

## Penrose Awardees 2009

**Sleiman Haddad** (FM) is planning



to enroll in a residency program in radiology or orthopedics in Barcelona, Spain in May 2010. Until then,

he's preparing for his exam, registering in the Lebanese Order of Physicians, and finishing his term as director of professional exchanges for the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA).

**Wajiha Jurdi Kheir** (FAS), who says



she is "not ready to leave" AUB, will enroll in the Faculty of Medicine in the fall. "I will continue to be

involved with LeMSIC (the Lebanese Medical Students International Committee), take part in research projects, and promote undergraduate research among biology majors."

**Tara Nehme** (OSB) is hoping to volunteer with an NGO working in the field of refugee protection in Pakistan, Honduras, or South Africa this summer. After gaining some work experience—perhaps with a UN agency—her dream is to attend Harvard Law School and become a human rights lawyer.

**Haig Papazian** (FEA) and the other members of Mashrou Leila, who won the Lebanese Modern Music Contest on March 1, will be releasing an album in October and performing at festivals and concerts around Lebanon this summer. He reports that he has a great opportunity to work in an architectural firm in Paris in the fall, but may stay in Lebanon instead. "I'm living life day by day," he says.

**Sami Abdul Rahman** (FAFS) has received a Fulbright Award to study in the United States and will enroll in a two-year master's program in aquaculture and marine fisheries at

Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama this fall. He plans to return to Lebanon to work in agriculture at some point, but perhaps not until he has earned an MBA or a PhD.

**Laith Al Shawaf** (FAS) has received



a PhD fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin where he will work with Dr. David M. Buss,

one of the leading figures in the field of evolutionary psychology. Ultimately, he says, "I am interested in academia: becoming a university professor, and conducting scientific research that weaves together evolutionary psychology and cognitive neuroscience."



## Forward Thinking

*In his inaugural address on May 4, 2009, President Dorman highlighted three critical priorities for the University: expanding and enhancing faculty research, creating an even more dynamic and diverse student body, and cultivating a responsive campus community.*

*During the faculty symposium, a number of speakers explored the role of AUB past and present and looked ahead to the future as well. They debated the validity of a liberal arts curriculum, assessed the potential impact of competition from new universities opening throughout the region, and explored the future role of AUB in the region.*

*Recently appointed Provost Ahmad Dallal will be tackling these and many other key issues. He shared his initial thoughts with MainGate.*

### **Provost Ahmad Dallal - Let me start with the challenge of regional competition:**

The establishment of universities throughout the region, some of which are satellite branches of first rate US universities, does present a challenge of sorts to AUB. We can also, however, think of this phenomenon as an opportunity in several respects.

To start with, it is clear that high quality education is in demand throughout the region, which means that **the establishment of new institutions is not necessarily a threat to AUB, but potentially an invitation to invest more in academics.** And while many countries are starting from scratch, AUB has a long experience to build on and much to offer in

response to this increasing demand. Among other things, for a variety of historical reasons, AUB's environment is relatively more favorable to academic freedom, a vital ingredient for successful educational institutions. Moreover, AUB has played a central role in the development of higher education in the Middle East. It is fair to say that few other regional institutions have had an experience or impact similar to AUB's.

This increased demand for quality education coupled with AUB's experience suggests the possibility of cooperation with emerging regional universities, whereby AUB can provide guidance, training, and technical support to these young institutions.

Furthermore, **the new competitive environment in which we find ourselves provides us at AUB with added incentive to think creatively and innovatively and to exert more effort to maintain our competitive edge.** Our students are confronting new challenges and we need to ensure that the education we offer equips them with the tools they need to face these challenges.

### **This then brings me to the question of a liberal arts education:**

From the very beginning, professional schools have been central to AUB's mission, but so too was the emphasis on a liberal arts education. In contrast to many new universities in the region that have a narrow specialized focus, AUB has always coupled professional learning with broad liberal arts education, and this model has proven to be effective. Of course in doing so, AUB follows in the footsteps of some of the best universities in the world.

Simply put, a liberal arts educa-

tional model helps students develop creative mental habits, the ability to make sound judgments, the capacity for critical thought and analytical inquiry, and empathy. To be sure, we need to equip our students with a variety of skills that are essential for any successful career: these include writing and communication skills, command of languages and intercultural awareness and competence, scientific and quantitative literacy and basic analytical skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to think critically and creatively. The objective of this sort of research and inquiry-based education is not just to train students who can apply the skills they acquire mechanically, but who can also explore, reflect, and innovate—students who can face the problems and challenges of a crisis-ridden world and come up with creative solutions to these problems.

The general education requirements of a liberal arts model are not and should not be thought of as a burden, but as an opportunity for students to expand their horizons, experience the nature of various disciplines and methodologies, and discover new perspectives beyond their narrow areas of expertise.

### **How to address the president's priorities:**

#### **Our mission as an academic institution is clear: the production and transmission of knowledge.**

Very few institutions enjoy such clarity of mission, yet the challenge for us is how to channel the resources available to us in an optimal fashion in order to achieve these clear objectives. In this undertaking, the two primary resources are faculty and students.



In the current competitive environment, we need to double our efforts to attract and retain scholars who are up to date on the latest developments in their fields of study. But the ability of our faculty to produce knowledge hinges on providing them with opportunities for intellectual development. We should recruit faculty with the hope and intention of retaining them; to achieve this objective we should provide them with proper mentoring and create an environment conducive to their scholarly production. We should also identify the fields in which our faculty is likely to excel, and encourage and mobilize support for innovative programs and research in these fields. **In particular, I think that we should give special attention to programs that address the needs of Lebanon and the region while deploying cutting edge methodologies and approaches.**

Expanding the research base of the faculty will give AUB an edge over most new universities in the region. More importantly, it is a realistic objective that fulfills the University's mission.

Of course, expanding research should not be at the expense of students, but it hardly ever is. In most cases, an active scholar and researcher is an interesting and engaging teacher and an inspiring transmitter of knowledge. As such, students stand to benefit from the expansion of research. The quality of our programs depends on the quality of the faculty but also of the students we are able to recruit. Therefore, it makes sense that attracting the best students should be one of our top priorities, irrespective of their socio-economic background. Simply put, we must do all we can to



Provost Ahmad Dallal

provide the opportunity for academic excellence to all deserving students.

Of equal importance is regional, national, and international diversity. Universities all over the world are devoting substantial resources to enhancing their international profiles. This emphasis reflects an emerging consensus among educators that in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world, fostering cross-cultural understanding is not a luxury but an indispensable imperative for good education, professional development, and human well-being.

As attested from AUB's history, **when we succeed in expanding the research capacity of our faculty, and in enhancing the diversity and dynamism of our student body, we will undoubtedly serve Lebanon and the region and**

**help shape generations of conscientious citizens and leaders.**

In fact, an important manifestation of our commitment to serving our environment is our ability to faithfully represent this environment, and to encourage and mobilize support for innovative programs that cater to the needs of the region. In turn, the success of these efforts depends on the cultivation of an intellectual community that takes ownership of, and is actively engaged in, promoting AUB's mission and objectives. To promote higher levels of engagement and accountability within the AUB community, we need to double our efforts to achieve greater coherence and clarity in our practices, and transparency in our governance.

[More On-line](#)



## The inauguration month of Peter F. Dorman, 15th president of the American University of Beirut, kicked off three days of celebratory activities:

**Sunday May 3: President's Symposium:** "Academic Freedom and Innovation in the Middle East: AUB and the Expansion of Higher Education in the Region ...Winners of the **student essay competition** "Toward an Abundant Life" announced and prizes given . . . the **AUB Choir and Choral Society** commemorated the anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn with a performance of his *Lobgesang*, The Hymn of Praise, Symphony Cantata, Opus 52 . . .

**Monday May 4: inaugural procession** featuring AUB trustees, faculty, invited guests. . . student procession with flags representing their 69 home nations. . . the **inaugural ceremony** in Assembly Hall followed by the investiture, presentation of the mace, and the president's inaugural address. A **picnic lunch** followed for the entire campus . . . that evening, a **student concert** at the Hostler Student Center shook up lower campus with the upbeat sounds of local and student rock bands.

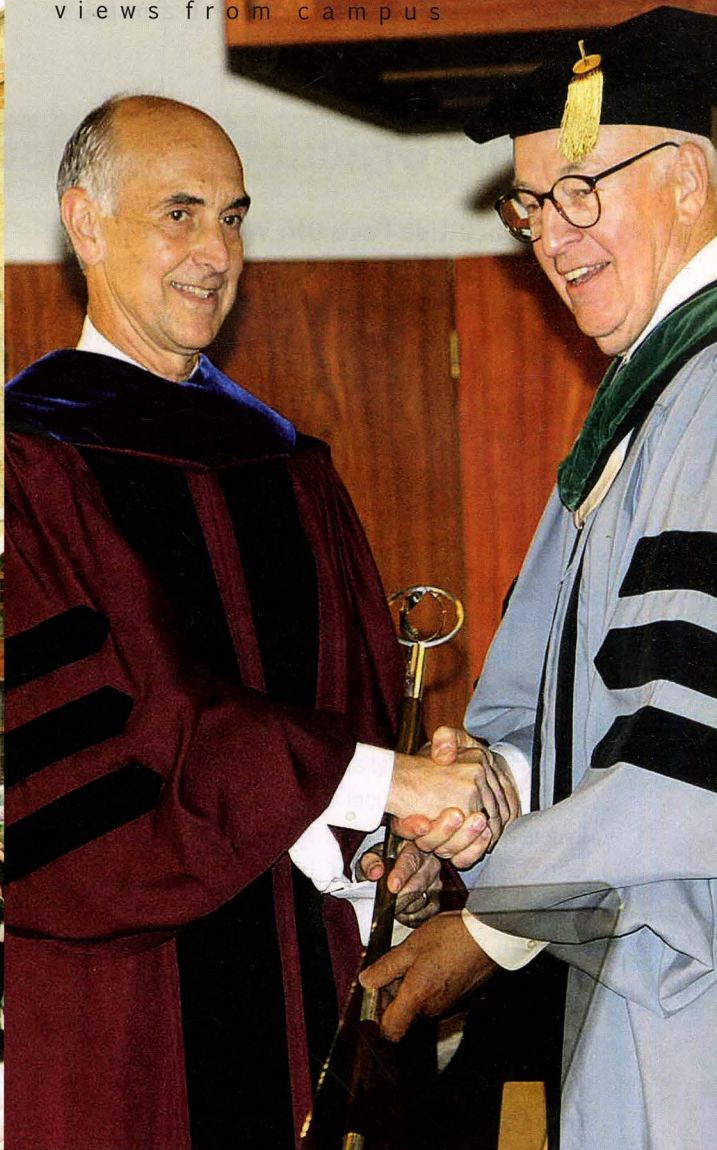
**Tuesday May 5: the inaugural graduate seminar**—roundtable discussion on humanism. . . The **Sports Department parade** featuring varsity teams, clubs, and societies, along with other universities and schools participating in a celebratory sports tournament, followed by the traditional **Big Game** annual football match.





# Inside the Gate

views from campus



TOWARD AN ABUNDANT LIFE



## 2009 Graduation Statistics

### The Faculties Face Off: Who Went Where



### Grad vs. Undergrad



Rafic Hariri School of Nursing  
20 undergraduate  
7 graduate



Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
354 undergraduate  
61 graduate



Faculty of Health Sciences  
34 undergraduate  
10 graduate



Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences  
67 undergraduate  
8 graduate



Faculty of Medicine  
80 undergraduate

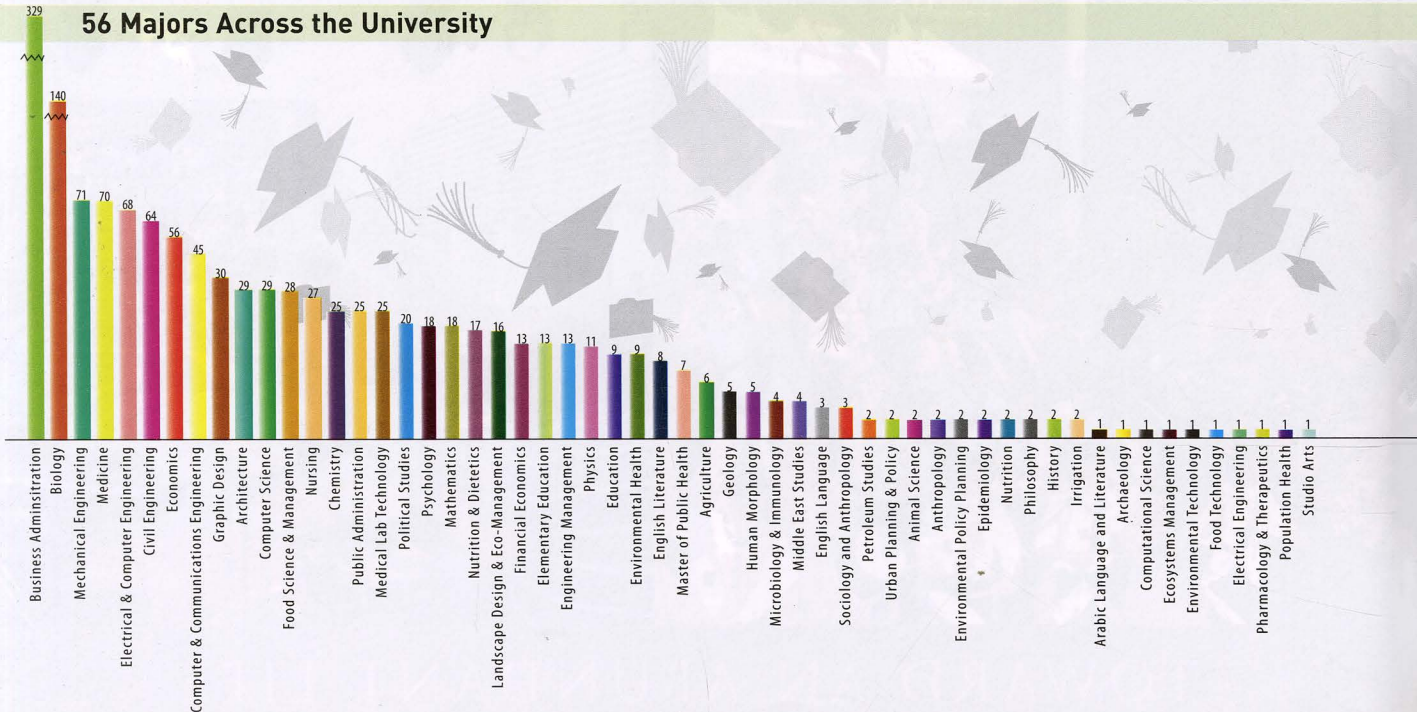


Faculty of Engineering and Architecture  
290 undergraduate  
33 graduate



Suliman S. Olayan School of Business  
310 undergraduate  
19 graduate

### 56 Majors Across the University





Welcome Home



Mohamed H. Sayegh

On July 1, **Mohamed H. Sayegh, MD** of Harvard Medical School assumed responsibilities from **Dr. Nadim Cortas** as Vice President for Medical Affairs and the Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and

the AUB Medical Center (AUBMC). President Dorman said “Under Dr. Cortas’ leadership, the Faculty of Medicine and AUBMC have made great strides in the last decade, with solid advances in our international programmatic ties and with important capital improvements to the Medical Center. Dr. Cortas and his team have also succeeded in establishing both a financial structure and a system of critical self-assessment for improved hospital performance based on best practices.”

Merrill Chair in Transplantation Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He was also the director of the Schuster Family Transplantation Research Center at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Children’s Hospital Boston.

Say it with Music

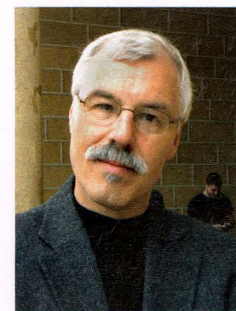
During a summer evening of opera in his honor, tribute was paid to outgoing dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science **Khalil Bitar**, who is leaving after 12 years as dean. The concert in Assembly Hall on June 13 featured Lebanese soprano Rima Tawil Makdisi accompanied on the piano by Olga Bolun. In his speech, President Dorman said, “Khalil Bitar has led the University’s largest and most complicated faculty for 12 years—it has been an extraordinary feat of leadership by any measure.” He went on to thank Dean Bitar for the numerous changes he has made as well as his role in the creation of the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences and the Kamal A. Shair Central Research Science Laboratory, his backing for the Zaki Nassif Music Program, and for the revival of the Department of Fine Arts and Art History. The president closed by thanking Bitar, “For what you have taught me this last year—these things are more numerous than even you can imagine.”

At the time of his resignation, Dean Cortas said, “This VP/deanship has been among the most rewarding periods of my professional career. I have learned a lot from you and have drawn strength and inspiration from the unrelenting support of many of you, and for that I thank you.” Dean Cortas will continue to work and teach in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Dr. Sayegh, a transplant specialist, received his MD with distinction from AUB in 1984. A professor of medicine and pediatrics, he was the Warren E. Grupe and John P.



Honored in New York: Nadim Cortas (top center) and Khalil Bitar (bottom second from right) with family at a dinner at illi restaurant.



Patrick McGreevy

On July 27, President Dorman announced that Professor **Patrick McGreevy**, who joined AUB in 2004



as the director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR), will assume the position of dean of FAS September 1. A professor in the Department of History and Archaeology and a geographer by training, McGreevy came to AUB from Clarion University in Clarion, Pennsylvania, where he had been chair of the Department of Anthropology, Geography and Earth Science since 1991.

## A Benchmark Occasion

The President's Club held its annual reception at the Hostler Student Center on May 21 to celebrate the inauguration of President Dorman and to thank its members. During the past year, the President's Club presented AUB with an online exam room in Bliss Hall, refurbished student lounges in FEA and FAFS, and provided funding for several concerts on campus. After musical performances from FEA students Hassan Slaibi and Bassam Jalgha, President Dorman thanked club members and their guests for their ongoing support to enhance student life at AUB. Club President Laila Baroodi urged everyone to participate in the club's Bench Campaign by adopting one of the new benches around the Green Field.

## FM

### Gold Star Award for AUBMC's Nurses

After six long years of careful preparation, AUBMC's nurses secured the prestigious Magnet<sup>®</sup> designation from the American Nurses Cre-

dentizing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program<sup>®</sup> on June 23. Magnet recognized organizations set the global standard for professional nursing care and innovative health care reform that fully meet the needs of patients, families, and communities. Only five percent of all US hospitals have achieved this gold star award. AUBMC is the first health care institution in the Middle East and the third in the world outside the United States to earn Magnet recognition.

"Having Magnet status recognizes the first rate care we provide our patients today and is a sign of our dedication to offer the best nursing services in the region in the future," said VP for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Nadim Cortas.

Assistant Hospital Director for Patient Care Services Gladys Mouro, who spearheaded the campaign to secure Magnet status explained, "I decided to embark on the Magnet journey the moment I recognized that it would raise the bar of quality to a level of excellence for our patients, who deserve the very best."

During the six-year process, Mouro and her colleagues introduced comprehensive changes to improve nursing practices at the Medical Center that were confirmed by a team of three appraisers from ANCC in April 2009. "I think the appraisers were impressed—even surprised—by what they saw and heard from our patients and also the physicians," reported Mouro.

Medical Center Director Munthir Kuzayli noted, "The hard work and deep commitment of the nursing leadership and the nursing staff at

American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Medicine  
& Medical Center

M  
AMERICAN NURSES  
CREDENTIALING CENTER

ANCC MAGNET RECOGNITION

LEADING THE WAY  
AUB Medical Center  
FIRST MAGNET DESIGNATED  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

large as well as the serious and ongoing support of the Medical Center leadership and community converged positively toward Magnet recognition of AUBMC."

Mouro added, "We would not have succeeded without the serious and tireless efforts of so many people at this institution. That's what we do at AUBMC. We strive for the impossible and make it happen. That's what makes this place unique."



## Mind, Body and Spirit

AUBMC's state-of-the-art Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) was officially inaugurated on April 24, the latest of several new multidisciplinary programs at the Medical Center.

The institute, situated in Building 56, with its inpatient unit on Floor 8 of the Medical Center, was made possible through generous donations by the Naef K. Basile Foundation. It was the lifelong wish of the late Dr. Basile, a Lebanese-American obstetrician-gynaecologist, to repay the country of his birth with a cancer institute which would rank alongside the best in the world.

Working in partnership with the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas; the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, and the American Cancer Society, NKBCI's multiple specialty unit will be at the forefront of cancer research and expects to double its current capacity in order to diagnose and treat half of the new adult cancer cases in Lebanon. It will also develop education programs on cancer prevention and early diagnosis.

Speaking at the inauguration, NKBCI's Director Dr. Fady Geara praised Dr. Basile for his vision and perseverance. He pledged to enlarge the clinical faculty group, the sub-specialties, and the clinical laboratory; to improve patient access; and to modernize the radiation facility.

President Dorman quoted the NKBCI motto: "Where Body, Mind and Spirit join in the Healing Process" saying, "The men and women associated with the center will also contribute to the worldwide fight against cancer through research, education, and efforts such as the development of a



The newly inaugurated Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute (NKBCI) at AUBMC.

national cancer registry for Lebanon."

Outgoing Dean of Medicine Nadim Cortas paid tribute to Dr. Basile, who spent his career at Cornell Medical Center in New York. Dean Cortas recalled how Basile teamed up with friends from Lebanon, led by the late Danny Thomas, and became one of the founders of the American Lebanese Syrian Associate Charities

(ALSAC), which established the prestigious St. Jude Children's Cancer Center.

Speaking on behalf of her late parents, Theresa Basile thanked AUB and all those involved in supporting her parents' dream of establishing NKBCI. "The greatest thing about this institute is the thousands of lives it is going to save," she said.



## MEMA 42

Hosted by AUB and the Medical Chapter of the AUB Alumni Association in joint sponsorship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Middle East Medical Assembly (MEMA) was held April 23-26. The three-day meeting included presentations on the latest advances in a range of medical treatments, a dinner to raise money for scholarships for medical students, and the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MD class of 1959. Dr. Ibrahim Salti, the MEMA chair, stressed the assembly's role in advancing medical knowledge in the Arab world since it was established in 1951. The Cleveland Clinic sponsored the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program for this year's MEMA, thus allowing registered attendees—1,375 registered participants in all—from around the world to receive American Medical Association-recognized credits.

