MainGate
American University of Beirut Quarterly Magazine

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Lane Press
The Heart of Beirut

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AUBMC residents learn to help those who need it most in Hay el Gharbeh

Green Dreams
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Just Imagine
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Beyond Buildings
An uphill fight to save Beirut’s heritage
In this issue dedicated to Beirut, MainGate speaks to President Dorman about the challenges facing our neighborhood and AUB’s role in making Ras Beirut a healthier and more vibrant place to live.

MainGate: What do you see as major challenges confronting Beirut and more specifically Ras Beirut?
Overdevelopment—the unbridled growth of large apartment buildings that do not allow for green spaces. The challenge mainly has to do with redeveloping Ras Beirut as a livable neighborhood: the preservation of historic buildings, historic homes; if possible, pedestrian access—the division between pedestrian and vehicle spaces; and parking. On top of that, how does AUB interact in a productive and engaging way with the people who live in Ras Beirut, and how do we improve that kind of engagement? It is challenging because our immediate neighborhood is very much a commercial district and it is ephemeral, in the sense that Bliss Street is not inhabited by businesses where people spend much time. Just a block or two away you have restaurants developing where faculty and students go, and you see them having long lunches, but most of the shops are either fast food or produce stores. Apart from those restaurants I mentioned, there is nowhere that you can see an intellectual community finding a home. Even bookshops on Bliss Street have disappeared over the last couple of years. The [intellectual] community is developing again but further away. It should be just outside our gates.

As a major urban employer and as a center for education and research in Beirut, what is AUB's role in confronting some of these challenges?
The Neighborhood Initiative is looking at the flow of traffic and the question of pedestrian spaces, especially spaces that are amenable to young kids, to older people, to people who are impaired in terms of their mobility. It is looking at ways that traffic can be rerouted to keep the flow going, ways to create appropriate designated cross walks for safety, and also pedestrian-friendly roads that link Bliss with Hamra, especially with Abdul Aziz and Jeanne d’Arc streets.

This of course is not something AUB can do on its own, so we have also been talking with representatives from the municipality and with the new mayor of Beirut, Bilal Hamad, who is a member of our engineering faculty. We have also started touching base with Ziad Baroud, presently the [caretaker] minister of the interior. It is a problem on which you have to rely on multiple levels of government, so that makes it more complex.

Is there anything that you are doing on campus to deal with traffic congestion, parking problems, and pollution?
It’s a systemic problem on campus that has as much to do with the lack of proper public transportation as it has to do with individual choices.

We contribute to congestion primarily because we have so many students and staff who come to campus every day, which is inevitable. We try to provide as much parking as we can, but it is woefully inadequate. One thing we have done is to pull the concrete barriers off the Corniche that used to block the parking lane in front of faculty housing, the biology building, and the Hostler Center. We have been talking to IC and ACS about their traffic patterns as well. One reason we removed the barriers is so the public could use those areas until 2 pm,
after which they would then be used as bus lanes for the two schools.

If we go along with the municipality in trying to figure out traffic patterns along Bliss Street, we will be adding pullover areas for taxis on our side of Bliss and maybe even pushing back our boundary wall to provide a little more space for the public.

Would it make sense to look at the idea of AUB buses coming and going at given times?

This has actually been discussed as a possibility, such as some sort of parking arrangement for renting space at the Charles Helou Bus Station. Students coming from the north would drive in, park, and take a bus to campus. But when you develop that kind of a commuter system, you need several buses and a frequent schedule. Then the question arises, do you operate your own buses or do you engage companies, and once you do that there are liability issues in terms of insurance. Then, of course, you would need to have a viable system coming from the south. So it is very clumsy. In essence we would be trying to create our own public transportation system. It’s a possibility, but it does not seem to be very viable in terms of how people would make use of it and it would add to their commuting times.

The demand for properties overlooking campus and the sea has led to a development boom in Ras Beirut and dramatically escalating prices. What can AUB do to address this issue that affects the affordability of housing for faculty members, staff, and students?

We are aware of the problem and we are giving it our consideration. We are definitely looking at places on campus that would not impinge on the central green space but that could provide significant amounts of new housing, especially for faculty. We’re also looking at spaces where we could provide additional student housing.

What do you think will be AUB’s main contribution to Ras Beirut in 2011 and what would you like the contribution to be in the years ahead?

I am hoping that all these initiatives reaching out into the neighborhood will have a positive impact. I hope that AUB can take the lead working with the municipality to reconfigure the streets and sidewalks and ultimately to reintroduce a system of public transportation simply because it is going to improve life uniformly, not just for us but for everyone who lives here. I hope also that building the new medical center will have an impact in this respect as well, since we will have to look at how traffic flows around the medical center. This is a huge challenge and it is going to be an opportunity for people to take a broader look at how traffic is directed through Ras Beirut.

You knew Ras Beirut as a youngster. What are your strongest memories of the neighborhood and the relationship between the University and its environs, between “town” and “gown”?

I was at the age when I was not conscious of the town/gown separation. To me they were all just family friends. It seemed to be one large community, a natural melting pot of many different peoples and languages. So I am not sure I have memories of how AUB as an academic community impinged on Ras Beirut and probably that’s a reflection of how well it did.

—M.A.
We often make the distinction that we are the American University of Beirut—and not the American University in Beirut. Why? Because AUB is not just physically located in this city; we are an integral part of the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Beirut, Lebanon, and the region—and have been for a long, long time.

In preparing this issue, we discovered just how much our university community both contributes to and learns from the city: our students are teaching in Beirut schools, reimagining Beirut’s architectural landscape, and working to make the city a healthier place to live. Our alumni and faculty are just as dedicated to Lebanon’s physical and cultural heritage and its rare urban green spaces. There is valuable give and take involving the Medical Center as well: the profile of the Tahaddi Clinic is an example of one of the increasing number of AUBMC local partnerships that enable us to deliver excellent health care to disadvantaged communities while broadening the experience of our medical residents.

On another topic, over the next six months MainGate staff will be reevaluating both the content and design of the magazine. As part of this effort, I’ll be sending alumni a short survey to gather their thoughts. I also welcome feedback from our non-alumni readers as well. We want to do the best job we can of connecting alumni and friends worldwide with the University while also informing you of the interesting and noteworthy work being pursued on campus. Please fill out the survey or send us an email at maingate@aub.edu.lb. We need your help to make MainGate a better magazine.

Ada H. Porter
Editor, MainGate

I recently turned 88 and I still have vivid memories of my AUB years. I remember our class tour with Professor Charles Abu Chaar of the campus studying its flora and his description of every tree.

I am Muslim by faith and still remember how much I enjoyed the Sunday evening service, singing the hymns at Bliss or Fisk Hall. I equally enjoyed attending the service at the AUB Chapel and listening to the choir and the huge pipe organ. Those and other social activities at the campus are still vivid memories.

Long live AUB and my best wishes.

Zuhair Annab (BS ’48)

Competing Milk Bars

Jane Coppock thinks that she is the person facing the camera in the center, seated. If so, the photo is from 1963-64, when she was a sophomore student at AUB. Her parents led the first Great Lakes College Association group to AUB. Yusef Shalabi (BE ’63) also wrote to say that the photo must have been taken in 1959 or 1960 and that the woman at the front is Nural Abu Dabbe (BA ’62), now deceased, then a close friend of his wife at AUB. He adds that the man serving behind the bar is Elias who later moved to the Milk Bar at FEA.

Errata

Winter 2011, Class Notes: Rada K. Dagher received her BS in 1998, not 1988

FUTURE ISSUES

Do you consider yourself an entrepreneur? Tell us your story.

Family time: we want to learn more about AUB families. Have several generations of your family attended AUB?

Did you—or your parents, aunts, cousins, grandparents, etc.—meet a future spouse at AUB?

We’re looking for love stories... Send photos!
Join your fellow alumni back on campus for three days filled with activities for you and your family.


Details: http://www.aub.edu.lb/alumni/reunion/Pages/classreunion.aspx
For registration or if you have any questions, email us at reunion@aub.edu.lb
AUB’s varsity soccer team takes a lap around the Green Field before a match during the AUB President’s Club Second International Sports Tournament March 23-27.
As she surveys the view from her “eagle’s nest” office overlooking Bliss Street, AUB Neighborhood Initiative dynamo Professor Cynthia Myntti does not see what the rest of us see. In her mind’s eye she visualizes new pick up and drop off points near AUB gates, crosswalks for pedestrians filtering left and right through the Main Gate, and wider sidewalks complete with cafés trottoir (sidewalk cafés) between Abdul Aziz and Jeanne d’Arc. It sounds like a utopian vision, but in reality what Myntti envisions are some of the key recommendations that have been presented as a result of research the Neighborhood Initiative supported on traffic congestion and barrier free design around campus.

Working with AUB faculty members from civil engineering, urban design, the social sciences, and landscape design and ecosystem management, the Neighborhood Initiative and the AUB Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) are piecing together the first components of a multi-pronged approach that includes tackling traffic problems head on, turning Jeanne d’Arc’s sidewalks into a pedestrian and wheelchair friendly conduit between Bliss and Hamra, transforming the ambiance of Bliss Street between the Medical and Bliss Gates, and exploring ways to mitigate pollution problems in the neighborhood through greening local buildings (see p. 12).

“We have had remarkable response from stakeholders in the area,” says Myntti, “starting with AUB and its neighbors, business owners, developers and government decision makers, including the mayor. We have the privilege of using AUB’s amazing intellectual talent, first class thinkers trained all over the world, to try to solve our local problems.” Among those working directly with Myntti on congestion problems are civil and environmental engineering professors Isam Kaysi and Maya Abou Zeid and Professor Robert Saliba, an urban designer in the Department of Architecture and Design.

Over at CCECS, the center’s director Mounir Mabsout describes a final year project of five civil engineering students who are designing urban rainwater harvesting systems for neighborhood.
greening. Under the supervision of Professor George Ayoub, the pilot project focuses on Makhoul Street around St. Mary’s Church, school, and adjacent buildings. In the initial study phase, students have interviewed local inhabitants and presented their reports. “Stakeholder participation is essential,” says Mabsout. “We needed to get the community on board and identify participants and buildings which lend themselves to this scheme.” Catchment design models will follow.

Also based at CCECS, landscape design and ecosystem management (LDEM) lecturer Rabih Shibli has just finished meeting with two LDEM final year students who are working with him and social scientist Samar Kanafani on the Inclusive Neighborhood project. Their pilot focuses on improving the pedestrian experience along the length of Jeanne d’Arc Street with particular attention given to special needs individuals, wheelchair users, and the visually impaired. A meticulous survey of the sidewalk reveals an intricate obstacle course of miscellaneous obstructions from metal pipes to trees to parking ticket machines and street signs. Kanafani’s moving video following one wheelchair user’s progress—or lack of it—from AUB to Hamra provides an eloquent testimony of the challenges they face. Kanafani’s job description is to conduct stakeholder interviews, but she soon realized that her film-making skills could be put to work as a visual advocate for the “excluded.” She is already working on another film with a member of the Youth Association for the Blind (YAB). In coordination with YAB, the team has also succeeded in introducing menus in braille in certain Hamra restaurants and cafés, with more to follow.

Tough Times for Arab Revolutions

Bringing down the regimes in Tunisia and Egypt was tough, but the hard tasks are yet to come, said Professor Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University, during a CAMES lecture on March 16. Khalidi warned that the “forces of repression and reaction” supported by powerful interests inside and outside the Arab world could still provoke chaos in Tunisia and Egypt.

A survey of the Jeanne d’Arc sidewalk reveals an intricate obstacle course of miscellaneous obstructions from metal pipes to trees to parking ticket machines and street signs.
He pointed out that although peaceful revolutions demanding democracy and rule of law are not new to the Arab world, the demand for both individual and collective dignity distinguishes these revolutions from their predecessors.

Noting that the Arab region is the only region in the world that has not witnessed democratic transformation in the last 40 years, Khalidi said that the claim by Arab police states (and some western countries) that Arabs are not mature enough for democracy is being challenged.

He went on to say that western audiences watching the revolutions have noticed that the demands of Arab revolutionaries are no different from the demands raised during the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and recent revolutions in eastern Europe.

Despite the fact that the slogans of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions are spreading to other Arab countries, Khalidi says that each country is markedly different: Tunisia and Egypt’s relative homogeneity is in stark contrast to the sectarian and tribal tensions and external and regional interventions that afflict other Arab countries.

While Khalidi acknowledges the difficulties that Tunisia and Egypt face, he is “confident they are on the right track” as they realistically try to solve one problem at a time. The diversity represented by the revolutionaries makes it difficult for supporters of the old regimes to undermine them. Khalidi said this is a “world historical moment we are lucky to witness.”

FAS

Tea with Biscuits in Prison

What is your definition of prison? How do you visualize your own personal form of confinement and how would it feel? These were key questions triggered by a close reading of Nawal El Saadawi’s “Memoirs from the Women’s Prison” by a group of Fine Arts and Art History (FAAH) students.

The exploration of Saadawi’s narrative under the supervision of theater director, Lina Abyad, inspired the students to write their own memoirs. From these, they created theatrical texts in Arabic, English, and French for a collective performance: Tea with Biscuits in Prison. Staged in the Penrose Hall basement, especially adapted for the purpose (where tea and biscuits were served to the audience), the performance was made possible by a recent grant from the Mellon Foundation and the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature in coordination with FAAH, the Office of Communications, and the Office of Student Affairs.

For one student, Saadawi’s nonconformism, even in prison, induced a tirade against the suffocating constraints of society; for another, prison became an intricate, fluffy white spider’s web, a velvet trap where she lives, caught like a fly and subjected to the spider’s abusive and erratic “love.” For another, it was life constrained in the body of a bulimic. One tortured soul, unable to speak throughout the performance, finally conveyed his agony with an outburst on the affliction of stuttering;
another revealed his former hell as a recovering drug addict. There was unrequited love; the stress of living with an obsessive-compulsive mother; the pain of failing to attend a dying mother at her bedside, and an “Alice in Wonderland” world of escape as a way to cope with mental abuse.

These revealing prisons, as much group therapy as theatrical performance, were imaginatively presented each within its own space. Alice hid behind her Mad Hatter’s table laden with tiny teacups and teapots; the bulimic swung precariously from a high stool reaching out protectively towards her comforting toilet bowl; unable to escape the confines of unrequited love, another hesitantly picked her way through a tangled snare of twigs and branches.

The performances, which were designed to gain momentum over the course of a week, culminated in a cathartic finale. The heady mixture of honesty, courage, and imagination was augmented by after performance discussions with the audience.

“Rarely have I had the chance to be part of an artistic project which provoked and inspired so much introspection, truthful discussions, and which ended with liberation from so many demons and fears.” Lina Abyad, director, Tea with Biscuits in Prison
Live Poets Society
Every first Wednesday of the month, in the cozy (if noisy) gallery of the popular Café Younes off Hamra Street, a group of dedicated poets meets to read and share their love of the art. Under the watchful eye of AUB English Professor Michael Dennison, with his departmental colleague Rima Rantissi in charge of proceedings, participants unveil their latest works or read some favorite verses.

