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Celebrates 20 Years

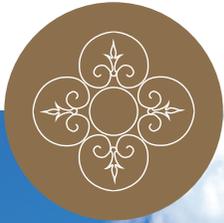
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The Game of Corruption

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Conflict Medicine  
Healing in the Midst of Turmoil

# The MainGate



Vol. XXII, No. 1, 2024

AUB Mediterraneo

## From Vision to Reality



MainGate

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Red and green lights around campus offered a gentle uplift during the muted holiday celebrations of December 2023.

# Views from Campus



This fall semester began on an historic note. We welcomed the largest and academically strongest undergraduate and graduate classes since 2019, recruited 120 new faculty members over the past two years, and opened our first twin campus in Cyprus in September. We also acquired our first-ever community hospital in the Keserwan Medical Center. This rising sense of optimism was thrown asunder by the devastating violence that broke out in the region in October. Despite the senseless killing of innocents and wanton destruction of property, and the psychological and emotional toll this has taken on our community, we persisted in serving our diverse constituents by adhering to our core values and principles. As we have done consistently through crises past, members of the American University of Beirut rallied to support one another and to provide succor to those in need. With our robust continuity plans in place, our academic and healthcare missions never faltered.

In times of crisis, the university's mission to educate, serve, and heal must continue, and so it has. We are impelled to redouble our efforts as we prepare the next generation of citizen leaders who prove their excellence through action and who, firm in the knowledge that they are children of no lesser God, are inspired to work for the greater good of their communities, nations, and the world. It is this determination to impact and transform that led AUB to inaugurate its first twin campus, the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo, in Pafos, Cyprus, which opened its doors in September. Just as AUB is woven into the fabric of Lebanon, we envision it will one day be so in Cyprus as well.

As I said during this year's 157<sup>th</sup> Opening Ceremony, AUB empowers and enables its graduates to be dreamers, strivers, and builders of a better world. This will remain our duty and our vision in Beirut, Pafos, Keserwan, and anywhere else that AUB sets down roots, and no matter what tempests may surround us. As we have done in times past, the people of the American University of Beirut will "keep calm and carry on" so that not only those whom we educate and serve, but their communities and nations, may have life and have it more abundantly.

For current news summaries, read our e-newsletters:

**President's Perspective**  
[www.aub.edu.lb/President/Presidentsperspective](http://www.aub.edu.lb/President/Presidentsperspective)

**AUB@Work**  
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**Cover**  
 AUB establishes its first twin campus in Cyprus, aiming to be a beacon of knowledge and progress in the heart of the Mediterranean.



**Back Cover**  
 Save the date for AUB's alumni reunion in 2024.

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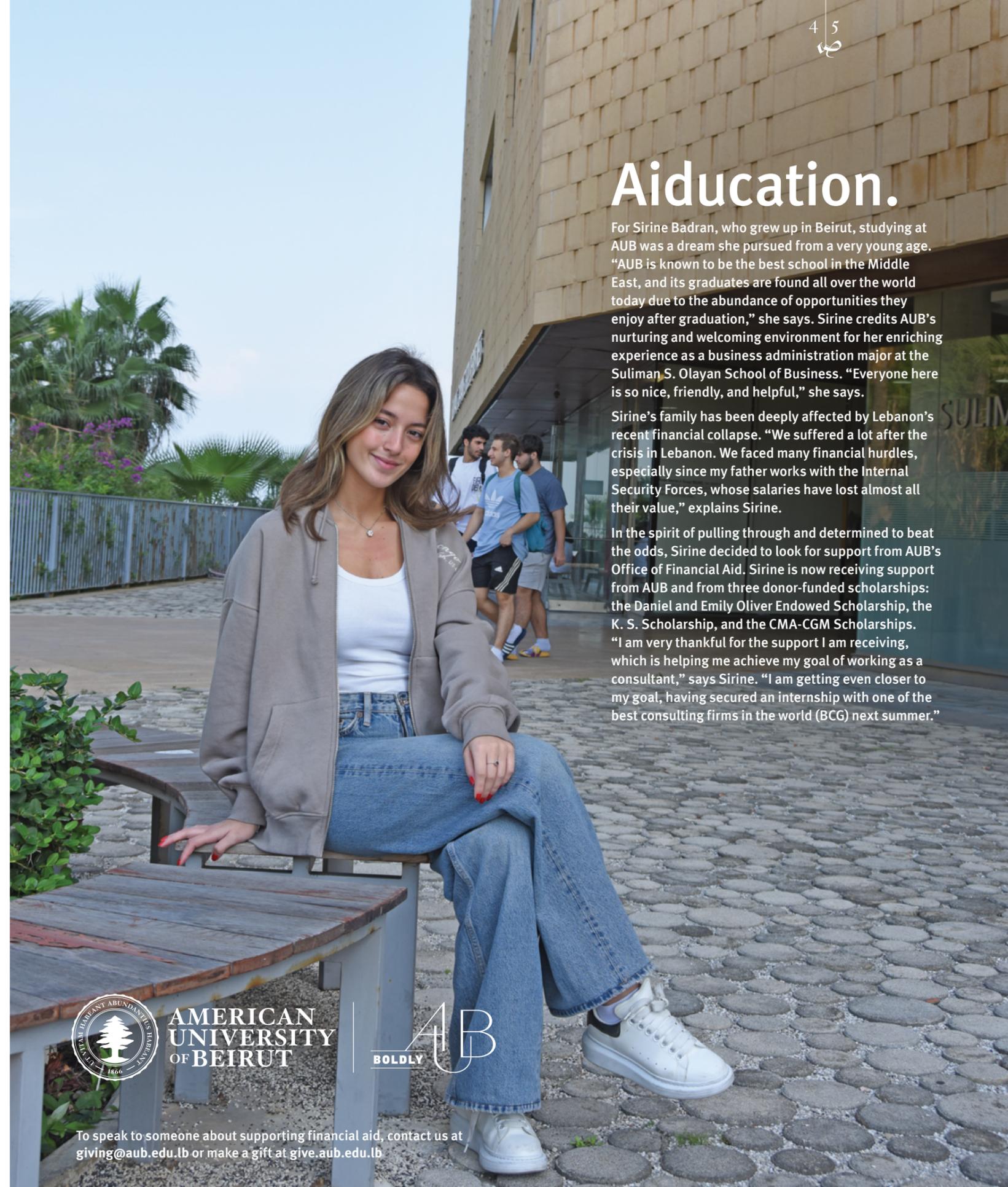
[www.aub.edu.lb/maingate](http://www.aub.edu.lb/maingate)

# Aiducation.

For Sirine Badran, who grew up in Beirut, studying at AUB was a dream she pursued from a very young age. "AUB is known to be the best school in the Middle East, and its graduates are found all over the world today due to the abundance of opportunities they enjoy after graduation," she says. Sirine credits AUB's nurturing and welcoming environment for her enriching experience as a business administration major at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business. "Everyone here is so nice, friendly, and helpful," she says.

Sirine's family has been deeply affected by Lebanon's recent financial collapse. "We suffered a lot after the crisis in Lebanon. We faced many financial hurdles, especially since my father works with the Internal Security Forces, whose salaries have lost almost all their value," explains Sirine.

In the spirit of pulling through and determined to beat the odds, Sirine decided to look for support from AUB's Office of Financial Aid. Sirine is now receiving support from AUB and from three donor-funded scholarships: the Daniel and Emily Oliver Endowed Scholarship, the K. S. Scholarship, and the CMA-CGM Scholarships. "I am very thankful for the support I am receiving, which is helping me achieve my goal of working as a consultant," says Sirine. "I am getting even closer to my goal, having secured an internship with one of the best consulting firms in the world (BCG) next summer."

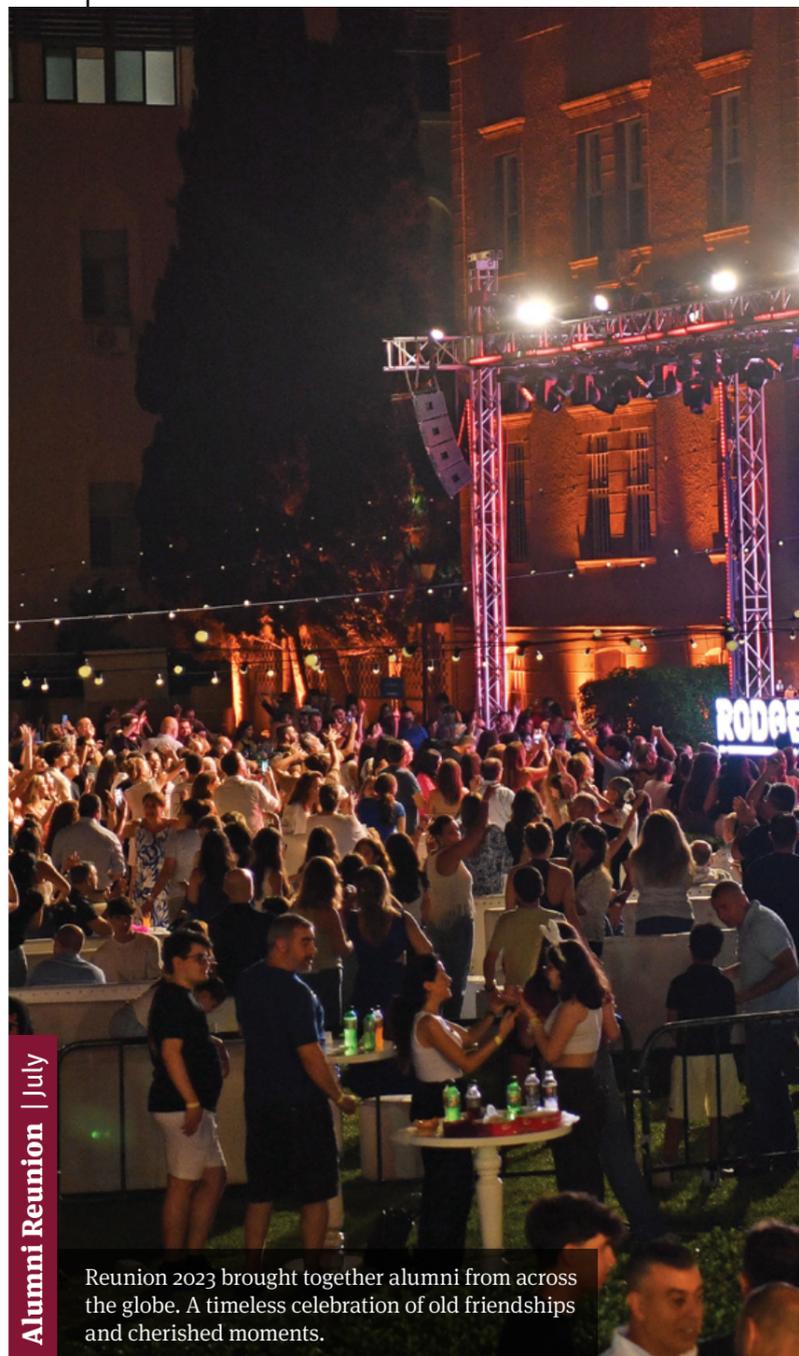


**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**



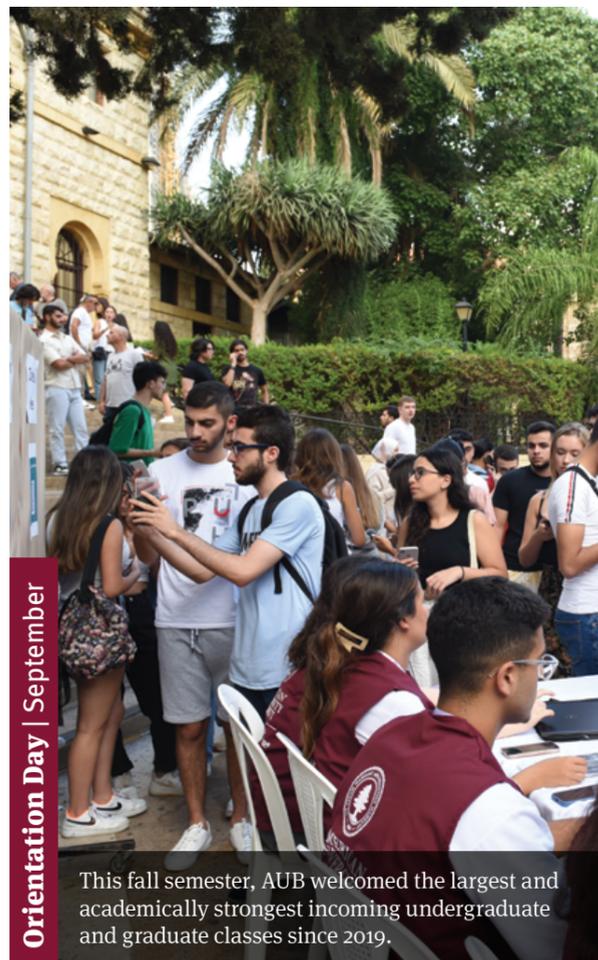
To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at [giving@aub.edu.lb](mailto:giving@aub.edu.lb) or make a gift at [give.aub.edu.lb](http://give.aub.edu.lb)

# Campus Snapshots



Alumni Reunion | July

Reunion 2023 brought together alumni from across the globe. A timeless celebration of old friendships and cherished moments.



