Departments:

**Letters**

President’s view: what the Arab Spring means for AUB

**Inside the Gate**

Views from Campus | Picture this: *debke* meets broadway, Nahr Ibrahim before the flood, Commencement 2011, Folk Dance Festival; search for the Byzantine Anastasis Church; citizen revolt in the Middle East; AUBMC's 2020 Vision

Reviews | *A Photographic Remembrance of Lebanon* by John Waterbury; *Arab Media: PGMC – Polity Global Media and Communication Series* coauthored by Nabil Dajani (BA ’57, MA ’60)

**Beyond Bliss Street**

Legends and Legacies | *First Among Equals* John Wortabet (1827-1908)

Alumni Profile | 14 under 44 Fourteen young AUB entrepreneurs on the best days, the worst days, and their five-year dreams

Reflections | *Campus Constellations* Before Harvard, before the Smithsonian, Owen Gingerich had a jewel in Lee Observatory

Alumni Happenings | Reunion 2011—Renewing Our Promise

Class Notes | Najib W. Saab (BAR ’78) jointly awarded the Zayed International Prize for Environment; Susan L. Ziadeh (MA ’78) appointed ambassador to Qatar; Tarek Yamani (BS ’01) takes music from Montreux to the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead residency at the Kennedy Center

In Memoriam
The (Beta) Twitter Revolution
Nurturing networking for a new kind of revolution

Beating the Biases
For women entrepreneurs, running a successful business is just the first challenge

Souk Sabra
Students put their engineering and landscape design skills to the test to improve one of Beirut’s busiest markets

Their Voices Heard
AUB volunteers teach languages to migrant workers

Checklist For Successful Start-Ups
You’ve got a great idea for a new business. Or is it? A seasoned entrepreneur lists 10 steps to success.
MainGate speaks to President Dorman about the impact of the Arab Spring on AUB—and the opportunities it might present.

MainGate: Have the events of the Arab Spring posed any particular challenges—or opportunities—for the University?

I think for those who are engaged in teaching the youth of Lebanon it is a challenge to try to integrate what is happening so unpredictably in the world around us into the class curriculum. We have had a couple of panel discussions on campus this spring, and in mid-May four speakers from AUB joined me in presenting a series of programs on the Arab spring in New York and Washington, DC: Rami Khouri, Rami Zurayk, Rima Afifi, and Karim Makdisi. The whole thrust behind those panels was that AUB could bring something quite different to conversations about the Arab Spring because we have faculty who have been working for some time on issues related to youth, media, the economy, and politics. These things are at the heart of the revolutionary movement or citizens’ revolt as we refer to it.

I think the value AUB brings to the table is that we can present scholars who are trained in the American tradition but who live and research in the region and bring informed expertise to policymakers, journalists, and pundits in the United States. Most of the talking heads in the US media are exposed to events at a distance, so the AUB perspective is quite different and this presents a huge opportunity for AUB. As a follow-up to the panels this spring we are planning a similar program in other locations in the US and internationally. What is fascinating, of course, is that we may not choose to bring the same panelists and certainly our reflections will be different than they were in the spring.

During the panel discussions in the United States, what types of questions regarding the Arab Spring did you get from the audience?

The panel discussions were more of a give and take about events in the region rather than a static question and answer session. Our listeners were especially interested in the indigenous perspectives of those who are directly involved in the revolts as well as in the possible prognoses for social change. (Links to videos and transcripts of the events are on page 13.)

Can AUB be seen as an interlocutor between the West and the Arab World?

From its earliest days, AUB has been a bridge between East and West. Because the University is based on the model of a broad liberal arts education—which came to fruition in the American context, but whose precepts stem from the European Enlightenment—we are by nature a vanguard of western educational ideals but grounded very much in the Middle East in terms of our regional aspirations, research orientation, and the composition of our faculty and student populations. These circumstances make us very much a de facto interlocutor and one that I believe can and will play a decisive role.

What could be the short and long term implications of regional change for AUB, in terms of admissions, for example? Is there a financial impact?

In the short term, while we are concerned by the implications of events in Syria, for the most part AUB has not yet been greatly affected by changes in the region. It is too soon to judge what will happen in the longer term. The majority of our student applicants are Lebanese and though admissions are very slightly down from last year, it’s hard to say that this has anything to do with regional events.
Are the students engaged in the Arab Spring? Are you seeing increased activism on campus?
Students at AUB, predominantly Lebanese, have been more concerned by the long process of government formation in their own country and the question of how the international community will choose to interact with the new cabinet. So from this point of view we have not seen increased student activism on campus in regard to the broad phenomenon of the Arab Spring. By contrast, the overseas students I have spoken to from Egypt and Yemen, for example, are very concerned with what is happening in their own countries, which is understandable.

You have described universities as positive instruments for social change. How is AUB playing that role in the Middle East today?
AUB is very involved in outreach projects throughout the community. I cannot think of a single faculty that is not engaged in some way in effecting change in the community by bringing education to different regions or introducing self-help projects.

AUB ardently espouses civic engagement as an important part of our students’ experience, as we feel that those who receive a fine education also have a responsibility to contribute their talents to the betterment of the societies in which they live. We hope that through their experiences at AUB, our students will become instruments for social change and to effect that change in their public and professional lives.

Regional change is leading to myriad research opportunities across many of AUB’s areas of expertise. Is AUB planning to introduce any new research initiatives, academic programs, or other activities in response to recent political events?
Many AUB faculty members are already involved in research into many of the factors underlying the Arab Spring. How this research will manifest itself will depend on the initiative and personal commitments of our professors who are closely observing what is happening.

Over its 145-year history, AUB has witnessed many significant changes in Lebanon and the region. How have these shaped AUB? How is the Arab Spring different?
I suppose you could say that from the beginning AUB’s history has been closely tied to changes in Lebanon and the region. The Arab Spring is, in many ways, the consequence of a period of Middle Eastern history in which the outward political stability of recent decades has now been recognized as political stagnation, which people in various countries have finally found the courage and the means to challenge. How this will finally play out, and whether it will result in democratic systems that restive populations are striving to attain, is too soon to know. Will they have the staying power to achieve their aims? How will their confrontations with armed forces end? I do feel that AUB is in a unique position to observe and monitor these developments.

—M.A.

Questions for the president? Email maingate@aub.edu.lb
First, as a follow-up to MainGate’s Beirut spring issue, a note on a recent historic preservation issue roiling in certain circles of the city. In late July, rumors circulated wildly on the internet about the imminent demolition of the historic “egg” building on Martyrs Square. The Urban Planning Department at Solidere quickly denied that there was any such plan and has stated that a new design to use the structure as a cultural space is being investigated.

Based on the wonderful letters we received from readers, it’s clear that even if many of you are far away, you hold the city near and dear to your hearts. We’ll take that into account in future issues. In this issue, don’t miss the report on the work being done by CCECS at Souk Sabra.

We often talk about the virtues of a liberal arts education that seeks to train creative problem solvers who have the critical and analytical skills they need to be exceptional and adaptable communicators. The many entrepreneurs we profile in this issue are a case in point. They’ve applied their varied backgrounds in politics, sociology, nutrition, and computer science and gone on to excel in some surprising and completely new fields. As Hikma Pharmaceuticals founder Samih Darwazah emphasized at a recent talk at OSB, it was his liberal arts education that was an essential component of his monumental success, not just his professional training.

We’re delighted to hear from so many readers and are already poring through the results of the recent readership survey, which is still available at MainGate on-line.

I stumbled upon a copy of MainGate today and I was taken by the brilliant design on the cover. The balance of everything resembling and representing Beirut is breathtaking; from the Raouche to the old houses, the lighthouse, Place de L’Etoile. It’s amazing.

Mazen Fakih (BS ’05, MD ’10)
Sarafand, Lebanon
The artist responsible for the spring cover is Najib Attieh, graphic design manager (we prefer the title “designer extraordinaire”) in the Office of Communications.

I was inspired by this issue about our beloved city Beirut. The cover is especially touching. I am writing to inquire about the contact information of Ronnie Chatah, who gives the walk and talk about Beirut. I often travel to Beirut with colleagues from all over the world.

Ifat Saadeh (BA ’84)
Jeddah, KSA
Contact Walk Beirut by e-mailing walk@bebeirut.org; more information is available at www.bebeirut.org.

Spring 2011, Vol. IX, No. 3
I’m looking forward to the spring edition of MainGate, which is interesting and bewildering. We become aware of the diverse innovations of our faculty and students. We are amazed at the extent of involvement in solving Beirut’s many problems. This makes us wonder if AUB is shouldering the hard work expected of Lebanon? The distinguished work and dedication of Professor Bilal Hamad gives us hope. Likewise recounting the history of AUB through the distinguished life of Dr. Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck. My mother, Zubeida Mogabgab, a niece of Na’oum Mogabgab, who was one of the first 16 graduates of the 1874 Class, used to tell this joke involving Dr. Van Dyck:

Dr. Van Dyck became upset by the actions of one of his daily aides. The worker was so worried about losing his job that he confided to his neighbor about his predicament. His neighbor advised him to go and greet the Doctor and just say “good morning sir.” The worker did not know a word of English, so he had to repeat it in his sleep. The next morning, when he was ushered into the Doctor’s office, he said, “kidmani sar,” (which, instead of “good morning sir” is actually an order that means “walk in front of me.”) Dr. Van Dyck shot back, “Laysh khilfani kan?!?” (meaning “Why—I used to walk behind you!”)

Both laughed. Problem resolved.

Nadim Khallouf (Pharmacy, ’50)
Nashville, Tennessee

What’s the greatest professional or personal discovery you’ve ever made?
Do you have a memento from AUB that’s near and dear to your heart?
What’s your special skill, something you think everyone should know how to do?

Send us your “how to” text in 300 words or less.
At AUB, 2,980 students received financial aid in 2009–10. Can you help one more?

“I have always appreciated what I have and take advantage of opportunities that will make me a better and a more active member in any community or society.” That attitude has served third-year engineering student Wisam Aboulhosn well. Thanks to scholarship support from the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare, Aboulhosn is attending AUB where he is pursuing a BE in mechanical engineering and a minor in engineering management. In addition to managing a demanding course load, work responsibilities at the student computer labs and at the CCC Scientific Research Building, and co-instructing a couple of lab courses, he is also an active member of the Skiing Society, Latino Dance Club, and Communications Club. Although he is not sure what he will do after he graduates in June 2012, his summer plans are set: he is off to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to do a research internship.

Hear more: www.aub.edu/development/scholarship_initiative

To speak to someone about supporting financial aid, contact us at giving@aub.edu.lb

Can you help support an AUB student?

See what’s possible!
Viewfinder

The Outdoors Festival 2011 brought "Old Beirut" back to life. Inspired by Beirut as "Seit El Dunya" (lady of the universe), the festival celebrated the glory and beauty of the city. It was a weekend of games, new music, great artists, and of course, debke.
Commencement 2011

About 1,885 students graduated this year, with nearly 1,700 attending the 142nd Commencement exercises on June 25. The AUB Board of Trustees, meeting in Beirut for the first time since 1983, proudly attended. Commencement was made all the more festive by a colorful parade including stilt walkers, barrel percussionists and live music.
Sacred History
Nestled into the foundations of St. George’s Cathedral, Beirut’s new crypt museum offers a stroll through centuries of religious architecture. Opened in January after 11 years of excavation and preparation by an AUB Archaeological Museum team led by Museum Director Leila Badre, the St. George’s Museum in the heart of downtown Beirut is a remarkable achievement and well worth a visit.

In 1990, when the civil war ended, the once splendid St. George’s Cathedral was a devastated, bombed out shell. Badre took the opportunity to explore what secrets lay beneath the sacred structure prior to Badre followed a hunch that St. George’s might have been the site of the Byzantine Anastasis Church said to have been used by students of Beirut’s fabled law school prior to the destructive earthquake of 551 AD.

To end the year on a high note, we canvassed the community about their best experiences in the past year.

My top moment during AY 2010-11 was
1. ... when the first set of products devised by AUB-IBDAA Awards participants became reality. ... rivaled only by the launch, in June, of the first Ibsar “Biodiversity Village Award” with 21 municipalities competing for the best village green portfolio. Najat Aoun Saliba, Ibsar
2. ... when a local friend of AUB became the first “Founder” of the University for Seniors by pledging a generous donation. Cynthia Myntti, Neighborhood Initiative
3. ... when listening to the inspirational talk by Samih Darwazeh (founder of Hikma Pharmaceutical Company). He emphasized not only his professional pharmaceutical training but also the importance of the liberal arts tradition in education. He chose to focus on the latter as an essential part of his success with the former. Bijan Azad, OSB
4. ... when the student team from the Computer Science Department won the 2011 regional Microsoft Imagine Cup, the world’s premier student technology competition. George Turkkiyah, Computer Science
5. ... a four-day field trip that covered 12 municipalities. In every village the introductory statement was: “They’re coming from AUB.” Selma Talhouk, LDEM
6. ... the discovery of a series of sites along the coast of Lebanon where past tsunami waves had left deposits. This will open the door to a better assessment of the tsunami hazard on the coast. Ata Elias, Geology
7. ... when I received a grant for $74,000 to pursue an important research project studying antimicrobial resistance and its spread in the hospital. Dr. Zeina Kanafani, Medical Student Affairs
8. ... when I submitted the final draft of the book I have been working on since 2008. It is expected to become a reference work on fisheries in the Mediterranean. Michel Bariche, Biology
9. ... initiating a last-minute admissions process for US students evacuated from Egyptian universities in February, so that they could continue to study in the region by switching to AUB. Katherine Yngve, Office of International Programs
10. ... seeing our last three members of the Mashrou3 Leila band graduate. Realizing how successful they have become through their music, while doing very well in their chosen fields [architecture and graphic design], makes me proud. Leila Musfy, Architecture and Design
its restoration. Knowing that religious sites are usually built one on top of another, Badre followed a hunch that St. George’s might have been the site of the Byzantine Anastasis Church said to have been used by students of Beirut’s famed law school prior to the destructive earthquake of 551 AD.

Three successive altars corresponding to three churches from the Ottoman period were excavated in the quest to find the Anastasis beneath. As layer upon layer of history was unearthed, the idea of preserving the excavation for visitors evolved.

Badre and the team then mapped out a 12-stop, self-guided tour through six eras of cathedral history. Push-button lights illuminate the archaeological remains in situ while an audio-visual presentation covers the successive renovations of St. George’s over the centuries.

Burial chambers, fragments of mosaic, and the intriguing remains of a hand-painted fresco all trigger the imagination. A glass ceiling interlinks past and present, unifying the crypt with the magnificently restored cathedral above ground.

Displayed at the entrance to the museum is a cache of relics including pottery from the Roman to the Ottoman period, beautifully preserved medieval crosses and coins, and intact oil lamps, all of which were

"The current youth-led citizen revolt across much of the Arab world reflects massive dissatisfaction with prevailing conditions; it also indicates the desire and capacity of youth to work hard to fix the problems of the past and build more productive, more equitable Arab societies."

—IFI Director Rami Khouri at a forum hosted by Silatech, a Doha-based initiative that promotes large-scale job creation, entrepreneurship and access to skills development services for young people across the Arab world.
found under the southern garden of the cathedral.

As to the Anastasis Church—it remains elusive and its location is still a mystery.

Shakespeare’s Visit to Campus

For two days in May, it seemed as if William Shakespeare himself were stalking the AUB campus searching for his “Oriental roots” or at least a glimpse of his “Imagined Orient.” Thanks to support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Anis K. Makdisi Program in Literature, the British Council, and sponsors MEA and Qatar Air, scholars visiting Beirut at the invitation of the Office of the Provost and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) wrestled to pinpoint just what Shakespeare did and did not know about the Orient and to decipher the true meaning of his many “Oriental” references, most especially in Othello, The Merchant of Venice, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and The Tempest.

Conference participants also meticulously analyzed a host of other Shakespeare plays to further unearth the Bard’s terms of reference. Addressing each other familiarly on the minutiae of their findings, the scholars sometimes left other participants scrambling to catch up, while providing a rare and fascinating insight into the field of contemporary Shakespearean scholarship both literary and historical.

The conference was conceived by Professor Francois-Xavier Gleyzon and his students and proved to be a fitting swan song for Gleyzon who will be teaching in the United States next year.

Confronting Taboos

Arabic has a word for “fallen woman” but not for “fallen man” said Professor Samir Khalaf in his keynote speech at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs.
conference, “Youth, Sexuality and Self Expression in the Arab World.” What Khalaf was pointing out was the prevailing hypocrisy towards sex in the region as demonstrated, for example, by the way in which women are “celebrated and glamorized if they are sexually attractive [and] are condemned if they are sexually active.”

Khalaf, who heads the Center for Behavioral Studies and has written widely on the topic of sexuality in the Arab world, cited delayed marriage as one of several problems confronting a youthful society where extramarital sex, especially for women, is still frowned on. He outlined the “deformations” of conventional marriage—basically temporary marriages of convenience—that have emerged in the Arab world and that sanction short-term conjugal relations.