The March gathering was an opportunity for two nervous initiates to make their debut; for a seasoned regular, it was a time to revisit some of his favorite—sad—works; a “double act” followed with a poet reciting his parody, “To His Shy Concubine” in response to Dennison’s rendition of Andrew Marvel’s “To a Coy Mistress.” There was a reading in French, some rap lyrics, and a moving prose piece from a short story about war. One frustrated poetess, whose laptop had crashed, consoled herself by narrating two of her favorite Dennison poems.

If you are a budding poet, Dennison and Rantissi urge you to head down to Café Younes on the appointed Wednesday; if you just want to listen, you are also welcome.

Hot Competition
The sense of expectation preceding AUB’s First Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Competition was infectious. Organized by Associate Professor Bilal Kaafarani to mark UNESCO’s 2011 International Year of Chemistry, the competition was open to all students who had completed Organic Chemistry I and II. A total of 42 two-member teams from AUB, Balamand, Beirut Arab University, Hariri Canadian University (HCU), Lebanese American University (LAU), and Lebanese University (LU) tested their knowledge by answering a series of multiple choice questions.

Once the battle commenced, the answers came fast and furious, often even before Kaafarani had finished reading the question.

While the audience waited in suspense for the announcement of the winning teams, a “surprise” was unveiled—a touching film tribute to renowned AUB Professor Makhlof Haddadin on the occasion of his 75th birthday. No one was more surprised than Haddadin, who accepted this fait accompli along with a plaque in his honor from AUB President Dorman with humor and grace.

As to the winners—two dead heats added to the thrill of the competition, but even they did not resolve the issue. Having run out of questions, Kaafarani declared that the AUB team of Tarek Barbar and Ziad Al Adas and LAU student Jad Abdul Samad, who had performed solo after his teammate dropped out at the last minute, would share first prize. In third place were Wissam Itani (HCU) and Salma Yassine (AUB); fourth prize went to Tarek El-Assaad and Adnan Behlok (LU).

AUB has launched an initiative to fund two $500 annual cash prizes: the Haddadin Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student and for Outstanding Graduate Student.

FAFS
Green Offensive
The menacing brown layer of pollution that habitually hangs over Beirut sends shudders down the spine. What is it doing to our bodies and what can we do to mitigate...
its effects? Ban cars and turn off the generators? Or fight back by launching a green offensive? That is what faculty in the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management are trying to do. In conjunction with the Neighborhood Initiative and the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (see p. 8), a team of faculty members and students led by Professor Salma Talhouk and George Battikha are engaged in research into "extensive" roof gardens.

Designed to offset CO₂ and encourage biodiversity, these shallow, rain fed, sustainable roof gardens, planted with native species, are destined to modify the urban fabric of Ras Beirut. First, however, the scientists have to devise the best soil composition and species mix, which is why Talhouk and Battikha are busy assessing the suitability of planting mediums and monitoring the durability of local species planted in boxes to simulate rooftop conditions. Soil depth, plant survival, and regenerative properties are all under study in the quest to identify the optimal combination. Once this is found, Ras Beirutis will have the option of turning their barren roof spaces into a haven for nature, birds, and insects as well as plants and, at the same time, helping improve the air they breathe.

OSB

**Time for Re-ALIGNment**

It has been a productive year and an interesting learning curve for the editors of **ALIGN**, OSB’s on-line news site. Although it’s off to a respectable start with a monthly average of 1,000 hits, editor-in-chief Tony Feghali and editor Emily Abuatieh are planning some big changes. They’ve drawn up a significant “to do” list that ranges from beefing up content and sprucing up the site’s appearance to improving the graphics and, crucially, integrating **ALIGN** with social media outlets.

In addition, OSB professors will be submitting "trade" articles based on current academic research to bolster the newsletter’s mostly student editorial team that plans to do more in-depth investigation and analyses of current business and business education trends. Subscribe at www.alignwithosb.com

**Open All Hours**

No more excuses! In an effort to provide maximum back up for hard-pressed AUB students facing exams, for the first time ever Jafet Library opened its doors 24/7 between January 21 and February 2, 2011. Students clearly enjoyed taking advantage of the quiet, accessible environment to get down to some serious last minute revising. Jafet remained more than half full well into the early hours with over 300 students still at work at 3:00 am, and a hardy 100 seeing in the dawn at 5:00 am. The all-night sessions were made possible by the good graces of library personnel who agreed to work 12-hour shifts. The high student numbers and their obvious gratitude to library staff made the long days worthwhile. Given how popular the service turned out to
be, University Librarian Lokman Meho has promised to offer late hours every fall and spring semester. So, books open and heads down, AUB students can now enjoy optimum study conditions when all too soon those end of semester exams come around again.

**Faculty News**

**Close Cooperation**
The Department of Health Promotion and Community Health (HCPH) at FHS recently became the third AUB department to be designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Center (WHOCC). The two others are the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences and the Division of Dermatology in the Department of Internal Medicine.

One of the main terms of reference of this collaboration is to serve as an information center for health promotion and to provide WHO with resources such as health education promotion materials, networking among NGOs, evaluation of materials and programs, training of health care practitioners, and providing research in health-related subjects. Although there are 800 WHO Collaborating Centers worldwide, AUB’s HPCH is the first in the region to become a WHOCC for Health Promotion.

Commenting on the WHOCC, HCPH Associate Professor Jihad Makhoul says, “The WHO designation...recognizes the significance of health promotion as an important field of public health and that there is an academic unit in the region which is capable of both collaborative research and community service in response to the needs of the Arab world.”

**A Man for All Seasons**
AUB scholars Tarif Khalidi and John Meloy, both affiliated with the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES), have been honored by the Secretariat for the World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their contribution as editors to *Al Jahiz: A Muslim Humanist of Our Time*. Jointly edited with German scholars Arnim Heinemann and Manfred Kropp, the book explores the work of Al Jahiz (781-868 AD) described by Khalidi as a “thinker who was infinitely curious about the social and natural world.” Meloy said, “It’s...gratifying to see that the achievements of Al Jahiz, a great humanist, are still being recognized nowadays.”

**Defending the Elderly**
Abla Sibai, FHS professor of epidemiology and population health, was recently appointed as the Middle East and North Africa regional representative for the prestigious International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Sibai, who has striven to put elder issues at the forefront of both national and regional agendas for the past 15 years, says she is deeply honored by the appointment. She notes that “Elder abuse was only recently discovered by the public. Evidence is accumulating to indicate that it is an important public health and societal problem that manifests itself in both developed and developing countries...Women are more vulnerable than men to abuse across all social categories and within various living arrangements. While there are cultural differences in defining, diagnosing, and quantifying abuse, hard data is needed to convince policy makers of the seriousness of this issue. The current dearth of information hinders planning, policy, and assessment; there is much work to be done.”

**Art Therapy**
The brightly colored murals of zebras, a pelican, fish, and birds that now adorn the walls of AUBMC’s Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine can’t help but fire children’s imaginations and transport them to another world far away from pain and fear. Donated by the Foundation for Hospital Art through the Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC), the inspirational gift was arranged by Christina Asfour to bring comfort to patients and their families. The vibrant, multisquare canvasses painted by Barbara Banta were recently installed in the presence of a distinguished delegation from RCBC led by former President Tony Asfour and Mona Jaroudi, the wife of current RCBC President Subhi Jaroudi. Senior AUBMC administrators were on hand to receive the gift and thank the donors. In his remarks, Asfour stressed the important contribution that AUBMC makes to the community. This is the second time AUBMC has received a donation from the Foundation for Hospital Art that disseminates art
to a network of hospitals across the United States and the world.

**FHS**

**Vital Statistics**

Until now, it has been difficult for health care administrators to accurately assess performance and quality in Lebanese hospitals. All this is set to change with the recent launch of IMPROVE: (I= Indicator; M= Measurement; P= Performance; R= Report; O= Observatory; V= Valid-Benchmarking; E= Education)

**IMPROVE** is the outcome of a three-year initiative led by the Department of Health Management and Policy at FHS to develop a hospital balanced scorecard system in Lebanon. It includes 40 indicators enabling hospitals to benchmark and compare their performances to national, regional, and international averages and stimulate continuous quality improvements.

**IMPROVE** includes 40 indicators enabling hospitals to benchmark and compare their performances to national, regional, and international averages and stimulate continuous quality improvements. **IMPROVE** will eventually become its own nongovernmental organization. As the founder of **IMPROVE**, which was three years in the planning, Assistant Professor Fadi El-Jaraldi says, “**IMPROVE** has started an important process of transforming the culture in hospitals by stimulating quality improvement through measurement and benchmarking. I strongly believe that **IMPROVE** will provide valuable and essential information to policymakers, hospital managers, and health professionals which will enable them to make evidence-informed decisions to upgrade quality of care and patient safety.”
Visions of Beirut

All AUB students majoring in architecture spend much of their fifth and last year proposing, developing, and presenting individual final-year projects on a wide range of interesting and compelling issues related to the built environment. We want to introduce you to some of the final-year architecture students who decided to focus their projects on Beirut this year.

Student: Antoine Atallah
Project: Architecture, Archaeology, and Beirut: A Scenario for Dialogue

I parked in the Martyrs Square lower parking lot on the sea side and then headed to the Virgin Megastore to get a gift for a friend’s birthday. My gaze wandered and I looked at the empty square, at the three or four lone buildings on its sides, and that statue that no one looks at anymore. I looked back again at the landscape I just walked through and it seemed lunar, surreal, a mess of holes and mounds and bits and pieces . . .

The absolute value of remains from the past is nowadays taken for granted and has led to an attitude of conservation and renovation that sacralizes archaeological remains and elevates them as invaluable testimonies of past ages. This is a complete break from the way people have dealt with ruins in past centuries when the remains of old buildings were used to construct new buildings. Archaeology was always a part of architecture and didn’t lose its architectural potential. . .

Current strategies too often turn archaeological remains into objects to be observed . . . I imagine something different: a new paradigm for archaeology and architecture that allows for contact and embrace by individuals—that allow visitors to archaeological sites to embark on a more experimental and subjective journey.

Adviser: Mona Harb, Associate Professor

Antoine’s architectural investigation is noteworthy because he is able to “play” joyfully with archaeological layers, extracting from them a range of meanings and recreating them into different spatial situations in response to the site’s opportunities and constraints. He does so neither by objectifying archaeology’s historical stance nor by underestimating its socio-spatial values.
Student: Zeina Koreitem  
Project: White Labyrinth in a Cube

I began with an interest in immateriality as a means of identifying various experiential potentials that contribute to the way in which we conceive of space. I searched for a site in Beirut with mutilated structures dissolving within the city's fabric and ended up with two iconic structures in downtown Beirut: the remains of the previous Beirut City Center (also known as “the egg” or “the bubble”) and the relics of the St. Vincent de Paul Church (also known as Mar Mansour Church) that powerfully face each other. The virtual void and deep pit between them illustrate a fascinating tension between two opposite boundaries.

These two structures present an opportunity to explore an architecture of absence and incompleteness in the city of Beirut. The goal is to inject life back into such structures while making use of what is lacking and not simply of what is there. To do this, I propose a space programmed by the void itself: a media and cultural center that applies modern technologies to art and information and is a place of exchange where masses come together and acknowledge one another. The generation of such a program along with other auxiliary use of space interwoven within it (such as a library and a theater) will encourage the rebirth of the site and its contextual setting.

Adviser: Karim Najjar, Assistant Professor

Zeina is reinterpreting iconic architecture and demystifying the era of “glamorous” Beirut by understanding the city as a transforming organism. She questions the meaning and function of iconic ruins in Beirut without romanticizing them, exploring them as found objects, and setting them in a new context. She is applying a surgical design methodology by carving, injecting, and bridging, constantly linking to the urban fabric on the ground. Zeina is challenging profoundly the architectural discipline on many levels: void versus mass, subtraction versus addition, style versus service.

Student: Carla Saad  
Project: Under Observation: Geometry of Space

I was originally inspired by the drama therapy program that actress Zeina Daccache introduced to the Roumieh prison. I was interested by the way this program helped the prisoners to reconcile with each other and with the prison. This
led me to
reflect on how
art can change how
people relate to one another
and to their surroundings.
Architecturally, my challenge was to design a
structure that caused a shift from an internal to an external
focus. Because I wanted to place this structure in an urban context, I chose an area between [the] Gobeyreh
and Chiah districts along the green line, which was a major segregation and observation line between east and
west Beirut during the war and continues to be a focus of tension. I designed a community center that will be a hub
for the arts with an urban theater where the two communities can come together and engage in shared activities
that will help them change their perceptions of each other.

Adviser: Robert Saliba, Associate Professor

To produce an architecture that absorbs the tension on site while also having this effect of changing the perception
of the “other,” Carla located her project on two empty lots that face each other along the green line. Her project
engages the two communities that live behind the invisible barrier represented by [the] Old Saida Road within one
community space that presents artistic investigations and theatrical performances. Carla’s project is challenging
both contextually and programmatically. She chose to address a strategic and controversial site while articulating
a program that mediates between political confrontation and cultural integration.
Student: Sarah Naim
Project: A Learning Space: The City as Classroom, Child as Educator
My project will reclaim the overlooked Barakat Street in Hamra and make it the site for a public building that provides children with dedicated learning spaces integrated into the city.

At the ground level, the 350 square meter plot and the public internal street are treated as one. The street becomes an active trail where children can run and play and the ground level of the plot becomes an open space. This enables children to experience the city on the ground freed from a built up mass—a rare open area. The street then extends vertically, providing new opportunities on multiple platforms for play and exploration. The street extends as a cross-over bridge that city pedestrians can pass through with ease. At the very top of the street is a sheltered, internal space still open to the city. Inside, there will be a children’s library full of creative zones that can host a variety of activities.

Adviser: Carole Levesque, Assistant Professor
Sarah’s project challenges the current domination of developer-led land development in the city. She is proposing that we imagine alternative scenarios where some lots are kept open for public uses. In addition to linking to larger issues related to the importance of public spaces, Sarah’s project is also very site specific and addresses the heart of an urban block, the tight space between buildings, and a small alley now used to park cars and generators. Sarah is suggesting that the city happens in those places too and that these minor spaces can be integrated in the life of a neighborhood even if their scale is small.

More Beirut projects and images on-line, including…
Rana Haddad’s project: “Invisible City Brains: Defining a New Archival System for the City” and Wassef Dabboucy’s “Footbridge”—a pedestrian bridge over the highway linking the Beirut Airport and the Lebanese capital.

When alumna Dima Boulad (BFA ’07) and fellow illustrator Nadine Feghali had enough of the lack of green space in Beirut, they decided it was time for a green intervention. The pair set up nine installations around Beirut like the one shown here to call attention to the city’s lack of green space. The signs have now been shelved, but they just launched a website dedicated to the cause in preparation for their next intervention marking World Environment Day on June 4, 2011.

beirutgreenproject.wordpress.com
R&D

Nametag: Sandrine Samaha, MA, urban design, projected 2011.

Life before MA: I spent most of my childhood in Belle-Vue, Awkar, next to the American Embassy. Before coming to AUB, I studied at Université Saint Esprit Kaslik (USEK) where I obtained my undergraduate and master’s degrees in architecture. My hobbies include reading, watching movies, and traveling. One of the best experiences of my life was swimming with dolphins at the Atlantis Hotel in Dubai.

What matters most: With the rapid rise in building densities in Beirut, the challenge is to develop sustainable greening strategies that can be integrated into building law and applied city-wide. This is especially important in a city like Beirut that has so few green spaces.