[More On-line](#)



MEMA Social Committee with President Dorman (top) and President Dorman, HE Mohammed Khalifeh, VP Nadim Cortas, Ibrahim Khoury and Dr. Ibrahim Salti cutting the ribbon for the MEMA exhibit (below).





## Seen and Heard

**March 18:** CASAR hosted “The US, Islam, and the Relationship with Muslim-Majority Countries” with Tariq Ramadan, professor of Islamic studies at the University of Oxford’s Faculty of Theology and senior research fellow at St. Antony’s College (Oxford), Dohisha University (Kyoto, Japan), and at the Lokahi Foundation (London) for a debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world.

**April 3:** CASAR/IFI hosted “How American Citizens Engage in the Political Process: Examples from Middle East Policy Formulation and the Global Economic Crisis” with US Senator John E. Sununu. The senator said the United States alone was not to blame for the crisis and called for world cooperation to solve it.

**April 24:** Department of Architecture and Design hosted “Contemporary Mexican Architecture” with Miquel Adrià. The lecture, sponsored also by the Mexican Embassy, was accompanied by an exhibition of books and films on modern Mexican architecture.

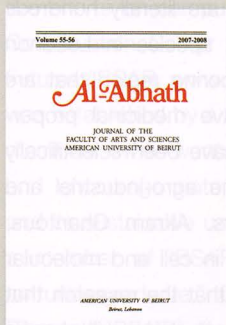
**May 27:** Business ethics expert Robert MacGregor spoke on “Cultures of Greed Versus Making Money the Old Fashioned Way.” Following the lecture, MacGregor and Romel Saber (CEO of Expeditors International) awarded prizes and certificates for the Business Ethics Student Competition.

**June 1:** CAMES/Department of Philosophy hosted “Orientalism and its Critics” with seminar speakers Basim Musallam (Cambridge

University), Daniel Varisco (Hofstra University), Robert Irwin (University of London), Ahmad Dallal (Georgetown University, now AUB provost), Robert Spencer (University of Manchester), and Sadiq Jalal Al-Azm (University of Damascus).

**June 2:** IFI hosted “Rising Temperatures, Rising Tensions: climate change and the risk of violent conflict in the Middle East” in cooperation with the Danish Embassy in Lebanon to launch a new International Institute for Sustainable Development report on climate change and security in the Middle East.

## Reviews



### “Civilizations: Clash or Concert,” Al-Abhath

(AUB Press, 2009) edited by As’ad Khairallah

In March 2009, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences published the most recent edition of its annual refereed journal Al-Abhath. Fifteen scholars from Lebanon, Europe, and the United States contributed essays in Arabic and English on a wide range of topics related to this year’s theme, “Civilizations: Clash or Concert?” This fascinating collection includes both original contributions submitted in response to a call for papers, some of the more interesting papers presented at recent AUB conferences, and solicited essays. Khairallah reports that earlier editions of Al-Abhath, which dates back almost 60 years and are an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Arabic and Middle

Eastern studies, will soon be available on-line through the Yale University Library Arabic and Middle Eastern Electronic Library (AMEEL) at <http://www.library.yale.edu/ameel>.



## Inaugurating the Diya Mutasim Dermatology Library

The inauguration of the Diya Mutasim Dermatology Library this spring was the culmination of an extraordinary career for a man born in a Palestinian refugee camp and afflicted as a child with partial paralysis. The moving and inspiring story of Dr. Diya Mutasim (BS '74, MD '79), whose generous donations enabled the Department of Dermatology to renovate and upgrade its library, is of a man who resolutely climbed the ladder of success to become professor and chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Cincinnati. While AUB's steep terrain made his upper/lower campus commute a challenge, he praised the education, inspiration, and camaraderie he enjoyed at AUB. "The beautiful years here at AUB remain alive with me all the time, and I often feel jealous of those who returned," he said. See "Recently Honored" in this issue for recent news on Dr. Mutasim.

[More On-line](#)



Nora Boustany- new IFI writer in residence

select IFI activities and give the annual IFI writer-in-residence lecture at AUB.

### The Road to Success

A street in Ain Mreisse has been named in honor of AUB Professor Emeritus Ibrahim Dagher who performed the first open-heart surgery in the region in 1958 and the first total cardiopulmonary bypass in Lebanon in 1960. Dean Nadim Cortas praised Dagher for "the road you paved for those who followed you in their quest for success." Professor Dagher hailed the contributions of the "unknown soldiers" on his medical teams.

lades, ketchups, and syrups made at the Pilot Plant. AUB nutrition students handed out delicious dark chocolate to the winners of healthy food games at their stand. According to graduate nutrition student Berna Rahi, dark chocolate is actually good for you. . . so *sahtain!*

## FHS

### War Wounds

In a region so often riven by strife, the surprise is that so little research has been conducted into the effects of conflict on health, compared to other causes of ill health and mortality. In March, FHS took a major step to redress the balance with a symposium, Conflict and Health in the Middle East and North Africa, hosted by the Center for Research on Population Health, and examining case studies from the area. Participants explored conflict epidemiology, developing emergency services for conflict victims, war and male infertility, and community resilience in time of conflict.

## Faculty News

### Star Appointment

Nora Boustany, award-winning *Washington Post* journalist and three-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, has been appointed IFI writer-in-residence fellow for 2009-10. She is the second person to assume the appointment following Anthony Shadid. Boustany will be conducting research for a cultural memoir of her family, interwoven with her own story as a Lebanese-American with a stellar career in the US media. She will participate in

## FAFS

### Down to Earth

Food producers from throughout Lebanon descended on campus in May to participate in **Earth Market**, selling everything from organic produce to pottery. Alongside Lebanese producers like Mohammad Ali Nehme, the first organic zaatar producer in Lebanon, and Mawasem al-Dayaa, with their award winning *mallat-es-smeed* bread, food science students displayed their own jams, marma-

## Current research

### A Natural Cure for Cancer

Although there are literally hundreds of native plant species in Lebanon and the neighboring region that are reported to have medicinal properties, very few have been scientifically exploited by the agro-industrial and medical sectors. Akram Ghantous, a PhD student in cell and molecular biology, hopes that the research that he and others are doing will change that. "We are drawing on Arab 'folk medicine' to identify new and promis-





*Centaurea ainetensis*



*Achillea falcata*

ing anticancer drugs from indigenous plants. This will diversify the agricultural portfolio of the region, ensure sustainable agro-industrial growth, and generate the knowledge necessary for rational drug design and the promotion of biotechnology.”

Being able to conduct interdisciplinary, collaborative research was key to Ghantous's decision to pursue his doctoral studies at AUB. (He also credits his thesis adviser, Professor Nadine Darwiche, the other members of his committee, and Dean Khalil Bitar for their strong support and the type of “day-to-day supervision” that PhD students lack at other universities.)

One of the successful collaborative efforts on campus is the Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures (IBSAR, [www.ibsar.org](http://www.ibsar.org)) which was established by a group of faculty members who wanted to promote and encourage nature conservation and its sustainable use. “I have been a member of IBSAR since I was an undergraduate,” Ghantous says. [Through IBSAR,] “I got involved in the identification and characterization of anti-cancer compounds derived

from plants indigenous to Lebanon. While screening extracts from roughly 40 Middle Eastern plants used in traditional medicine, four emerged as very promising against inflammation and cancer.”

Ghantous is currently focusing on two of these plants: *Centaurea ainetensis* and *Achillea falcata*. He is using a technique called “bioassay-guided fractionation” to identify compounds that have anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer potential. Using laboratories and equipment located in the Biology, Chemistry, and Diana Tamari Sabbagh Buildings, and at the Kamal A. Shair Central Research Science Laboratory, Ghantous is trying to decipher the anti-tumor mechanism action of a number of plant-derived compounds and relate their chemical structures to their biological activities. Ghantous notes that his group and others at IBSAR have already published their findings related to one of these compounds, Salograviolide A, and notes that they have been able to demonstrate that it has anti-inflammatory and anti-skin and anti-colon cancer potential.

SUMMER  
FEA

**With a Little Help from our Friends**

The dedication of the Fahmi Karagulla Dean's Wing was the perfect opportunity for Dean Ibrahim Hajj to brief a host of dignitaries and other officials on FEA developments, including new applied energy and chemical engineering programs and an expanding student body of nearly 1,700 students. Dean Hajj also thanked the Karagulla family: “We depend on our alumni and friends to help maintain our leading standing in the region,” he said. “We have the ideas; we need your support.” President Dorman also offered his thanks to the family that was represented by Karim Karagulla, son of Fahmi, who was a pioneer in the construction industry and a major AUB donor. “We are absolutely delighted and honored to have the Karagulla family name associated with AUB,” he said, after noting the family's support and their involvement in the reconstruction of College Hall and the construction of the Charles Hostler Student Center.

**Harnessing AUB's New Energy Program**

Developed with a grant from EU TEMPUS and with help from experts from Sweden and Greece, FEA's master's program in applied energy is taking the study of energy efficiency and sustainable engineering to a new level. Professor Nesreen Ghaddar, who leads the program, says that the faculty focused on energy in buildings because “50 percent of all energy consumption in Lebanon is in buildings, and 70 percent of all peak loads is consumed by air-conditioning systems.” Trustee Munib



Masri donated \$5 million to establish an endowed fund that will be used to support engineering research until 2012, when it will fund the establishment of the Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources.

## Student News

### 745 Students Say Thank You!

More than 745 Lebanese students are able to pursue their studies at AUB thanks to the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID Mission Director Denise A. Herbol met with AUB students on April 29 and presented President Dorman with a check for \$2.2 million. "I am extremely impressed with the variety of degree programs that these students are studying. Their shared vision to become productive members of Lebanese society demonstrates their appreciation of the need to obtain a university degree to achieve these goals," said Herbol.

### Dragons on Campus

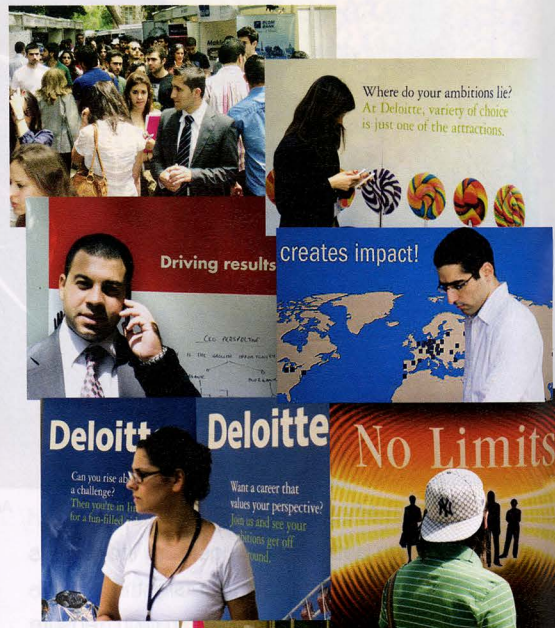
Outdoors in May was bigger, better and more expensive than ever before. Fortunately, so was the sponsorship budget. The theme was China: its food, decoration and arts. There were many challenges, all overcome by the hard working teams.

A red, yellow and black colour scheme explored themes that included dragons, the Great Wall, Chinese horoscopes, flags, and cartoon characters.

With games and activities galore, including the ever popular paper rally with its hidden prizes and tempting \$1,000 reward and a new two-stage set-up for continuous and changing performances throughout the day, China on campus was a great hit.



Outdoors



Around 70 multinationals, along with local and regional companies and NGOs set up stalls on campus in mid-May at the 2009 Job Fair.



Back in action: A welcome return after two years, the 35th Annual Folk Dance Festival transformed the Green Field into a colorful stage for children from 16 local schools to perform dances from Mexico, Columbia, Croatia, Scotland, Russia, the United States and, of course, Lebanon.



# TOP 10 things to do this summer

How do students spend those weeks of long, balmy Lebanese summer days?

## 1. Weekend road trip warrior

Lebanon is a small country with a lot of things to see and do. Many AUB students are planning to grab food, friends, and a map and hit the road.

## 2. Be a beach bunny

Whether it's a quick dip at the University's beach or an all-day party at Oceana, the sea is the place to be.

## 3. Do an internship

Competition is fierce for the top graduate jobs, particularly in the current economic climate, so many AUB students are choosing to spend part of their summer building up their credentials by working as an intern.

## 4. Take a walk on the wild side

Environmental tourism has taken the world by storm, and Lebanon, with its endangered cedars and diverse wildlife, is no exception. Hiking the Lebanon Mountain Trail and stay-

ing at the rustic eco village in the Shouf's Dnit valley are on eco-conscious students' to-do list this summer.

## 5. See the world

Travelling outside the country is a popular summer activity, whether it is a road trip to Syria and Jordan or a visit to somewhere further afield. AUB students are packing their bags and heading everywhere from Brazil to Thailand.

## 6. Take to the Sky

Sky Bar, that is. Plenty of AUBites reported that they plan to spend their summer enjoying Beirut's legendary nightlife, with Sky Bar, arguably Lebanon's most famous nightspot, top of the list.

## 7. Learn something new

Some students are looking at the summer months as a chance to expand their horizons and pick up a new skill or hobby, with pottery classes at Hamra's Art Lounge

and Italian lessons featuring in people's plans for the holidays.

## 8. Get cultured

What better way to spend a summer's evening than watching a world-class concert in an evocative historical setting? With music festivals taking place this year in Baalbek, Beiteddine, and Byblos, a number of AUB students are taking the opportunity to do just that.

## 9. Get to know Beirut

For those who never venture out of Hamra, Walk Beirut, a new company run by AUB students, is offering five-hour walking tours of the city three times a week.

## 10. Take a summer course

For some dedicated students, school does not stop when term ends. Instead, they will be staying in AUB for the summer semester to take more classes. Hats off to them.

## Beirutis Set One Fine Table

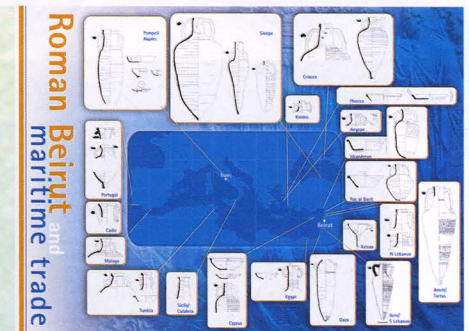
While Outdoors took on an eastern flair this year, an archaeological team presenting work from the AUB Beirut Souks excavations was looking decidedly west—to the Roman Empire. Ceramic expert Paul Reynolds (University of Barcelona) explained to MainGate how the souk's pottery finds illustrate Beirut's extensive regional and long distance trade connections with the provinces of the Roman Empire:

For more than 800 years (from the late 2nd century BC to the 7th century AD), Beirut had its own amphora type for local wine, but wines—and their distinctive vessels—were also a major import from the Aegean, Asia Minor, southern Anatolia, northern Italy, Egypt, Gaza, Tyre, and Akko-Acre, and from the northern coast. The archaeologists found a much smaller, carrot-shaped locally produced amphora that was designed to carry dried fruit to the

Roman West: Gallia, Germania, and Britannia. Distinctive wide-mouthed amphorae supplied Beirut with fruit from Naples and Libya.

The Roman world cargo ships transported goods to Berytus from all over the Mediterranean, the Aegean, and the Black Sea. More than just the inhabitants of the Augustan veteran colony in Beirut loved fish sauce (garum), shipped in heavy amphorae from Cádiz in Spain and the fish salteries of Roman Portugal. Black Sea fisheries supplied additional fish products, tuna fish and probably sturgeon, in amphorae marked in red with their weight and merchant names.

During the first two centuries frying pans arrived from western Turkey and baking dishes and delicate Italian red tableware were imported from Naples. After the 4th century, Beirut imported all its tableware from Tunisia (African Red Slip Ware), Cyprus and Phocaea. After the fatal earthquake and tsunami



of AD 551, amphora imports were reduced to Levantine forms with wine from Gaza, Caesarea, Antioch and Cyprus, on the only long distance vessels now coming from the Black Sea, perhaps returning with Phocean Red Slip Ware on ships carrying state cargoes to Constantinople and the armies of the lower Danube.

*Special thanks to the co-directors of the AUB Beirut Souks excavations, Helga Seedon (AUB) and London University's Dominic Perling and Tim Williams.*



## The Arts

### Sound of Music

In front of a packed house at the annual Zaki Nassif Memorial Concert in the Assembly Hall on May 21, the winners of the Zaki Nassif School Choir Competition for children and youth lined up to receive their trophies. The winners then performed a song by the famous Lebanese composer, who began his musical career as a student at the AUB Institute of Music in 1936. More than 70 student choirs took part in two rounds of competition earlier in the year. The Lebanese Oriental Music Orchestra also performed Nassif's music at the concert, which was organized with the Zaki Nassif Music Program.



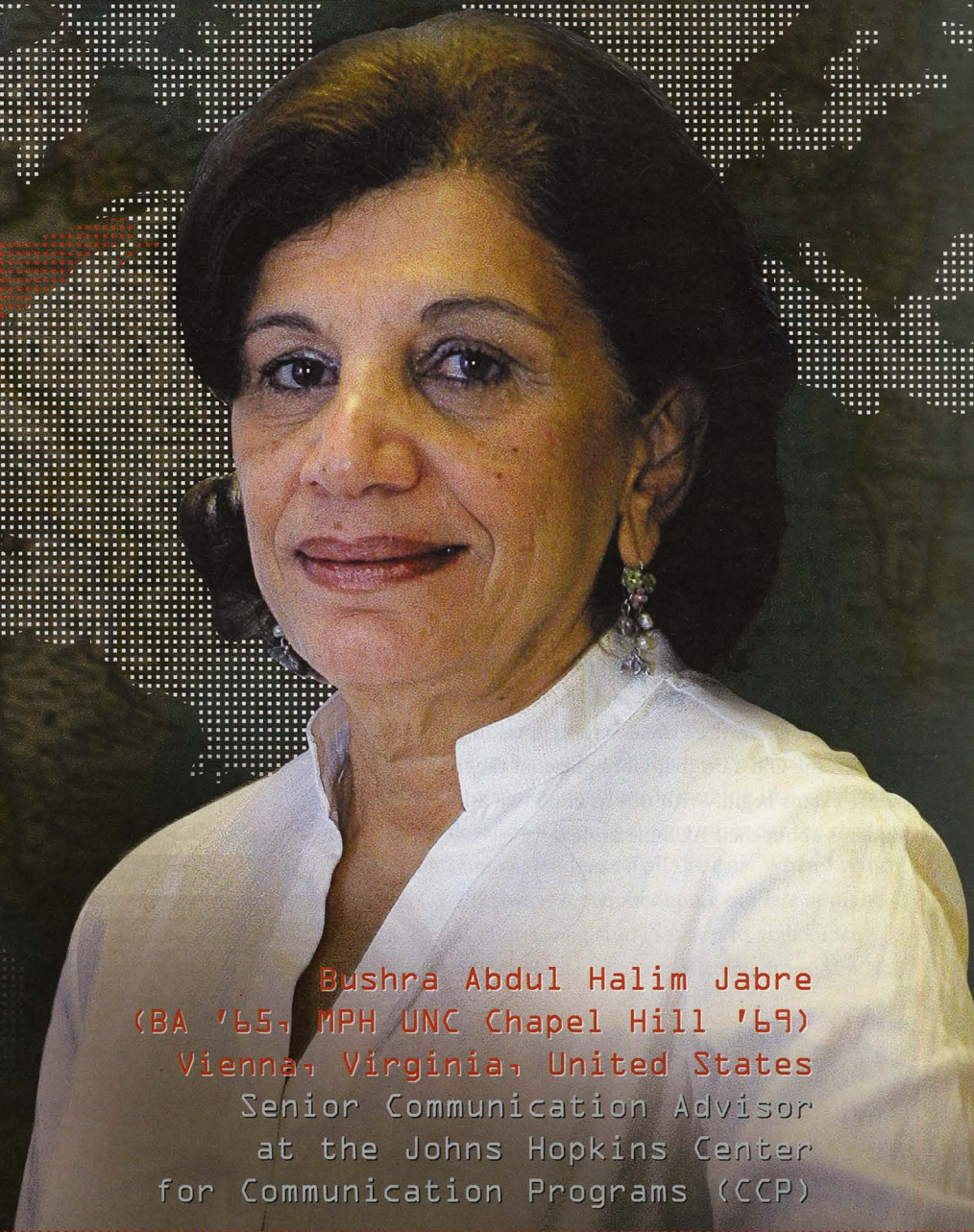
Zaki Nassif school choir competition



Honorary degree recipient Diva Majida Roumi performed on the Green Field during the Class Reunion on July 5. Proceeds benefited the Student Scholarship Fund.



# American Education Global Leaders



Bushra Abdul Halim Jabre  
(BA '65, MPH UNC Chapel Hill '69)  
Vienna, Virginia, United States  
Senior Communication Advisor  
at the Johns Hopkins Center  
for Communication Programs (CCP)

Although Bushra Jabre has trained hundreds of development professionals in the Arab world on effective strategies for advocacy and behavior change, she has had an even greater impact with a project she led to empower and encourage women to participate more fully in civic life. In 2002, Jabre and her colleague Carol Underwood were honored with the Gold Quill Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators for *Arab Women Speak Out*, a documentary self-empowerment training project that has been implemented by dozens of non-governmental organizations around the world. By 2008, the project had already reached one million women in the Arab world. Day to day, Jabre works on communications programs that influence political dialogue, enhance access to information that improves health and health care, and conducts research to improve health communication. She trains professionals across the Middle East to implement social development interventions ranging from gender equity to reproductive health to literacy education. "AUB gave me the educational base to build my career," says Jabre. "And as an alumnus, one of the most rewarding experiences I've had over the years is sharing what I've learned with faculty and current AUB students. It's something we all should do."

Giving makes a difference. Contact [giving@aub.edu.lb](mailto:giving@aub.edu.lb) to learn more.



THE AUB TRADITION

# Blissed Out

Students weigh in on their favorite traditions in 2009.