Brigitte Khoury, clinical psychiatrist at AUBMC, explained that young Lebanese are becoming more open and defiant in expressing their sexuality, even though women especially still report they feel guilt and shame. AUB professor Faysal El-Kak considered how public health services and medical practices help regulate aspects of youth sexuality through procedures such as hymen replacement surgery.

AUB contributors were joined by experts from several countries, who discussed a range of topics from the lingerie industry in Syria, sex in Egyptian cinema, and sexual practices and contraceptive behavior among young people from German and immigrant backgrounds.

Anatomy of Change
Provost Ahmad Dallal invited five campus experts to provide their perspectives on “the regional transformation” of the Middle East during a panel discussion in West Hall on April 7.

Rami Khouri, director of the Issam Fares Institute said that the trigger for what he called “the most important period of history in the modern Arab world” had been the humiliation of the citizen and the de-legitimization of the state, as exemplified by the story of Mohammed Bouazizi, the Tunisian fruit-seller who set himself alight. “Citizens make a difference,” said Khouri and in this case “they captured the collective pain, demanded their humanity, and changed the world.”

Rami Zurayk, professor of land and water resources, examined the role that high food prices had played in previous bouts of dissention in the region, and how these might affect the future. While he concluded that food had not been the main trigger for the recent events, he warned against mismanagement, carelessness, and complacency. “Food security is a key determinant of dignity. It is a determinant of freedom,” Zurayk insisted. “It is a basic right, not a basic right, not a.
charity. We are not bellies waiting to be fed; we are human beings seeking freedom.”

Karim Makdisi, PSPA assistant professor of international affairs, dissected the differing approaches by the United Nations towards Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, and Yemen. He said he was hopeful that if the uprisings succeed, they would shift the debate and the relationship between the international community and Arab countries.

Rima Afifi, professor of health promotion and community health, said the predominant factor causing this revolt is a sense of social injustice. Drawing on her experience working with disadvantaged Palestinian youth, Afifi stressed that Arab youth feel dismissed, marginalized, and unheard. And while this “youth bulge” is often portrayed in a negative light, she said, Arab youth has shown itself as capable of being an agent for change, as well as a voice that needs to be heard.

History Professor Alexis Wick examined the current uprising in the context of the “three circles of revolution” of the last 25 years: the revolution against fear as exemplified by Palestinian and Lebanese resistance to Israel, the revolution against colonialism including Egypt’s revolt against the British and later the Nasserite movement, and the revolt against capitalism. He added that what we are seeing now is not grounded in revolutionary theory or political ideology, but is a moment of great potential when the voiceless masses make the experts voiceless.

All five agreed that the engine for change in the Arab world today was being driven by three pistons: dignity, democracy, and social justice.

Actually, Life Begins at 80!

“Live until you are 80,” says poet Edward Field. “After 80 you start feeling happy.”

A sprightly 87-year-old, Field is a leading figure in American poetry with ten books of poetry and a series of major awards to his credit. In his lecture at AUB entitled “The Life of a Stand Up Poet” he shared with the audience the moving and thought-provoking story of his life, told in prose and poetry.

As someone who has borne witness to the tremendous social and cultural changes that have confronted America, Field represents one of the last true Bohemians to have populated Greenwich Village and miraculously eked out a living purely from poetry. “I didn’t start out being a poet,” he explains, “because I did not know what a poet was.” An anthology of poetry, handed to him by a Red Cross worker to while away the time during a trans-American train crossing, changed Field’s life forever. “I read it and wanted to be a poet; it was what nobody else wanted to do.”

Still surprised and delighted by the notion that he has survived and thrived through writing, Field plotted out a journey in his talk that took him to war, bombing raids over Germany, and a near death experience when his plane was ditched in the freezing Atlantic.

Still surprised and delighted by the notion that he has survived and thrived through writing, Field plotted out a journey in his talk that took him to war, bombing raids over Germany, and a near death experience when his plane was ditched in the freezing Atlantic. Time spent in France and Greece exploring the mechanics of bursting with new construction and energy. And in light of the complexities of the Middle East, I was relieved that my poems, which express my sometimes alternative views but are devoted to sympathy for the downtrodden and to understanding our differences, were well received by students and faculty.

“I can’t help repeating what must be a cliché by now in the mouths of visitors, that the AUB campus is an oasis of calm and orderliness. The welcome I got was amazing—rather
than feeling a stranger, I immediately found myself accepted, and even after a short visit, with wonderful new friends hard to break away from."

Edward Field was a guest of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR), the Creative Writing Program, the English Department, and the Fine Arts and Art History (FAAH) Department. As well as his lecture, Field gave two poetry readings/workshops. Those interested in his work can see him on www.youtube.com/fieldinski.

**Ibsar**

**A Forest of Ideas**

One hundred and seventy students submitted 78 entries, all hoping to win the annual Ibsar IBDAA Award created to mark UN International Biodiversity Day. The theme of this year’s competition was the International Year of Forests.

The entries were on topics ranging from goat repellent to water saving devices; from locally made, environmentally friendly air fresheners and biodegradable hand wipes to a solar driven incinerator to eliminate pine moths. As might be expected, ideas for how to protect and replant the forests were high on the agenda and included a novel new biodegradable cone for aerial planting, fire-retardant tree protection, and a child-oriented campaign to save the forests.

Mahmoud El Dirani and Adham Farroukh took Best Product Prize for “Deterring Goats: Plant Extraction,” demonstrating how an extract from the indigenous Conium maculatum plant found in the Beq'a could be used to repel hungry goats from vine leaves. Best Research Prize went to the “Vertical Village,” which was meticulously devised by Jawad Fares and Abed Hout, demonstrating both original and convincing calculations applicable to large-scale projects. Finally, in an area where water conservation is a perennial topic, the presentation, “Saving Rainwater in Reservoirs for use in the Dry Season,” by Ingrid El Helou and Wael Assi convinced the IBDAA Advisory Board to award them the prize for Best Idea Presentation.

IBDAA took place in collaboration with AUB’s Entrepreneurship Initiative and was sponsored by UNDP-DCC (Donor Coordination Council) and Aramex. A loyal supporter of the event, Aramex provided $1,500 in prize money that was divided among the three awards.

“**What made IBDAA 2011 unique was the Ibsar Boutique, which was a great success. We sold various natural products to many enthusiastic supporters, including natural detergents, hand sanitizers, air fresheners, perfumes, and insect repellants, all inspired by AUB students and developed and produced by Ibsar.”** —Najat Saliba, Director, Ibsar

Eco-tour guide and Professor, Riad Sadek led AUB faculty members on an idyllic hike in Nahr Ibrahim this June. It may have been their last chance; according to Sadek, the area is fated to be submerged by an artificial water reservoir.
Gasping for Air

The good news is that AUB is probably the least polluted area of Beirut thanks to its relatively open frontage on the sea. The bad news is that Beirut is one of the most polluted cities in the world, where 93 percent of residents are exposed 100 percent of the time to unacceptably high levels of nitrogen oxide (NO2). The bottom line: the air in Beirut has the potential to kill us.

These are just some of the hard facts that air pollution specialists, epidemiologists, economists, and government officials shared during the Air Quality in Beirut seminar (cohosted with the National Council for Scientific Research and Saint Joseph University, and the municipalities of Beirut and Île de France).

Beirut’s appalling traffic drives up levels of deadly particulate matter (PM) to often double the World Health Organization’s recommended levels. But it is not just the cars and their diesel fumes that affect us. It is also the dusty streets, the poor quality roads that release particles under heavy pressure from traffic, and the emissions from wear and tear on brakes and tires. Combine these with a plethora of new high-rise buildings that transform Beirut’s streets into urban canyons trapping stagnant, polluted air, and you have a deadly cocktail.

Lebanese own 1.3 private cars per person. Over two-thirds of these cars are secondhand and many are more than 10 years old, meaning their pollution emissions are higher and more toxic than those of newer models. Marie-Louise Coussa-Koniski, pulmonary specialist from the Lebanese American University and Rizk Hospital, told participants that the prevalence of asthma is almost 50 percent higher in Lebanon than in Europe and that the incidence of illness from respiratory and coronary stress in response to pollution is increasing yearly.

AUB Chemistry Professor Najat Saliba urged that solutions adopted elsewhere be implemented in Lebanon. These include converting to bio-fuels and newer cars, more stringent traffic regulations, a decent public transport system including electric buses and modern taxis, plus a change in the culture of transport to include carpooling, bicycle lanes, and park and ride schemes.

AUB Economics Professor Jad Shaaban provided an interesting perspective by pointing out that air pollution is costing at least $10 million a year in health care costs and lost working hours. “We live in a dangerous city,” Shaaban concluded.

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From the Faculties

OSB

Dissecting Entrepreneurship

With all the talk about entrepreneurship and the Lebanese spirit of entrepreneurship, key questions arise: What is an entrepreneur? A risk
taker, an opportunist, someone clever enough to spot a niche in the market and fill it, or an altogether different creature? Is there such a thing as a quintessentially “Lebanese” or regional entrepreneur? What is it that sets the local entrepreneur apart from others elsewhere in the world? And then again, how does a local small-time or family entrepreneur grow a company into a successful multinational in the way, say, that Samih Dawarzah of Hikma Pharmaceuticals did?

These are just some of the many questions that Professor Bijan Azad is considering. He and Tony Feghali are codirectors of the new Olayan School of Business Samih Dawarzah Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management. Inaugurated in January 2011 with a mission to study innovation and entrepreneurship in the region, the center plans to document and enhance innovative practices in the business community.

For Azad, who won Best Conference Award for his paper at the 2008 Academy of Management (the first time a Middle Eastern scholar has been chosen for this distinction), the center presents an invaluable opportunity to initiate quality research and provide outstanding opportunities for graduate students. “One of the things we would like to find out,” Azad explains, “is whether there are regional specificities or not. This is an empirical question, and if AUB manages to contribute to it, then OSB and the center will really be on the map in this field.”

Like other professors at OSB, Azad is already writing case studies on Lebanese entrepreneurs. He is researching Nada Debs’s company East & East (see page 50). He also has top chocolate Patchi in his sights. “Do you know—and this is a universal fact—that small companies like these generate much more employment than big companies by a factor of two to three times?” he says. He is also fascinated by Lebanon’s fabled restaurant sector, another local phenomenon that Azad believes deserves academic scrutiny.

“But how about we start with Samih Dawarzah,” he says. “There are many aspects to study: the products he developed, the processes he put in place to develop those products, how he took the company public and had it listed on the London Stock Exchange. What kind of regulatory battles did he have to fight? After all, this is a two billion dollar company. What is contextual and local about it? This is very important, because we talk about the local culture and what is different about it, but we have a hard time capturing this in our research and management practice.”

Azad also envisages the center focusing on local innovative mechanisms for corporate social responsibility—the logistics company Aramex being a case in point and on the specificities of local and regional family businesses, particularly the challenges they face with regard to succession and going public.
**FAS**

**Ascending the Ivory Tower**

Bilal Orfali, assistant professor of Arabic studies and director of the CAMES Arabic Summer Program, was recently named a visiting member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, for the 2011-12 academic year.

Some 25 Nobel laureates have been affiliated with the institute. Past faculty have included distinguished scientists and scholars such as Albert Einstein, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Erwin Panofsky, George Kennan, and Hermann Weyl.

Orfali says, “Much of the credit [for my appointment] goes to AUB, my home, for many reasons: for being my alma mater and the place in which I have chosen to develop my academic career and for the support I continue to receive here. . .I thank my students, who have been a great source of inspiration, for their patience. I enjoy every single aspect of my life at AUB. However, given the heavy teaching and administrative obligations, not to mention the demands of living in Lebanon, the opportunity to spend a full year in the United States undertaking research is a dream come true.

“The Institute for Advanced Study will be my ‘ivory tower,’” I will use this unique opportunity to explore the rich intersection between Islamic studies and Arabic literature. Specifically, my project will track the genesis and development of early Sufi poetry by examining the origins of the early Sufi poetic motifs in light of other genres of Arabic poetry such as wine, ghazal, and madih poetry.”

**FAFS**

**Partners in Progress**

Ever wonder how those local soaps, olive oils, spices, and treats make their way to your farmer’s market or neighborhood grocer? As part of its community outreach program, AUB has teamed up with the Italian non-governmental organization Gruppo Di Volontariato Civile (GVC) to benefit six villages in south Lebanon in a project known as Karam Al Janoub (officially “Support to the Rural Production and Strengthening of the Network of Cooperatives Karam Al Janoub”). This project was designed to improve rural production and strengthen cooperatives. In tandem with GVC, AUB field coordinator Khalil Olleik worked with local stakeholders to identify regional needs, challenges, and capabilities. Following his fact-finding field trip, strategies were identified for the villages with guidance from Rami Zurayk, AUB professor of landscape design and ecosystem management.

Funded by the Italian Cooperation for Development-Ross Emergency Program and implemented in Aaitaroun, Ain Ebel, Bint Jbeil, Baldet Houla, Debel, and Al-Hallouthiyeh between August 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009, the program trained local farmers and cooperatives in new farming techniques, production methods, and agricultural marketing. The needs, strengths, and geographic particularities of each village were assessed. Aaitaroun farmers, for instance, focused on growing and marketing thyme and natural herbs, while in Houla, laurel (ghar) soap and oil became main priorities. Farmers were also provided with the required materials.

Both the farmers and cooperative employees were also trained in modern production methods. Karam Al Janoub assisted the farmers and cooperatives with marketing their products by providing them with access to local and international markets, arranging stands at food exhibitions in key cities such as Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre; assuring their participation in popular food markets, and securing transport for the products.

Olleik says the project was instrumental in establishing better links between the farmers and their respective cooperatives in the region. This meant local farmers were able to provide for each cooperative’s needs in terms of primary ingredients instead of having to secure them at market prices.

Overall, Karam Al Janoub has been a major success. In each of the villages at least 25 farmers and their village cooperatives benefited from training. Olleik, who followed up with local constituents, has verified that the new methods and techniques are still being implemented and have benefited scores of other farmers in the region who have learned by observing the work of their peers.

**FHS**

**Mother Care**

The Faculty of Health Sciences recently hosted a conference for regional experts in maternal and newborn health. As well as sharing the results of a decade of research at the Choices and Challenges in Changing Childbirth Research Network (CCCC) that has yielded over 40 peer reviewed publications,
participants marked the 10th anniversary of the network. Professor Jocelyn DeJong, CCCC regional coordinator, observed that there has been a rapid increase in the rate of cesarean section and other unnecessary procedures in the region that are not warranted by the latest research. Laura Wick from Birzeit University, coordinator of the CCCC Palestinian team, said that women are not empowered to discuss issues related to their obstetric care and that few women’s groups address maternal health issues. Metin Gulmezoglu of the World Health Organization in Geneva described international efforts to improve the quality of maternal health care. Oona Campbell, professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, stressed that there should be greater global political commitment to improve the health of mothers and newborns. Participants concluded the meeting with a call for more regional exchanges to further facilitate shared research findings.

**Rewarding Research**

Although breast cancer is decreasing in the United States, it is on the rise in Lebanon. Alarmingly, over 50 percent of Lebanese women are under the age of 50 at the time of diagnosis. GlaxoSmithKline recently awarded a $250,000 grant to a team of AUB researchers led by Drs. Nagi Saghir and Nathalie Zghieb. They and their colleagues are hoping to determine the prevalence, penetration, and clinical impact of two mutations (BRCA1 and BRCA2) in young Lebanese patients with breast cancer.

Commenting on the award and its significance, Saghir told MainGate, “[Getting] the Ethnic Research Initiative grant was very competitive. This is the culture [we want to encourage]: making observations about issues that we deal with, for example, breast cancer in young women, then performing situation analysis, asking questions that need to be answered, and making proposals to resolve them. This culture of doing research is what a university should be all about and this is what we pursue and nurture at AUB and AUBMC.”

**Steering Regional Research**

AUBMC faculty member and former health minister Dr. Karam Karam has been elected to the Steering Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Genomics and Biotechnology Network (EMGEN). The network, under the directorship of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, collaborates with selected centers of excellence in health related molecular biology, biotechnology, and genomics on short-term training and research exchange programs, workshops, and meetings. EMGEN also sponsors a website and database to encourage researchers and professionals to network and share information.
The Rafic Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) had a busy spring, being at the forefront of several key events that underline the school’s vital role in local and regional health care. At a ceremony held in the Marquand House gardens in the presence of Lebanese First Lady Wafa Suleiman, the Women’s Auxiliary Association (WAA) recognized five graduate and five undergraduate HSON students for their achievements. Two HSON students received Women’s Auxiliary Scholarships. HSON Director Huda Abu-Saad Huijer thanked the WAA for its generosity and continuing support. She told those present, “A Gallup poll conducted in the United States ranked nursing as the most honest and ethical of all professions for the eleventh straight year. In addition to being trusted and respected, nurses are often the most visible and vital members of the health care team.”