Research: Rapid urbanization requires that we think holistically about how to transform our cities into environmentally sustainable settlements that promote quality urban lifestyles. Although planners worldwide are proposing greening incentives, in Lebanon we are continuing to experience rapid deterioration in the quality of our built environment. I am using Corniche al-Mazraa as a case study to critically review greening strategies worldwide to assess their suitability to the Lebanese context.

I will also be proposing practical implementation strategies that could be integrated into municipality guidelines.

My approach will prioritize community participation while addressing strategies that use energy and water resources wisely.

10 am Tuesday, 10 am Saturday:
On Tuesday, I’m either meeting with my adviser, Professor Jala Makhzoumi, or at work in my office in Starco, an international development company. On Saturday morning, I’m probably working on my thesis or trying to catch up on my freelance work with my partner and fiancé Roland Nasr.

Most admires: Although I admire anyone who chases and realizes his dream, I’m very much interested and fascinated by architects who create works of art in the city. I enjoy Frank Gehry’s work and especially like his Dancing House in Prague.

Why this topic interests me: Although we hear about sustainability all the time, it is still difficult to pinpoint exactly what it means in a particular situation. I am interested in exploring sustainability in the context of urban design in Lebanon.
Every year, 40-60 students graduate from AUB with not just an undergraduate degree but also a post-BA teaching diploma. In the last five years, 314 students have earned teaching diplomas in one of four areas: elementary education, secondary education, special education, and educational management and leadership.

In addition to specializing in a particular subject area such as Arabic, English, math, science (physics, chemistry, biology), history, geography, psychology, and health, students enrolled in the teaching diploma program must complete 21 credit hours in education and a one-semester internship. At any one time, dozens of AUB students are practice teaching in classrooms at schools throughout Beirut such as ACS Elementary and Middle Schools; IC Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Schools; the Ahlieh School, Hariri II; Rawdah Elementary and Secondary Schools; the Wellspring Learning Community, and St. Mary's Orthodox College (SMOC).

In addition to the opportunity to refine their teaching skills, Wellspring Learning Community School head Marj Henningsen reports that AUB interns “also sometimes ask critical questions that get us thinking and reflecting on what we are doing.” At SMOC, where they have been interning since 1994, AUB practice teachers are welcomed by students who often identify with them as fellow students. Principal Father George Dimas notes that many SMOC teachers also enjoy the opportunity to “transmit the fruit of their experience” to the next generation of teachers.

We asked some of the young men and women earning teaching diplomas at AUB to tell us what sparked their interest in teaching and what they have learned—about themselves and about teaching—while interning in Beirut classrooms.

**Lama Katoul** (BA Education, Diploma in Special Education)

The first time I walked into the classroom as a teacher, I felt terrified and scared. I wondered why I had chosen this major and if I had made the right choice. But, after a few weeks, I began to feel comfortable.

My biggest challenge is to reach every single child in the classroom, to fulfill each child’s needs, and to meet each child’s requirements. It is not an easy job especially when you have students from different backgrounds, with a variety of interests who are not all at the same educational level.
**Ihsan Ghazal** (BS Biology, Diploma in Secondary Education)

I enjoy entering the classroom every day and feeling the interaction with the students. I believe the biggest challenge is to know how to connect with the students and make them grasp the curriculum properly. In the past, teachers focused on strict memorization and lectured students. I use classroom discussions as a way to get students interested in what I want to say. I did not always consider teaching as a career. Now, however, I feel very comfortable as a teacher.

**Layla BouKhaled** (BA Education, Diploma in Special Education)

When I think about the type of teacher I want to be, I remember one of my favorite teachers. She used to come into class with a big smile on her face, say “good morning,” and sit down at her desk. During this time we would be packing up from the last class and getting ready for our math class with her. Just her presence in the classroom made us get ready much more quickly than for any other class—and it was not just her presence, but the fact that she was just sitting there and waiting and not shouting at us to “sit down” or “hurry up.”

Because she respected us and treated us like responsible adults, it really had an impact on me. She was always ready to answer any question, be it about math or about anything else. She cared deeply for each and every one of us. In fact to this day, we don’t know who her favorite student was from our class. She to me is an excellent teacher. She is my role model.
Ziad Dallal (BA English Literature, Diploma in Secondary Education)

I have always enjoyed the process of relaying information that I have to people who need or want it. I teach using class discussions, which enable me to connect closely to students’ lives and experiences. I make constant reference to popular culture figures such as Lady Gaga, Bob Dylan, Pulp Fiction when applicable. I find that when I do this, students are more eager to participate.

I am doing my teacher training at IC, which is where I graduated. Being a teacher has given me a new perspective on my time as a student there. When I was a student, I used to wonder why teachers would take time at the beginning of the class to review quickly what we had already covered. I find that now I do this too. Also, I now appreciate that there are times when teachers need to be quite serious—for example, when the class is getting out of hand. Being in the role of the teacher has definitely made me appreciate the profession more.

Lina Kadi (BA Education, Diploma in Educational Management and Leadership)

Both my parents are school owners and principals, so you can say that my life has always revolved around education. The more I study education, the more fascinated I have become. I think that educational psychology, the mechanics of writing a lesson plan, figuring out how to explain a particular topic well is very worthwhile. I find that children are complicated in interesting ways and that working with them is always a challenge. I think it's a very powerful and influential thing to be a teacher.
**Le Hezbollah à Beyrouth (1985-2000): de la banlieue à la ville**  
(Institut Français du Proche Orient - Karthala, 2010) Mona Harb (BAR ’93)

Why do you think Hezbollah has been successful in becoming what you describe as “a grounded stakeholder in the social and political history of Lebanon”?  
Since 1985, Hezbollah has managed a network of organizations responsible for the delivery of urban and social services to the Shi’a community. Via this network, renowned for its professionalism and efficiency, Hezbollah works closely with public agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and donors—and in the process “grounds” its policies within the larger social, economic, and political domains.

Do you think the Shi’a community that has traditionally been the foundation of Hezbollah’s support in Lebanon will identify less closely with the party as it assumes a larger role on the national stage?  
This “Lebanonization” has been ongoing since Hezbollah’s participation in legislative elections in 1992. Although there are surely risks, through subtle strategic adjustments and justification discourses, Hezbollah has been able to maintain its legitimacy among its constituency.

You write that Hezbollah’s success in fostering a sense of collective consciousness within the Shi’a community has allowed its members to acquire access to Beirut that they did not enjoy in the past. Can you give some specific examples of this?  
Hezbollah’s institutions have created a middle class that actively participates in the urban politics, governance, and spatial production of the city—inclusive of its suburbs. For example, the Ghobeyri Municipality, which is led by a prominent member of Hezbollah, encourages the development of high-end residential neighborhoods and leisure services: cultural centers, malls, shopping centers, amusement parks, sports facilities, restaurants, and cafés. The Shi’a community is thus an integral part of Beirut’s urban landscape.

How did you—a professor of architecture—get interested in this topic?  
While studying architecture at AUB, I became interested in urbanism and later on in urban politics. I wanted to understand the role of political institutions—and of power—in the production of urban spaces. Hezbollah’s role in south Beirut was the case study I chose to investigate for my PhD in politics. Today, I share this knowledge with students in AUB’s graduate programs in Urban Planning and Policy and Urban Design.
Horizons 101

(Dar Onboz, 2010) Jala Makhzoumi

In Horizon 101, a bilingual Arabic/English book and art folio, Jala Makhzoumi meditates on the changing horizon of life in Beirut and the AUB campus through poetry and landscape aquarelles. Professor Makhzoumi is the coordinator of the Landscape Design and Eco-Management Program at AUB.
“At Tahaddi, we have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who need our help.”

“When we began visiting people in 1996 in the shantytown of Hay el Ghareh,” Dr. Agnès Sanders recalls, “little did we know that we would open a dispensary in 2000, acquire new clinic facilities in 2009, and develop a partnership with AUB in 2010.” Sanders, a French physician, is referring to Tahaddi, the organization she cofounded with Swiss teacher Catherine Mourtada that now includes two community health centers, an educational center, and an outreach program in a women’s prison. (Learn more at the Tahaddi website: http://www.tahaddilebanon.org/index.htm.)

Dr. Bassem Saab (BS ’79, MD ’84), professor of clinical family medicine and director of the AUBMC-Tahaddi partnership, supervises third-year family medicine residents who make three visits a week to the Tahaddi clinic in Beirut’s western suburbs not far from Sports City. The AUBMC residents see an average of 12 patients a day, more than a quarter of whom are under the age of five. Although the inhabitants of Hay el Ghareh are the primary beneficiaries of this partnership, Saab says that AUBMC also benefits. “At Tahaddi, we have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people who need our help,” he explains. “Because patients at the Tahaddi clinic present with different health conditions than in a typical private clinic, AUBMC residents are also gaining invaluable experience.”

Nisrine Makarem (BS ’03, MD ’07), one of three AUBMC residents who see patients at the Tahaddi clinic each week, agrees with Dr. Saab. She says that in addition to gaining experience from diagnosing and treating diseases such as TB and skin conditions that are prevalent in overpopulated and underprivileged areas such as Hay el Ghareh, she is also learning to practice family medicine with limited resources. “Sometimes I have to make a diagnosis without ordering important tests like x-rays simply because they are not affordable.”
This has caused me to sharpen my medical skills,” she explains. Although the three AUBMC residents working at the Tahaddi clinic are “well-trained doctors” according to Dr. Saab, he is also very involved at the clinic supervising their work and makes his own regular weekly visits to the clinic.

Samira Ibrahim (BSN ’03) has been working at Tahaddi for the last two years and has come to know the neighborhood and many of its residents well. “Our patients value the fact that they are now being seen by some of the best doctors in the country,” she says, “which gives them access to other services at AUBMC’s Outpatient Department and the chance to participate in clinical research.”

The AUBMC-Tahaddi clinic partnership is not limited to medical care and minor surgery. Nadia Khouri Accad, who directs all of Tahaddi’s health programs, explains that AUBMC is also “assisting us with the transition to an electronic medical records system, which will be especially adapted to our context and needs.”

The AUBMC-Tahaddi team is also working to expand the clinic’s vaccination program and to meet Joint Commission International standards for ambulatory care. Although Saab recognizes the challenges, he is enthusiastic about the future of the AUBMC-Tahaddi partnership saying, “This type of initiative is at the core of our commitment to reach out and increase patient access to AUBMC’s medical services.”
Green Dreams
A rallying cry for Beirut’s public spaces
As I strolled through Beirut early one morning, I was reminded of some haunting lyrics from a long time ago: “they paved paradise and put up a parking lot.”*(Actually, what they have done in Beirut—as residents who complain often about how hard it is to find a place to park will tell you—is pave paradise not to “put up a parking lot,” but to put up one more high-rise apartment building.)

But, despite the number of high-rise apartment buildings, if you look—really look—you can still see signs of “paradise”: in the plants spilling out over balconies of many of those same high-rise apartment buildings, a bush clinging to life along a crumbling brick wall, and in a glorious gnarled tree that someone has clearly gone out of his way to protect from the bulldozers that threaten nearby. These are just a few of the indications that although there are some people who are trying to cram as many buildings within the city limits as they possibly can, there are others who are working hard to protect and promote green and public spaces in Beirut. People like Fadi Shayya (MUD '07), an urban planner, architect, writer, and social advocate, who founded and coordinates DISCURSIVE FORMATIONS. Shayya is also the editor of At the Edge of the City: Reinhabiting Public Space Toward the Recovery of Beirut’s Horsh Al-Sanawbar.

At the Edge of the City, a multi-media volume about Beirut’s parks and public spaces, focuses on Horsh Al-Sanawbar, Beirut’s pine forest located in southern Beirut. In a wonderful series of images in the book and on the website (www.discursiveformations.net), Shayya documents the evolution of the Horsh from 1696 when the pine woods measured 1,250,000 square meters to 1996 when it measured only 330,000 square meters—the size it is today. It is not just the size of the forest that has changed over the years, it is also its accessibility to the residents of Beirut.

For most Beirutis the park is actually a good deal smaller than 330,000 square meters since 66 percent of it is closed to the public. Municipal authorities give several reasons for restricting access to the Horsh: the public will harm the plants; its proximity to the predominantly Shi’a Ghobeiri and Chiyah areas, the Sunni Tariq el Jdideh district, and the Christian Badaro neighborhood means it will become a sectarian battleground; the risk of fire; and the inability to hire sufficient security guards to guarantee public safety.

While the Horsh is a unique space in Beirut—both in terms of its size and the large number of tree varieties (nearly a hundred according to AUB Professor Rami Zurayk)—it also exemplifies many of the challenges and contradictions of “public” spaces in the city. Despite the fact that urban planners worldwide have long recognized the importance of public spaces, Shayya says they are neither a priority for, nor an integral component of, the agenda of public policy or spatial design at the Lebanese municipal and national levels. He goes on to point out that the closure of the Horsh “is a deviation from the norm of modern states and societies…”

It may be a deviation from the norm in other places, but it is not unprecedented in Beirut, where there are other “public” spaces that are off-limits to the public such as the Ghobeiri Municipal Garden in Jnah not far from Sports City. In this case it was the residents in the luxury apartments surrounding the Ghobeiri Garden who successfully lobbied local authorities to close the garden to keep away the people from the much poorer Bir Hassan neighborhood who used to visit the garden and have barbecues. Not surprisingly, similar sentiments are a factor in the decision to keep the public out of the Horsh. In his wide-ranging, entertaining, and informative blog, “Land and People: A Source on Food, Farming and Rural Society,” Zurayk recounts an encounter he had with a journalist and her partner during a visit to the Horsh with his students in December 2008. When asked by the journalist if he visited the park often, Zurayk responded that he would do so only when the park “opened for the rich and the poor alike.” The journalist’s partner responded that he hoped this day would never come because “they will come in and ruin it.”

Those advocating for green spaces in Beirut must battle not only these types of prejudices, but also with the forces that are driving construction in the city. AUB Publications Manager Randa Zaiter was part of a citizen initiative to oppose the municipality’s plans to build parking lots under the popular Sanayeh (also known as René Moawad) Garden in summer 2009. “If these spaces go, the campus of AUB will be the only green space left in the city. The Sanayeh Park is the only affordable breathing space for many underprivileged Beirut families who take their kids there because they can’t afford to take them to pricy entertainment centers, playgrounds, and restaurants,” says Zaiter. In explaining her opposition to the municipality’s plan, Zaiter noted

* These are the words of singer songwriter Joni Mitchell who wrote “Big Yellow Taxi” in 1970 lamenting similar changes she observed from her hotel room window on a visit to Hawaii.
that the garden had also provided refuge for displaced persons during the 2006 war.

As an urbanist, Shayya distinguishes between what German sociologist Jurgen Habermas calls “a public sphere” and public spaces. He notes that although Beirut includes different social and political groups, encourages a free press and freedom of thought, and has a “rich and dynamic public sphere,” it has very few meeting and mass gathering places. “We only see people in masses during protests when they are all of the same “color” (either March 14 or March 8, either poor laborers or elitist heritage preservationists; etc.),” says Shayya. Engaged citizens and professionals like Fadi Shayya and others continue to advocate for public spaces in Beirut—places where everyone is welcome and where people from different socio-economic, religious, and political backgrounds can come together.

