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Autopilot: How artificial intelligence is changing medicine



# The MainGate

Fall 2022, Vol. XIX, No. 2

## Change and endurance







Winter rains bring a welcome change of pace as well as sustenance for our green campus.

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# Views from Campus



Dear AUB community,

As I cross paths with many of you in my travels, I am asked repeatedly about Lebanon and its impact on the health of our university. In light of the crippling devastations of the last few years, how can the American University of Beirut continue to operate, much less thrive? And yet, thrive it has. I have come to see our current state of being as one of both change and endurance. In the face of extreme stressors, AUB has not shrunk or become stationary, but rather progressed and even transformed, its role magnified during this sustained crisis, as it so often has been during other major crises Lebanon and the region have experienced over the last century and a half.

You will see in the pages of this issue of the MainGate magazine evidence of innovative faculty research, medical breakthroughs, and student achievement. You will see that AUB is expanding physically to a new twin campus in the city of Pafos and reaching out digitally through online programs. You will meet people who work behind the scenes on campus and those who work with global partners such as the British Museum to tell AUB's story to the broader world.

I could not be prouder of our stellar faculty, students, alumni and staff, who continue to educate, to learn, to give and to engage in order to discharge their duties in times of uncertainty. With over 150 years of perseverance and academic excellence, AUB is better equipped than most institutions to face times of uncertainty and continue to thrive. We do so to give hope to future generations, but also to build a better, more humane present.

With all best wishes to you from the heart of Beirut,

**Fadlo R. Khuri**



For current news summaries, read e-newsletters:

**President's Perspective**  
www.aub.edu.lb/  
President/Presidentsperspective

**AUB@Work**  
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AUB Archaeological Museum's reassembled ancient glass pieces displayed at the British Museum.



**Back Cover**  
The American University of Beirut new brand identity.

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UNIVERSITY  
OF BEIRUT



# Aiducation.

Now a fourth-year medical student, Frida Atallah grew up in a small town in Mount Lebanon. For as long as she can remember, she wanted to attend AUB. "I knew that education would change my path and would help me, my family, and my community," she says. "I knew too that AUB is one of the best universities in the region, so I decided to apply and to give myself a chance for change."

She's glad she did. Being part of the AUB community has been "a phenomenally stimulating environment." Frida is also getting "a top-quality education." None of this would be possible without the financial assistance she is receiving from AUB—and from the Dr. Marwan Mneimneh Scholarship. "Growing up in a low-income family where my father is the only income provider for a family of seven, including my parents, my grandfather, two brothers, and one sister, I knew that it would be tough to reach my dream of becoming a medical doctor—especially at AUB. I am sincerely grateful to be supported by the Dr. Marwan Mneimneh Scholarship."

Looking ahead, Frida says that she is hoping to pursue her medical specialty education in the US and to come back to work in Lebanon and serve her community.



To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at [giving@aub.edu.lb](mailto:giving@aub.edu.lb) or make a gift at [give.aub.edu.lb](http://give.aub.edu.lb)



# Campus Snapshots



Reunion | June

Back on campus and in person, Reunion 2022 celebrated the classes of 1971, 1972, and 1997 with music, food, fun, and reliving great memories.



New students and faculty | August

A banner year for new recruits! AUB welcomed 1,600 incoming undergrads and 38 new faculty members.



Opening Day | September

“Beginnings” was the theme of the 156<sup>th</sup> Opening Day ceremony, with an updated logo and identity that positions AUB on the global stage.



Elections | October

Long thought to be a harbinger of broader political trends, independent groups garnered the majority of votes in student elections.



Legacy Ceremony | October

Proud alumni parents—and grandparents—celebrated bringing their children to AUB in the annual Legacy Ceremony.



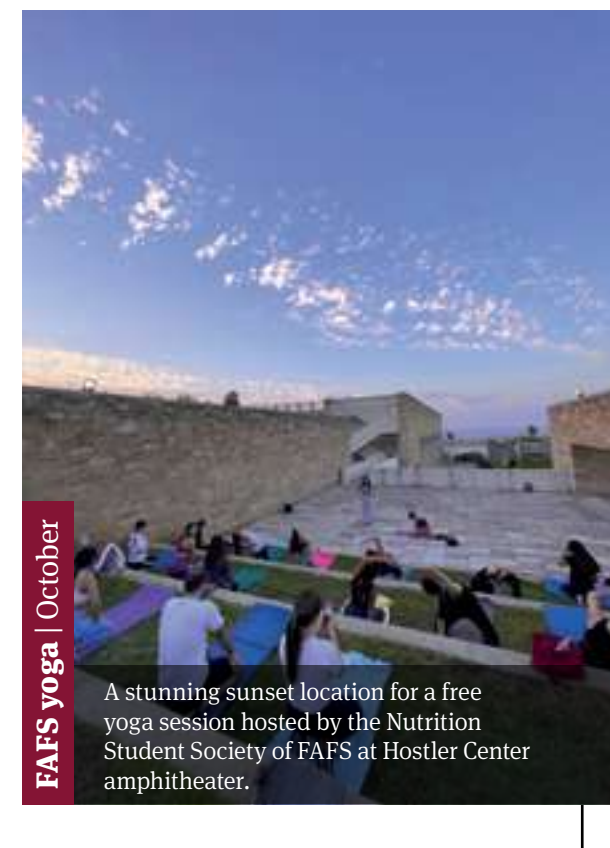
IFI book launch | October

It was standing room only at the Issam Fares Institute for the book launch of *Le Liban d’hier à demain* by Nawaf Salam as part of the book fair *Beyrouth Livres*.



Big4&After | October

Making accounting fun, OSB students competed for internships and job offers from the top 4 accounting firms in the 11th edition of Big 4 and After.



FAFS yoga | October

A stunning sunset location for a free yoga session hosted by the Nutrition Student Society of FAFS at Hostler Center amphitheater.



Visit of Samantha Power | November



AUB welcomed the high-powered DC delegation of USAID Administrator Samantha Power where she announced \$50 million in new funding for higher education in Lebanon.

West Hall | December



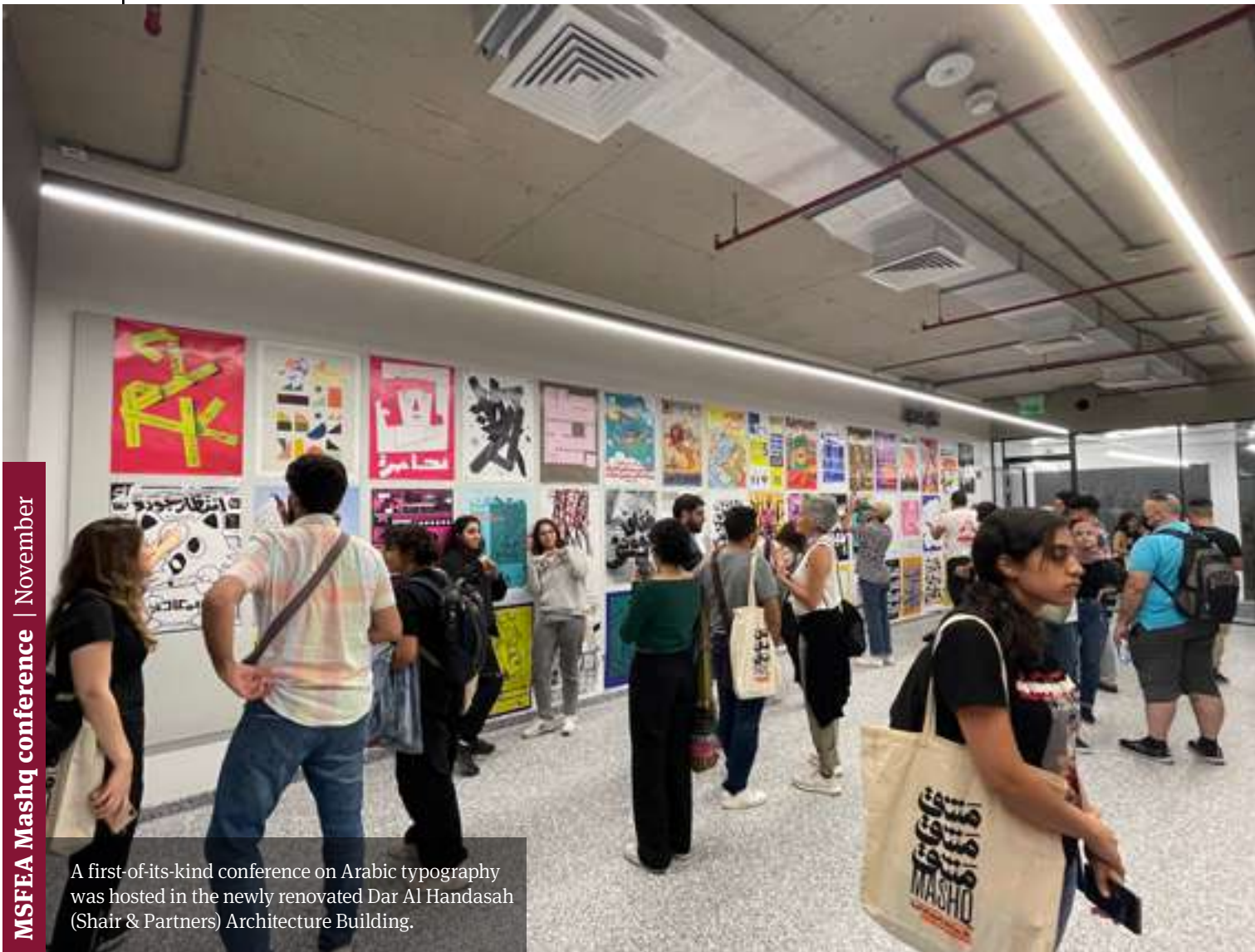
If you pass by West Hall, you might hear piano being played or see friends unwinding between classes with a game of baby foot/foosball.

Founders Day | December



Celebrating Founders Day, Pafos Mayor Phedon Phedonos delivered the keynote and MEPI-Tomorrow's Leaders scholar Fadi Salaheddin won first place in the student essay contest.

MSFEA Mashq conference | November



A first-of-its-kind conference on Arabic typography was hosted in the newly renovated Dar Al Handasah (Shair & Partners) Architecture Building.

Christmas Village | December



AUB held its first-ever Christmas Village on our historic campus, which was all decked out in the holiday spirit.



# Uplifting our look



1866



1869



1873



1913



1914



1920



1920



1920



1921



1924



1924



1932



1950



1959



1961



1966



1970



1973



1990



1993



2001



2011

The American University of Beirut logo has changed 21 times since its founding in 1866, with the most recent revamp unveiled in August 2022.

**“It is fitting that we open this academic year with an updated look, a fresh take on our historic identity. The distinctive new logo, baked in Berytus Red, reaffirms our identity as one of the oldest, most prestigious, and mission-oriented universities, firmly rooted in Beirut but with an increasingly robust global presence. It is also about new beginnings, refreshing and remaining relevant to new audiences and younger generations.”**

- President Fadlo R. Khuri (President’s Perspective, September 15, 2022)

2022



**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**





## Face to Face

Realizing dreams of a better future

For years now, *MainGate* has published stories about AUB staff that best exemplify being part of the AUB community. Staff members have shared their stories, including those of how their time at AUB has, for some, been life changing. But “life changing” does not even begin to explain Mohamad Youssef’s story.

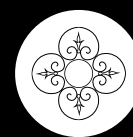
Youssef is a practical nurse at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), where he has worked for 25 years. His journey to get there has not been traditional. A bright and happy child, Youssef was enamored with school and science. Unlike many of his peers, he looked forward to the school day. Then came the Lebanese Civil War, and like many children during that era, he was deprived of a normal childhood. It is during this time, at seven years old, that he would lose both his father and older sister.

With the war continuing to take a toll on his family, he began working. “At 10 years old, I started working at a clothing store in Hamra, walking five kilometers in the morning to get there and five kilometers back to go to school in the afternoon. At night, I would work in a bakery to help the family,” he says. Unfortunately, by eighth grade, Youssef could no longer sustain this demanding schedule and stopped attending school to begin working full-time. “I worked for many years, taking on different roles, ranging from construction worker to watch salesman to support my family until, in 1997, I was able to get a position at AUBMC as a nurse aide.”