In collaboration with the Middle East Medical Assembly, the Lebanese Society for the Study of Pain, and the Lebanese Cancer Society, HSON organized a conference, “Cancer Pain and Palliative Care,” during which a National Task Force on Pain Relief and Palliative Care was established under the presidency of Dr. Walid Ammar, director general of the Ministry of Health, and the vice presidencies of Huda Huijer and Dr. Michel Daher. HSON was also a key participant in the launch of the Lancet-sponsored international commission report, “Education of Health Professionals for the 21st Century,” which will lead to important developments in health care. At press time HSON was conducting its Summer Nursing Institute in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University.

They have come from Yale, Harvard, Stanford, MD Anderson, the Cleveland Clinic, and other leading US medical schools. In the last 18 months, some 40 top ranking doctors—more than half of them alumni—have arrived at AUBMC in response to Medical VP and Dean Mohamed Sayegh’s call to participate in creating a new state-of-the-art hospital facility featuring interdisciplinary regional centers of excellence.

Alongside the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute, the Marilou El-Sayed Bobst Breast Center, the new Women’s Health Center, and programs like the Hamden Voice Unit, AUBMC is planning several new specialized centers and programs including a skull base surgery program and a heart and vascular center. The incoming doctors are specialized in some 12 disciplines and bring to AUBMC a wealth of experience gained from working in some of the top teaching hospitals in North America. While their teaching skills and research records will help augment AUBMC’s stellar reputation as an educational institute, their medical expertise will also be critical, helping to make the AUBMC 2020 vision a reality.
2020 Vision

AUBMC revealed its 2020 Vision on April 20 detailing ambitious plans for future growth and its commitment to remain the leading provider of health care, medical education, and innovative research in the region. Over the next nine years, AUBMC will pursue its vision along six main paths:

- the development and implementation of the new AUBMC 2020 Medical Complex, a 600-bed medical complex that will include new adult and pediatric hospitals;
- continued recruitment of top-caliber, highly specialized, and accomplished faculty;
- focus on patients’ changing needs and the delivery of patient-centered care;
- the creation of clinical and research centers of excellence, including a Heart and Vascular Center and a Multiple Sclerosis Center, which is set to open later this year. (AUBMC is already home to three centers of excellence in children’s cancer, the neurosciences, and the treatment and research of adult cancers.);
- the establishment of academic, clinical, or research-based strategic partnerships and collaborations locally, regionally, and internationally;
- and renewed commitment to the academic research and education mission of the Faculty of Medicine and AUBMC.

“The history of AUBMC has put a great responsibility upon us. [AUB has] the responsibility of an institution that has contributed to building an excellent reputation for health care in Lebanon and [is] an institution which has been strongly linked with the fields of medicine and health care delivery in the country and the region. Let’s look forward to the 21st century with further improvement and continued leadership,” said Mohamed Sayegh, vice president for Medical Affairs and the Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center.

Provost Ahmad Dallal announced plans for the Faculty of Medicine as well, including:

- curriculum restructuring to ensure an education that leads to better delivery of health care for patients;
- pursuit of additional international certification, particularly ACGME International (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) accreditation;
- and efforts to increase the diversity of the faculty’s student base and accept more students from outside Lebanon.

Another pillar of AUBMC’s 2020 Vision is to serve as a regional hub for research initiatives. “There is a huge gap in data specific to populations of the Middle East and North Africa. As a leading academic medical center in the region, it is our goal to help address these needs in order to provide more targeted care specific to our patient population,” said Dallal.

Since 1867 the Faculty of Medicine at AUB has graduated over 3,700 medical students.

“The hand that AUBMC has extended to the people of Lebanon, reaching to Shabaa, Sidon, Tripoli, and other regions may encourage others to compete and establish health services in these regions. This would benefit Lebanon immensely.”

—Minister of Health
Mohamed Jawad Khalifeh

“Through both calm and turbulent times, we have cared for millions of patients. AUBMC in particular was the face of healing and humanity for communities here in Beirut ... The dedication and resilience of our talented medical staff have been amply proven.”

—President Peter Dorman
President’s Club 30th Anniversary

Although it has provided an abundance of facilities to improve student life over the years, very few students or even faculty members know much about the President’s Club. “AUB students sip coffee in department lounges, work on computers in air-conditioned dormitories, type in Braille, take e-exams, pursue group learning in ‘smart classrooms,’ wash and dry clothes in dormitory basements, and play tennis and basketball at night, but not many have any idea where these amenities come from,” said Club President Laila Baroody in an interview this spring.

It was a discussion between AUB trustees Myrna Bustani and Ali Ghandour three decades ago about organizing people not specifically linked to the University to raise funds for projects not covered by the regular university budget that led to the idea for the President’s Club. “If you had asked me in those dark days of the 1980s whether the club would long survive, it would have been hard to imagine it would grow so efficiently and last so long,” commented founding member Bustani.

Paul Meers, former professor of music and director of the AUB Choir, said the club “was of inestimable help in building the AUB Choir and Choral Society” and gave special help for hiring an orchestra for the annual spring concert. “From the beginning of this tradition, the President’s Club was there, eager to support the creation of fine music on campus.” It’s a tradition that we hope will continue for decades to come.
Reviews


Your coauthors are affiliated with Tel Aviv University, Kingston University in London, and the University of Sharjah. How did you come to collaborate on this volume on Arab media?

We are all Arab professors. I met Professor Rinnawi several years ago and he expressed disappointment that Arab academicians do not collaborate with Palestinian scholars in Israel. With the age of the internet, it was easy to exchange drafts and put into shape the present book.

You argue in the book that regulation and the economics of Arab media industries have had a lot to do with how they have been reorganized in response to the political, technological, and cultural changes that have recently taken place on the global media scene. Could you elaborate on this point a bit?

The Arab media operate within the existing Arab state structures and media laws that are dictated by the overall social structures of Arab states. Because of the domination of authoritarian state systems and a laissez-faire economic outlook, the Arab media concentrate on political news of the ruling authorities and promoting the dominant economic structures. As a consequence the Arab media in general serve the existing authorities at the expense of public interest. The public sphere is thus narrowing in an age of communication revolution and globalization.

Does Twitter or Facebook play a significantly different role in the Arab world than in the United States?

The internet is not yet widespread in the Arab world. Twitter, Facebook, and other social media, which are used primarily by the educated middle class urban people, are necessary but not sufficient to introduce real change. For change to take place these and other electronic media need to converge with the folk media that facilitate face to face communication and are the main forces behind change. One only needs to note how most mass movements take momentum after the Friday gatherings at the mosques.

Nabil Dajani is a professor of media studies in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at AUB.
R&D

**Nametag:** John Hess, MA, Middle Eastern Studies, projected 2011.

**Life before graduate school:** Before enrolling in the CAMES (Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies) master’s program, I worked for an NGO that specializes in educational and entrepreneurial ventures in the Middle East. While studying Arabic at AUB, I found out about the program and was attracted by the opportunity to take courses related to entrepreneurialism in Lebanon and also do field research.

**What matters most:** Ninety-eight percent of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Lebanon are entrepreneurs; they employ 74 percent of the population in Lebanon. My research is important because it focuses on these gatekeepers of the economy who bring products, services, and employment, which ultimately are the main ingredients of any healthy economy.

**Research:** I have developed a series of questions to find out why individuals choose to become entrepreneurs in Lebanon. I am also looking at the county’s history to see if previous eras helped to shape Lebanon’s current business environment.

**10 am Tuesday, 10 am Saturday:** On Tuesdays at 10 am, I am probably trying to make sense of the data I am gathering and organize it into some useful form. On Saturdays, I am headed to the soccer field with my boys.

**Most admires:** I admire my dad the most. He taught me to look for opportunities in every arena of life. When I was 12 years old and asked him for an allowance, he told me to look around the neighborhood for opportunities to make money. As you can imagine, that was not the response I wanted. Nonetheless, we walked up and down the street, brainstormed, and came up with the idea for a Saturday morning car wash company. I earned $60 on my first day of business. I also had a mentor (Jeff) during my undergrad years who helped me to see things that I would have missed without his extra set of eyes and ears.

**Why this topic interests me:** Entrepreneurs make things happen. Although they start, innovate, struggle, and take risks for personal gain, they are also changing the status quo of life and finding solutions in a world of challenge. They work in almost every field, from science and technology to business and social causes.
A Photographic Remembrance of Lebanon (Dar An-Nahar, 2011) John Waterbury

What prompted you to publish a collection of photographs of Lebanon?
Some people urged me to write memoirs of my time as president. I thought that would be of interest to a limited audience and the really interesting stuff, about people good and bad, I would have to leave out. So I saw this as a way to thank AUB and Lebanon for my ten years there in a pleasant and light manner.

When did you take these photographs?

Do you have a favorite photo?
Maybe the Tripoli facades.

Is there a photograph that you wish you had taken, but didn’t?
Countless. The ones that got away outnumber the ones captured—often photos of people whose privacy I did not want to violate. Sometimes I simply did not have my camera with me.

What have you been doing since you stepped down as president of AUB in 2008?
Some consulting, some teaching at Princeton, and now as senior adviser for higher education to the Executive Affairs Authority of Abu Dhabi.

The book may be ordered here: http://www.antoineonline.com/

John Waterbury is president emeritus of AUB.
The region-rocking political instability awakened by the Arab Spring may continue to grab headlines when it comes to the Middle East, but smart phone-wielding Arab technophiles plugged into Silicon Valley have a unique opportunity to help revolutionary change take root.

Instead of signs and slogans, these “revolutionaries” brandish PowerPoint presentations and make their voices heard via web forums and email listservs. The sectarian divides exacerbating conflict across the region are being bridged, though not sealed, by volunteer-driven entrepreneur networks uniting the technological firepower of Silicon Valley with the brainpower of the Middle East.

In other words, perhaps, the controversial phrase “twitter revolution,” coined with the rise of regime-changing movements in Tunisia and Egypt, might better describe the entrepreneur-driven movement currently making inroads in Beirut and other knowledge centers of the region. The twitter revolution—beta, if you will—is professional and cultural, its adherents determined to keep politics and religion at arms length. That said, it has its own liturgical language—punctuated by words like “network,” “mentor,” “ecosystem,” and “incubator”—and its own articles of faith.
CONNECTING SILICON VALLEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Members of both LebNet and TechWadi, two leading networking organizations linking California’s Silicon Valley and the Middle East, sum up that secular creed with this similarly phrased guarantee: “We say, ‘When a LebNet member calls, you pick up the phone.’” says Ra’ed Elmurib, vice president of corporate development at PMC-Sierra Inc. and a member of the LebNet working committee.

Their deceptively simple but powerful mantra had a demonstrated impact when, in the aftermath of the 2006 war, President George W. Bush asked American business leaders to create the non-governmental Partnership for Lebanon. A handful of American and Lebanese corporate executives came together and formed a committee. One of those business leaders, John Chambers, Cisco Systems CEO, appointed LebNet cofounder George Akiki to head the partnership in Beirut. Under the partnership four consecutive waves of interns travelled from Lebanon to Cisco’s Silicon Valley office for training, and after that “the LebNet community sort of acted as a cocoon” for the new recruits, says Akiki, now Cisco’s senior director of corporate affairs in California.

George Skaff (BE ‘83, MBA ‘86), chief marketing officer at the technical computing company SGI and another LebNet working committee member, makes it clear why such action is necessary: “The job market is very competitive nowadays…much more so today than when I started. It’s ‘Who do you know?’… and ‘Who can make your introductions for you?’” But LebNet and its MENA-wide counterpart TechWadi are more than virtual switchboards.

Cofounded by Elie Habib, LebNet emerged at the height of the internet boom 12 years ago after a casual discussion in Habib’s family room. Since then it has offered periodic speaker series, fundraising dinners, and mentoring opportunities to its hundreds of members. LebNet was recently incorporated as a nonprofit. “The benefits come from being part of the group,” says Habib, who worked in the Valley for years and now runs the Lebanese Growth Capital Fund at Riyada Enterprise Development in Beirut.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Ingrid Salloum (MA ‘06), one of Cisco’s first wave of interns, travelled half way round the world and back before finding a job opportunity in Beirut. At the end of her internship, Cisco invited her to New York to address the Lebanese community there. She told them:

> I was among [20] young men and women, graduating from premier learning institutions in Lebanon with no opportunities and an uncertain future.

> Like many young graduates, I was at an important crossroad, struggling with the probability that I would most likely have to leave the country to have any real sustainable career path.

Salloum is now a program manager for Cisco’s global education team. Her fellow interns, including four other women, also returned to Lebanon and either found work or continued their education.

Other women are eager to take advantage of similar opportunities and their progress signals an ongoing, if gradual, shift in this traditionally male industry. Dina Ibrahim, PhD, an associate professor of broadcast and electronic communication arts at San Francisco State University and a TechWadi board member, sees a marked change in attitude among young women striving to become entrepreneurs and in the reception they are receiving. “I think there is a conscious effort to seek out and support more women in the field,” she says.

Though the Cisco internship program ended, it continues to inspire missionary-like zeal. The LebNet and TechWadi members and their counterparts in the Middle East seek to cultivate an entrepreneurship-friendly ecosystem modeled after, though not replicating, that of Silicon Valley in which members thrive. This is not as easy as it sounds in Lebanon considering the Janus-like business culture.

WE NEED AN ENTREPRENEUR INTERVENTION

“To get the license”—to even start a business in Lebanon—“you basically have to bribe people,” says Simon Neaime (BA ‘88, MA ’90), chair of
AUB’s Department of Economics. He enumerates the “comparative advantages” of Lebanon’s access to the Mediterranean, its educated cosmopolitan population, well-developed service sector, strong banking system, and significant capital investments. All these advantages, however, are too often undercut by paralyzing instability and the parasitic entanglement of political and business interests typically conveyed by the word corruption.

“What we’ve been seeing in the Middle East is really a leading public sector with no role whatsoever for the private sector,” Neaime says. “The market is definitely in need of any entrepreneur intervention,” particularly when it comes to the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises that play the role, say, of low-rise apartment buildings in the bustling village of entrepreneurship.

At the same time, a burgeoning private sector may be better equipped to navigate the inbuilt sectarian character of some aspects of Lebanese business precisely because many executives are working purposefully to transcend it.

LOOKING FURTHER EAST

From the onset of the IT revolution, certain Lebanese entrepreneurs recognized the extent to which their peers on the Indian subcontinent had reaped rewards by facing down challenges similar to those in Lebanon. According to Nadim Maluf (BE ’84), the CEO of Qnovo Corporation and a board member of the Worldwide Alumni Association of AUB (WAAAUB), these entrepreneurs aspired to the model pioneered by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) and other subcontinent networking groups.

The business ethos of Silicon Valley acts as a kind of beacon for imitators around the world and it is undoubtedly competitive, but it is also inherently collaborative for practical reasons—the more joint ventures, the more potential profits. Put more concretely, yesterday’s mentor to a promising start-up could be tomorrow’s senior partner. The better the collaboration, the more successful the venture may turn out to be.

DISSENT, DISAGREEMENT, AND DIVERSITY

In Lebanon cross-confessional partnerships are not always easy, but there are many who see encouraging diversity as a means to moving forward and overcoming socio-political obstacles. But doing so can also mean courting dissent when not everyone sees a necessary distinction between his politics and business relationships. For Elie Habib, diversity—of politics, religion, ethnicity, and gender—is essential for making LebNet work, but also problematic. “How do you keep it true to its mission as a professional network where only professional discussions take place?” he asks.

Habib has sometimes had to make “brute” interventions, as in the months following the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and the August 2006 ceasefire, when he repeatedly shut down discussion.

“I think it was the right thing to do,” Habib says. As discussion migrates from email onto LinkedIn, Facebook, and other social media, however, Habib and his colleagues will have to find different strategies. “How do you moderate in social media?” he asks and answers, this time less decisively: “I don’t know how to handle that really.” Even the beta twitter revolution must ultimately take its own course.

WEAPONS OF ENTERPRISE IN EGYPT—AND BEYOND

The Arab network TechWadi is confronting a different, if not entirely unrelated, range of challenges in post-Mubarak Egypt and championing projects designed to institutionalize entrepreneurship training across the region. In a talk delivered this March at the American University in Cairo’s School of Business, Ossama Hassanein, TechWadi’s chairman and a phenomenally successful entrepreneur, suggested that a “great socio-economic war” has broken out following the fall of the regime in Egypt and that its
outcome will determine the ultimate success of the revolution.

Hassanein might be called a general in this war that he’s waging with the weapons of enterprise: loads of investing, networking, mentorship, and incubators (in short, development centers for entrepreneurs). TechWadi’s virtual mentoring programming pairs the veteran entrepreneurs, executives, and investors of the “TechWadi 100” with “high-impact entrepreneurs” in the MENA region.

Over two decades, Hassanein has managed the allocation of more than $1 billion in international technology funds, but he clearly still relishes the opportunity to motivate the troops. In preparation for DEMO, the leading conference for emerging technology launches, he once pressed a young entrepreneur to rehearse his six-minute make-or-break presentation a grand total of 79 times. Hassanein says, “I’ve seen guys that get such a mental block, they forget the name of their products.”