Commentary on Beirut Souks

Beirut Souks is a transitory space for express consumption; it is not public space anymore but rather a space that attracts the public. The old Beirut souks were street markets spatially dispersed over the center of the city, accommodating everyday practices, and reflecting a certain spontaneity through the crowds, traffic and bustling dirty streets. On the other hand, the new Beirut Souks is a single, centralized, brightly clean spatial entity—a mall accommodating the consumption of more clothes, accessories, and food. The reason I make this comparison is not to romanticize history, but to expose the spatial and semiotic shift of Beirut souks from socio-economically interactive urban streets to a consumption-driven, architecturally-historicized mall space.

The transitory character of the new souks space is evident in the way internal streets are conceived. On a regular street, urban scenery alternates between shopping windows, buildings, landscape, emptiness, different human activities, and vehicular traffic. People either utilize or appropriate the urban streetscape—practices that indicate signs of public space. The new souks internal streets are pedestrian routes that encourage continuous movement leading either to shops, restaurants, cafés, bathrooms, or the parking lot. One can barely find a bench for sitting and people are driven to roam nonstop window after window; private security guards are always on the watch to ban any kind of spatial appropriation.

Today, Beirut Souks is a giant, private, commercial space—owned by the real-estate company SOLIDERE. The souks might become more vibrant one day, but it is unlikely that they will be public again.

—Fadi Shayya

Read On-line: IFI Research and Policy Memo #2, March 2011 “Partisan Urban Governance Restricts Access to Public Space” by Fadi Shayya

At AUB, 2,980 students received financial aid in 2009–10. Can you help one more?

AUB Dean Emeritus Nuhad Daghir (BS ’57) studied agriculture at AUB on a full scholarship before going on to Iowa State University where he earned both a master’s degree and a PhD in poultry nutrition. Although he retired as dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences in 2007, he is still conducting research and is involved in university activities, serving as vice chair of AUB’s Human Research Protection Program. “AUB has been my life and it will continue to be my life. It is unique, because its professional schools try to produce a complete individual, rather than a technician or an expert. You become an expert, but also a person with culture, wide interests, and sensitivity to the ideas of others. All of these values I acquired from AUB.”

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

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

Supporting Students of Today and Tomorrow

Can you help support an AUB student?

See what’s possible!
The tiny area of Beirut known as Bachoura lies wedged between Solidere and Sodeco. Hemmed in and transected by busy roads, it is a hidden corner caught between an elegant past and a challenging future, resonating with nostalgia.

Who takes the time to stop to ponder Bachoura’s history or consider its future? Or, more challenging still, find inspiration among the abandonment and dereliction?

Enter Carole Lévesque, a dedicated city walker, who discovered Bachoura perchance—as a failed shortcut between Sodeco and Solidere.

What she found, Lévesque writes, was “A state of in-between, without a future other than the eventual tabula rasa that will make way for developers and a present overwhelmed with the weight of the recent past. Bachoura appears, for now, as one of the few remaining neighborhoods in central Beirut where finding an imagined other is possible and where differentiated fragments can be projected…”

Captivated, Lévesque returned to Bachoura time and again, drawn by its possibilities and the incongruities of what she found there. The majestic but dilapidated St. George’s Church on Tian Street became the site of an architecture class project. With colleague Hala Younes, Lévesque negotiated access for temporary installations. The students cleared over 100 bags of refuse before work could begin. Their installations included a raised walkway negotiating the overgrown garden and providing better access; hundreds of empty cans strung up in the bell tower so that it could once again resonate with sound; the entrance to the church re-aligned by a bamboo room; and a machine-like bottle panel recreating the main entrance of the church.

Facing the church are two stunning apartment blocks representative of some ten or more 1930s and 1940s buildings included in Lévesque’s walking itinerary. In any other circumstances these noble buildings would surely be safeguarded as national treasures. Here, the gaping lots punctuating their surroundings are a testimony to their fate. “There is a plan for 17 residential towers already to the north of this neighborhood,” Lévesque says. “Unless someone takes an interest in this part, I think they will all go.”

On an empty lot where the wrecker’s ball has already done its damage Lévesque takes in the panoramic
view of Solidere. It is a favorite spot where she enjoys the irony of this prestigious site having been commandeered as a playground by Bachoura’s youngsters. Lévesque knows it is temporary, but for the time being she celebrates the spontaneity of this and other nearby spaces where she creates (or imagines) what she calls “fugitive and transitional personal infrastructures.” These have become the inspiration for a series of “rooms” which encapsulate the story of her chance encounters between people and architecture.

“I try to develop projects from site specific pockets in the neighborhood, to really work from the materials of their stories, trying to grasp their essence in terms of their locale, their materials and ambiance, to capture these moments architecturally and then build these little transient spaces.”

Exploring a raft of architectural and philosophical theories focused on “the latent potential of derelict sites [that] act as imaginative devices and can be seen as places of differentiation, places of informal reinvention,” Lévesque has developed five such “spaces” that investigate “the possibilities hidden within the real in between the events and places of the ordinary.”

Explaining their evolution during the recent IASTE (International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments) conference at AUB in December 2010, Lévesque said, “Stemming from found situations and events, the rooms grow to be invented places without definite locations. When Bachoura becomes a newer version of Solidere, pieces of ‘bachourian wonderful realness’ will stroll through the new landscape.”

Introducing her “room for sharing coffee and other essential things,” Lévesque says, “As its name suggests, this transitional personal infrastructure is meant to act as a place of mutual exchange, where one walks essential stories and artifacts to meet with others. Belonging to soon-to-disappear places, the room for sharing coffee and other essential things carries part of the everyday, most basic yet most important rituals.” (See following page).

Another transient space is the “room for hiding the shadows of a room,” which evolved from a chance encounter on a sunny afternoon. “There was an opening from the street and I was just looking at the scenery and the light. It was really hot that day, but the light was just perfect, and there was so much texture on the buildings,” Lévesque explains. “There was one building with broken windows, and there was this little girl who just popped her head out and said in French, ‘Bonjour Madame.’ I was just so startled, and she was laughing and giggling. Then she disappeared and reappeared at another window, and said ‘C’est toi la plus jolie.’ She was laughing and it was so funny to see her little head bobbing up and down at different windows… that’s one of the little stories of the rooms.

“I like to think that a ‘room for sharing coffee and other essential things’ or ‘a room for carrying stones’ or ‘for going where you don’t need to be’ will show, when further developed or perhaps even built, that the found city embraces in its streets countless wonders and endless wealth and that they might produce spaces for a resilient and possible future.”

Concluding her walk, Lévesque mused about her fascination with Bachoura. “You can go round this area in 10 minutes if you don’t stop everywhere. You can go from the busy market street to the empty lot overlooking Solidere, to the empty buildings where for now no one is willing to live, to the other ones crumbling, alongside beautiful spaces like the church. There is such a rich diversity within this tiny little lot. It is so well defined by its boundaries that you can easily draw a line around it and say all these things happen in this one small space right next to Solidere, where a completely different story is happening, which is what makes it so fascinating.”

—M.A.
A room for sharing coffee and other essential things. Here is how it began:

The old woman is all smiles. I don’t understand what she seems so eager to tell me, but it is clear that she is happy to see I am paying attention to her humble house. She lives in a tight alley, which comes from the busy market street up the gentle slope, and leads into the inner block compound.

She lives in the corridor.

Yet, her house is the most inviting: a simple opening along this long, otherwise uneventful concrete wall, decorated with six potted plants, three on either side. There are two clotheslines on top of each other, both filled with the day’s laundry, mostly dark colored dresses. At the end of the corridor, a large, faded painting of a boy hangs above an archway. An air conditioner is leaking its water a bit further. The sky is a spotless, flat, blue surface and there is no air to be felt.

The large metal door is wide open and reveals, behind a small passageway, a room, dimly lit by its single window in the far corner and what appears, to my eye, to be Christmas decorations.

She invites me in.

The room is her life story: wedding and baby pictures, news clippings, random objects, a bed, a table, a chair, a gas stove, a radio. This is where she sleeps, she eats, she reads, she waits for the days to go by. The ceiling is surprisingly high and reveals its dark wooden structure. I reach the window which looks out onto a tight concrete yard to realize it has bars on it; the brightness of the midday summer sun shining in makes them disappear.

She looks at me looking at her house, she points to a bowl with a few dusty candies in it, I smile back.

It is nearly 40 degrees outside but here, the air is cool.

She offers coffee.

That’s all one needs really.
Walking... and Talking...

Beirut
On most weekends in Ras Beirut a group of tourists can be seen trotting two by two along the city sidewalks or perched attentively on a ledge beside the Holiday Inn. They are following Beirut’s own Pied Piper, aka Ronnie Chatah, creator of the popular Walk Beirut historical tour of the city.

A self-styled storyteller, former AUB student Chatah enraptures his audience with a dizzying succession of riddles and facts that keeps them on their toes, or rather their feet, for up to five full hours. Taking his inspiration from his “muse,” the late Samir Kassir, Chatah’s Beirut walk reveals a wealth of information about the city, starting with AUB’s iconic banyan tree at the Medical Gate.

BANYAN TREE and BLISS STREET

“I always ask if people know what this tree is and why it is here. If they are really new to the country, they may suggest it is the cedar, so then I produce the Lebanese flag. Not many know that the banyan trees outside (and inside) campus are grown from seeds from the national tree of India—the “Tree of Knowledge”—acquired for the new Syrian Protestant College in 1866.”

“I tell them that nearby Bliss Street is equally important and rather than having something to do with happiness or joy, it is named after the founder of the
American University of Beirut, Daniel Bliss, the Protestant missionary who established the ‘center of knowledge’ right behind where he planted the banyan tree.”

**HOLIDAY INN and MARTYRS SQUARE**

“I know I have really got their attention when the Blackberries disappear into the pockets. It usually happens at the Holiday Inn or Martyrs Square. The Holiday Inn overawes people. They don’t know that it is still the largest building in Beirut, why it is in the shape that it is, or what happened here. Many don’t even know who Yasser Arafat was!”

“I use the story of the statue in Martyrs Square to explore the history of the country: its use as a rallying point during the Ottoman Empire, the French Mandate, and recent pro- and anti-Syrian demonstrations. Who were the original martyrs? Why were they hanged right here when the square went by the name of the Burj? Why do the people in this statue look more Italian than Arab? Why was the place called Place des Canons before it became Martyrs Square? Who shot the statue full of holes? Then I show them pictures from before 1975 and after the war. They can’t believe it is the same place until I point to one of the few remaining original buildings there—the Opera, now a Virgin Megastore.”
SAMIR KASSIR
“We always take a break next to Samir Kassir’s statue. He is one of the reasons I do this walk; his story is the story of Lebanon. I summarize the story of Beirut and try to bring it to life through visual storytelling, but Kassir’s writings on Beirut’s past inspired me to create the tour. He was Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian, French; his very identity is the story of Lebanon; his life and death capture its history.”

THE NEWLY RESTORED SYNAGOGUE
Chatah’s unfinished CAMES thesis is on the Jews of Lebanon, now but a handful of people who keep a very low profile. “There was one lady who used to live in Wadi Abu Jamil and who always used to wave when we came along to look at the synagogue. She used to tell people, ‘Hello, hello, I am Jewish.’ I have seen old pictures of the synagogue before the war and the restored one looks identical, it is impressive.”

KHANDAQ AL GHAMIQ
“I take people here just so that they can understand what happened to the downtown area and how much it has changed. Just a few steps from Solidere, this is a remnant of the Green Line that was never brought back to life. I run into Lebanese filmmakers here when they are shooting movies about the war because it still, in many ways, looks
like a war zone. There are empty buildings all around except for one where one man lives. I explain the way the old rent laws and abandoned property disputes complicate renovation and indicate why there are so many derelict buildings. Then we continue on a short way and we are in Monnot, the party street.”

**SOLIDERE**

“During the tour, I do not like to enter into the debate about Solidere and the criticism surrounding the project's handling of restoration. Rather, I let people judge for themselves, while criss-crossing the downtown and popping into Khandaq al Ghamiq… As time goes by, the criticism leveled against Solidere for destroying too much history must be seen in comparison to the rest of the city. In many ways, Solidere is now one of the few areas of Beirut that has, in fact, been largely preserved and brought back to life—in some parts stone-by-stone—since the civil war. However, I leave it to walkers to judge for themselves.”

**CENTRAL BANK**

“When we pause here I begin by asking why when you go to the bank you can choose between Lebanese currency and the US dollar. I produce a one lira Lebanese note and from there we take the roller coaster ride of the lira through history.”
THE DOME

“We discuss what it was, why it is still here, and what might happen to it. I tell them about the different events that take place here these days, from parties, to shows, to exhibitions. How it has become something of an icon and may be included within the new Beirut Gate development. I remind people that in the early 1970s Martyrs Square was briefly in the Guinness Book of Records for the greatest number of cinema seats in a given location.”

“I am committed to this tour, largely due to Samir Kassir’s passion as a Beiruti storyteller, but also because I am actually seeing the history of Beirut change before my eyes. Better to tell the story of the city now, before too much history is erased forever.”

—M.A.
Lana Mahmoud (BA ’95) looks back, like every AUB student, with fond memories of her time spent on that most iconic of Beirut streets, Bliss.

I first heard about Bliss Street from my father, Dr. Junaid Mahmoud (BS ’64, MD ’68), long before I actually stepped onto it. He used to tell me stories about Faisal’s Restaurant opposite the Main Gate and how his dorm and later apartment building overlooked it. He also mentioned how he used to meet friends and socialize on Bliss all the time.

I expected things to have changed dramatically since those days, but when I got to Bliss Street in 1991, I quickly realized that it was basically the same . . . except for a few new restaurants and bookstores such as Malik’s.

Every memory of Bliss is special in its own way. We used to watch young motorcyclists show off by doing wheelies or chat with friends about upcoming AUB events such as the water fight between the upper and lower campus schools. It was always a laugh standing in front of Abu Naji’s mini-mart drinking coffee and getting to know many students who later became dear friends, or running back and forth from one bookstore to another to find the cheapest international rates to call our parents.

After spending time studying for finals or searching for books to write a term paper or even just chitchatting with friends at the Oval, Bliss Street provided everyone with a change of scenery. People used to schedule times to meet their friends there before heading off to watch a movie or go out partying at one of the clubs. It was a street that brought friends together.

Bliss Street had everything from shoes at the Red Shoe to photocopied books at Malik’s Bookshop. You could have a *harakiri sojok* sandwich at the sweet old Armenian man’s sandwich shop and then grab a Tahiti desert at the juice shop. If sandwiches and Tahitis did not suit your fancy then you could eat a jacket potato with healthy toppings from the Lunch Box and then a frozen yogurt from the Tex-Mex place next to it.

I will never forget the bakery on Bliss, Al Makhabez Alwataniyeh. It was open till late at night and I remember running to it, after having spent an evening at Jafet studying, to get a manouche and then quickly down Bliss to YumYum’s to buy a few essential items before making my way to Bustani Dorm via the Medical Gate. Phew! What a run that was especially when it was pouring rain.

