

AUB graduates class of 2010

Monday, June 28, 2010

About 1860 students graduated from AUB on June 26, 2010, with women constituting more than 55 percent of the Class of 2010. Some 1700 attend the graduation ceremony which took place on the Green Field.

Speakers included AUB President Peter Dorman, Keynote speaker Harvard Professor Emeritus Walid Khalidi, and student Elias Ghanem.



Minister Jean Hogassapian represented the three leaders of the country.

AUB President Peter Dorman offered his best wishes to the graduating class reminding them of the "the aspirations and values that bind us together."

"We believe in the pursuit of excellence; we believe in the free expression of ideas; we believe in the dignity of every human being; we believe in the value of a diverse and engaged body of citizens; we believe that each of us can make a difference," he said.

"You are setting forth today on a quest for professional and personal fulfillment that will be enriched—not only by the degrees conferred upon you this day, but by the experiences you have had in these university years with your professors, your colleagues, and your friends," he added.

Dorman paid tribute to Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Dean Ibrahim Hajj and Dean of Student Affairs Maroun Kisirwani who are retiring from AUB "Their counsel has been invaluable to me, on many counts," said Dorman.

Speaking on behalf of students, business student Elias Ghanem, who is also the vice president of the University Student-Faculty Committee, told his fellow classmates: "We shall not mourn our AUB memories, but we ought to cherish every moment we lived on campus among our fellow students. Today, we are ready to proceed; we are ready to become responsible citizens of our beloved nation; we are ready to govern our companies and our countries; we are ready against adversities and hardships. We are ready to become effective team players; we are ready to take our own decisions, and most importantly, we are ready to become leaders in our needy societies."

He also praised the openness shown by the AUB administration toward students and their concerns. "The collaboration between students on campus and officials in management has always been evident; every student's voice is heard and every concern is addressed," he said, before paying tribute to his alma mater.

"AUB, you are a legacy and a regeneration of progress; you are a model for [combining] control and authority with marked freedom and autonomy."

Ghanem also paid tribute to parents, Deans Hajj and Kisirwani. "It is not an exaggeration when we claim that on every occasion, you stand out amidst chaos and disorder as the embodiment of wisdom and knowledge," he said of Kisirwani, whom he called as "our father and our guide."

Keynote Speaker Walid Khalidi overviewed the history of region, highlighting the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon's own political problems. Nevertheless, he told the graduating class not to emigrate from this region as their contributions are really needed.

Khalidi also lauded AUB, saying: "No where else in the Arab world does one find such a conglomeration of talent in one place as can be found at this University. No other campus in the Arab world can compete with the diversity present here or the outstanding academic discourse."

He also credited AUB's ability to thrive and create a rich and diverse academic discourse to Lebanon's diversity and conducive climate for freedom of expression. A number of AUB Board of Trustees members also participated in the ceremony. The AUB choir, led by Professor Paul Meers played a selection of music pieces during the ceremony. The graduation ceremony also included the announcement of the names of outstanding students who received distinguished awards.