



**AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
OF BEIRUT**

## **INTRODUCTIONS OF STUDENT SPEAKERS, HONORANDS, KEYNOTES COMMENCEMENT 2024**

Beirut, Saturday, June 8, 2024

### **Introduction of Undergraduate Student Speaker and Keynote Speaker**

President: IT IS NOW MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE STUDENT SPEAKER FOR THIS COMMENCEMENT, **MR. DARON SOUSSANI**, CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY.

Daron Soussani, an exemplar of the values of excellence and dedication that define our university, has excelled academically and significantly contributed to our community while pursuing his biology degree with unwavering passion.

As he describes it, Daron came to the diverse sea that is AUB from a sheltered upbringing in Bourj Hammoud, Beirut. As a staff writer and junior editor for AUB Outlook, Daron enriched our university's dialogue. His roles with the Lebanese Cardiology Interest Group and as treasurer of the Lebanese Red Cross Club at AUB highlight his dedication to health and community service. Daron's leadership in cultural, social, and humanitarian initiatives is evident through his work as public relations officer for the Lebanese Armenian Heritage Club and the Biology Student Society at AUB. His volunteer efforts at our vaccination center during the pandemic underscore his commitment to public service. Daron will continue his AUB journey as a Presidential Merit Scholar in the Faculty of Medicine.

As one of our best and brightest, it is with great pride that I welcome Daron to represent today's graduating class.

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President:

**It is my distinct pleasure to introduce your keynote speaker and one of the recipients of this year's honorary doctorate degrees: pre-eminent philanthropist,**

**president of the Ford Foundation, author, and transformative world figure,  
Darren Charles Walker.**

President:

Darren Charles Walker is renowned for his dynamic leadership and unwavering commitment to fostering equality and innovation throughout his career. His inspirational story started from rural poverty to corporate law and a career on Wall Street, to community organizing in Harlem, and his current leadership of a 16-billion-dollar philanthropic organization, the prestigious Ford Foundation, an organization that has stood by AUB in good and bad times and worse ones. Acclaimed for his powerful and transformative impact in the fields of social equity and philanthropy, he has boldly shed light in his writings and policy work on global troubles, inspiring positive action worldwide with his visionary challenge to consider philanthropy as a tool for achieving economic, social, and political justice. Daron works every day to reduce global inequalities, that all “may have life, and have it more abundantly.” Please welcome to the podium the extraordinary Darren Walker!

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