Bliss was never a boring place and I do not believe that it ever will be. This street has seen everything from tramcars to automobiles, barbed wires and checkpoints to motorcycles and scooters. Every AUB graduate has fond memories of this special street. From the time of my grandparents’ graduation to my sister’s recent graduation from AUB, shops have opened and closed, local residents and international students have come and gone, but Bliss remains there for everyone; never changing, ever loyal. It was and still is truly bliss.
An uphill fight to save Beirut’s heritage
No matter how you look at it, youth is key to the mission of Save Beirut Heritage, whether it’s the group’s founding in March 2010 on Facebook, the vital fervor of its young members (including many AUB students), their broad ignorance of the past, or their skeptical appraisal of their elders.

One of these elders, architect and part-time AUB instructor Hana Alamuddin, is a former executive committee member of the Association for Protecting Natural Sites and Old Buildings in Lebanon. The organization, better known as APSAD, pushed hard in the mid-1990s to protect Beirut from rampant development but now concentrates on villages.

“If they [Save Beirut Heritage] are able to do something, fine, that’s good,” Alamuddin says matter-of-factly. “But I don’t think it’s going to be long-lived, because really legally they don’t have a leg to stand on and economically, it just doesn’t make sense.” What’s more, she continued, it’s not financially fair to freeze development of some properties and not others on the same street.

Assem Salam, who cofounded APSAD in 1962 and also helped to establish the School of Architecture at AUB, also praises the enthusiasm of Save Beirut Heritage but characterizes it as “a bit of a Boy Scout action.” Salam has practiced architecture since 1954 and served as president of the Order of Architects and Engineers in Lebanon from 1995 until 1999.

He points to the staggering complexity of the political, economic, and social issues that heritage preservation touches upon including the confusion surrounding the existing legal framework on land use policy and how to define architectural heritage. “There is no government agency that is really responsible for the preservation of [this] heritage,” Salam says. In other words, even when there is a functioning government, the issue of heritage tends to slip between the cracks, that is, when it’s not actively being shoved out of view.

Before the recent government collapse (January 2011), Save Beirut Heritage had stopped dozens of culturally significant and historic buildings from being demolished by lobbying the Ministry of Culture. The apparently rock solid partnership of powerful politicians and real estate tycoons—what Salam calls “a complicity between the developers and the political leadership”—however, makes for a formidable coalition of opponents. Even with pivotal government support, the group’s work will remain piecemeal without the passage of a national law.

Salam, Alamuddin, and others have criticized the existing draft law—languishing in parliament for some time now—in part because it favors the protection of individual buildings over the preservation of the urban fabric. “It’s one step forward, but it’s not enough,” Salam says. More than that, it won’t be effective, he explains, because it would require compensating the owners of heritage buildings for what could be built on the land, for instance, a 10-story building.

The new movement’s success, then, depends on a fragile alliance of friendly yet mercurial government agents, potentially fickle foreign and local media, and the elusive allegiance of a public shattered by war and continuously buffeted by political turmoil and economic hardship.

Even as the group has been celebrated on Facebook (about 7,500 members) and in many media reports for its efforts to identify and protect historic buildings, it must persuade the public that the heritage it seeks to protect is so much more than individual properties and—perhaps more difficult in a country where everything is contested—that these properties belong to everyone.

“We’re not Save Beirut’s Buildings, we’re Save Beirut Heritage,” says Giorgio Tarraf (BS ’08), a spokesman for the movement. “We want more green spaces, we want proper zoning, we want a limitation on the height of buildings in traditional districts—very basic stuff that you find in just about any semi-developed country, but that seems unachievable here today.”

Tarraf’s role in Save Beirut Heritage began after his family gave in to considerable pressure and sold their historic building on Rue du Liban in Gemmayzeh. He later saw an advertisement for the recently formed group and called its founder, 23-year-old interior designer Naji Raji.

“I said, ‘Naji, this is my building; it’s an art deco, and…I want to save it. You know, I still want it to exist, because I love it so much.’” Tarraf’s voice brims with emotion even though it’s a story he must have told many times before. “And Naji said, ‘Don’t worry about it. It’s been taken care of...’ This was the first time in my life that I actually cried tears of joy.”

Raji understood Tarraf’s feelings completely because his family had also been forced out of their home on
the same street. He says that many of the group's core members once lived in old houses and this shared sense of history is a powerful bond.

“When I opened the Facebook group, I thought maybe nobody will care about what I’m thinking,” Raji says. “Then people started coming and saying ‘I’m interested too, I want to be with you, I want to help you. Maybe we can do something. Maybe we can change the situation.’”

The group learns about endangered properties via frequent neighborhood walks, the Facebook page, and their 24/7 hotline (71-319167). They then press the Ministry of Culture to put a hold on demolition permits and investigate the buildings’ historic value. If they can’t save all of a property, they try to save part of it.

Save Beirut Heritage’s mission may seem idealistic, but its tactics owe much to hardheaded pragmatism. The group is now working to become an official non-governmental organization in the hope that it can then more effectively lobby the government and appeal to the public.

Buildings may not be their only concern, but they are particularly tangible markers of heritage—or are they? Not if they remain invisible, Alamuddin says. “I think for me what’s important is for people to start looking at architecture and really for them to formulate a judgment about it, because most people don’t see buildings and, in Lebanon, it’s becoming critical because buildings are taking over.”

Assam Salam goes further. He says, “This question of heritage should be introduced in secondary schools and in universities.” To that end, Save Beirut Heritage is working with the European Union to prepare for a first wave of tech-savvy seminars they will hold in schools. “We want it to be more interactive than just us sitting on a stage and talking,” Raji says.

Lebanese history is no stranger to real estate booms, but the buildings the war didn’t topple are now vulnerable to the accelerating pace of construction, says Mazen Haidar, an architect specializing in restoration who is teaching the AUB theories of conservation course this spring.

Haidar moved back to Beirut from Rome to work with Youssef Haidar Architecte DPLG (no relation) on the restoration of what will become the Beit Beirut Museum and Urban Cultural Center in Sodeco. He periodically advises Save Beirut Heritage and is encouraging them to focus their efforts on educating the young. “I’m part of this generation who lived the history of the city through the stories of others,” he says, recalling his first visit at the civil war’s end to Martyrs Square, a place that fascinated him and his peers long before they set foot among its ruins.

“It was like a huge exercise among all the Lebanese gathered there trying to remember,” he says. “It was very easy to speak to one person; then someone else would come, interfere, and correct your information, saying ‘This was not this, this was the pharmacy or that was [such-and-such]…’”

The brief dialogue among generations inspired by that first occasion didn’t last nearly long enough, Haidar says. In his own parents’ fading memories, the gradual transformation of their way of talking, he sees the remnants of a critical missed opportunity. “First of all, you would remember where you came to buy a tie when you were 16,” he says. “This is what my father was remembering, but after five years, he would just say, there was this café here, something more general, whereas now he just switches to the new references, even perhaps to the new names.”

For Samir Khalaf, a professor of sociology and the director of the Center for Behavioral Research at AUB, this dialogue cut short also has implications for the family, the cornerstone of Lebanese society. “To me what’s even more poignant is that parents are becoming
irrelevant to their children,” he says. The wide scale preservation of heritage may be one way to begin to repair the damage. “You have to start with, as I’ve suggested in some of my writing, elementary school,” he says. “It’s children who ought to become ecologically smart. It’s too late for me. I hope it’s not too late for [them].”

Paradoxically, it may be the youngest who have the best chance of reclaiming the memories that have slipped away from their parents, Haidar muses. “I think this is why, since they are very young, they are much more active than people from my generation. We would be concerned about upsetting something… I think you just need people like this. I don’t know if they’ll succeed or not, but at least you can hear them much more.”

—S.M.
Getting hold of Beirut Mayor Bilal Hamad (BE ’76) is the first challenge. Securing an interview is the second. Holding his attention under a barrage of phone calls (which he courteously does not answer) is the third, and trying to ignore the people knocking on his door is the fourth.

Managing Beirut

MainGate was lucky enough to have “wasta” because Mayor Hamad is also an AUB professor of civil and environmental engineering who can occasionally be found in his office on campus. As students waited (mostly) patiently outside his door, the ebullient Hamad shared some insights into the challenges facing the man people are hoping will solve some of Beirut’s myriad problems.

The neat list of questions carefully structured to pin down the mayor on issues that we all care about—traffic, the environment, the sidewalks, noise, pollution, and the practical interface between the mayor and his alma mater—was soon abandoned as Hamad dived into a passionate exposition of his first six months in the hot seat.

Culture shock: Stepping into the mayoral office after AUB was a complete culture shock. “There were five or six computers between 50 people, not a single scanner in the whole building, no working printers,” Hamad explains. “I said how do you people get any work done, then I broke all the rules, and went ahead and bought computers, scanners, and printers.”

Hidden agendas: The prevailing system of cronyism and political favors
defies description, though off the record Hamad recounts hair-raising stories. It is an open secret that inappropriate pressure is brought to bear on every issue and that nothing is untainted by politics or special interests. “We come from an academic background where we try to play by a code of ethics,” Hamad says. “Even if we have problems at AUB, we have quarrels, we have conflicts, it is nothing [compared] to what I face every day.” The enormity of his task is leveraged by his engaging sense of the absurd.

**Politics-free zone:** “From day one in the municipality, we agreed amongst ourselves that politics had no place in the office,” Hamad says. “We decided that all decisions are taken by consensus. If any one of the 24 council members says “no” to something, I postpone the issue for more discussion; we need to agree because we are trying to shape the future of the city.”

**Tackling the urban nightmare:** To give some idea of the magnitude of Hamad’s task, close your eyes and imagine the beautiful city of Beirut circa 1954. Now take in the reality of the concrete jungle rapidly spreading across the city. “Can you believe that the last urban plan for Beirut was drawn up in 1954?” Hamad splutters. “There is no urban plan. In my office we deal with urban planning; there is no urban planner. We deal with traffic, but there is no traffic analyst. I am not an urban planner, I am a concrete and steel man, a structural engineer, so I come to my friends here in the [FEA] faculty and I tell them there is a problem, please help me out. This way I do my homework. I can go back to my committees and say, here is my plan, if you do not like it, feel free to bring me another version.”

**Voluntary work:** Hamad has asked the council to form a [voluntary] committee of urban planners from Lebanon’s top universities including AUB, the Lebanese American University, St. Joseph, and the Lebanese University. Other committees for traffic and the environment will follow. “People are happy to volunteer because they are helping to shape the future of [the] city. I am working voluntarily. I have a salary, but I am using it to cover the costs of consultants. I am happy to do this because it is bringing proper knowledge and experience to the office.”

**Priorities:** Presiding over an area that forms a circle starting at the Beirut Forum in the north, the Beirut River, Badaro, Chatilla Tunnel, and the Sport City stadium (which includes the basketball court but not the football stadium!), Hamad has identified several priorities including public transportation, parking, and civic spaces.

**Traffic congestion:** “All road construction is executed according to the 1954 Urban Planning Law,” Hamad explains. “Can I do anything about that now? Not really, but without a public transport system you cannot sort [out] traffic congestion. So in coordination with the Ministry of Transport, I am trying to establish a private public transport system for the city of Beirut.”

**Parking solutions:** “Without decent public parking (and by that I mean providing properly built parking lots), you cannot solve the parking problem. So this year we will be acquiring by law several empty lots in Beirut. We will pay a fair price for them because this is the only way to do it. And I ask all the politicians, if I identify a piece of land and the owner complains to you, don’t expect me to change my mind because [the selection of] that piece of land is based on good urban planning studies. Once I choose and pay for the land, I will use a BOT [Build Operate Transfer] system to construct and...
manage these parking lots. It is now or never. I have money from taxes and building permits. I don’t want to pile up the money. When I leave this office, I don’t want to leave a penny behind. I want to leave ten good projects for Beirut. This is what I am planning.”

Public spaces: A native Beiruti from Tariq el Jdideh, Hamad is painfully aware of the lack of green and civic spaces in the city. Starting on home ground, he has drawn up an ambitious if controversial plan that entails the demolition of the municipal stadium in Tariq el Jdideh. “The stadium occupies 30,000 square meters of land and is used only five or six times a year. Why do we need this?” Hamad asks. “Let’s change it into a civic center with underground parking for 2,500 cars—we solve the parking problem. Then on top we have a green civic park, mini football, basketball, and volleyball pitches, the largest public library in Beirut, a multipurpose hall for weddings, condolences, and other functions, pedestrian walks, a jogging path—in short a civic center which at least 1,000 people use every day. Some people tell me I cannot touch the stadium because it is part of our heritage. Beirut is a concrete jungle and to keep all this land for one stadium—it makes no sense.”

Sounds autocratic? Not so says Hamad. “Whenever I have a project I call for meetings. I go to the people. I hold town hall meetings. I was elected to the Council of Beirut by the people of Beirut, and we should decide by consensus. I invite anybody to challenge these projects.”

Next on the list is the Hippodrome, which sits on 210,000 square meters of land and is used only by a handful of horse owners and race goers on the weekends. “This land is owned by the municipality for the people of Beirut and the people of Beirut do not use it. I visited it for the first time in my life when I became mayor. It is a paradise that nobody knows about. Now we have a master plan. The Hippodrome will stay, but it will be one of six facilities. We will have an amphitheater, an artificial lake, a mini golf course, a horse riding school, and green restaurants where there is no smoking. This is my dream and this dream will happen.”

(For those lobbying to reopen Horsh Beirut [Beirut’s pine forest], the news is not so positive. At this point, Mayor Hamad feels the only way to safeguard this vital breathing space for Beirut is to continue to protect it from becoming an open-air argile and barbecue spot, both of which he feels would seriously jeopardize the fabric of the Horsh.) [See article, p. 28.]

Sidewalks: “To widen the sidewalks requires urban planning and changing the traffic flow; changing the traffic flow would mean altering the roads: altering the roads is impossible, but I am studying the problem, and, where possible, action will be taken. True, the sidewalks have not been well maintained,” he says, “but I promise we will make sure that in 2011 all sidewalks in Beirut will be planted with trees and maintained.”

Trash collection: With the Sukleen contract almost at an end and other companies bidding for the job, Hamad is in a holding position. That does not mean he is not studying the problem. “I visited Istanbul and Barcelona; they have properly covered bins installed in the correct places. If Istanbul can do this, why can’t Beirut? We have to work with the government on this issue. We need to see which company will be responsible, but in all cases, we need to have bins that are properly covered with lids that open with a hydraulic foot pedal; it’s an environmental imperative.”

By now the time is ticking and Hamad is due in the classroom. There is a line of students waiting outside his door. It is time to go, but one last question—how is he going to manage to hold down his job at AUB and face all these challenges? “By agreement with the president and the provost, I will have to cut back my time at AUB. But, don’t worry, Beirut is in good hands. I am an AUB professor using the code of ethics I learned at AUB. I am an AUB person through and through. I will not let you guys down!”

—M.A.
The Principled Polymath

Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck has been described as “probably the most gifted and most honored of all the early faculty members at SPC.”¹ He was a medical doctor, a scientist, the author and editor of numerous important works in Arabic, and a gifted linguist who mastered not only Arabic, but Syriac, Hebrew, Greek, French, Italian, and German as well.