To many people in Lebanon and across the Middle East, AUB is a center of academic excellence and a hub of free intellectual thought in the region. Its reputation has been sealed by the scores of prominent political leaders, journalists, and academics who received their education at its leafy campus. But what does AUB mean to those people, and to others who study here? What are the traditions and customs that make the university experience unique and help to form the life-long memories of those who study at AUB? Every college has them: the University of Leeds in England has a fancy dress pub crawl called the Otley Run; the Sorbonne is known for student activism; and Harvard has a rite of passage known as the Primal Scream, a midnight streak through the Old Yard that takes place on the night before exams begin. With this in mind, we asked five students about their AUB memories.





**Karma | Graphic Design**

I will always remember staying up all night working in the architecture and design studios. We all do it. It's the only building that stays open 24/7 because people in our department usually have a lot of deadlines and need access to the studios. I've often walked up the stairs to the Medical Gate at 5 or 6 in the morning as the sun is coming up, or sometimes I just crash out on the couches in the lounge of our building. It doesn't feel like much fun at the time, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

**Lea | Landscape Design and Eco-Management**

As a landscape design student, I know how lucky we are to enjoy the variety of vegetation and wildlife we have at AUB. It's really an oasis of greenery in the middle of Beirut. There's space to breathe here. I like to sit and relax in the shade of the trees, or hang out with friends on the lower campus by the sea. I can see why it's sometimes called the most beautiful campus in the world and it's nice that as AUB students we get to benefit from it every day.

**Ali | Business**

It may not be obvious at first, but every group at AUB had their own place on campus to hang out. I lived on campus for the first year, which was an amazing experience, and at that time everyone used to lie out on the Green Oval sunbathing and studying. In my junior year, we were outside West Hall. Now in our final year, we like to sit with friends under the trees by the Main Gate. Of course, most people go to the AUB Beach as well during the summer. Each place has its own memories.

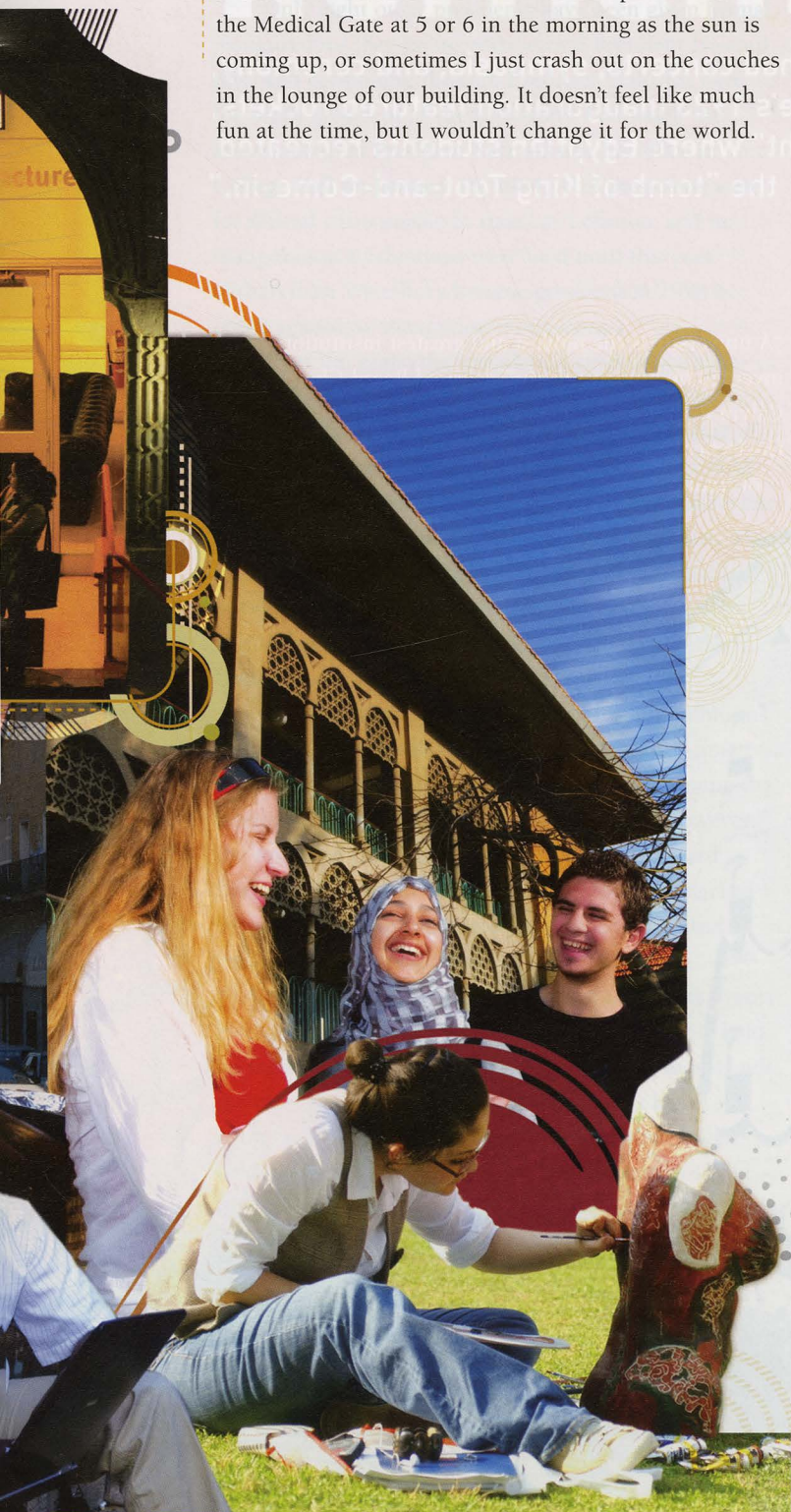
**Ria | Arab and Middle Eastern Studies**

Lebanon is a culinary heaven and Bliss Street offers a little taste of it. It may not be the most sophisticated food in Beirut, but sometimes there is nothing like grabbing a shish taouk sandwich and going to sit under the shade of a tree on campus, fending off all the cats. When I return to the US, I'll always remember going out late at night with friends after a long study session to grab an ice cream from Bliss House or a cup of coffee from Abu Naji.

**Amal | Nutrition**

What is special about AUB, in my opinion, is its diversity. Everyone that comes to study here gets to meet people from different backgrounds and cultures every day, which is not common in Lebanon. People come from all over the world to study at AUB, so we have a lot of variety in our student body and everybody can learn from each other. I think that this is what sets the University apart, and what I will remember most.

—C.A.



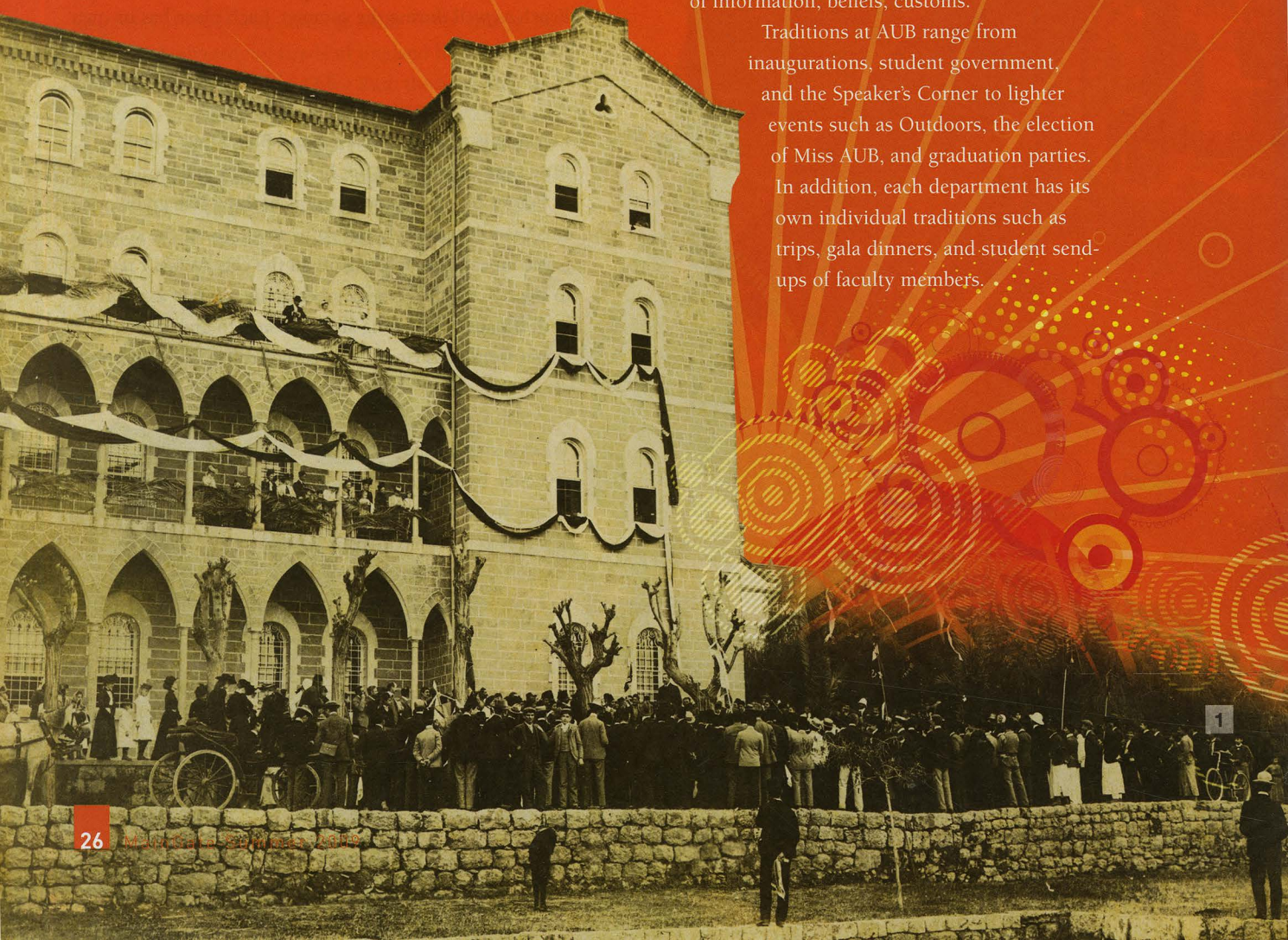


# A Tradition in Transition

President Dorman's 2009 inauguration had concerts, symposia, and ceremony, but sadly, no fireworks. Bayard Dodge's 1923 inauguration featured rockets, fire balloons, and a "Cosmopolitan Night" where Egyptian students recreated the "tomb of King Toot-and-Come-in."

"A university is the noblest and greatest institution invented by human society," declared Board Chairman Calvin Plimpton at the inauguration of President Harold Hoelscher in 1977. A university is also the natural home of tradition—cultural continuity, "the handing down of information, beliefs, customs."

Traditions at AUB range from inaugurations, student government, and the Speaker's Corner to lighter events such as Outdoors, the election of Miss AUB, and graduation parties. In addition, each department has its own individual traditions such as trips, gala dinners, and student send-ups of faculty members.





In this Inauguration Year, we turn first to one of the more formal AUB traditions, the inauguration of the president of the University. In May, for the first time in 37 years, AUB held a formal ceremony for the inauguration of Peter F. Dorman as fifteenth president of the American University of Beirut.

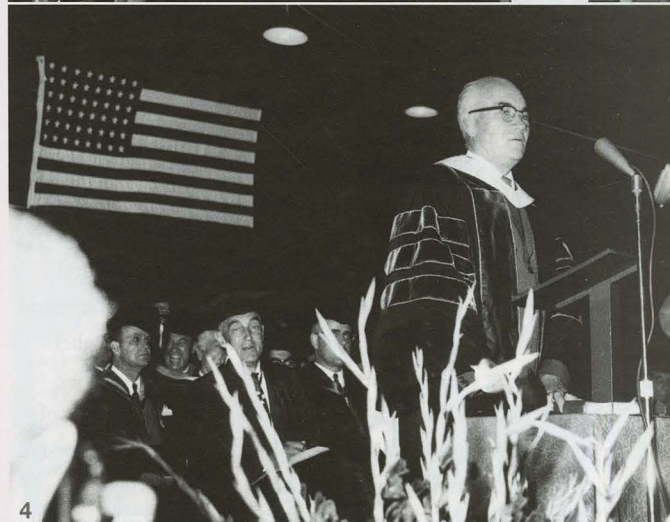
Only eight other presidents have been given formal inaugurations, beginning with second President Howard Bliss and continuing through President Malcolm Kerr, the ninth president of the University. Following the assassination of President Kerr outside his office in College Hall on January 18, 1984, AUB presidents were for several years unable to travel to Lebanon, and no inauguration celebrations were held until this year. (When John Waterbury became president in 1998 he opted against an inauguration ceremony.)

Over the years, the installation ceremonies have been held in the Chapel (later to be known as the Assembly Hall), on the Green Field, and, in the case of President Stephen Penrose in 1948, on the Green Oval in front of Fisk Hall. Three installation ceremonies were held in conjunction with commencement exercises. The inauguration of President Samuel Kirkwood coincided not only with commencement exercises, but also with celebrations to mark the centennial year of the University in June 1966.

With inaugural lectures, concerts, and exhibitions continuing throughout the months of May and June, the inauguration of President Dorman ranks among the longest and most elaborate in AUB's history. However, the events of the inauguration of President Bayard Dodge, lasting a full week in June 1923, were marked by equal, if not surpassing variety, innovation, and student participation.

Bayard Dodge's personal report of the week's events gives a vivid account of the "Cosmopolitan Night" held on the evening of June 27, 1923, "one of the most if not the most spectacular event that the campus has ever witnessed." "Around the World" performances were held every half hour at various places on campus, and the college bell, rockets, and fire balloons gave warnings from the tower on the half hour. "Hundreds of Japanese lanterns adorned the campus."

- 1 Howard Bliss, 1905
- 2 Bayard Dodge, 1923
- 3 Stephen Penrose, 1948
- 4 J. Paul Leonard, 1957
- 5 Norman Burns, 1961





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Students themselves created the entertainment. Armenian students presented the Royal conference at Ashdishad in the fifth century and St. Mesrop receiving the Armenian alphabet at the north side of College Hall. Egypt claimed the area between Post Hall and the then Chemistry Building with a ditch representing the Nile, two small pyramids, and “the tomb of King Toot-and-Come-in.” Greek students exhibited in front of Marquand House and the “Mesopotamians” had a Tower of Babel to the east of the tennis courts. Palestinians offered a threshing floor with a real ox and donkey and a flock of genuine sheep in the angle of Bliss and Fisk Halls. Persian rugs, fire worshippers, and Persian music marked the Persian students’ pavilion at the west end of College Hall, while Russian students displayed music and dancing at the east end. Lebanese students built a temporary mountain house on the tennis courts west of Marquand House. Cosmopolitan Night, Dodge wrote, brought “probably the largest crowd that ever gathered on the campus.”

Serious conferences and lectures on the state of the university and education in the Middle East formed a part of most inauguration festivities. A typical installation

ceremony included the procession of robed members of the faculty and invited visitors representing many universities around the globe. The Dorman inauguration in May added to the traditional procession 69 international students, each carrying the flag of his/her country.

Early inaugurations reflected the original religious orientation of the University and the dominating rule of the Ottoman Empire. The first inaugurations included lectures such as “The Foundations of Religious Belief” and “For What Should the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Stand in the Colleges of the Turkish Empire?” The May 22, 1903 issue of the Greek Orthodox newspaper, *Al-Mahabbi*, commenting on Bliss’s inauguration, was “particularly indebted to the College for the respect in which the Ottoman Empire is held within its walls” and for honoring “his Imperial Majesty our lawful liege and sovereign, the victorious Sultan Hamid Khan. The faculty is so careful in this respect that the College is more Ottoman than American.”

Special circumstances occasionally marked the traditional inaugural ceremonies. The oldest living alumnus, Khalil D. Tabit (BA 1892), father of Samir Thabit, a professor of chemistry who later served as acting president in 1984, attended the inauguration of Norman Burns in 1961. At the end of the combined inaugural and centennial events for the investiture of Samuel Kirkwood in June 1966, the University conferred on President Emeritus Bayard Dodge its first honorary degree since 1920. Later, Calvin Plimpton, chairman of the Board of Trustees and also president of Amherst College, granted President Kirkwood Amherst’s degree of doctor of laws. Plimpton said that Amherst College wanted to see the second hundred years of AUB launched, as were the first, under an Amherst man. The first president of the Syrian Protestant College, Danjel Bliss, was a graduate of Amherst College, as is President Dorman.

—J.M.C.

With thanks to the Jafet Library Archives

- 1 Harold Hoelscher, 1978
- 2 Malcolm Kerr, 1982
- 3 Harold Hoelscher, Commencement, 1980
- 4 Demonstrations, 1967
- 5 Demonstrations, 1971
- 6 *Pro-fedayeen* students barricade Nicely Hall, 1969
- 7 SRC elections, 2008



3



# Speaking Out

**Student Council: appointed, suspended, elected, dissolved... and back on track; Speaker's Corner on God, cricket sandwiches, and a passion for politics.**

Protest at AUB is a firmly entrenched University tradition dating back to the beginnings of the Syrian Protestant College. One AUB graduate, Makram Rabah (BA '03), author of *A Campus at War: Student Politics at the American University of Beirut, 1967-1975*, suggested that protest was part of the curriculum. Protest may never have appeared in the University Catalogue, but its seeds are reflected in American liberal arts education and in the University's goal of producing responsible individuals ready to take up positions of leadership in their societies. When seeking over the years the establishment of a student council, lobbyists were serious about the need for AUB students to participate fully in university organization and to express their own views in order to improve the University and to secure for themselves the best possible education. During the years coinciding with unrest in France and in the United States, the Student Council established in November 1969 one of the most popular of AUB traditions—the Speaker's Corner—tightly bound to the tradition of protest. The Speaker's Corner, which quickly became “the talk of the town,” encouraged students to speak their own minds on almost any topic.

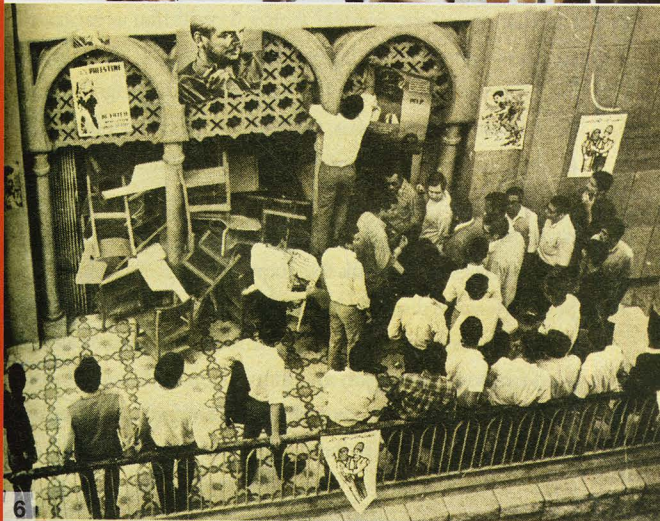
Consider the first meeting: Beside the Milk Bar, around noon on Thursday, November 20, 1969. Students are gathering between West Hall and what is now the Office of Information and Public Relations in the west end of Ada Dodge Hall. Anticipation and curiosity are palpable as the students wait for the beginning of the first Student Council-sponsored Speaker's Corner, designed to fight perceived student apathy on campus. This was the period of global student unrest, and just short of one year before the infamous *Newsweek* designation of AUB as “Guerilla U” (October 1970).

Fuad Bawarshi, president of the Student Council, outlined the rules: All contributions should be in English;



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provocation and personal attacks were ruled out. For minutes no one stirred. Then a young woman, a graduate student in English literature, came forward and “told the approximately 100 students . . . leaning out of the windows and blocking the Milk Bar doors that ‘they should get involved in what they believe,’” and that if they really believed in something they should “come out and say it. . . Come up and say whatever you want to say.”

That student was Hanan Mikhail, later to be known as the Palestinian activist and leader Hanan Ashrawi.

The Speaker’s Corner was the brainchild of a few students who came away from a visit to London’s Hyde Park corner convinced that AUB needed its own Speaker’s Corner. The tradition, begun in 1969, continued under the auspices of the Student Council until that organization was finally dissolved for good in 1974.

Capitalizing on the location beside the hugely popular student hangout, the Milk Bar, the Speaker’s Corner drew hundreds of students for debate and discussion at noon every Thursday. For the most part, issues ranging from the existence of God to “cricket sandwiches” in the Milk Bar to political questions and beyond—were discussed in an “atmosphere of seriousness and political maturity.” The institution provided “a useful platform to let off steam and express oneself freely and, most importantly, to avoid physical confrontation among students.” Topics included AUB issues—comprehensive

exams, teaching methodology, BA-*licence* equivalence, and the establishment of a free university; the problems of the Lebanese work force—garbage collectors, bakers, Regie tobacco workers; and, increasingly, especially in the seventies, political issues—the perceived inaction of the Lebanese government, the role of the fedayeen and the Palestinian Revolution, the repercussions of Black September, and the Roger’s Peace Plan.

But the rising steam could no longer be contained. The increasing intensity of student involvement in politics in the early seventies can be seen as related to unrest on university campuses world wide. But local problems, such as the repercussions of Black September—the ejection of the Palestinian movement from Jordan—were passionate topics at the Speaker’s Corner. Students spoke for and against the Jordanian government, and the Palestinian revolution drew strong support. When the Jordanian army attacked the remnants of Palestinians remaining in Jordan, AUB students abandoned classes and many joined a nation-wide protest.

In such an atmosphere, the appearance at the Speaker’s Corner on October 29, 1970 of the notorious hi-jacker, former AUB student Leila Khaled, drew an extra number of curious students. She had been released from jail in a prisoner exchange agreement after the attempted hi-jacking of an El Al Boeing 707 in August 1969. She won applause from the engrossed audience, when she began, “I could speak in English, but since I’m at the American University of Beirut, I’ll speak in Arabic.” Khaled went on to attack the Jordanian government for its repression of the Palestinians in Camp Wahadat in Amman, called for pan-Arab national unity, and underscored the importance of the Palestinian resistance. “We have always said and will continue to say that the reactionary authorities in this area are an added advantage on the

**“Come out and say it... Come up and say whatever you want to say.”**

— Hanan (Mikhail) Ashrawi, Nov. 20, 1969







side of the enemy. These last events prove the validity of our strategy, which is to overcome reactionary governments in order to overcome Zionism and world imperialism by the United States. The dreadful massacres of our people in Amman... can only be compared to what is now going on in Israel and to the barbarism of Genghis Khan," said Khaled.