He’s spearheading a push to create entrepreneur incubators at universities in Cairo—already in progress at AUC—Beirut, and Thuwal, Saudi Arabia. The aim is to gather a “critical mass” of accomplished and aspiring innovators and provide them with space, resources, and training by entrepreneurs in residence, as well as regular guidance, from and ultimately funding by, venture capitalists. “These groups end up being not only energizing, but also incredibly effective in the transfer of knowledge… and avoiding costly mistakes,” Hassanein says.

The right environment is vital, Maluf emphasizes. “If you’re an entrepreneur presenting an idea and you go talk to your neighbor, he’s probably going to say, ‘I don’t get it, I don’t care, get lost.’ So you feel that sense of loneliness. The incubator gives you tremendous moral strength and encouragement to just keep plowing down a path that everyone says is just the wrong path.”

**INTRODUCING A LEBANESE INCUBATOR ECOSYSTEM**

Planners setting up a new incubator in Lebanon should look to the Berytech Technological Pole. Initiated in 2001 by Saint Joseph University in Mkalles, the Berytech incubator hosts fledgling companies at its two development centers. The incubator is legally distinct from the university and the Berytech Fund which, in the three years following its own inception, has disbursed $3 million of its initial $6 million investment pool.

“We want to grow the ecosystem…the number of entrepreneurs, the number of start-ups, so that we have more success stories,” says Nicolas Rouhana, Berytech’s director. He adds that Berytech plans to open a third development center and will create an official network with two other recently established incubators supported by the European Union, the Business Incubation Association of Tripoli, and the South Business Innovation Center.

Endeavor opened an office in Beirut in January. Here investment in entrepreneurship is more than introductory. “We’re further downstream,” says Tarek Sadi, country director. “Our approach is focused on identifying high-impact entrepreneurs who have a high potential or probability of tremendous success.” In other words: job creators, the point of the whole exercise. He adds: “And, of course, companies that are within the incubators today will be Endeavor companies tomorrow.”

For a revolution to be successful it must inspire lasting confidence in a different, better tomorrow, particularly in the midst of bleak economic and political circumstances. If history is a guide, many new AUB graduates will leave Lebanon in search of the right job at the right salary. The brain drain cannot cease overnight, but AUB’s business-oriented graduates could be among those who have reason to stay put. With a little luck and a spell of peace, they can begin creating new opportunities for their peers, across disciplines, to do so as well.

—S.M.
For women entrepreneurs, running a successful business is just the first challenge.

There has been a growing appreciation in recent years of the important role that entrepreneurship plays in economic growth and development. While the majority of entrepreneurs are men (60-75 percent by some estimates), “more and more women are seeking economic opportunity and self-determination through enterprise creation.” In addition to the challenges that confront all entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs have to overcome additional hurdles such as unequal access to finance and lack of support—even opposition—from their families. The Goldman Sachs Foundation (GSF) and the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB) are teaming up to encourage female entrepreneurship—not just in the Middle East, but also throughout the developing world.

Through the “10,000 Women Initiative,” GSF is funding the development of case studies to find out more about the challenges women entrepreneurs in the MENA region face and the lessons they have learned. OSB faculty members are writing four such studies on successful female-led, entrepreneurial businesses in Lebanon: Bokja Design (www.bokjadesign.com), East & East (www.nadadebs.com), The Little Engineer (www.thelittleengineer.me), and Sarah’s Bag (www.sarahsbag.com).

According to Carla Sayegh Hilton, who is director of continuous improvement at OSB, these case studies will be used by GSF in its capacity-building certificate programs for selected women entrepreneurs in developing countries and also in a variety of business school programs at AUB. “Regional case studies have served as powerful educational tools at OSB, highlighting real-life business problems and challenges facing small-to medium-sized organizations in the region. They have

encouraged students to think through ways and means to navigate region-specific challenges using concepts and frameworks learned in class,” she says. Hilton adds that in some cases profiled entrepreneurs have inspired AUB students to launch their own businesses instead of pursuing more conventional career paths. Like other case studies OSB faculty members have copublished with colleagues at Stanford and the Richard Ivey School of Business in Western Ontario, the AUB-10,000 Women case studies will be available on-line to leading business schools around the world.

Maria Hibri (former student) and Huda Baroudi (BBA ’80), cofounders of Bokja Design, say they did not originally intend to start a business. “We started working together because we felt we had a unique aesthetic to share with people in Beirut, so we did this one-off exhibition of creations that combined special embroideries from Central Asia with secondhand modernist furniture that we had each collected over the course of the previous ten years.” Buoyed by the enthusiastic reaction they received to this “one-off” exhibit, they gradually developed their “shared activity” into the multi-million dollar business that it is today.

Nada Debs (BBA ’84) also says that her business—East & East—just “sorta happened.” She explains, “I basically started with one small piece of furniture, showed it, then sold it, then another, and then another… I grew organically.” Rana El Chemaitelly (BE ’93, ME ’08), on the other hand, says she thought long and hard to come up with “a great idea to launch a new business.” That “great idea,” which was inspired by her children, became “The Little Engineer,” an after-school and summer program of hands-on activities in robotics, green technologies, science, and creative engineering for young people between the ages of four and seventeen.

Sarah’s Bag traces its roots to Sarah Beydoun’s (BA ’94) sociology master’s thesis on women in prison in Lebanon. During the course of her research, she noticed that “the women prisoners had so much time on their hands and nothing to do all day… and decided with the help of an NGO (Dar el Amal) to teach them valuable skills that would help them earn a living… One bag led to another and this is how Sarah’s Bag started,” she recalls.

OSB Associate Professor Dima Jamali reported in a 2008 article that although women offered
different reasons for why they became entrepreneurs (such as frustration with discrimination they faced in the labor market, their desire for greater independence, and the challenge of establishing a new business), they face many of the same challenges. Jamali explains that it is particularly difficult for women to launch and establish a business because, “The evidence generally reveals that female entrepreneurs start with lower levels of overall capitalization and lower ratios of debt finance than their male counterparts.” Once they make it past that initial start-up stage, however, female entrepreneurs overwhelmingly agree that their greatest challenge is juggling the demands of raising a family while running a business.

This finding does not surprise El Chemaitelly who says she stopped working for five years “for the sake of my three kids.” Beydoun too, reports that it has not been easy to run the business and raise her family. Jamali says it is especially tough for women entrepreneurs in more conservative societies “where women are expected first and foremost to deliver on their family duties and responsibilities.” In these societies, women have to battle both the expectations of their immediate family members and those of society in general that “does not disapprove of female entrepreneurship per se but of female work more generally.”

Although the four women entrepreneurs who are being profiled in the GSF case studies may resemble women entrepreneurs everywhere, they differ in significant ways too. Their most immediate challenges—weighing million-dollar buyout offers, struggling to manage and control outsourcing processes, organizing exhibits in Milan, and considering opening a line of boutiques in key fashion cities around the world, for example—are not typical of most women entrepreneurs in the developing world. Hilton acknowledges this and says she and her OSB colleagues are seeking to identify and highlight those aspects of these four businesses that would be most relevant to GSF’s target audience of women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

The women who own and manage these four businesses also face specific challenges relating to political instability in Lebanon, which they say can interrupt operations and make it difficult to plan for the future. Despite the challenges, these women have ambitious plans for the future. If you have not already, you may soon come across one of Sarah’s Bags at the mall in your neighborhood, enroll your child in a Little Engineer after-school program, attend an exhibit of Bokja Design’s latest creations, or read a story about Nada Debs and East & East in an architectural magazine.

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3 Jamali, page 243.
4 Jamali, page 243.
Souk Sabra is one of Beirut’s most visited markets stretching from Tarek El Jdeedeh in West Beirut to Rihab Station in the southern suburbs. Its location places it in an area of socio-political complexity. Vibrant and diverse, the market was nevertheless characterized by adverse physical conditions and spatial chaos that did much to degrade this crucial and popular location.

In an effort to “upgrade from within” a team from the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS - AUB) partnered with the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development (HFSHD) to study the area, set a vision for a first phase of physical intervention, and define strategies for more to come.

Despite its chaotic appearance and tight quarters, Souk Sabra functions on its own rhythm. The CCECS-HFSHD approach was to respect the way in which it operated while improving the physical quality of the space.
The AUB team involved students and recent graduates from multiple disciplines such as social sciences and health, led by students doing their Final Year Project in Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and in Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (LDEM) and was supervised by Mounir Mabsout (CCECS director and CEE professor) and Rabih Shibli (CCECS projects leader and LDEM lecturer). An in-depth analysis of the site identified it as especially vulnerable to flooding from storm water, accompanied by uncollected sewage, which along with uncollected organic waste transformed Sabra Square into a fetid pool of wet waste even in dry weather.

Phase one of the project focused on defining and achieving a model to physically upgrade the market street and improve basic infrastructural services. Shopkeepers had devised their own version of a “water breaker” to elevate the sidewalks in order to obstruct flooding infiltration to shops and houses. The “water breaker motif” was set as a determinant concept in the design process.

Rainwater and sewage inflow had encouraged indigenous solutions based on informal water breakers. Temporary shading provided intermittent protection from sun or rain.
In partnership with the local (opposing) municipalities and shop owners, the complete rehabilitation of the sidewalks and shop facades and the installation of shading structures – all of which echoed existing informal solutions – was achieved in a selected block. Out of chaos a form of order was imposed allowing local stakeholders and street users to conduct their affairs in a clean and physically coherent environment. Regular, unofficial inspections confirm a pride in and a commitment to keeping the upgraded areas clean and tidy.

In collaboration with Souk-Sabra merchants’ committee (that was formed in accordance to the project), CCECS, and HFSHD, phase 2 for Sabra will soon be launched targeting the upgrading of other blocks and tackling the waste-management and health issues.

The Souk Sabra presented the students with an invaluable and challenging educational experience where they contributed with the partners to set a vision and develop a plan of action that was suitable and which was eventually implemented. This is a successful example on how learning and service were integrated in a participatory approach leading to a sustainable initiative that impacted positively on the local community.

Reproducing the water breakers and sun shades in a uniform manner succeeded in creating a pleasant and coherent shopping street.
To get to Bikfaya from Beirut, Myarana takes a bus, a minibus, and two taxis. Navigating this journey would be tough for any foreigner, but Myarana faces some extra challenges.

First, she must make the journey in English, which is not her first language. Second, she isn’t really on the way to Bikfaya. On a recent Sunday in the leafy courtyard of Sanayeh’s Zico House, Myarana and her teacher Rawand Madi are role-playing the trip using a hand-drawn map of the route Myarana takes to get from Beirut to her employer’s house, where she is a domestic worker.

As they practice phrases such as “How much?” and “I want to go to Bikfaya,” Myarana seems a bit shy about pretending to board a bus, but she persists.

In French and English, the two also debate the exact translation of an “autostrade” and where on the map Myarana should dismount.

In Beirut on her biweekly Sunday out, Myarana, who is from Madagascar, is one of some 60 migrant workers who are learning English, French, and Arabic at free language classes set up by the Migrant Workers Task Force (MWTF), a group that aims to improve opportunities for migrant workers in Lebanon.

Estimates vary widely on the number of foreign migrant workers in the country, from 300,000 to 1 million. Some 200,000 of these are domestic workers.

Rights groups stress the poor conditions migrant workers face in Lebanon and in 2008 Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that one migrant domestic worker in the country dies each week of unnatural causes. HRW said that most deaths are suicides or are caused by falls from high buildings, often as workers run from their employers.

Janie Shen, originally from Sweden, moved to Lebanon just over a year ago. She founded MWTF with several like-minded friends, including Lioba Hirsch and Alex Shams, in January. Shen is the coordinator of MWTF.

“When you are an individual here you want do something about the situation [of migrant workers] but you don’t find an outlet,” she says. The organizations that work with migrant workers, such as KAFA and Caritas, “work really well but they don’t have the capacity to take on a lot of volunteers. So we created the classes.”

About 60 volunteers teach at the weekly two-hour Sunday classes. As the teachers’ schedules vary and workers are often not allowed regular days off or days out, there are an average of 20 to 30 students at each session, with a ratio of one teacher to two students.

The students hail from Sudan, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nepal, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. MWTF distributed flyers about the classes before they started in February, but Shen says “talking to people was more
Lioba Hirsch was a visiting student at the American University of Beirut for the 2010–11 academic year. She recently completed her bachelor’s degree in political science from SciencesPo in Paris. Hirsch is currently in London where she is due to start her master’s studies in political sociology at the London School of Economics.

Originally from Germany, it was Hirsch’s desire to learn Arabic that mostly prompted her to come to AUB as a visiting student. An interest in conflict studies and human and social psychology, as well as having Lebanese friends in Germany and France, were other factors that encouraged Hirsch to take this step. At AUB, Hirsch had an enriching experience studying in a different environment outside of Europe.

The attitude towards migrant workers in Lebanon and, more broadly, the problem of racism in the country, soon caught Hirsch’s attention and she started searching for ways to help. When her friend launched the Migrant Workers Task Force, Hirsch joined in by teaching English and French.

Although she has no concrete plans now, Hirsch wants to come back to the region in the future to work on issues related to racism and discrimination.

Rawand Madi is a mechanical engineering student at AUB with a passion for volunteering and the arts. Originally from Lebanon, she grew up both in Lebanon and Kuwait. Madi started volunteering while still a student at the Kuwait English School where she helped disadvantaged students who attended special classes at the school’s Green Unit. She was also involved in several environmental projects and actively participated in Model UN conferences.

In Lebanon and as an AUB student since 2009, Madi helped found the Chemical Engineering Student Society last year and was elected its secretary. In addition to volunteering with migrant workers, she has worked with children at the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon, where she plans to volunteer again this summer.

Madi also finds time to put her passion for the arts to practice at the Ceramic Lounge café in Lebanon, helping customers who drop by with their ceramic artwork.

Madi’s future plans involve starting up her own engineering company in Lebanon and funding projects through this company to help solve the problems of racism and sexism, and to tackle environmental issues as well.

effective and then word of mouth helped. [The students] bring their friends."

But word of mouth is not always possible. Shen says she has “a Nepalese friend who lives in a village near Mounsourieh. She would see [other] Nepalese women on the balconies, hanging up clothes, and she would wave. They wave back, but they can’t say anything, because they are not allowed to talk to anyone outside the house.”

Rawand Madi, who is Lebanese and a student at AUB, says “there is a huge problem with migrant workers coming to Lebanon and not being treated well…[the classes are] one way to help them feel that they can do whatever they want here.”

This includes boarding a bus. MWTF takes a practical approach to language. “We are focusing on the social aspect, not necessarily fluency,” says Shen. “We ask what [the students] want to learn from us. So we have topics like taking transportation, how to bargain for food… going to the doctor…, or being able to argue.”

Most of the teachers are not trained in education, and so the classes have been a learning experience for all involved. “We are also new to this,” says Shen.

“So we get experience from other people and we get help. We just work on improving all the time.”

Across the courtyard from Myarana, Abdullah speaks in halting but clear English, even though he thinks his proficiency is only “maybe” improving. Originally from Sudan, Abdullah has lived in Lebanon for 10 years. He works in a kitchen.

“I want to learn English for the future,” he says. “If my family do not speak another language, it will be very difficult.” He says that in business, English and French are the international languages.

Abdullah plans to return to Sudan and teach his family English. Myarana has two children in Madagascar, a boy and a girl, and she hopes to teach them English and French.

Many students mention job prospects and teaching their families as reasons for attending class, but there is another benefit—an increased ability to communicate the challenges they face as migrant workers.

Abdullah thinks racism is a problem in Sudan, but it is worse in Lebanon. “[Many] Sudanese come to Lebanon and they have degrees. Some are lawyers, some are journalists.” But they can’t find work. “Why? Because they are black.”

“The idea was that a very efficient way to help migrant workers would be to give language classes and give them an opportunity to communicate,” says Hirsch, one of MWTF’s founders, who also teaches language classes.

“This gives them more opportunities to make their voices heard. Not [through] us, but by themselves.”

—Annie Slemrod

Reprinted with permission from The Daily Star
You’ve got a great idea for a new business. Or is it? A seasoned entrepreneur lists 10 steps to success

1. **The People**
   Are you sure you have the right team with the required complementary skills to succeed?
   - Is your previous work experience relevant to your venture?
   - Who is missing from the team?
   - Are you willing to recruit high caliber people?
   - How committed are you to seeing the venture through?

2. **The Product**
   Are you offering something better/cheaper/faster than what’s already available? You should be able to explain
   - What it is.
   - Its purpose.
   - Why it is unique.
   - Why people need it.
   - How easily it could be imitated or improved.
   - What technology you plan to use.