The son of a country doctor, Van Dyck was born in Kinderhook, New York on August 13, 1818. After earning an MD degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1839 at the age of 20, he traveled to Beirut as a lay medical missionary. It was in Beirut that he met and married his wife, Julia Abbott, whose father had been the British consul. They had six children: Henry, Edward, Ellen, Eliza, William, and Florence.

In 1846—20 years before the establishment of the Syrian Protestant College—Van Dyck founded the Abeih Academy, which was the first institution in Syria to confer a high school diploma.² With his “intimate and lifelong friend,” Boutros Bustani (see “A Kindred Spirit”, MainGate, fall 2010), Van Dyck completed an Arabic translation of the Bible, which Reverend Eli Smith had begun in 1848.³ In addition to the translation of the Bible, Van Dyck wrote, edited, and published books in Arabic on many medical and scientific topics including Abu Bakr Mohammad Ibn Zakariya al-Razi’s groundbreaking work on smallpox and measles that he also translated.⁴

One of the College’s original faculty members,⁵ Van Dyck worked particularly closely with Drs. John Wortabet and George Post to found its medical department (the forerunner of today’s Faculty of Medicine) in 1867, becoming chair of internal medicine and general pathology.⁶ A lifelong amateur astronomer, he also helped set up the Lee Observatory in 1874.⁷ In addition to choosing the site, Van Dyck provided much of the observatory’s original equipment.⁸ Assisted by Faris Nimr (BA 1874), who was a member of the College’s first class of 16 students, Van Dyck recorded regular meteorological observations that were telegraphed twice daily to the Imperial Observatory at Constantinople.

Van Dyck resigned from the SPC in 1882 to protest what has come to be known as the Darwin Affair. (See “Darwin and the Evolution of AUB,” MainGate, fall 2009.) Although this event marked the end of his formal affiliation with the institution, Van Dyck continued to be involved with the College until his death in 1895 at the age of 77. One of the other faculty members who resigned from the College to protest the Darwin Affair was Van Dyck’s third son, William, who had been a medical lecturer since 1880.

William returned as a member of the SPC faculty in 1915, eventually retiring in 1928 as professor emeritus.

Van Dyck Hall, which is located just inside the Medical Gate, was built for the medical school in 1930 with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. It is now home to the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Office of Computing and Networking Services, and the Academic Computing Center.

¹ Daniel Bliss, Letters from a New Campus, page 267.
² Some sources give a date of 1843 for the founding of the Abeih Academy.
³ The Founding Fathers of the American University of Beirut: Biographies, compiled by Ghada Yaqub Khoury, page 186.
⁴ http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttoLife/people/alrazi.aspx
⁵ The other members were Daniel Bliss, David Stuart Dodge, George E. Post, Edwin R. Lewis, Harvey Porter, and John Wortabet.
⁶ http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webanest/story.html
⁷ The observatory was named for Henry Lee from Manchester, England who donated 150 pounds sterling for the building.
Lessons of War

Renowned professor Rashid Khalidi had every intention of returning to AUB one year after leaving for a fellowship in the United States, but events conspired against him. Thirty-eight years later he reflects on his time on campus and still considers the possibility of coming back.

Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies and Literature and director of the Middle East Institute at Columbia University, taught at AUB from 1976 to 1983.

Main Gate: When did you arrive at AUB and what were your first impressions?
I have spent time on campus and known people who were involved with the University for as long as I can remember; half of my family graduated from AUB, my father and brother included. I started teaching at AUB in 1976.

Do you have particular memories from those years?
1975-76 was not the calmest academic year. I was pleased to be teaching here, but we were ducking for cover half the time. I remember that the rains came early that fall, and the first day when it really started raining, there were very few people in class. I asked one of the students, where is everybody, and he said, “Ya ustez, it’s raining!” I said, but people were coming when there were shells falling, and he said yes but the girls won’t come because it will mess their hair up. So AUB students were not terribly worried about shelling and sniping, but the rain... .

How different was teaching at AUB from your previous experiences?
I had taught for a couple of years at the Lebanese University just after I finished my dissertation. At the Lebanese University you had a largely working class student population, most of whom worked during the day and who showed up rarely for class. At AUB, most of the students came to most classes and most of them came from comfortable backgrounds. There was also the difference between the facilities: AUB obviously has a quite gorgeous campus and lovely facilities.

What was the biggest change you noticed while at AUB?
I was here for seven years from 1976 to ’83. I was going to say that the students became less political, but that’s actually not true. Most of them remained very interested in politics. There was turnover, but most of the students managed to stay. I constantly see former students—sometimes because I am teaching their children.

Were the students able to engage properly, were they distracted?
We were very lucky. In those years we taught students who had benefitted from the quite excellent K-12 education in Lebanon. I have been teaching for 37 years, and in those seven AUB years I taught some of the best students I have ever taught. There was no decline in quality over that period.

How would you compare your students with others you have taught since?
I would say that students at AUB, in terms of the subjects I teach (history, politics, and so on), were considerably more knowledgeable and interested than many of the students I have taught since. American students, for all their many good points, often don’t have a very good grasp of Middle Eastern history and they often don’t have terribly good language [skills].

Are you still in touch with any of your former students?
I am in touch with many of them—especially those who went on to careers as university professors.
You were here from 1976 to '83, a period of great upheaval. What made you decide to stay?

I had been living in Lebanon before 1976. I have a lot of family here, I had a job, I had kids, and we had no desire to go anywhere else. I like AUB. I enjoyed teaching here. Beirut was a vibrant intellectual center, all kinds of stuff was happening. The war wasn't a constant; there were months and months at a time when things were apparently peaceful. When we left, we left with only a few suitcases thinking we would only be away for a year. I had every intention of coming back in 1984. Of course, the situation became so much worse and with our kids we just couldn't.

How did you cope on the personal level?

Much of the time the electricity was cut off. We had problems with gas, problems with kerosene, all kinds of day-to-day problems, which many readers of MainGate know as well as I do. In conditions of war, people are enormously resourceful and are able to put up with much more than people living in peaceful conditions can imagine. It just seemed normal. We managed. When you look back on it you say how did we ever put up with that, but at the time it just seemed like the thing to do.

How did those years at AUB impact on your academic work?

I think I learned more about politics and history during those years at AUB, or the 11 to 12 years I lived in Lebanon, than at any other time in my life. Anyone who thinks history is a matter of simple factors or believes in the conspiracy theory of history did not draw the right lessons from the kind of things we went through. It was traumatic in some respects, but in terms of my understanding of the topics I deal with, I think it was very enriching.

How much has the role of young people in the Middle East and Lebanon in particular changed since those days?

My impression is that students who were probably understandably apolitical after the war have in some respects been re-energized. One also hears, however, that there is some of the same lack of serious concern among some kids about what is really happening—a detachment from reality—that I remember from pre-war Lebanon. It is hard for me to judge, but I do think there has been greater involvement and attention to things among young people in the last few years than was the case right after the war.

Would you consider teaching again at AUB?

I would hope it would be possible at some stage.

—M.A.
The caption on this photo, likely taken before 1920, reads: “Main Gate of the College, taken opposite. The college donkey and the two college servants in center. They are going downtown for some supplies.”

Thanks to Trustee B. Philip Winder for donating a collection of family photos to the AUB archives. If you are interested in donating your own AUB photos or memorabilia, contact us at maingate@aub.edu
AUB students, alumni, entrepreneurs, and business leaders met in Damascus, Syria March 10-12 at WAAAUB’s Second Regional Meeting, which focused on exploring ways to increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young AUB graduates. More than 100 students, alumni, and speakers from Jordan, Syria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon battled a weekend snowstorm to make the trip to Damascus. WAAAUB Chapters Committee Chair Flare Majali (BA ‘75), WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi (BA ‘54), and Provost Ahmad Dallal (BE ‘80) were on hand at the opening reception on Thursday evening at the historic Al Pasha Hotel. Keynote speaker Adel Hussain Al Maskati (BS ‘75) advised students to build their personality, develop skills, take risks, and work hard to prepare themselves for today’s challenging labor market. After Nader Kabbani and AUB Professor Jad Chaaban presented some recent statistics concerning unemployment in the region, AUB alumni Elias Nasr (BE ’03), Rana Shmaiteleh (BE ’93, ME ’08), and Lina Zawati (BAR ’80) shared their experiences. There were also lively presentations from Ashoka VP Iman Bibaris, Amjad Al Aryan (CEO and founder of Pharmacy 1 in Jordan), Berytech Program Manager Krystel Khalil, Rana Ghandour Salhab (MBA ’85), and AUB BOT member Abdulsalam Haykal (BA ‘01). Presentations by student representatives also prompted animated discussions that continued at the gala dinner that evening, organized by the Damascus Chapter at the Four Seasons Hotel. At the gala, Damascus Chapter President Sami Moubayed (BA ‘00) thanked WAAAUB for holding this important meeting in Damascus. Friday’s “work” meetings were followed by a day of “play” that included a tour of the old city of Damascus, shopping in the souks, visits to major touristic sites, and lunch at the renowned Syrian restaurant Narinj. For more information about the business meetings visit www.waaaub.org.
The Charles W. Hostler Student Center was the site of a fierce battle on December 12, 2010 when business alumni from AUB, the Ecole Supérieure des Affaires (ESA), Birmingham, International Excellence (IE), and Columbia competed for the right to call themselves the best business alumni football team in Beirut. In the end, ESA prevailed with Columbia and Birmingham snagging second and third places respectively. The WAAAUB Inaugural Business Alumni Football Tournament and the reception that followed were organized by the WAAAUB Programs Committee in collaboration with IE business alumni to promote professional networking among business alumni.

The Greece Chapter is back! Alumni in Greece held their first general assembly on February 16 at the Nargila restaurant in Athens. Alumni residing in Greece caught up with old friends and reminisced about the “good old days” before getting down to business and launching the chapter’s upcoming elections. The highlight of the event was a Greek tradition—the cutting of the pita for 2011. The new Greece Chapter committee will announce future events on its Facebook page.

How long has it been since you visited the OLC?

look up alumni chapters

link your Facebook page to your OLC sign-in

find
- your old lab partner
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It's all here > www.aub.edu/alumni
The WAAUUB family’s newest member—the Maldives Chapter—recently appointed former Maldivian Education Minister Zahiya Zaheer (BA ‘83) as its first president. A host of distinguished former students including Maldives Vice President Mohamed Waheed Hassan (BA ‘77), former Minister Aishath Mohamed Didi (BA ‘82), and Maldives Red Crescent President Ibrahim Shafeeq (BBA ‘84), attended the chapter’s first general assembly on February 25. The new chapter also welcomed US State Department Senior Education Adviser Molly Teas as the guest of honor.

More than 250 AUB alumni attended the WAAUUB Switzerland Chapter gala dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva on March 26. Chapter President Muwaffak Bibi (BBA ’77) welcomed AUB and WAAUUB delegates to the event and thanked everyone for their generous support of the WAAUUB Swiss scholarship fund. The Swiss committee also honored former chapter president Akram Saadeh (BS ’73, MS ’76) for his service to the Swiss alumni community. WAAUUB board member and president of the WAAUUB UK Chapter Talal Farah (BA ’62, MA ’70) briefed the guests on WAAUUB news and thanked the alumni for their extraordinary ongoing support and enthusiasm. His Excellency Hassan Rammal, Lebanese Ambassador to Switzerland was among the guests. As promised, official speeches were kept short so that everyone could dance the night away… with some even reliving a little bit of Saturday Night Fever on the dance floor.

The first Qatar quiz night was such a hit in June 2010 that the WAAUUB Qatar Chapter held a second quiz night on January 20 at the Diplomatic Club in Doha. Some 200 alumni and friends attended the event, which was sponsored by Microsoft. A September quiz night is in the works.

AUBMC hosted a dedication ceremony to celebrate the Abu Dhabi Chapter’s donation to name a room in the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit for Jirji Bachir (BA ’74). Abu Dhabi Chapter President Elias Assaf (BE ’88), VP Samer Gharzeddine (BA ’90), former President Ramzi Kteily (BA ’64), and chapter founder and honorary member Jirji Bachir (BA ’74) were on hand for the ceremony. So too were some of Bachir’s family and friends: Dr. Ali Bazarbachi, Dr. Fuad Ziyadeh (BS ’76, MD ’80), Deputy VP/Dean Ziad Ghazzal (BS ’78, MD ’82) and Dr. Nadim Cortas (BS ’63, MD ’67). In their remarks, Assaf touched on his relationship with Bachir and pledged the chapter’s continued support for AUB while Kteily spoke of Bachir’s legacy. Bachir, whose wife Fatimah (BA ’76) and
four children—Mazen (BS ’99), Basel (BS ’01, MD ’05), Zeina (BS ’04), and Elias (BE ’07)—are all AUB alumni, thanked BMT staff for the care he had recently received while a patient at AUBMC.

More than a thousand Abu Dhabi alumni, friends, and their families who attended the chapter’s annual “Day Out” at the Hiltonia Beach Garden Hilton Hotel on January 28 were looking forward to a fun-filled day with clear skies and sunshine. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans when wind picked up in the early afternoon and a storm set in. Thankfully, the storm didn’t last long enough to disrupt the chapter’s program. Among the highlights this year were the participation of Radio Star FM presenter Rania Younes as mistress of ceremonies and the generous gifts many Abu Dhabi and Dubai companies distributed to all attendees.

More than 150 alumni and friends gathered at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel in Arlington, Virginia on March 18 to attend the annual gala dinner of the WAAUUB Greater Washington DC Chapter. Welcoming remarks by Chapter President Dr. Suheil Muasher (BS ’72, MD ’76) were followed by comments from HE Antoine Chedid, ambassador of Lebanon to the United States. In his keynote speech, President Peter Dorman provided the audience with campus updates and news relating to the recent AUB Board of Trustees meeting. Music and dancing capped off a successful evening for a happy crowd.

The Southern California Chapter hosted a well attended luncheon in old town Pasadena on March 27. A comedian, Charles Marina, entertained the delighted audience. The attendees enjoyed a wonderful Sunday afternoon socializing, reminiscing and laughing.

New England Chapter members celebrated the 2010 holiday season with a festive party on December 12, 2010 at the Masa Southwest Bar and Grill in Woburn, just outside Boston. More than 60 AUB alumni, family, and friends braved the rainy winter
weather to attend the chapter’s annual holiday party for a late night of fun, dancing, great food, and wonderful company. Everyone was in good spirits and is looking forward to the upcoming year and a multitude of alumni events.

The Montreal Chapter organized a Christmas lunch on December 18, 2010 at Restaurant L’Ô at the Novotel Hotel in Montreal. They must have had a great time because just six weeks later, on February 3 chapter members got together again—this time for a “5 à 7” event at the Caramel Supper Club—also in Montreal. On March 20, the chapter followed up with a snowshoeing event at le Parc National des îles de Boucherville. The park is made up of five small islands located right in the middle of the St. Lawrence River in Montreal.

The light snow that fell on Ottawa only briefly delayed the start of the Christmas party on December 10, 2010 at the St. Elias Centre. This being the outgoing board’s last public activity, the president, Samir Samaha (BBA ’79) was surprised with a trophy of appreciation from his colleagues. The official tone of the evening quickly gave way to a much lighter mood, however, thanks in part to Andre Skaff’s (BE ’67) jokes and anecdotes. Then it was on to karaoke, dinner, a poetry competition, and finally dancing to DJ Tonnee’s music. The chapter would like to extend its gratitude to corporate sponsor Gabriel Pizza, to DJ Tonnee, who led the evening’s activities, to the MC and judge, and to all those whose presence made this evening such a warm, successful, and memorable one.