A look at other speakers on that day reveals the nature of the Student Council-backed Speaker's Corner. One student thanked the council for replacing scholarship money stolen from him during registration. The editor of the yearbook urged students to participate in the production of *Campus '71*. Student Council President Maher Masri asked students to refrain from class attendance for two hours on November 2 to commemorate Balfour Day, and announced a blood campaign, a general assembly for evaluation of the council, and a request for a full-time doctor at the infirmary. Another student noted that posters were being torn from walls. When a known joker tackled various topics, including French-educated students, the council president reminded students of Speaker's Corner rules.

Despite the dissolution of the Speaker's Corner with the Student Council in 1974 and its suspension during the war, various attempts were made over the years to revive the tradition. In 2000 students formed a committee to discuss reviving the corner with Dean of Students Dean Kevlin. The term "Open Meeting" supplanted the designation, "Speaker's Corner," and meetings were to be held only indoors in the West Hall Common Room. After the success of the first Open Meeting on March 16, 2000, the students requested moving the meetings outside, in keeping with the old Speaker's Corner format. The request was denied.

Recently, Dean of Students Maroun Kisirwani said the nearest thing to a Speaker's Corner on campus these days is a brief period before student elections when each candidate

**"I could speak in English, but since I'm at the American University of Beirut, I'll speak in Arabic."**

— Leila Khaled, Oct. 29, 1970

is allowed to address the voters for five minutes outside Fisk Hall. At this time he sees no possibility of reviving the Speaker's Corner in the political atmosphere currently prevailing in the country. Since it returned to publication in 1997, it has been the student newspaper, *Outlook*, which has provided a forum for student debate.

Yet the AUB Hyde Park was miraculously revived just last July 4, when a commemorative Speaker's Corner sponsored by the AUB Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB as part of the 2009 class reunion was held at the old venue between West Hall and Ada Dodge Hall. Entitled "AUB Student Politics: Past and Present," the event brought together old friends who had stirred the campus to demonstrations, strikes, occupations of buildings, and serious debate some 35 years ago. The podium, set up in the old Speaker's Corner venue between Ada Dodge and West Hall, was ringed with life-size black and white photographs of some of the demonstrations and the demonstrators. Former Student Council members Fuad Bawarshi (BBA '70, MBA '77), Jacques Ekmekji (BEN '71), Mohammad Farid Mattar (BA '74), and chair of the publication council of *Outlook* and *Campus* Maher Masri (BA '69, MA '73) recalled the excitement of their



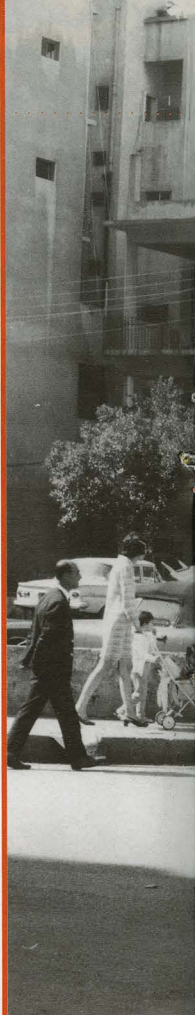


student days. Three of these men, Bawarshi, Masri, and Mattar, served as presidents of the Student Council. Other speakers included recent student activists Maysam Ali (BA '07), a former president of the Student Representative Council (2004-05) and *Outlook* editor in 2007, and history graduate and author Makram Rabah (BA '03, MA '07). Former Dean of Students (1981-99) Fawzi Hajj and current Dean Maroun Kisirwani also spoke to the audience of some 200 people, including other key players in the days of protest—Professor Emeritus Kamal Salibi and Dean of Health Sciences Iman Nuwayhid. Former President John Waterbury was also seen in the captive audience.

The student activists all praised the University and the important role the Speaker's Corner had played in their formation as students. Maher Masri said that although the

occasional scuffle and fisticuffs broke out among students in the audience, no attack was ever made against a speaker. "The Speaker's Corner served as a potent reliever of tension," he said. Students were able to let off steam.

Makram Rabah, who later signed copies of his book, *A Campus at War*, asserted, "All people who were involved in AUB's democratic tradition have done so with one aim in mind . . . to improve our alma mater's standing as an institution of higher learning in the area and beyond." The former activists were unanimous in urging students to continue to make their voices heard. "It is not necessary to be as mischievous as we were," said Fuad Bawarshi, "but be sure that your voices still make a difference." Most speakers spoke warmly of their days at AUB and expressed their desire to stimulate activism among present day AUB



**Closely related to increasing protest on campus (much related to the growth of Arab nationalism) was the development of student government. Students began demanding participation in important administration decisions and membership on key committees in the 1940s. Such participation, particularly in the form of a student council, is one of the many traditions of AUB.**

Administration appoints members of first Student Council, perhaps to control most outspoken students

New President Stephen Penrose seeks to reestablish suspended Student Council

New Student Council elected

Student Council for first time calls for participation in strike. University students across Lebanon take to the streets chanting "Marakech Arabiya" to support repressed people of Morocco

Student protest of British policy in the ME, treatment of students in Syria, and student arrest ignites student-gendarme conflict and brings arrest of students and suspension of Student Council

Negotiations for Student Council reinstatement.

Medical Gate demonstration against the Baghdad Pact results in killed and injured. Student Council remains suspended for 15 years.

New President (Samuel Kirkwood) pushes for constitution of student-faculty committee on student affairs.

Six-day war erupts on June 5. Students discover "a newborn awareness and belonging to happenings beyond the walls of the Campus." (*Najib B. Azzam in Outlook, 1971-72.*)

1943

1948

1949

1951

1952

1952-54

1954

1966

1967





students of the twenty-first century. Bawarshi said, "We hope to provoke a younger generation to play a more active role in the political and economic life of their country."



**"It is not necessary to be as mischievous as we were, but be sure that your voices still make a difference."**

— Fuad Bawarshi

—J.M.C.

*With thanks to Makram Rabah and the Jafet Library Archives.*

1967: A wreath bears a banner that explains it all: students of the American University of Beirut

First Student Council in 15 years elected on March 3.

Strike in spring against 10 percent tuition increase brings "creeping occupation" of buildings, long strike, and dissolution of Student Council on July 28.

After much conflict over relative merits of a student council or a student union "totally independent from AUB control," the Student Council reestablished in March.

Outbreak of the October War, the fourth Arab-Israeli war.

After failure of negotiations over new 10 percent tuition increase students strike and occupy buildings.

Suspension of 1973-74 academic year. Student Council releases to press papers taken from occupied AUB offices allegedly confirming corruption charges against administration.

Eight-hundred Lebanese security men arrest 61 students occupying buildings.

Administration suspends Student Council, Outlook newspaper, and Campus yearbook.

Under Dean of Students Fawzi Hajji new system of Student Representative Committees and University Student Faculty Committee introduced.

1969

1971

1972

1973

March 19

April 3

April 24

April 25

1974

1981



# The Meaning of West Hall

The outbreak of the Lebanese civil war in 1975 effectively stifled student protest for many years to come. Following the gradual return to normalcy in the country and on campus from 1990, student activism turned increasingly to peaceful marches and sit-ins and more constructive acts of community service and volunteerism. The tradition of community service emphasized using one's education not for oneself alone but for the improvement of society as a whole. In the 1880s first president Daniel Bliss reminded the SPC students that they came to the college to "become stronger and better able to help and bless mankind." Almost every president thereafter has reiterated this principle.

Members of the university have been volunteering ever since the early medical school faculty members and students began a long history of sharing expertise with the broader community outside its walls. Doctors and medical students offered medical care in poor neighborhoods of Beirut; they later devoted time to hospitals such as the Asfurieh Mental Health Hospital and the tuberculosis society in Shebanieh.

Recent examples of the continuing tradition of volunteering are the Outreach Clinic (see MG, vol. II, no. 2, Pp. 18-22), Through which AUB doctors, medical students, and staff bring weekly health care to underserved refugees in the Shatila Camp, and the Task Force for Reconstruction and Community Service (TFRCS) established by President Waterbury during the summer of 2006 in the aftermath of the Israeli attack. Jump-started by the need for post-war reconstruction, the TFRCS now focuses on raising the "awareness of public service as a core value for the entire university community." In May 2007 at the end of an NGO Social Day on campus, more than 500 students had signed up as volunteers to work with NGOs.

Recently, the university farm in the Beka'a, AREC, the Agricultural Research and Education Center, long involved in sharing agricultural practices with neighboring farmers and villagers, decided to renew its commitment through a new reading of the acronym, AREC: advancing research, enabling communities.

In his 2007 opening ceremony address entitled "Going Outside AUB's Walls," President John Waterbury

**The Civic Welfare League has been helping the disadvantaged since 1924, just one of many AUB student groups proving that community service is at the heart of the AUB experience.**

urged AUB to take "a more active role in the cultural, economic, and intellectual development of Ras Beirut" and described the Neighborhood Initiative. This project, under the leadership of anthropologist and urban architect Cynthia Myntti, is working to "find out what AUB can and should do to bring about positive changes in its neighborhood."

Closely related is the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) established in 2007 to "coordinate and develop the university's activities and programs for community service, service learning, and community-based research" (Former Provost Peter Heath). CCECS Director Mounir Mabsout wants to make community service more visible in the University: the center will "institutionalize" community service in order to "instill the culture of community involvement in academia and in community-based research."

The Palestinian Cultural Club, the Freedom Club, the Debate Club, the Human Rights and Peace Club, the Environmental Club, and the Agriculture and Landscape Society regularly participate in community service. Students organize Ramadan iftars for the elderly, athletic and game days on campus for orphans, clothing drives for the needy and victims of specific catastrophes. Following the 1996 Qana massacre and during the 2006 July war, students gathered clothing and household items for Qana residents and were among the first to help refugees find shelter.

Two longstanding student groups that remain strong today are the AUB Red Cross Club and the Civic Welfare League. The Civic Welfare League has been functioning as a student service group since 1924, seeking to improve the lives of the poor both in the city and in remote villages. Long anticipating the current aims of the CCECS,





in 1936 the League worked out a “Plan for a Civic Course Laboratory for the Freshman Class.” Freshmen would “be required to put in ten hours,” providing “about a thousand hours for social service work.”

In the 1930s a brochure prepared by West Hall, the Athletics Department, and the Civic Welfare League, “A Message to the AUB Student on Preparing for Citizenship in his Country” said West Hall was not simply a building, but also “the symbol of character, co-operation and real manhood and citizenship. . . [Reflecting] the spiritual, the deeper meaning of the term.”

The CWL, fostered community service through the Village Welfare Service. Men and women students and teachers spent their summers in camps in various country districts. Each morning they went into the villages “to teach people to read, to dig latrines, to enjoy athletic sports, to care for their babies and homes in better ways, and, under the direction of trained specialists, show the fellahin how to improve their agricultural and hygienic conditions.” A corresponding City Welfare Service combined existing service organizations and offered volunteers the opportunity to deal with problems of city life: “to conduct a night school for about 100 working young men and boys, help in the work for homeless basket-boys [porters] in the city, conduct wholesome playground activities for street children, organize classes for mothers and girls, and develop other projects in hygiene, recreation, and education.”

For the past three summers the Civil Engineering Society has organized summer camps for students to bring their engineering skills to the aid of villages in the south. A mini-camp for six students was held in early summer 2009. Last April 16 the Red Cross Club sponsored an exceptional Awareness Day campaign in front of West Hall. Ambulance stretchers, bandaged students, wrecked cars, and “a seat belt convincer,” made vivid the consequences of reckless driving with grim authenticity. And in April and May members of the CWL resumed its traditional English Language courses on campus for AUB staff members and began teaching computer literacy in the south.

Community service—helping others, begun so long ago, remains today an enduring, constantly revitalized AUB tradition.



—J.M.C.

*With thanks to Cynthia Myntti and the Jafet Library Archives.*

- 1 Red Cross blood donation campaign, 1985
- 2 CCECS Fill a Bag Donation Drive, 1998
- 3 Run for Aids, 2004
- 4 CCECS and Neighborhood Initiative project, 2008





# Scrapbook Memories



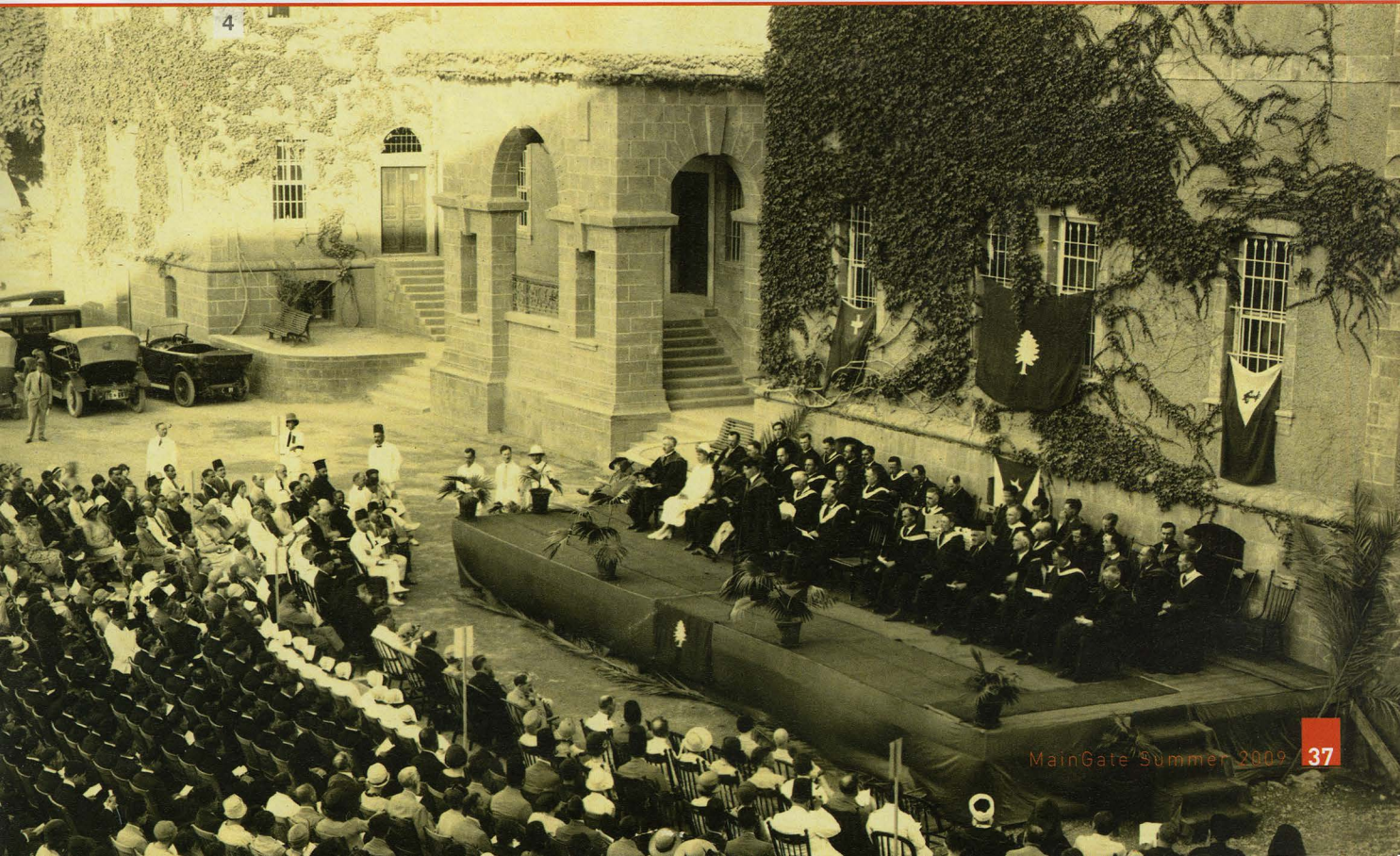




2

**From Miss AUB to Commencement to the Folk Dance Festival, our favorite AUB traditions from the archives.**

1. Big Game, 1982
2. Big Game, 1971
3. Big Game, 1966
4. Commencement, 1927



4





1 2







3 4



5

(Photos 1, 2, 4, and 5: Women Student Organization Fashion Show, 1963)

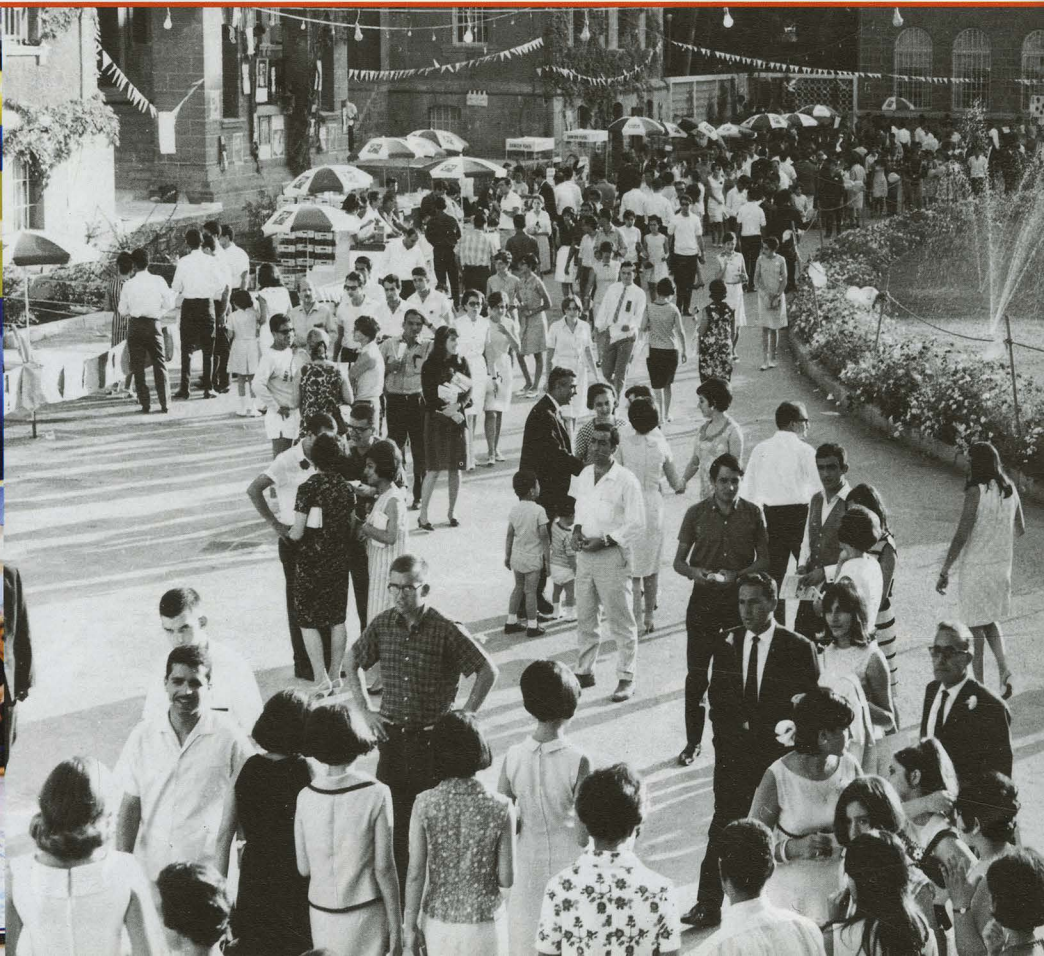
- 1. Indian costume
- 2. Iraqi costume
- 3. Folk Dance Festival, 1971

- 4. Turkish costume
- 5. Chinese costume
- 6. Miss AUB, 1966
- 7. Commencement, 1977

7









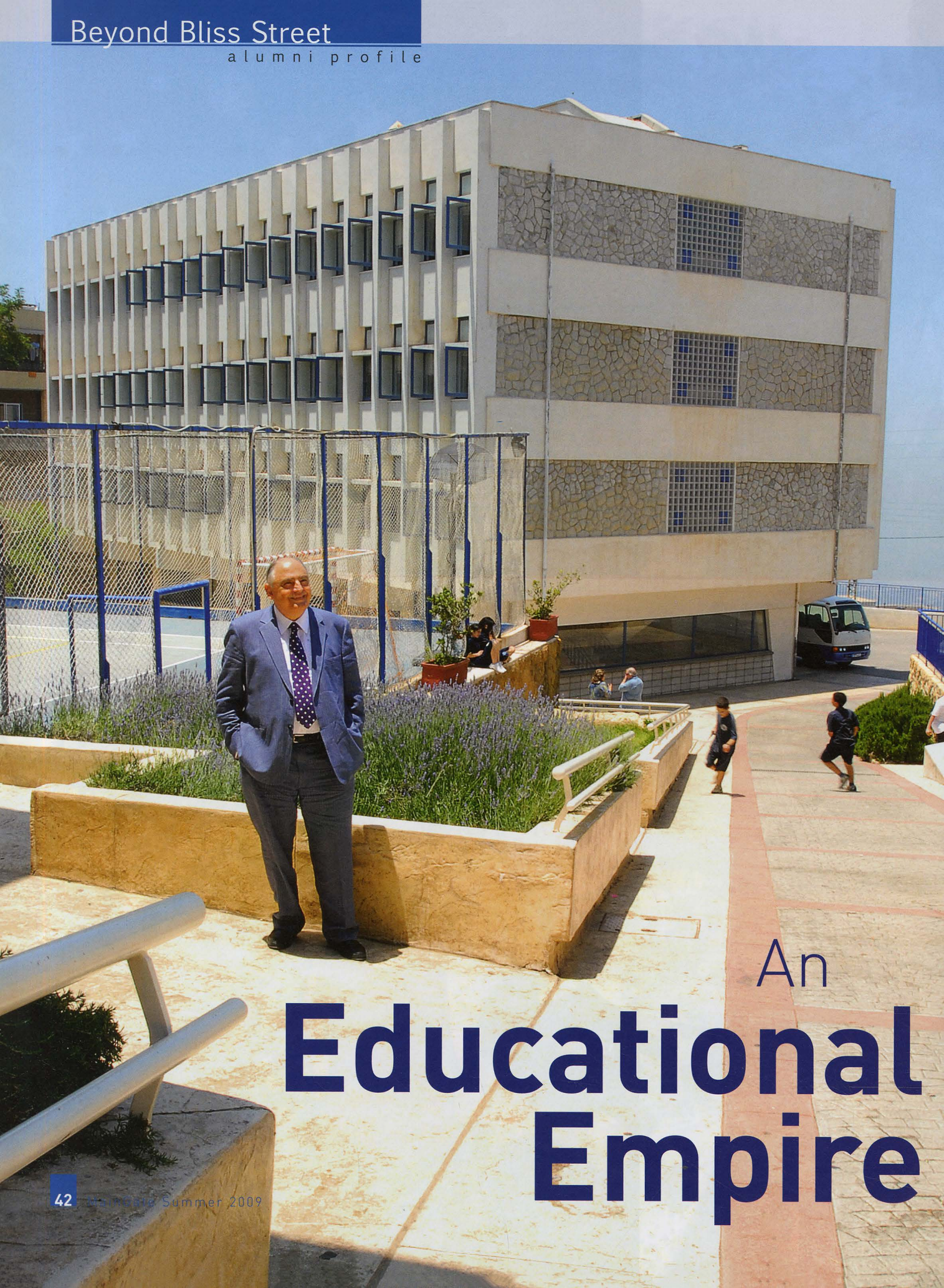


- 1. Outdoors, 1996
- 2. Outdoors, 1996
- 3. Talent Show, 2005
- 4. Outdoors, 1999
- 5. Outdoors, 1999

- 6. Outdoors, 1967
- 7. Outdoors, 2003
- 8. Outdoors, 1999







An

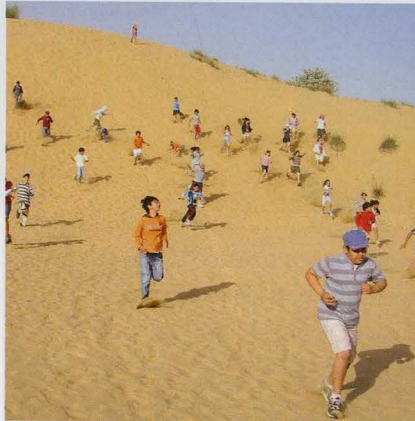
# Educational Empire



**Walid Abushakra (BE '63) wanted to be a civil engineer but fate and a love of education took him off course. What began as a way to pay for AUB, ended up as an educational empire stretching across the Middle East and back to Lebanon where it all began.**

The founder, superintendent, and chairman of Educational Services Overseas Limited (ESOL), Abushakra has established and developed more than ten schools across the region including the American International Schools in Egypt, Abu Dhabi, and Cyprus, as well as schools in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and in Gaza (which was heavily damaged during the January 2009 Israeli offensive). All the schools are accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges and/or the Council of International Schools. Under Abushakra's abiding scrutiny, thousands of pupils enjoy the benefits of a top class education provided by a mostly internationally recruited staff of more than 600 teachers.