3. **The Market**
   Are you addressing a big enough and expanding market? Is it an attractive segment to penetrate? Do you know
   - Who your customers are?
   - What you need to do to convince a customer to buy your product or service?
   - How to price the product or service?
   - How to reach your target market?
   - How much it will cost (in time and resources) to acquire, retain, and keep a new customer?
   - How much it will cost to produce and deliver the product or service?
4. The Competition
Don’t say, “I have no competition,” because that tells me you have never heard of Google—not a good start. So tell me:

» Who are your competitors?
» How many are there?
» How does your product compare?
» How will your competition react? Will it retaliate? How?
» What are the strengths and weaknesses of the competition?

5. The Plan?
What model do you plan to use to make money? Is it:

» The subscription business model (magazines, software…)?
» The razor and blades business model (Gillette razor and its blades)?
» The network effects business model (stock exchanges)?
» The cutting-out-the-middleman model (Dell)?
» The auction business model (EBay)?

6. The Money
From the moment you make the decision to start a venture until you make your first commercial sales, you need funding to cover market research, salaries, prototype production and also to pay for rent, furnishings, inventory, equipment, and tools, etc. These are your preoperating expenses.

» How much cash do you need until you make your first sale?
» How much more do you need to cover your operating losses until you break even?
» How much of what you need is investment and how much is for operating costs?
» How much money do you need for the three years after you break even?

For at least several months (usually much longer) your monthly expenses will exceed your gross margin because your sales volume is still low, so you will need money to cover these cash losses. Finally, when—if—you take off and start to grow, you will need still more money to finance more inventory, more receivables, more staffing, more equipment, etc.

7. Tracking Your Progress
Financial projections for a new company are an act of imagination, especially detailed month-by-month projections that stretch out for years. An entrepreneurial venture faces far too many unknowns to predict revenues reliably, let alone profits. So, what you need to do instead is to identify objectives and milestones such as

» Completing product specifications.
» Completing prototype design.
» Completing prototype.
» Testing product.
» Beginning production.
» Shipping to first customers.
» Achieving the first full quarter of profitability.
» Earning $1 million in sales.
» Breaking even on a cash basis.

8. The People—Time to Take Another Look
Growing sales is a top priority for start-ups. As sales develop, more sales people are needed, along with more after-sales service people, more trainers, more delivery people, etc. Planning ahead for human resource requirements is critical, since new hires require several months before they are fully productive, and you may need several weeks to advertise, interview, assess, and hire the right people. You need to think about

» When you need to hire more people?
» With what skills?
» How much will you have to pay them?

9. Preparing for the Unexpected
If you have a messenger company and fuel prices rise significantly and your profitability is significantly impaired, what would you do? Or if you produce wine in Lebanon and are protected by high customs tariffs and the government reduces these tariffs under World Trade Organization pressure, how would you defend against cheaper imports? Or you started a call center and the government dropped telecom prices to international levels allowing VoIP (Voice-over Internet Protocol), how would you seize this opportunity to win international clients? So, you need to think about
» What factors outside your control could influence your venture, either positively or negatively.
» And how you would react to them.

10 The Payoff
In the final analysis, entrepreneurs are asking investors to commit funds to a venture based on their business plan. Investors are being asked to take a very high risk that is difficult to quantify in exchange for a potential profit bonanza, which is even more difficult to quantify. So investors expect entrepreneurs to provide them with

» An assessment of everything that can go wrong and might go right and how the venture would respond.
» Scenarios based on different assumptions yielding multiple outcomes.

—Tarek Kettaneh
Senior Lecturer, Olayan School of Business

After graduating from MIT with a master’s degree in civil engineering and from the Harvard Business School with an MBA, Kettaneh joined his family’s business. Initially assigned to their substantial operations in Iran, he went on to become acting CEO of a multinational family group with interests in Brazil, Iran, and across the Near East.

He later spent 12 years pursuing venture capital opportunities in the United States and Lebanon. Since 2001, Kettaneh has been lecturing on entrepreneurship, venture capital, and family business issues at OSB and doing some limited consulting.
John Wortabet (1827-1908), one of the founders of the Syrian Protestant College (SPC), was an ordained minister, medical doctor, and gifted linguist who spoke Arabic, English, Turkish, and Armenian.

The son of an Armenian priest, Wortabet was educated at American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) schools in Syria. Ordained by the American Beirut mission in 1853, he and his wife Salome, who he had married in 1851, spent five years in Hasbeiya, Syria, where Wortabet was a “native preacher.” Salome and Wortabet’s sister Hanne, who had been classmates at ABCFM schools in the 1830s, taught women and children in Hasbeiya.

Wortabet left Syria for Britain in 1860 where he studied theology at the Edinburgh School of Theology in Scotland. While he was there, he authored The Religions of Syria, which was widely recognized for many years as the definitive work on the topic. (Wortabet wrote many other books: in addition to an Arabic version of Gray’s Anatomy, he prepared Arabic texts on anatomy, physiology, and public health. He also collaborated with his son Henry, who was briefly a member of the SPC faculty himself, and with Dr. Harvey Porter, another faculty member, on an Arabic-English dictionary that was “of the greatest value” and “required numerous editions, enlargements, and revisions to satisfy the constant demands for it by students.”)

While he was in Edinburgh, Wortabet applied for a position with the Scottish Missionary Society as a missionary to Syria. Because he had been unhappy working with foreign missionaries in Syria Wortabet insisted on certain conditions: “[First,] that he be equal to a European Colleague in standing and office, there being no supervision of one over the other, and 2nd that he be equal with him in the matter of salary.” Despite the fact that these requests were fairly unusual—if not unprecedented—the church agreed.

When he was later recruited by the SPC as a professor of anatomy and physiology in 1866, Wortabet asked for and received permission to attend the New York University Medical College. After earning his MD in 1867, he returned to the College to become, along with Cornelius Van Dyck and William H. Thomson, one of its three original medical appointees. Wortabet was one of the faculty members who resigned from the College in 1882 to protest the Darwin Affair (See MainGate, Fall 2009). Like Van Dyck, who resigned then too, Wortabet continued to lecture at the College for many years. After leaving the College, he worked as a private physician at the Hospital of the Knights of St. John in Beirut and was one of the members and the first chairman of the executive committee that established the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases at Asfuriyeh.

Wortabet died in Beirut at the age of 81 on November 22, 1908. He and Salome had six children: three daughters and three sons.

Special thanks to the Archives and Special Collections Department of Jafet Library for their help in researching this article.

1 Stephen B.L. Penrose, Jr., That They May Have Life: The Story of the American University of Beirut 1866-1941, pages 38-39.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Although Thomson was offered a position at the new medical school, he declined. Van Dyck, Wortabet, and George E. Post, who was appointed professor of botany and surgery in 1868, played pivotal roles in establishing the medical school.
5 Penrose, page 38.
Fourteen young AUB entrepreneurs dish on the best days, the worst days, and their five-year dreams.

Ayah Bdeir
BE, Computer and Communications Engineering, 2004
www.ayahbdeir.com
www.littleBits.cc
www.KarajBeirut.org

Business: littleBits, a kit of small construction bricks that allows kids, artists, and designers to create light, sound, sensing, and other interactive electronics

Biggest challenge: making engineering sexy and attracting the brightest minds of the Arab world—especially young girls and women—to become inventors, innovators, and scientists instead of bakers and lawyers

Five-year goal: to create a first class media lab for inventions in the Arab World based in Beirut

Best day at work: a day I spend building new electronic projects and not at my computer

Worst day at work: being stuck in traffic in Lebanon for hours on end

Tarek Nabil Dajani
BAR, 1998
www.cleartag.com; personal blog: www.thethingsyoudo.co

Business: Cleartag, digital agency

Biggest challenge: designing complex digital products/services for markets still dominated by instant gratification media

Five-year goal: establishing Cleartag as an international digital agency with a strong affinity for the Middle East

Best day at work: at the lab doing research work

Worst day at work: a full day of meetings

O U R E N T R E P R E N E U R S B Y T H E N U M B E R S :

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Abdulsalam Haykal
BA, Political Studies, 2000
www.transtek.com
Business: Transtek Systems, software; Haykal Media, magazine and online publishers
Biggest challenge: time management
Five-year goal: increasing the regional reach of our media and technology products and starting a family
Best day at work: finding a solution
Worst day at work: losing a colleague

Sarah Beydoun Hakim
BA, Social Studies, 1994
www.sarahsbag.com
Business: Sarah’s Bag, handcrafted, custom-made women’s fashion accessories
Biggest challenge: becoming the leading accessory house in the Middle East working with women who have been and are still in prison
Five-year goal: opening boutiques around the world
Best day at work: discovering that samples we have been working on for weeks are much nicer than I could have imagined
Worst day at work: so many meetings that I can’t work on my creations

Rana El Chemaitelly
www.thelittleengineer.com
Business: The Little Engineer, summer and after school activities for kids and teens
Biggest challenge: continually providing better solutions to invest in the community
Five-year goal: introducing as many kids and teens as possible to renewable energy and innovations
Best day at work: when I convert a dream into reality
Worst day at work: when I’m not supported by my family

Habib Haddad
BE, Computer and Communications Engineering, 2002
www.yamli.com
www.yallastartup.org
Business: Yamli, Arabic typing technology and search engine; YallaStartup, promotes entrepreneurship in the MENA region
Biggest challenge: finding the work/life balance
Five-year goal: transforming the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Middle East and helping to create disruptive technologies with a social impact; starting a new concept in restoration
Best day at work: getting great feedback from clients and users: “informed” optimism
Worst day at work: realizing the assumptions I had made were wrong that could lead to a reset, informed pessimism
Elie A. Nasr
BE, Computer and Communication Engineering, 2003
www.foo.mobi
Business: FOO, a mobile apps development firm
Biggest challenge: people at work resisting change
Five-year goal: to be the leading MENA and European mobile app development firm
Best day at work: when a client is happy, when creative product ideas are born
Worst day at work: when a client is unsatisfied, when a good team member leaves, when we miss a target

Hind Hobeika
BE, Mechanical Engineering, 2010
no website yet, but info at www.starsofsience.com
Business: Butterflye, swimming goggles that measure heart rate
Biggest challenge: encouraging Arab youth to focus on research and innovation
Five-year goal: having my goggles available everywhere
Best day at work: when the first prototype of the goggles was fully functional
Worst day at work: when the Google circuitry blew up after weeks of long, hard work

Walid Haidar
BS, Mathematics, 1994; EMBA, 2007
www.gloriajeanscoffees.com
Business: coffee, dekkaneh, retail
Biggest challenge: success
Five-year goal: to make Gloria Jean’s Coffees the most loved and respected coffee company in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
Best day at work: any day when I learn and I do something good is a great day
Worst day at work: a day when I don’t learn and don’t get the opportunity to do good things

Karim Malas
BBA, 1999
www.acumen-sy.com
Business: Acumen, a market research and financial advisory agency
Biggest challenge: staying optimistic in Syria under current circumstances
Five-year goal: starting over
Best day at work: delivering the results of a cutting edge research project in the telecom sector
Worst day at work: turning down assignments because of the situation in the country
Sarah Trad  
EMBA, 2007  
www.skoun.org  

Business: Skoun, an outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Beirut  
Biggest challenge: transitioning from the not-for-profit world to the for-profit world, which I am doing now as I implement a new venture in New York City—a café/bakery that sells manakeech  
Five-year goal: to be managing several “Manousherie” locations in New York City and preparing to expand the business outside the city; as president of Skoun’s board, overseeing the development of clinics in different locations in Lebanon  
Best day at work: when I hear that someone’s life has been changed thanks to Skoun’s services  
Worst day at work: when I get “no” to all my requests and I cannot see the light

Christine Assouad Sfeir  
BS, Nutrition and Dietetics, 1994  
www.ddlebanon.com; www.semsom.com  

Business: Dunkin Donuts Lebanon, Semsom restaurants  
Biggest challenge: dealing with the political crisis in Lebanon  
Five-year goal: spreading Semsom beyond the Middle East to Europe  
Best day at work: touring the stores, marketing discussions, HR related activities  
Worst day at work: conflict resolution

Lara Tarakjian  
EMBA, 2007  
www.silkor.com  

Business: Silkor Laser Medical Center, laser medical and skin treatment service provider  
Biggest challenge: establishing Silkor in every corner of the world  
Five-year goal: growing the Silkor family—and having one of my own  
Best day at work: October 30, 1997 when the first client walked into Silkor  
Worst day at work: When it feels like I’m working

Wassim Sinno  
BBA, 1988; EMBA 2008  
www.semsom.com  

Business: Premium Partners, a global supplier of gifts and premiums servicing multinational clients from various offices around the world  
Biggest challenge: turning Premium Partners into a global player in the field of premiums and promotional items  
Five-year goal: Europe  
Best day at work: having a big margin for growth in my business means every day is my best day  
Worst day at work: feeling my team is not on the same wavelength as I am

Christine Assouad Sfeir  
BS, Nutrition and Dietetics, 1994  
www.ddlebanon.com; www.semsom.com  

Business: Dunkin Donuts Lebanon, Semsom restaurants  
Biggest challenge: dealing with the political crisis in Lebanon  
Five-year goal: spreading Semsom beyond the Middle East to Europe  
Best day at work: touring the stores, marketing discussions, HR related activities  
Worst day at work: conflict resolution

Sarah Trad  
EMBA, 2007  
www.skoun.org  

Business: Skoun, an outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Beirut  
Biggest challenge: transitioning from the not-for-profit world to the for-profit world, which I am doing now as I implement a new venture in New York City—a café/bakery that sells manakeech  
Five-year goal: to be managing several “Manousherie” locations in New York City and preparing to expand the business outside the city; as president of Skoun’s board, overseeing the development of clinics in different locations in Lebanon  
Best day at work: when I hear that someone’s life has been changed thanks to Skoun’s services  
Worst day at work: when I get “no” to all my requests and I cannot see the light

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When did you arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?
In late June of 1955 I caught a glimpse of the campus on my way back from a visit to Colombo to witness a solar eclipse. I had already been offered a position as director of the AUB observatory, so I went back home and collected my wife and lots of boxes and a big trunk full of our possessions.

We came by boat. There must have been some kind of snafu in the New York Office, because when we arrived at the Beirut port late in the evening, no one met us. We left all the luggage in a big heap in the middle of the customs area and took a taxi to AUB. I remembered where my friends Ted Kennedy, a distinguished professor and international expert on Islamic astronomy, and his wife lived. They took us in.

The observatory itself was an interesting challenge—filled with journals that had been arriving for ten years and not unwrapped. It took me the better part of a year to figure out which journals were complete and which were missing issues.

Another impression—Beirut was an international crossroads. People were coming through on their way to India, for example. Distinguished physicists came on visits, people whom [back home], as a small fish in a big pond, I would never have met. But at AUB I was able to go off on a picnic with Lee DuBridge, president of Caltech.

It was an interesting challenge to get the observatory running again and also to be thrown into teaching the young men—physics classes were almost entirely men—who were continually testing the professor. You would have a serious discipline problem if you showed any signs of weakness such as not being able to solve problems. So after several months I could solve any problem in the textbook without prior preparation.

Do you remember where you taught most of your classes?
It was down the hill. Maybe in the engineering building where the physics classes were first taught. The astronomy classes all met in the observatory itself. The classes were limited in size—20 students, so they could all fit in there.

What do you think your students might remember from your classes?
Actually, I haven’t a clue. I think they might remember that I started “Open Nights” at the observatory. Lots of students came to look at the planets and the moon because up to that time, the observatory had been a building closed to them. I probably reached more students than just those who were taking my classes.

Are you still in touch with any of your AUB students?
There were a couple of students, Bassam Shakhashiri and Kenell Touryan, now distinguished scientists in America, who have reminded me that I taught them at the engineering camp.

In addition there were two students of mine who wrote and published papers with Ted Kennedy—Victor Roberts and Fuad Abboud. I
wonder what they have done since then. Mark Lesley, the son of the University’s architect, gave me a lot of moral support in fixing up the observatory and I have kept up with him.

**You toured campus today. What are some of the changes you noticed since your years at AUB in the 1950s?**

Obviously, a big change is the larger student body. Another thing, of course, is the head scarves, which were essentially non-existent in the 1950s, though veiled women would still be found in the streets.

The complete change is the observatory—which is no more. The telescope was vandalized some time during the civil war. The lenses were stolen and the telescope is now entirely derelict. For me this is very sad.

**You left in 1958, but you were back once before this visit?**

Yes, we returned in the spring of 1971 on my sabbatical leave from Harvard and the Smithsonian. We spent the first semester in Cambridge, England and then drove here with our children. We wanted the two older sons to see where they had been born. They were teenagers by that time, so it was an interesting experience. The University agreed to pay for their tuition at the American Community School in return for my teaching a seminar.

In the seminar, in addition to Ted Kennedy, were two of his graduate students who have made very illustrious careers in Islamic science—David King and George Saliba, who was [Provost] Ahmad Dallal’s thesis adviser [at Columbia]—so that makes Dallal my intellectual grandson.