Orientation Day | September

This fall semester, AUB welcomed the largest and academically strongest incoming undergraduate and graduate classes since 2019.



Stand 4 Gaza | October

A powerful moment of solidarity as AUB students, faculty, and staff took a stand for the people of Gaza, advocating for peace and justice.



Breast Cancer Awareness | October

Saab Medical Library radiated hope in October, bathed in pink light to raise awareness for breast cancer, among other activities during the month.



Amherst Visit | October

Amherst College faculty and staff toured campus during their visit, part of a new collaborative initiative with AUB: **Moving Beyond Traditional Exchange Programs.**



Farmer's Market | November

One of several farmer's markets this semester offered the opportunity to reconnect with the rural environment while exploring a diverse array of seasonal produce and pantry items.



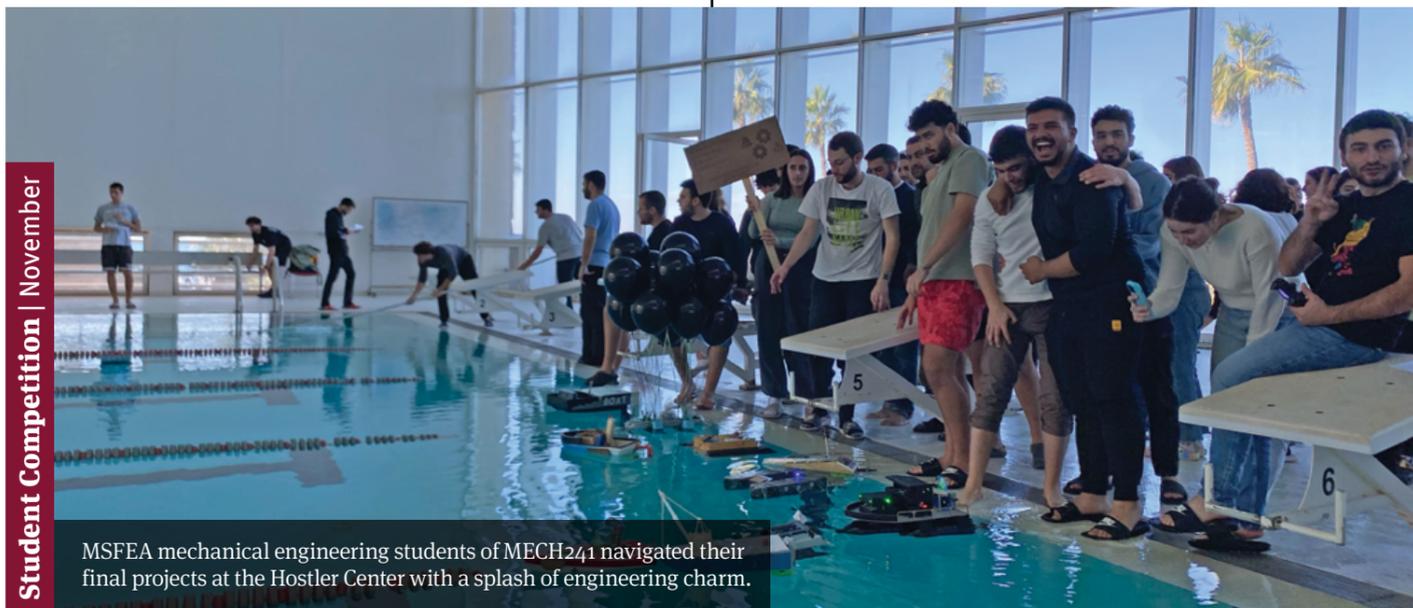
Promenade Theater | November

An immersive promenade theater production of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, translated into Arabic, used the campus as a stage and enthralled sold-out audiences.



Saffron Field Day | November

Community members traveled to AUB's Advancing Research Enabling Communities Center (AREC) in the Bekaa Valley to help harvest the prized spice saffron from purple crocus flowers.



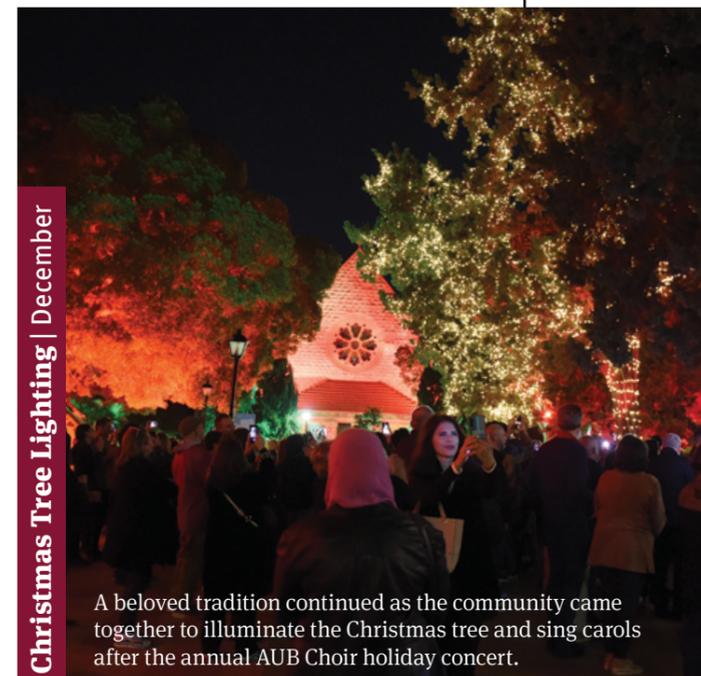
Student Competition | November

MSFEA mechanical engineering students of MECH241 navigated their final projects at the Hostler Center with a splash of engineering charm.



Founders' Legacy Exhibit | December

Celebrating the 157<sup>th</sup> Founders Day, the Archives and Special Collections Department team, led by Samar Mikati, revealed rare treasures related to our founding fathers, many for the first time ever.



Christmas Tree Lighting | December

A beloved tradition continued as the community came together to illuminate the Christmas tree and sing carols after the annual AUB Choir holiday concert.



# AUB Mediterraneo From Vision to Reality



Nestled on the shores of Pafos, Cyprus, within the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage site that was designated a European Capital of Culture in 2017, stands the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo (AUB Mediterraneo). Established by the American University of Beirut as its first twin campus outside Lebanon, AUB Mediterraneo marks a bold step forward in the university’s rich legacy of pioneering higher education in the Middle East and beyond.

The journey of AUB Mediterraneo began in 2019 when the vision of a second campus took root. With the unwavering support of the government of Cyprus, the city of Pafos, and a dedicated team at AUB, the vision steadily—and quickly—materialized. One of the administrators guiding AUB to the realization of this vision is the first rector of AUB Mediterraneo, Dr. Wassim El Hajj. A highly respected scholar and administrator with

a long history at AUB, his passion for the university strengthens the two campuses’ relationship as AUB remains firmly rooted in Beirut even as it grows its footprint abroad.

The inauguration of AUB Mediterraneo on September 6, 2023, heralded a new era of educational opportunities and cultural exchange. In his inaugural address, AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri poignantly stated, “Today marks

a significant milestone in AUB’s history. We are not simply opening a new campus; we are establishing a bridge between cultures, a catalyst for innovation, and a beacon of hope for generations to come.” Senior Vice President Imad B. Baalbaki, who has played a leading role in the achievement of this significant milestone, describes AUB Mediterraneo as “one of the most seminal projects in the history of this great university.”

AUB Mediterraneo’s establishment in Cyprus is a testament to the university’s unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its vision of fostering a global community of learners. Cyprus’ strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, coupled with its rich cultural heritage and strong economic growth, provides an ideal setting for AUB Mediterraneo to flourish. As Rector El Hajj says, “My vision for AUB Mediterraneo is that it will be a place that has strong ties to AUB in

Beirut; a place that offers the unique and transformative AUB experience to bright students from around the world; a hub for cultural and academic exchange; and a place where new and impactful knowledge is produced.”

The first cohort of students represents 12 nationalities spanning five continents. While the main campus is being finalized, students are attending classes in a state-of-the-art facility in Pafos. They are also enjoying the camaraderie of living in dormitories which boast expansive public spaces and meticulous design, providing a tranquil living environment at the intersection of comfort and innovation.

Just as importantly, AUB Mediterraneo reflects the university’s commitment to maintaining an environmentally conscious university. An electric solar panel-powered bus is employed to transport students; the campus prioritizes using renewable energy sources; and students actively

participate in eco-conscious initiatives such as beach cleanups.

AUB Mediterraneo’s academic offerings reflect the university’s deep commitment to interdisciplinary education, experiential learning, and a strong liberal arts foundation. The university, which is accredited in Europe and recognized in the US, currently offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including business, engineering, computer science, and the humanities. The university plans to expand its academic offerings in the coming years to meet the diverse needs of its student body.

The establishment of AUB Mediterraneo will have a profound impact on Pafos and the wider region as it injects new energy into the city’s cultural landscape, fostering collaborations with local

◆◆ Today marks a significant milestone in AUB’s history.◆◆



institutions and organizations. AUB Mediterraneo's location in Cyprus will also spur new innovation at AUB, providing Beirut-based faculty with access to EU funding.

**“Attending AUB Mediterraneo has been an enriching experience thus far. The foreign yet welcoming atmosphere has provided me with a sense of comfort. The education has far exceeded my expectations in terms of professionalism and cooperation. As for the students, they have become like a second family to me, as we collectively build the foundation of the university and open up the doors for success and prosperity.”**  
- Mahmoud Albatayneh (Jordan)

**“My interest in AUB aligns with my love for Pafos, where I've lived for a few years. I was intrigued by AUB's history, vision, and mission, especially its motto. The emphasis on leadership and innovation raised my interest as a business student.”** - Ly Bui (Vietnam)

As AUB Mediterraneo embarks on its new journey, it carries with it the legacy of AUB's 157 years of academic excellence and a deep commitment to shaping the leaders of tomorrow. The university's vision for AUB Mediterraneo is to create a world-class institution that fosters innovation, promotes cross-cultural understanding, and contributes to the region's sustainable development.

In the words of President Khuri, “AUB Mediterraneo is more than just a university; it is a symbol of hope, a testament to the power of education to transform lives, and a beacon of knowledge and progress in the heart of the Mediterranean.”

**❖ We are not simply opening a new campus; we are establishing a bridge between cultures. ❖**





# A Ticket Around the World AUB's Research Volunteer Programs



Reine Obeid



Ricardo Bitar



Perla Ibrahim

Working with professors on research projects destined for publication is usually the purview of graduate and postgraduate students. But at AUB, hundreds of undergraduate students have been given this golden opportunity, and some have even been included as coauthors in high-impact journal articles.

What began in 2014 as the Medical Research Volunteer Program (MRVP), led by Drs. Bilal Kaafarani and Hani Tamim, has since evolved into three different programs. As demand from undergraduates grew beyond what could be accommodated by medical researchers at AUB, the most recent initiative is the MRVP-International (MRVP-Int'l), which seeks to match AUB students with MDs from all over the world on virtual research tasks. As of August 2023, 83 undergraduate students have worked on 38 MRVP-Int'l projects with 24 principal investigators (PIs) from 23 institutions in the US, Canada, England, France, and Hong Kong.

**Kassem Farhat**, medical student at AUB, remembers, "I asked Dr. Kaafarani for a meeting during my first semester at AUB to discuss with him the various opportunities offered by the MRVP-Int'l. I noticed that it would be a great thing to participate in, as I have seen students working on exciting topics with highly experienced and qualified doctors." Kassem is first-place winner of the 2022 Ibrahim and Loulu Durr Endowed MRVP Award. To all those who are looking to enroll in the program, he says, "Be passionate about everything you are doing. Remember that you may find your passion in fields other than medicine, so let that be your driving force to anything you want to pursue in your life."

**Perla Ibrahim** (BS '15, MD '19), advanced anterior segment surgery fellow at the Wilmer Eye Institute–Johns Hopkins Hospital, reminisces, "Participating in the MRVP was a pivotal point in my life, as it marked my introduction to the world of

research. This decision marked the beginning of a transformative journey for me." Perla believes that "the more you give, the more you take." She tells students to "wholeheartedly commit to the research experience. The more time and effort you invest, the more fulfilling and rewarding the results will be."

**Ricardo Bitar**, medical student at AUB, believes that "research is one of the cornerstones of modern medicine, and I would like to contribute to this as much as possible. Volunteering with MRVP-Int'l gave me the opportunity to build a relationship with MDs outside of Lebanon and gave me a set of skills that is now helping me in my current research outside of the program." His advice to new students is, "Even if a project seems not very appealing, you never know when you can find your new interest through research. Stay open to new topics, and accept the lessons that your PIs teach you."

**Reine Obeid** graduated with a BS in biology and is continuing her studies in epidemiology at AUB. "I got the chance to collaborate and connect with researchers working in the US and to explore how to conduct research. Being involved in research during my undergraduate studies boosted my application, allowing me to be part of an NIH training program." According to Reine, the MRVP-Int'l "is a chance for self-assessment where you can reflect on your interests and motivations. Medical research requires curiosity, patience, and persistence. It is a chance to prove that you're driven by a genuine interest in discovery and improving patient outcomes."

## A little history...

**2014:** The MRVP was launched, intended for students interested in becoming involved in the field of medical research early on in their academic career and giving them the opportunity to learn from and support physicians, clinical researchers, basic scientists, and other health professionals.