Life happened quickly after starting at AUBMC. “I was recently married, living in the same small apartment with my wife, mother, and brothers, but the goal was to change our lives. With the job at AUBMC, I could get a loan for a small house outside Beirut. We could start our family,” he says. Three children later, Youssef is a proud father. He cannot help but gleam when talking about his children; they are his joy. His eldest son, Tarek, obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from AUB, thanks to his father’s job at AUBMC. “My son dreamed of being a doctor, but when he was accepted to AUB medical school, the cost was too high,” says Youssef. Thankfully, Tarek qualified for a financial aid package that allowed him to attend. “He will be the first doctor in the family, but god willing, not the last.”

Youssef is beyond grateful to AUB. “In my youth, I dreamed of walking the campus of AUB. I could never imagine my children attending as students. AUB has made my dreams come true for my children and me,” he says. What AUB has done for Youssef and his family is undeniable, but what he has given to AUB is just as important: twenty-five years of service to AUBMC and the community that AUBMC serves, through war, the pandemic, and the Beirut explosion—some of the most challenging times in Lebanon’s history. What AUB has done for Youssef is not a favor; it returns the level of dedication he has had to AUB.

Photo taken by Dr. Farid Talih



## The light of hope

The streets around campus are lit again thanks to an initiative mobilized by staff from AUB’s Procurement and Contracts Administration (PCA) Department. AUB collaborated with the NGO Rebirth Beirut and Medco petroleum company as part of the “Light up our community” project which provides incentives to owners of generators through reimbursement for the supply of diesel to light up the streets of Beirut.

The lighting of Bliss Street (phase one of the AUB initiative) was celebrated with a community concert organized by the AUB Neighborhood Initiative with a performance by Teyyarit Waraq.







# When determination meets science

In the video, a man labors up a snowy trail, methodically planting forearm crutches on the ground ahead of him and swinging his legs forward. He repeats the move, pausing for breath. Suddenly, he topples into a full-body fall, like a tree hitting the ground. A team of people rush to his side, pulling and pushing him upright, and he returns to his climb. "I've seen him fall a thousand times," says one man on camera. "And he always rises again and again."

What's unusual is not that Michael Haddad rises again, but that he is upright and able to move at all. He is in the 7 percent of paraplegics with spinal cord injuries who have walked and the only one named a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Action. He has hiked the Arctic Circle carrying International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) seeds and willingly lends his body to science for researchers to study what could be possible for other paraplegics. With a team of professionals, Haddad has repeatedly accomplished the impossible in terms of independent motion. He wants others with spinal cord injuries to believe that they too can get out of a wheelchair, walk upstairs, climb mountains, and defy expectations.

Haddad lost feeling and control of his body from the chest down in a childhood Jet Ski accident. Decades of determination led him to technologists at the Lebanese American University,

who engineered an exoskeleton that encases and supports his movements, allowing him to stay upright, balanced on crutches, with his shoulders and hands carrying his weight. Physical trainers and nutritionists at AUB joined the team, helping him develop his own "swing-through gait" and better understand how he burns energy and how to regulate his body heat. He has pushed himself to such extraordinary accomplishments that people forget he climbs mountains using only 25 percent of his body. His support team calls him an endurance athlete.

AUB's Dr. Omar Obeid, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at FAFS, explains that since only 25 percent of Haddad's body can produce the energy for him to move, he heats up quickly and can easily experience hyperthermia, even in cold weather. "He's dependent on glycogen storage to avoid heat stroke and needs extra water. We don't want him to burn carbohydrates abundantly at first and then go into burning proteins. The puzzle for us has been how to have his body preserve the needed protein and not overheat." Dr. Obeid walked alongside Haddad in 2020, trying to keep him cool during a fundraising challenge in downtown Beirut.

Others from FAFS joined Team Haddad as he walked on special skis from the mountain village of Faraya in March 2022. "For three hours, he was constantly cramping in his shoulders," Obeid remembers. "We learned how

best to use body sensors to warn him to slow down so as not to risk internal damage from hyperthermia."

All this led to a walk in Norway in June 2022, under the umbrella of the UNDP, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in which Haddad carried seeds from twelve countries in the MENA region to the famed global seed vault in Svalbard. The AUB team synchronized his food and liquid regimens that would help put as much as three liters of fluid in his gut to keep him cool while providing needed energy. During the 5 km walk, the AUB team gathered physiological and performance data using core body temperature monitors. Over twenty support people accompanied Haddad, who walked six hours without cramping. His mission was to bring awareness of climate change and to prove nothing is impossible if you are determined.

In that vein, Haddad has completed a 100-meter dash and is using the experience to advocate for a new category in the Paralympic Games. "Imagine that we who have spinal cord injuries could compete standing up! That is what the scientists at AUB are helping us achieve."

The scientific study of energy expenditure and nutrition at AUB recently led conservation architect and mountaineer Joyce Azzam to contact the department. Azzam has climbed the world's seven summits and plans to reach both the North



Professor Omar Obeid in Norway with Rami El Hussein of AUB's Department of Agriculture. Hussein is a licensed dietician specializing in sport medicine and point person for FAFS's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and South Poles for the Explorer's Grand Slam. The South Pole walk of 1,140 km in frigid temperatures, pulling 100 kg of supplies, will take close to two months. The team from FAFS is looking at the predicted ratio of hemoglobin to oxygen needed at 2,100 m above sea level, as well as at her expected energy expenditure and ways she can gain weight in advance of the trip to provide the energy required over the two months.

"We are proud of the work done in our department," Obeid says. "And what it can lead to in the future. Michael's determination has opened up several potential lines of study that can give hope to people with spinal cord injuries." Exactly the kind of words that inspire Haddad to get back up and keep going.

❖ **I've seen him fall a thousand times, and he always rises again and again.** ❖



# Published & Produced



## It Gets Darker

Short Film

Written and directed by Firas Abou Fakher (BA '11) and Daniel Habib

Following a traumatic incident, Lara's childhood friend takes her for a relaxing weekend at an isolated resort. It turns out to be a trap to silence her. Lara must find her inner strength and fight her way through her friends to stay alive.



## O

Poetry

Written by Zeina Hashem Beck (BA '02, MA '05)

*O* explores the limits of language, notions of home and exile, and stirring visions of motherhood, memory, and faith. Hashem Beck uses lyrics, triptychs, ghazals, and duets, in which English and Arabic echo and contradict each other.

### Other works:

#### Mother of Strangers

Written by Suad Amiry (BArch '77)

#### Leadership . . . in Crisis: A Global Perspective on Building Resilience, Stamina, Agility, and Confrontation

Written by Michael G. Bassous (MBA '93)

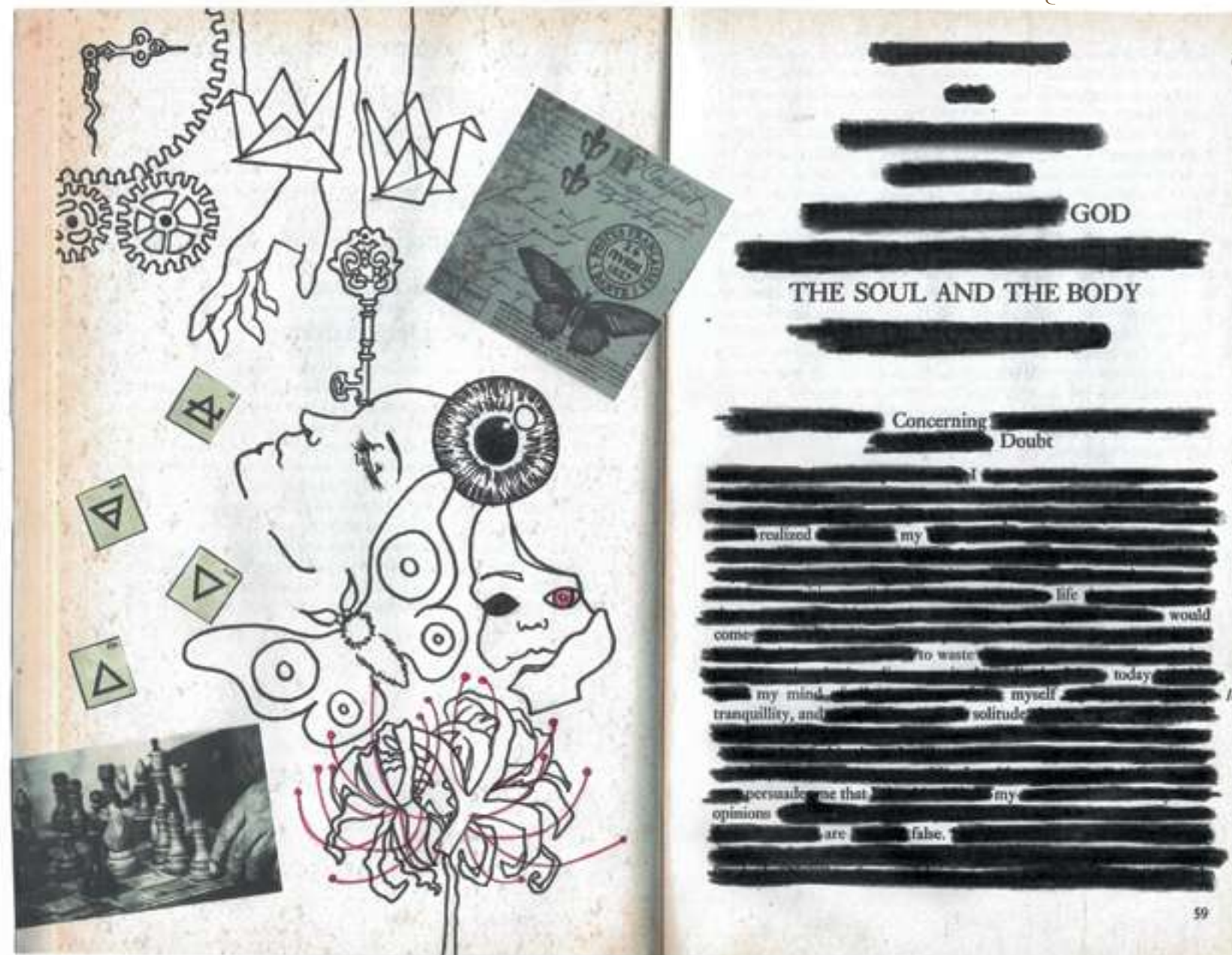
#### The Lebanon Uprising of 2019: Voices from the Revolution

Written by Rima Majed (AUB faculty) and Jeffrey G. Karam

#### The Story of Middle East Advertising

Written by Ramzi Raad (BA '68)

## ALCHEMY OF THE MIND



# Creative Minds

Featuring original works from the American University of Beirut community



This poem/visual artwork was created by **Lara Nabil Haroun**, a chemistry student at AUB. She is self-described as “a little girl in a loud world with poetry as a reminder to pause, breathe, and live in the moment.”

Originally published in *Rusted Radishes: Beirut Literary and Art Journal*, which is edited and designed by a staff of AUB faculty, students, alumni, and others. *Rusted Radishes* has published hundreds of previously unpublished and interesting works by emerging and established writers and artists in its ezine since 2017 and print publications since 2012. Check it out here: [rustedradishes.com](http://rustedradishes.com)



# Mastercard Foundation

## A decade of developing change-makers



It's been a decade since the Mastercard Foundation (MCF) and the American University of Beirut joined forces to provide scholarships to the best and brightest of Africa and underserved native and displaced populations of Lebanon, with the ultimate aim of developing leaders who would some day return to their communities and transform them. Since that time, 204 scholars have graduated from the program, while 67 scholars are currently pursuing their degrees at AUB. They have come from Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and refugee camps, along with 26 African countries including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Somaliland, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

"Since its inception, the focus of the program has been not only to provide scholarships, but opportunity for talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds," says Maha Makki, director of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at AUB.



Ibrahim Bahati

**Ibrahim Bahati** (MS '20), who hails from Uganda, first learned of the MCF Scholars Program from a former professor on Facebook. "I saw that I'd done the kind of community development work they were interested in, like gender development, working with street kids, youth, so I applied," Bahati says.

He arrived in Lebanon to begin his studies in rural community development in 2017. "It was an experience. I was one of only a handful of African students on campus at that time. For some people I was the first African student they'd ever spoken to in their lives, but by the time I left more had arrived."

At AUB, he learned how to design and conduct research in rural settings and how to think about the systemic drivers of issues like poverty, malnutrition, and climate change.

Today, he is applying his training as a research fellow with the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, working on inclusive economic development. "So looking at the structural barriers facing African youth when it comes to employment and economic advancement."

◆◆ **For some people I was the first African student they'd ever spoken to in their lives, but by the time I left more had arrived.** ◆◆



Adham Makarem

Closer to campus, Mastercard Foundation Scholar **Adham Makarem** (BS '18, MD '22) of Mount Lebanon became the first in his family to graduate from university in 2018 when he earned a degree in medical laboratory sciences, to be followed by a medical doctorate in 2022. "You know if your parents didn't have this [higher education] experience, you don't have that support and have to figure things out yourself," he noted.