**What impact has AUB had on your life?**

Crucial—because I was very annoyed at being drafted out of graduate school. Three years later, when I went back [to the United States], the world had changed. Sputnik had gone up; the Smithsonian had moved its observatory from Washington to Cambridge. It had the fastest computer in New England with lots of extra computer time for thesis research, so I was able to plunge into a real cutting edge thesis, which would not have been accessible at all had I continued on my initial track and not had those three years at AUB.

In addition I got good teaching experience. I had been intimidated at the thought of passing my PhD oral exams, but when I returned, I went back full of confidence, having faced the somewhat obstreperous students at AUB. With that teaching experience I was able to step into teaching the Harvard Astronomy Department’s general education offering, which by the time of my retirement in 2000 had become the longest running course then being taught under the same management.

Thirdly, my interaction with Ted Kennedy, who was working on the history of Islamic science, acted in part to hone my general interest in the history of astronomy so that eventually I had a career change: instead of working on astrophysics, I began seriously working on the history of science. So, my professorial appointment at Harvard was as a professor both of astronomy and of the history of science. And I’ve had graduate students in both areas.

AUB changed my whole life.

—J.M.C.

Read the extended interview in MainGate on-line.
The Syrian Protestant College’s (SPC) first graduating class was six students strong in 1870. The SPC awarded its first master’s degree in 1906 and AUB awarded the first PhD in 1966—more than 80,000 degrees in the last 145 years. You can view all these images of our graduating classes (in much greater detail) in MainGate on-line.

The WAAAUB Riyadh Chapter held its first event in 2011 on May 5 at the Arizona Golf Resort. Around 250 alumni and many friends attended the dinner party where the guest of honor was Lebanese Ambassador General Marwan Zein. Lebanese pop stars Manel Mallat and Raja Rayess and their band topped off an evening made extra special by the sound and light effects and wonderful catering. Save the date for two upcoming gala dinners, both at the Arizona Golf Resort: October 6 and November 29.

On May 15, the WAAAUB Athens Chapter organized an outdoor event for 200 people at Dimitrios Contominas’s (BBA ’62) estate in the northern suburbs of Athens. Families and their friends chatted and got to know one another while enjoying food, music, a sing-along, and a trip down the AUB memory lane.

The WAAAUB Engineering and Architecture Chapter held a panel discussion to explore the pros and cons of the private and public sectors on April 20 at AUB’s Charles W. Hostler Student Center. FEA Chapter President Samir Traboulsi welcomed the distinguished panelists including Tripoli Mayor Nader Ghazal, Beirut Mayor Bilal Hamad (BEN ’76), and Cornet Chahwan Mayor Jean-Pierre Gebara (BAR ’82). Hamad described some of his frustrations as Beirut mayor such as a lack of qualified experts at the municipality, the slow pace of change, and some instances of wrongdoing by a few employees. He suggested that privatizing some municipality projects could improve efficiency. Ghazal reported that he was also facing similar challenges. Panelist Jean-Pierre Gebara, who is a professor at the University of the Holy Land, and the mayor of a southern city, discussed the importance of public-private partnerships, the role of the private sector in the economy, and the challenges faced by municipalities. The panelists also discussed the need for better communication and collaboration between the private and public sectors to ensure the success of these partnerships.

**Recently elected**

**Baltimore Chapter**

Ramzi Namek (BEN ’90), President
Elias Ghandour (BS ’81, MD ’85), Vice President
Rabih Jabbour (BS ’93), Secretary
Maeni Farha (MD ’82), Treasurer
Salma Kodsi (BS ’85), Member at Large
Iman Staitly (former student, 2005-10), Member at Large
Alan Shikani (BS ’76, MD ’81), Member at Large

**Mount Lebanon Chapter**

Nabil Torbev (BS ’73, MD ’77), Chairman of the Board
Samir Abou Jaoude (BS ’58), Chairman of the Elections and Nominations Committee

**Jordan Chapter**

Abdul Hamid Bibi (BBA ’64), President
Haya Imam (BBA ’99), Vice President
Farah Mustafa Hudhud (BA ’06), Secretary
Flare Zawawi Majali (BA ’75), Treasurer
Maha Al Amir (BA ’94), Member at Large
Tala Habib Faris (BBA ’06), Member at Large
Eyad Halabi (BBA ’94), Member at Large
Rana H. Hazzoun (BBA ’04), Member at Large
Randa Nabulsi (BS ’77), Member at Large
Ammar Moh’d Akram D. Queider (BBA ’04), Member at Large
Omar Nabil Al Ghawi (BS ’06), Reserved Member
Jean Carol Eid (BEN ’99), Reserved Member

Samir Abou Samra (BEN ’68), President
Rima El Kadi (BBA ’79), Vice President
Salwa Waled (former student, 1977-80), Secretary
Ziad Aftimos (BS ’71, MS ’73), Treasurer
Rafi Atamian (BS ’85, MD ’89), Member at Large
Nawar Hage (former student, 1990-92), Member at Large
Tony Harrouk (BEN ’91), Member at Large
Nasser Issrari (BBA ’85, MBA ’87, MMB ’91), Member at Large
Lena Kelekian (BS ’81), Member at Large
George Radi-Yammine (BS ’97), Member at Large
Zeina Zeidan (BS ’86, MPH ’91), Member at Large
Spirit-Kaslik, commented that because his municipality is much smaller, it provides better services. Many panelists agreed that their experiences in the private sector were helpful in dealing with some of the challenges they faced in the public sector.

The North Carolina Chapter went to the Lebanese Festival in April... and came home raving about the dabke groups, chicken shawarma, and knafe provided by local restaurants. Alumni staffed the chapter’s booth distributing brochures and knickknacks and bragging about the beautiful AUB campus.

The WAAAUB Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter gathered for a happy hour at Chapter Vice President Samir Akruk’s (BS ’65, MS ’67) home in Holland, Pennsylvania on May 7.

Sixty dinner guests attended the dinner hosted by the North Texas-Dallas Chapter at the Samar by Stephan Pyles Restaurant in Dallas, Texas on April 17.

Karaoke was on the menu when members and guests of the Montreal Chapter and the LAU Montreal Alumni Chapter got together at Boîte à Karaoke in Montreal on April 16.

The chapter also held a brunch at Buffet La BonneCarte at the Casino de Montréal on June 4.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ottawa Chapter, a sold-out crowd at the University of Ottawa was treated to a memorable performance of “On the Litani Bridge.” Written and directed by Rafic Ashkar (friend of AUB), the play dramatizes the suffering of a group of people in south Lebanon.

After a long, cold Canadian winter, the Ottawa Chapter celebrated the arrival of summer on a sunny June 26 with its annual picnic at Vincent Massey Park. The gathering was a great success with more than a hundred people in attendance. The many alumni included Adel Khalaf (BBC ’50) and Suad Jabir (Jabir-Khalaf) (BA ’53), who reports that she was one of only two women to graduate from the Math Department at the time. Alumni, friends, and their families enjoyed the delicious mashawi, humus, fattoush, desert, and coffee followed by tawleh, tannib, badminton, volleyball, dabkeh, singing, and nargileh. Special thanks to Moe Attalah (former student, 1976) and Ferial Abdel Nour for their support of this great event.
More than 100 AUB alumni, friends, and family attended the WAAAUB Toronto Chapter’s gala dinner on April 16 at Le Royal Meridien King Edward Hotel in downtown Toronto. After a brief welcome from Chapter President Rana El-Mogharbel (BA ’97, MA ’99), all eyes turned to featured speaker Janice Price, who is the CEO of the Luminato Festival in Toronto. She told the audience that hard work, networking, and collaboration had been the keys to success in her “journey to the top.” Alumni also enjoyed dancing and the chance to win some of the many raffle prizes donated by local businesses. The Executive Committee also honored Teddy Abdo (BBA ’61), who returned to AUB this summer to celebrate his 50th Class Reunion. Congratulations Teddy!

Committee. “The ring...signifies a lot more than a piece of jewelry or accessory, it symbolizes our pledge to our alma mater, our everlasting bond with our fellow graduates, and acts as a constant reminder of our memorable and successful AUB experience,” said USFC Vice President Ali Sheet. “I invite each one of you to become involved in WAAAUB. Your alumni association needs you. We need your advice, your suggestions, your wise counsel, your enthusiasm, and your support.” WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi concluded at the end of the ceremony.
Renewing our promise
Reunion 2011

A whirlwind of activities, finding old friends, gathering for photos at Main Gate, an elegant reception at Marquand House, sunsets over the sea, an excursion to the Chouf, a chance to eat in the new AUB Food Court, late night partying at The Library Rest Bar—all of it an opportunity to remember why we love AUB and renew our promise “to be faithful and committed to our beloved AUB.”

Special thanks to Byblos Bank and Le Bristol Beyrouth Hotel for helping to make the weekend a success.
July 1: “Many alumni have come to appreciate the educational gift [they have received] during their years at AUB, having to master multiple academic subjects, to engage intellectually with their peers, to respect dignity, and to nurture the environment,” said President Dorman, speaking at the Friday night honoring ceremony for alumni celebrating their silver (25 year) and golden (50 year) anniversaries of graduation. WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi (BA ‘54), welcomed the graduates of ‘86 and ‘61 while Master of Ceremonies Ricardo Karam (BS ‘91) chief executive officer of RK Productions and WAAAUB Board of Directors member, introduced keynote speaker Ghaleb Mahmassani (BA ’61).

“We are all here tonight to celebrate what hasn’t changed [at AUB]... It is the core mission and values of AUB that bring us all here tonight because they have stayed strong and relevant throughout years and generations,” said Mahmassani, noting that his own father, and later his daughter, like himself, had all graduated from AUB.

Raffoul Raffoul (BBA ‘86, MBA ’89) chief operating officer at Byblos Bank, highlighted the importance of freeing oneself from one’s own misconceptions and prejudices. Raffoul encouraged his fellow alumni to give back to AUB to foster “a positive change.”
July 2: WAAAUB Programs Committee Chair Ghada Rihani (BS ’84) welcomed alumni and their families to the Ring Ceremony in Assembly Hall. In his keynote address, Fadlo Touma (BE ’66, ME ’69) noted, “There is no substitute for freedom of thought and expression... There is no substitute for respect of diversity. The liberal education of AUB [as well as] the diverse mix on campus make an incubator for ideas and nourish the spirit of leadership and social responsibility and engagement.”
JULY 2: A generous brunch for alumni, their families, and friends was hosted by AUB and WAAUB at the Food Gallery in Ada Dodge Hall. Two stations, one for drawing and crafts, the other a magician show, were set up behind the Food Gallery to entertain children.

JULY 2: Alumni attended Don Quixote at the Byblos International Festival.

JULY 3: Lunch was organized at the Mir Amin Palace in Beiteddine.

JULY 2: Dinner at The Library Rest Bar
1960s

Muhammad Usama Al-Azm (BA '60, MA '64) writes: “Will be finally retiring next year after half a century of work, work, work. Time then to have some fun and enjoy the golden years, inshalla.” [usama(at)sultan.com.kw]

Said Sukkar (BBA '61) retired in April 2006. He and his wife Nuha live in suburban Damascus. They have three children: Ruwa, who lives with them; Ramez, who is cognitively disabled and has lived in a group home in the United Kingdom since 1980; and Reem, who is married with two daughters and lives in Middlesex, United Kingdom. [saidssukkar(at)gmail.com]

Jarir F. Halazun (BS '62, MD '67) is a pediatrician who did residencies and training at children’s hospitals in Cincinnati and Boston. He was recently elected chairman of the Pediatric Department at Jordan Hospital Medical Center in Amman, a teaching center with a full range of medical specialties. Pictured in the

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Questions? Contact maingate@aub.edu.lb

1950s

Wujaah Nayyiri (Luminaries), written by Michael Jeha (BA '55, MA '57) and published by Nelson Press in Beirut, focuses on 25 AUB academics who contributed to a mid- to late 20th century educational and cultural renaissance that influenced the region and beyond. The book pays tribute to many of Lebanon’s great intellectuals, artists, politicians, doctors, and teachers. Jeha earned his doctorate at the University of Munster in 1961. He taught at AUB (1961-63) and the Lebanese American University and was full professor for many years at the Lebanese University.

Lost Alumni

Class of 1972

Can you help solve any of our lost alumni mysteries?

Marie Abahouny
Mamun Abbassi
Ilyas Abbud
Abu-Mohammad
Abdallah
Khaliil Abdul-Al
Salwa Abdul-Al
Farhan Abdul-Rahman
Amal Abla
Rubhi Abu-Ismayyah
Sateng Abu-Khalil
Yusuf Abu-Mahanna
Waal Abdul Sa’d
Janine Abu-Shaar
Mehtesh Acet
Yeghia Adamian
Emily Afif

Salim Afif
Mudh.Rabi’i Asir
Antunyus Assaad
Samir Atik
Annie Avakian
Basim Azar
Naari Bahrani
Ahannes Balan
Esma Nadine Barbir
Krikor Ben Bardakjian
Krikor Hartch Barsumian
Bahij Barudi
George Barudi
Hasan Baydas
Majidad Bazirji
Waha Betian
Krikor Bezjian
Ghashan Bikhazi

Bulus Bishara
Kanark Bosnoyan
Angel Boyadjian
Harout Bronozian
Muin Bushnak
Mary Carmen Busuttil
Samir Butrus
Paulette Cabbabe
Katayoon Changizi
Andreas Charlaou
Jamal Ahmed Chaudhary
Mhd.Rafiq Chaudhary
Tateos Choufian
Barbara Dabbas
Mazin Dabbas
Lilian Daghir
Jalal Dasud
Ahmad Daouk
Hasanig Darakjian
Riyad Darwish
Nancy DaSilka
Shelly Florence Elliston
Vazken Ezelak
Alian Farajallah
A.B.M. Abdul Fattah
Hanna Georji
Najwa Ghayalini
Joseph Ghanim
Andre Ghurayyib
Sharon Gibson
Gungor Goksel
Mayram Gulumian
Nadim Habib
Khalil Haffiz
Ghadah Halawi
Mounir Halawi
Elle Hallak
Samir Hamdan
Rina Harawi
Viken Havandjian
Dalal Hermez
Zakariyya Hissu
Taye Horo
Ian Keith Howard

Laura T. Hubeny
Isma’il Hummadi
Suhairy Humsii
Farizah Hunaydi
Huda Huri
Sa’d Huri
Ghaniryah Husayn
Frederick C. Huxley
Fadya Ilyas
Claude Irani
Shaheen Irshad
Ramadan Iskandarani
Maurice Issi
Ahmad Itani
Muhd Tahsin Jabasini
Ahmad-Fahim Jabr
Rad Jalabi
Ahmad Jamal
Mudar Jamaluddin
Ghaliib Jamus
Ghassan F. Jibrayl
Majid Jubayli
Laurette Juraydini
Bernard Kaminker
Pierre Kanaan
Nuhu Kanj
Ibrahim Kankashian

If you know the whereabouts or contact information of anyone on this list from the Class of 1972, please send an email to alumni@aub.edu.lb and type “lost alumni” in the subject line. Thank you.

Muhamad Usama Al-Azm (BA ’60, MA ’64) writes: “Will be finally retiring next year after half a century of work, work, work. Time then to have some fun and enjoy the golden years, inshalla.” [usama(at)sultan.com.kw]
family photo are Halazun, his wife Shermine, and two sons: Karim, who is chief resident in surgery, and Hadi, (in cap and gown), who is a second-year resident in internal medicine, both at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. [hadi(at)Presbyterian Medical Center

Sally Everett (student ‘65) writes: “I have just finished writing a memoir that I hope will be published later this year. It brought back wonderful memories of my year at AUB. Over the last year, I’ve tried to find many of my old friends, with no success. I’d love to hear from any of you who remember me.” [seeverett1(at)mac.com]  

Munir Kaptan  
Riyad Karam  
Ghassan Karaman  
Nazerig Karamanouqian  
Mohammad Abd Karim  
Abdallah Karimuddin  
Fahed Karnik-Sarkissian  
Nadya Kashshu  
Hadi, (in cap and gown), who is a second-year resident in internal medicine, both at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. [hadi(at)Presbyterian Medical Center

Arpine Konyalian Grenier  
(As ‘65, MS ‘67) recently presented her latest collection of poems, The Concession Stand: Exaptation at the Margins (Otoliths, 2011), at the Congress 2011 Conference in Fredericton, Canada. The

Raid Ziadeh  
(As ‘69) is financial director at Areen Design Services, Ltd. in London, England. [Raid.Ziadeh(at)areen.com]
Mohamad Khawlie (BS ’71) is a free-lance consultant at the Qatar Foundation. In 1975 he earned his PhD in environmental geology at the University of Illinois. Khawlie and his spouse Sawsan Yamout (BA ’75, MA ’85) have one daughter, now a student at AUB. They live in Doha and Beirut. [khawlies(at)yahoo.com]

Khalil Klink (BEN ’70) is a senior civil engineer at the Council for Development and Reconstruction in Beirut. Klink and his wife Minnie Zeenni, who has a master's in journalism, have three children:

Antoine (BEN ’03) has a master's from the University of Southern California, Rania (BBA ’05) has an MBA from Manchester University, and Issam (BBA ’07). They live in Beirut. [klink48(at)hotmail.com]

Walid Nasr (BEN ’71) is a contracts formation manager at Heisco. [walidn(at)hotmail.com]

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1980s

Wafa Kays (BA ’80) has been a full-time language teacher at the American Community School in Beirut since 1993. Since 2005 she has also taught intensive Lebanese dialect for the SINARC summer program at the Lebanese American University. In 2004 Kays earned a master's in education/psychology and her teaching diploma at LAU. During Lebanon’s civil war years, Kays lived in Washington, DC. She is the author of Communicate Wafa’s Way, a work on spoken Lebanese Arabic. Kays is the very proud mother of

Mark Hamdan (BEN ’80) CEO of HRsmart Inc., the company he founded in 1999, opened a branch in Lebanon in 2006 because he wants to hire AUB graduates. His Texas-based company creates software that helps companies manage their human resources. Hamdan started down this path when his older brother took out a loan to fund his first year at AUB; scholarships enabled him to continue and graduate. “If I were to attribute my success to one single element, I would choose AUB,” he writes. He’d like to thank his wife, Weeda, for her support. [mhamdan(at)hrsmart.com] Extended interview:

If I were to attribute my success to one single element, I would choose AUB.”
—Mark Hamdan
founder of HRsmart Inc.