**2019:** Based on the success of the MRVP, the Office of the Provost launched the Undergraduate Research Volunteer Program (URVP), which includes research projects from across the various faculties and disciplines at AUB.

**2021:** Drs. Kaafarani and Tamim launched the MRVP-Int'l, in which AUB students are matched to work with MDs across the globe.

❖ **Participating in the MRVP was a pivotal point in my life, as it marked my introduction to the world of research.** ❖

Are you a medical researcher who wants to give back to the university and help the next generation? Get involved!

Contact Dr. Kaafarani at [bilal.kaafarani@aub.edu.lb](mailto:bilal.kaafarani@aub.edu.lb) or Dr. Tamim at [htamim@aub.edu.lb](mailto:htamim@aub.edu.lb).



The program is a labor of love for Oueida and others, including Professor of Mathematics Nabil Nassif, who is a nephew of the composer and ZNPM director. “At the end of my uncle’s national funeral, I made a promise to myself to work towards preserving the enormous musical heritage he left behind,” says Nassif. One of the primary achievements of the program has been an extraordinary donation of 1,100 compositions to the Jafet Library from Zaki Nassif’s 23 heirs in January 2008. The archives were further enriched by a donation in 2017 from the widow of the late Dr. Walid Gholmieh, who was director of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music for many years. (The Zaki Nassif and Walid Gholmieh archives, along with other treasured collections, can be accessed at the library and at the QR code below.)

Since 2009, the program has organized A Choir from Every School, a competition that brings an average of 25 schools in Lebanon to the AUB campus. The program has also supported the expansion of the music curriculum at AUB’s Continuing Education Center (CEC).

None of this would be possible without the support of donors like the late Trustee Emeritus Ali Ghandour, who launched the ZNPM Friends Club in 2014. After his passing, Ghandour’s family established the Ali Ghandour Fund to support CEC music students and AUB students majoring in music, cultural seminars and academic lectures, and an annual concert.

The year-long 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the passing of Zaki Nassif and the founding of ZNPM features diverse concerts that include Arabic and Western styles, a major performance by the program’s Arabic Ensemble, and a significant increase in the number of CEC instructors and courses.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past 20 years, former Trustee Leila Bissat, who is a long-time supporter of ZNPM and the current ZNPM Friends Club president, comments, “From the very beginning, it was our goal to make this program a steppingstone in efforts to preserve the rich heritage of Oriental classical music, to ensure its development through time, and to make this music a part of the lives of the youth of today. I am proud of what we have accomplished in spite of the difficulties and the chaotic situation we are faced with in Lebanon. Through it all, AUB has kept its doors open and its heart beating to the sounds of pure melodies and authentic culture.” (Bissat is on the far left in the top photo with the other members of the ZNPM Friends Club Committee: Salma Oueida, Sawsan Maktabi, and Nabil Nassif.)



❖ The goal was to ensure that this music would always be a part of our lives. ❖



# The Zaki Nassif Program for Music Celebrates 20 Years



The Zaki Nassif Program for Music (ZNPM) has transformed the musical landscape at AUB and in Lebanon. The program, which bears the name of the renowned Lebanese music composer and singer Zaki Nassif (1918–2004), is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. Zaki Nassif’s association with AUB, however, dates back to 1936, when he attended the AUB Institute of Music for five years.

There was no longer an AUB Institute of Music when Zaki Nassif (shown in the middle photo on the right) passed away in 2004, but there were enthusiastic and dedicated faculty and staff who were determined to honor his memory and to do so in a way that would set a standard for what should be done to preserve the musical heritage of other cultural giants: by organizing activities in

Lebanon and the region to encourage and promote an appreciation of this glorious music, and by supporting the development of music education programs and courses at AUB. “The goal,” remembers Associate Vice President Salma Dannawi Oueida, who has championed and guided ZNPM activities at AUB since 2004, “was to ensure that this music would always be a part of our lives.”

# The Game of Corruption



“*Kellon yazni kellon!*” The chant rang out in Lebanon’s squares and was reprinted on newspapers in the wake of the 2019 protests. It was a call for the total abolition of Lebanon’s political class; no one could be spared because no one could be trusted. And yet politicians across the political spectrum, young and old, joined in, sounding a similar note: corruption must end, change must occur, we are with the movement. To parse fraud from forthrightness amidst the political maelstrom was impossible, which is exactly the point of the new board game *Machrou3 Razis: A Game of Corruption*, designed and published by AUB alumnus Jean Michel Chemaly (BS ’07, MBA ’12) and his friend Benoit Khayat.

“It all started in October 2019 when I met Benoit. He wanted to expose those leaders who were trying to ‘ride the wave’ of the reforms by positioning themselves as reformists,” Chemaly says. It was the ultimate insult and the kind of exploitative gaslighting that would deprive Lebanon’s revolutionary fires of oxygen. “All of these politicians are out there saying we’re for the people, the youth, and Benoit and I are looking at each other just infuriated.” And so, the duo decided to gamify this phenomenon.

From the start of the game, players are randomly assigned a moral-cum-political trajectory: that of the reformist leader or the corrupt politician. Everyone closes their eyes, then the corrupt players open theirs and acknowledge each other, which is meant to force those corrupt players into a collusive mindset.

Depending on your affiliation, you can choose to move through the world of politics as a mafioso business mogul, a rich drug lord’s wife, a *zazeeem* (political boss), a journalist, an activist, a professor, a movie star, or a judge. “The corrupt character cards are marked in green, the color of sickness and money, while we see the reformers in red, the color of life and enthusiasm,” Khayat explains in a “How to Play” video on the publisher Superheated Neuron’s channel on YouTube.

The game is then divided into two phases, both of which involve political strategizing—first to capture Lebanon’s parliament, district-by-district, and second, to capture the presidency. Hence the game’s title.

Both the reformists and the corrupt begin the game with a randomized distribution of districts. And, as in the actual Lebanese parliament, different districts hold different numbers of seats and amounts of political value. To take empty districts, a player calls for an election whereby all players must vote. Alternatively, a player who holds a

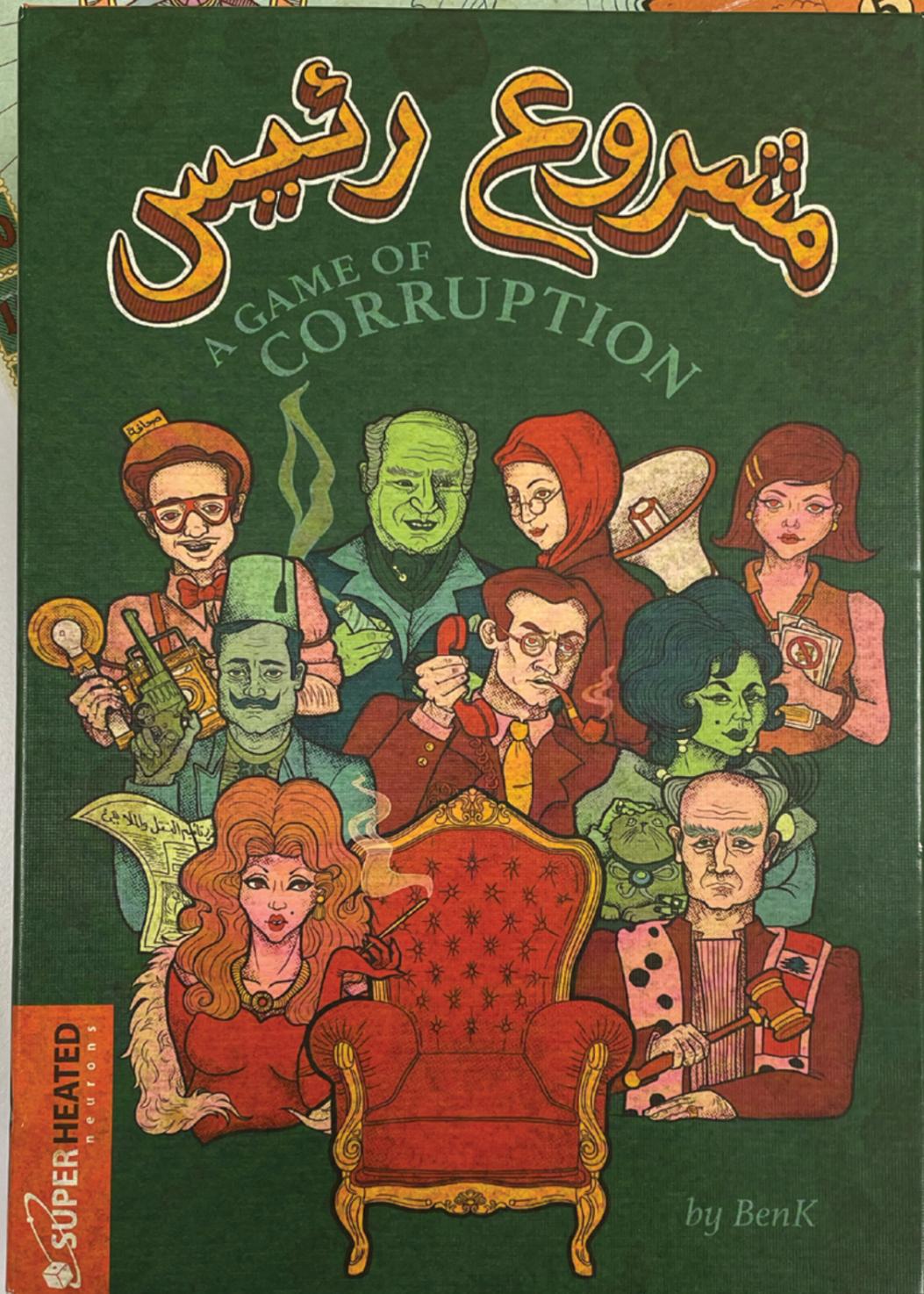
district adjacent to a desired one may opt to capture it by force if the player’s political holdings carry enough weight; however, the owner of the threatened district can make a play for the assaulting district if he or she can rally enough support from nearby districts.

“Ultimately, we want the game to be accessible, which is why we moved away from featuring playable characters that too closely resemble Lebanese politicians,” Chemaly says. “Corruption occurs around the world, and our potential audience is global as well.”

The first thousand copies sold out last June. “So, we reprinted another 1,500, and sales are going up.” The game of corruption, it seems, has a strong appeal.



◆ He wanted to expose those leaders who were trying to ride the wave. ◆



American University of Beirut | Online

# Making World-Class Education More Accessible



Online education has become increasingly popular as universities and colleges worldwide have begun offering more courses and programs online. The rapid expansion of AUB Online courses is a significant development for the university, allowing AUB to extend its reach and impact and to make its high-quality education more accessible for students from all backgrounds.

AUB Online courses are designed to be flexible and convenient, giving students the opportunity to learn at their own pace and from anywhere in the world. The courses are taught by experienced and renowned faculty from AUB, providing students from the region and beyond access to our world-class expertise and knowledge.

The online courses cover a wide range of disciplines. AUB regularly develops new course offerings, and there are long-established programs like AUB's MBA Online. Anyone interested should check AUB Online regularly for the latest offerings.

Scan to check website



## A SAMPLING OF AUB ONLINE PROGRAMS:

### Online Graduate Professional Diploma in Analytics-Informed Healthcare Quality

**Launching in June 2024**

A program that empowers healthcare professionals to champion evidence-based strategies for elevating operational efficiency, patient safety, and overall healthcare excellence.

### Online Diploma in Investment Analysis and Modern Portfolio Management

**Launching in June 2024**

This program provides participants with essential financial and investment tools and shows them how to apply them effectively in real-world practice.

### CTBFC: Combatting Trade-Based Financial Crime Certificate (En/Ar)

**English: January 2024**

**Arabic: March 2024**

Learn how to combat trade-based financial crime from our world-leading experts focusing on methodologies in the MENA region.

### Diploma in UX/UI

**Non-designers: December 2023**

**Designers: January 2024**

The first academic program in the region built on human-centric design principles, offering skill-focused training that spans from in-depth user research to crafting sitemaps and wireframes. Learn how to design Arabic right-to-left interfaces and network with instructors who have

become experts in UX/UI design for the region.

### Diploma in Health Management and Leadership

**Launching in March 2024**

A program that provides a unique perspective on healthcare leadership by integrating global best practices with region-specific challenges.

### Diploma in Strategic Branding in the Digital Era

**Launching in March 2024**

A game-changing program that offers the best digital tools to build, manage, and sustain strong brands.

### Diploma in Nursing Education

**Launching in August 2024**

A specifically designed program for professional nurses who wish to pursue a career in teaching in the nursing field.

### EMHCL: Executive Master in Healthcare Leadership

**Launching in September 2024**

Empowering healthcare professionals with significant responsibility, the EMHCL program focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities within the industry. With a regional focus, it offers top-notch education and real-world insights guided by an outstanding faculty of experts.

### Palliative Care Online Professional Diploma

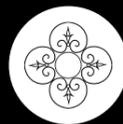
**Launching in June 2024**

Offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary perspective, tailor-made for healthcare providers and emerging leaders to elevate the quality of patient care.