When he entered the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2015, Makarem made good use of a support system at AUB specially tailored to the needs and goals of Mastercard Foundation Scholars. "I still remember very vividly the workshops on personality development and advocacy. Those

two were life-changing for me. A lot of it centered on finding the personal motivation to make an impact in whatever field, and thinking about the nature of that impact given one's skills." Today, he is the first MD and MCF graduate to earn a Fulbright Scholarship, through which he is pursuing a master's in public health at Boston University.

**Eslam Abo Al Hawa** (BS '21), who came to Lebanon in 2014 as a refugee from Syria, relied on her character and drive when applying to the Mastercard Foundation program. "It was extremely hard. I didn't know the language and I wasn't at all familiar with these types of applications," she says. "I used Google Translate when filling it out. I was so worried about my English, but I realize now they were looking at me as a whole person, not just as someone who was weak in English."

Given the often vast gulf between their home environments and that of AUB, scholars sometimes experience a sense of dislocation; the combination of the high academic standards, foreignness, and occasionally, prejudice, can be stressful.

"When the program started in 2012, most AUB students were coming from Lebanese private schools. So we were cognizant of some of the challenges these scholars might face," Makki



Eslam Abo Al Hawa

says, which is why scholars have special access to a variety of support services, including counseling and career services, and a peer-to-peer support program. "Being a Mastercard scholar gave me an immediate sense of community," says Makarem.

In the spring of 2021, Abo Al Hawa graduated with a bachelor's in computer science. "But I realized I didn't want to spend my life working on apps for businesses, so I went back to AUB and entered the business analytics program." She hopes to apply her analytics training to issues of community development. "I want to do something meaningful with my technical skills, working for the Mastercard Foundation would be great actually."







# Students at the forefront of science



## Internships within the largest international scientific collaboration in history inspire our students to grow and contribute

This year, three AUB students joined the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the world's largest particle physics research facility, to complete their internships in software development, engineering, and project management, contributing to studying the basic constituents of matter and exploring the fundamental laws of nature.

"One of the many reasons I chose CERN is to surround myself with smart and brilliant people, since I believe that this is the perfect environment for a motivated and ambitious student to learn, develop, and grow," said Sara Abbas.

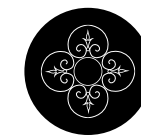
The students are all majoring in computer and communications engineering at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. They are working within CERN, which consists of a unique general-purpose particle detector that allows scientists and engineers to make new discoveries and identify new phenomena that can ultimately help answer questions related to what the universe is made of and how it works.

Jaafar Alawieh shared that his motivation for participating in this internship stemmed from CERN's reputation in the region as an international collaboration hub for experts on the topic of nuclear research and all discoveries that may stem from it. "The potential to work at CERN presented itself to me as a chance to learn from some of the most qualified technical minds in my field," he said.

This internship program is part of a long-term partnership between Lebanon and CERN that began in 2016 with the signing of an International Cooperation Agreement. AUB joined as a cooperating institute in CERN's Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment in 2018.

Zein Zebib said that the main thing that attracted him to the internship was the project management work for the High-Performance Computing for Lebanon (HPC4L) facility: one of the CMS projects that was initiated to build Lebanon's research capacity while contributing as a Tier-2 center to the analysis of CMS data.

"With everything happening in Lebanon, I felt powerless, and this job gave me the opportunity to give back and help the country I love by promoting innovation and scientific discovery," Zebib said.



# Honoring AUB's greatest

The University Medal was awarded to three remarkable individuals in AUB's history: **Professor Samir Tabet**, **Trustee Emeritus Ali Ghandour**, and **Professor Makhlof Haddadin**. Each of these recipients demonstrated exceptional loyalty and leadership to the university during times of great need and times of exceptional growth. They are being recognized for their invaluable contributions to the vitality and continuity of one of the world's most enduring universities.



From chemistry professor since 1953 to associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in 1969 to acting president in 1984 and vice president emeritus in 1988, **Professor Samir Tabet** led the university through the intensely challenging civil war years in Lebanon by the sheer force of his indomitable spirit. A broadly cultured man, Tabet was also an artist whose choice of colors and shapes was influenced by his passion for chemistry. Professor Tabet received the University Medal during a ceremony held on July 7, 2022, at AUB's Marquand House.



**Trustee Emeritus Ali Ghandour's** pure devotion to AUB's mission fueled his remarkable philanthropy and invaluable guidance. A trustee since 1979, he helped to save the university from the ravages of the civil war and then contributed to AUB's subsequent exceptional growth.

Ghandour was a cofounder of the President's Club, a leadership circle of donors responsible for a wide range of initiatives to modernize campus life. A successful businessman and aviation pioneer, Ghandour helped found Jordan's national carrier as well as six other airlines. Trustee Emeritus Ghandour passed away on August 29, 2020. He received the University Medal posthumously in September 2022.



A pioneer in the field of organic chemistry, **Professor Makhlof Haddadin** was an iconic and beloved AUB professor who inspired and mentored generations of students. He was known for his co-discovery of both the Beirut Reaction in 1965, which led to more than 40 patents worldwide, and most recently the Davis-Beirut Reaction. His passion for organic chemistry was matched only by his love of Arabic history and literature. He was widely known to quote Arabic verses in the middle of class. Haddadin held key administrative positions at the university ranging from vice president of academic affairs to acting president and senior adviser to the president. Professor Haddadin passed away on September 21, 2022. He received the University Medal posthumously on October 6 at the opening of the Makhlof Haddadin Memorial Symposium.

The AUB University Medal was established by the Board of Trustees in the spring of 1990 to be awarded periodically by a vote of the board for distinguished and meritorious service to the university.

## UNIVERSITY MEDAL WINNERS:

**Samir Tabet**, 2022

**Ali Ghandour**, awarded posthumously, 2022

**Makhlof Haddadin**, awarded posthumously, 2022

**Myrna Boustani**, 2019

**Farouk K. Jabre**, 2018

**Etel Adnan**, 2017

**Huguette Caland**, 2017

**Maroun Semaan**, awarded posthumously, 2017

**Ann Z. Kerr-Adams**, 2010

**Thomas Q. Morris**, 2009

**Nicola N. Khuri**, 2009

**Kamal A. Shair**, 2007

**Richard A. Debs**, 2005

**Paul Volcker**, 2002

**George Mitchell**, 2002

**Suliman S. Olayan**, 2000

**Raja N. Khuri**, awarded posthumously, 2000

**Samir Makdisi**, 1998

**Constantine Zurayk**, 1991

**Rafic B. Hariri**, 1990, 1998



# Degree programs, certificates, professional diplomas Available now at AUB Online



AUB now offers a number of online programs and will be expanding the selection in the months and years ahead. Available programs range from short (less than one week) professional certificate programs in strategic negotiations or decentralized finance, to name a few, to master's degree programs in nursing administration and management, computing in education, and engineering management, to the MBA Online program and a blended Executive MBA program.

AUB Online students are a diverse group. Some are recent graduates eager to pick up additional skills, whereas others already have well-established careers. "I was hesitant at first as I was not confident that I had the patience to go back to school so far into my career," remembers Antonios El Haddad, who graduated with a master's in engineering management (MEM) in 2021. Despite his reservations, he decided to apply to the program for two reasons: "I felt the necessity to reenergize my learning curve and expand my knowledge. The other factor that motivated me was the academic excellence that AUB is renowned for, particularly the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture." Looking back, he says that the program helped him grow professionally and personally.

"I would recommend this degree to all professionals seeking to expand their knowledge well beyond their operational backgrounds."

Youssef Mourad, who is currently enrolled in the MEM program, says that he is most enjoying being able to properly digest the material by relating it to practical examples from the field. The fact that the program is fully asynchronous made it especially attractive. "It requires only some time management skills and a determined mind," he says. "The courses are well designed in terms of user interface and content to equip you for advancing in your professional career."

The flexibility of the MBA Online program was an important factor for Samar Dhaiby, a senior digital project manager at a digital communications agency in Saudi Arabia and the mother of two children. It has also been helpful that her professors are easy to reach "through the online classes, emails, and sometimes through WhatsApp groups."

Although the program sometimes pushed her outside her comfort zone, Dhaiby says that it "was totally worth it" in enabling her to improve her leadership skills and learn business principles.

Ibrahim Al Sakhle, who has been living and working in Dubai for four years, describes the MBA Online program as "fascinating." He agrees with Dhaiby that it's a great way to pick up some skills. He says that he has also met people of "great caliber" who have become friends and, in at least one case, colleagues. "In fact, I started a small consulting firm with one of my colleagues," he says.

"We are very excited about the response to our online programs so far," says Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer Yousif Asfour. "We urge all AUB alumni and friends—even those who don't think they are interested in enrolling in an online program at this time—to check out our website. There is something for everyone in our catalog!"



# American University of Beirut – Mediterranean, coming in fall 2023



Things are buzzing in Pafos, Cyprus, where the American University of Beirut is establishing its first twin campus in the history of the university. Atlas Pantou – MAN Joint Venture, which was selected to construct the American University of Beirut – Mediterranean campus in Pafos, Cyprus, broke ground on September 28, 2022, and is hard at work. AUB faculty and staff in Beirut have also been mobilized to prepare for the first cohort of students who will be welcomed to AUB Mediterranean in August 2023. "This is truly a milestone event in the history of the American University of Beirut," says President Fadlo R. Khuri.

AUB Mediterranean, which has been approved by the New York State Education Department and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as a branch campus of AUB, will be offering five undergraduate degree programs in fall 2023: philosophy, politics, and economics (BA); psychology (BS); computer science (BS); industrial engineering (BS); and business administration–management (BBA). It will also offer two graduate programs in engineering management (MS) and business analytics (MS). All undergraduate students will begin by participating in a three-week orientation and induction program, which will prepare students to take full advantage of the AUB Mediterranean experience and give them a chance to meet each other and receive

lots of practical advice. "The general education courses that we will be offering at AUB Mediterranean will be a new experience for many—perhaps all—of our Pafos students," explains Dr. Wassim El-Hajj, executive director of the AUB Mediterranean project. "We want to provide incoming students with the background and tools they need so that they can take full advantage of these courses, which so many of our students in Beirut find to be especially valuable."

One of the attractions of AUB Mediterranean is its location in Pafos, a coastal city in southwest Cyprus. It's a stunningly beautiful and interesting place to live with world-famous historical treasures. (Pafos was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.) It's also an easy place to navigate and is not too far from Beirut. "There will be extensive interaction between the AUB campus in Beirut and AUB Mediterranean in Pafos," says El-Hajj. The new campus in Pafos will also be a platform for greater engagement and research collaboration between faculty in Beirut and European and Mediterranean partners. "We look forward to strengthening our existing partnerships, developing new ones, and investing in innovative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research programs that further increase the scope and impact of AUB's research enterprise," says AUB Provost Zaher Dawy.



Questions?  
mediterraneo\_ info@aub.edu.lb





# Beirut through their eyes

## A selection of student work from their photojournalism course



Azar's instructional style is rooted in insights gained from 40 years of reporting from the Middle East and North America. His documentary photographs of the Lebanese war and Palestinian occupation are archived in AUB's Jafet Library's Special Collections. Established in 2010, the Media Studies Program has grown into one of the fastest-growing majors on campus, hosting both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

These photos represent a fraction of the incredible work of AUB students in the Media Studies Program. "This is Beirut through the eyes of our students, documenting their own unique era. Their work is candid, often powerful, and deeply human," says Azar.

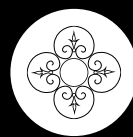


Since its invention in 1839, the camera's ability to freeze time has earned it a unique place in society. In journalism, these "decisive moments" have shown the photograph's unique power to crystallize an issue, impact public opinion, and provoke social change.

In AUB's Media Studies Program, the history and craft of visual journalism (photography and videography) is taught by George Azar, AUB's inaugural photojournalist-in-residence.







# Change and endurance

Ancient glass objects get a new lease on life and a showcase at the British Museum

Few events trigger collective grief or a heartache that spans nations more than the destruction of history and its markers. “It’s because this destruction touches on global consciousness, and it touches everybody’s past and roots, whether we like it or not,” says Nadine Panayot, curator of AUB’s Archaeological Museum and associate professor of practice at the Department of History and Archaeology.