Abushakra is delighted that his two sons, Bassam and Tammam, have joined him in running ESOL, and will soon be followed by their younger sister Rima. "As a family



Universal American School in Dubai (Desert Trip)



Universal American School in Cyprus

we are committed to this; it is our mission, our duty," Abushakra says. He recalls the occasion when he first approached his family about the future of ESOL and the schools under its management. "We were all together, and I said to them, I am not getting any younger. People have entrusted us with their children, the most valuable thing they have, and we are morally committed to deliver, so what do you think? They said, 'Dad we believe in your mission. Let us do our thing and when you need us, call us.' So for them this was a call of duty. And before I called, they felt the great need to join by themselves. I tell you frankly my main worry was when the young come, the children of the founders, things do not go smoothly. I was very pleased to see that the ESOL old guard gets along with them better even than with me."

Asked to explain the secret of his success, Abushakra says simply, "Honesty and hard work. No one can say I have told an untruth. No one can say I promised something without delivering. I am totally dedicated. I am

an educator with a good business mind—and I care for high standards. We set the bar very high and our dedication is a role model for our pupils. We are very caring employers—those who have worked for us are our best ambassadors because they know we treated them well; we are very fair. This is how we work, honesty, professionalism, setting high standards, and being a good role model. I am very fortunate that my profession is also a hobby, a passion."

As a young man, Walid Abushakra discovered his first passion, mathematics. An AUB civil engineering graduate (BE '63), Abushakra supported himself at AUB by teaching mathematics for the Lebanese baccalaureate parts I and II, working day and night and taking a break only on national holidays. During this time he coauthored two series of mathematics textbooks. Engineering soon proved to be a side interest as Abushakra worked with a committee of Lebanese authors writing textbooks for the Lebanese baccalaureate (commonly referred to as the Bac); it wasn't long before schools





teaching the Bac were using these new textbooks almost exclusively. Abushakra's growing commitment to improving education led him to accept the opportunity to become director of the Universal College in Aley in 1969. Under his leadership, by 1976 the college was achieving nearly perfect scores in the Lebanese Bac.

Like many Lebanese, Abushakra's career was thrown off course by the civil war, but not for long. Sensing further serious trouble to come and eager to replicate Aley's successful formula elsewhere, he headed to Kuwait where he established the Universal American School in Kuwait. At the time of the Iraqi invasion in 1990, it was the largest American accredited school in the Middle East and had an enrollment of 1,600 students.

A man with highly tuned political antennae, Abushakra sensed danger ahead one year before the Iraqi invasion and started exploring options for a school in Egypt. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, he quickly relocated to Cairo, rented a property, and opened the doors of the American International School in Egypt (AISE) to 42 pupils only six weeks after he arrived. This extraordinary beginning led some colleagues in international education to dub AISE "the miracle school." By the end of the year, the school had 250 students, and four

years later it boasted a fully-equipped, purpose built campus, and an enrolment of more than 1,000 students. Ten years later, it moved once again to a magnificent, state-of-the-art school on a 51,000 square meter campus in New Cairo that caters to more than 1,400 students. The Cairo English School, built on an equally impressive campus, is 10 minutes down the road. This flourishing network will soon include a new branch campus, the American International School in Egypt West, which will be inaugurated under the shadow of the Pyramids in August 2009. As if this were not enough, work will soon begin on the new El-Alamein University, which is being developed in educational partnership with California State University Northridge and is targeted for opening in September 2011.

During the 1990s, ESOL's reputation grew. In 1993, International Schools Services (ISS) of Princeton, New Jersey asked Abushakra to take over the Nicosia School, which became the American International School in Cyprus. ISS was so impressed with the results that they invited Abushakra to assume management of a small school in Saudi Arabia, another challenge he took on with great success.

With ESOL gaining a strong reputation as an organization with the capability to establish and manage high

quality American schools in multiple countries, Abushakra partnered with a local investor to establish the American International School in Abu Dhabi (AISA) in 1995. Today AISA serves 1,200 students and is recognized as one of the emirate's very best schools.

Abushakra's educational empire later expanded further into Saudi Arabia with the establishment of the International Programs School in Al Khobar in 2000 and the management of Asir Academy beginning in 2002. During this period, ESOL was also invited to help with the establishment of the American International School in Gaza and, coming full circle, took over Universal College Aley, where Abushakra first started his career as a school director in 1969.

By 2005, ESOL had built one of the most formidable teams of educational professionals in the world. The organization was ready for new challenges. As had happened before in Kuwait and in Egypt, ESOL's success with AISA in Abu Dhabi opened the door to new opportunities in the United Arab Emirates. In 2005, ESOL entered the Dubai market, launching the Universal American School in Dubai (UASD) as well as the organization's first British curriculum school, the Deira International School (DIS). UASD and DIS enjoy two of the best school campuses in the region and are part of

Empire





the Al Futtaim Group's beautiful Dubai Festival City development along the Dubai Creek. The organization's reputation and its capabilities were instrumental in the success of UASD and DIS. In the few short years since their opening in 2005, both Dubai schools have grown to serve more than 1,100 students, and are quickly establishing themselves as two of the region's truly outstanding schools.

Abushakra's 53 years in education have been recognized with a number of awards. He was inducted into the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) Hall of Fame in 2005 and was awarded the International Schools Association Award for Distinguished Service to International Education in 2007, an annual award that is given to an outstanding international educator who has exemplified the highest ideals of international education. On receiving the award Abushakra told his audience that he took special pride in the fact that he is the first Arab or American of Arab descent to receive the award because his main goal in becoming an educator was to achieve the highest standards of international education in the Arab world.

Looking back over more than half a century in education, he has few regrets. He recalls with chagrin some of the early snubs he got when

he was starting out in recruitment fairs in America, but they were short lived and he enjoyed the satisfaction of subsequent apologies. He also sustained the loss of the Universal American School in Kuwait, seized by his local sponsor, and the American International School in Kuwait, which suffered the same fate.

Thirty-three years after the establishment of his first school in Kuwait, ESOL's success continues to be driven by the same vision and the same unwavering commitment to high quality education. ESOL's schools do not share a common curriculum: while most offer an American curriculum, a few follow a British curriculum. They also vary widely in the makeup of their student bodies. The student body at the American International School in Egypt is 70 percent Egyptian, with more than 40 countries represented in the remaining 30 percent. In the two ESOL schools in the UAE, fewer than 15 percent of the students

are from the Emirates with most of the student body from 80 other nations. What all the ESOL schools share is an inviting, positive, pleasant, and student-centered learning environment, and a commitment to high standards of educational quality, the traits that are at the core of Abushakra's educational vision.

Through all this, Walid Abushakra has never forgotten where and how he started. In 1969, exactly 30 years after he became director of the Universal College in Aley, he was invited to buy it. He renovated the school as a gift from the Abushakra family to Lebanon, and added to its excellent education with an annual scholarship fund to AUB. The brainchild of his wife Nada, until recently an active member of ESOL, the Walid and Nada Abushakra Endowed Scholarship sponsors two students a year at AUB from the Universal College in Aley (UCA).

"AUB opened my mind to new horizons and opened a wide gate to admire and partake in educational and cultural developments in the world," says Abushakra. "That is why we are so faithful to AUB, and why we are so honored to have AUB President Peter Dorman as our keynote speaker at UCA's Centennial Anniversary Graduation event this summer."







# From Baghdad to Stockholm

Ann with her four roommates in their room in the Women's Hostel, 1954, left to right: Roshan, Ann, Katie, Naziha and Samya.

**Editor's note:**

**Ann Kerr-Adams spent her junior year at AUB in 1954-55. Her late husband, Malcolm Kerr, was president of AUB from 1982 to 1984 when he was assassinated outside his office. In the past five years Ann has interviewed six of her classmates to learn about their resilience in building fruitful lives against the backdrop of the tumultuous recent history of the Middle East. The project was sparked by a letter from Samya to Ann in March 2004.**

Samya was standing at the Stockholm Airport waiting for us. Her erect posture, her purposeful expression and large expressive brown eyes were unchanged from the younger Samya I had first met 54 years earlier, one of four roommates from different parts of the Arab world, sharing a large room in the AUB Women's Hostel. They became my lifelong friends.

Over the years, three wars in Iraq interrupted my correspondence with Samya, who had returned to Iraq to become a teacher. First there

*Write to us!*  
MainGate welcomes contributions from alumni reflecting on their AUB experiences as well as stories about their lives after graduation. Submissions may be sent to [maingate@aub.edu.lb](mailto:maingate@aub.edu.lb)



was the 8-year war with Iran, then the Gulf War, and then the current American-led war. Our last face-to-face meeting had been in January, 1990 in Baghdad where I was visiting to help set up a high school summer exchange program. The visit had been too brief as Samya was teaching in the school where Saddam Hussein's daughters were studying and contact with Americans might endanger her position. We agreed to meet in the lobby of the Babylon Hotel. Our greeting in this public place with unknown eyes watching was outwardly unemotional, but I knew that our year together at AUB had given us an unstated bond of friendship and understanding.

Six months later, in August 1991, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait over a border dispute and my plans for escorting American high school students to Baghdad evaporated. My annual Christmas messages to Samya went unanswered as western sanctions were imposed on Iran, continuously weakening the country for the next thirteen years. Then one day in March 2004, after the American led invasion had ended, I opened my mail box to find a long-hoped-for letter addressed in Samya's tidy handwriting, postmarked Baghdad with a colorful stamp covered with exotic fish and Arabic script.

"A year has passed and life is worse than before, especially for Christians . . . Now they want to give us freedom and democracy. They can rebuild a better bridge or a house, but they can't heal the soul and character of people. It all showed

in the behavior of the people in this last war. I cried only for the museum which I love, and for the books that were stolen or buried . . . we are afraid in our houses, we are afraid to drive and afraid to walk."

Over the next five years, Samya and I communicated intermittently by letters sent with travelers and an occasional phone call when she was able to visit her brother in Germany. As the situation deteriorated, life for her and her siblings became less and less tolerable. Emigration was dangerous, expensive, and lonely, but when a possibility arose to be a war refugee in Sweden, Samya seized it, I suspect with the idea of being able



Samya with the Arab Nationalist Club, Al-Orwah Al-Woathqa visiting Egypt in 1954 with Mohammed Naguib.

to help her younger siblings join her after she obtained a residence permit. It was hard to imagine how a woman of 73 could move from the sunshine of Iraq to the cold, dark north in the middle of winter.

"Here I am safe, but it's not my country," Samya told me in a telephone call from Sodertalje, a town outside Stockholm filled with other Iraqi exiles. "The Swedish government is very good to us and provides us with everything even though I am too old to work, but I never understood what



Samya and Ann in Sodertalje, May 2009

it was like to be a refugee before. . . what I miss most are my papers and addresses and phone numbers. It's not easy to lose all my friends. I have aged—I am forgetting—it's not natural. I am always thinking—that's what makes me forgetful."

Now in May 2009, almost 55 years from our first meeting, Samya met my new husband and me at the Stockholm Airport. I was expecting a stooped and wan person but there was Samya as straight and purposeful as she seemed when she first walked into our room at the Women's Hostel. In the next two days we walked all Sodertalje, the suburb where she and thousands of other Iraqi refugees live, and a portion of Stockholm, returning to her apartment for delicious Iraqi meals that she had prepared before we woke up in the morning. Her old vitality was evident as stories tumbled out of her, tragic ones of her later adult years, but also happy memories of her early life and college and teaching days. "AUB gave me so much," she recounted. "I know that what I learned there helped me through many hard times."



—Ann Kerr



# Times of Triumph

## An Interview with Frederic Herter

Dr. Frederic Herter was president of AUB during one of the most difficult periods in the university's history. With US sanctions in place, he was forced to manage university affairs from the AUB New York Office with frequent trips to Cyprus, Jordan, Syria and the Gulf. Then, on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University, he suddenly learned that College Hall had been destroyed.



**MainGate: When did you arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?**

**Dr. Frederic Herter:** The first time I heard about AUB was when I was an intern in surgery at Columbia [Presbyterian] in 1945. The chair of the department then was Dr. Allan Oldfather Whipple. Occasionally I would help him in the operating room, and as we scrubbed together beforehand, we would exchange briefings about our backgrounds. Whipple was born in

Aleppo, Syria in 1881, and he reckoned that his father had done 25 thousand miles on horseback selling bibles throughout the Middle East. Whipple knew the region, and had been to AUB—that was my first introduction.

Then, in 1958, Dr. Joseph McDonald, who had trained as a plastic surgeon under Dr. Whipple and had been appointed dean of the School of Medicine at AUB, called me and asked if I would consider taking over the surgical department at AUB

(Left to right) Thomas Morris, Frederic Herter, John Waterbury and Cal Plimpton in 2001; Herter in Abu Dhabi, 1991; Herter, wife Solange, Bill Rice and Eileen O'Connor in Jordan, 1987; President Herter in February 1989.



for a year, allowing the chairman to take his sabbatical leave at his alma mater, Stanford. I had only been on the faculty of Columbia for three years, but I was fascinated by the idea, largely because of what Whipple had told me. I consulted Whipple, and then saw George Hoppin Humphreys, then chair of surgery. Both Whipple and Humphreys said, "You'll never know about yourself and that part of the world if you don't do this; it will influence your life in a number of ways." I was married and had two very small children. But I sold my house in Dobbs Ferry, NY to the husband of Elizabeth

Columbia, and he asked me to come, give two presentations at the meeting, as well as make rounds at AUBMC, and even take some trips with him. It was an honor, and I agreed, and when I arrived in Beirut, I soon fell in love with AUB and spent three weeks there as opposed to the planned two.

**Did you visit the campus during the war?**

The Lebanese civil war began in 1975, and I joined the Board of Trustees in 1977, when I was living in New York. I visited campus with my wife-to-be that same year, but during the

**Dr. Frederic P. Herter**

- Trustee (1977–87; 1993–96)
- Chair of the Board (1985–87);
- President (1987–93);
- Trustee Emeritus (1996 to the present).

spent years in the Gulf, working for Aramco. The second notable event of 1982 was the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The demography of the country rapidly changed as a result. The Shiite population was pushed north from its traditional homeland in the south. Many had never been to Beirut and had no place to go. They



Taylor and was ready to go. Then, the day before I was to leave for Beirut, I got a call saying that the Marines had just landed on the shore because of a possibly serious altercation between the Christians and Muslims. That put a kibosh on that trip to AUB, but I got my house back.

And the next year, in 1959, Dr. Calvin Plimpton was running the Ninth MEMA [Middle East Medical Assembly]. He knew I'd done some experimental work with cancer at

next three years, our visits were as legitimate mates. Then two important things happened in 1982: first, David Dodge was abducted [the first American abductee] and held hostage for one year. When they learned that he was taken, the trustees were wild. David was the acting president. When I became president in 1987, the one thing that I wanted to do was get David back into the administration because he was so familiar with the Middle East. He knew Beirut and had

set up tents in the streets, on the beach.

All this time I was based in New York. Nineteen eighty-four was the last year I went to campus. Najeeb E. Halaby was chair of the Board of Trustees at that time, and there were six of us on that trip. Our goal was to approach all the armed militia groups and plead for guarantees of AUB's safety. Was it successful? It is hard to say, but the University was never attacked overtly.



## **How did you become president?**

When Halaby retired I became chair of the Board of Trustees in 1985. I was scared to death, not only because I was a neophyte at university administration, but because I was unable to visit Lebanon. Then somehow I convinced Cal Plimpton to come aboard as AUB president, but he hated the restraint on travel. He did try to get to Beirut, but he was turned back at Damascus. When he resigned in 1987 I had to find another president. I tried. I did try. But there were no takers. By this time I had gotten more and more involved in AUB affairs and at 65 surgery was no longer an option for me. So I put the book I was writing on the shelf, and in 1987 I was in the president's office on Third Avenue and there I stayed until 1993.

## **How do you manage a campus 5,622 miles away?**

We did remarkably well in the New York Office. The first thing I had to do was to appoint a deputy president who could handle the daily operational problems in Beirut, of which there were many. I went to Amman with two other trustees to meet three candidates for the job, and decided on Ibrahim Salti, a skilled, bright physician. In the beginning telephone correspondence was unreliable at best. But in 1989 and 1990 the phone lines improved, and I got through to Beirut almost once a day. The big issues were shared, and Salti would bring me up to date on the local scene on short notice.

But there were myriad problems. AUB, by necessity, had divided into two campuses—that was our biggest problem, although it was also a solution. It was too dangerous for students from East Beirut to cross the Green Line

and come over to Ras Beirut. We had to set up a representative institution, called the Off-Campus Program (OCP), on the Christian side. It started with 15 students and grew to 1,500. There was virtually no communication between the main campus and the OCP, and pressures grew to make the east campus permanent. To my mind, that would have sealed the fate of the University. The OCP operated until 1989-90. My best day as president was when I sent word through the local newspapers that AUB was ready to welcome students from the OCP back to the Ras Beirut campus. Six hundred students came back safely and with joy. Everyone was enormously excited. It was a wonderful moment.

In contrast, I attempted prematurely [to set up] a system of internal and external reviews within our six different units, because this was something I was familiar with at Columbia. But engineers weren't ready to be critiqued by doctors (or vice versa), and that failed. Soon afterwards in 1990 the violence ended, and people started easing their way back into Beirut. All but the Americans—they were prevented from travel to Lebanon by State Department sanctions. I had to wait until 1996 to return to Beirut.

## **How did you learn that College Hall was destroyed?**

On Friday, November 8, 1991 we had a large 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary party planned at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The First Lady of Lebanon; Professor Constantine Zurayk of AUB; one of the first Bush president's sons, and US Senator George Mitchell, were all slated to come and talk at the dinner. Early that morning, around three in

the morning in New York I got word from Acting Deputy President Makhlef Haddadin that someone had driven a weapon-filled car through the Sea Gate and exploded it at College Hall in the middle of the night. To my knowledge, one person was killed. I informed the trustees of the event and held an emergency meeting of the board at breakfast the next morning before the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting at the Princeton Club. We decided to hold the anniversary party that night so that we could make clear the resolve of the trustees, that come hell or high water, we would rebuild College Hall in its original form.

Subsequently, we spent years working with architects and contractors in the United States and Lebanon. The architects—Haines Lundberg Waehler (HLW), who had done previous work on AUBMC, wanted to build a totally new building, but we insisted that the AUB community in Beirut wanted a near-exact replication of the old College Hall. We worked on that from 1991 until College Hall reopened in 1999 as a slightly enlarged by infinitely more useable replica of the original building. Cheers!

## **Despite the war, there must have been good times.**

Good things happened every year in Lebanon and without, despite the war. Social, sporting, and educational activities on the campus remained for the most part alive and contact with the AUB faculty was maintained throughout. At least four times a year the NY administration would meet for a week or so with members of the faculty at sites considered safe by the US government; most frequently this would





A dinner in Herter's honor, 1993.

be Cyprus, only 20 minutes away from Beirut by plane. But meetings were also held, though less frequently, in Damascus (where students could be bussed up from Beirut for the day), and rarely, in Amman.

I cannot speak more highly of the AUB faculty members and administrators who held fast to their posts throughout [the war] and never failed to greet their New York counterparts with humor and friendship. They were a wonderful lot. The same could be said of the trustees, many of whom volunteered their service abroad despite the danger. And, of course, [for] the trio at Third Avenue and 51<sup>st</sup> Street in New York: Eileen O'Connor, Bill Rice, and Landry Slade, without whom I, and others, would have been powerless.