# Preserving Heritage Through Graphic Art

## The Rada and Mutaz Sawaf Center for Arab Comics Studies



Al Yamamiya, a dark-skinned enslaved woman, one of the most clever and elegant poets of her day, stands among men and recites her verses. Some say that her mother, also enslaved, died in childbirth after being impregnated by her enslaver, others that her enslaver is the one who raised her. Regardless, she remains enslaved, sold to Imam al-Mutawakkil, and lives in his court. “Are you a poet?” the courtiers mockingly ask her. “That’s what the traders have said about me,” she replies. “Well, let’s hear you.”

So goes the second story of the graphic novel *She Spoke and She Said: Every Abbasid Woman Has Her Story*, by artist Lena Merhej, based on a 13<sup>th</sup> century anthology written by Ibn al-Sa’i, but which switches the focus from the male narrator to the female characters. Merhej was invited by the Rada and Mutaz Sawaf Center for Arab Comics Studies as a part of their guest lecturer series to discuss the book and her collaboration with Professor Enass Khansa from AUB’s Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages.

It is the preservation, promotion, and study of these kinds of original, poignant, meaningful graphic novels, comic books, and illustrations that is the purview of the center, encompassing both contemporary and archival works from the past. “There is a novelty and an immediacy to this genre. It’s visceral,” says Lina Ghaibeh, professor and founding director of the center. “When we host exhibitions outside the Middle East, people are absolutely stunned,” as if they’re seeing the region as fully

alive for the first time. This is the only center in the world dedicated to Arab comics and one of only a handful dedicated to the study of comics.

In addition to exhibitions, the archive, and publishing works on comics, the center hosts courses, workshops, and masterclasses, as well as an annual symposium. In one recent masterclass taught by Mehdi Annassi, cofounder of Moroccan comics magazine *Skefkef*, Annassi traced his artistic journey from primitive pixel art to more complex digital art to posters, comics, and murals, exploring at each artistic juncture how the medium helps convey the message.

The first publication with the center’s imprint came out this year as part of the Graphic Narratives series published with AUB Press; *If Shehrazad Drew: Critical Writings on Arab Comics*, a play on words referring to the reimaging of the famous *One Thousand and One Nights* as graphic art, featuring critical writings on Arab comics by artist and critic George Khoury (JAD).

One of the center’s premier annual events is the Mahmoud Kahil Awards, which is the top award for comics, cartoons, and illustrations in the Arab world. The 2023 edition featured work from 18 Arab countries and included an exhibition at the Lebanese National Library and a publication with selected works from the artists.

What began in 2014 as the Mutaz and Rada Sawaf Arab Comics Initiative is now a full center dedicated to

research, teach, and promote Arab comics. The center was inaugurated in 2023 thanks to a generous trust established by alumnus Mutaz Sawaf (BArch ’74) and his wife Rada. “We’re the only library in the world with a collection dedicated to Arab comics and illustration,” Ghaibeh says. “Hopefully, we’ll continue to build on it because it is important to preserve this heritage and create a rich archive for any academic research on comics from the region, something we are pioneering here at AUB.”

◆◆ “When we host exhibitions outside the Middle East, people are absolutely stunned.” ◆◆





# Face to Face

## Administering Healthcare with Heart

Judy Salim Nassar has spent 31 years at AUBMC refining her skills as a nurse, and along the way she has acquired equal skill in interpersonal relations. Hers is the welcoming presence that greets children when they are brought to the Family Medicine Clinic to get vaccinated, and she is the one who can quiet infants, comfort toddlers, and reassure parents their children are in safe hands. Some parents don't need convincing because they saw Nurse Judy when they were young. "It's like seeing my own grandchildren," she says.

Hepatitis, diphtheria, typhoid, meningitis, chicken pox—Nurse Judy administers the vaccinations to families of AUB employees and outside families, and she knows all the tips and tricks. "Children need to express their feelings. I try to love them and play with them. If they start to cry, I can cry like them. If they scream, I pretend to scream like them. People tell me not to bother talking to the babies because they don't understand. But I explain to the babies I don't like injections either, but we must have them to stay safe. And they do understand."

Adults need explanations, too, Nurse Judy has learned. "I explain the vaccinations and their effects. Some adults get dizzy just seeing a needle, so I have them lie down. If the adult needs the vaccination and is scared, I ask the child to hold their hand and tell their parents to be strong. Talking and learning is the best solution."

Nurse Judy says she learned her caring and loving approach early from her own parents, and later from mentors like Gladys Mouro, former director of nursing services at AUBMC. "If you care for the patient as if they were your own family and listen to them, they may have something they need to say. That is half of the healing process. Medicine is the other half." She is also fond of quoting Mother Theresa: "Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier."

Over the past three decades, Nurse Judy has had nothing but praise for her colleagues. "Working in a professional institution with a well-organized team gives me the strength and self-confidence to provide the best quality of care." She sees her colleagues as family. "My father wanted me to work near my village after training at AUB," she says. "But I said I couldn't leave. I had to stay. It had become home."



# Unwavering Spirit

## The Women Behind the Pink Uniforms

Known affectionately as the Pink Ladies because of their uniforms, the altruistic and generous women of the Women's Auxiliary have been instrumental in supporting the AUB Medical Center, its patients, and members of the AUB community over the decades, providing kindness at all times. Since the group's inception in 1950, they have donated thousands of dollars and volunteering hours, raising money for the purchase of needed equipment at the medical center, promoting education through nursing student scholarships, and aiding patients with financial needs.

Amal Takieddine Najjar, president of the Women's Auxiliary, joined the group in 1994 after returning to Lebanon from Harvard University. She says, "The camaraderie, joyful, dedicated, and compassionate spirit of the ladies in pink creates a healthy and wonderful environment for work within the medical center. Together, we support the AUB Medical Center and continue to accomplish our noble mission." The Women's Auxiliary has witnessed several challenges over the years, most recently the ongoing economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the closing of its services, including the coffee shop, for two years. Yet the group continues to carry on, and the coffee shop is now open again.

As Nabila Firzli, director of the coffee shop and former president, recalls, "We have been through difficult times before, and it has not deterred us. In 1986, the Women's Auxiliary was undergoing financial problems, and it was decided to shut down the kitchen. I refused this decision and asked the board to give us a three-month probation. They accepted, and after one month, we made lots of profit and increased the amount of money donated."

The Women's Auxiliary started with 70 volunteers doing various jobs at the medical center from running the coffee shop which offers donations to the adult patients, to handling the Bargain Box which offers donations to the pediatric patients, to serving coffee to doctors in operating rooms, to providing patients with newspapers. Now, it operates with 36 volunteers who find it fulfilling to serve and support the medical center.

"Working in the coffee shop is very rewarding in providing the opportunity to interact with our customers and make them feel at home," says Gharid Nourallah Sabah, cotreasurer and cochairperson. Nuhad Nassif, treasurer of the coffee shop, adds, "I chose to work with the Women's Auxiliary because I like their spirit and their aim to help needy patients. It's a blessing belonging to AUBMC and the Ras Beirut community." Leila Khalaf, former president and current vice president of the group, explains that the sole requirement for volunteers is a passion for giving and helping. "Mrs. Marston, one of the founders, brought me to the Women's Auxiliary. I knew nothing about it, but as I was a girl scout, I knew a lot about giving and helping. So, I liked it very much."

For seven decades, members of the Women's Auxiliary have been the heart of the medical center, giving abundantly of their time and energy. As President Amal Takieddine Najjar says, quoting Khalil Gibran, "You give but little of your possessions. It is only when you give of yourself that you truly give."



# Conflict Medicine

## Healing in the Midst of Turmoil

Conflict medicine practitioners work in some of the most demanding environments worldwide, providing medical care to people who have been injured, displaced, or traumatized by the ravages of conflict. In these circumstances, hospitals are often reduced to rubble, and medical workers must scramble to provide care in makeshift clinics, with patients arriving in horrific condition and inadequate resources to go around.

In these extreme environments, doctors must learn to function with limited resources and adapt to ever-changing circumstances. They may have to perform complex surgeries in provisional clinics or triage injured people despite having few personnel to treat them, and yet, through it all, they are expected to provide the best possible care to their patients.

Regions marred by armed conflicts and escalating climate disasters have, unfortunately, become all too familiar with the field of conflict medicine, which has emerged as a crucial pillar of healthcare. This specialized discipline, dedicated to providing medical care in the midst of strife and instability, plays a lifesaving role for countless civilians caught in the crossfire of violence and environmental upheaval.

**Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta** is an experienced conflict medicine practitioner who has worked in Gaza to treat the scores of civilians injured by the conflict. He is the codirector of the Conflict Medicine Program at AUB's Global Health Institute (GHI), the first of its kind in the region, and has seen firsthand the devastating impact of conflict on human health, having treated patients who have been shot, bombed, and burned.



"Conflict medicine recognizes that strife has a profound impact on our health," says Dr. Abu Sitta. "It can lead to physical injuries, mental health conditions, and chronic diseases, disrupting access to healthcare and social services, and exacerbating health inequalities."

Despite the challenges, Dr. Abu Sitta is passionate about his work, believing conflict medicine is essential to saving lives and alleviating suffering in conflict zones. He is committed to training the next generation of conflict medicine practitioners to ensure that they are prepared for the realities their communities might face.

Conflict medicine asks: What is the role of treatment and the physician in armed conflict, and how can we care for patients amid a military crisis? To answer this, medical professionals such as Dr. Abu Sitta are calling for medical schools to incorporate conflict medicine into their curricula so students will be prepared with the necessary tools and knowledge to serve their communities. "When you're producing the next generation of doctors in places like Sudan, Gaza, or Libya, where the junior doctors are the ones in the emergency departments, they need specific skills to provide lifesaving treatment to patients while in extreme circumstances," says Dr. Abu Sitta. "Otherwise, you are failing both the doctor and the patient."

◆◆ **Conflict medicine recognizes that strife has a profound impact on our health.** ◆◆



The gap in conflict medicine education is particularly evident in regions like the Middle East, where armed conflicts have been a persistent reality for decades. AUB, recognizing this critical need, has established the Conflict Medicine Program within its Global Health Institute. Launched in May 2016, the program is the first to be established within a civilian academic institution. The Conflict Medicine Program combines academic expertise with AUB's strategic location in the MENA region, which offers direct access to conflict zones and populations impacted by conflict. This framework builds on local, regional, and international partnerships to engage professionals from academic and nonacademic organizations to treat, recover, and rehabilitate war injuries among civilians.

**Dr. Fouad Fouad**, professor of public health practice at the Faculty of Health and Sciences at AUB, emphasizes the need to expand the traditional definition of conflict medicine to encompass a broader understanding of the interconnectedness between health and conflict. "Conflict medicine is more than just medicine," he asserts. "It encompasses the politics, social sciences, and history of how healthcare is delivered in conflict settings." Dr. Fouad highlights the stark reality that healthcare is often used as a weapon of war, as seen during the Syrian Civil War and in the recent war in Gaza, with hospitals and medical personnel deliberately targeted in acts of violence.



In Syria from March 2011 through May 2019 there were:

566

separate attacks on



348

medical facilities

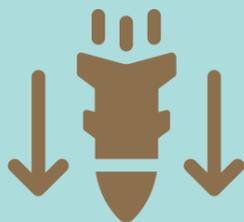


Nearly  
900

medical workers are reported to have lost their lives in these attacks

59%

of Syrians were directly affected by attacks on the health system



78%

of surveyed health workers witnessed at least one attack

24%

reported being unable to receive medical treatment due to an attack on a health facility



This weaponization of healthcare underscores the urgent need to integrate conflict medicine into medical education. Dr. Fouad lamented the current shortcomings in medical curricula, which often fail to equip healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of conflict zones.

Skills learned from conflict medicine programs were initially meant to turn medical students studying in conflict zones into doctors who can save lives in settings of extreme unrest. But the benefits of this education go beyond war-impacted regions. With the ever-increasing threats of climate-related disasters, volatile environments are now a part of life worldwide. Hurricanes, wildfires, and superstorms are wreaking destruction on our planet, and the health impacts from these events are similar to those found in conflict zones.

How do you provide medical treatment when hurricanes have eliminated your access to electricity for medical equipment? How do you treat burn patients when wildfires have consumed an entire community and you can't provide aid in a hospital setting? "With the changing climate, doctors need to learn to function with limited resources and austere environments," says Dr. Abu Sitta. "One of the critical things that conflict medicine teaches you is to develop resilience and adaptability to work in those circumstances."

❖ With the changing climate, doctors need to learn to function with limited resources and austere environments. ❖

As we confront the escalating humanitarian crises of our time, conflict medicine stands as a vital beacon, offering a pathway to alleviating suffering and preserving human life. New generations of medical professionals will face difficult medical settings brought on by conflict and the increasing climate catastrophe. Preparing them to meet these challenges is just as vital for them as it will be for us.

**Editor's Note: The interview with Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta was conducted before the War in Gaza began. Since that time, Dr. WAbu Sitta has spent countless hours treating the wounded civilians of Gaza. The AUB community thanks Dr. Abu Sitta and his colleagues with *Médecins Sans Frontières* for their selfless service, upholding their Hippocratic Oath in the direst of conditions.**





# The Once-Beating Heart of AUB's Community



Imagine a bustling cafe that was once a hive of activity, a place where people from across campus came together to connect over a cup of Turkish coffee or a bite to eat. It was a place where students crammed for exams, caught up with friends, and argued about politics. But more than that, it was a place where the AUB community came to life.