Hence the great lament and outrage when the museum’s display case, facing east, around the corner from the Iron Age section, holding 74 pieces of Phoenician and Roman era glass, toppled to the floor. Its contents, save two pieces, were shattered by shockwaves emanating from the explosion at the Beirut Port on August 4, 2020.

Just how far back into history do these objects take us? “95 percent of them date back to between the first and third centuries of the Roman period. The rest date to either the Byzantine or medieval periods,” says Panayot. The Archaeological Museum, founded in 1868, just two years after the Syrian Protestant College’s founding, acquired the bulk of the collection in the 1920s.

And how does one date such pieces? “Well, because we don’t have any provenance, we date them by comparison, archaeological analysis, *comparanda* (Latin for ‘comparables.’). So, its coloring, its thickness,” Panayot says.

Though now making up a collection, each piece of glass arrived at the museum after its own journey, washed up on a sandy beach perhaps, or buried under the remains of a Roman banquet hall. Each one has been shaped uniquely by the elements—rain, sand, and snow—that have come in contact with it for the past two millennia. And each one, weathered in its own way, its surface no longer smooth like the skin of a child, but uneven, multifaceted, and full of crags, like the skin of an old shepherd, filters light differently. The more weathered and multifaceted the glass,

the more fragmented and rainbow-like the light it reflects.

Old and delicate as they are, the ancient glass pieces must be handled with great care and skill by the hands of an expert conservator. Their destruction touched off an international effort to preserve their remains and, with luck, reconstruct them.

“I immediately called someone at the *Institut national du patrimoine*,” Panayot explains, “and asked if they could send me the material just to pick up these shards: acid-free paper, gloves, basic stuff to handle the collection. I hadn’t yet assumed the director position. I didn’t have access to my own bank account, much less the AUB Museum one.”

She did, however, have friends at the Institut, a French “grande école” and the country’s only academy charged with the training of conservators. But what is a conservator? What does one do? How is one trained? And what guides their conservation efforts?

“The training is really a mix of knowledge from different fields: chemistry, physics, art history, technical knowledge, manufacturing processes, or creative techniques,” says Claire Cuyaubère, a conservator who works with the Institut on an ad-hoc basis. She is one of the world’s sole experts in ancient glass restoration and would become a central actor in the restoration of the AUB Museum’s damaged collection.

“There is a code of ethics,” she explains. “Anything we do has to be safe for the object and be as reversible as possible because knowledge changes and improves with time. So we want to make it possible for a conservator in the future to treat an object again. We don’t want our treatment to be in the way.”

It is a discipline that values the preservation of an object’s original intent and “materiality,” through which one may perceive the past as accurately as possible.

“We’re aware that objects age and time passes. Our goal is not to bring the object back to its original state,” when human hands last shaped it, but to “try to preserve the idea and the information that the object brings. If it’s a work of art, we try to preserve the intention of the artist,” says Cuyaubère.

With those principles in mind, Cuyaubère, working on behalf of the Institut and with funding support from Swiss foundation Aliph, arrived in Beirut on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, exactly one month after the explosion. “This was during the pandemic. Lebanon was in lockdown. I was there for seven days, but I had to stay for 72 hours locked up in my hotel room, so only four days of work,” she says.

Her first move was to clean up and organize the site. Panayot had purposefully left the damaged glass untouched on the floor underneath the showcase. “I divided the floor into a grid, like an archaeological grid, so we could work small area by small area and track everything. If two objects seemed like they belonged together, I’d put them in tray labeled according to their location on the floor,” says Cuyaubère. Eighteen items were deemed salvageable.

Meanwhile, Panayot recruited archaeology students at AUB to help sift through the shards and assist in the puzzling work of matching pieces. She began connecting with various departments at AUB to transform the catastrophe into a teachable moment. Both faculty and students brought digital modeling and chemical analysis experience to bear in assisting in the restoration, modeling the glass objects in 3D, and analyzing their composition.

When Cuyaubère returned several months later, a small contingent of AUB students and faculty had familiarized themselves with the glass collection and could be of greater assistance. She set up what she describes as a field lab and began to assess the wounded, giving priority,



as a sort battlefield-trauma surgeon, to those pieces that had the best chance of survival.

By this time, the British Museum (BM), had gotten involved following its cultural damage assessment report of Beirut after the explosion and having received funding from the European Fine Art Foundation to restore eight glass pieces. “We recruited Claire [Cuyaubère]. It was the perfect fit in a sense. She already knew the pieces, knew the fragments, had taken part in the initial rescue mission in Beirut,” says Zeina Klink-Hoppe, the Phyllis Bishop Curator for the Modern Middle East at the British Museum.

“I preselected a few objects that might be able to travel that seemed a little less fragile or a little more stable than others, that seemed complete enough that it was worth reconstructing them,” Cuyaubère says.

To complete the international picture, Stephen Koob, chief conservator emeritus at the Corning Museum of Glass, arrived in Beirut soon after Cuyaubère’s second visit. Along with Cuyaubère, he is one of a handful of people globally with expertise in ancient glass restoration. Indeed the world of ancient glass restoration is so small that experts often know of one another. “Claire says she already knew of me, possibly from my teaching at the *Institut national du patrimoine*,” Koob says.

“I’d read a notice in *the Guardian* [newspaper] that there was going to be some collaboration between AUB and the British Museum. It was a great time, very quiet, just the two of us. We had this whole storage area to ourselves,” Koob says. Between them, Koob and Cuyaubère had built up a lifetime of glass restoration experience and become masters of the archaeological jigsaw puzzle. “You develop an eye for shapes and patterns,” added Koob.

Of the 24 pieces restored in total, 16 remained at AUB, while eight were reconstructed at the British Museum. “You know, being a museum, we always do exhibitions, and when we raised the funding, everybody at the museum was saying, ‘Oh, this would be an amazing Room 3 project,’” says BM curator Klink-Hoppe. Room 3, directly to the right of the main entrance, is dedicated to small exhibitions, which focus on a single object or set of objects and tell their story in depth.

The announcement of the forthcoming exhibition and the object restoration at the British Museum led to significant publicity that heretofore had been absent. “The French worked for a year, a year and a half in total silence, but then the minute the British stepped in, all hell broke loose,” says Panayot. “We were suddenly on CNN, the BBC, all over the place. But that just speaks to two different approaches.”

The exhibition, now public in Room 3, has indeed garnered a great deal of positive press. The BM has also produced a film that goes into detail as to the painstaking process of reconstructing ancient glass artifacts. Whether more pieces will be restored or not mostly depends on funding. The eight pieces at the BM will return to Lebanon at the end of this year to join their sixteen counterparts, broken and repaired, as part of a cultural history reassembled.



◆◆ It’s because this destruction touches on global consciousness, and it touches everybody’s past and roots, whether we like it or not. ◆◆





## Check Up: Hopes and dreams on ice



Survival rates for cancer have been increasing dramatically over the past half century, which means that many women and men go on to live long, healthy lives after successful treatment. Yet these therapies can have the devastating side effect of being “gonadotoxic,” meaning the radiation, chemotherapy, or other treatments may lead to infertility or a severe decrease in fertility. This is where the Fertility Preservation Program at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) comes in.

Program director Dr. Ghina Ghazeeri explains that giving patients the choice to undergo fertility preservation or to receive information about fertility is not just medical but also psychological. “The whole process of fertility preservation is when you give the patient the hope to survive,” says Ghazeeri. “I tell my patients that we both have a fight: I will fight my fight, and you will fight your fight. Fight your cancer, and I will help you get pregnant in the future. Using the eggs or sperm preserved is no longer the issue at hand, it is the option of not losing the dream of building a family.”

As one former patient explains, “Before starting my chemotherapy in 2019, Ghazeeri proposed the embryo freezing, since my partner was present with me, explaining the whole process from A to Z. From the moment she started to clarify the steps, I only saw advantages and big hopes knowing from that moment that my dream of becoming a mum one day can come true.”

In line with AUBMC’s mission to offer the highest standards of patient-centered care, and with fertility preservation gaining visibility, the program has grown considerably, from only 15 patients in 2016 to 112 patients last year.

The program is part of AUBMC’s Assisted Reproductive Technology Unit, which has been catering to people having fertility problems since 1993. However, with AUBMC being a referral and tertiary care center for oncology patients, the need to establish the Fertility Preservation Program was clear.

The program was established in 2016 to assess the needs of patients who are undergoing cancer treatment, patients with autoimmune and/or genetic disease with predisposition for decreased gamete reserve, and people who opt to delay childbearing for personal reasons and wish to electively preserve their fertility. The program offers a broad spectrum of fertility preservation options for men and women, such as egg or embryo freezing, sperm freezing, ovarian transposition, and gonadal shielding or preservation.

The focus at the Fertility Preservation Program is how best to support patients of all ages and with diverse conditions and personal situations with their fertility-related needs. For example, prepubescent patients cannot utilize egg or sperm freezing, but the program can still cater to their needs in different ways. This includes counseling young patients and their families about future fertility and, in some

cases, moving the ovary out of harms way and then moving it back after successful treatment. “Two weeks ago, and in collaboration with a pediatric surgeon, we did a procedure on a six-year-old child where we transpositioned the ovary from the pelvis to the abdomen because the child was going to receive radiotherapy to the pelvic area. We had to relocate the ovary into the abdominal area and to the contralateral side so that it will not be in the field of the radiation,” Ghazeeri further explains.

As for women of childbearing age, the program conducts egg freezing, or what is known as oocyte cryopreservation. The process involves extracting the women’s eggs (oocytes) and freezing and storing them in order to preserve them for when the cancer patient completes her treatment and is ready to become pregnant. It can also be utilized by women who wish to put off childbearing for different personal or social reasons. “The whole issue of fertility preservation is that you are empowering women; a woman has power over her body, over when to get pregnant,” says Ghazeeri.

The program is also responding to the increasingly dire economic crisis Lebanon has been grappling with by establishing the Hope Fund to assist financially underprivileged patients who cannot afford the expenses of preserving their fertility. “Financial issues cannot take away from women the right to have a child, cannot deny a couple from building a family, and this is why we established the Hope Fund,” Ghazeeri explains.





# AUB North American Alumni Conference An ode to AUB



The October 2022 alumni weekend in Boston, Massachusetts, became an ode sung in many different voices to the excellence of AUB. Over the three days, more than 200 guests attended from 16 states plus Canada. Three panel discussions focused on topics in medicine made clear that the AUB alumni community occupies an outsized place in the medical world in North America.

Dr. Raymond Sawaya arrived from Beirut one year to the day after beginning his job as the Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs at AUB. He brought news of the AUB Medical Center to many in the audience who had attended AUB, ranging from over forty years ago to just recently.

“The AUB medical faculty and staff have extraordinary commitment to their work,” Sawaya reported, “and the state of affairs is better than we

could have expected.” He cited the results of a recent survey in which 75 percent of the medical faculty and staff said their financial situation had improved in the last year, and 60 percent cited enhanced morale. “And in further news, we have had a record number of applications to the medical school this year.”

Dr. Kamal Badr, AUB’s executive associate dean for medical education, proudly showed how AUB students measure up against their counterparts in the US in average five-year cumulative subject scores, with AUB students outranking students in the US in five of the seven categories. When he asked how many in the room had attended AUB’s medical school, hands shot up throughout the audience.

The panelists, a mix of AUB and outside experts, discussed the fields of disaster preparedness, medical education, and mental health. Dr.

Barbara Cockrill, associate dean for faculty development at Harvard Medical School, noted her surprise at learning that morning that three of her colleagues in the pulmonary care unit at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital are AUB graduates.

Dr. Daniel Hashimoto, professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and vice chair and cofounder of the Global Surgical AI Collaborative, talked about the increased benefits of AI in training medical students. He also mentioned noticing someone on Twitter doing interesting work in AI. It turned out to be Dr. Cyril Zakka, who at the time was at AUB and is now at Stanford University.

Honorable guest Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, past chairman of the American pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., brought his wife of 67 years, Diana, to the panel discussions, sat in the front row, and stayed throughout,

jotting down notes, engaging with the speakers afterward, and making himself available to young alumni. At lunch he gave an address detailing his journey in biochemistry, which started almost 70 years ago and included getting drugs developed and distributed for free by Merck & Co., saving the eyesight of millions of people at risk of river blindness in the savannah areas of West Africa. He ended his talk with a message for the young medical professionals in the room, expressing that in his opinion cancers that remain resistant to treatment will come under control. Because of advances in medicine, he said that the time ahead in their careers will be enormously exciting. “As far as patient care goes, you will be able to do things that will be unbelievable,” he says.

