

Honorary Doctorates Ceremony Acceptance Speech
Howard K. Koh
June 8, 2018

President Khuri, Chairman Khoury and members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, students and honored guests:

Over the course of my career, I have had the honor of meeting so many professionals who were proud graduates of the American University of Beirut. Some of them were my closest mentors, teachers, colleagues and friends. They were not just smart; they were worldly and wise. As a physician, I found that my fellow health professionals from AUB always ranked in the top echelons of our field. Many of them achieved so much to become great healers, despite enduring great sacrifices. After a while, I came to realize that the name “AUB” was synonymous with “outstanding” and “world class”. I found myself hungry to learn more about the noble history and enduring values of this stunning university. Moreover, through my beloved Lebanese wife, Dr. Claudia Arrigg, I came to cherish the culture, one that is now also proudly shared by our three children.

So, today, it is a privilege beyond words to receive this honorary degree from President Dr. Fadlo Khuri, a highly respected and admired physician leader both here and in the United States. Your commitment to serving as a beacon of enlightenment for the world inspires us all. Claudia and I are so grateful for your extraordinary hospitality, warmth and generosity. AUB will live forever in our hearts. Thank you.