We are, of course, describing the legendary Milk Bar, a campus snack shop that acquired its name from British troops stationed in Lebanon during World War II. It was once located in Ada Dodge Hall, the old student union building that closed over 30 years ago. There are many rumors as to why the famed space closed. Some say that after College Hall was bombed in 1991, it was converted into office space. Others will tell you it was closed in the late 1980s to reduce costs.

The truth is that no one remembers, but whatever the reason was, it still holds a special place in AUB's history. And it remains very much alive in the memories of alumni who were lucky enough to experience its vibrant community.

These never-before-seen photos were pulled from our archives for a special photo essay exploring the memory of our beloved Milk Bar.

❖ **But more than that, it was a place where the AUB community came to life.** ❖



"Imagine a cafeteria where you get in line with a tray as you do at any other cafeteria in the world, but it's not like any other cafeteria in the world. At this cafeteria, you order a Turkish coffee to taste, and it reaches the cashier at the same time you do," says Vahan Zanooyan (BA '72).



"My best spot at AUB was the Milk Bar. It was the post office and the banyan tree, it was where we all met. It was like a dating scene," says Fatima Sbeiti (BA '65, MA '70).



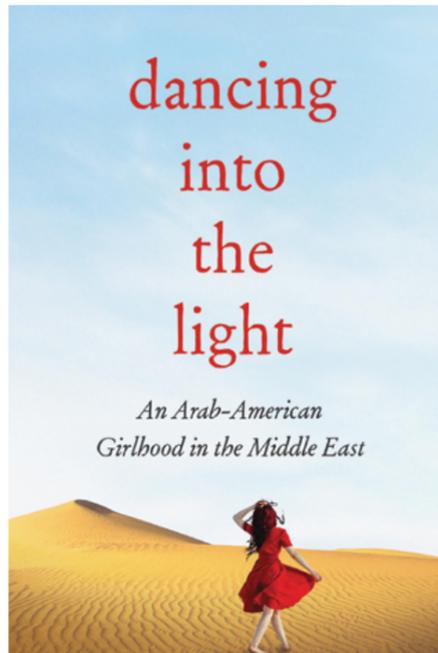
Milk Bar was the place to fall in love, meet new people, or simply enjoy a strong coffee among friends. It was once the heart of AUB's vibrant community. It reflected the diversity of the campus and made everyone feel at home.



"It stood at the center of the AUB student experience. It was the one place where students gathered between classes to have coffee, talk, and exchange ideas, all while listening to the songs played on the jukebox in the middle. I can hardly recall any fond memories at AUB that do not involve the Milk Bar, and I cannot listen to certain Fairouz songs without vivid feelings of my time at AUB gushing out. The Milk Bar was a witness to a whole era now bygone," says Trustee Marwan Muasher (former student 1972-75)

Do you know any of the people in these photos? Email us at [maingate@aub.edu.lb](mailto:maingate@aub.edu.lb).

# Published & Produced

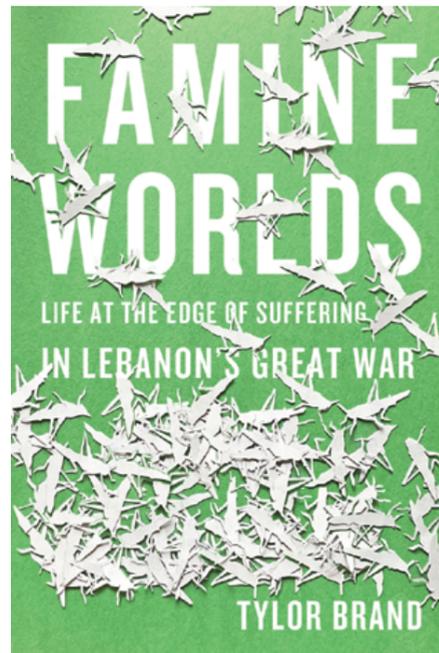


## Dancing into the Light

Book

Written by Kathryn K. Abdul-Baki (former student 1969–71)

Abdul-Baki shares her multi-cultural coming-of-age story of belonging to two vastly different cultures, finding her place within both, and the search to find the inherent harmony in worlds at odds with each other.

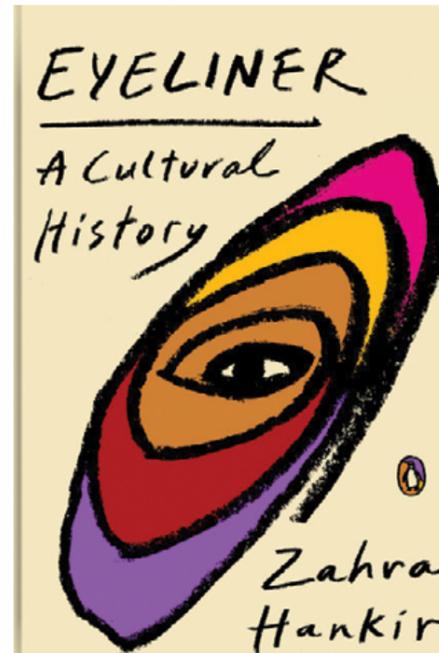


## Famine Worlds

Book

Written by Tylor Brand (PhD '14)

Tylor Brand draws on memoirs, diaries, and correspondence to explore how people negotiated the famine and its traumas in Lebanon during World War I.



## Eyeliner

Book

Written by Zahra Hankir (BA '06)

Seen through Zahra Hankir's (kohl-lined) eyes, eyeliner, this ubiquitous but seldom-examined product, becomes a portal to history, proof both of the stunning variety among cultures across time and space and of our shared humanity.

### Other works:

**Artist's Rooms at Jameel Arts Centre**  
Produced by Daniele Genandry (AUB faculty)

**For the Armenian Cause**  
Written by Zaven Messerlian (BA '59, MA '64)

## MATRYOSHKA

Wanting to crack your shell, like one of these Matryoshka dolls,  
These hollow statuettes filled with increasingly more mediocre  
versions of themselves.  
Crack it and get out of this heavy body, prick this wooden interior,

For the oxygen to reach in,  
For the viscous breaths to get out,  
For the getting up to be lighter  
And the photons less burning.

But you just stand there with your frail body and its dangling limbs,  
These maladapted extensions you never know where to put.  
And you stand there, trying to decipher the parallel realities,  
Running simultaneously in this exact moment,  
Leaving you behind, not even able to grasp one.

And you hide under the fat waves of your darkness,  
This thick blue cape weighing heavily but shielding you from the world.  
Because it feels hideously safer when you know how unknowable it is,  
When you memorized every single one of its parameters,  
Desperately recited them like an incantation, to protect you from pain.

How amorphous its water is, and how inconsistently feeble it makes you feel.  
How taciturn it is, and how simple conversations feel unbearable,  
How fluid it is, and how each thought holds the previous' tail,  
infusing your neurons viciously.  
How still it is, trapping you under layers of thick ripples,  
barely enabling you to move, even less function.

How turbulent it can get in a fraction of time, only to sway you between  
The depth of your pain and the shallowness of your breathing, between  
The abysmal minutes and the peeling crackling layers of your existence.

# Creative Minds

Featuring Original Works  
from the American University  
of Beirut Community



**Matryoshka**  
By Nour Abi Chakra (BS '20)

**Nour Abi Chakra** is a medical student who started her journey at AUB seven years ago when she entered as a biology major. She has embarked on a new adventure and is publishing a book of poetry entitled *Exist-tense*. Through her work, she explores existential anxiety, temporality, and the angst of being.

## Check Up:

# Targeting Cancer with Advanced Germline Testing



In December 2022, the first patients were tested in-house at AUBMC's Medical Genetics Division for a pioneering laboratory test: onco-genetic germline testing. This procedure uses next generation sequencing technology to search for harmful genetic changes that predispose patients to a higher risk of certain types of cancers. "We sequence more than 100 genes that are known to be cancer-related," says division head Dr. Nada Assaf.

"Germline testing" refers to a type of genetic testing that looks for mutations that may have been inherited from either parent and can be passed on to one's children. This type of testing is important for patients diagnosed with cancer—as it can inform treatment decisions such as therapy and surgery—as well as for people with a strong family history of cancer to determine their own risk for developing certain types of cancer. "The determination of cancer risks in candidate families

can save lives. Prevention and early detection have been proven to dramatically increase cancer survival rates," Dr. Assaf says.

Previously, it was generally accepted that only five percent of cancers were hereditary, but with advanced technologies like germline testing and the ongoing discovery of new cancer-related genes, that percentage is closer to 10 today. This is a tremendous increase and means that germline testing has the capability to save many lives by alerting patients and close family members to their risk of developing cancer and initiate adequate prevention strategies.

Before the test is performed, the patient consults with a genetic counselor. The counselor determines if the patient would benefit from germline testing and explains the purpose and implications of the test. Patients may become candidates for surveillance by laboratory/radiology tests or risk-



Dr. Nada Assaf

reductive surgeries. A patient's parents, siblings, and children may also become candidates for testing or surveillance. This adds a major psychological dimension. By presenting comprehensive information about testing and its results, genetic counseling helps decrease the potential anxiety triggered by genetic testing results. During genetic counseling, patients also can have their questions answered by a medical professional.

To perform the test, DNA is extracted from the patient in the form of a blood sample or a cheek swab and is run through the sequencer, which is owned in-house. "The fact that medical genetic testing is performed in-house is critical because it allows us to build our own genetic database as it relates to cancers, which is scarce in the region," explains Dr. Assaf. Each population has its own "hotspots" where genetic changes are likely to be located. This means that they might not be the same for Middle Eastern populations. Thus, it is important to populate databases in regions outside the Global North to help gain an understanding of the significance of those changes and elucidate the particularities of hereditary cancer in our region.

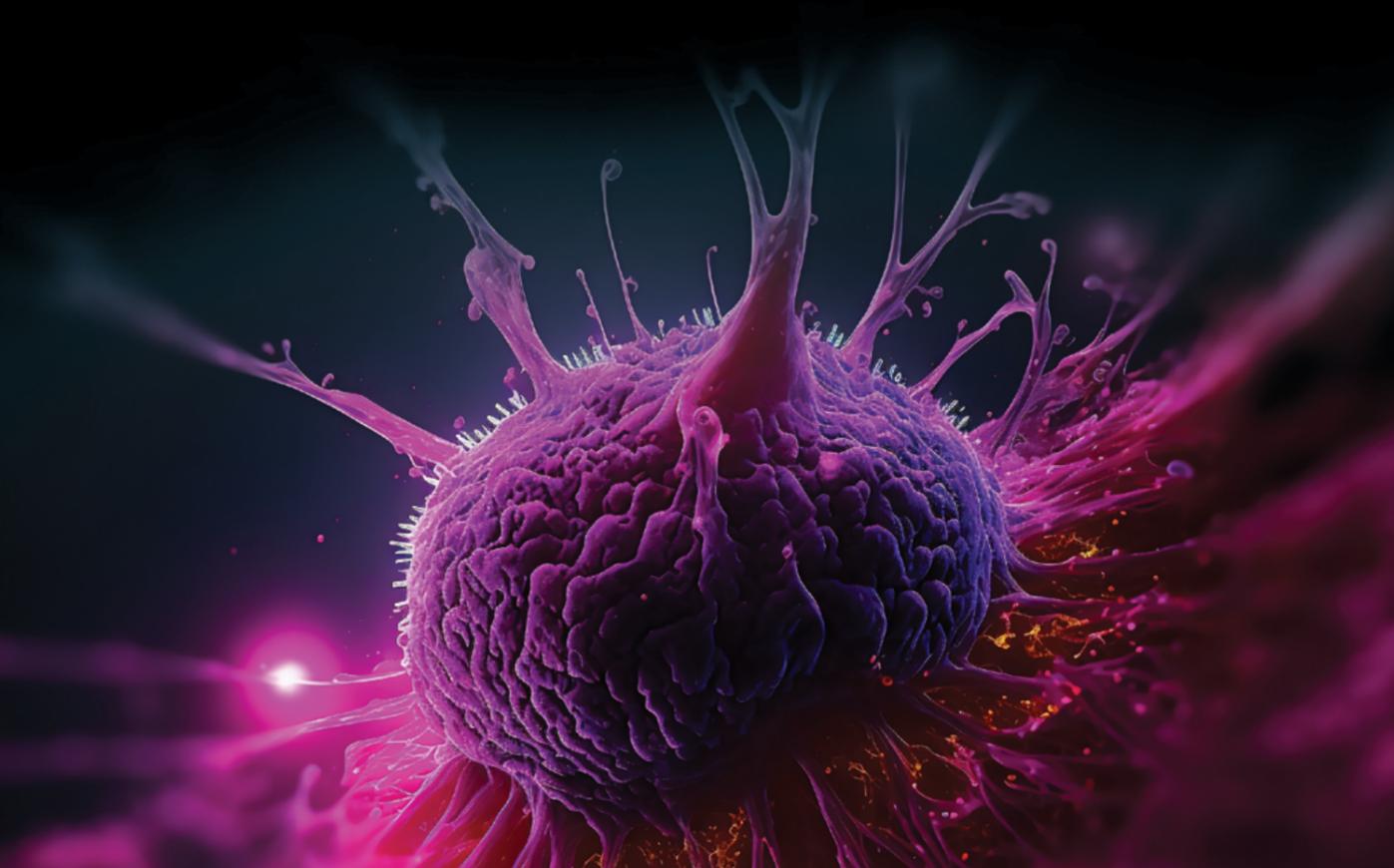
Additionally, germline testing can inform the best preventive and therapeutic treatment regimens.