During the gala dinner that evening, AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri, accompanied by Board Chairman Philip S. Khoury and Trustee Huda

Zoghbi, awarded Dr. Vagelos the AUB Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in the first such ceremony to be held off campus. Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of pediatrics and molecular virology & microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, was the keynote speaker for the evening and hailed Dr. Vagelos as a hero before detailing the advances in vaccines that have built on the work of Vagelos and his colleagues.

The evening gala was emceed by Deborah Amos, Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence at Princeton University. She was known to many in the room as a trusted voice on National Public Radio (NPR) who has covered the Middle East, in particular refugees, for decades. She wove tales about her time reporting from Beirut, discovering the beauty of the AUB campus as well as knowledgeable sources for her reporting.

The evening gave way to AUB alumnus Bassel Naaman (BA ’10), otherwise known as DJ Base, who got the crowd dancing and kept them on the floor until midnight.

“We had a stellar program,” says Lina Jazi, associate vice president for alumni relations, “and the WAAAUB New England Chapter led by Salim Chahine worked overtime to make sure it went according to plan. All we needed was the energy, loyalty, and passion of the alumni, who turned out in full and put it over the top.”

◆◆ We have had a record number of applications to the medical school this year. ◆◆



# The first of their kind

## AUB's inaugural PhD nursing graduates



**Meet AUB's first two nursing PhD graduates as they reminisce on their experiences at the Hariri School of Nursing and bring their AUB spirit to the wider world.**

Growing up across the street from AUB, Dr. Rima Saad always dreamt of experiencing the beauty within the campus walls. Her uncle worked at the medical center's kitchen and often told her stories about his amazing encounters with various healthcare personnel he met. This strengthened her aspiration to study at AUB and— one day—to work there. “In 2002, I was witnessing the preparations to launch the Children’s Cancer Center, and since then I wanted to work in that place,” she says. She got her start joining the center’s inpatient unit, then pursued her master’s degree in nursing, and, most recently, her PhD at AUB’s Hariri School of Nursing. Rima’s husband and two daughters were her most enthusiastic supporters during her PhD program. “Today, I proudly say that AUB has shaped me personally and professionally. I am keen to reflect the AUB spirit that is embedded in me to the world through

my recent appointment at Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Global Pediatric Medicine Department in Memphis, Tennessee,” she says.

“AUB and I go a long way back,” says Dr. Amani Al Bayrakdar. “In fact, if I tell you that I remember the first time I stepped foot onto the AUB campus, I would be lying. Well, that’s because it was 23 years ago!” Amani began her journey at AUB in 1999 when she enrolled for a bachelor’s degree in nursing. She later pursued her master’s degree in nursing, with a focus on caring for patients living with diabetes. As a mother of three, Amani highlights the challenges she faced as a PhD student: “I sacrificed so much family quality time and missed several bedtime stories. But what comforts me is that I was able to be a good role model for my children, teaching them that they can always reach for the stars.” She recently joined Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland as a lecturer but will never forget her alma mater. “I would like to say that my AUB did justice by me. It kept well on her promise, for it gave me life more abundantly.

We are AUB ambassadors, whether in Lebanon or any other place on this planet. It is time now to show the world what it means to be called an AUBite!”



Dr. Amani Al Bayrakdar



Dr. Rima Saad



### Our Legacy: The Suheil Jamil Muasher Endowed Medical Student Research Award

Dr. Suheil Muasher (BS '72, MD '76), who is professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology and former director of graduate learning and academic development in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University, is a long-time supporter of his alma mater. “I was thinking about how I could help AUB during these challenging times,” he says. “That’s how I came up with this idea.” The Suheil Jamil Muasher Endowed

Medical Student Research Award was awarded for the first time in 2022 to third-year medical student Jad Farid Assaf. Muasher was inspired to establish the award in part because of his own experience as a medical student at AUB. “There were no opportunities for medical students to do research back then,” he says. “I know the situation is better now, but more support is needed.”

# Autopilot

## How artificial intelligence is changing medicine



To many, artificial intelligence (AI) is the stuff of science fiction: autonomous machines, simulated realities, killer robots. Today, though, artificial intelligence is far from science fiction. In fact, many real-world applications now in development will change how financial systems run, how businesses shape the consumer experience, and, perhaps most importantly, how doctors practice medicine.

Dr. Cyril Zakka (MD '22), is one of the foremost pioneers in the field of artificial intelligence in medicine. A graduate of AUB, Dr. Zakka’s fascination with the intricate codes that shape our world goes back to his adolescence. “I started playing around with coding when I was eight years old. There was an app that I wanted but couldn’t get because I was in Lebanon. So, I thought, why don’t I try making it?” This curiosity and ingenuity would lay the foundation for his life’s work.

As founder and program director of the Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIM) program at AUBMC, Dr. Zakka and his colleagues are putting their coding skills to work, building

artificial intelligence systems that advance patient care. “Artificial intelligence in medicine will not replace medical professionals. It will augment their capabilities.” Dr. Zakka is developing AI algorithms to expand a surgeon’s capabilities to improve patient outcomes.

Imagine a cardiothoracic surgeon in an operating room, the theater lights above, the hums and chirps of medical equipment, and the nurses and technicians monitoring medical supplies as the surgeon repairs a heart valve. Such an operation is likely performed dozens of times a day in a hospital. Now imagine that in the background, an AI algorithm is imaging the patient’s blood flow to organs, scanning for damaged tissue, and tracking vitals. It would be an unseen medical professional performing immense calculations to support the surgeon during the operation. “Physicians have a lot of information from the human body that they need to sift through. AI can help direct and focus attention to reduce mistakes. It’s like autopilot for medicine,” Dr. Zakka explains. Just as a surgeon uses X-rays, sonograms, and lab results to create treatment plans,



the AI system will be a tool to augment their perception of the patient.

AI has proven to be a significant driver of medical innovation worldwide, with clinical applications ranging from disease diagnosis to surgical planning. The large amounts of medical data generated by hospitals, and growing efficiencies in AI algorithms, make many clinical problems ripe for AI solutions. Through AIM, funded by the Hugging Face Foundation and the first program of its kind in the region, Dr. Zakka and his team are building tools and applications that employ recent advances in research from the lab directly to the patient’s bedside. “What’s important to think about with AI is that it is more than an innovative technological development. AI has the potential to save lives,” he says.





# A global celebration

The American University of Beirut organized its third Giving Day on December 5, 2022. It was a global celebration. There was also a lot happening on campus: Giving Day booths outside Assembly Hall and at the Halim and Aida Daniel Academic and Clinical Center at the AUB Medical Center where people could stop by and take photos and make donations, musical performances, cheers for each of the faculties by the AUB cheerleaders, and a wrap party in the evening. President Khuri presented Faculty Challenge trophies to the deans of the two winning faculties during a ceremony on December 20. "You could feel the energy," said Associate Vice President for Development, Alumni Relations, and University Events

Salma Oueida. "Events such as Giving Day are a great opportunity for the AUB family to come together in support of our university that we love."

❖ a great opportunity for the AUB family to come together in support of our university that we love ❖



# For our students, for our patients



More than 200 people gathered at the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room in New York City on November 17, 2022, for a celebration of AUB's enduring mission.

In his welcoming remarks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Philip S. Khoury spoke about that mission: "to graduate individuals committed to creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity, and civic responsibility... We believe in freedom of expression and tolerance of differences," he continued. "We abhor violence and we cherish enlightened discussion – where opposing views are not vilified but respected."

The event was also a fundraiser: \$4.4 million was raised in the period leading up to and during the dinner in addition to a \$10 million commitment from an anonymous donor for an endowed scholarship fund benefiting Palestinian students and a \$5 million gift from Trustee Mutaz and Mrs. Rada Sawaf to establish the Rada and Mutaz Sawaf Center for Arab Comics Studies, both announced on November 18.

Reflecting on the dinner, President Khuri said, "It was one of the finest gatherings of minds and hearts in support of the American University of Beirut that a person could ask for."





# WAAAUB Events and Announcements

## Recently Elected



Mustafa Saadi, President

### Atlanta Chapter

President: Mustafa Saadi (BE '96, MEM '98)  
 Vice President: Lea Matar (BS '10)  
 Treasurer: Cynthia Arzrouni Elchami (BA '99)  
 Secretary: Rand Ibrahim (MD '21)  
 Members at Large: Hana Abu Khadra (former student), Fuad El Rassi (BS '02, MD '06), Ghenwa El Souki (BFA '09), Noura Kiwan (BBA '02), Nancy Razzouk (BE '13), Walid Shaib (BS '01, MD '05)



Jacques Halabi, President

### Missouri Chapter

President: Jacques Halabi (BS '12, MD '16)  
 Vice President: Rawan Safa (BS '14, MD '18)  
 Treasurer: Mohammad Dbouk (BS '14, MD '18)  
 Secretary: Rasha Barakat (BS '14, MS '16)  
 Members at Large: Halim Bou Daher (BS '14, MD '18), Maysa Mokalled (BS '03, MS '05)



Murad Al Haj, President

### Northern California Chapter

President: Murad Al Haj (BE '06)  
 Vice President: Nouri El Sebai (BE '16)  
 Treasurer: Rana Chehab (BS '14, MPH '17)  
 Secretary: Yaman Sharaf-Dabbagh (ME '15)  
 Members at Large: Ahmad El Merhebi (BE '17), Mirna Kassem (BE '21)



George El Nachef, President

### Paris Chapter

President: George El Nachef (BEN '10)  
 Vice President: Elias El Murr (BEN '13)  
 Treasurer: Mohammad El Jammal (BEN '10)  
 Secretary and Social Media Manager: May Kfoury (BBA '14)  
 Head of Events and Outreach: Joe Sayyar (BEN '12)  
 Members at Large: Christelle Barakat (BS '08), Carine Hannouch (BBA '16, TD '16), Bernard Sacy (BEN '04), Rateb Zaouk (BEN '07)



Wafa Hoballah, President

### Greater Los Angeles Chapter

President: Wafa Hoballah (BA '81)  
 Vice President: Lara Al-Dandachi (BS '01)  
 Treasurer: Reina El Mustapha (BE '18)  
 Secretary: Dina Abou Salem (BA '00, MA '04)  
 Members at Large: Mohamed Arab (former student), Paro Astorian (BS '91), Chake Kouyoumjian (BS '62), Hanadi Ajam Oughli (MD '13)



Haya Imam, President

### Jordan Chapter

President: Haya Imam (BBA '99)  
 Vice President: Mish'al Abu Shkeidem (BBA '04)  
 Treasurer: Ghassoub Kawar (BS '72)  
 Secretary: Shadia Alauddin Dajani (BS '75)  
 Deputy Secretary: Lara Nassar (BS '07)  
 Members at Large: Tala AlKurd (BA '00), AbdulRahman Bani Hani (BBA '07), Dana Bashiti (BBA '10), Mohammad Hmoud (BBA '08), Hani Khader (BBA '99)  
 Standby Members: Jeeda Abou Obeid (BBA '21), Yasmine AlMuna Akkawi (BA '06)



# The AUB4Beirut Run 2022

The third annual AUB4Beirut Run took place in 16 countries and raised more than \$80,000 for AUB initiatives, including student scholarships and patients seeking care at the AUB Medical Center. We're especially proud of the 33 alumni chapters that organized runs this year. We can't wait for AUB4Beirut Run 2023!



ABLE RUN



Abu Dhabi Chapter



Greater Los Angeles Chapter



Ivory Coast Chapter



Swiss Chapter



New England Chapter



Qatar Chapter



Atlanta Chapter



Australia Chapter



Turkey Chapter



Houston Chapter



Maldives Chapter



San Diego Chapter



Club of Jordan Chapter



Philadelphia Chapter



Montreal Chapter



Orange County Chapter



Northern California Chapter





# Class Notes

## 1960s

**Sharon Wilterdink Moses (former student 1967–68)** writes, “I came to AUB for my junior year shortly after the 1967 war. My year at AUB opened my eyes to the world beyond the US and continues to inform my life. In Washington, DC, I held management positions in marketing and finance for AT&T and other companies, later moving to Boise, Idaho. In 2019 I returned to Lebanon for a visit with my husband. It was very moving to see Main Gate and the College Hall bell tower, wander around the beautiful campus, and to visit the *Outlook* office, where I had spent many busy hours.”