Vera Ghali (BA ’78, MA ’83) is a pediatrician and psychologist. She works for the Middle East Institute of Health in Bsalim, Lebanon.

Aziz Stephan (BE ’79) is founder, CEO, and managing director of Aziz Stephan Contracting (Lebanon) and two companies that specialize in constructing power substations: GTI (Qatar) and GTTPP (Saudi Arabia). Stephan and his spouse Viviane Tarabay (BS ’85) have three children: Kristina (expected BE ’12), Carla (a pre-med sophomore in biology), and Caline. The family lives in Jal El Dib, Lebanon. [a.stephan(at)asc.com.lb]

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—Mark Hamdan
founder of HRsmart Inc.

Vera Ghali (BA ’78, MA ’83) is a pediatrician and psychologist. She works for the Middle East Institute of Health in Bsalim, Lebanon.

Aziz Stephan (BE ’79) is founder, CEO, and managing director of Aziz Stephan Contracting (Lebanon) and two companies that specialize in constructing power substations: GTI (Qatar) and GTTPP (Saudi Arabia). Stephan and his spouse Viviane Tarabay (BS ’85) have three children: Kristina (expected BE ’12), Carla (a pre-med sophomore in biology), and Caline. The family lives in Jal El Dib, Lebanon. [a.stephan(at)asc.com.lb]

Wafa Kays (BA ’80) has been a full-time language teacher at the American Community School in Beirut since 1993. Since 2005 she has also taught intensive Lebanese dialect for the SINARC summer program at the Lebanese American University. In 2004 Kays earned a master's in education/psychology and her teaching diploma at LAU. During Lebanon’s civil war years, Kays lived in Washington, DC. She is the author of Communicate Wafa’s Way, a work on spoken Lebanese Arabic. Kays is the very proud mother of

Mark Hamdan (BEN ’80) CEO of HRsmart Inc., the company he founded in 1999, opened a branch in Lebanon in 2006 because he wants to hire AUB graduates. His Texas-based company creates software that helps companies manage their human resources. Hamdan started down this path when his older brother took out a loan to fund his first year at AUB; scholarships enabled him to continue and graduate. “If I were to attribute my success to one single element, I would choose AUB,” he writes. He’d like to thank his wife, Weeda, for her support. [mhamdan(at)hrsmart.com] Extended interview:

If I were to attribute my success to one single element, I would choose AUB.”
—Mark Hamdan
founder of HRsmart Inc.
Morgan, who works for AIR Hollywood in California and graduated from the University of California at San Diego in 2006 where he studied communications media; Lara (BBA ’08), who works as an event organizer at Mix FM radio station in Beirut and is a member of the AUB Choir Society; and Sergio, who is a sophomore at AUB. Kays reports that all three children are talented in music and have beautiful voices. [wkays(at)acs.edu.lb]

Riad Homsi (BS ’82, MD ’86)

is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a member of the North American Menopause Society, and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baptist Women’s Hospital in Memphis. He is married to Suha Tamim (BS ’84, MPH ’86). They reside in Germantown, Tennessee with their two children: Maysam and Sami. [riad(at)homsi.org]

Mowafak Taha (BS ’82, MS ’84) is a project management consultant. After earning his master’s in irrigation at AUB, he earned a second master’s in environmental engineering from the University of Toledo in 1997. Taha and his spouse Nadia Farhat (expected BS ’11) have two children and live in Toledo, Ohio. [mctaha(at)sbcglobal.net].

Carla-Maria Khanjian (BA ’82, MA ’86) and Irma Khanjian (BA ’81) have been busy since they last lit up the pages of this magazine two years ago. Now CEO and executive director, respectively, of Befutur Suisse, the biotechnology company behind La Peau anti-oxidant and anti-wrinkle cream (www.LaPeauSkincare.com), the two sisters recently told the story of their “miracle product” on famed Canadian interviewer Robert Scully’s “The World Show.” Their reach is increasingly global, from Beverly Hills to the Middle East; they expanded, most recently, to Lebanon, Dubai, Qatar, and Jordan. The two sisters found themselves working in biotechnology, then put up their private savings to buy the company when they saw the cosmetics potential in an auspicious scientific discovery. Nowadays they regularly entertain offers by major players to buy the company but, as Scully put it and the two agreed, they’re “dating” but they’re not yet ready for “marriage.” [irma(at)befutur.com] [carla(at)befutur.com]

Extended interview on-line.

Samir Hulileh (MA ’84) and his wife Sawsan B. Dweik (MA ’86) earned their master's degrees in social and behavioral sciences. They have an eleven-year-old daughter.

Hassan Ghanem Jamaeddine (BA ’86) is a customer service manager at MSD (Gulf). In 2009 he earned supply chain certification from the International Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Institute (IPSCMI). Jamaeddine currently lives in Dubai, UAE. [Hassan133(at)hotmail.com]

Mona El Kouatly (BS ’88, MPH ’93) is an adjunct instructor at AUB. She and her husband Yehia Kambris have three daughters and live in Beirut.
1990s

Mirna Abbas (BA ’90) is a translator at the United Nations. In 1993, she earned a diplôme d’études supérieures spécialisées (DESS) in specialized translation from the Ecole supérieure d’interprètes et de traducteurs (ESIT). She lives in New York City.

Bilal Raad (BAR ‘91) is a resident manager at Dar Al-Handasah Shair and Partners. In 2001, he joined the Master of Urban Design program at AUB. Raad and his spouse Bariah El Zein (BS ’89, MS ’91) have four children and live in Muscat, Oman. [muscat(at)dargroup.com]

Maha Younes (BA ’91) is a branch manager at Société Générale de Banque au Liban. In 2005, she earned her MBA in management. Younes and her spouse Omar Ismail (BEN ’83) have three children and live in Beirut. [maha.ismail(at)soc-gen.com] or [mahayounes2000(at)gmail.com]

Samer Zeinoun (BEN ’92, EMBA ’11) In June 2010 Zeinoun moved to Qatar as general manager of Circle Qatar, Ltd. Zeinoun married Caline Jabbour in 2000. [samerzeinoun(at)hotmail.com]

Dalal Aref Aziz (BS ’93, MD ’97) is a general surgeon (fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada) and works at Halton Healthcare in Ontario, Canada. [dalalaziz(at)hotmail.com]

Zahi Haidar-Ahmad (BS ’93, MD ’97) is a neonatologist with Neonatology Associates in Phoenix, Arizona, a medical director of the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Phoenix Baptist Hospital, and has been a clinical assistant professor at the University of Arizona since 2008. He completed his MBA at the University of Rochester, New York in 2007. Haidar-Ahmad married Rana Sabra in Lebanon in 2010. They currently live in Phoenix, Arizona.

Lama Nassar (BA ’93) is a market research consultant at MRO. Nassar and her spouse Dr. Salem Taghlabi have two children and live in Houston, Texas. [lillasal(at)aol.com]

Marwan El Khalil (BA ’94, MMB ’97) is the manager of the main branch of Banque Libano-Francaise SAL in Hamra. El Khalil and his spouse Rayane Hallab have a baby boy, Karim and live in Beirut. [marwan.elkhalil(at)yahoo.com]

Serge Cherfan (BEN ’95) is the chief financial officer of Amwal Al Khaleej, a leading private equity invest-
ment company in the MENA region. Cherfan and his wife Randa Abla (BBA '97, MMB '01) have three children and live in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. [serge(at)amwalalkhaleej.com]

Amer Karam (BS '96, MD '00) is an assistant clinical professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He currently lives in Los Angeles, California. [akaram(at)MedNet.UCLA.edu]

Noha Mazraani (MA '96) is currently working in Abu Dhabi as a curriculum and staff development consultant at Horizon, a private school. Prior to that, she spent three years in Cairo at Hayah International Academy as head of its Science Department. Mazraani spent 13 years (1993–2006) as a teacher and team leader at the American Community School (ACS) in Beirut. She left ACS to complete her doctorate at Saint Joseph University in Beirut in 2008. Other professional achievements include developing the Lebanese new science curriculum, writing three science textbooks for Grades 1-3 with the National Center for Educational Research and Development in Beirut, and presenting numerous workshops nationally and internationally on teaching and assessment methodologies. Mazraani plans to move to Istanbul, Turkey in 2012 to work as the academic coordinator at the Enka Schools. [nohamazraani(at)hotmail.com]

Dana Chamseddine

Aida Mansour (BA '90) fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2010 when she opened Café Arabia in Abu Dhabi. “This cafe embodies my love of art and literature,” she writes. “It’s an open forum to have a dialogue and learn about each other over a cappuccino and a fatouche salad.” Dignitaries, book clubs, and traveling musicians have quickly taken to the two-story café and its mission. Mansour credits her father, Abdul Rahman Mansour (BS '70), for inspiring her with his tolerance and humanity. By happy coincidence, the café is just across the street from the Choueifat International School he once directed. Abdul Rahman Mansour left Choueifat in 1996 and is now the CEO of the Abu Dhabi-based Global Education Consultancy [servicerangers(at)yahoo.com]

Leila Serhan (BBA '96) clearly thrives on challenge. She spent her childhood abroad, but calls enrolling in AUB a turning point in her life. Ever since then she has chosen jobs with the larger aim of helping to build Lebanon’s economy. As country manager for Microsoft Lebanon, Serhan is responsible for the sales and marketing of Microsoft products and services, and oversees business operations in emerging markets, specifically in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Palestinian territories. Seven years experience with Microsoft has given her a multilateral view of the company, from finance and business strategy to marketing and sales. Previously, she spent six years as a finance manager with LibanCell, which provides GSM mobile services in Lebanon. She is currently vice president on the board of the Lebanese networking platform, Women in Information Technology (WIT). [leila.serhan(at)Microsoft.com]
Lilian Ghandour (BS ’99, MPH ’01) earned a doctorate from the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in 2008. She and her husband Mohamad Abiad (BEN ’98), who earned a PhD in food processing engineering from Purdue University, were married in December 2010. Both are currently faculty members at AUB. Since 2008, Ghandour has been an assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health [lg01(at)aub.edu.lb]

Haytham Kaafarani (BS ’99, MD ’03) is a fellow in acute care surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. He also earned an MPH at Harvard University. Kaafarani is married to Dr. Maha Reda

Mohamed Ghalayini (BA ’00) is the CFO of Lumiere Group. He previously worked with KPMG Lebanon and Abdul Latif Jameel International Company in Lebanon and Algeria. He is married to Yasmin Iskandarani. [ghalayini.mohamed(at)gmail.com]

Zeina Kronfol (BS ’06) and three partners—Jamil Corbani, Oliver Wehbe, and Marc Abi Haila—prevailed over 10 other finalists to win the 2011 Grow My Business Competition cosponsored by the Beirut Traders Association, the MIT Enterprise Forum of the Pan Arab Region, and Bank Audi. Kronfol cofounded and is creative director of Green Studios (http://www.greenstudios.net/), a Beirut-based landscape architectural platform established in 2010. Green Studios specializes in landscape designs that incorporate hydroponic solutions. They plan to spend the LL50,000,000 prize money to expand their research unit on roof and wall gardens. Previously, Kronfol worked as a landscape designer at Exotica Emirates LLC in Abu Dhabi. [zkronfol(at)greenstudios.net]

Najwa Jureidini (BA ’00) is a lecturer at AUB, Antonine University, Amideast, and American University of Science & Technology. In 2009, she earned a doctorate in education at Saint Joseph University. Jureidini and her husband Raed Jureidini, who earned a doctorate in 1994, have two children and live in Beirut. [lamirico(at)gmail.com]

Kamal Sanjakdar (BEN ’01) is currently manager of corporate planning at Transocean. He earned an MBA from INSEAD in 2008. Sanjakdar lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

Fawzi Melhem (BS ’01, MS ’02) was elected to AUB’s Board of Trustees for a three-year term as a young alumni trustee in 2010. He is general manager of Radius (a water conservation com-
pany) and the regional manager for FITCO Industries London (landscape irrigation) for the Middle East. Melhem is a lecturer at AUB’s Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Department and a regional consultant for water conservation and irrigation. He lives in Baabda, Lebanon. [f.melhem(at)hotmail.com]

Nael Alami (MS ’03) is a post-doctoral research fellow at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital. In 2009, he earned his doctorate in neuroscience at Ohio State University. Alami moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 2010 to join the lab of Dr. J. Paul Taylor investigating the molecular mechanisms of neurological diseases. [n.alami(at)gmail.com]

Jade Naaman (BS ’03) recently accepted a position as a software development engineer at Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington. Naaman was formerly employed as a software engineer at Epic Systems Corporation. He writes, “The change was mainly driven by my passion for distributed systems and cloud technologies, which my new position deals with on a day-to-day basis.” [jade(at)naaman.info]

Samah Rifai Osman (BS ’03) and her husband Walid Osman are proud to announce the arrival of their son Omar who was born on November 29, 2010 in Al Mashrek and weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces.

Ibrahim Jour (BS ’04) writes: “I would like to express my appreciation for your continuous efforts in updating me with all AUB news. This is a beloved university which I was proud to graduate from in 2004.” Jour is a medical doctor who is the great grandson of Sultan Abdul Hamid the Second.

Hiba Abboud Poort (BS ’04) is a senior human resources advisor at Halcrow Consulting Engineers and Architects. She is working towards her master’s in human resources management at Middlesex University. Poort and her husband David, who is a producer at Al Jazeera’s English television network, live in Doha, Qatar. [hiba.abboud(at)gmail.com]

Shadi Mashal (BS ’05) is a senior consultant and enterprise architect at A W Rostamani, Shift Technologies. In 2005, he started his career with SABIS, Oman, and then moved to the UAE to work with TECHNIP as senior software developer/specialist, quality engineer, and later as project leader. During his work with TECHNIP, Mashal was elected with another colleague to represent his department on a six-month critical mission of knowledge transfer from TECHNIP-USA to TECHNIP-UAE. The mission was a success and was published in numerous magazines and newspapers, including USA Today. Shortly after his return to the UAE, Mashal and his team won the 2009 Franklin Award for most innovative technological achievement for their work on the navy tracking system that helped TECHNIP defend its vessels and staff against piracy.

Mashal lives in Abu Dhabi, UAE. [shadi.mashal(at)gmail.com]

Issam Shihab (BBA ’06) is an internal auditor at Abdelrahman Abdalla (BBA ’07) is MENA business development manager with the three-year-old global network EFactor, which bills itself as the “World’s Largest Entrepreneur Community.” For Abdalla, it’s part of a larger mission: “I want to raise awareness about investing in entrepreneurs and motivate [entrepreneurs] in the Middle East.” He invites members of the AUB community to register at the website (www.efactor.com) and take advantage of the opportunities for mentorship. Abdalla has also worked as a financial analyst for global investment firms and oil and gas companies such as ME Invest and Shell Oil Company. He expects to become a chartered financial analyst in 2012. [aabdalla(at)efactor.com]
Beyond Bliss Street

class notes

Fransabank SAL. In 2011, he earned a certificate in internal audit (CIA) at Morgan International. Shihab lives in Beirut. [i.shihab(at)gmail.com]

Josiane Dagher (BA ’07)

is a third grade homeroom teacher at Sagesse High School in Ain Saadeh. In Fall 2011, she expects to earn an MA in educational leadership at the Lebanese American University.