We never closed the doors to the University, even though for a short time only the School of Medicine was accessible. And the number of students in the University never varied to any degree. AUB started with about 5,000 students and ended the civil war with that same number. Not so the faculty, which suffered major losses.

### **And the most difficult times?**

Violence reached its peak in 1988 and 1989. In a 13 month period we treated 23,000 war casualties at the university hospital. It is estimated that the civil war in total claimed 123,000 lives. Eighty-three bombs were dropped on

university property—but generally on the periphery, where Syrian units were located. There was little destruction from these explosions.

### **You spent a lot of time meeting alumni in the Middle East and North America.**

Trips to the Middle East were always interesting. We went to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and especially the Emirates. We were able to raise more money [for College Hall and other needs] than we thought we would be able to. There were very active alumni from all over the Gulf. They didn't know what philanthropy was, but we tried to teach them. So it worked in its own queer way.

Part of my job was to go through the United States and meet the alumni groups and help set up chapters—that was exciting. In that entire time I never met a single graduate of AUB who was needy or without work. They were remarkably resourceful. Though their education was somewhat abbreviated by the war, they were useful citizens wherever they went or whatever they did. Many of them went to the Gulf. They

weren't the emirs or the presidents, but the second level of administration—the key operators—were from AUB. A lot of them still are. It was a remarkable testament to the Lebanese culture and the value of an AUB education.

### **Are you still in touch with many friends from that time?**

Yes, but not as many as I would like.

### **What are the most significant changes you've seen on campus in 51 years?**

A lot has happened. The rebuilding of College Hall and the renovation of the library were memorable. Then there is the new Charles W. Hostler Center and the Chemistry Building, as well as the Olayan School of Business, and academic institutes such as the Center for Advanced Mathematical Studies (CAMS). [My wife] Solange and I knew some of the donors well [Charles Hostler and Mamdouha Bobst] and had a hand in their generosity. But the most exciting change was in the quality of the academic program. AUB had clearly regained its reputation as the finest education institution in the Middle East. President Waterbury deserves major credit for this.

### **When did you leave AUB? Have you been back?**

I was president until 1993. I went back in 2001—there was the photo of three AUB presidents—Plimpton, Waterbury, and myself. I've been there three or four times since we've been allowed to go back. It is heartening to see how alive that place is, with all that it's been through.

—A.H.P.





Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut

## WAAAUB Convention

Around 100 alumni from a dozen countries gathered in Beirut in early May for WAAAUB's second international convention. It was also the venue for WAAAUB's annual business meeting and the opening event of a weekend of festivities that culminated in the formal inauguration of President Peter Dorman as AUB's fifteenth president on May 4.

During the **launching ceremony** in Issam Fares Hall on Friday evening, President Dorman saluted AUB alumni for their generous

support and thanked them for their invaluable advice. In his remarks, WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi (BA '54) pointed with pride to the association's impressive

list of accomplishments: regional meetings in Washington, DC, Jordan, and Bahrain; the next round of WAAAUB elections in May; a new Alumni Awards Program; and the anticipated third issue of WAAAUB's electronic newsletter, *Al Jame'a*. Trustee Farouk Jabre (BA '58) credited WAAAUB for making AUB alumni "feel that their voices will be heard, that their input is welcomed—even solicited, and that they have a place at the table."

From all reports, Saturday was long and exhausting, but the weekend successfully brought together alumni participating in the **WAAAUB committee meetings, WAAAUB Alumni Council** and Board of Directors of meetings, and the **Leadership Summit**.

Later in the evening WAAAUB guests



ITF members honored

and Council and Board members gathered for the annual **convention dinner**. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award to the Dubai and Northern Emirates Chapter and of the Distinguished Alumni Award to the members of the Implementation Task Force. In his presentation, President Makkawi thanked the members of the task force, **Rima Khalaf Hunaidi (BA '76), Farouk K. Jabre (BA '58), Shaké Ketefian (BS '63), Philip S. Khoury (former student '71), Flare Majali (BA '75), Mohammad F. Matar (BA '74), Hikmat G. Nasr (BS '61, MS '65), Ghassan N. Ouajian (BA '75), and Najat Zarour (BA '68)**, for working "tirelessly and selflessly to establish WAAAUB over a period of many months."

### Dubai and Northern Emirates Honored with Outstanding Chapter Award

During the WAAAUB Gala Dinner in Beirut on Saturday, May 2, President Khalil Makkawi (BA '54) presented the first annual **Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award** to the **Dubai and Northern Emirates Chapter**.

The Dubai and Northern Emirates Chapter has distinguished itself in many ways—and on many occasions—since it was founded. Since its founding, the chapter has made gifts to AUB totaling more than \$10 million—primarily for scholarships. Their \$1 million donation to the Dubai and Northern Emirates Scholarship Fund in 2007 was the largest single gift from an AUB alumni group during the Campaign for Excellence. At the chapter's most recent gala dinner in November 2008, Dubai alumni and friends raised enough money to fund thirty-six

\$10,000 scholarships. Most recently, the chapter presented President Peter Dorman with an unprecedented check of \$1.5 mil-



Muheiddin Doughan, Yasser El Hajj, Khalil Makkawi, Karam Doumet

lion—the largest single gift ever made to AUB from an alumni chapter.

The chapter's members are a diverse group of approximately 1,000 AUB alumni living in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. Their work has led them to excel in multi-national corporations, the media, advertising agencies,

engineering and construction firms, and in the service sector. While most AUB alumni in Dubai are originally from Lebanon, there are also many from other countries including Palestine, Syria, Jordan, and the UAE.

Vice President Najat Zaarour (BA '68) and current President Yasser El-Hajj (BE '89) work in partnerships with the chapter's dedicated alumni committee (including Raja Trad (BA '78), Amer Bibi (BBA '72), Fida Asfour (BA '02), Rabih Hamzeh (BE '88), and Roula Harb (BA '80)

which organizes a wide range of activities to give AUB alumni the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of each other's company during film screenings, day trips to the desert, and their ever popular—and successful—gala dinners. Congratulations to the Chapter on being honored with WAAAUB's first Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award.



President Dorman's first visit to Abu Dhabi is not one he is likely to forget. As a guest of the **AUB Abu Dhabi Alumni Chapter**, he was warmly welcomed and quickly made to feel at home. Although it was only a short visit, there were many opportunities to meet with AUB alumni and friends both informally and at a sumptuous reception at the Royal Meridien Hotel on March 7, 2009.

One of the highlights of President Dorman's trip was his meeting with Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak al-Nahyan, UAE's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and a good friend of AUB. During their meeting, President Dorman thanked Sheikh Nahyan for his many years of generous support and for his recent participation as guest of honor, keynote speaker, and prime benefactor for the Brave Heart fundraising gala in Dubai in October 2008. (The Brave Heart Fund provides financial assistance to the families of children with congenital heart disease being treated at AUBMC.)

Hisham Qayaleh Naser and his wife Gisele who currently heads the Abu Dhabi alumni chapter hosted a wonderful luncheon at their home in Abu Dhabi for President Dorman. Distinguished guests included the Lebanese Ambassador HE and Mrs. Fawzi Fawwaz, prominent alumni and friends from Abu Dhabi as well as the chapter leadership.

The Abu Dhabi Alumni Chapter is one of the most active and financially generous alumni chapters worldwide. In addition to the more than \$2 million that the chapter has donated to the University since 1985, its members have helped facilitate donations of an equal amount from the Abu Dhabi community. The chapter has also been very active and worked tirelessly to assist with student recruitment and job placement. Of the more than 2,200 AUB alumni who live and work in the Emirates, almost a thousand live in Abu Dhabi.

There was something for everyone who attended the **Abu Dhabi Chapter's** annual gala on May 22: illuminating insights from keynote speaker Saad Andari (BA '72), vice governor of the Central Bank about financial markets in Lebanon and around the world; a presentation from OSB Dean George Najjar focused on AUB; lots of laughter thanks to Lebanese stand-up comedian Nemr Abou Nassar (BBA '05); and delightful music from Lebanese singer Asmara. The more than 500 alumni and friends who attended the elegant affair at the Hilton Abu Dhabi also enjoyed the chapter's annual book which presented the AUB campus as a nature reserve and included lots of interesting information about what the University has done and is doing to preserve the environment both on and off campus.

Abu Dhabi



President Dorman with Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al-Nahyan

Abu Dhabi



Annual Gala, May 22

Money and Banking



MMB Alumni (AUB Money and Banking Graduates) met for a dinner at Karam Restaurant in downtown Beirut in honor of the appointment of Dr. Saad Andari as second vice-governor of the Central Bank. A friendly and informal atmosphere marked the evening's celebrations, which were organized by Dr. Andari's former students.





Riyadh Chapter spring gala

Riyadh

More than 200 alumni and friends gathered on May 14 at the Arizona Golf Resort—not, as you might suspect, in Arizona—but in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The occasion was the **WAAAUB Riyadh Chapter's** third annual spring gala dinner, which this year featured the music of Lebanese saxophonist Clary Hosary. Everyone agreed that the venue, catering, music, and logistics conspired to create a perfectly memorable evening. Plans are already under way for the next event in October 2009.

The more than 200 guests, supporters, friends, and members who attended the **UK Chapter's** annual gala dinner at the InterContinental Hotel Park Lane in London on May 15 were in for quite a treat. Among the distinguished guests were President and Mrs. Dorman, Syrian Ambassador HE Sami Khiyami (BE '72) and Palestine Authority Ambassador HE Emmanuel Hassassian (BA '75). After a warm welcome from Chapter President Talal Farah, the audience heard from AUB President Dorman and watched a brief and interesting film on the history of AUB. WAAAUB Treasurer and Board member Karam Doumet spoke briefly about WAAAUB before introducing Professor Eugene Rogan, director of Oxford University's Middle East Centre, who offered some thoughtful observations on the future of Arab-American relations during the Obama presidency. In his after-dinner address, guest of honor Abdullah Juma'h (BA '68), former chairman and CEO of Saudi Aramco, captivated everyone with stories from his days on campus and his time at Saudi Aramco. He also made a passionate plea for the pioneering spirit in education and research that had once

UK



UK annual gala dinner



save the date

## All North American Chapter Leaders and AUB Alumni

WAAAUB is pleased to announce the

# Second North American Regional Gathering

**Montreal, Canada | October 9-11, 2009**

**Hosted by the WAAAUB Montreal Chapter**

The weekend will be an opportunity for North American alumni to come together to share memories and experiences and to socialize in true AUB style. There will also be time to learn more about WAAAUB and AUB, meet senior WAAAUB leadership from overseas, and for chapters to brainstorm and exchange ideas about their work-plans-successes.

Special hotel rates will be available at the Queen Elizabeth Fairmont along with tours of Montreal's many attractions.

Please plan on coming to Montreal for what promises to be another memorable weekend for North American AUB alumni.

Eva Klimas  
Director of Alumni Relations, New York  
Tel. (212) 583-7674  
klimas@aub.edu

October 9-11, 2009



prevailed in the Arab and Muslim world. After a successful auction and raffle, everyone sat back to enjoy Korean Jordanian-born, Arabic-speaking comedian Won-Hu Chung.

At a reception on May 22, a group from the **AREC '80** class including George (BS '82, MS '84) and Marwa Barbour, Tony Chahine (BE '88), Fadi (BS '81, MS '83) and Marianne Freiji, Khallad Kaballan (BS '81, MS '83), Nada (BS '81, MS '83) and Bassem Khatib (BS '81), Nada Radwan (BS '81, MS '83), Rabih Talhouk (BS '81, MS '83), and Rami Zurayk (BS '81, MS '83) presented Dean Nahla Hwalla (MS '74, MD '77) with a check for \$40,000—the first installment toward their goal to raise \$75,000 to establish the AREC '80 Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of Diab Abu Jawdeh, Sinan Qaisi-Farran (MS '85), and Randa Smine (BS '81). In 2002 members from the class of AREC '80 who were taking part in the faculty's 50th anniversary celebrations decided to establish this fund. The class of AREC '80 urges others to establish scholarship funds to celebrate a class reunion. As Rabih Talhouk explains, "If each one of us contributes even just a modest amount every year, we can make a difference."

The **Ohio Valley Chapter** hosted a fondue dinner for 50 AUB alumni and friends in a private room at the Melting Pot Restaurant in Centerville, Ohio on May 2. The interactive dining experience featured group memory games and trivia contests with prizes for the winning tables and great fun for everyone.

The **Montreal Chapter** organized a visit to Montmorency Falls and the Ice Hotel in Quebec City on March 21 for a group of hardy alumni from the Montreal and Ottawa Chapters who were willing to brace the cold temperatures to celebrate a chilly spring. Everyone was grateful that the next gathering, a happy hour on May 26 at the Hotel Opus, was a slightly warmer affair.

Planning a picnic in Ottawa summers can be, in the best of times, an uncertain undertaking. Unlike the predictably warm and dry summers of our youth, torrential downpours and thunderstorms can ruin the best planned picnics. Not so for over 90 alumni and friends that gathered in the warm dappled sunlight of Vincent Massey Park on the shores of the Rideau River for the annual picnic of the **Ottawa Chapter**. An active game of racket ball here, a round robin game of backgammon games there, along with card games (primarily *tameeb*), chess, badminton and some *argeeleh* after a healthy and delicious lunch made for a easy going *dolce fahre niente* on Saturday June 27. Some youngsters went off

### Northeast Ohio



Northeast Ohio chapter committee members (left to right): Dalia Bejjani, Bassam Abou Jawdeh, Tania Cortas, Nadine Talih, Fadi Abdul Karim, Mazen Khallil at a chapter BBQ at Whetstone Park of Roses in Columbus, OH. The chapter also held a brunch on June 14 for nearly 50 alumni and friends.

### Ohio Valley



Fondue for 50

### Montreal



Ice Hotel visit, March 21



Montreal Chapter President Johnny Kairouz (BA '02) and Treasurer Michelle Khalifé (BS '01) stand with their guest speaker, Gisele Kayata-Eid, author of *Accommodante* Montreal, and fellow alumni, Imad Hoteit (BS '01), Germain Aoun, (BS '05) and Zina Mufarrij, (BA '03) at the end of the chapter's first event in its Seminar Series Project.





Chapter picnic, June 27

Ottawa

on their bikes to explore the park and the riparian shoreline while neighboring picnics entertained all within earshot with West African Highlife music and Caribbean Reggae—perhaps a bit too loudly at times for the more conversationally inclined gathering of AUBites on this lovely afternoon.



Pennsylvania picnic

Philadelphia/Delaware Valley

On June 5, AUB alumni, family, and friends from the **Northern California Chapter** in the San Francisco Bay Area met at Waterfront Pizza for a Mediterranean meal, hearty conversations, and a chance to “Meet ‘N Greet” the recently elected board members. To find out about future events and get back in touch with some of the more than 500 graduates and their families who live in northern California, email the chapter at [aubnorcal@yahoo.com](mailto:aubnorcal@yahoo.com).

The **WAAAUB Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Alumni Chapter** held a picnic on June 21 at the Washington Crossing State Park in New Jersey for about 50 AUB alumni, their families, and friends, including John and Sarah Waterbury. Chapter President Nasri S. Kawar welcomed the group and introduced the members of the Executive Committee: Asma Ghannam (BS '82), vice president; Khalid Tabbarah (BS '96, MD '00), secretary; Peter Edde (BS '96, MD '00), treasurer; Aref Aref (BS '65) and Samir Akruk (BS '65) members-at large. A delightful Lebanese and American style picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. A raffle and silent auction were held for items of AUB memorabilia. The chapter looks forward to many more events that will bring the region's alumni together including the annual banquet that will be held on November 14, 2009 at Carlucci's Waterfront Restaurant in Mount Laurel, MD.



Michigan alumni concert goes

Michigan

It's hard not to be a tad envious of the **Michigan Chapter** and folks in the audience at the Northside Community Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan on May 9. Members were treated to a concert by gifted pianist and AUB alumnus Walid Hourani, who performed pieces by Beethoven, Gelalian, and Ragtime by Albright. Following the performance, the members and guests of the Michigan Chapter had a chance to swap stories and reminisce about AUB.



Dallas alumni get into the swing of summer...

Dallas

The **WAAAUB Dallas Chapter** celebrated spring with a family picnic on Sunday, April 5 at Steeplechase Neighborhood Park in Plano, TX. Alumni and their families from around the metroplex enjoyed a windy day by flying kites and playing basketball and Frisbee. The children also enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and face painting. Good food and good company warmed up a chilly day attended by 85 adults and kids of three generations.



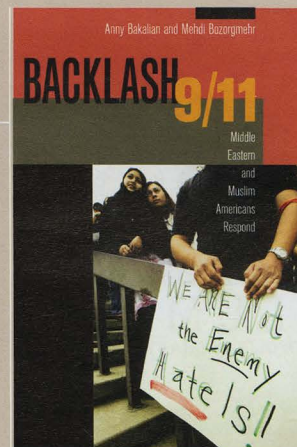
## Alumni Recently Published

### Backlash 9/11: Middle Eastern and Muslim Americans Respond

(University of California Press, 2009)

by **Anny Bakalian (BA '73)** and Mehdi Bozorgmehr

Bakalian and Bozorgmehr have written the first comprehensive analysis of the events that took place in the United States after September 11, 2001. Based on extensive fieldwork and interviews with community leaders, they trace how Middle Eastern and Muslim American community-based organizations in the United States responded to hate crimes, discrimination, and government policies while demonstrating "their commitment to the United States...and distancing themselves from the terrorists.

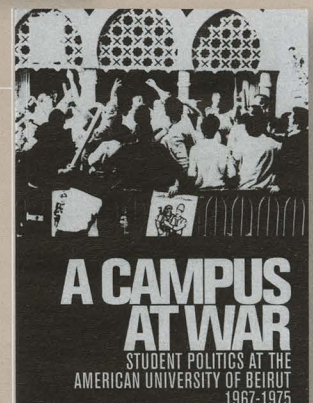


### A Campus at War: Student Politics at the American University of Beirut 1967–1975

(Dar Nelson 2009)

by **Makram Rabah (BA '03, MA '07)**

*A Campus at War* recounts the genesis of student activism at AUB while emphasizing the university student council in the light of the political scene in Lebanon and the Middle East. The 1967 Arab Israeli War and the Palestinian Revolution certainly "energized student activism on campus", but Rabah argues that despite common misperceptions that the AUB student council was nothing but a mirror of the Palestinian Revolution on campus—receiving its orders from outside campus and thus reflecting the policy of the Palestinian Liberation Movement (PLO) and its Lebanese allies—the student council's actions in fact diverted from the latter at many points.

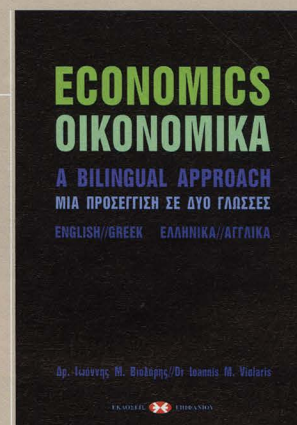


### Economics: A Bilingual Approach

(Epiphaniou editions, 2008)

by **Ioannis M. Violaris (BA '78, WAAAUB Board Member)**

Violaris' bilingual English and Greek text covers all the traditional topics on micro and macro economics, enabling students to study the text in the language they are more fluent. The textbook uses diagrams and examples to explain economic theory in a direct and simple way. It explains all the basic theories and is illustrated with many diagrams and examples. Violaris is an associate professor of economics at the Frederick University in Cyprus and the dean of the School of Economic Sciences & Administration.

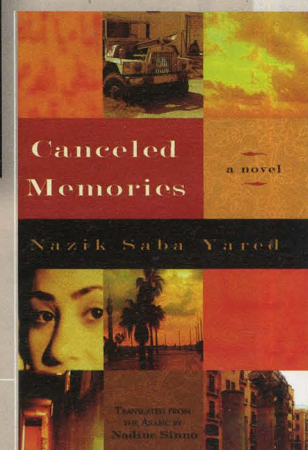


### Cancelled Memories

(Syracuse University Press, 2009)

by Nazik Saba Yared; translated by **Nadine Sinno (BA '98, MA'00)**

Set during the Lebanese Civil War, the novel chronicles the splintering of the Al-Mukhtars, a Lebanese family whose love and trust for one another is strained by the mounting economic, social, and psychological tensions that surround them. As the once idealistic couple becomes increasingly isolated and disillusioned, the family battles the corrupting effects of war.







The Chapter recently had an "official" logo developed. The design by Rudayna Charrouf was chosen among several submitted in a competition. Thanks Rudayna.

**New York Metropolitan**

On March 9, AUB and the **WAAAUB New York Metropolitan Chapter** cosponsored a talk by AUB's Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs Rami Khouri entitled, "From Daniel Bliss to Barack Obama: American Soft Power in the Middle East." The event was a captivating account of American interests in the Middle East and was attended by over 150 alumni, Daniel Bliss Society (DBS) members, and friends. This lecture was generously cohosted by the Middle East and Middle East American Center (MEMEAC) of the City University of New York, and was a part of the AUB Daniel Bliss Society speaker series. For more on DBS membership and events, please contact AUB at [giving@aub.edu](mailto:giving@aub.edu) or (212) 583-7672.