## 1970s

### REUNION 2022 ATTENDEE

**Sossi Nercessian Boladian (MD '71)** celebrated her 50th class reunion during Reunion 2022. (Because of the pandemic, there was no class reunion in 2021.) She writes, “My dreams finally came true when, in June 2022, I was honored with my classmates from the School of Pharmacy on the 50-year anniversary of our graduation. The feeling was great. It took us back to our youth on campus, the hard work to pass exams, and the long hours of laboratory experiments—all done with lots of fun, and great expectations, for a bright and successful future.” In June 2022, Sossi earned an MA in interdisciplinary gender studies from LAU—an occasion witnessed by her husband and children, “who rushed from the US, Dubai, and Geneva” to be there.

She is currently working on women’s rights issues as part of the National Commission of Lebanese Women, to which she was appointed 24 years ago.

**Rita Mufarrij (BA Psychology '77, MA Psychology '81)** writes, “I defended my PhD dissertation in psychology at the Lebanese University in September 2022 and was granted the degree after a five-year journey of research. My dissertation is titled “The Psycho-Social Dimensions of Extremism: Self-perception and the Perception of Others.”

## 1990s

**Tala Hussein Suleiman-Haidar (BA English Literature '91, TD TEFL '92, MA English Literature '92)** writes, “I am married and the mother of two young men (one recently graduated from AUB with a business degree; the other just graduated from Evangelical School). I currently reside in Tyre, where my husband works with UNIFIL. I have been teaching since 1991 at different universities and schools and have been a permanent public school teacher since 2009. I published my first novel last year, *Ahlam Mosteghanemi Meets Paolo Coelho in Beirut*. It is available at the AUB library and at bookstores in Beirut. I am now working on my second book.”

**Waddah Olabi (BBA '94, MBA '96)** writes, “I am currently a PhD student and researcher at Montreal University. I have worked in the Lebanese banking sector for 24 years and was most recently general manager of Sogelease Liban, a financial leasing company owned by SGBL Group.

As an AUB student, I was the vice president (1994–95) and treasurer (1995–96) of the AUB Business Society. I believe we, as alumni, should all support AUB in every possible way, and thus give future generations the chances and privileges we once had at our beloved alma mater.”

### REUNION 2022 ATTENDEE

**Badria Shehab Bayoun (BA English Language '97, TD '99)** celebrated her 25th class reunion during Reunion 2022. She writes, “Wow! Wow! Wow! It was, by far, one of the best celebrations I’ve ever attended! Every single thing that was done induced a regal feeling to be savored. Thank you AUB for turning a special day into a memorable moment. My heart will always be filled with beautiful memories of this unique day! Long live AUB!” Badria lives in Beirut, where she has been teaching English for more than 23 years.

### REUNION 2022 ATTENDEE

**Rafka Bou Habib (MD '97)** celebrated her 25th class reunion during Reunion 2022. She writes, “I was part of that memorable reunion and was happy to be there. I encourage everyone to participate for the personal joy it brings you. The Honoring Ceremony was great and made me feel 25 years younger.” After earning her MD degree, Rafka did a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at AUBMC. She has been in private practice since 2001. Her most recent interest is cosmetic gynecology. She and her husband, Dr. Anis Wanna, have two children, both in secondary school. She sends her “best wishes to the place that made it possible for me to fulfill my dreams of serving the community.”

## 2000s

**Sylvie Maalouf Kassouf (BS Computer Science '03)** writes, “After receiving my BS degree, I worked for a banking software company in Lebanon for almost a year. I quickly realized that a life of programming was not what I saw in my future. So, I moved to the US, where I obtained an MA in international economic policy from George Washington University in 2007. I moved to Doha, Qatar, in 2010. Since 2020, I have been working at the Qatar Foundation, where I am the programs manager for the Policy Hub within the CEO Office. On a more personal note, after my diagnosis with type-1 diabetes, I cofounded the National Diabetes Organization—DiaLeb in Lebanon in 2011.”

**Maya Tawil (BS Environmental Health '07)** had accumulated more than 10 years of environmental consultancy experience before moving to Veolia Group, the world leader in ecological transformation and optimized resource management. She is currently managing the industrial business development of Veolia in the United Arab Emirates. Maya

works with heavy industries, mainly in the oil, gas, and nuclear sectors, to achieve sustainable growth by proposing tailor-made solutions in energy efficiency, water, and waste management.

## 2010s

**Ryan Ghusayni (BS Biology '13, MD '17)** recently completed a four-year neurology residency at Duke University, where he is now doing a neuromuscular fellowship.

## 2020s

**Israa Azzam (ME Mechanical Engineering '21)** writes, “I was selected to work for Dr. Farid Breidi as a visiting scholar at the School of Engineering Technology (SOET) at Purdue University. I have conducted research on digital hydraulics, digital twins, and mixed reality for engineering education. I have also published three journal papers and six conference manuscripts, collaborated with well-known industrial firms, and joined Purdue’s Fluid Power Club, where I participated in the Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge. Given my rewarding visiting scholar experience, I applied and was accepted for a PhD position in mechanical engineering technology at Purdue University, where I will be working under the supervision of Dr. Breidi.”

**Calling all members of the Class of 1973 and the Class of 1998 – we’ll be celebrating your 50th and 25th graduation anniversaries at Class Reunion 2023 on the AUB campus in June 2023. Details will be posted soon on the Alumni Relations social media platforms.**

## Partnerships for AUB: The Rami Bitar Scholarships

“We believe in the important role that AUB has played and is still playing in forming leaders who are capable of impacting and shaping a better future for our beloved country and the region,” says alumnus Rami Bitar (EMBA '08). Bitar recently partnered with AUB to establish the Rami Bitar Scholarships, which benefit undergraduate and medical students who excel academically and come from underprivileged families. The selection criteria of candidates are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal for Gender Balance, giving preference

for female candidates to help bridge the gender gap in scholarship opportunities. The managing partner at Bitar International in Lebanon, and founder of Tawfeer Supermarkets, Bitar explains that the decision to establish a scholarship at AUB is part of his company’s corporate social responsibility efforts, which “are mainly directed at areas in which we operate and aim to empower women by giving them equal access to education and opportunities in order to meet our Sustainable Development Goal for Gender Balance.”



Rami Bitar (left) and Senior Vice President for Advancement and Business Development Imad B. Baalbaki



# In Memoriam

## Alumni



**Adil A Iliya**  
(BA '44, MD '48)

**Adil A Iliya (BA '44, MD '48)** passed away on March 12, 2022. He was 98 years old. Dr. Iliya was born in Lebanon on April 24, 1923. After earning his MD degree at AUB, he completed his surgical training at St. Paul Hospital in Dallas, Texas, and at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1959 he opened his clinic in the Lake Highlands area of Dallas and practiced medicine and surgery for 25 years. He closed his surgical practice in 1983 so that

he could devote himself full-time to medical missionary work in Africa, which he did until 1990. He was an avid gardener, photographer, and an aficionado of classical music. Dr. Iliya is survived by his wife of 72 years, Dolores; his four children, including son Sam Iliya and wife Joyce, daughter Rosemary Iliya Obeid and husband Kamal, son Dr. John Iliya and wife Dr. Jean Stachon, and son Dr. Charles Iliya and wife Rebecca; 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



**Najwa Shaheen Haffar**  
NaSH, (BA '51)

**Najwa Shaheen Haffar, NaSH, (BA English Literature '51)**, passed away on August 24, 2022. The daughter of Nikula Jirjis Shahin (BA 1918, MA 1920), professor of physics at AUB from 1939 to 1962, Najwa grew up among the close-knit AUB community. Frequent visits to concerts in Assembly Hall and plays in West Hall nurtured her love for theater, literature, choir, and the campus itself. It was at AUB that she met the love of her life, Kamal Rifaat Haffar (BA '51), whom she would marry in

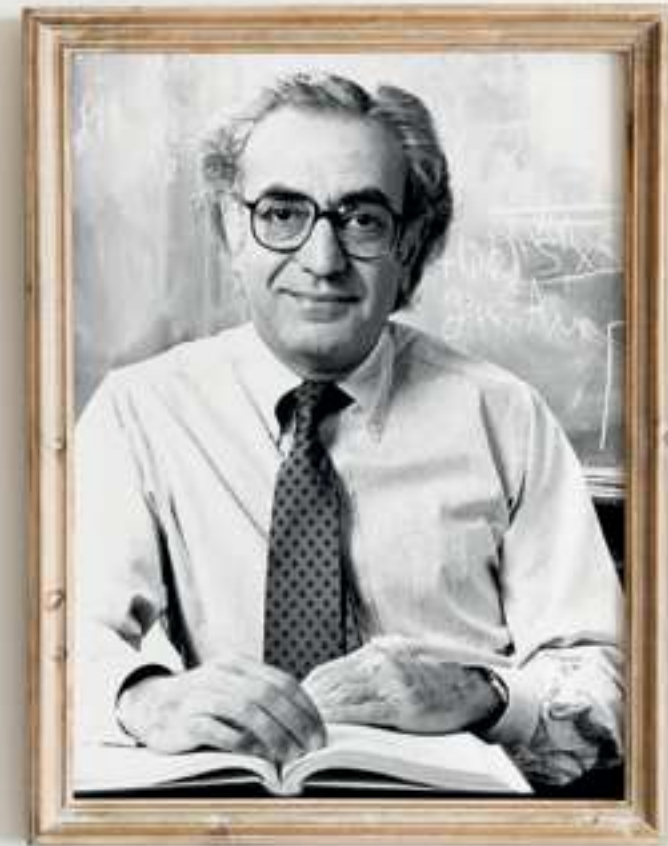
1954. As editor-in-chief and writer for *Al-Kulliyah*, she worked with Jacob Thadeus (MD '50) and a dedicated committee and staff to produce the alumni magazine on a shoestring budget for many years. This was her second collaboration with Thadeus, with whom she had worked on *Outlook*. NaSH, the pen name she used, is survived by her three children, Rifat, Omar, and Dana, all of whom are AUB alumni; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



**Adnan George Iskandar**  
(BA '51, MA '52)

**Adnan George Iskandar (BA Political Studies '51, MA Public Administration '52)** passed away on April 25, 2022. Professor Iskandar was born in Kfarhata, Al-Koura, in the north of Lebanon in 1930. After earning his BA and MA degrees at AUB, he attended the American University in Washington, DC, where he earned a PhD. He returned to his alma mater as an instructor in public administration in 1957 and held numerous positions, including director of personnel (1961–62), assistant professor of public administration (1962–69), associate

professor of public administration (1968–81), professor of political studies and public administration (1982–90 and 1993–98), and vice president for university relations (1990–1993). Ibrahim Khoury, special advisor to the president for protocol and external relations at the American University of Beirut, remembers him as “a tireless fighter for administrative reform . . . who championed transparency in public affairs and believed that fighting corruption in the administration can only come after the eradication of political corruption.”



## Nicola Najib Khuri



Nicola Khuri (BA Economics and Statistics '52) passed away on August 4, 2022. He was the longest-serving trustee in the history of the American University of Beirut and had a profound impact on his alma mater. He played a key role in the establishment of AUB's Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) in 1999.

Khuri worked especially closely in support of AUB with Board of Trustees chair emeritus Dr. Richard Debs, who lauded his long-time friend as “a great scientist, a great academician, a great teacher, a great innovator, and a pillar of strength for the American University of Beirut through good times and bad, over many decades. His imprint on the university will survive for many more decades ahead.”

Born in Beirut on May 27, 1933, Khuri was a brilliant student, graduating from AUB at the age of 19. After completing his undergraduate degree, he moved to the United States to attend Princeton University, where he earned his MA (1955) and PhD (1957) degrees. He returned to AUB in 1957 as an assistant professor of physics. In 1964, he accepted a position at the Rockefeller University in New York, where he remained for the rest of his career.

Khuri was a renowned scholar who was celebrated for his work as head of Rockefeller University's Laboratory

of Theoretical Physics. A fellow of the American Physical Society, a visiting scientist at CERN, and a consultant to the Brookhaven National Laboratory, he was elected a trustee of the American University of Beirut in 1969. In 2009, he was awarded the University Medal, AUB's highest honor.

In a message to the AUB community on August 9, 2022, Philip S. Khoury, chair of the AUB Board of Trustees, wrote, “Khuri's financial and mathematical acumen was instrumental in helping AUB avoid bankruptcy during the Civil War. As chair of the BOT Academic Affairs Committee in the years following the end of the war, Khuri's academic rigor and determination helped ensure AUB became once more the leading research university in the Middle East by recruiting topflight faculty.”

Khuri is predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth Tyson Khuri, MD, and his brother Raja. N. Khuri (BS '55, MD '59), former dean of the AUB Faculty of Medicine. He is survived by his sister Selwa Najib (BA '59); his brother Antoine Najib (former AUB student); his daughter, Suzanne Odette Khuri, and her husband, Vijay Seshadri; his son, Nicholas Andreas, and his wife, Claire; his grandchildren, Nicholas, Grace, and Gloria; and ten nieces and nephews, including AUB president Fadlo R. Khuri.