"If we know that a certain genetic defect is involved, we can deploy adequate targeted therapies. It can also inform surgery options such as bilateral mastectomy for breast cancer risk reduction, just like Angelina Jolie opted for when she was found to have a defect in the BRCA1 gene, which she had inherited from her mother who died at the age of 56 from ovarian cancer. This gave her a high probability to develop breast and ovarian cancer," says Dr. Assaf. "The point is, when it comes to cancer, the earlier you prevent and detect it, the better."

The Medical Genetics Division is part of the Molecular Diagnostics Section at AUBMC's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. It is the first of its kind in the MENA region and offers access to the most advanced medical technology. This is yet another way that AUBMC is

pioneering healthcare in the region and offering world-class, patient-centered care to the people it serves.

➤➤ **Germline testing has the capability to save many lives.** ➤➤





# Record-Breaking Fundraising Dinner in New York City: For Our Students, for Our Patients



Almost 300 alumni and friends of AUB gathered in New York City on November 16, 2023, for the 2023 AUB Fundraising Dinner hosted by the Board of Trustees to raise urgently needed funds “for our students, for our patients.” The event raised \$6 million—a stunning achievement and a testament to the extraordinary generosity and commitment of the AUB family.

During his keynote address, President Khuri described AUB as “a powerful, vibrant, and safe space for freedom of thought, for creativity, and most especially for hope for a better tomorrow.” He stressed the university’s commitment to “do whatever it takes to maintain that remarkable, irreplaceable space.” Khuri highlighted the critical role of the successful and impactful BOLDLY AUB campaign, which has so far raised more than \$760 million and will conclude in 2024, in enabling the university to provide financial assistance to AUB students and in reducing “the number of people for whom finance is a barrier to healthcare.”

One of the special moments during the evening was a heartfelt tribute, led by Trustee Emerita Ann Kerr-Adams (former student 1954–55), Trustee Franz-Josef Ulm, and Trustee Emeritus José Zaglul (BS Agriculture ’71, MS Animal Science ’73), to Dr. Philip S. Khoury, who will be stepping down as board chair in 2024. The incoming chair of the Board of Trustees, Abdo George Kadifa (BE Electrical Engineering ’81), has served as a trustee since 2014 and is the board’s vice chair for information technology and innovation.

“It was truly a memorable evening. Thanks to our exemplary AUB family, we were able to raise \$6 million for our students and our patients,” says Senior Vice President Imad B. Baalbaki. “The evening was a celebration of our university and the singular role it plays in Lebanon and the region—especially during challenging times such as the ones we are living through these days.”



# Giving Day 2023 Uniting AUB’s Global Family

AUB organized its 4<sup>th</sup> Giving Day on December 4, 2023. December 4 is also the day that AUB celebrated the 157<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on December 3, 1866.

Organizing Giving Day on Founders Day highlights the importance of philanthropy at AUB. This was a theme that President Fadlo R. Khuri noted in his Founders Day speech: “This university would not have been established without the philanthropic support that Dr. Daniel Bliss, our first and longest-serving president, was able to gather from generous donors in the United States and United Kingdom. From the university’s founding throughout its tremendous growth—both in size and impact—philanthropy has been a constant thread,” he said.

The campus was buzzing on Giving Day: there were booths, a tombola with prizes contributed by 58 Giving Day sponsors, and a performance by the AUB Music Club.

The competition among AUB’s seven faculties to win one of three Faculty Challenge trophies was fierce. The trophies were announced and awarded by President Khuri during a special ceremony on December 18, 2023, as follows:

 **Highest Percentage of Alumni Donors: Rafic Hariri School of Nursing**

 **Greatest Number of Alumni Donors: Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

 **Greatest Number of Faculty Friend Donors: Faculty of Medicine**

“The ultimate goal on Giving Day is to have as much participation as possible,” says Dr. Khuri. “It is not just about the money raised, but about having our global family come together.”

# AUB4Beirut Run 2023

More than 600 alumni, family, and friends took part in the AUB4Beirut Run 2023 from September 22 to 24, raising more than \$66,000 for eight AUB initiatives: Accessibility for a Bolder Learning Experience (ABLE); AUB Nature Conservation Center; AUB Neighborhood Initiative; AUBMCares; Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service – Community Service Projects; Keepers of the Land; Next Step Program; and University for Seniors. “We are deeply grateful to our generous and dedicated alumni chapters and individual alumni around the world for their support in 2023,” says Associate Vice President Lina Jazi. “We hope that even more chapters and alumni will take part in 2024.”



## WAAAUB Events and Announcements

### Recently Elected



Khalil Joudi, President

#### Abu Dhabi Chapter

President: Khalil Joudi (BE Electrical Engineering '82)  
 Vice President: Suha Takieddine (BA Economics '86)  
 Treasurer: Roger El Feghali (BE Civil Engineering '94)  
 Secretary: Souheila Ali Hassan (BS Environmental Health '94)  
 Members at Large: Rana Abou Mrad (BS Biology '05, MD '09), Ghada Akkawi (BBA '95), Badi Al Akhal (BE Civil Engineering '94), Fatme Al Anouti (BS Biology '95, MS Microbiology '97), Khairat Al Habbal (BS Biology '08, MD '12), Nada Al Rifai Traboulsi (BS Computer Science '99, MMB Money and Banking '01), Hiba Alami (BBA '07), Amro El-Mais (BBA '10), Zeina Kassem (MSN Nursing '09), Farah Sleiman (BFA Graphic Design '11), Raya Zreik (BS Biology '05, MD '09), Elie Zoghbi (BS Biology '95)



Samer Al Rayyes, President

#### Kuwait Chapter

President: Samer Al Rayyes (BS Biochemistry '81, MD '85)  
 Vice President: Mohamad Zeitoun (BA Economics '87)  
 Treasurer: Yasmine Fakh (BA Public Administration '04, MBA '23)  
 Secretary: Fatima Kamali (BA Sociology '88)  
 Members at Large: Nicholas Chalhoub (BE Civil Engineering '09), Soumaya Chmait (BA Political Studies '95), Nada Kazzi (BS Computer Science '96), Rola Mordaa (BBA '02, MS Financial Economics '04), Razan Ghalayini (BS Biology '17)



Rima Jibaly, President

#### Michigan Chapter

President: Rima Jibaly (BS Biology '85, MD '89)  
 Vice President: Kassem Charara (BS Chemistry '86, MD '90)  
 Treasurer: Habib Baydoun (BS Chemistry '11)  
 Secretary: Ghida Arnous (BS Medical Imaging Sciences '19)  
 Social Media Representative: Anahid Terese Der-Vartanian Kulwicki (BS Nursing '76)  
 Members at Large: Jihad Beydoun (BS Computer Science '04), Rana Ismail (BS Nursing '95, MS Population Studies '99), Nada Macaron (BS Biology '94, MD '99)



Ibtissam El Assaad, President

#### Montreal Chapter

President: Ibtissam El Assaad (BBA '93)  
 Vice President: Nadim Badra (BE Electrical and Computer Engineering '14)  
 Treasurer: Souraya Alameddine (BBA '07)  
 Secretary: Noura Momtaz (BA Psychology '05)  
 Members at Large: Ibrahim Alameddine (BS Biology '99, MS Environmental Technology '02), Rasha Bohsali (MBA '20)



Lina Kordahi Badr, President

#### Nurses Chapter

President: Lina Kordahi Badr (BS Nursing '73)  
 Vice President: Dina Madi (BS Nursing '87, MA Education '02)  
 Treasurer: Nouredine Nakib (BS Nursing '22)  
 Secretary: Nour Abdallah (BS Nursing '18, MS Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist '23)  
 Corresponding Secretary: Nihal Soubra (BS Nursing '22)  
 Member at Large: Salma Lameh (MS Nursing '15)



Dina Talhouk, President

#### Ottawa Chapter

President: Dina Talhouk (BA English '00)  
 Vice President: Karim Saadeh (BS Environmental Health '21)  
 Treasurer: Abdo Fakhouri (BE Mechanical Engineering '81)  
 Secretary: Sara Ezzedine (BBA '06)  
 Members at Large: Mohamed Dalle (BA Economics '18), Iman Halabi Merhi (BBA '83)



Shadi Hajjar, President

#### San Diego Chapter

President: Shadi Hajjar (BS Agriculture '99)  
 Vice President: Paula Sleiman (BA Public Administration '88)  
 Treasurer: Mounah Abdel Samad (BA Public Administration '99, MA Public Administration '01)  
 Secretary: Faysal Hasan (BS General '65, MD '69)  
 Social Media Manager: Nada Adjadj (BA Public Administration '78)  
 Members at Large: Colette Acra (BA Public Administration '84), Talal Bakdache (BE Electrical Engineering '75), Zeina Choucair (BBA '07), Oscar Khoury (BE Civil Engineering '83)

# Class Notes

## 1950S

**Fakhruddin Khalil (BA Economics '56, MA Economics '58)** is the founding president of the Arab Bankers Association of North America (ABANA), which currently has more than 600 members and celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2023. Khalil was a general representative of *Union de Banques Arabes et Françaises* (UBAF) for the Middle East and North Africa and a board member of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) in Beirut. He is currently involved in financial and business investment and consulting. An active alumnus, Khalil was president of the AUB Alumni Association of North America (AANA) between 1981 and 1983.



**Mona Khauli (BA Psychology '59)** has been national executive director of YWCA of Lebanon since 1977. In July 2023, the Baptist World Alliance presented her with the Denton and Janice Lotz Human Rights Award for “significant and effective activities to secure, protect, restore, or preserve human rights.” She writes, “I want to acknowledge classmates I have known since elementary school: Nazli Hamadeh, a model for her steadfast pursuit of higher education through loans faithfully settled; Nadia Murad Tamari; Salwa Khoury Awad; Leila Salamoun Khalaf; Sylvia Dumiani Haddad; and many others with whom we have rich memories.”

## 1960S

**Usama Al-Azm (BA Economics '60, MA Economics '64)** writes, “I arrived at AUB after attending Victoria College, an elite boarding school in Alexandria, Egypt. It was a ‘boys only’ institution and as such my first impression of AUB’s campus was the abundance of coeds. The second realization was the very active political life on campus, catalyzed by the tripartite invasion of Egypt that so energized Arab nationalism that tens of AUBites volunteered to go to Syria for military training in solidarity with Egypt. My years at AUB were among the most enjoyable of my life and led to my meeting and marrying my beloved wife, Murshida Shaaban, a brief business program graduate. I sincerely believe that the late 1950s and early 1960s were the most precious years for Lebanon in general and Beirut in particular.”



**Christos Kaltos (BBA '62)** writes, “**Charalambos Maragos (BBA '62)**, **Christos Alexiou (BBA '62)**, and I are all Greek alumni living in Athens. We share fond memories of our lives at AUB and look forward to hearing from other members of the BBA Class of 1962.”



**Mary Haroz Tamm (MA Psychology '63)**, pictured at historic Princeton Cemetery, writes, “My husband, Manfred Dieter Tamm, is buried at this cemetery. There is a Lebanese cedar on his gravestone. We met at the Shangri-La Resort in the Lebanese cedars in 1962 and were married for 50 years. As a master’s student at AUB, I worked with Professor Prothro. I earned a PhD in clinical psychology at the Universidad Autónoma in Mexico City and then did a post doctorate in child clinical psychology at the Devereux Foundation in Devon, Pennsylvania. I had a clinical practice in Princeton, New Jersey, and raised two children. I was also president of the board of the New Jersey Special Olympics. I am now retired. I have wonderful memories of the elegant Casino du Liban, Hotel St. Georges, Byblos, Baalbek, and so many other beautiful sites in Lebanon.”



**Meguerditch Hagop Bouldoukian (MBA '64)**, PhD, writes, “AUB has been an educational hub for our family for many years: eight of us graduated from AUB between 1961 and 1994. I was deputy governor of Banque du Liban, 1985–90, just one of many positions I held during my 60-year career in banking and finance (1961–2021). I also held academic positions, including with AUB’s Off-Campus Program, and authored 18 books, including several award-winning titles. I served simultaneously as central banking consultant to five Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries (1992–93) and have been a keynote speaker at international conferences since 1977. I earned my PhD in banking and finance in November 2022 from the International University of Fundamental Studies, part of the Oxford Educational Network.”

**Murad Jurdak (BS General '66, MS General '68)** writes, “In June 2023, I retired as full tenured professor at AUB after 50 years of uninterrupted service. (I joined the AUB faculty in 1973.) I spent three years as an undergraduate (1963–66) and two years as a graduate mathematics student (1966–68). All in all, I have been at AUB for 55 years, more than one-third of the life of AUB. This is my greatest achievement and most cherished honor. I carry two cards that define my identity: my Lebanese ID, which documents my birth in Jdeidet Marjayoun, and my AUB ID card, which I carried throughout my adult life as an AUB professor.”

## 1970S

**Nizam Peerwani (BS Biology and Chemistry '72, MD '76)** writes, “I completed my residency in pathology at Baylor in Dallas, Texas, in 1980. I am boarded in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology and was the chief medical examiner in Texas for 42 years. I led a forensic team investigating the fire deaths of religious cult members in Waco, Texas, after a siege by the FBI. As an advocate for human rights, I have investigated genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia as well as human rights’ violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Bahrain, and Guatemala. I am married to **Fadia Rashidi (BS '72)** from Beirut.”