More than 60 alumni and friends of the **WAAAUB New York Metropolitan Chapter** gathered for the third year at the Bryant Park Grill Restaurant, a wonderful spot in front of Bryant Park in midtown Manhattan. The event aimed at bringing together AUB alumni and friends in the New York area and introducing new comers to the AUB community in the area. The chapter leadership is preparing other events this summer that they will announce on the chapter's website at <http://www.aub.edu/ymetalumnichapter>



More than 23 men and women from the **Great Lakes College Association (GLCA) Near East Studies Class of 1968-69** gathered in Washington, DC over Memorial Day weekend. It was their second reunion since they left AUB and went their separate ways 40 years ago. Classmates Mary Neznec, Jeff Price, John Morrell and Carol Macadam teamed up to organize the three-day reunion of networking and guest speakers that provided many wonderful opportunities to reflect on shared memories and re-establish old friendships. Much of the weekend's discussion focused on the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the last 40 years; at least half of the GLCA group has worked with issues involving the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The weekend's speakers included former US Consul General in Jerusalem,

## WAAAUB 2009 Election Results

Alumni from around the world overwhelmingly chose to vote electronically this year and we look forward to future elections being totally virtual. The WAAAUB Nominations Committee is delighted to announce the results of the 2009 elections:

### WAAAUB Board of Directors

- Mahmoud Abdul Baki (BE '60, ME '66), Lebanon
- Samir Abou Jaoude (BS '58), Lebanon
- Muheiddin Doughan (BS '80, MS '82), Lebanon
- Ricardo Karam (BS '91), Lebanon
- Abbas Khalaf (BA '55), Lebanon
- Khalil Makkawi (BA '54), Lebanon
- Maha Zabaneh (BA '84), North America

### At Large Member of WAAAUB Alumni Council

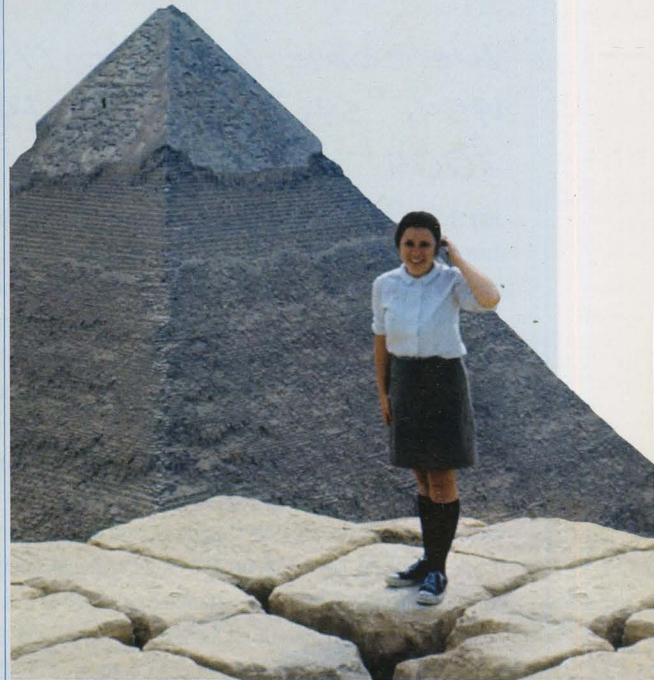
- Europe**
- Leila Sami Alameddine (BA '85, MMB '88)
- Lebanon**
- Hala Alayli (BBA '06)
- Hiba Talal Bitar (BE '99, MEM '05)
- Tarik Nabih Bolbol (BBA '05)
- Firas Nazih Bou Diab (MEN '05)
- Ghina Sabra Dandan (BA '90, MMB '94)
- Jihad Halaby (BBA '96, MMB '00)



Philip Wilcox; Grace Said, an active member of the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace; and Jennifer Bing, the National Coordinator of the Middle East Peace Building Program for the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization founded in 1917. The reunion was also joined by Landrum Bolling, former President of Earlham College and founder of the Great Lakes College Association and Professor Walid Khalidi, who taught Arab-West Relations to many members of the GLCA class in 1968-69. Before they parted company on Sunday afternoon, the class commemorated their reunion by establishing an AUB scholarship for a student from Gaza studying in health sciences. The scholarship is in honor of Professor Anthony Bing, their former GLCA faculty adviser, a Shakespeare scholar who studied at Oxford and became the director of the Peace Studies Program at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Professor Bing directed a twenty year program in Peace Studies in Jerusalem and has made 34 trips to Palestine.

The **Toronto Chapter** organized a networking-focused seminar featuring motivational speaker Dave Howlett, at the Toronto Board of Trade on June 17, 2009. Chapter Vice President Lina Badih (BA '97) welcomed the diverse and enthusiastic group of professionals who attended the seminar and urged them to participate in the chapter's upcoming elections. During his presentation, Howlett offered advice about effective icebreakers and conversation starters, ways to build and reinforce relationships, and—most importantly—how to view others as “real human beings.” Dima Zreik (BBA '98, MBA '06) praised the event as did Jad Hreib (BE '01). “Not only did I meet people from various domains and at different points in their careers, but the speaker was exceptionally talented and covered a subject that everybody was able to relate to.”

GLCA Near East Studies Class of 1968-69



Travelling in Egypt, and a reunion 40 years later

Tony E. Harrouk (BEN '91)  
 Lamia Husseiny (BA '94)  
 Abdul Razzak Itani (BBA '05)  
 Abdo Jurjus (BS '72, MS '74)  
 Lena Kelekian (BS '81)  
 Tala Mahfouz (BBA '04)  
 Iskandar Moussa (EE '94)  
 Makram Rabah (BA '03, MA '07)  
 Christine Sabieh (BA '82, MA '86)  
 Alain Sabri (BS '88, MD '92)  
 Elie Salloum (BBA '05)

Khaled M. Traboulsi (BS '93)  
 Zeina Kardahji Zeidan (BS '86, MPH '91)

**MENA**

Nabil Z. Boulos (BEN '66)  
 Roula Fakhoury-Harb (BA '80)  
 Wadad El Husseiny (BA '88, TD '91)  
 Haya Mohammad Imam (BBA '99)  
 Raja Afif Khouri (BA '74)  
 Randa Nazmi Nabulsi (BSC '77)  
 Elias Abou Samra (BA '03)  
 Jihad Tayara (CCE '96)

**North America**

Roland Abi Nader (BEN '02)  
 Hiba Al-Ali (BS '83)  
 Fadia Elia-Estefan (BBA '80)  
 Rana Hajjeh (BS '84)  
 Nada S. Tamim (BA '90)

**Recent Graduate of WAAUB Alumni Council**

Fadi Shafic Shayya, Lebanon (MUD '07)

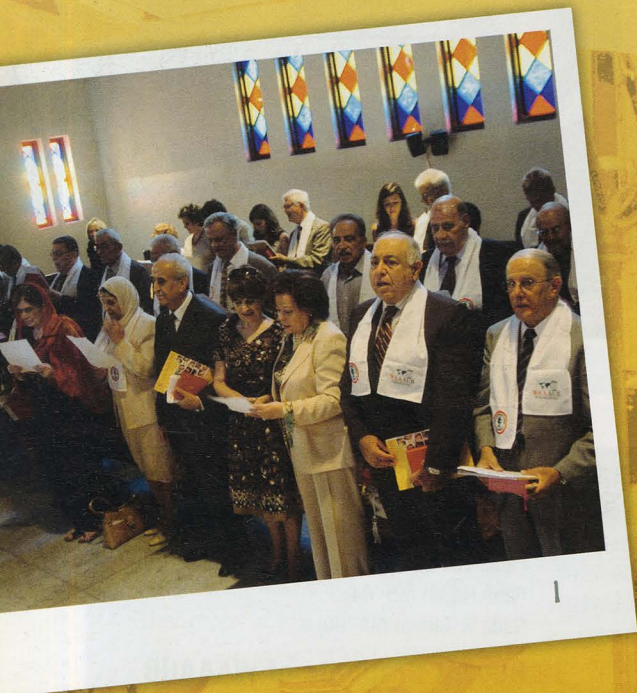
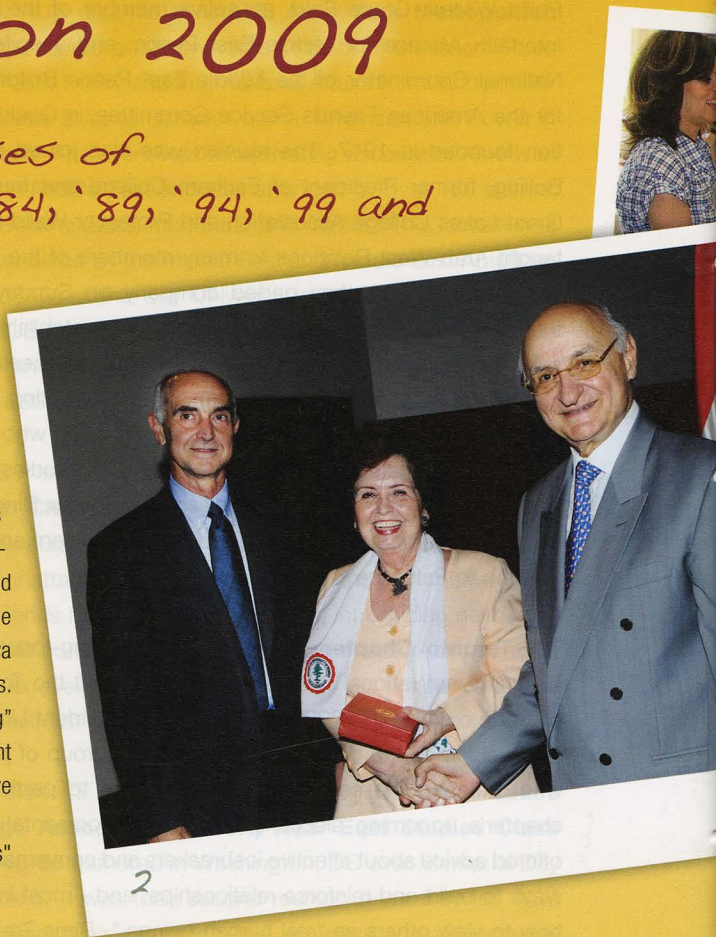


# Class Reunion 2009

Welcome back to the classes of 1954, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99 and 2004!

July 3-5, alumni from Lebanon, the Middle East and further afield brought their families to share in the joy of being back on campus with their old classmates. Huge crowds attending a variety of programs around campus and the Beirut environs. 600 guests packed into Assembly Hall to kick off the weekend at the ceremony honoring alumni celebrating their 25th and 50th reunions. The rest of the weekend was spent enjoying good company over shared meals at brunch in the cafeteria, at a gala in downtown Beirut's Buddha Bar, and during a family outing to Baskinta village. Alumni rediscovered the campus (especially the Hostler Center and the AUB beach), tackled the playing field for a game of football, and listened to lively debates at the resurrected Speaker's Corner. But nothing could compete with Arab diva Majida El Roumi's benefit concert on the Green Field to a crowd of thousands. Proceeds benefitted the AUB Student Scholarship Fund. Several "reunion-ing" classes held their own mini-gatherings: graduates of 2004 danced the night away at Bubbles in the Palm Beach Hotel; alumni from 1984 had a festive dinner at La Posta.

For more pictures from Reunion 2009, click on "Alumni and Friends" at [www.aub.edu.lb](http://www.aub.edu.lb).



*"It was surely my time at AUB that established for me a vital perspective about the world and societies around us...I am honored that I can return here to celebrate what a special place this is and to do so with my fellow alumni."*

—AUB Trustee H.E. Leila Sharaf, addressing her classmates at the 50th class reunion ceremony





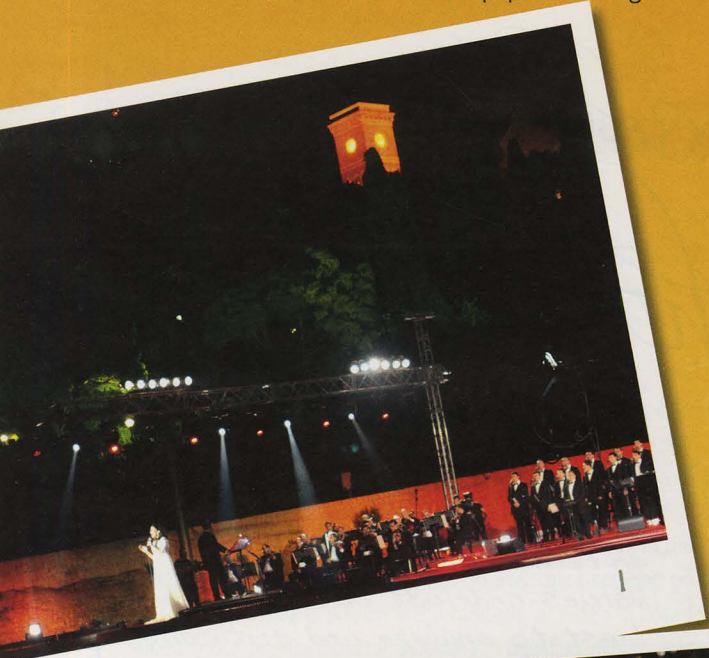
# celebrating Who We Are

*"I am excited to be attending my 25th Class Reunion. My years at AUB taught me to be open to others, to appreciate differences in cultures and values and-last but not least-to analyze and critically evaluate situations. This is the knowledge that we all as AUB alumni share and value."*

—Mohamad Hout (BA, '84), chairman-director general of Middle East Airlines-Air Liban, addressing classmates at the 25th class reunion ceremony







1



2

*"Our class enjoyed a wonderful dinner, serenaded by the sounds of Majida El Roumi on campus. Being in Beirut, meeting with old friends, reminiscing about stories we hadn't heard in years, and looking forward to our next gathering, that's what Reunion was about."*

—John Makhoul



FEA '64 honors classmate Dean Hajj

During reunion, Dean Ibrahim Hajj (FEA '64) and his wife Rosangela invited his reunion classmates to a dinner at their home...on a terrace overlooking the concert given by Majida El Roumi on the Green Field, no less! The class surprised Dean Hajj by presenting him with a plaque naming a laboratory in the forthcoming engineering building for the Class of 1964 in his honor. The class raised most of the \$100,000 for this naming opportunity prior to the dinner.



3



### Faculty of Medicine Class of 1959

WAAAUB President HE Khalil Makkawi welcomed Drs. Faruk Abuzzahab, Maurice Barudi, Adel Birbari, Alexander Geha, Raif Jaber, Samir Jahshan, Riad Khalifeh, Anwar Radwan, Michel Rubeiz, Alexander Sadik, Samir G. Salamoun, Antoun Salem, Caesar Shediak, and Wadi Suki—all members of the Faculty of Medicine Class of 1959—to a ceremony honoring them on April 22. Then VP and Dean Nadim Cortas, who is also an MD '59 graduate, spoke for everyone when he thanked the group of distinguished physicians for "making a difference in the lives of people all over the world." The event was a long-delayed—and much anticipated—reunion for some of these men who had not seen each other for many years, and an occasion to remember those who couldn't be with them on this special day.



*"I liked the orientation program done at both campuses for us to view the improvements that had been made at AUB, and to remind us of the times that we spent at this amazing institution, founded some 150 years ago...  
Indeed, I prided myself in front of my two sons, on having been a previous student at AUB!"*

—Sonia Dakessian Kastanian









**1950s****Charles Southall**

(BA '54) earned his master's degree at the University of California, Berkeley in 1964. He writes, "My MA was also in political science, but it was really Arab studies under the famed Professor George Lenczowski. After Berkeley I was a pilot in the US Navy in the Far East and have worked in commercial intelligence ever since. Commercial intelligence is not the spy work of political and military intelligence officers. We deal with counterfeiting, piracy, fraud, embezzlement, and a wide range of improper activities that companies seem to get themselves into. No two days are ever the same. I run a worldwide company called Omnifact LLC. It's fun work. See [www.omnifact.info](http://www.omnifact.info)." [charles.southall (at) gmail.com]

**Muriel Angelil**

(BS '55) is one of 12 artists included in the exhibition "Nature and Artifice—12 Artists of Studios without

Walls." She created her contribution, which she calls "A Touch of Pink," with crocheted sisal and pink twine. The exhibit ran from May 1 to June 28 in Brookline, Massachusetts. [mmangelil (at) yahoo.com] [murielangelil.com]

**1960s****Amin I. Kassis**

(BS '68, MS '71) earned a PhD at McGill University in Canada. Currently at Harvard Medical School, Kassis developed a new blood test that may be able to detect several different types of cancer sooner and more accurately than current cancer screening methods. It may be another five years before the test is ready for public use, although limited availability is possible in two years. [amin\_kassis (at) hms.harvard.edu]

**1970s****Saadeh George-Azzi**

(BS '72, MD '76) is a consultant psychiatrist in Rotherham, Doncaster, and South Humberside in the United Kingdom and has consistently earned higher education degrees and certifications including the following: LMSSA, LRCP, LRCS, MRCPsych, and CCT. (Correction: In the last issue of *MainGate*, we mistakenly referred to Dr. George-Azzi as "he" rather than "she."

Please excuse our mistake.) She may be contacted at [saadehgeorge (at) doctors.org.uk] or [saadehgeorge (at) hotmail.com]



Looking for old friends and classmates!

**Loutfi K. Echhade**

(BBA '73) has been elected a member of Ernst & Young's Middle East Partner Forum and its EMEIA (Europe, Middle East, India, Africa) Global Advisory Council. He has also been elected to the Planning and Development Committee of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Management (IMA), one of the world's leading organizations for management accounting and finance professionals. Echhade holds many certifications including CPA, CMA, CIA, CFM, CISA, CFSA. [Loutfi.Echhade (at) sa.ey.com]

**Maida Azadian Henesian**

(BS '73) is an investigator with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She previously worked at Syntex Corporation and at Stanford University, both in Palo Alto, California. She and her husband Mark Henesian have three children. Henesian recently visited Lebanon after an absence of 33 years. She had a memorable time visiting the AUB campus and reuniting with

her former professors and others, including Charles Abou-Chaar, retired professor of pharmacognosy and botany and his wonderful family at his home in Hamra; Henry Melki, AUB alumnus and professor of linguistics at Kaslik University; and Arminée Choukassizian, former AUB librarian and concert pianist. [Henesian (at) comcast.net]

**Majid Chahine Hmeidan**

(BS '74, MS '76) is an assistant director at Safe Work Australia ([www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au)), a federal agency responsible for the development of occupational health and safety, and workers' compensation policies and regulations. He has been a lecturer in the field of animal science at universities in Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Australia where he earned his PhD in ruminant nutrition at the University of Queensland (UQ). Hmeidan is married to Ghada Zeidan and they have three sons. The Hmeidans live in Canberra



(ACT), Australia. [mhmeidan (at) velocitynet.com.au]

### Humam I. Jabban

(BE '74) is general manager for contracting at International Building Systems, Co. and lives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. [humam.jabban (at) ibscoksa.com]

### Walid Khalil Heneini

(BE '76) has a master's degree in engineering from the University of Florida. He lives in Beirut. [Heneini (at) heneini.com]

### Ioannis M. Violaris

(BA '78) recently published *Economics, a Bilingual Approach* with Epiphaniou editions. He received his bachelor's degree in economics at AUB, and his master's in international management

and doctorate in economics at Kensington University in California. Violaris has been an economics lecturer since 1978. Since 1999, he has been an associate professor of economics at Frederick University in Cyprus where he is currently dean of the School of Economic Sciences and Administration. He is also an active alumnus and a member of WAAAUB's Board of Directors. [m.g.violaris (at) cytanet.com.cy]

### Berge Daou

(BA '79, EMBA '05). In early 2009, Daou was appointed adviser to the CEO of National Banking Corporation, a commercial bank founded as a result of the merger of more than 40 small community banks. He was formerly a

banking development consultant for the Central Bank of Libya. [emilebd (at) yahoo.com]

## 1980s

### Adib Nuruddin

(BE '80) is area manager for Eaton Electrical, Inc. in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. [adib-nuruddin (at) eaton.com]

### Samer Y. Siouffi



(BS '80, MD '85) practices cardiology/cardiac electrophysiology in Plattsburgh,

New York where he moved three years ago. Sysiouffi (at) hotmail.com



Looking for old friends and classmates!

### Walid Aboulhosn

(BS '81) recently received an MBA from the University of California at Irvine. [towalid (at) googlemail.com]

### Philip Akrouk

(BA '84) is a marketing and advertising consultant for OnTime Marketing Solutions in Amman, Jordan. [philipaakrouk (at) gmail.com]

### Salwa Nabhan-Smith

(BARCH '87) lives in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, and works in a higher education college of technology as a member of the interior design

**SEND CLASS NOTES  
TO MAINGATE@AUB.EDU.LB**



faculty. She recently received a master's degree in on-line education from the University of Southern Queensland. [salwa.nabhan (at) hct.ac.ae]

### Kamel Abou-Ezzeddine

(BE '89) earned an MBA from Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP) in 1993. He works in the Investment Banking Division of Credit Suisse in London. [kamel\_abou (at) yahoo.co.uk]

### Rita Assaf

(BA '89) works in human resources for Esat Cat La Cardon and lives in Voisins Le Bretonneux, France. [rita78960 (at) live.fr]

## 1990s

### Noha Mazraani

(BS '90, MA '96) recently earned her PhD in education from Saint Joseph University in Beirut. She is head of the Science Department at Hayah International Academy in Cairo, Egypt. Her brother's class note is below. [noha\_mazraani (at) yahoo.com]



### Joumana Safa

(BA '91) received a diploma in human resources from Haigazian University. She is a human resources manager for the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Akhbar*. [j\_safa (at) hotmail.com]

### Joseph Elkhoury

(BE '92) is the global supply chain manager for SchlumbergerEMS. He earned his MGSC (Management, Global Supply Chain) at IMD Business School near Geneva, Switzerland. Elkhoury lives in Houston, Texas. [elkhoury2 (at) slb.com]

### Mohamad-Rabih Mokahal

(BE '92, MEM '95) is a professional services manager for NCR Solutions Middle East, LLC in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. [mohmok99 (at) gmail.com]



Looking for old friends and classmates!