# Makhlouf J. Haddadin



Professor Makhlouf J. Haddadin (BS Chemistry '57, MS Chemistry '59) passed away on September 21, 2022. In a message he sent to the AUB community, President Fadlo R. Khuri lauded Haddadin as a “pioneer in the field of organic chemistry, an icon at the American University of Beirut, and a beloved friend and mentor to so many.”

Haddadin was born in Ma'in, Jordan, on March 21, 1935, and attended high school at the Hussein College in Amman. He was awarded a full scholarship from the Jordanian Ministry of Education to study chemistry at AUB, where he discovered “all [he] had hoped for in a university—outstanding faculty, a beautiful campus, and friends for life.” Haddadin blazed a path to university and graduate education for many members of his family, including all four of his younger siblings. After completing his master's degree at AUB, Haddadin moved to the US, where he earned a PhD in organic chemistry at the University of Colorado, Boulder, before doing postdoctoral research at Harvard University. He returned to AUB in 1965.

During his 57 years at his alma mater, Haddadin held many senior administrative positions, including vice president for academic affairs (1987–99) and acting president on three occasions. He also earned a global reputation and many accolades for his achievements in heterocyclic chemistry, which resulted in the publication of more than 125 scholarly papers in prestigious international journals. He was elected to the Lebanese Academy of Sciences in 2009.

Haddadin was especially celebrated for his groundbreaking research with AUB professor Constantine Issidorides. Their collaboration led to their co-discovery of the Beirut Reaction in 1965, which greatly impacted the field of pharmaceutical chemistry and yielded 40 patents in numerous countries. In 2005, Haddadin and Distinguished Professor Mark J. Kurth of the University of California at Davis discovered the “Davis-Beirut Reaction.” In 2018, Haddadin was appointed the inaugural Bonnie and Constantine Issidorides Chair in Organic Chemistry at AUB. He continued to be an active researcher and member of the faculty until his retirement in spring 2022.

On October 6, 2022, following the announcement of the award in July, Khuri presented Haddadin's family with the University Medal “in recognition of distinguished and meritorious service to the university.” Haddadin's legacy will forever live on at AUB and in the lives of the students, colleagues, and friends that he touched during his extraordinary life.

Family, friends, and former colleagues are joining together to honor his memory by supporting the Makhlouf Haddadin Endowed Awards and Lectureships, established in 2011. Proceeds support the Makhlouf Haddadin Awards, which are presented to distinguished graduating chemistry undergraduate and graduate students at commencement and the annual Makhlouf Haddadin Lectureship/Symposium.

## Alumni

**Yeghia G. Babikian (BA Education '54, MA Education '57)** passed away on November 9, 2021, in Pasadena, California. He was a scholar, educator, administrator, prolific writer, and a mentor to generations of students. He carried a posture of rare integrity, humility, and objectivity. The multiple awards, recognitions, and accolades that he received from community leaders and city and state officials were

not important to him. His main goal in life was to honor and please God. Dr. Babikian was a visionary who established churches, founded colleges for Armenian communities, and encouraged people to use their God-given gifts. His selfless love for his wife, Margo (RN '60); his two boys, Ariel (Kohar) and Hovel (Meline); and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was immeasurable. He will be deeply missed.



**Yeghia G. Babikian**  
(BA '54, MA '57)

**Nadim Haddad, MPH (BA '50 MD '54)** passed away on October 29, 2022. He was born on December 31, 1929, in Ramleh, Palestine. Throughout his global career in public health, he stayed in close touch with his alma mater, conducting research and supporting master of public health (MPH) students. In 2020, he established the Dr. Nadim Adib Haddad MPH Academic Achievement Award, which is granted each year in recognition of excellence in academic performance in the MPH program. Haddad

held academic appointments at AUB, the University of Texas School of Public Health, and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. He is survived by his loving wife, Mona Saba Haddad; his four sons, Issam (and Linda), Haitham, Layth (and Emily), and Juwayn (and September); and 12 grandchildren. He was, remembers the family, “both an anchor and compass” and “will be remembered for his unconditional love, deep loyalty, strong sense of duty, steady patience, and sharp wit.”



**Nadim Haddad**  
(BA '50 MD '54)

**Isam Nazmi Anabtawi (MD '56)** passed away in Port Arthur, Texas, on May 29, 2022, at the age of 91. After receiving his MD from AUB, Dr. Isam did his residency in general surgery at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, becoming board certified in that field. He then did another residency in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Georgia Medical Hospital in Augusta, Georgia, and became board certified in that specialty as well. He was later appointed assistant professor of

thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Georgia Medical School, where he spent several years. He then went into private practice in Port Arthur, Texas, where he performed the first open-heart surgery in the city. He was also a frequent contributor to scholarly journals. Isam is survived by three siblings, Dr. Aida Anabtawi (BA '50), Dr. Samir Anabtawi, and Najwa Anabtawi (MA '60); three children, Rima, Karim, and Nadia; and many grandchildren. He will be deeply missed.



**Isam Nazmi Anabtawi**  
(MD '56)

**Adib Tawfik Saad (BS Agriculture '57, MS Crop Production '59)**, former dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, passed away on September 25, 2022. He was born on February 13, 1934, in Keyfoun, Lebanon. Dr. Saad was a longtime member of the AUB faculty. After receiving his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1964, he returned to AUB as an assistant professor of plant pathology. He was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and to full professor in 1979. In 1990, he was appointed dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, a position he held until 1994. He retired in 2017. Professor Adib was a

longtime member of numerous professional societies, including the American Phytopathological Society, the Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP), and the Union of Arab Biologists. He is survived by his son, Rani (BEN '93), and his two daughters, Dalia (BS Biology '93, MD '97) and Layal (BBA '02). He will be remembered, with great admiration and respect, by his many friends, colleagues, and students.



**Adib Tawfik Saad**  
(BS '57, MS '59)

Support the Makhlouf Haddadin Endowed Awards and Lectureships



About the Makhlouf Haddadin Endowment





## Alumni



**Suhayl Shukri Saleh**  
(MD '61)

**Suhayl Shukri Saleh (MD '61)** passed away on March 14, 2022. He was born in Jaffa, Palestine, on January 20, 1937. He had a distinguished career as a leading cardiovascular surgeon and as a prominent educator at the Royal Medical Services in Amman (1968–83), where he headed the Heart Center. He later moved on to help two other hospitals in setting up their units for cardiovascular surgery. In 1996, he participated in laying the foundations for the Jordan Hospital and served on its medical team from 1996–2020. Dr. Suhayl was also a visiting professor at the American University of Beirut (1980–82), chief of staff at the Queen Alia Heart

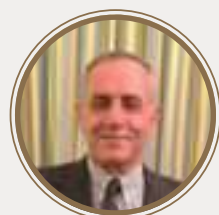
Institute in Amman (1981–83), and a clinical professor at the Jordan University School of Medicine. Throughout his career, he worked to develop and train residents in cardiac, thoracic, and vascular surgery. His good friend and long-time colleague, Dr. Jarir Halazun (MD '67), remembers him as “a pioneer in cardiothoracic surgery.” He will be remembered most for his humanity and unrelenting dedication to his patients and as someone who pushed the boundaries of care. He is survived by his wife, Umayma; his three children, Shukry, Omar, and Tamara; and his two sisters, Lena and Diana Saleh.



**George Tomey**  
(BEN '62)

**George Tomey (BEN '62)** passed away on November 23, 2022. He was a mentor and treasured colleague to generations during his more than 40-year career at his alma mater. Tomey will always be especially remembered for his extraordinary contributions to the university during the Lebanese Civil War. In a message he sent to the AUB community, President Fadlo R. Khuri wrote about those days when Tomey worked “around the clock within the Crisis Response Team that he formed, through shortages of food, fuel, water, and electricity.” Tomey will also be remembered for his unwavering concern for people, including and especially AUB retirees. It was that concern that inspired a group of his colleagues to establish the George Tomey HIP Retirees Fund in his honor when he retired from AUB in 2006. Proceeds from

this fund have been used to pay the health insurance premiums for more than 2,000 retirees enabling them to continue to receive medical care at the AUB Medical Center. Tomey began his career at AUB in 1964 when he joined the Department of Physiology as a research assistant. From there he moved to administration, first at the Faculty of Medicine, where he was assistant dean for administration for four years (1984-88), and then at the university when he was appointed vice president for administration in 1987, a position he held until he retired. He will be deeply missed by his family, including his wife Katia, his daughters Zeina and Lara, his granddaughter Oriana, and by the thousands of colleagues and students whose lives he touched.



**Theodore Christidis**  
(BS '67, MS '70, PhD '74)

**Theodore Christidis (BS Physics '67, MS Physics '70, PhD Physics '74)** passed away on November 27, 2022. A proud AUB alumnus, he joined the AUB faculty in fall 1977 after completing post-doctoral research at the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford University (1974-76) and then at Saint Louis University (1976-77). He was promoted to associate professor in 1986. He served on several faculty and university committees and was assistant to the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for laboratory affairs from 2004 to 2022. Professor Christidis was a steadfast experimental scientist who was pivotal in establishing the Kamal A. Shair Central Research Science Lab and developing Department of Physics laboratories; he inspired generations of students in the advanced lab courses he taught. In his message to the AUB

community, Dr. Jihad Touma, chair of the Department of Physics wrote, “Prof. Christidis served physics, the craft, and its department, then natural sciences at large, during the critical war years and beyond. He did so under extreme circumstances and with unflinching dedication, drawing on his remarkable acumen as an experimentalist, administrative wisdom, and invariable insistence on scientific rationality which he carried through till his last days as he fought a difficult battle with a forbidding illness.” Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst Faculty of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Saouma BouJaoude remembered Professor Christidis as a “committed, friendly, and generous teacher, mentor, and advisor who served AUB for the past 46 years.” He is survived by his wife, Anbar Nashashibi; his son, Omar; and his daughters, Nadia and Nour.

## Alumni

**Helena Victoria “Vicki” Freeman (BA English '67)** was born in Houma, Louisiana, on October 27, 1944. She passed in Florida on October 26, 2021, just one day shy of her 77th birthday. Vicki led a life filled with adventure, travel, study, work, love, and long-lasting friendships. On a trip after her high school graduation to visit her beloved Aunt Helen, who worked at the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, Vicki made friends with an American student who was going to study at AUB. She went herself to Beirut in September 1963, earning her BA in English in 1967. She was married briefly to Phaedon Antonopoulous (BA '67). In 1969, she and her future husband, Roland Richardson, a teaching fellow at the International College in Beirut, headed for Helsinki, where they were hosted by

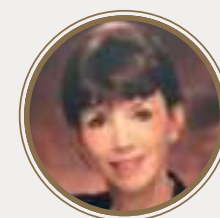
Tim Andrews, her first English literature professor at AUB. After a year, she and Roland returned to his homeland, the Caribbean island of St. Martin French West Indies. After five years on the island, Vicki headed for New York and taught English as a second language for two years before returning to the south, where she earned her master's degree in French from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1979. Her next stop was Paris, where she taught for a year at a French lycée on an educational exchange program before returning to the US to settle in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where, aside from two years on a sailboat in the Bahamas, she remained, establishing a career in banking and real estate. She leaves behind a brother, two nephews, and a host of devoted friends. All will miss her southern charm.

**Lina Maalouf Saad (BA Psychology '72 MA Psychology '76)**, passed away on March 11, 2022, at the age of 70. She was the faithful wife of Ghassan Saad; the loving mother of Fouad, Tarek, and Lily; and a treasured grandmother to Michael and Marc Bejjani and Charles, Paul, and Julien Saad. She is also survived by her brother Ramzi. Lina comes from a proud extended family of AUB alumni including grandparents, parents,

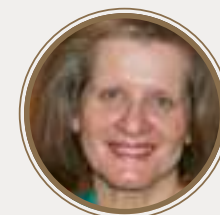
siblings, uncles, and aunts. Although Lina excelled in her studies and was top of her class throughout her education, she dedicated her life to the care of her family and would later volunteer her time in healthcare and education. She will be fondly remembered for her kindness, humility, and touchingly endearing smile. She was a beautiful and truly compassionate soul who was loved by everyone.