WAAAUB 2011 elections are underway. In late May your eballot will be sent to your inbox.

We urge you to familiarize yourself with the new WAAAUB leadership structure (details can be found at: www.waaaub.org) and to cast your ballot by June 25. Election results will be announced on July 1, 2011.

This is your alumni association and we need your participation to make it the best association AUB and its graduates deserve. Don’t forget to vote!

Questions? Email us at nominations-committee@waaaub.org
1950s

Albert E. Hazbun
(BE '59) has a long history of supporting education, starting with a memorial scholarship he named for his father: the George Issa Hazboun Scholarship for Palestinian engineering students at AUB. He is an active member of the Equestrian Order for the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, an ancient Catholic order that supports the Latin patriarch in Jerusalem and the educational institutions under his jurisdiction. Around ten years ago, Hazbun founded a student scholarship at Bethlehem University where he recently helped establish a mentoring program. In the 1950s Hazbun served as editor of AUB’s Engineering Yearbook and of Outlook. His son Waleed A. Hazbun is an AUB professor in the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration. [hazbun(at)sbcglobal.net]

Raphael Calis
(BA '66) was recently appointed director of the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS), a private non-profit academic organization. A veteran Arab-American journalist and publishing executive, Calis has been an editor of three magazines, a daily newspaper, and two wire services, including AUB’s Outlook; managing editor of The Daily Star, and editor-in-chief of The Middle East, a London based monthly magazine. In 1981, he moved to Washington, DC to launch the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in North and South America and was the agency’s bureau chief and director for 13 years. Subsequently, Calis spent a year in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as director of planning for the Saudi Research and Publishing Company, one of the largest publishing companies in the Arab world. In 1994 he returned to Washington to assume the position of executive editor and vice president of the American wire service, United Press International, becoming one of the first Arab-Americans to occupy such a senior position in a major American media organization. He then served as a director of the pan-Arab television station MBC in London, returned to Washington as a full-time publishing adviser to the Department of State, and launched the Arabic cultural magazine Hi. In his current position as Washington director of IPS, Calis will focus on publishing operations, development, outreach, marketing, and special projects. [rcalis(at)yahoo.com]

Shamira Derakhshani
Nicolas
(BA '66, MA '72) After her graduation from AUB, Nicolas followed her husband Ilyas (Peter) Nicolas (BS '67, MD '72) to Cleveland, Ohio, where she was delighted with the opportunity to study at the Alumnae from the class of 1965 held their own mini-reunion this spring. Left to right, seated: Rose Hanna Debbas, Bushra Jabre, Najla Hamadeh Osman, Shafica Dayya Omari, May Ziwar Daftari, Fatima Sbaity Kassem. Standing: Nada Hussein Jabre, Maha Faris Sabbagh. 

1960s

Barbara Ann Johnson
(BA '63) keeps up with several AUB classmates including her junior year roommate, but she would love to hear from others, especially those from Iraq, Ethiopia, and Somalia. She is planning to attend her class reunion in 2013. [harkhan(at)aol.com]

Nicolas A. Chahine
(BS '65, MD '69) did his post-graduate work in otolaryngology at AUBMC until 1974. He writes: “This is how I look 40 years later at my son’s wedding.” The family after the big bash: left to right: the bride, Riwa, MA virology, University of Montreal; Chafik Jirbaka (BA '02); groom Dr. Karim Chahine, MD; his mother Rania, also an MD; Nicolas’s wife, Dunia Chahine (AUB student 1971-72); their daughters: Zeina Chahine Jirbaka (BS '02, MPH '05) and Lara Chahine Rezko, who studied marketing at Concordia University; and her husband Robert Rezko, who studied civil engineering at the University of California at Los Angeles. [nchahine42(at)gmail.com]
and have five children, six grandchildren, and two more grandchildren on the way. [aedeeb(at)hotmail.com] or [eas(at)ichp.ufl.edu]

Amin I. Kassis

(BS ’68, MS ’71) After completing his doctorate from McGill University in Montreal and a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, Kassis was recruited by Harvard Medical School (HMS) in Boston where he has remained. Currently, he is professor of radiology at HMS and director of radiobiology and experimental radionuclide therapy. A prolific author, he also holds 44 issued and pending US and world patents. Kassis and his wife Sousan Kanbar have two girls: Lana (12) and Maya (10). [amin_kassis(at)hms.harvard.edu]

Walid M. Nasr

(BE ’71) is an independent management consultant for development and construction companies, law firms, and UN organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labor Organization. He is currently the contracts formation manager for HEISCO, a publicly traded Kuwaiti company in oil, gas, and ship-building. Nasr is married to Vicky Fattouh. They have two married children and one grandchild. [walidn(at)hotmail.com]

Abe W. Ata

(BA ’72) Ata’s book, Us and Them: Muslim–Christian Relations and Cultural Harmony in Australia, was just published by the Australian Academic Press and nominated for the prime minister’s 2010 Book Award. It has been described as cross-cultural research that provides exceptional insights into the hopes and fears that people experience when dealing with diversity. Well known for his work on comparative religions and ethnicity, Ata served briefly as a temporary delegate to the UN in 1970. He is currently at the Australian Catholic University and a WAADUB Council member. [abe.ata(at)acu.edu.au]

Mohamad M. Barudi

(BAR ’75) has practiced as an architect and contractor throughout the Middle East. He welcomes visitors to his new website [www.anchatarch.com] [anchatarch(at)yahoo.com]

Joyce Mufarrij Jurdak

(BA ’75, MA ’84) writes: “With a reassuring smile on his face, a Group involved in corporate social responsibility activities including community outreach and is involved in company efforts related to global climate change. Kayal holds a doctorate in environmental sciences from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. He and his wife Fatima Chaar have two children: Nejla and Abraham. [kayalsx(at)gmail.com]

Serhan Kayal

(BS ’77, MS ’81) is an environmental consultant with the Environmental Protection Department of Saudi Aramco. He heads the Environmental Awareness Group involved in corporate social responsibility activities including community outreach and is involved in company efforts related to global climate change. Kayal holds a doctorate in environmental sciences from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. He and his wife Fatima Chaar have two children: Nejla and Abraham. [kayalsx(at)gmail.com]
Dr. Kisirwani was always there to assist us throughout our years at AUB. We were always welcome in his office at Jesup Hall when we had any problem, be it academic or even to solve an issue with administration. We almost felt that Dr. Kisirwani was family, and this was a wonderful feeling for us at the PSPA Department as we progressed through our academic program. Dr. Kisirwani had a way of putting things into perspective that would help us get through.

When I heard that Dr. Kisirwani was leaving AUB, a flood of memories came to mind even though I graduated a while ago. Dr. Kisirwani, I will always remember your wisdom and generosity. It is my turn to wish you all the best. May you keep that smile of yours and may you enjoy life surrounded by the love of your family and friends."

1980s

Bassem P. Fakhry

(BE '80, MBA '87) writes: “Busy as we all are, I guess we sometimes tend to overlook the changes in our lives, even those significant or momentous ones that come every 30 years or so (in my case). Here’s the latest twist in my life and career: I left GE after nearly 12 years to start my own company in June 2010. Dynamic Energy and Water Solutions (www. dynamic-ews.com) is based in Dubai and specializes in solar energy and water treatment. My wife Elita Abou-Haydar Fakhry (BS '84, MS '87) and I have lived in the UAE for more than 19 years. We celebrated our 25th anniversary last December… so 2010 was a big year for this AUB couple.” [bpfakhry(at) dynamic-ews.com ]

Sani Nassif

(BE ’80) is a research manager at IBM. He received his PhD from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1986 and worked at Bell Laboratories prior to moving to IBM. Nassif is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, an IBM master inventor, and a member of IBM’s Academy of Technology. He and his wife Julie Slim have two daughters attending college and a now empty nest in Austin, Texas. [sani.nassif(at)gmail.com]

Hayat Abdel Baki

(BBA '83) is head of Internal Audit at the SKAB Group, Saudi Arabia. In 2001 she was awarded her certified management accountant certificate (CMA) making her the first female CMA in the KSA. In 2002 she went on to earn her certified financial manager certificate. She is married to Mahmoud Gharazeddine (BE ’75), and they have three children: Imad, Farid, and Jana. [hayatbaki(at)gmail.com]

Lost Alumni

Can you help solve any of our lost alumni mysteries?

Garabed Abajian
Nemer Abboud
Ghadah Abdo
Md. Abdul-Karim
Lina Abdun-Nabi
Waeli Ahad
Maha Abi-Isa
Joyce Abi-Rad
Farah Abojulely
Aida Abu-Assali
Diana Abu-Hamra
Roger Abu-Jawdah
Carol Abu-Rashid
Amin Abu-Samra

Muna Abu-Shibel
Yunan Abu-Sulayman
Demetris Achilles
Sirajuddin Ahmed
Baniya Ajmah
Paul Aljuni
Hisham Ajpiu
Marius Akhrs
Sevan Alexanderian
Abdul-Munim Ali-Idris
Samer Al-Jawhari
Rabi Alhus
Husam Aminuddin
Abu Noman Aminul-Islam

Md.Ainuddin Aminul-Islam
Salma Ammuri
Michel Antun
Ghassan Aswad
Tonia Maria Aswad
Elle Atallah
Lina Atyyyah
Salma Atiyah
Kamal Attar
Leila Awad
Abdul Aziz
Nurhan Baghdadi
Dani Bakhus
Panos Balian

Below is a list of alumni from the class of 1982. If you know the whereabouts or contact information of someone on the list, please send an email to alumni@aub.edu.lb and type “lost alumni” in the subject line. Thank you for helping.
Maral Antoyan (MA ’86) With her master’s in education, Antoyan has worked as a teacher, a guidance counselor, an instructor at Notre Dame University, an educational adviser, and is currently the educational coordinator of Armenian Prelacy Schools in Lebanon. [hasmig6(at)yahoo.com]

Bassil Farraj (BE ’86) is currently technical manager at OmniSystems, SAL Lebanon in charge of post sales support of various IT solutions from Avid, IBM, Symantec, and Sun. Farraj is married to Josette Hajjej. They have two daughters: Maria and Sara-Gabrielle. [bassil.farraj(at)omnisystems.com.lb]

Lina Fayed (BA ’86) is the admissions officer at the International School of Choueifat, which is the parent school of a global network that includes 79 schools and a large university. She and her husband Khalil Fayed have two children. Sami, their oldest child, has just received his BBA from AUB, majoring in accounting. [lfayed(at)sabis.net]

Khaled A. Taki (MA ’86) earned several advanced degrees from US institutions including a doctorate. In 2005 Taki established his own franchise consultancy firm, Franchise Business Consultants (www.fbcfranchise.com), and created the first franchise training institute in the Middle East at the Gefinor Center in Ras Beirut (FTI www.franchisetraining.pro). In 2010 he was elected the first president of the Arab Franchise Association (www.arabfranchiseassociation.com). FBC recently submitted a proposal to the Lebanese government for a Beirut water taxi to help alleviate local traffic congestion. He is looking forward to his class reunion in 2011. [ktakiphd(at)ahoo.com]

Maha Hurayki (BE ’86) is currently director of the Information Technology Department at the American University of Kuwait where she also heads the Institutional Research Unit. Hurayki is married to Fouad Khatl (BE ’83, MBA ’88) and they have two daughters: the oldest graduated from AUB in summer 2010. [maha(at)khlat.com]

Hakikur Rahman (ME ’86) is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minho, Portugal. He is the founder-principal of the Institute of Computer Management and Science Computer College, adjunct faculty at Bangabandu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, and chairman of SchoolNet Foundation—all in Bangladesh. Rahman and his wife Shamima have a daughter, Sausan. [email(at)hakik.org]

Celine Melki (BS ’89, MS ’95) spent 12 years in the food industry prior to joining the international NGO ACDI/VOCA as a program manager for a $3 million project funded by USAID. This Quality Control and Certification Program is designed to strengthen food testing laboratories in Lebanon to sustainably address quality, food safety, and regulatory compliance issues. Melki and her husband Pascal Abdallah have two children. The family lives in Mount Lebanon. [celloun(at)hotmail.com]

Fadi Abdulsalam (BE ’90) after graduation, joined his family’s contracting...
business, GBCC, as managing director. The company is based in Sharjah, UAE. He has two children: Sarah and Samir, who is a pre-med major at AUB.

Hanadi Tabsh
(BBA ’90, MBA ’92) is the head of accounting at Makassed General Hospital. In 2010 she became a certified management accountant (CMA). Tabsh and her husband Issam Itani have three children. They live in Beirut.

Bachir El-Saghir
(BS ’96) is a senior landscape architect at Projacs International. His wife Hiam Chemaitelly (BS ’03, MS ’05) is a research specialist in epidemiology at Weill Cornell Medical College in Doha, Qatar where the couple lives. [bachir.saghir(at)gmail.com]

Raghid Bitar
(BS ’98, MD ’02) is the director of bariatric and advanced laparoscopic surgery at University Health Systems of Eastern North Carolina’s Heritage Hospital and the Tarboro Clinic. After earning his MD in 2002, he completed one year of general surgery training at AUBMC before moving to the United States to finish his training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2008. Bitar and his wife Sherene Wehbe Bitar (BSN ’99, MPH ’01) have two children: Leen, age five, and Abdallah, age three. They live in Greenville, North Carolina. [raghid.bitar(at)gmail.com]

Rada Dagher
(BS ’98, MPH ’00) is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Services Administration, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Dagher, who was previously an assistant professor at the University of Florida, received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 2007. Her dissertation was nominated for the University of Minnesota Dissertation Award. [rdagher1(at)umd.edu]

Raed Omar Sbeit
(BE ’98) is a technical manager at Verizon and an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas where he heads the MSES graduate engineering management program. In 2008 he earned his doctorate in engineering management at Southern Methodist University. Sbeit is also a founding and current board member of a local charter school, Manara Academy, in the Dallas, Texas area. He and his wife Sara Khayat live in Dallas and have three children. [dr.raed.sbeit(at)gmail.com]

Mohamad Haidar
(BAR ’01) is a virtual design and construction manager at Lee, Burkhart, Liu, Inc. He lives in Los Angeles, California. [mohamad_haidar(at)yahoo.com]

Mohamed Badaoui Najjar
(BS ’01, MS ’04) is a senior scientist in innovations at PepsiCo, USA. He leads PepsiCo’s global energy product design. In 2009 he earned a doctorate in food sci-

Lost Alumni
Class of 1982
(continued)