### Youssef Saliba

(BE '93, MEN '94) earned a master's degree in electric power engineering from AUB. He is a project manager at EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) where he builds gas and steam turbine power plants. Saliba is based in Lebanon and travels frequently to sites in the Gulf. [yousaliba (at) hotmail.com]

### Abir Makki

(BS '94) earned her AUB undergraduate degree in environmental health and lives in Beirut. [abir\_makki (at) hotmail.com]

### May Sabbah

(BS '94). In addition to her BS in physics from AUB, Sabbah also has a BA from the University of Trieste, Italy. [maysab (at) libero.it]

### Ayman Atallah

(BE '95) is a proposal leader at CCC Greece. He enjoys being in touch with his classmates. [AymanAtallah@ccc.gr]

### Samer Harb



(BS '95, MS '97) and his wife Mona Osta received a gift from heaven on March 14 when their first child Omar was born. [mrsam66 (at) hotmail.com]

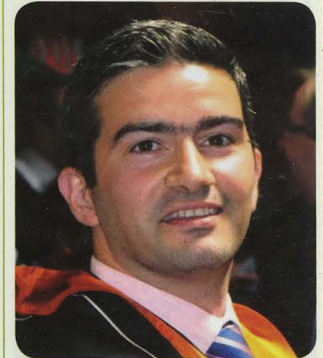
### Mohamad Nasser

(BE '95) is a delivery process manager for Nokia Siemens Networks in Beirut. [mohamad.nasser (at) nsn.com]

### Ziad Matar

(BE '96) earned his MBA from Notre Dame in 2001. He lives in Dubai, UAE. [ziad.matar (at) gmail.com]

### Marwan Mazraani



(BE '96). After receiving his degree in computer and communications engineering, Mazraani went on to earn an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto in 2007. He currently works for Detecon International in Bonn, Germany. His sister's class note is above. [m\_mazraani@yahoo.com]

### Mohamad Mneimneh

(BE '97) is an assistant manager at Deloitte & Touche. He lives in Beirut. [mmneimneh (at) deloitte.com]

### Mohammad Tassi

(BE '97, ME '04) is a project manager in AUB's Facilities Planning and Design Unit (FPDU) and took part in implementing the Campus Master Plan. [ma42 (at) aub.edu.lb]



## Marwan Abou-Zeid

(BE '98, ME '00) completed INSEAD's Management Acceleration Program in 2006. He lives in Beirut. [m.abouzeid (at) cds.com.lb]

## Amira Choucair



(BS '99) has been a professor of chemistry at Amherst College in Massachusetts for the past two years. Last summer, she and husband Richard Showkier welcomed their first child, Slaiman. Amira visited Lebanon this summer and attended her class reunion. [amirachoucair (at) hotmail.com]

## 2000s

### Jihane Najjar

(BA '01, MA '03) is head of recruitment and selection for Debbane Group in Lebanon. [jihanenajjar (at) gmail.com]

### Maria Shahrour

(BS '01), who has completed her PhD in molecular and human genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, has just accepted a fellowship at Children's Hospital in

Boston and Harvard Medical School. She is married to **Ahmad Tawil** (BS '01), who has an MS in biotechnology and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently a consultant with PA Consulting Group and works on projects in the Middle East. The couple will be moving to Boston and would like to catch up with old friends. [mariashahrour (at) yahoo.com]



Looking for old friends and classmates!

### James Bejjani

(BA '02) is a fixed income trader with Delaware Investments. He received a master's degree from Warwick Business School in 2004 and lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. [jamesbejjani (at) hotmail.com]

### Joy Jadam

(BS '02, MS '06) worked with Dar al-Handasah (Shair and Partners) as a GIS analyst while earning her MS in ecosystem management. Jadam is currently an associate at ECODIT Liban working on environmental protection and local development projects for the private and public sectors. She writes, "I cherish the time I spent at AUB, and look forward to reading about colleagues and classmates." [joy\_jadam (at) yahoo.com]

## Nathalie Jean Dagher



(BBA '03) is a senior consultant for Booz and Company in Lebanon.

### Bashira Khalidy

(BSN '03, MPH '05) received her BS in medical laboratory technology from Makassed National College of Nursing. She lives in Beirut. [bkhalidy (at) yahoo.com]

## Subhi Fanous



(BS '04) After graduating from AUB, Fanous married **Helen Bashir** (MA '04). He works as an information specialist at Injazat Data Systems in Abu Dhabi where he lives with Helen, their son, and daughter. [subhif (at) hotmail.com]

## Ghada Saad

(BS '04, MS '06). After receiving her master's degree in population health, Saad became assistant general manager at MedNet Network Clinics. She lives in Naccache, Metn, Lebanon. [ghada11 (at) gmail.com]

## Mohammed Al Masri

(BSN '05) is deputy medical director of the Cumberland Insurance & Reinsurance Company. He and his wife Manal live in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. They are expecting the arrival of a baby boy in late summer and plan to name him Adam.

## Alia Sabra



(BS '05, MSES '07) received AUB's Abdul Hadi Debs Endowment Award for Academic Excellence in 2007-08. Her master's thesis was presented by Dr. Yvleen Aoun on New TV's Lamsit Shifa Show. She has published articles in a number of journals and was awarded a scholarship from the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research



(LNCSR). Sabra is currently a PhD candidate and a research assistant at AUB. [sabra.alia (at) gmail.com]

### Rabih Fakhreddine

(BBA '06) is assistant brand manager for the Levant at British American Tobacco (BAT) in Beirut. He is involved in a number of activities including several NGOs and WAAAUB, where he has served as elected member of the Alumni Council since its inception in 2007. Fakhreddine is also an entrepreneur in the food and entertainment industries. [Rabih\_Fakhreddine (at) bat.com]

### Sany Kabbani

(BE '06) has been accepted to the MBA program at Harvard Business School Class of 2011. For the past three years he has worked as a consultant with Booz & Company in Beirut. [sany.kabbani (at) gmail.com]

### Elie El Kahwaji

(BFA '06) is art director for *Aishti and Aishti Magazine*. He lives in Ballouneh, Lebanon. [ekahwaji@gmail.com]

### Hilda El Khoury

(MS '06). After earning her bachelor's degree from Balamand University, El Khoury earned a master's degree in human morphol-

ogy at AUB. [hae15 (at) aub.edu.lb]

### Rizk G. Saade

(BE '06) recently received a certificate in strategic decision and risk management from Stanford University. He earned a master's degree at Cal Tech in 2007. Saade divides his time between Palo Alto, California and Rabieh, Lebanon. [rizksaade (at) gmail.com]

### Mehiedine M. Kibbi

(BBA '07) currently works at BankMed Suisse S.A. in Geneva, Switzerland as a private banker portfolio manager. He was previously a trader at BankMed in Beirut. Kibbi will soon begin an MBA program in Geneva and plans to pursue a PhD in the near future. He wants to take this opportunity to thank AUB for a remarkable education. [muhiedine.Kibbi (at) bankmed.ch]

### Rabih Baz Radwan

(BS '07) has been working at the National Bank of Kuwait since he graduated from AUB. He was recently promoted to senior marketing researcher/statistician in the Research Group. [RabihR (at) nbk.com]

### Nadine Anz

(BBA '08) is an executive at Mindshare, a global media agency. She

lives in Amman, Jordan. [nadine.anz (at) gmail.com]

### Diya'Aeddine Ayoub

(BBA '08) is a market intelligence analyst for the global commercial real estate company Jones Lang LaSalle. He lives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. [dfa07(at) aub.edu.lb]

### Roah Rashed Al Jiblawi

(BS '08). After receiving her BS in medical laboratory technology, Al Jiblawi pursued a master's degree in health care administration from the University of Atlanta's on-line program for international students. [rrr05@aub.edu.lb]



Have you been reading *Al-Jame'a*, the newsletter created by alumni, about alumni and for alumni? Issues 1, 2 and 3 are online at: <http://www.waaaub.org/news.html>

The WAAAUB Outreach Committee puts together your news, your reflections about time on campus, profiles of your achievements and much more. We need your input to make *Al-Jame'a* a way for us to stay in touch, learn more about each other and our alma mater.

**Write to us at: [outreach-committee@waaaub.org](mailto:outreach-committee@waaaub.org)**

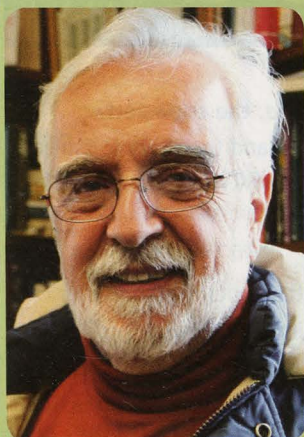


## Recently Honored

### Mounir E. Nassar

(BS '55, MD '59, Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a cardiologist and internal medicine specialist, was recently honored by the American Medical Association (AMA) for 50 years of dedication to the medical profession. Nassar completed a residency at Baylor College of Medicine, postgraduate studies at Columbia University, and a fellowship with the American Heart Association at the Old Lane Hospital in San Francisco. Nassar has been an AMA member for 33 years, and is a member of the AMA's Senior Physician Group, which includes 60,000 physicians 65 years and older. [nassarmd (at) gmail.com]

### George Saliba



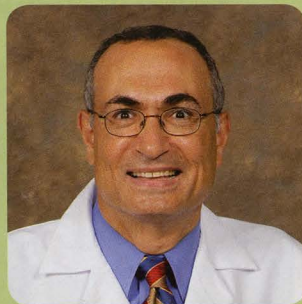
(BS '63, MA '65), Columbia University Professor of Arabic and Islamic Science, has been named a 2009

Scholar by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. He was among the scholars selected for their compelling ideas and commitment to enriching the quality of the public dialogue on Islam. Since 2005, the program has supported scholars whose work seeks to promote American understanding of Islam as a religion, the characteristics of Muslim societies in general, and those of American Muslim communities, in particular.

Saliba's work focuses on the development of scientific ideas from late antiquity until early modern times, with a special emphasis on the various planetary theories that were developed within the Islamic civilization and the impact of such theories on early European astronomy. His latest book, *Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance*, is available through MIT Press. His latest research is readily accessible on his web site. [<http://www.columbia.edu/~gas1/saliba.html>]

### Diya Mutasim

(BS '74, MD '79) was recognized in February for almost 20 years of exceptional care for patients with complex dermatology diseases at the 2008 Cincinnati Business Courier Health Care Heroes Awards Banquet in Cincinnati,



Ohio. Mutasim, who is chair of the University of Cincinnati's Dermatology Department and director of the University of Cincinnati Physicians Dermatology Practice, was praised for providing superior patient care while improving access to quality health care services.

In accepting the award Mutasim said, "A physician is happy to receive recognition from colleagues who judge his scholarly work, and is happier to receive respect and emulation from the students and residents he tries to mentor and inspire. The most gratifying recognition, however, is that bestowed by the community a physician serves." Mutasim is committed to dermatological research and has made a major contribution to the establishment of an endowed chair of dermatology at the University of Cincinnati. He is an active researcher whose groundbreaking work on bullous diseases paved the way for future research related to treating the condition.

### Hasan Abdessamad



(BS '99, MD '03) is an obstetrician and gynecologist who researches the disparities in health care among minority groups of women. He recently received research awards to measure the medical knowledge of OBGYN physicians about lesbian health issues and their attitudes towards female homosexuality in Ohio and in Ontario, Canada. Abdessamad finished his residency training at Case Western Reserve University and started work at Chaleur Regional Hospital in New Brunswick, Canada. He originally planned to conduct his research in Lebanon but was prevented from doing so by the July 2006 war. He looks forward to carrying out research in Lebanon in the near future. [drhas2003 (at) yahoo.com]



## Friends and Colleagues

A professor of mathematics for 35 years, **Edward S. Kennedy** recently passed away at the age of 97 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.



After graduating from Lafayette College in 1932 with a BS in electrical engineering, Kennedy taught at Alborz College, a secondary boys' school in Iran. He returned to academia to earn a PhD in mathematics from Lehigh University and was an assistant professor at the University of Alabama before joining AUB in 1946.

Kennedy translated and analyzed rare scientific Arabic manuscripts in pursuit of his lifelong research interests in Islamic culture and history and spent time at both the American Research Center in Egypt (1976-78) and at the Institute for the History of Arab Science in Aleppo, Syria (1978-80) after he retired from teaching.

Kennedy was made a member of the Order of al Istiqlal by Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan in 2001 for his

contribution to the study of Islamic culture.

He is survived by his wife, whom he met in Lebanon where she taught at the Beirut College for Women (now the Lebanese American University), their three children, and six grandchildren.

Condolences can be sent to Mary Helen Kennedy at [kennmhk\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:kennmhk(at)yahoo.com) or by phone at 215 340 7199.

**Lane Ameen**, a longtime friend and supporter of AUB passed away on June 13 at age 85. He spent many decades at Yale University as Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, fellow of Jonathan Edwards College. In the 1980s, Ameen was a consultant for the Kuwaiti government, working with the University of Kuwait to help set up psychiatric departments, hospitals and outpatient facilities. Born in Hopewell, Virginia to Lebanese parents, Ameen graduated from the University of Virginia in 1943, where he also received his M.D. His psychiatric training was received at the Menninger Institute, and his psychoanalytic training at Western New England Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Ameen was a Captain in the U.S. Army, and served as a psychiatric consultant and practitioner to the government in many capacities, including many years of service with the Veterans Administration Healthcare System.

He is survived by his

wife of 52 years, May Sams Ameen, a son, a daughter, a sister and a brother, as well as four grandchildren.

**Helen Khal** (née Joseph) passed away on May 20 in Ajaltoun, Lebanon. A painting instructor at AUB (1967-76), Khal was a renowned painter, author, and critic and continued to paint until just a few days before she died.

Khal moved to Lebanon in 1946 and married a young Lebanese poet, Yusuf Al-Khal. They later divorced. She studied at the Academie Libanese des Beaux Arts and at the Arts Students League in New York and founded Lebanon's first permanent art gallery, Gallery One, in 1963.

As a writer on art and culture, Khal contributed articles to *The Daily Star* for many years and wrote *The Woman Artist in Lebanon* (1987). She was also a cop-editor for AUB's *MainGate* magazine and the month-



ly newsletter *AUB Bulletin Today*.

Influenced by the Lebanese artist Aref Rayess and others, Khal's work was exhibited in the Galerie Alecco Saab, Beirut; the Galerie Trois Feuilles d'Or, Beirut; Galerie Manoug, Beirut; the First National Bank, Allentown, Pennsylvania; the Contact Art Gallery, Beirut; and the Bolivar Gallery in Kingston, Jamaica. Her work also appeared in the Bienales of Alexandria and Sao Paulo.

Khal is survived by her two sons, Tarek and Jawad, both mathematicians, a sister, and five grandchildren.

**Marwan Mazhar** (1930-2009), longtime friend of AUB and President's Club member, passed away on February 24, 2009. Mazhar, who graduated from the University of Louisiana in 1957 in civil engineering, pioneered Lebanon's reputation as a leading center of expertise in transport planning, design, and implementation. In 1964 he joined the newly founded Dar Al-Handasah Consultants, based in Beirut. His first project was in Saudi Arabia as the resident engineer for the construction of the Taif-Al Hawiyah road. He went on to design roads in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. By 1970 he was head of the Transportation Department of Dar Al-Handasah, and in 1980 he was appointed to the Board of the International Road Federation (IRF), where



he became instrumental in promoting and disseminating transportation knowledge on the international stage. By the 1980s, the Transportation Department of Dar Al-Handasah was ranked in the top 10 of engineering consultancies worldwide. It has maintained this position to this day. Marwan Mazhar is survived by his wife Nahla Hwalla, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, and his three children Tarek, Omar, and Iyad.

## Alumni

Dear Friends:

My mother, **Mary Pogharian de Kevorkian** (Nursing Diploma, 1932), died on February 29, 2004, in Buenos Aires at the age of 91.



My mother paid for her studies by washing the windows of the AUB Hospital [AUH]. After getting her degree in nursing, she worked at AUH as a surgical assistant. In 1938 she moved to Argentina with her brother and began work at the local British Hospital where she cared for English soldiers who had fought the German army at the battle of La Plata River near Montevideo. After she

married in 1945, she stopped her hospital work and moved to the city of La Plata where my sister and I were born.

My mother often spoke of her fond memories of Beirut, the AUB campus, her teachers, fellow students, and friends—especially her close friend Aznive who was the wife of Netko Ettinoff (AUB faculty, 1940s, director of activities and instructor of fine arts). When College Hall was destroyed at the end of the civil war in Lebanon, my mother gave as generously as she could towards its reconstruction.



Now I am writing this letter to say thank you for the decades of sending copies of *Al-Kulliyah*, *MainGate*, and other AUB publications that were so important to my mother. AUB was always in her thoughts.

Egardo Kevorkian  
Buenos Aires

Professor Emeritus **Salim Maksoud** (BA '40, BS '45), an expert on water resources and irrigation in the Middle East, died on June 24. After earning degrees in civil engineering and agricultural economics, Maksoud earned a

doctorate in engineering from the University of California. He joined AUB as an adjunct professor in 1947, became head of the Agricultural Division in 1955, and a full professor in 1964. Between 1966 and 1989, Maksoud worked for Dar Al-Handasah while continuing to teach at AUB. He designed and supervised the construction of more than 200 water-related projects in Africa and the Middle East, participated in many World Bank and United Nations projects, and assisted with Lebanon's National Industrial Waste Management Plan (1995-97). Maksoud was active in civic life, serving as president of the Litani Authority for more than 30 years and as a member of the board of several ministerial committees. He is survived by his children, Wadih Maksoud, Mona Nawfal, and Nada Maksoud.

**Marwan W. Mounaimne** (BS '73, MD '77) A retired neurologist, Mounaimne passed away on January 28 at the age of 57. He completed his residency at Georgetown University where he was chief resident and a fellowship at Boston University Medical Center. A dedicated doctor, Mounaimne was in private practice for 25 years, primarily in Virginia Beach. An assistant professor of neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Mounaimne chaired the Quality Assurance Committee, the Peer Review Committee, and the

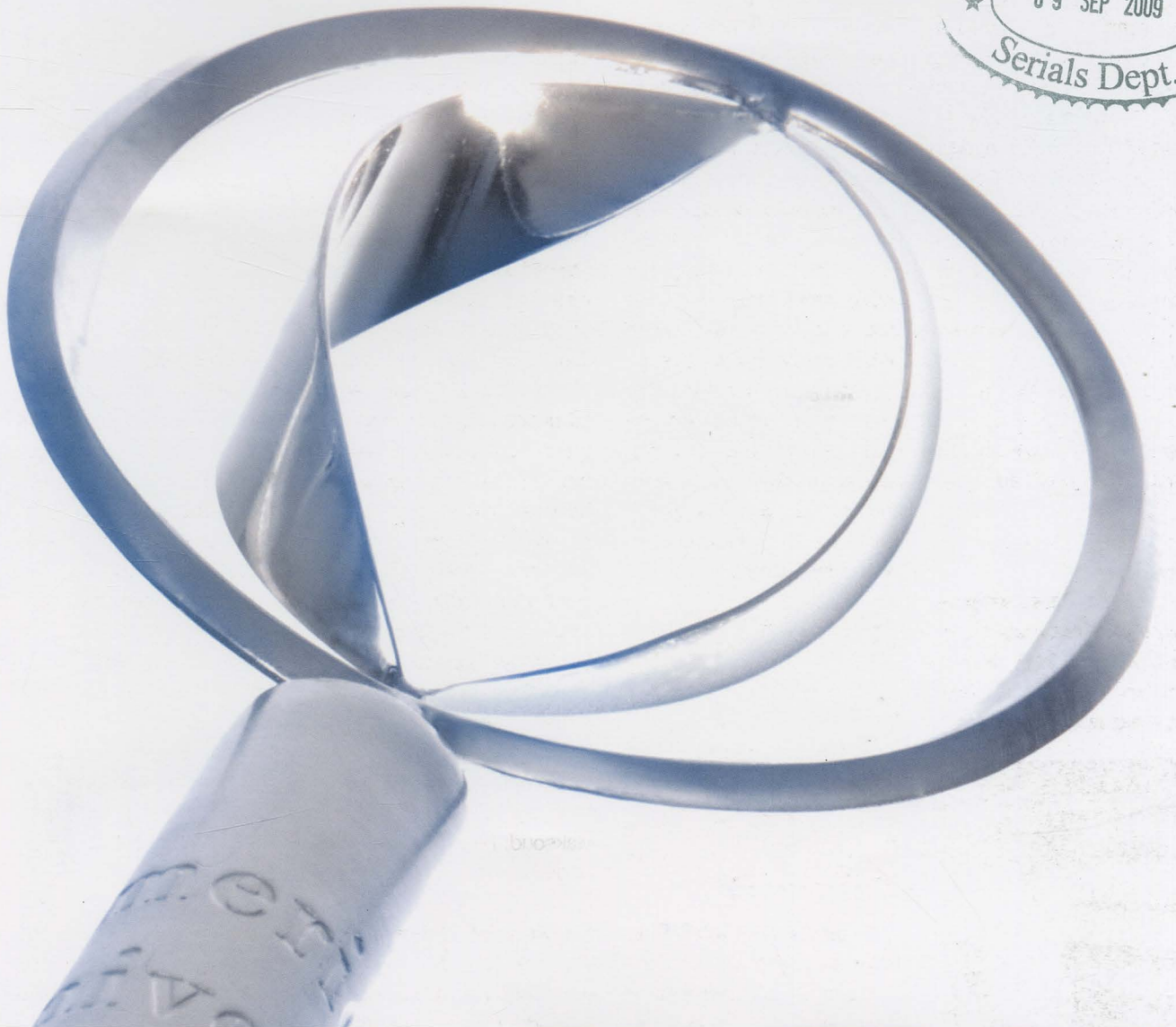
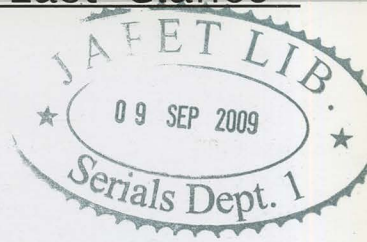


Ethics Committee that he founded at Sentara Bayside Hospital. He was a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the Virginia Neurologic Society, the American Electroencephalographic Society, and the Virginia Beach Medical Society.

He enjoyed the outdoors especially the beach and the mountains, which reminded him of Lebanon. Mounaimne is survived by his wife, Karen, a son, a daughter, and two brothers, Riad (BE '74) an engineer, and Hassan (BARCH '80), an architect.

**Hussam El Sabban** (BS '92) passed away in Dubai on May 12. El Sabban earned his bachelor's degree in nursing and was an active member of the AUB nursing community. He founded the Nursing Club Society and served as treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee of the Nurses' Chapter of the AUB Alumni Association. El Sabban worked as a senior performance development manager at Nestlé Nutrition, Middle East. He was the brother of Dr. Marwan El Sabban of AUB's Department of Human Morphology.





The University Mace

In this inaugural year, a team from the Department of Architecture and Design was commissioned to redesign the AUB mace. Although the mace was originally a weapon of defense, it is now most strongly identified with academic processions at formal university occasions. Three metallic rings bearing AUB's Latin motto and the name of the university in an Arabic script and in English are inlaid in a polished wood shaft crafted from a 7,000-year-old cedar log. The mace head "flame" symbolizes both hope and the light of knowledge; the base is adorned with a replica of a Roman coin bearing the word "Berytus."

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