**Abdulahim Abu-Husayn (BA English '75, MA Anthropology '78, PhD History '82)** passed away on June 23, 2022. Dr. Abu-Husayn was born in Nuba, Palestine, in 1951. He attended secondary school in Amman, Jordan, before moving to Lebanon to attend the American University of Beirut. After earning his PhD, he joined the faculty as a beloved and respected scholar who taught generations of students about the history of Lebanon, Arab history under the Ottomans, Ottoman history, and the history of Lebanon through the novel. As a doctoral student and throughout his career, Dr. Abu-Husayn worked especially closely with the late professor Kamal Salibi, his mentor and good friend. He was inducted

as an honorary member of the Turkish Historical Society in 2013. Dr. Abu-Husayn is remembered by Saouma BouJaoude, the Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst Faculty of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean, as “a gentle, kind, generous soul and a colossal scholar whose dedication and love of AUB helped preserve its legacy through both the bad and the good days.” President Fadlo R. Khuri lauded him as “an esteemed, humble, meticulous, and kind scholar” who “made an enormous difference in so many people's lives.” He is survived by his son, Tarek Abou Hussein (BA Political Studies '08), an assistant professor in AUB's Department of History.



**Helena Victoria “Vicki”  
Freeman**  
(BA '67)



**Lina Maalouf Saad**  
(BA '72 MA '76)

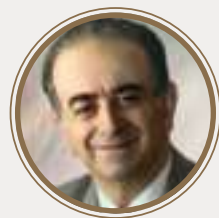


**Abdulahim  
Abu-Husayn**  
(BA '75, MA '78, PhD '82)





## Alumni



**Anthony N. G. Wakim**  
(MD '78)

**Anthony N. G. Wakim (MD '78)** passed away on August 23, 2022. He had a long and successful career as a physician in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wakim was one of the original double-board-certified physicians, in OB-GYN and reproductive endocrinology and infertility, in the US. He lived life to the fullest, loving every moment. Many people looked up to him as a unique and inspiring role model. He was always available to help someone in need.

He especially loved to travel and spend time with his family. He was devoted to his wife of nearly 40 years, Lena, and his daughter, Kamy, whom he adored. A lifelong learner, Dr. Wakim had a tremendous knowledge of history, geography, and world affairs, and he never tired of learning. He is survived by his loving wife, Lena Rebeiz; his daughter, Kathryn-Mary Wakim-Takaki; and his son-in-law, Nicholas Wakim-Takaki.

## Friends



**Fawzi Al-Hajj**

**Fawzi Al-Hajj** passed away on December 3, 2022. He was the longest serving dean of students in AUB history. In a message he sent to the AUB community, President Fadlo R. Khuri remembered Dr. Al-Hajj as "one of our university's pillars and a symbol of its resilience during the Lebanese Civil War." Dr. Al-Hajj was born in Anout, in the Chouf area, where he lived until he traveled to the US to pursue his education. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a PhD in agricultural sciences in 1967, he returned to Lebanon where he joined AUB as an

assistant professor of extension education in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. He was appointed professor with tenure in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Sociology in 1971. He is especially remembered as a dean of students, a position he held from 1981 until 1999. "The safety and well-being of our students were his overarching concern, and he ensured their protection with probity and wisdom," said Khuri. He is also remembered for his great sense of humor. Dr. Al-Hajj is survived by his wife, Yvonne, and his children, Sana, Mandana, Rania, Nadine, and Walid.



**Charles William Carson Jr**

The American University of Beirut mourns the passing of its longtime trustee **Charles William Carson Jr.**, known as Bill. Born on February 13, 1929, and raised in Rochester, New York, Carson passed away on June 15, 2022. A childhood passion for maps, travel, and history books grew into a life full of adventure and purpose. Carson spent his senior year of high school as a scholarship student at an English "public" school in England before entering Princeton University (AB '52), where he started as a civil engineering major and finished as a history major with a focus on European and Middle Eastern history. Following his military service, Carson entered the private

sector as an international financial analyst at what was then Chemical Bank, later subsumed by JPMorgan Chase. After 1988, Carson focused on service in the nonprofit sector, serving as a trustee and financial advisor at the American University of Beirut, the New York Historical Society, the National YMCA Fund, Americans for Oxford, and Drew University. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Miriam Jackson Carson, and survived by his sister, Mary Kahl; his sons, Tom (and Robin) and Phil; his nephew, Frederick Kahl; his niece, Sarah Kahl; three grandchildren, Henry (and Maggie), Nonie, and Thomas; and two great-granddaughters, Ellie and Anna.



**Eugene J. Gangarosa**

**Eugene J. Gangarosa** passed away on August 11, 2022, at the age of 96. The founding dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (1978-81), Gangarosa will be especially well remembered as a leader in the field of communicable diseases and infectious disease epidemiology and as a passionate and tireless champion for safe water, proper sanitation, and the prevention of water-borne diseases, especially cholera. Together with his wife, Rose, and their sons, Ray, Eugene Jr., and Paul, he

established the Gangarosa Family Endowed Chair for Safe Water and Sanitation at the American University of Beirut in 2020, which Gangarosa described at the time as "a step forward to making our global village a better place." Gangarosa spent his 70-year career at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, AUB, and Emory University. He was a prolific author and received many accolades, including

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the Centers for Disease Control's Medal of Excellence, its highest honor, for "advancing the knowledge of the epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, treatment, and control of enteric diseases"; Emory University's highest honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award; the

University of Rochester's Humanitarian Award; the American Public Health Association's Distinguished Lectureship; and the Wade Hampton Frost Award. He will be deeply missed by his family and by everyone who knew him.

**Robert Laurence Miller (Bob)**, junior year abroad (JYA) student from Kenyon College (1967-68) and assistant professor of the Civilization Sequence Program (1980-85), died unexpectedly at his home in Columbia, Missouri, on October 23, 2022. He was 74 years old. After leaving AUB during the civil war, he took a Fulbright fellowship in Jordan and Iraq, then moved to England and continued his wide-ranging archaeological

research with increasing interest in ancient Egypt and medical history, leading to publications on such topics as archery in the ancient world and the evidence for malaria in Egyptian mummies. On returning to the US in 1989, he worked as a contract archaeologist and independent scholar in Long Island and Ohio. He retired with his wife, Janie Rees-Miller (JYA 1968-69, MA '75), to the Rees farm in Missouri in 2018.



**Robert Laurence Miller**

**Professor Robert Saliba** passed away on October 6, 2022. News of his passing came as a shock to his many colleagues and friends at the American University of Beirut, where he was a professor of architecture, urban design, and planning. Saliba grew up in Beirut and attended the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA), earning a bachelor of architecture degree in 1974. He went on to earn a master of urban planning from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1980), and a PhD in urban and architecture history from the University of Paris VIII (2004). Saliba joined the AUB faculty in 1985 during the Lebanese Civil War and played an important role in keeping the department going during an

especially challenging time. He was the author of many book chapters and journal articles, and he wrote four books: *Beirut 1920-1940: Domestic Architecture between Tradition and Modernity* (1998), *Beirut City Center Recovery: The Foch-Allenby and Etoile Conservation Area* (2004), *Beyrouth Architectures: Aux sources de la modernité 1920-1940* (2009), and *Urban Design in the Arab World: Reconceptualizing Boundaries* (2015). Howayda Al-Harithy, chair of the AUB Department of Architecture and Design, says that Saliba will be "deeply missed but will live on through his valuable scholarship and significant impact on the AUB community and its many generations of students."



**Robert Saliba**

**Kenneth Sauer** passed away on November 6, 2022. Although he was a member of the AUB faculty for just three years (1957-60), "his relationship with the AUB community of friends, colleagues, and students transformed his life," remembers his son, Peter. Professor Sauer also had a profound and lasting impact at AUB. He stayed in touch with his AUB colleagues and students long after he and his family left Lebanon and was an external advisor to the Department of Chemistry for many

years. He and his wife, Marjorie, also made many donations to the university, most recently to support the AUB Community Vaccination Drive in 2021. Professor Sauer left AUB in 1960 for the UC Berkeley College of Chemistry, where he spent his career, retiring in 2001. Throughout his life, he embodied the spirit of service and the highest academic and moral standards. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Marjorie; his four sons, Bob, Terry, Rodney, and Peter; and their families.

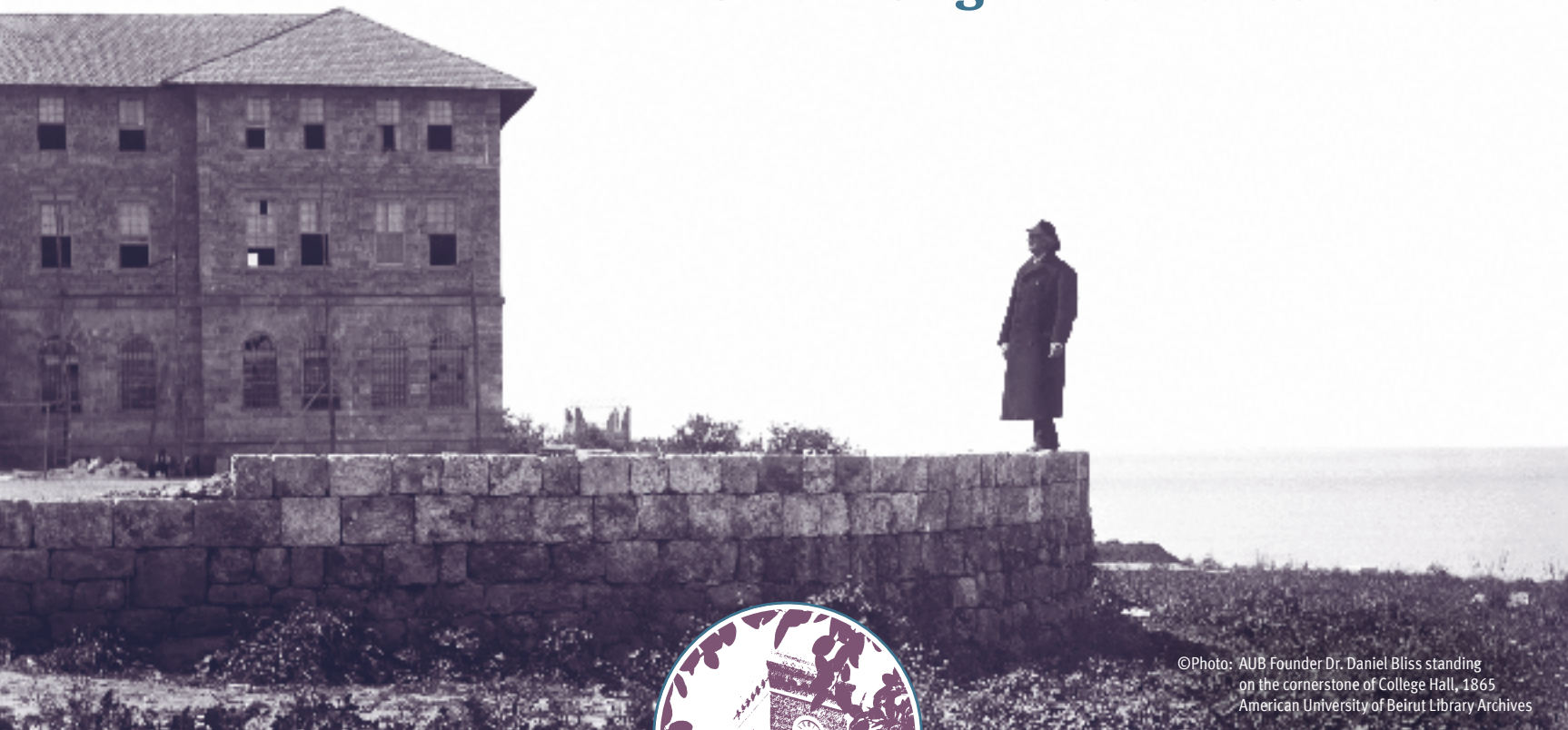


**Kenneth Sauer**





# His legacy has lasted over 156 years and changed countless lives...



©Photo: AUB Founder Dr. Daniel Bliss standing on the cornerstone of College Hall, 1865  
American University of Beirut Library Archives



AUB's first president, Dr. Daniel Bliss, traveled extensively in the United States and England between 1862 and 1866 to raise funds to establish the Syrian Protestant College (as AUB was known until 1920). Legacy gifts were an important source of funds for Daniel Bliss and the Syrian Protestant College then and continue to be today. We have established the **AUB Clock Tower Society**, named for the most iconic landmark on our campus, to recognize and thank donors who have instituted a **planned gift** or included AUB in their **estate plans**.

To join the **AUB Clock Tower Society** or to learn more about planned giving at AUB, please contact us. We can help identify the right planned gift to benefit your loved ones and leave a lasting legacy at AUB.

For further information:

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