Abdul-Kadir Itani
Layla Itani
Marthe Jabarah
Suzan Jabarah
Rabi’ Jabbur
Nuha Jabir
Eileen Jada’
Md. Jalaluddin
Wissam Jamal
Hagop Jamgochian
Randa Jannun
Jihad Judi
Mazin Jundi
Ghassan Kamar
Rima Kamil
Dina Kanu
Rafik Karam
Rita Kashshu
Yusuf Kassab
Souheil Kastoun
Henry Kevorkian
Diana Khabbaz
Hasan Shukri Khalidi
George Khalil
Rima Khalil
Layla Khalil
Yusuf Khamisi
Steve Khatchadourian
Muhammad Khulani
Amal Adele Khuri
George Khuri
Imad Khuri
Ludwig Khuri
Salwa Khuri
Thuraya Khuri
John Khuri-Yakub
Muna Kubaysi
Wafa Kubaysi
Ahmad Kurban
Nada Kurm
Antoine Kusa
Samir Kustantin
Muna Lahhud
Kathleen Mackenzie
Elie Mahfouz
Wahib Mahjub
Aheloush Mahrokian
Ilyas Majdalani
Mary Makhluf
Emanuele Manasci
Muhammad-Walid Mansur
Rzikallah Masabni
Takouhi Mazloumian
Janine Melkian
Mh. Mohsin Miah-Miah
Abdun-Nasir Mikdad
ence from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Najjar currently lives in White Plains, New York. [Mohbadaouinajjar(at)hotmail.com]

Wissam Shaar
(BE ’02) is an MBA student concentrating in strategy and global leadership at McGill University. He and his wife Nagham Sayour (BS ’06, MA ’09) moved to Montreal, Canada last August. Sayour is a doctoral student in economics, also at McGill. [wissamshaar(at)hotmail.com]

Grace El Azar
(BA ’03) is the managing director at A.R. Jubaili & Co. (ARJ). As one of the leading companies in power generation, ARJ has been a key supplier of power generating sets in the Middle East and North Africa since 1979. It provides generating systems to households and to electromechanical businesses. ARJ was granted the International Europe Award in 1999 for Best Quality in the Middle East. Jubaili currently resides in Beirut, Lebanon. [Nader(at)jubaili.com]

Hanine Estephan
(BS ’04, MPH ’06) is a doctoral candidate at the Harvard School of Public Health. In 2010, Estephan was a fellow at the Harvard Graduate Consortium for Energy and Environment. She is currently living in Boston, Massachusetts. [Hanine(at)gmail.com]

Jana Abou Reslan
(BA ’04) is an instructor at the American University of Science and Technology, Lebanon. In 2009, she earned an MBA at LAU. Reslan plans to start a doctoral program in workplace and adult learning next year. She lives in Beirut. [janaaboureslan(at)hotmail.com]

Joumana Mattar Moukarzel
(BGD ’05) is a design management consultant. She earned her master’s in design management at Istituto Europeo di Design, Barcelona. Moukarzel is currently studying coaching at the European Economic Conference, Madrid, and interning at XVDMC (Xenia Viladas Design Management Consultants). She believes that design is a tool for social change. She is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. [joumana.mm(at)gmail.com]

Ward Wehbeh
(BE ’08) is a chartered accountant at Pricewaterhouse-
Beyond Bliss Street

consultant in 2008-09. She is now finishing her doctorate in irrigation engineering at USU. She lives in Logan, Utah. [roulabachour(at)hotmail.com]

Faris Anwar Haddadin

(BE ’09) writes that the joyful cap and gown celebrations lasted for a few days before he set off with “trunk loads of memories, knowledge, and eagerness to start a promising career in the land of cultural and historical heritage, Egypt.” Haddadin is a project coordinator at Dar Al-Handasah Shair and Partners working on the landmark Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel project expected to open in June 2012. [faris.haddadin(at)dargroup.com]

Julie Haswani

Julie Haswani (BBA ’09) is a human resources officer at Deloitte & Touche in Beirut. In 2009 she earned her degree in business administration with an emphasis in human resources. She writes, “It is an honor for a relatively fresh graduate like me to be part of class notes. It is always great to shed the light on AUBites’ achievements, whether it is in Lebanon or abroad. Thank you to the MainGate team.” [Julie.haswani(at)gmail.com]

Ahmad Barazi

Ahmad Barazi (BE ’10), with his degree in civil engineering, went to work as a project engineer at Arabian Construction Company. He writes, “I feel so confident and satisfied with my work. I got promoted in my first two months. I am so grateful to have gone to AUB. It contributed a lot to making it possible for me to excel in life.” Barazi lives in Beirut. [ah.barazi(at)gmail.com]

Carine Lteif

Carine Lteif (MA ’10), who completed her master’s in urban planning and policy in October 2010, is a consultant at AUB’s Center for Civic Engagement. In October 2008 she married Giorgos Christofi in Cyprus. They have a beautiful baby girl, Eva. Wehbeh and her family live in Nicosia, Cyprus. [wwehby(at)hotmail.com]

I always remember my dad talking about AUB, its educational excellence, social life and, of course, its spectacular campus. My dad taught me to always make the most of what I had. He would tell me that nothing is impossible and that if you put your mind to something, it can become a reality.

Throughout their lives, people find themselves admiring a number of different people. In my case this has been particularly challenging as I have always admired the same person throughout my entire life: my Dad.”

Maya’s two sisters are also AUB graduates who work at AUB: Rihaf Yazbeck (BS ’02, MPH ’05) is a quality review analyst in the Quality Accreditation and Risk Management Program at AUBMC [ry03(at)aub.edu.lb] and Ribal Yazbeck (BS ’04) is a senior accountant in the Comptroller’s Office. [ry04(at)aub.edu.lb] Abdallah’s email is: [Abdallahhyazbek(at)hotmail.com] [Maya’s email is: [my27(at)aub.edu.lb]
and Community Service where she is researching agricultural practices in Sour in south Lebanon. She previously worked at LACECO, an architectural and engineering firm in Hamra. For her master’s thesis, Lteif explored the landscape potential of urban agriculture located at the peripheries of municipal Beirut. “The goal of my research was to assess the extent to which urban agriculture might contribute to urban food security while providing for urban green areas and other benefits like urban water management and environmental protection. I chose this topic because it enabled me to use my background in agricultural engineering and also because, although urban agriculture is increasingly valued throughout the world, it is underappreciated in Lebanon. I hope that my research will help to raise awareness of how urban agriculture can contribute to creating more livable cities. This would be a first step towards acknowledging its importance and devising policies that would promote its development in the urban context.”

**RECENTLY HONORED**

Haig Khatchadourian
(BA ’48, MA ’50) earned a doctorate at Duke University in 1956. He has taught philosophy for more than three decades starting at AUB, where he spent 15 years, and throughout the United States at the University of Wisconsin, University of Southern California, University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, and Harvard Law School. Khatchadourian founded and was made a life member of the International Academy for Philosophy and the Armenian Philosophical Academy in 2001. In 2004 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in England for his work in aesthetics. In 2005 he was awarded the medal of David the Invincible, believed to be the first Armenian philosopher (c. 5th-6th century AD) to introduce Greek logic and philosophy to Armenia. Among Khatchadourian’s biographical listings are: Marquis’s Who’s Who in America, 2009 and Who’s Who in the World, 2011. His publications to date include more than 100 articles in philosophical journals, 10 philosophical books, and two volumes of poetry (1983 and 2010). He currently lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Leila Tarazi Fawaz
(BA ’67, MA ’68) (Harvard, MA ’72, PhD ’79) After serving on Harvard University’s Board of Overseers for the past five years, Fawaz was recently elected its director for 2011-12. She is the first Lebanese academic to be given such an honor. She said her election as director of the Board of Overseers demonstrated the high value that Harvard places on internationalism.

Fawaz is the Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies and founding director of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at Tufts University, where she also holds appointments as professor of diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and as professor of history. A Carnegie scholar from 2008 to 2010, Fawaz has authored two volumes, An Occasion for War and Merchants and Migrants in Nineteenth-Century Beirut, and is currently working on a study of the World War I experience of Muslims in the Middle East and south Asia. In 2000, she received the International Institute of Boston’s New Citizen Award, given to immigrants who have made significant contributions within their respective communities. Paying tribute to her professors at AUB, Fawaz said, “I am grateful to AUB and for all my education in Lebanon. I found my teachers wonderful.”

Bana Hilal
(BA ’72) has received the 2010 East-West Bridgebuilder Award from the Levantine Cultural Center, an organization that promotes greater understanding of the Middle East and North Africa by presenting artistic and educational programs that bridge political and religious divides. “As a Lebanese Muslim woman, I find myself facing stereotypes and preconceived notions of who I am…I have learned that I am not alone…We need to educate the West about our culture and religion and at the same time educate ourselves to accept and embrace the differences that exist between our communities. Only with open minds can bridges be built and hearts seek connections.” Hilal is an active member of the Daniel Bliss Society Leadership
Internationally acclaimed artist Lena Kelekian (BS ’81) and her artist/architect husband Hagop Sulahian (BAR ’84) represented Lebanon at the 4th Beijing International Art Biennale. The theme for the 2010 event was preserving the environment. Work from both artists was selected for the permanent collection of the Beijing National Art Museum. Kelekian and Sulahian also exhibited their work last November at Korea’s 9th Goyang International Art Exhibition.

Kelekian is an internationally renowned artist, iconographer, restorer, geologist, environmental designer and curator of international exhibitions. She is the winner of the 2008 Beijing Olympic gold medal and Torch for the Fine Arts. [Lena(at)kelekianartgallery.com]

Ziad Mazboudi (BE ’87) received the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Citizen Engineer Award in recognition of his public service, the 2010 California ASCE Outstanding Community Service Award, and the 2010 Southern California American Public Works Association Project of the Year Award for innovation in the formation of the Tri-City Water Saver Committee in South Orange County, California. He is currently president of the ASCE Orange County Branch and a director on the ASCE Los Angeles Section Board. He sits on the board of directors of the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano, California where he has served for the past nine years as a senior civil engineer managing the city’s environmental division. Mazboudi is an LEED accredited professional with the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and represented USGBC on a trip to Egypt to help launch Egypt’s GBC. In the past year, he also worked with USAID assisting Jordan to develop environmental regulations to combat industrial pollutants. He has lived in Orange County, California for the past 23 years and will soon celebrate his 20th anniversary with his wife Mary. Mazboudi is currently pursuing an MBA at California State University. [mazboudiz(at)hotmail.com]

Houssam Assad Diab (BS ’90, BBA ’92) has been appointed acting consul general of Lebanon in Detroit. Diab has held a number of senior level government positions here and in Lebanon, including consul general of Lebanon in Los Angeles, deputy chief of mission of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in Lebanon, deputy director of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, where he led the cultural affairs section, and adviser to the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. A new permanent consul general will be appointed after Lebanon’s new government is formed. Diab earned his law degree from the Lebanese University in Beirut and his LLM (Master of Laws) in finance law from the American University in Washington, DC.

Tarek Barhoum (BAR ’03) While at AUB, Barhoum received the Fawzi W. Azar Architectural Scholarship Award for outstanding academic achievement in design. He is now a managing partner for Design Class (www.designclass.com). Among his recent honors are first prize in the Carlton Architectural Design Competition, 2008 in Beirut; first prize in the Limited Architectural Design Competition for the mayor of Riyadh HH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Ayaf’s residential complex, 2009 in Riyadh; and the International Residential Property Awards’ Best Interior Design, 2009 and Best Architecture, 2010 in Dubai, San Diego, California, and London. [tarekbarhoum(at)designclass.com] [tarekbarhoum(at)gmail.com]
FRIENDS
Robert (Bob) G. Berry (former staff) passed away last April in New York City. In 1992 he retired from a successful fundraising career as AUB’s executive director of development and public relations for North America. Berry was critical in helping AUB exceed the $38 million goal of its 125th anniversary campaign. Prior to coming to AUB, he served as national director of fundraising for the US Olympic Committee and vice president for development and public relations of the New York Botanical Garden. Berry also served in the US Army. A 1944 graduate of Brown University, he and his wife Christiane, who survives him, were generous donors to AUB scholarship funds for over 40 years dating back to the 1950s.

FORMER FACULTY
Peter Carter Dodd passed away in November 2010. He was born and grew up in Beirut, received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University, and earned his doctorate in sociology from Harvard University. He spent his life encouraging understanding between Muslim and western cultures. After college, he taught for 20 years at AUB. A former student says, “His modesty, demeanor, character, respect for others, profound understanding of the concerns of the Arab world, and unreserved empathy with its national struggles, made him a hero in our eyes.”

After AUB, Dodd joined the United Nations before becoming director of the Fulbright Foundation in Islamabad, Pakistan. He retired to Victoria, Canada where he was active with the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA). He is survived by his wife Erica Cruikshank Dodd, former AUB faculty member, his brother Bruce Dodd, and four children and their families.

Constantine (Costas) Hercules Issidorides passed away at his home in Woodland, California last November. Born in Athens, Greece in 1920, Issidorides attended Athens College, an American preparatory school, prior to moving to the United States to attend the University of Iowa and Harvard University.

He was a professor of organic chemistry at AUB from 1952 to 1986. In 1965, he and his colleague, Professor Makhlouf Haddadin, discovered the internationally acclaimed “Beirut Reaction,” a chemical reaction that has since led to the development of hundreds of anti-bacteria and anti-cancer drugs. For this achievement, Issidorides was awarded Lebanon’s National Order of the Cedar.

In 1986, he moved to California where he taught at the University of California, Davis for nine years. He is survived by Bonnie Buckles, his wife of 44 years; their two daughters, Diana and Daphne, two granddaughters, three great-grandchildren, a brother, and two sisters. The family has requested that memorial gifts be sent to AUB’s financial aid fund for needy students. Contributions may be made by contacting vempaty(at)aub.edu or on-line at http://give.aub.edu

Kanaan Kano passed away last January in Phoenix, Arizona. He was born in Syria in 1931. After he completed his undergraduate studies in the United States and received a doctorate from Yale University’s School of Engineering in 1963, Kano moved to AUB where he remained for the next quarter century.

He became chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department in the early 1970s and served as dean of the School of Engineering and Architecture from 1976 to 1985, when he returned to the United States to be closer to his children.

He continued to teach at various universities including Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI—his undergraduate alma mater), the University of Southern California, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University.

Kano’s teaching career spanned four decades. Among his many achievements are the publication of two advanced textbooks in the field of electronic chips and semiconductors, government medals and citations for excellence in teaching, including Lebanon’s National Order of the Cedar in 1973, the General Electric Company’s Award for Teaching Excellence, the Eta Kappa Nu’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and the Outstanding Teacher Award from the School of Engineering in 1989 at Syracuse University.

He met his wife Elizabeth Downing during his undergraduate years when she was a nurse at the Samaritan Hospital near RPI. She survives him along with their children Michael, Gina, Nayla, and Riad who all remember him as a lov-
Boghossian family, she will be truly missed.

**Mona Suwaydan Melhem** (BS '60), a former AUB nurse, died on February 23 after a long struggle with leukemia. She was the wife of the late Dr. Rafic Melhem, an AUB doctor, and leading radiologist who served as chairman of AUB’s Radiology Department from 1968 until 1986. Melhem and her classmates celebrated their 50th reunion in 2010. She is survived by her three children, Rania, Elias, and Nada.

**Ara Alexander Garabedian**

(BA '72, MA '74) After earning his doctorate, Garabedian spent many years practicing as a psychologist for the state of Arizona. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend **Rina Adib Abou-Haidar** (BA '74), his brothers Gary and Raffy, and his in-laws, the Abou-Haidar family.

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**We Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<td>Shafik M. Jiha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Y. Badre</td>
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<td>Mohamad Saadeddine Dimachkie</td>
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A traditional Lebanese home on Bliss street seen through the university’s eastern wall
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