



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS COMMENCEMENT 2023

Beirut, Friday, June 9, 2023

President:

I would like to invite renowned computer science engineer and researcher, **Dr. Dina Katabi**, to come forward.

President:

Able to combine methodologies in innovative ways to bring about breakthrough ideas and solutions, **Dina Katabi** has carved a trailblazing path in the field of wireless networks, leaving an indelible mark upon both industry and healthcare. The inaugural Thuan and Nicole Pham Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, Katabi leads the MIT Center for Wireless Networks and Mobile Computing as well as the *Networks at MIT* group.

Katabi's work lies at the crossroads of computer science and electrical engineering, and her visionary approach has yielded solutions in the speed, reliability, and security of data exchange in WiFi and cellular systems. Through Emerald Innovations, which she co-founded, Katabi has helped patients through non-invasive health monitoring and disease diagnosis, ushering in a new era of timely and accurate treatments. She is a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, as well as an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an elected member of the US National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences.

As with all great mentors, Katabi has nurtured many outstanding researchers; and seen start-ups inspired by her work emerge on the landscape. Dina Katabi, we thank you for relentlessly pursuing your passions, and in the process, improving the way our world works.

President:

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **Dina Katabi**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

President:

I would now like to invite award-winning novelist and public intellectual, **Professor Elias Khoury**, to the rostrum.

President:

A leading Arab writer of his generation, **Elias Khoury** is an acclaimed novelist, activist, journalist, academic, and cultural critic who has become a celebrated figure in the public sphere.

A prolific writer across multiple genres, Elias Khoury has been praised for writing “imposingly rich and realistic” work. His early books *On the Relations of the Circle* and *Little Mountain*, documenting the Lebanese Civil War, established him as a pioneer of a new style of Arabic fiction.

Khoury is renowned for his advocacy for freedom of expression and democratic values. Arab nationalism and the Palestinian cause have been passions since his early years as he used his writing to explore fundamental questions of human behavior, and in the process provided a voice to the marginalized. His 2000 novel, *Gate of the Sun*, won the Prize of Palestine.

Khoury has taught at many distinguished universities around the world and edited multiple publications. He also wrote several plays that have been performed globally, in addition to participating in the writing of two prize-winning films: *Bab Al-Shams* in 2002 and *Kharej Al-Hayat* in 1992. He currently edits the *Journal of Palestine Studies* at the Institute for Palestine Studies in Beirut.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **Elias Khoury**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

President:

May I invite expert in the field of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, **Dr. Suheil Muasher**, to please step forward.

Having come full circle from AUB student to one of this evening’s honorands, **Suheil Muasher** embodies AUB’s mission for its graduates to use their education and expertise to also help others. As a clinician and researcher, Muasher has transformed the lives of thousands grappling with infertility. As professor emeritus

of obstetrics and gynecology at Duke University, and former vice chairman for education and director of graduate learning and academic development in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Muasher has also influenced generations of practitioners.

At Johns Hopkins University and the Jones Institute at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Muasher collaborated with pioneers in the field, making groundbreaking advancements in reproductive medicine through improved in vitro fertilization (IVF) stimulation protocols. In 2004, he founded the Muasher Center for Fertility and IVF.

Muasher also has a vast publication record of peer-reviewed papers and influential book chapters, and he recently offered his expertise to medical students at AUB, empowering them to contribute to impactful research papers that help pave their path to residency.

Known as a doctor who could find a way where others had given up, Suheil has received numerous tributes and awards citing his wisdom in both medical care and life.

President:

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **Suheil Muasher**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.

President:

Finally, may I ask distinguished scientist and acclaimed molecular biology researcher, **Dr. June Bowman Nasrallah**, who will also be your commencement speaker this evening, to please step forward.

President:

Another embodiment of our university's ideals, **June Bowman Nasrallah** is not only a pioneering researcher, but also has an outstanding track record of service to her profession. Celebrated for her work in plant reproductive biology with key implications in advancing crop improvement and tackling global concerns such as food insecurity and drought, she is Barbara McClintock Professor at the Plant Biology Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University. With her team, she looked for innovative solutions to determine the molecular basis of self-incompatibility in plants and in doing so, helped to develop plants

that are adapted to climate change, while preserving biodiversity and sustaining the ecosystem.

A keen mentor, Bowman Nasrallah serves on the editorial and advisory boards of numerous journals and has authored or co-authored over 100 publications. Her research has been cited in the most prestigious scientific journals, and she is the recipient of multiple awards and honors. She is the current president and a founding member of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences and was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2003 in recognition of her decades of groundbreaking research. Known for their philanthropy, June and her husband Mikhail generously established the Mikhail and June Nasrallah Endowed Scholarship at AUB in 2022.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU, **June Bowman Nasrallah**, THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, WITH ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES PERTAINING THERETO.