**Pornchai Suchitta (BA Sociology and Anthropology '72)** writes, “After graduation, I returned to Thailand and taught at Silpakorn University before going to the US to earn my master’s (’79) and PhD (’93) degrees at Brown University. After teaching again at Silpakorn University, I joined USIS in Bangkok and then the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Thailand, Bangladesh, and Timor-Leste. I worked for UNFPA until my retirement in 2012. I now live in Bangkok with my wife and two children and keep busy writing articles on anthropology, history, and archaeology. I just published *Timeline in Thailand since Prehistoric up-to Present Day*. I look forward to visiting Lebanon again soon. I would love to hear from any of my AUB colleagues.”

**Bayan Tabbara (BS Chemistry '77, MA Economics '80)** writes, “I spent most of my career at the UN ESCWA office in Beirut. It was very interesting and rewarding. I was convinced that I was contributing to promoting social development in the region. However, when the so-called Arab Spring erupted in 2010, I felt that all my work was just ‘ink on paper.’ I took early retirement and enrolled in a seminar on meditation

in India that made me forget all my grievances and discover a new ‘Bayan.’ I am now living in Beirut and spend my time supporting NGOs that actually contribute to social development in Lebanon and painting.”

## 1980S

**Jamal Aomari (BEN Civil Engineering '81)** writes, “I taught structural engineering courses for three years at Khawarizmi University Technical College in Amman, Jordan. I was invited to teach the same courses at another local college during the summer 2023 session. I had a bad experience at the local college with students arguing that they were entitled to higher grades because they paid more for their courses. I left that college and am now looking for other opportunities in the region.”



**Jack Wehbe (Certificate Health Sciences '83)** writes, “After graduating from AUB, I was fortunate to be able to move to the United States, where I completed my BS and MHA in healthcare administration at two California state universities (Dominguez Hills and Northridge). I met my wife in California. We later moved to Rhode Island, where we raised three sons. We just moved our youngest son (seen in this family photo taken at his graduation party) to college. I thank God for all the opportunities that I have had. AUB had a huge impact on my life. It taught me to work hard and move forward.”



**Wakim Assaf (BEN Electrical and Electronics Engineering '84)** writes, "After graduating in 1984, I worked for a year as an assistant professor. In 1985, I joined Texas Instruments in Lebanon, where I later became technical manager. I worked with mini-computers and peripherals before joining CAP Computers and moving to networks and security. Other highlights: I got married in 1987 and established my own IT company, Netalive, in 2002. It's an IT support company serving small and medium-sized businesses. We are Microsoft partners and hope to raise high the reputation of AUB along with devotion to excellence in our professional and personal interactions with clients."

## 1990S



**Kamal Kamaledine (BS Computer Science '90)** writes, "I have moved back to the Middle East and North Africa region after three decades of working in different countries and regions around the world, including Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. I was most recently in Panama City, Panama. I am now based in Amman and am enjoying the beauty of Jordan."

**Abdul Jalil Shreim (BEN Computer and Communications Engineering '93)** writes, "Greetings from Dubai, UAE, where technology is sculpting a new horizon! From the classrooms of CCE to the boardrooms of Tawasol Solution and Services LLC, the journey has been both thrilling and insightful. Leveraging AI to reshape business strategies, I have pioneered multiple initiatives that have not only enhanced operational efficiency but also created novel opportunities. Beyond the professional sphere, my life is enriched by a medley of hobbies like yoga, scuba diving, and the pursuit of innovation. I find solace in exploring AI and technology literature, solving complex problems, and, most of all, in creating code that generates solutions."

**Nahida El Assi (MA Education '95)** lives in Montreal where she is an associate professor, ESL project manager, teacher trainer, and materials writer. She writes, "I recently designed and executed two projects funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and published two related research articles. I'm currently teaching advanced Arabic to Canadian diplomats. I am a public speaker and an active participant and presenter in a number of independent, secular, nonpolitical, and nonprofit cultural societies in Montreal. I am the mother of three children—Moe, who is a manager at Hitachi Energy; Hiba, a family doctor; and Daniel, a civil engineer—and have three smart grandchildren."



**Bachir Saghir (BS Agriculture '96)** writes, "I was happy to reconnect with the AUB alumni relations team during my visit to campus in May 2023. I am currently Doha-based and working with Ibtikar Technology Solutions as a business development manager. Technology nowadays has tremendously eased the way we communicate. I look forward to connecting with alumni through the AUB Online Community platform."



**Hasan Al Ali (BA Public Administration '98)** writes, "I am currently a consultant to the Planning, Quality, and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Justice in Qatar. My company, Optimus, provides, designs, and delivers trainings and business development solutions of all kinds. We have expanded into many countries in the Gulf and the Far East."

**Jean Elie Tabbal (MD '98)** is an assistant professor of anesthesiology and pain medicine at Duke University Hospital. He writes, "I worked at Saint George Hospital University Medical Center for almost 17 years. The August 4 Beirut blast, however, was a turning point in my life! It did to me what a 20-year civil war could not do: make me leave the country for good. Luckily, my family and I were able to move to North Carolina. We love it so far. We still love our Lebanon very much. I hope one day we learn how to love our country and respect it more than anything else in the world."

**May Awar Ammar (MA Public Administration '99)** has been managing research grants and intellectual property rights protection at AUB, her second home, since 2005. She is the Title IX deputy for the Equity and Title IX Program under the Office of the President. The program provides an avenue for AUB community members facing discriminatory harassment. She

has also been part of the university team working on the accreditation of the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo in Pafos, Cyprus. May is currently enrolled in the doctorate in business administration program at the *Université IAE Nice and École Supérieure des Affaires*, conducting her research on the evolving role of research offices in academia.

**Wassim I. Antar (BA Political Studies and Public Administration '99)** writes, "I worked at Thomson Reuters for several years before moving to Cedar Rose International Services, where I have built my expertise in the integrity, due diligence, and compliance industry. I am currently the product manager for due diligence solutions at the company. I have also earned an MBA and became a certified fraud examiner. My beautiful career-oriented wife and I have two children and live in Cyprus. I recently met with the leadership of AUB Mediterraneo in Pafos. I am extremely excited and thrilled to witness the expansion of our great university allowing more students to live the AUB experience!"

## 2000S

**Aline Assaf (MMB Money and Banking '01)** writes, "2020 was a turning point in my life as a series of unprecedented challenges emerged. I was diagnosed with breast cancer and braved the pandemic-induced global lockdown and Lebanon's deepening financial crisis. The devastating explosion in Beirut on August 4 compelled me to depart from my job at AUB and start anew in California. Enduring these trials, I conquered my health battle and transitioned to the role of a systems analyst. Meanwhile, a beacon of pride shines as my daughter undertakes engineering studies at UC Berkeley, a testament to our collective resilience."



**Hassan Aboulhoda (BEN Civil Engineering '03)** writes, "I have spent many years in the UAE at different international companies, first as a junior civil engineer and eventually as project manager. In 2012, I established A & A Engineering Contracting Company LLC specializing in G+4 turnkey projects including buildings, fit-outs, maintenance, and project management. I am now the operations manager, a position I share with my partner. I recently appeared on Emarati, a TV show in the UAE, as part of a program about entrepreneurs."



**Marwa Abou Daye (BA Public Administration '05, MA Public Administration '08)** writes, "A few years ago, I took on a new challenge alongside my full-time job in consulting: establishing a sunset resto-bar in Koura. I wanted to create a place that would remind people that even in the face of difficulties, the sun sets every evening to shine on the next morning, bringing with it rays of hope and better days. In April 2021, Tallé Koura opened its doors for the first time. It's only 75 minutes from Beirut and 20 minutes from Tripoli. Looking forward to having you visit, support, and, together, embrace new challenges and opportunities in beautiful Lebanon."

**Nizar Estatie (BEN Civil Engineering '05)** writes, "The post-COVID period was a challenging time to transition from working in the Gulf to starting a new career in Germany. It is not easy to learn a new language as you approach the age of 40, but I have no regrets. I admit though that language is not the only barrier that one has to overcome. There are obvious cultural differences in Germany as well. I have recently assumed the role of procurement and logistics manager at an international company. Thank you to God, and to my parents and family, who supported me during the ups and downs."

**Afifa Shatila (MS Biochemistry '05)** is a research assistant at the AUB Medical Center and the mother of two beautiful daughters: Lara, who is 10, and Rania, who is eight years old. She loves to jog, read, travel, go to the cinema, and eat pizza. Her slogan in life: Never ever give up!



**Georges Gharios (BS Agriculture '07)** writes, "I'm thrilled to share that I recently graduated from the University of Dundee in Scotland with a PhD in water law. My thesis delved into the traditional knowledge and sustainable development of water in Lebanon, focusing on reclaiming ancestral water management practices in rural South Lebanon. It was a profound journey of understanding and reconnecting with my roots. I'm eager to apply this knowledge and contribute to sustainable water solutions in our region. I'm looking forward to hearing updates from fellow alumni!"

**Nabil Saleh (BS Medical Laboratory Technology '07)** writes, "I have enjoyed a rich and diverse 17-year career in the medical industry and stand as a testament to dedication and expertise. Having worked at various companies and in several countries, I have cultivated a deep-rooted understanding of the intricacies of healthcare across borders. Today, I proudly hold the position of training and education lead for structural heart therapies at Medtronic, overseeing the Central Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Russia regions. Outside of my flourishing career, I have also embraced the joys of family life, having married and become a loving parent to two wonderful children: an 11-year-old son and a nine-year-old daughter who are a constant source of inspiration and motivation in my remarkable journey."



## 2010S

**Sahag Pailian (MFIN Finance '15)** is a seasoned finance professional with extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He currently heads the US financial planning and analysis function at Lupin Pharmaceuticals, a multinational generic pharmaceutical company specialized in the development, manufacturing, and distribution of medications across the globe.



**Mona Akra (BA Psychology '14, MA Clinical Psychology '17)** writes, "I left Lebanon in 2017 to return to my other home country, Germany, after completing my degree in clinical psychology. I am in the process of getting training to become a licensed psychodynamic therapist. My German partner, Martin, and I plan to get married next year. This merging of two cultures has been quite the journey. Martin and his family accompanied me on my visit to Lebanon this year and loved the AUB campus. My alma mater is always in my heart and I love returning to it regularly."



**Ebrahim Karam (BEN Electrical and Computer Engineering '17)** writes, "I am currently working for Animax, an animatronics company in Nashville, Tennessee. I have been involved in a number of cool projects—including Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. I was also lucky to be a member of the committee for the SIGGRAPH 2023 Virtual Theater, which took place in Los Angeles on August 6–10, 2023."

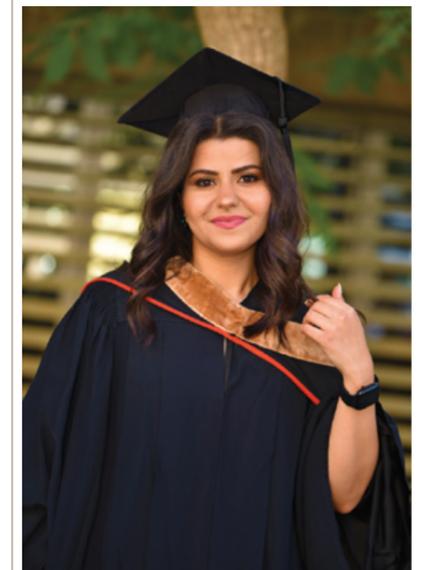
**Cathrine Terro (BS Nutrition and Dietetics '17)** writes, "Being at AUB ignited a journey that continues to brim with excitement. After graduation, I ventured to Rome, where I earned my master's degree in food security and human development. My journey has taken me around the world, allowing me to attend global conferences, disseminate my knowledge, and connect with profoundly inspiring individuals. A year ago, I was honored to be selected for the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellowship program. I'm pursuing my doctoral degree in collaboration with several EU projects and academic organizations."

**Gina Barghouti (BA Political Studies '18)** writes, "I miss my time at AUB every day! After the August 4 explosion, I returned to Oregon to be around my family. I am now working with federal and state refugee resettlement programs serving newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Myanmar, and many other places as well. I provide employment support, English classes, housing assistance, food and medical care, and immigration legal services to our clients. I guide them as they adjust to life in the US. I'm proud of the clients I work with and of being a part of their success here in the US."



## 2020S

**Anthony Kettaneh (BBA '21)** writes, "Hi AUB, I miss you very much. I am currently working at Google as an account manager in the Dublin office. I joined Google in January 2022 after graduating. It's already been almost two years since I left AUB! If you are reading this, don't hesitate to reach out to me and let's connect!"



**Aya Khodr Haidar Ahmad (BBA '23)** writes, "I wish to express my profound gratitude to AUB for the pivotal role it has played in shaping my journey. The education and experiences I gained there laid a solid foundation for my achievements. As I stand on the threshold of a new chapter as a core assurance associate at the esteemed PwC company, I am acutely aware of the enduring impact of AUB's influence. I'm about to embark on a new chapter filled with success and happiness. My message to all is to stay consistent, keep your dreams alive, and never give up."