Mohammad Farhat (BE ’07)

and graduated with high distinction. During his studies, he interned at DTE Energy, a Fortune 500 electric utility. He has just started his engineering career at Chrysler LLC working in engine development. [ayyash.a2(at)gmail.com] [FB.com/akram.ayyash]

Akram Ayyash (former student, 2007–09) transferred to the University of Michigan and graduated with high distinction. During his studies, he interned at DTE Energy, a Fortune 500 electric utility. He has just started his engineering career at Chrysler LLC working in engine development. [ayyash.a2(at)gmail.com] [FB.com/akram.ayyash]

RECENTLY HONORED

Yusuf Hannun (BS ’77, MD ’81) was recently named the winner of the Avanti Award in Lipids by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). In addition to a plaque, Hannun received $3,000 and travel expenses to present a lecture at the ASBMB annual meeting. The annual award recognizes Hannun’s work on bioactive sphingolipids, a class of lipids that have emerged as critical regulators of a multitude of cell functions. Hannun has authored hundreds of peer-reviewed publications. He has also edited seven books and published five patents. He spent nearly two decades working in multiple capacities at Duke University and its medical center. Hannun is professor and department chairman at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. He is married to Lina Marie Ubayd (MD ’83).

Thomas L. Khoury (BS ’77, MD ’82) was awarded the Master Faculty Award by Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-COM). He is a clinical professor of general surgery at Southern Ohio Medical Center. Awarded only every five years, the Master Faculty Award recognizes exemplary faculty members of

Attention alumni!

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the Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE), OU-COM’s system of affiliated teaching hospitals in Ohio. In 2006, Khoury was awarded the CORE Outstanding Faculty Award. He received additional medical training at the University of Miami, Harvard University/Beth Israel Hospital, Tufts University/Baystate Medical Center, and Boston University. Khoury is board certified in nutrition, surgery, and vascular technology.

Najib W. Saab (BAR ’78)

was jointly awarded the Zayed International Prize for Environment with Dr. Mathis Wackernagel in March 2011. The prize is awarded for action leading to positive change in society. An architect by training, Saab is editor-in-chief of Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia (Environment and Development), the leading pan-Arab magazine on sustainable development; founding member and secretary general of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED); and president of LATA/MECTAT, an environmental resource center he founded in Beirut in 1982. His professional experience ranges from designing for multinationals like General Motors to lecturing in architecture at AUB, advising various governments and agencies on environmental issues, and writing on sustainable development and technology. He is the 2003 laureate of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Global 500 Award for environmental achievements. As a Zayed Prize winner, Saab received a trophy, a Zayed Prize diploma, and a financial award.

Susan L. Ziadeh (MA ’78)

has been appointed ambassador to Qatar. Ziadeh, who is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, has served as deputy chief of mission at US embassies in Bahrain (2004-07) and Saudi Arabia (2010-11). She was also the official spokesperson at the US Embassy in Iraq (2008-09). Ziadeh’s career has also included overseas tours in Kuwait, Jordan, and Jerusalem. She worked in Washington from 2001 to 2003 as the desk officer for Jordan. In addition to her AUB degree, Ziadeh earned a PhD in history from the University of Michigan and a BA from the University of Washington. She is a 2004 distinguished graduate of the National War College, National Defense University, with an MS in national security studies.

Tarek Yamani (BS ’01) was chosen to perform at the Montreux Jazz Piano Solo Competition in 2010, was presented with the prestigious Prins Bernhard Cultural Foundation grant, and selected to participate in the 2011 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead residency at the Kennedy Center. He studied classical piano as a child and then turned his attention to guitar and heavy metal until he discovered jazz at the age of 19. Yamani taught himself jazz theory and immersed himself in jazz recordings. His musical curiosity also led him to explore other styles of music including Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Flamenco, electronic, and Arabic. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in computer science, he decided to focus full-time on music. In 2005, he received a full scholarship to attend the Netherlands’ Prins Claus Conservatorium, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2009. Yamani has performed at festivals and venues across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. He has produced and performed with the hip-hop band Aksser, written music for dance and theater performances, and led jazz workshops at the Palermo and Realmonte jazz festivals.
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Nasser Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi passed away on April 17 in Kuwait. He served as chairman of the MA Kharafi Group, which was founded by his father and is one of the largest private companies in the Arab world. He was also founder and chairman of the EK Holding Company (Egypt-Kuwait); managing director of Aluminum Industries Company PLL; and director of a number of other companies. His business empire spread over more than 10 countries and reflected his investment philosophy: “I’m not in one pot, not in one place, not in one currency.” Nevertheless, he had an especially keen interest in Egypt where the Kharafi Group built the Port Ghalib International Marina. Al-Kharafi was a generous supporter of AUB, endowing the Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi Chair in Engineering. Among his many honors are the high medal of honor presented by HM King Abdullah II in recognition of Al-Kharafi’s activities in Jordan and other Arab countries and an honorary doctorate from AUB. He was a trustee of the American-Libyan University in Washington, DC in 1968. The daughter of noted mathematician and astronomer Mansur Hanna Jurdak (BA 1901, MA 1907), Khoury began her career as a sociology instructor and an administrator at AUB. During World War II, she was assistant director of the Allied Powers Radio Poll of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. In 1945, she was appointed secretary-general of Lebanon’s delegation to the UN Conference on International Organization in San Francisco. She later represented Lebanon in countries and an honorary director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She was married to Amine Khoury. After training in the United States, she joined the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics. They worked together until 1976 when they moved to the United States where they continued their work in rehabilitation until they retired. Hajj is survived by her siblings, Marilyn Loos and David Sutton; three children and their spouses, Nadine and David, Karen and Alan, and Jamie and Lisa; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Alumni

Angela Jurdak Khoury (BA ’37, MA ’38) passed away on May 29 at the age of 95. Khoury, who was Lebanon’s first woman diplomat, earned a doctorate in international relations from the American University in Washington, DC in 1968. The daughter of noted mathematician and astronomer Mansur Hanna Jurdak (BA 1901, MA 1907), Khoury began her career as a sociology instructor and an administrator at AUB. During World War II, she was assistant director of the Allied Powers Radio Poll of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. In 1945, she was appointed secretary-general of Lebanon’s delegation to the UN Conference on International Organization in San Francisco. She later represented Lebanon in prominent classical music conductors, composers, scholars, and promoters of western classical music in the Middle East. Gholmieh was president of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music and founder of both the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra and the Lebanese National Arabic Oriental Orchestra. “Gholmieh rebuilt the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra from below zero,” recalled AUB Trustee Myrna Bustani, the founder of Lebanon’s Al-Bustan Classical Music Festival. “He had a remarkable drive, running not one but two conservatories and not one orchestra, but two. He brought beauty back to Lebanon.”

Patience (Penny) Sutton Hajj passed away on August 24, 2010. Born in 1928 in Jerusalem to James and Phyllis Sutton, she grew up in Jordan and Beirut, graduating from the American Community School. After World War II she studied physical therapy in the United States and Britain. In 1954 she returned to Beirut to start the Rehabilitation Department at AUH where she met and married Amin Hajj. After training in the United States, she joined the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics. They worked together until 1976 when they moved to the United States where they continued their work in rehabilitation until they retired. Hajj is survived by her siblings, Marilyn Loos and David Sutton; three children and their spouses, Nadine and David, Karen and Alan, and Jamie and Lisa; nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Antranig Chalabian (former faculty), the widely acclaimed author of several volumes of Armenian history, died on April 12 at his home in Southfield, Michigan. He was 89. A graduate of Aleppo College (1944), Chalabian joined AUB’s Physiology Department in 1950 where he stayed for 27 years. He collaborated with Professor Stanley Kerr (former AUB President Malcolm Kerr’s father) on The Lions of Marash in 1973. Several years later, Chalabian and his family emigrated to the United States and settled in Detroit. In 1984 his first bilingual book, General Antranik and the Armenian Revolutionary Movement, became an international best seller. Chalabian was awarded a doctorate in history by the University of Armenia in 1989. He is survived by his children, Annie Hoglind, Jack Chelebian, and Karine Koundakjian, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His wife Siran predeceased him.

Etat Farah-Bathish was born in Lebanon in 1927 and passed away on May 19. She was managing director of Haski Technical Services in Egypt. Farah-Bathish established the Bathish Auditorium at West Hall in honor of her late husband Suhail R. Bathish (BEN ’59). She is survived by her two sons, Tawfic and Fawzi. Fawzi Farah is the founder of Lebanon’s Al-Bustan Classical Music Festival. “He had a remarkable drive, running not one but two conservatories and not one orchestra, but two. He brought beauty back to Lebanon.”

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Washington, DC and was consul of Lebanon in New York and Lebanon’s representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In 1959, she was awarded Lebanon’s Order of the Cedar. After resigning from the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1966, she joined George Mason University in Virginia as a professor of government until her retirement in 1982. Her husband, Shukry E. Khoury, an attorney, predeceased her in 1985. She is survived by two sons: Philip S. Khoury (former student 1969-70), chairman of the AUB Board of Trustees, and Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and George S. Khoury, a businessman in Darien, Connecticut; two sisters, Salma M. Jurdak (BS ’42) of Washington, DC and Salwa Nawas (BA ’47, MA ’48) of Atherton, California, and two grandchildren.

Rafic Chahine (former student, 1944-46) passed away at the age of 86. Chahine, who received his doctorate from the University of Southern California, served three terms as a member of parliament. He also headed the Ministry of Planning under former Prime Minister Saeb Salam (1960-61) and was minister of labor and social affairs in 1968. Chahine was posthumously awarded the National Medal of the Cedar.

Bessilios Bessos (BS ’58) passed away in 2010 at the age of 79. He graduated from AUB with a degree in pharmacy. In addition to acquiring a pharmacy in Souk el Gharb, he taught biology at IC for almost 30 years and published a textbook on biology for baccalaureate students. Bessos was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University for many years. In 1989, he and his late wife Arpnia emigrated to the United States, where he continued teaching at an Armenian school near his hometown of Glendale, California. After obtaining his American Pharmacy License in 1994, Bessos switched from teaching to managing a pharmacy. He will be remembered as an inspirational teacher and an engaging pharmacist whose cheerfulness and enthusiasm motivated many to overcome obstacles and to succeed. Bessos enjoyed gardening, classical music, traveling, and the company of his long-time friends and loving family. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

Moufid Jamil Farra (BBA ’58) passed away on March 31. He was born in Syria in 1932. He was deputy chairman of Capital Guidance Corporation and a generous supporter of AUB’s Olayan School of Business, Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences, and the College Hall and Brave Heart Funds. Farra was also a board member of the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon and an adviser to the board of Audi Saradar Investment Bank.

Salah Mitri Nasrallah (BS ’61, MD ’65), a gastroenterologist who had recently retired from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, died March 31 after a long illness. He was born in Hadeth, Lebanon in 1939. Nasrallah held academic appointments at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia (1970-72), AUB (1972-76), Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University’s School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia (1976-81), and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (1981-87). In 1988, his wife E. Eileen Wheeler and his son Marc were killed in a tragic automobile accident. From 2005 to 2010, he

Awad Abdelssalam (BEN ’61) passed away in September 2010. In addition to his AUB degree, he earned a master’s in civil engineering at Colorado State University and received a diploma from the Building Center of Rotterdam. Abdelssalam had a long and successful career as a civil engineer, notably as Sudan’s director of the Surface Water Department, director general of the National Administration for Water, chief construction engineer at Sudan’s Rural Water Corporation Headquarters, advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Mining in Khartoum, and as a consultant for sanitary engineering for the United Nations World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in Yemen. He married in 1968 and had seven girls: three doctors, two engineers, one nutrition specialist and one administrative employee.

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Rafic Chahine (former student, 1944-46) passed away at the age of 86. Chahine, who received his doctorate from the University of Southern California, served three terms as a member of parliament. He also headed the Ministry of Planning under former Prime Minister Saeb Salam (1960-61) and was minister of labor and social affairs in 1968. Chahine was posthumously awarded the National Medal of the Cedar.

Bessilios Bessos (BS ’58) passed away in 2010 at the age of 79. He graduated from AUB with a degree in pharmacy. In addition to acquiring a pharmacy in Souk el Gharb, he taught biology at IC for almost 30 years and published a textbook on biology for baccalaureate students. Bessos was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University for many years. In 1989, he and his late wife Arpnia emigrated to the United States, where he continued teaching at an Armenian school near his hometown of Glendale, California. After obtaining his American Pharmacy License in 1994, Bessos switched from teaching to managing a pharmacy. He will be remembered as an inspirational teacher and an engaging pharmacist whose cheerfulness and enthusiasm motivated many to overcome obstacles and to succeed. Bessos enjoyed gardening, classical music, traveling, and the company of his long-time friends and loving family. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

Moufid Jamil Farra (BBA ’58) passed away on March 31. He was born in Syria in 1932. He was deputy chairman of Capital Guidance Corporation and a generous supporter of AUB’s Olayan School of Business, Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences, and the College Hall and Brave Heart Funds. Farra was also a board member of the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon and an adviser to the board of Audi Saradar Investment Bank.

Salah Mitri Nasrallah (BS ’61, MD ’65), a gastroenterologist who had recently retired from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, died March 31 after a long illness. He was born in Hadeth, Lebanon in 1939. Nasrallah held academic appointments at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia (1970-72), AUB (1972-76), Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University’s School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia (1976-81), and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (1981-87). In 1988, his wife E. Eileen Wheeler and his son Marc were killed in a tragic automobile accident. From 2005 to 2010, he

Awad Abdelssalam (BEN ’61) passed away in September 2010. In addition to his AUB degree, he earned a master’s in civil engineering at Colorado State University and received a diploma from the Building Center of Rotterdam. Abdelssalam had a long and successful career as a civil engineer, notably as Sudan’s director of the Surface Water Department, director general of the National Administration for Water, chief construction engineer at Sudan’s Rural Water Corporation Headquarters, advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Mining in Khartoum, and as a consultant for sanitary engineering for the United Nations World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in Yemen. He married in 1968 and had seven girls: three doctors, two engineers, one nutrition specialist and one administrative employee.

Salah Mitri Nasrallah (BS ’61, MD ’65), a gastroenterologist who had recently retired from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, died March 31 after a long illness. He was born in Hadeth, Lebanon in 1939. Nasrallah held academic appointments at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia (1970-72), AUB (1972-76), Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University’s School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia (1976-81), and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (1981-87). In 1988, his wife E. Eileen Wheeler and his son Marc were killed in a tragic automobile accident. From 2005 to 2010, he
was a part-time associate professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Johns Hopkins. Nasrallah made significant contributions to the field of gastroenterology and wrote a seminal paper on Mediterranean abdominal lymphoma. He had a private practice in Baltimore, Maryland from 1987 to 2001. A humanitarian who generously volunteered his medical services to the uninsured, Nasrallah will be sorely missed by his patients, colleagues, and family. He is survived by his wife Nancy E. Aldridge Nasrallah, his daughter Laura Muench-Nasrallah, his son-in-law August, three grandchildren, and his older brothers Samir and Ghassan Nasrallah.

Luci Clare Barber (BA ’64) passed away last August at her home in Marlborough, New Hampshire. She lived in Brazil, Turkey, and Libya before attending AUB. After earning a master’s degree at UCLA, she worked as an English language instructor in Somalia where she met her husband, Jerry Germer. They married in Mogadishu in 1967. They lived, worked, and studied in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Monrovia, Liberia before finally settling in New Hampshire where Barber enthusiastically played the trombone in the town band for 18 years. She cowrote a book with her husband encouraging adults to become involved in making music and two books on teaching English as a second language.

Nabil W. Husami (BS ’68, MD ’72) passed away last March after battling pancreatic cancer. A recognized leader in women’s health care issues, Husami was a pioneer in the field of assisted reproductive technology (ART). In 1982, he helped establish the IVF and embryo transfer (ET) programs at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. He served as director of the Center for Endometriosis Treatment and Research at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons where he was on staff for more than 20 years and was also a partner at American Fertility Services, PC. He was an active and generous contributor to AUB, serving as president of AUB’s Alumni Association of North America (1986-89). He is survived by his wife Mona N. Mufti Husami (BA ’70) and three daughters.

Ibrahim Saeed (BBA ’87) passed away on May 11. Saeed, who earned an MBA from Curtain University of Technology in Australia, helped to decentralize and develop industrial fisheries and agriculture in the Maldives before forming his own transportation, travel, resort, and real estate development and management companies. He was also involved in innovative urban wine making ventures in developing markets in the Asia Pacific. Saeed is survived by his wife Guraisha Mohamed and two sons, Ryan and Russel.

We Remember

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<th>Friends and Colleagues</th>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Hitti</td>
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Mohammad Hassan Saleh | BS ’83, MS ’85 |
Abdallah Yousef Lahoud | BBA ’94 |
Ghassan Haidar | BS ’00, MD ’04 |
Wissam Samir Sarkis | BEN ’00 |
Fouad Abdallah Kanaan | Former Student |
Mohammad Rafik Shaheen | Former Student |
Mohamed A. El Balouli | AUB Student |
Ah, soulmates. Find many more photos of dashing couples enjoying Outdoors 2011 in MainGate on-line.
Assembly Hall, 1903. Daniel Bliss conveying the university presidency and the key of the College to his son Howard Bliss. Submitted by Nabil W. Abdul-Karim, 1955 graduate of mechanical engineering.