

For Immediate Release



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AUB to award 4 honorary doctorates to Hanan al-Shaykh, Hagop Kantarjian, Reeta Roy and Fawwaz Ulaby

The American University of Beirut (AUB) will confer Honorary Doctorates in Humane Letters during its 150th Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 31, 2019 to four outstanding individuals as per a letter sent by the Office of AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri to the AUB Community stating that: “Our honorands for this year are instigators who question prevalent and conventional thinking, challenge how we view the world, and improve how we live it. They capture the essence of AUB’s mission in boldly serving the world with unconventional liberal thought, striving for fair and inclusive access to health and education, and offering innovation and knowledge for a sustainable, abundant present and future: Internationally acclaimed novelist, journalist, and playwright Hanan al-Shaykh; renowned physician and leukemia specialist Hagop Kantarjian; advocate of the vulnerable and president and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation Reeta Roy; and distinguished professor and pioneer in radar remote sensing Fawwaz Ulaby.”

Khuri concluded by saying that “Inquisitive about the world’s present and future and determinedly innovative in their contribution of sustainable solutions for the advantage of all, these inspirational leaders serve as symbols of the AUB way. We welcome them as they join AUB’s distinguished list of honorary doctoral degree recipients.”

Honorands Bios:

Hanan al-Shaykh

A Lebanese novelist who is one of the most acclaimed award-winning writers in the contemporary Arab world, and whose work has been translated into 21 languages and is published around the world. She is known for her brilliant portrayal of the Lebanese/Arab psyche and the plight of the repressed women’s condition in the Arab world. She has been commended

by many, including Edward Said and Salman Rushdie, as she calmly challenges the norm and looks, unrestricted, at real and present relationships between the sexes, power struggles, and patriarchal control.

Hagop Kantarjian

He graduated from AUB with a BS in 1975, and MD in 1979. He is a world leader in leukemia research and treatment who has saved countless lives and changed the outcomes for people living with this debilitating and deadly disease. He is widely acclaimed as one of the most productive clinical translational cancer researchers of our time and heads the largest leukemia practice in the US. He holds the Samsung Distinguished Leukemia Chair in Cancer Medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and has led a multi-year campaign to lower the cost of cancer drugs.

Reeta Roy

She is the president and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, known for its global reach and impact in helping the disadvantaged. Under her leadership, the foundation has focused its work in Africa and committed more than \$2.2 billion to advance education and financial inclusion across the continent. Today, it is one of the world's largest foundations, with \$26 billion in assets and its programs have improved the lives of more than 33 million people and their families. Roy is the recipient of several honorary doctorate degrees and numerous international awards.

Fawwaz Ulaby

He graduated from AUB with a BS in 1964. He has made groundbreaking contributions in the area of radar remote sensing and is the Emmett Leith Distinguished University Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. His pioneering research has led to the development of high-resolution satellite radar sensors with a wide range of applications, from communications to medical diagnoses and assessing the effects of climate change. He helped design the first radar to fly on a satellite and has directed many interdisciplinary projects for NASA.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,100 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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