# In Memoriam

## Alumni



**Mary A. Kilbourne Matossian (MA History '52)**

**Mary A. Kilbourne Matossian (MA History '52)**, PhD, passed away on July 9, 2023. A brilliant student, Mary earned both her BA ('51) and her PhD ('55) degrees at Stanford University. It was during her year at AUB as a Rotary Fellow that she met her future husband, Dr. Garo S. Matossian (MD '49), who passed away in 2004. Mary was a professor of history at the University of Maryland for 31 years. Her groundbreaking 1962 study, *The Impact of Soviet Policies in Armenia*,

stood virtually alone for two decades as the main Anglophone source on Soviet social reforms in Armenian life. Mary was also the author of *Armenian Village Life before 1914* (with Susie Hoogasian Villa, Wayne State University Press, 1982); *Poisons of the Past: Molds, Epidemics, and History* (Yale University Press, 1989); and other scholarly works. She is survived by her children, Lou Ann, Michele, Viken (Mary), and Mark (Renée) Matossian, and nine grandchildren.



**Farouk Saeed Muwakki (BA Economics '58)**

**Farouk Saeed Muwakki (BA Economics '58)** passed away on June 1, 2023. He was the beloved husband of Nada Khouja Muwakki and the loving father of Rola, wife of Bilal Lopez; Riad, husband of Lena Horani; and Yasser, husband of Safia Smadi. Farouk, who earned a master's and PhD ('66) in finance and economics at the University of Nebraska, spent many years as a professor of economics at Notre Dame University. He was chairman of the Business and

Economics Department at St. Mary's/Notre Dame University from 1972 to 1975. Farouk also had a career in the private sector. He was an advisor at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait and special advisor to the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait. He also worked with EF Hutton in London. A dedicated father, loving husband, and charismatic professor, he will be deeply missed.

Notices for "In Memoriam" may be sent to [maingate@aub.edu.lb](mailto:maingate@aub.edu.lb)

## Her Legacy: Nada T. Kobeissi

The late Professor Nada T. Kobeissi and her husband, Professor Iftekhar Hasan, shared many passions, including trust in AUB and a strong belief in the transformative impact that education can have on an individual and society. Nada and Iftekhar established the Women in Design Scholarship in 2017, which benefits women students pursuing degrees in graphic design and supported the AUB4Women campaign. After Nada's passing on September 18, 2020, Iftekhar established the Dr. Nada T. Kobeissi Endowed Scholarship to honor her memory. He and Nada's friends and colleagues at Long Island University, where she was

a professor for over 18 years, also established the Dr. Nada T. Kobeissi Endowed Excellence Award in Management. Dr. Iftekhar explains, "Nada's colleagues and I are delighted to join forces with AUB in this modest way. It is profoundly satisfying to observe this significant institution's commitment to having a lasting global impact by educating and enlightening the young minds of Lebanon and beyond." Senior Vice President Imad B. Baalbaki comments, "We are deeply touched and honored by the compassion and generosity of Dr. Iftekhar and Dr. Nada's many family and friends who chose to honor Nada's memory at AUB."



## Alumni

**Salah Abu-Shakra (BS Agriculture '57, MS Crop Production '59)**, PhD, passed away on February 9, 2023, in Bakersfield, California. Dr. Abu-Shakra was a long-time member of the AUB faculty (1964–89). He published over 40 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and was a founding member of the Lebanese Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1979, he was seconded to the AUB team in Saudi Arabia and appointed adjunct professor of agronomy and technical director of the

RAWRC (Agriculture and Water Research Center, Riyadh). Dr. Abu-Shakra moved to Bakersfield, California, in 1986, where he served as general manager of Cal Farm Invest, a farm in the San Joaquin Valley that produces pistachios, wine grapes, and apples. He was awarded the FAFS Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011. Dr. Abu-Shakra is survived by his wife, May, and his children, Ramzi, Makram, and Reema, and their families.



**Salah Abu-Shakra (BS Agriculture '57, MS Crop Production '59)**

**Victor Nassar (BA '60, MD '64)** passed away on April 15, 2023. A founding member and past president of the Atlanta alumni chapter, Dr. Nassar was a pillar of the community. He was born in Nazareth, Palestine, and grew up in Haifa, then in Lebanon. After earning his MD degree at AUB, Dr. Nassar traveled to the US to pursue his training at Emory University (1963–66), Columbia University (1967–68), and Johns Hopkins University (1968–70), specializing

in anatomic and clinical pathology. "He adored all three countries he called home—Palestine, Lebanon, and the United States—and gave generously to the places that sheltered him during his incredible life," remembers his family. Dr. Nassar is mourned by his son Paul; his son Tim and daughter-in-law Carly and their children, Melanie Jane and Haytham Victor; his brothers, Constantine (Costa) and Theodore (Teddy); and many relatives and friends.



**Victor Nassar (BA '60, MD '64)**

**Saif Saleh Al Hinai (BBA '77)** passed away on May 28, 2023. He was a visionary who, with his brother Sheikh Said Saleh Al Hinai, guided Fahmy Furniture from its beginnings in 1973 as a small retail shop in Ruwi, on the outskirts of Muscat, Oman, to its role as a pioneer in the furniture business with suppliers from Latin America to China. Throughout his life, Sheikh Saif stayed in touch with his alma mater. "Sheikh Saif was one of our

prominent alumni in Oman," says Senior Vice President for Advancement and Business Development Imad B. Baalbaki. "He was a modest man who took great pride in the success of Fahmy Furniture. His determination to grow his company and his commitment to providing a high-quality product to his customers was inspiring. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the company that he founded and led until his tragic passing."



**Saif Saleh Al Hinai (BBA '77)**

**Narine Bolghourjian (BE Civil and Environmental Engineering '08, MBA '18)** passed away on June 7, 2023, at the age of 36 after a courageous battle with cancer. Narine majored in civil and environmental engineering and graduated with high distinction, receiving the CEE Distinguished Graduate Award. She obtained an MS in CEE from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2009. Narine then worked at Samir Khairallah and Partners from 2010 to 2018, completed an MBA at AUB in 2018, and joined Roland Berger in Dubai as a consultant in 2019. A person of remarkable character, Narine had an unwavering positive attitude,

indomitable fighting spirit, and a steadfast dedication to helping others. She is sorely missed by her parents, Salpy and Vatche; her sister, Tsoler; extended family members; and countless friends. Donations in her memory may be sent to AUB for the **Narine Bolghourjian Endowed Memorial Fund**, which will benefit undergraduate Armenian students.



The Narine Bolghourjian Memorial Fund



**Narine Bolghourjian (BE Civil and Environmental Engineering '08, MBA '18)**

## Alumni



**Alain Zogheib**  
(MPH Epidemiology & Biostatistics '13)

**Alain Zogheib (MPH Epidemiology and Biostatistics '13)** passed away on May 10, 2023. Alain, who earned a doctor of pharmacy degree at Lebanese University in 2004, was a former board member of the Lebanese Order of Pharmacists (2015–18) and the president of the Middle East Clinical Research Institute since February 2010. He

worked for a number of companies during his career, including ClinServ International (2007–12), Abbott (2012–13), and AbbVie (2013–16). A treasured member of the FHS community, Alain's passing is mourned by his wife, Zeina Abou Jaoude, and his children, Nay and Jude.



**Dana Kambris**  
(BA Economics '16)

**Dana Kambris (BA Economics '16)** left this world on June 12, 2023. She was a strong voice for the voiceless. Nothing stopped her—not even a diagnosis of brain cancer in early 2016. She did not miss a single day of school and continued to devote herself to AUB's student newspaper, *Outlook*, serving as managing editor in 2015–16. She earned an MFE at Western University in Canada and worked in the fields of finance and environmental, social, and governance

(ESG) research. Dana was a silent, but powerful and graceful, cancer fighter, an avid mentor, and a generous supporter of disadvantaged youth wherever she lived. She kept Lebanon and AUB close to her heart throughout her life. Dana's memory lives on in the hearts of her parents, Yehia Kambris and Mona El Kouatly; her sisters, Reem and Rayyana Kambris; her extended family; her AUB *Outlook* family; and her colleagues, friends, and mentees across the globe.

## Friends



**Ibrahim B. Aziz**

**Ibrahim B. Aziz** passed away, in peace, on April 1, 2023, in Florida, surrounded by his family. Ibrahim, who was known by many as "Bob," was born on January 1, 1931, in Jezzine, Lebanon. He began working at the Food Services Department on November 1, 1952, retiring as chief cook on September

30, 1995. Ibrahim was predeceased by his beloved wife, Evelyne. He is survived by his two daughters, Nada and Nawal, and his two grandsons, Samir and Camil. Although he loved to cook and was a passionate gardener, he most enjoyed being a father and grandfather. He will be sadly missed.



**Margaret ("Dale") Penrose Harrell**

**Margaret ("Dale") Penrose Harrell**, daughter of former AUB president, Dr. Stephen B. L. Penrose Jr., passed away on July 13, 2023. Dale lived in Beirut with her family between the ages of 11 and 18 when her father was president of AUB. Although President Penrose died in December 1954, the family stayed in Beirut until June 1955 so that Dale could complete her senior year at ACS. When Dale visited Beirut in fall 2019 for the rededication of Penrose Hall with her brother, Dr. Stephen Penrose, and her niece, Kate Penrose, her first visit to Beirut in more

than 60 years, she said that being on the AUB campus again felt like "being home." After graduating from ACS, Dale attended Whitman College, where she earned a BA in sociology. She later earned a master's degree in sociology from Duke University. She and her late husband, Herbert Hathaway Harrell Sr., had two children, Kathy and Bud. Dale left a profound impact on her community in Chesapeake, Virginia, where she lived for more than 50 years as a school librarian, tireless volunteer, and member of the Great Bridge United Methodist Church.

## Friends

**Richard Ela Sawyer** passed away on February 14, 2023. He spent two years at AUB (1957–59) as administrator of the American University Hospital (AUH), now known as the AUB Medical Center, and an assistant professor of public health. He joined AUB shortly after earning an MS in hospital management from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (1956). Although he spent only two years at AUB, he told stories about his time

in Beirut throughout his life. After leaving AUB, Richard spent seven years as the chief executive officer of Jefferson Frankford Hospital in northeast Philadelphia. During his 60-year career, he performed consultative work with a number of clients and hospitals in the US and around the world. He is survived by a large and extended family, including his first son, Charles, who was born at AUH in 1958.



**Richard Ela Sawyer**

**Fawzi M. Yaqub** died on April 24, 2023, at the age of 91 in Fredonia, New York. Born in Anabta, Palestine, on December 19, 1931, Fawzi received his BA in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1954 and his PhD from Indiana's Purdue University in 1962. In 1953, he married Dorothy Seibert of Watsonville, California. The couple had five children and remained together until Dorothy's death in 1974. From 1966 to 1986, Fawzi taught mathematics at AUB, attaining the rank of professor in 1982. In Beirut, Fawzi and his second wife, Penny Williams Yaqub, whom he married in 1978, witnessed the horrors of the Lebanese Civil War and the 1982 Israeli

invasion. From 1987 until his retirement in 1998, Fawzi taught at the State University of New York at Fredonia. Throughout his time in Lebanon, Fawzi embraced AUB's educational mission. He devoted himself to teaching and mentoring students, many of whom long remembered his warmth, humor, and keen sense of fairness. Even after leaving Lebanon, he remained in touch with former students and colleagues and continued to support AUB from afar. Fawzi is survived by Penny; by his children, Rihab, Adnan, Nadia, Samia, and Salim; and by his brother, Faruq and his sister, Hanan.



**Fawzi M. Yaqub**

**Suad Salem Ziadeh** passed away on November 26, 2022. Her late husband, Professor Farhat J. Ziadeh (BA '37), and her daughter, IAC member and ambassador Susan L. Ziadeh (MA '78), were both AUB alumni. Suad was born in Ramallah, Palestine, in 1930 and graduated from the Ramallah Friends (Quaker) Girls School in 1948 before moving to the US with her family. She and Farhat, who passed away in 2016, were married for over 67 years.

Suad cared deeply for her family, friends, and neighbors and welcomed people into her home with grace and warmth. A leader in the Seattle Arab-American community, Suad was a champion for Palestinians and Palestinian causes throughout her life. She is survived by her daughters, Shireen (Albert) Abed, Susan Ziadeh, Rhonda (George) Salem, Deena (Bilal) Ayyub, and Reema Ziadeh; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



**Suad Salem Ziadeh**

## Partnerships for AUB

The Wellspring Learning Community (WLC) has earned the prestigious honor of being Lebanon's first English-language IB Continuum World School that offers the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP). Wellspring was established in 2007 and has more than 800 students at the primary and secondary school campuses. WLC's partnership with AUB began in 2016 when it established an endowed scholarship fund to support a WLC graduate enrolled at AUB in perpetuity. In 2023, WLC and AUB partnered again to

establish an employee scholarship that provides tuition support for a WLC teacher who is pursuing an MBA or master's degree in education at AUB. The most recent joint initiative is the establishment of WLC's Alumni Relations and Development Office. "Wellspring's newest endeavor with AUB is another indication of our long-term confidence in our beloved AUB and the educational excellence we aspire to instill in our students (such as the ones seen in the photo on the right)," says Head of School Kathleen A. Battah.



Photo courtesy of Création







Office of Alumni Relations

# SAVE THE DATE

# AUB REUNION 2024

**JUNE 27-29, 2024**

**CELEBRATING CLASSES:**

1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, **1974**, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, **1999**, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019



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